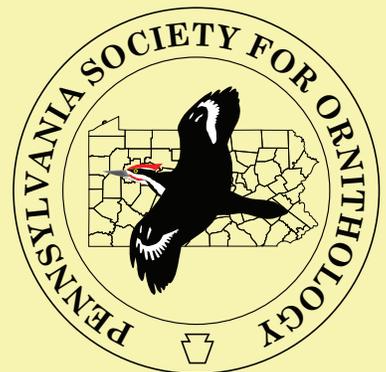


PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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In Focus. Inside back cover

Cover: White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*). At long last, Pennsylvania's first White-faced Ibis appeared for an afternoon at Mud Level Road, *Cumberland* 3/21. Photographs showing key features, particularly the bird's red iris, led PORC to accept the record, thereby adding the species to the official state list. (*Frank Haas*)

... from the Editor

In Focus and the Photo Quiz

There's a new feature on the inside back cover of this issue called **In Focus**. We plan to use this feature to periodically print some of the best photo highlights in color in this space. Color photo highlights are something we've tried for a long time to include in *Pennsylvania Birds*, but unfortunately it's always been cost-prohibitive to do this for the entire photo highlights section. So in lieu of printing the whole section in color, we will at least begin to feature a few of the season's best in this way.

One thing I consistently hear from readers is that they look forward to the photo highlights section, both for the photos themselves (of course) and for the captions. As the author of the photo captions, I'm happy that readers enjoy them, and in fact, for me, writing and producing the photo highlights section is one of the more satisfying aspects of each finished issue. But I would be remiss not to point out that a lot of the time, the captions I write just parrot what our county compilers are already writing about those pictured birds in their seasonal reports.

So, my hope with the occasional In Focus feature is two-fold: First, we'll feature in a prominent way the best work we receive from our many camera-carrying contributors. Truly, we're lucky to have so many talented folks willing to share their excellent work with PSO. We can't compensate our contributors as we would like to and be able to if we were for-profit, but honoring the season's best in this section, we hope, is some manner of honor beyond the usual photo credit and thank you note.

But you'll also note that I haven't really written any captions for the photos on the back cover. Instead, you'll only find page references, which, if you follow them, will lead you to the county reports that mention the birds shown. My hope is that you'll stay in the Local Notes section and read a county report or two that you might otherwise not normally read. The county compilers put in an

extraordinary amount of work and produce some really high-quality reports that deserve more attention than I think they sometimes get. So, not only are the best photos for the season "In Focus", but so are the compilers and their hard work.

The **Photo Quiz**, diligently attended to for seven years by the venerable Rick Wiltraut, is definitely not going away. Most issues' back covers will have both an In Focus section and a Photo Quiz, a few will have only one or the other. Even before I became editor, I always looked forward to the Photo Quiz, both for the challenge of it, but also for the interesting comments Rick includes in his quiz answers, which are not the typical "it's got this, this, and this, so it's this species" kind of thing you sometimes see when quiz answers are published. Rick always endeavors also to tell us something interesting about the bird itself, perhaps some unique behavior, or the species' conservation status. For this reason, the Photo Quiz is one of *my* personal favorite recurring features, and one I hope to continue for many years to come.

As always, any feedback you might have, both when we try something new, or on anything else, is always welcome.

Compiler News

Eight years ago now, when PSO was in need of a new editor for *Pennsylvania Birds*, it turned to **Nick Pulcinella**, who went on to serve as editor for five years, bringing the publication back on schedule and introducing several new features (including the aforementioned Photo Quiz) along the way. While he did this, he also continued in his long-standing role as PORC Secretary, and began submitting county reports for *Chester*, a position he has held since 2007. He even served for a time during this period as co-editor of the Pennsylvania-Ohio-West Virginia region for *North American Birds*. One can only wonder how he was able to juggle so many things effectively. Eventually, he turned the *North American Birds*

editorship over to Rick Wiltraut and *Pennsylvania Birds* over to me. Now, he turns the compilership for *Chester* over to the eminently capable **Holly Merker**, earning a well-deserved rest, and the ability to spend some of his free time on himself for a change. (Though, I'm not sure we could pry him out of the PORC Secretary's chair with a crowbar, not that doing so would be in any way a good thing.) So Nick, on behalf of PSO and everyone who reads and appreciates *Pennsylvania Birds*, thanks for everything. And thanks also to Holly, for making sure there is no interruption in the high quality reporting that has always come out of *Chester*. Please find Holly's contact information at the end of the *Chester* report in this issue.

In other news, **Christy Bowersox**, unable to contribute reports for *Union* for several seasons now, has officially tendered her resignation, leaving this county vacant. **Mike Ward** has agreed to compile for *Schuylkill* beginning with the fall report. Thanks both to Christy and Mike for their efforts, to date and to come, respectively. The counties currently without a compiler are *Cameron*, *Elk*, *McKean*, *Northumberland*, *Pike*, *Union*, *Warren*, and *Wayne*.

This season we received reports from 50 of 67 counties (59 of which have compilers), a great and encouraging total. Thanks to all the compilers and to the observers who made such a complete report possible.

Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief

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Raptor Migration Summary – Spring 2010

Laurie Goodrich

Six foot snow cover and record hot weather limited migration count efforts and totals in the 2010 spring migration season. One of the heaviest February snowfalls on record for south-central counties kept Allegheny Front from tallying early season migrants. Spring counts ended during the second-hottest April and May for northeastern states in more than 100 years. Precipitation was below-normal and skies were often cloudless during peak migration for Broad-winged Hawk in April, perhaps promoting broad front movement and high altitude flight as birds crossed the state. At Presque Isle, winds often pushed birds away from the shoreline resulting in lower counts than were observed in 2009.

Migration Summary

Five Pennsylvania watchsites tallied 13,554 migrant raptors of 16 species in 216 days of coverage between 25 February and 15 May 2010. Although no kites were seen from official watchsites, an adult Mississippi Kite was observed flying southwest from Hawk Mountain's South Lookout on 8 May (R. Duque and B. Peralta, observers). The largest one-day spring count for any site occurred at Presque Isle on 1 March when 2780 hawks of 11 species were counted including 2407 Turkey Vultures.

Table 1: Pennsylvania watch-sites reporting for spring 2009

Site	Hours	Total
Allegheny Front	356	1569
Council Cup	9	58
Hawk Mountain	224	834
Presque Isle	192	9797
Tussey Mountain	227	1327
Total	1100	13554

Hours of effort dipped in 2010 (1100) primarily due to the unusual weather. Despite a late start to their season, Allegheny Front led in watchsite hours with 356, and Presque Isle led in migrant totals with 9797 birds (Table 1, Figure 1). Spring migration count effort has shifted geographically in recent years as sites in southern Pennsylvania enjoy less coverage (e.g., Tuscarora Summit, Rose Tree Park), whereas Presque Isle has been added in the northwest along the

Lake Erie shore. Only one site conducted counts in February (Tussey Mountain), and only three sites counted into May (Hawk Mountain, Allegheny Front, and Presque Isle). Passage rates for the state were 12.42 birds per hour, with individual sites ranging from 3.7 to 50.8 migrants per hour (Table 3).

Turkey Vulture state totals (7464) surpassed the Broad-winged Hawk counts (1638) for the first time. This switch occurred on the heels of an expanding northern population of vultures, better coverage of lakeshore flights, and unusually hot and clear weather during peak Broad-winged Hawk flight period. Many watchers suspected the bulk of the northbound Broad-winged Hawks flew over the state without detection due to the ideal flight conditions. The unusually low Broad-winged Hawk peak one-day counts at spring sites highlight this pattern (Table 2). Osprey, another migrant which passes through the state primarily in April, also was below-average (281) (Table 3). In contrast, two early migrants were tallied in above-average numbers: Golden Eagle (288) and Red-shouldered Hawk (373) (Table 3). Two sites set new records for Black Vulture, reflecting their expanding range. Lastly, Bald Eagles were seen from every site in good numbers, although the timing of peak flights varied substantially between western ridges and other sites (Table 2).

Site Highlights

Allegheny Front (Bedford) – Six feet of snow closed access to Allegheny Front for late February and early March. Counts did not begin until 9 March and daily coverage was delayed to 16 March. Despite this challenge, stalwart counters manned the site for 52 days and covered more hours than any other watchsite (356). Counters tallied 1569 migrant raptors before the last count day on 5 May (Table 1, 3). Soon after they opened access, watcher Tom Dick recorded the highest one-day count for the season—164 hawks—including 28 Golden Eagles, 28 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 34 Red-tailed Hawks. An early Peregrine Falcon was recorded, as well as a Northern Goshawk.

In 2010, Allegheny Front set a new season record for Black Vulture (27) and tallied an above-average 87 Golden Eagles for the season (Table 3). The Cooper's Hawk count also was above-average (89), whereas Broad-winged Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Bald Eagle, and Osprey counts were below average (288, 135, 14, and 61 respectively). Rate of passage at Allegheny Front was 4.4 birds per hour overall and the top three most numerous migrants were Red-tailed Hawk (27% of total hawks), Broad-winged Hawk (18%), and Turkey Vulture (17%) (Table 3).

Council Cup (Luzerne) – Three days of April counts at Council Cup yielded 58 raptor migrants of seven species. Gusty west winds on 21 April brought the highest count for the season (26 raptors) including three immature and one adult Bald Eagle. Five Osprey were seen including one sparring with an immature Bald Eagle for about two minutes before continuing north. The Council Cup rate of passage was 6.4 birds per hour of coverage with the predominant migrants being Broad-winged Hawks (29% of total) and Turkey Vultures (22%) (Table 3). The Osprey and Bald Eagle counts were notable for the low number of hours covered at this Susquehanna River site (5 and 4, respectively). With greater coverage this site could prove an important monitoring site for these two species.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Berks and Schuylkill) – Five migrant raptors sailed north past the ridge top on 26 March to begin the 2010 count. A total of 834 diurnal raptors were counted in 224 hours from 26 March to 15 May. Counts were up 30% from last year's total of 643 but still 23% below the 10-year average of 1109. Above-average season counts were recorded for Turkey Vulture, Osprey, and American Kestrel, and new season records were set for Black Vulture (45), Bald Eagle (34) and Cooper's Hawk (70) (Table 3). In contrast, Red-tailed Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk totals (80, 298) were below the 10-year average (Table 3). Hawk Mountain's overall rate of passage was 3.7 birds per hour, with Broad-winged Hawk and Osprey representing the greatest proportion of

Table 2. Peak count dates for selected species at selected Pennsylvania watch sites.

Site	Br.-winged Hawk		Bald Eagle	
	Count	Date	Count	Date
Allegheny Front	60	4/20	5	3/17
Hawk Mountain	88	4/27	5	4/20
Presque Isle	345	4/24	7	4/30
Tussey Mountain	35	4/19	5	3/5

the flight (36% and 16%, respectively) (Table 3).

The highest one-day count of Broad-winged Hawk (88) and Osprey (28) occurred on 27 April among 129 total migrants (Table 1, 3). Totals also included seven Black Vultures and three Bald Eagles. As testament to their widespread recovery, Bald Eagles were sighted nearly every day (>80%) from Sanctuary lookouts, although many appeared to be moving locally and not migrating. Light northwest winds on April 20 carried five adult Bald Eagles northward past the lookout, a one-day peak count of migrants (Table 2).

Presque Isle (Erie) – Northerly winds kept overall counts at this relatively new site below last year’s tallies. Despite the weather, Presque Isle led the state in total spring migrants (9797) at a rate of 50.9 birds per hour (Table 1, 3). Counts began 7 March and continued through 12 May with the highest number passing north on 1

April. A strong south wind on 1 April pushed hundreds of birds toward the lake shore, with many remaining low through mid-day. A parade of 2407

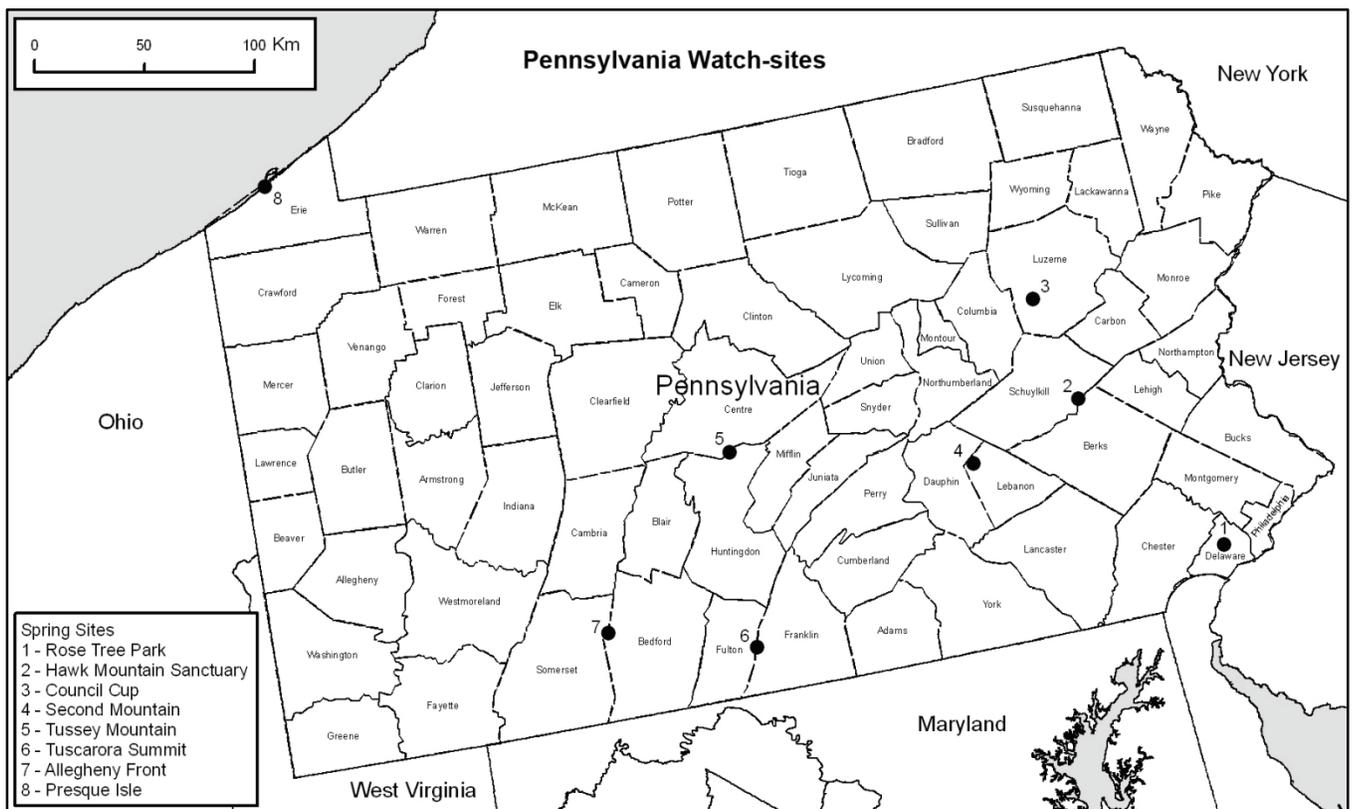
Turkey Vultures led to the high one-day count of the season, 2780. Compiler Jerry McWilliams and three other counters enjoyed rarities such as a Rough-legged Hawk and two Northern Goshawks amidst the 11 raptor species sighted for the day. Hundreds of blackbirds poured past throughout the morning as well. North winds kept Broad-winged Hawks south of the shore and out of view of the watchsite through the peak of their migration in mid to late April.

When winds turned to the southeast on 24 April, Presque Isle recorded the highest one-day count for Broad-winged Hawks (345). Lower season totals were observed for Osprey, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, and American Kestrel (Table 3), however higher numbers were observed in some early season migrants, including Turkey Vulture, Cooper’s Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk. Turkey Vultures comprised 71% of the total flight (Table 3). Counters recorded the

season-high count of Bald Eagles for the state (7) on 30 April among a late season push of 345 migrants. The flight was highlighted by four immature Bald Eagles gliding past in unison and a lone adult Peregrine Falcon shooting breathlessly low past the watchsite.

Tussey Mountain (Centre) – Tussey Mountain launched their spring season on 25 February amid wind-driven snow and northwest winds. A lone Turkey Vulture headed north, perhaps on faith. Four Golden Eagles followed suit two days later before snow increased and visibility diminished. Counters recorded above-average season counts of Red-shouldered Hawk (67) and Golden Eagle (201), but below-average counts for Broad-winged Hawk (100), Turkey Vulture (165) and Red-tailed Hawk (394). Rate of passage for all raptors was 4.2 per hour, with Red-tailed Hawks numbering 1.2 per hour. The top three most abundant migrants for Tussey were Red-tailed Hawk (30% of flight), Golden Eagle (15%), and Sharp-shinned Hawk (13%) (Table 3). The prominence of Golden Eagle at Tussey Mountain underscores the critical importance of the west-central ridges, e.g. Tussey Mountain and Allegheny Front, for eastern Golden Eagles heading north.

Tussey recorded a banner flight of Golden Eagles on 8 and 9 March,



tallying 61 eagles in the two day period (33 and 28 respectively). Counter Jon Kauffman reported northwest winds and clear skies on the 8th kept many of the morning eagles low along the ridge. Many of the day's eagles were adults and some showed full crops indicating recent feeding. Other migrants for the two days included Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawks along with the site's first American Kestrel and Northern Harrier of the season (Table 3).

Counter Nick Bolgiano tallied the one-day high count for Tussey on 3 April: 131 raptors of 11 species. Southeast winds stirred a season-peak count of Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed hawks (48, 43) as well as Osprey (10). The site's only two Peregrine Falcons also glided north. Northwest winds on 19 April ushered in the highest one-day count of Broad-winged Hawks (35) for the site. Other migrants included 9 Red-tailed Hawks, 5 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Osprey, and 2 American Kestrels. The last two Golden Eagles were seen on 21 April bringing the season total for the species to 201, the highest for the state.

Conclusion

The spring 2010 season was challenged by abundant snow in early season, contrary winds, and record high temperatures in late season. Counters still recorded above-average state counts for six out of sixteen species and more than 13,000

migrating raptors. Most sites reported many close-flying raptors and a diversity of other migrants from Common Loons to Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Next spring when the first warm winds stir from the south, join fellow birders at a nearby lookout to celebrate Pennsylvania's returning raptor migrants. For information on Pennsylvania watchsites, directions, contacts, and daily counts, please see <www.hawkcount.org>.

Acknowledgments

I thank the site compilers Ramiro Duque, Donald Kapral, Jerry McWilliams, Dan Ombalski, Blanca Peralta, Bob Stewart, and the manager of the migration count database, Jason Sodergren, and the Hawk Migration Association of North America, <www.hawkcount.org>. I also thank the many spring counters that recorded these valuable data and endured the extremes of spring weather. David Barber created the map of watchsites. Diane Moran helped compile historical records. Keith L. Bildstein provided helpful comments on an earlier version of this manuscript. This is Hawk Mountain Sanctuary contribution to Conservation Science number 195.

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Key to Species Headers for Table 3	
BLVU	Black Vulture
TUVU	Turkey Vulture
OSPR	Osprey
BAEA	Bald Eagle
NOHA	Northern Harrier
SSHA	Sharp-shinned Hawk
COHA	Cooper's Hawk
NOGO	Northern Goshawk
RSHA	Red-shouldered Hawk
BWHA	Broad-winged Hawk
RTHA	Red-tailed Hawk
RLHA	Rough-legged Hawk
GOEA	Golden Eagle
AMKE	American Kestrel
MERL	Merlin
PEFA	Peregrine Falcon
STKI	Swallow-tailed Kite
UNID	unidentified



Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*). Better coverage of the Lake Erie shore, an expanding northern population of Turkey Vultures, and unfavorable conditions for hawkwatching during the peak of Broad-winged Hawk migration were all possible factors that led to Turkey Vultures surpassing Broad-wings in total individuals for the spring season for the first time. Turkey Vultures accounted for 55% of the total spring flight in 2010. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)

Table 3. Spring 2010 count results for Pennsylvania watch sites.

ALLEGHENY FRONT (Bedford) - Bob Stewart, compiler

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	MIKI	STKI	TOTAL
March	125.5	16	230	1	12	6	49	41	4	62	0	218	1	65	6	5	3	19	0	0	738
April	196	11	38	50	2	17	84	46	2	6	270	208	1	21	16	2	0	14	0	0	788
May	34.5	0	0	10	0	1	2	2	0	0	18	5	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	43
Total	356	27	268	61	14	24	135	89	6	68	288	431	2	87	22	7	3	37	0	0	1569
Total/hr.	0.08	0.75	0.17	0.04	0.07	0.38	0.25	0.02	0.02	0.19	0.81	1.21	0.01	0.24	0.06	0.02	0.01	0.10	0.00	0.00	4.41
% flight	1.72	17.08	3.89	0.89	1.53	8.60	5.67	0.38	0.38	4.33	18.36	27.47	0.13	5.54	1.40	0.45	0.19	2.36	0.00	0.00	100.00
10-yr. Average	389.7	11.4	334.5	110.5	19.3	29.0	164.3	63.2	6.2	58.5	419.0	433.6	1.9	72.1	23.3	6.1	4.9	85.73	0.00	0.0	1843.18

COUNCIL CUP (Luzerne) - Donald Kapral, compiler

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	MIKI	STKI	TOTAL
April	9	0	13	5	4	0	6	0	0	0	17	8	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	58
Total	9	0	13	5	4	0	6	0	0	0	17	8	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	58
Total/hr.	0.00	0.00	1.44	0.56	0.44	0.00	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.89	0.89	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00	6.44
% flight	0.00	0.00	22.41	8.62	6.90	0.00	10.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.31	13.79	0.00	0.00	1.72	0.00	0.00	6.90	0.00	0.00	100.00

HAWK MOUNTAIN (Berks/Schuylkill) - Blanca Peralta, Ramiro Duque, and Laurie Goodrich, compilers

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	MIKI	STKI	TOTAL
March	2.25	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
April	155.5	34	36	109	23	14	64	58	0	0	264	63	0	0	14	2	1	23	0	0	705
May	66.25	11	0	25	11	2	11	10	0	0	34	15	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	123
Total	224	45	36	134	34	16	76	70	0	0	298	80	0	0	16	2	1	25	0	0	833
Total/hr.	0.20	0.16	0.60	0.15	0.07	0.34	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.33	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	3.72
% flight	5.40	4.32	16.09	4.08	1.92	9.12	8.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.77	9.60	0.00	0.00	1.92	0.24	0.12	3.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
10-yr. Average	244.7	11.3	22.4	119.2	12.7	30.4	137.6	36.3	0.6	10.3	453.6	140.2	0.0	1.2	5.6	0.7	0.3	9.6	0.3	0.0	1108.7

PRESQUE ISLE (Erie) - Jerry McWilliams, compiler

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	MIKI	STKI	TOTAL
March	71	1	1794	0	1	6	49	45	1	199	0	147	5	0	21	1	2	23	0	0	2295
April	101	0	4739	33	17	33	622	51	3	39	853	288	2	0	100	5	2	25	0	0	6812
May	20	1	449	7	4	1	82	2	0	0	82	2	0	0	9	2	1	1	0	0	660
Total	192	1	6982	40	22	40	752	98	4	238	935	456	7	0	130	8	5	49	0	0	9767
Total/hr.	0.01	0.01	36.36	0.21	0.11	0.21	3.92	0.51	0.02	1.24	4.87	2.38	0.04	0.00	0.88	0.04	0.03	0.26	0.00	0.00	50.87
% flight	0.01	0.01	71.49	0.41	0.23	0.41	7.70	1.00	0.04	2.44	9.57	4.67	0.07	0.00	1.33	0.08	0.05	0.50	0.00	0.00	100.00
2-yr. Average	162.3	0.5	6386.0	55.0	50.0	44.5	734.0	73.5	2.0	161.5	3891.0	405.5	15.0	0.0	188.5	7.5	2.5	47.5	0	0.5	12066

TUSSEY MOUNTAIN (Centre) - Dan Ombalski, compiler

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	MIKI	STKI	TOTAL
February	18.5	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
March	208	20	152	2	18	10	99	37	2	64	0	287	2	186	24	1	0	19	0	0	923
April	92.75	0	12	39	6	11	74	20	0	3	100	105	0	10	8	1	2	3	0	0	394
Total	319.25	20	165	41	24	21	174	57	2	67	100	394	3	201	32	2	2	22	0	0	1327
Total/hr.	0.06	0.52	0.13	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.55	0.18	0.01	0.21	0.31	1.23	0.01	0.63	0.10	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.00	0.00	4.16
% flight	1.51	12.43	3.09	1.81	1.58	1.31	13.11	4.30	0.15	5.05	7.54	29.69	0.23	15.15	2.41	0.15	1.66	1.66	0.00	0.00	100.00
10-yr. Average	359.40	27.10	238.00	79.40	23.20	42.20	175.40	78.20	2.40	50.50	629.70	507.30	6.00	168.30	49.30	3.90	1.20	44.90	0.00	0.00	2127.00

TOTAL FOR ALL PENNSYLVANIA WATCHSITES

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	MIKI	STKI	TOTAL
February	18.5	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
March	406.75	37	2176	3	31	22	198	125	7	325	0	654	8	251	51	7	5	61	0	0	3961
April	554.25	45	4838	236	52	75	850	175	5	48	1504	672	3	31	139	10	5	69	0	0	8757
May	120.75	11	449	42	15	4	94	14	0	0	134	41	0	1	11	2	1	7	0	0	826
Total	1100.25	93	7464	281	98	101	1143	314	12	373	1638	1369	12	288	201	19	11	137	0	0	13554
Total/hr.	0.08	6.78	0.26	0.09	0.09	0.09	1.04	0.29	0.01	0.34	1.49	1.24	0.01	0.26	0.18	0.02	0.01	0.12	0.00	0.00	12.32
% flight	0.69	55.07	2.07	0.72	0.72	0.75	8.43	2.32	0.09	2.75	12.08	10.10	0.09	2.12	1.48	0.14	0.08	1.01	0.00	0.00	100.00
10-yr. Average	1230.2	99.9	2340.4	454.1	102.7	154.7	820.1	255.5	11.0	169.2	3315.2	1300.9	12.2	240.3	254.4	24.70	10.60	248.10	0.40	0.10	9818.7

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Arctic Terns at Dashields Dam, Allegheny County, 29 May 2010

Geoff Malosh

Dashields Dam – A Brief History

Dashields Dam lies along the Ohio River in western Allegheny County, about one mile from the Beaver County border. Often misspelled with an apostrophe (Dashield's), the name is not actually a possessive referring to someone named Dashield. It was named after David Shields, a member of a prominent family in the Sewickley area of Allegheny County in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The dam has long held the interest of birders, since its access road allows a completely unobstructed and elevated view of a long stretch of the Ohio, and is accessible to the public. Many sections of Pittsburgh's rivers are difficult or impossible to access without a boat, or access areas are off limits on private property. Even many of the publically accessible locations have limited sight lines. This makes Dashields one of only a few spots where the avifauna of Pittsburgh's rivers is easily studied within the borders of Allegheny County.

Especially since the early 2000s, birders have become increasingly aware of the surprisingly large number of waterbirds, particularly gulls and terns, which use the Ohio as a migration corridor. This increased awareness is due almost exclusively to observations made at Dashields.

The dam also is home to one of the first colonies of Herring Gulls to nest in Pennsylvania. The gulls were discovered nesting at the dam in the late 1990s, just a few years after Pennsylvania's first nesting Herring Gulls were found at the Highland Park Bridge over the Allegheny River in Allegheny County. They have maintained a summer presence at Dashields ever since.

In 2006, I wrote an article detailing the movements of Bonaparte's Gulls at Dashields in mid-April (Malosh 2006). In every year since, I've made a point of monitoring the Ohio River daily in mid-April to document the Bonaparte's migration, as well as to document what is probably the peak of Caspian and Forster's Tern migration through the region.

But in the years since local

birders began our annual pilgrimages to Dashields in April to watch the Bonaparte's Gulls, our interest in Dashields tends to wane after the big push (usually no later than 15 April), and the dam reverts to its usual coverage of an hour or two once or twice per week, often only during significant weather events, while most birders go off to the woods for the coming warbler migration of late April and May. In 2010, I decided I'd try something different, and eschew the spring passerine migration entirely to monitor the river at Dashields instead. Despite some interesting finds at the Dam over the years in May, little is actually known of the full extent of waterbird migration along the Ohio after the middle of April, and understanding this was my goal.

Some of the more significant sightings I made in 2010 are detailed in Table 1. These observations, along with the cumulative observations collected over several years of mid-April monitoring, will be the subject of a future article in this journal.

Table 1. Selected sightings at Dashields Dam, Spring 2010

Species	#	Date	Time
Caspian Tern	8	4/11	07:06
Surf Scoter	8	4/12	06:40
Bonaparte's Gull	298	4/12	total
Forster's Tern	8	4/12	total
Bonaparte's Gull	267	4/13	total
Common Loon	13	4/16	total
Ring-billed Gull	59	4/25	total
Caspian Tern	7	5/3	07:28
Black Tern	1	5/6	06:56
Spotted Sand.	12	5/6	07:21
Common Tern	21	5/14	07:17
Arctic Tern	2	5/29	17:03

The remainder of this article, however, details the circumstances of the last sighting listed in Table 1: "Arctic Tern, 2, 5/29, 17:03". That's the shorthand for what will always be one of the most unexpected and amazing sightings I've experienced in more than 25 years of birding.

Encounter

Despite having monitored the river at Dashields for much of April and May in 2010, I did not go to the dam on the afternoon of 5/29 to look for migrating waterbirds. Instead, I

was there to photograph Spotted Sandpipers, at least 3 pairs of which annually use the riverbank at the dam for nesting. After early April, their high-pitched repeated whistling is characteristic of an hour spent at the dam, as they fly back and forth displaying to each other and raising their young. Indeed, a well-known and delightful highlight of a visit to the dam throughout June is watching the downy young Spotties climb the rocks on the riverbank and walk across the access road to the hillside beyond, with their parents close in tow. I've tried repeatedly to photograph them at the dam, and always came away dissatisfied, only to have a close and camera-less encounter with a Spotty on my next visit.

May 29th would be no exception to my ongoing futility with photographing Spotted Sandpiper at Dashields. On that afternoon I gave up after a fruitless hour of scrabbling around on the rocks and was just heading back up to my car on the access road above, when I noticed two white terns approaching over the dam. I expected them to be Common Terns, the rarest of the four regular terns at Dashields but the most expected this late in May (the other regulars, of course, being Forster's, Caspian, and Black). Before long I realized that something was amiss about them: their upperwings were a uniform light gray, with no trace of a dark wedge on the outer primaries as expected for Common Terns. Conveniently my camera (idle to that point) was ready, and with all manner of alarm bells hammering away in my head, I made over 60 photos as the birds approached and circled the area once or twice. After they passed my position for good and continued downriver, I staggered back to the car, really unable to believe what I thought I just saw: two Arctic Terns in Allegheny County!

I quickly pulled my spotting scope out of the trunk and reacquired the pair as they moved swiftly downriver away from me. The Beaver County line is visible from the dam, conveniently demarcated by a series of power lines that cross the river just barely on the Allegheny side. These power lines often allow an observer at the dam to determine when a bird in

flight crosses the county line, because the grand majority of the time, a bird will see the power lines and consider them an obstruction, and will fly up and over the wires before continuing downriver. For the birds that go under the wires, a bend in the river to the right (north) is also known to be in Beaver County, so when birds disappear around that bend, they can be assumed to have crossed the county line.

Up, up, and over the wires went the two terns, adding themselves to Beaver County's history in the process.

I got the word out to area birders, and three of us raced downriver to see if we could catch up with them at Rochester in Beaver County, where the Beaver River flows into the Ohio. Unfortunately it was not to be, and the birds were not seen again.

Identification

My personal experience with Arctic Terns is actually quite limited. Before 5/29, I had only seen a handful of them over the years on various pelagic trips in the Atlantic Ocean, and had only closely studied them twice, on two different days in June 2009 at Potter Marsh in Anchorage, Alaska.

To begin, the Dashields birds had dark reddish bills and grayish bodies, which, among other features, quickly narrow the possibilities to Arctic and Common Terns, and the remainder of the discussion is concerned with distinguishing these two species. Note these birds' distinctive wing pattern in the series of images included here. The upperwing (Image 1 and 2) is completely unmarked white, with just the slightest hint of a dark trailing edge on the outer primaries. In late spring, Common Terns should show a dark wedge on the outer five or six primaries, including a noticeable dark trailing edge to these same primaries. In my experience, this wedge can sometimes be hard to see, either due to simple variation, feather wear, or lighting conditions (or all three), but the wedge is always present on Common Tern. Careful study in the field on 5/29 and of my photos after the fact revealed that this wedge was not just simply hard to see on these birds, it was completely absent.

On the underside of the wing, the birds showed only a thin dark trailing edge to the outer primaries, with the

rest of the underwing otherwise completely white. Again, Common Tern shows a variably thicker trailing edge on the outer primaries, never as neat as the thin clean line of an Arctic. Additionally, the edge in Common Terns is limited to the outer five or six primaries, whereas on Arctic, a good look reveals the edge extending onto seven and sometimes even the eight outermost primaries. Images 3 and 4 show the underside of one of the birds, and in Image 4 especially, the edge can be seen all the way along eight primaries.

The birds were long tailed and relatively slender in build, another feature that can be useful in identifying these two species from a distance. Arctic Terns are also relatively small-headed and the wings appear to be set far forward on the body, resulting in a somewhat front-heavy appearance when in flight. The combination of the slender build and long tail also results in a sleek, tapered appearance for Arctic Tern, compared to the more blocky, double-bulged look of a Common. Image 5 shows the overall shape of one of the birds; note the tapered look to the tail end of the bird in flight. Image 1 shows the small headed aspect with wings set far forward on the body.

Convinced that the wing pattern and body shape were spot on for Arctic Tern, I was still left with just one nagging doubt that kept me from "officially" making the call until I could get home and do some research and seek some advice. Arctic Terns, by late May, generally show an all red bill all the way to the tip, or just the slightest hint of a dusky tip. Common Terns always show a dusky tip to the bill, sometimes quite extensive. Additionally Arctic Tern bills average smaller than Common Tern, so the overall size and pattern to the bill can be a clue for identification. Though one of the birds has a classic Arctic Tern bill (best seen in Image 1), the other had a much more problematic bill, dusky for half its length and apparently longer than I expected to see for Arctic. Trying to sort out these pictures on the back of the camera in the heat of the moment can lead to some confusion, especially with two different individuals involved, so at first I was admittedly just a little bit unsure when looking at the photo labeled Image 6, which shows a bird with an apparently long and very dusky bill. But reviewing the pictures

on a bigger screen later on, along with input gathered from both Ben Coulter and Tom Johnson, two highly skilled Pennsylvania birders whose opinions I respect immensely, removed any lingering doubt. Yes, the bill on one of the birds is a little strange, but not out of the range of variation for Arctic Tern. The wing patterns are undeniable anyway. These were two Arctic Terns, a first for both Allegheny and Beaver counties.

Retrospect

Interestingly, Tom Johnson wrote an article for *Pennsylvania Birds* (2008) in which he detailed the separation of Common and Arctic Terns, and speculated on the most likely time of year to find Arctic Terns in Pennsylvania. His suggestion: look for northbound adults in late May. I'd like to think I was taking his advice when I drove to the dam that day, but I wasn't. I was concerned with Spotted Sandpipers, of all things. In fact I was probably lucky that the Spotties decided to skunk me once again, because if they hadn't, I might have very well been focused on them rather than the two Arctic Terns winging their way over my head, which would have slipped by unnoticed. I can only wonder how often something like that happens. How often, for example, might we be happily admiring just another Yellow-rumped Warbler when there's a Kirtland's Warbler teed up in the tree behind us? Probably much more often than we think. I'm just glad it didn't happen that day at Dashields.

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Image 1. Arctic Tern at Dashiels Dam, 29 May 2010. Note the clean gray upperwing and relatively small, red bill, both characteristic of the species. (Geoff Malosh)



Image 4. Arctic Tern at Dashiels Dam, 29 May 2010. Another view of the underside of the wing. Note also the bird's distinctly gray body and mostly red bill with just a minor dusky tip. Same bird as Image 1 and 2. (Geoff Malosh)



Image 2. Arctic Tern at Dashiels Dam, 29 May 2010. The clean gray upperwing is clearly shown. Note also the small-headed appearance and the position of the wings far forward on the body, creating a front-heavy and long-tailed appearance. (Geoff Malosh)



Image 5. Arctic Tern at Dashiels Dam, 29 May 2010. A profile view showing the bird's slender, tapered look, in contrast to the more blocky, double-bulge look characteristic of Common Tern. (Geoff Malosh)



Image 3. Arctic Tern at Dashiels Dam, 29 May 2010. This view of the underwing shows a clean, thin dark trailing edge to the outer primaries. Close study reveals that the dark edge reaches all the way to the eight outermost primaries. (Geoff Malosh)



Image 6. Arctic Tern at Dashiels Dam, 29 May 2010. Note what appears to be a slightly longer, duskier bill on this bird compared especially to Images 1 and 4. Still, this is not outside the range of variation for Arctic Tern in late spring. (Geoff Malosh)

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

THE NATURAL POCONO MOUNTAINS, Words and Photography by John Serrao; iii + 105 pp., including 100+ color photographs and a foldout map, published by *Local Flair* magazine, 2008, paper, \$24.95. Contact <publisher@flairmag.com> for a copy.

John Serrao received his M.S. degree from Cornell University in 1972 and has been a professional naturalist and writer-photographer since then. Currently, he conducts nature walks and lectures throughout the Poconos. He also writes the "Pocono Outdoors" column each Sunday for the *Pocono Record* as well as nature articles for *Milford Magazine* and *Local Flair*. John is the author of six previous nature books and his beautiful photographs have illustrated scores of publications. This book is no exception and is based on John's more than twenty years of research, nature walks and intimate experiences in the Poconos.

After brief Acknowledgement and Dedication (p. 1), a Table of Contents includes an Introduction that covers The Nature of the Poconos, Purpose of this Book, Writing and Photographing this Book, and The Pocono Region and its Natural Areas (pp. 1-6). As the author states (p. 3): "As a whole, the Poconos have too often been marketed exclusively for the resorts and commercial tourist attractions... However, outdoor pursuits, open spaces, and natural beauty remain the prized attributes of the region... This book celebrates all of these areas and is an open invitation to visit them... This may be one of the last photographic books in which traditional film, rather than digital, was used. Every image is true-to-life, just the way I viewed it through the lens, with no addition, subtraction, darkening, lightening or other artificial image enhancements". Indeed, the book photographs are beautiful, especially the "full bleed" images on pp. 12, 13-14, 16, 62, 71, and 83 because they convey the feeling of intimacy and being there in person.

The reader learns that the Poconos are generally defined as a raised plateau, between 1,500 and 2,000 feet above sea level, and spans across Monroe, Pike, parts of Wayne, Carbon, Lackawanna, and Luzerne counties.

The natural areas of the Pocono Plateau and its adjoining Delaware and Leigh River floodplains are highlighted in the book, but a few Northampton County parks (technically not a part of the Poconos) are included because of their proximity. In total, the Poconos encompass about 2,000 square miles of northeastern Pennsylvania. Moreover, the region possesses a rich assortment of natural and human-made habitats that, in turn, supports a grand diversity of plants and animals: 75 kinds of trees, 56 mammals, 47 reptiles and amphibians and more than 275 species of birds. Because of its wealth in flora, fauna and natural communities, The Nature Conservancy has named the Poconos one of its "Last Great Places". I, for one, can attest to its greatness, spending five summers at the Pocono Environmental Education Center near Dingham's Ferry. There, I conducted field ornithology workshops for teachers at this 38-acre campus within the 70,000-acre Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

This National Park Area represents another 20th century conservation victory. In 1962, the U.S. government authorized construction of Tocks Island Dam across the Delaware River a few miles north of the Delaware Water Gap. Entire communities of long-time residents were uprooted and homes destroyed by eminent domain. But strong opposition prevented the project from happening. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter designated 113 miles of the mid- and upper Delaware as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, bringing a *de facto* end to the Tocks Island Dam Project. Today, this 330,000-acre region presents outstanding opportunities for birding, with 37 warbler species possible in spring and autumn migrations. Even in summer, about 25 warbler species breed here.

The remainder Table of Contents (pp. 7 -100) is a comprehensive guide of all public natural areas in the Poconos: 19 state game lands, nine state parks, two state forests, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, the Appalachian Trail, County Nature Centers and Parks plus many other sites owned and managed by private

parties and conservation organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy. Most of the nearly fifty sites list location, acreage, contacts, visitor centers, access, background, natural and scenic highlights, flora and fauna, recreational opportunities, and hikes. The book ends with a Conclusion (p. 101), A Pocono Nature Calendar (pp. 103-105) and a two-page foldout map of the seven-county Pocono State Parks and Recreational Areas and State Game Lands. I hope that the many birders covering the Poconos for the second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project had a copy of this guide during the last two years (2008-2009) of the atlas effort. Regardless, procure a copy now and take it for your next visit to the region.

The Conclusion stresses the many problems facing the Poconos in the 21st century: plant and animal diseases, invasive species, over-browsing of forests by the white-tailed deer, and global warming. However, the most severe problem is the exponential rate of human development that already has replaced forests and other natural habitats with sprawling new homes, industrial parks, malls, and schools.

It is apparent, after reading this gem of a book, that the author has a special attachment to this place (what I call "geophilia") that is attained only after personally experiencing a landscape through daily contact. Gradually, over a period of time, a person acquires such knowledge, understanding, sensitivity, and consciousness of a place that it becomes a part of you and you a part of it. This symbiotic interaction, this nature-human affinity, is expressed by many birders and naturalists and by the author's wise words and beautiful photographs in this guide.

Supporting the collective work of The Nature Conservancy, Pocono Heritage Land Trust, National Park Service, local municipal and organizational open-space advocates, and the many environmental education centers that are working toward an informed and environmentally conscious citizenry, is the best way to ensure that the Poconos will not perish.

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Summary of the Season – March through May 2010

Mike Fialkovich

Only a few weeks prior to the start of the spring reporting season, record snowfall was occurring across the state. Spring could not come fast enough and compared to February, March and April brought a relatively calm weather pattern. The calm conditions resulted in many compilers noting a lack of waterfowl observations in their respective counties. Normally spring brings all day rain events, which force waterfowl to land on lakes and ponds particularly in the mountainous areas of the state, where they wait for better flying conditions, but that did not occur this spring. Fallouts of waterfowl highlighted by scoters and particularly Long-tailed Ducks did not occur for the most part. Consider that there was not a single report of Black Scoter this season and occurrence of the other two species was limited to a few counties. Despite these conditions, there were still a few notable fallouts noted in this summary and in the county reports.

This also seemed to be the spring of aberrant plumages. Perhaps observers are reporting these oddities more frequently, but there was a diverse range of species exhibiting odd appearances. A rare blue morph **Ross's Goose** was in *Lancaster*, a melanistic **Ruddy Duck** was in *Indiana*, a leucistic **Great Blue Heron** was in *Berks*, leucistic **Red-tailed Hawks** were in *Beaver* and *Washington*, leucistic **American Robins** were found in *Allegheny*, *Lancaster* and *Erie*, and an unusual **Common Grackle** described as tan with a dark brown head was in *Bradford* (a photograph of a bird fitting this description appeared in *Birding*, Vol. 39, No.5, p.41 and described as hypomelanistic).

Somewhat along the same lines as strange plumages, several hybrids were noted in the county reports. A **Ross's Goose x Snow Goose** was in *Lancaster*, a suspected hybrid **Green-winged Teal x Mallard** was in *Beaver*, and the putative **Great Blue Heron X Great Egret** continued in *Washington*.

Some wintering geese always

remain into the early spring period. **Greater White-fronted Geese** were in *Bedford*, *Lancaster*, and *Montgomery*. **Cackling Geese** were concentrated in the southeastern part of the state with a nice tally of twelve at various locations in *Lancaster*. **Ross's Goose** was reported in four counties including the rare blue morph in *Lancaster* mentioned above. Unusual for the season, **Brant** moved through in impressive numbers in mid-May in *Berks*, *Dauphin*, *Delaware* and *Lancaster*. Read about the details in the county reports.

Single **Trumpeter Swans** were in *Crawford*, *Somerset*, and *Venango* and **Mute Swans** were reported in five counties.



A memorable highlight of the field trips during the PSO Annual Meeting held this year from May 14-16 in Erie was this **White Pelican** in Thompson Bay at Presque Isle State Park. (Wayne Laubscher)

Although the waterfowl passage was widely reported as poor this spring, the season was not without highlights. Single **Eurasian Wigeon** were found in *Centre* and *Lebanon*, Pennsylvania's third record of **Tufted Duck** was well documented and observed by many in *Chester*, where it stayed for nine days among a flock of Ring-necked Ducks. The stunning adult male **Harlequin Duck** remained from the winter to mid-March in *Erie*. Scoters were hard to come by with **Surf Scoter** reported in only six counties and **White-winged Scoter** in eleven counties. As mentioned above there were no reports of Black Scoter submitted. A great total of 242 **Northern Pintails** was in *Chester*.

Northern Bobwhites continue to be found in some areas where most are released. A bird in *York* (a traditional

location for few remaining wild birds) was believed to be wild. One was in *Dauphin* and two were in *Union*.

A storm resulted in a fallout of **Common Loons** in *Bucks* where 90 were tallied. **Red-throated Loons** were in four counties. **Red-necked Grebes** are always a welcome sight and were found in just four counties with a high of five in *Armstrong*.

An **American White Pelican** stopped at Presque Isle State Park in *Erie*. This single bird was observed by a large number of birders because it was found during the first day of PSO field trips at the park. Through the devices of modern communication, everyone was summoned to Beach 11 and enjoyed watching the bird as it rested in Thompson Bay. A short time later while everyone was gathered in the parking lot, the pelican was spotted in the air and circled while gaining altitude over the crowd of happy birders. Many photographs were made. It sailed off toward Erie Bay and was not relocated.

Great Cormorants were reported from the usual locations in *Bucks* and *Philadelphia*. At least 36 were present in *Bucks* during the month of March and four remained to mid-May. *Delaware* and *Northampton* also hosted

this species.

The stealthy **Least Bittern** was found in *Centre*, *Cumberland*, *Erie*, *Dauphin*, *Indiana*, *Lancaster*, and *Philadelphia*. **Snowy Egrets** were in five counties; single birds provided extremely rare records in *Erie*, *Sullivan* and *Susquehanna*. The *Sullivan* bird might have represented a first county record, and the *Susquehanna* bird was indeed a county first. A bird was in *Dauphin* where they are rare but regular, and one was in *Northampton*. **Little Blue Herons** were in *Chester* and *Dauphin* where they are more likely to appear, and one was in *Bradford*, a very possible first for that county. **Cattle Egret** reports were good with single birds in *Bucks*, *Center*, *Huntington* and *Lycoming*. A flock of 20 was in *Dauphin*, recalling years past when this species was more

numerous in Pennsylvania. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was in *Bedford*, providing the only report away from the eastern stronghold of this species. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** continues as a local breeding species and returned to the nesting site in *Dauphin*. Two were in *Cumberland* and one provided a first county record for *Lycoming*.

The state's long awaited and first documented **White-faced Ibis** fed in a flooded field on the famous Mudlevel Road in *Cumberland*. Single **Glossy Ibis** were in *Bedford*, *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Lancaster* and *Lebanon*. Once again *Bedford* provided the only rare heron/ibis away from the southeast. An **Ibis sp.** in *Perry* was only observed in flight and was impossible to identify to species.

Black Vultures are probably under reported because they are a resident species in some counties, but with a restricted range they are considered rare in many parts of the state. There were two out of range reports this season: one flew over the hawkwatch in *Erie*, and a first breeding record came from *Lycoming*. After many years of regular and sometime numerous reports of **Mississippi Kites**, this spring there were only two birds reported from two counties. **Northern Goshawks** were in six counties and **Golden Eagles** were in five counties.

A **Purple Gallinule** was found in *York* at the end of May but due to the location on private property, it was not reported publically. Fortunately the bird was photographed.

Sandhill Crane continues expanding in the state and no longer warrants inclusion in the Birds of Note. Confirmed or possible breeding has occurred beyond the continuing stronghold in *Lawrence* and *Mercer*, with breeding suspected in *Somerset* and confirmed in *Sullivan*. Birds were noted in flight over Presque Isle State Park in *Erie* during the PSO field trips in May for many to see. *Wyoming* saw its first county record this spring; only a matter of time because cranes have been in neighboring *Sullivan* for years. A single individual spent nearly a year in *Lebanon*. Other counties that reported cranes include

Berks, *Bradford*, *Crawford*, *Huntington*, *Indiana*, *Northampton*, *Snyder*, and *Venango*.

There were a number of shorebird highlights this season. A few rare spring migrant shorebirds that are more expected in fall were reported including an **American Golden Plover** in *Crawford* and *Cumberland* and single **Stilt Sandpipers** in *Franklin* and *Luzerne*.

Willetts appeared in good numbers across the state this spring, but interestingly not all at the same time. This rare migrant is usually associated with a weather event and all reports are usually clustered around a single day or two. There were three occurrences: late April, early May and mid-May. Late April reports came from *Lancaster*, *Lebanon* and *Washington*, early May from *Bedford*, *Cambria*, *Clarion* and *Erie*. By the middle of the month birds were found in *Crawford*, *Dauphin* and *Erie*. The highest total (48) was recorded in *Lebanon*, one of the largest flocks ever recorded in Pennsylvania. *Clarion* and *Lancaster* hosted good counts of 14 and 15 respectively.

The only **American Avocet** and **Whimbrel** reports this season came from *Erie*. **Upland Sandpipers** were only in three counties and single **Ruddy Turnstones** were in *Erie*, *Franklin* and *Philadelphia*. The only **Sanderling** of the season was in *Luzerne*, unexpected for an "inland" county. Phalaropes had a good showing this spring. **Wilson's Phalaropes** were in five counties and most reports consisted of two birds. **Red-necked Phalaropes** were in five counties with four birds in *Centre*. Both species occurred in *Allegheny*, *Centre*, *Franklin*

and *Lebanon*.

Though regular in the fall, **Short-billed Dowitchers** made an unusual widespread appearance this spring. Most birds were found in mid-May and some totals were high for spring standards. *Crawford* and *Lebanon* recorded early dates for this species. The following table summarizes the spring observations and totals.

**Short-billed Dowitcher Reports
Spring 2010**

County	Date	Count
Allegheny	5/12	2
Bedford	5/15	23
Berks	5/18	2
Crawford	4/21	3
Crawford	4/25	3
Crawford	5/22	2
Fayette	5/2	2
Franklin	5/15	3
Lancaster	5/23	1
Lawrence	5/14	13
Lawrence	5/15	20
Lawrence	5/16	11
Lebanon	4/29	1
Luzerne	5/21	17
York	5/14	6

Cumberland observers found large numbers of **Pectoral Sandpipers** (over 50) and **Wilson's Snipe** (80), both at the productive flooded fields along Mudlevel Road. A tally of 26 **Wilson's Snipe** were found at another location in *Cumberland*.

Some gull reports from the winter season extended into early spring, and migrants passed through on schedule. A few **Laughing Gulls** were in *Bucks*, the most likely location due to the Delaware River; single birds were in *Centre* and *Dauphin*. **Little Gulls** moved through on time along the Susquehanna River in *Dauphin* and *Lancaster* where there were multiple sightings. The only other regular location is Presque Isle State Park in *Erie*, but this species went unreported this year. Unexpectedly, one was in *Venango*, providing a first county record, and one was in *Butler*, also a first county record. **Black-headed Gull** is becoming a regular spring migrant associating with Little Gulls in the Susquehanna River corridor. One was along the river in *Dauphin*. One in *Cumberland* provided a nice first county record at Mudlevel Road (where else?). The first winter **Thayer's Gull** in *Allegheny*



Providing a very rare spring appearance in Pennsylvania was this gorgeous **Stilt Sandpiper** in sharp breeding plumage at Plymouth Flats, *Luzerne* 12 May 2010. (Kevin Ripka)

reported in the winter remained into early March. **Iceland Gulls** were in *Bucks*, *Chester*, and *Erie* in March with a rather late bird in *Bucks* 5/1. *Bucks* continues to be the gathering place for **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** with 63 present in March. This species was also found in good numbers in *Lehigh* and *Northampton*. *Chester*, *Crawford*, *Dauphin*, *Delaware*, *Montgomery* and *Somerset* also hosted this species. **Glaucous Gulls** were in *Bucks* and *Erie* and unexpectedly in *Crawford*. **Great Black-backed Gulls** are normally restricted to the Lake Erie shore and parts of the southeast, but this spring they were fairly widespread with reports from *Allegheny*, *Berks*, *Chester*, *Crawford*, *Dauphin*, *Erie*, *Lancaster*, and *Mercer*. The **Bonaparte's Gull** migration was dutifully observed again this year along the Ohio River in *Allegheny* with lower totals compared to previous years.

An unusual surprise for hawk counters in *Bedford* was an early and unprecedented heavy passage of **Caspian Terns** with 300 tallied over three days in early March flying over the Allegheny Front. Good numbers of **Common Terns** were in *Allegheny*, *Dauphin* and *Indiana*. *Allegheny's* count of 25 was a surprise because they usually appear singly or in pairs. The total of 75-100 in *Dauphin* smashed previous single day high counts, and *Indiana* hosted a flock of 33, a high for that county. Certainly an unexpected and exciting highlight among terns were two **Arctic Terns** flying along the Ohio River in *Allegheny* and continuing into *Beaver*, providing first records for both counties. Fortunately excellent photographs were obtained. **Black Terns** were reported widely in migration from thirteen counties across the state. It appears none set up territories in the former northwest stronghold although they were reported during migration in *Crawford*.

Eurasian Collared Doves continue to be seen regularly in *Franklin* where three were found; two were in *Lebanon*. A **White-winged Dove** made a brief appearance in *Northampton*.

Barn Owls were found in *Cumberland*, *Dauphin* and *Juniata*. An owl believed to be this species was seen in flight in *Bucks*. A **Snowy Owl** was reported in *Juniata* by a non-birder, and the beautiful male in *Crawford* that was enjoyed by so many observers finally moved on in early March. **Long-eared Owls** were in three counties and

Northern Saw-whet Owls were in six counties during the period.

A **Chuck-wills-widow** was calling in *Philadelphia*, heard by birders from the neighboring state of Delaware.

The **Northern Shrikes** that spent the winter in *Allegheny* and *Erie* remained into March. Birds in *Lawrence* and *Fayette* were only seen on single days and may have been transients. The bird in *Fayette* may have been a first for the county. A **Loggerhead Shrike** was in *Cumberland*.

Fish Crows continue to be reported away from the core range along the Susquehanna River and adjacent regions. Notable reports came from *Allegheny*, *Bradford*, *Indiana*, *Lycoming*, *Sullivan* and *Wyoming*.

A **Sedge Wren** was in *Luzerne* and believed to be a migrant due to improper habitat and unsuccessful follow up searches.

Many compilers noted low numbers of migrant thrushes this spring.

Golden-winged Warblers were found in eleven counties, but this species may become a regular entry in the Birds of Note in the coming years. **Brewster's Warblers** were in seven counties and the rare **Lawrence's Warbler** was only found in two counties. Not as common as in the fall, **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found in six counties. A **Kirtland's Warbler** was reported in *Fayette* and documentation was submitted to PORC. One was clearly heard singing in *York*, but was never seen. **Prothonotary Warblers** were reported in *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Crawford*, *Erie*, *Juniata*, *Lancaster*, and *Mercer*. A singing male was found at Presque Isle State Park during a PSO field trip. Unfortunately this species continues to be irregular at this former breeding location. Up to three **Swainson's Warblers** were in *Westmoreland* (two banded at Powdermill) and the secretive **Connecticut Warbler** was found in *Allegheny*, *Erie*, and *Franklin*. A nice single-day (and single-location) count of **Northern Waterthrushes** was made in *Philadelphia*. Many compilers commented on a lack of big warbler days this spring.

Single **Summer Tanagers** were in *Dauphin* and *Delaware*, but neither remained for more than a day.

Clay-colored Sparrows were present in five counties. The wintering bird in *Northampton* remained to the first day of May. One site in *Clarion*

was destroyed by fire, but birds returned to another reliable location nearby. Hopefully the fire damaged area will recover. A lingering **American Tree Sparrow** was still in *Centre* the first few days of May. **Henslow's Sparrows** were in the usual breeding locations in *Allegheny*, *Cambria*, *Clarion*, *Indiana*, and *Lawrence*. One was in a new site in *Somerset* and this species was found for the second year in *Wyoming*.

Lapland Longspurs were in *Bucks*, *Centre*, and *Lancaster*, and **Snow Buntings** remained from the winter or passed through in *Bucks*, *Cambria*, *Indiana*, *Lawrence*, *Luzerne*, and *Wyoming*.

Blue Grosbeaks were reported from the usual south central and southeastern counties (ten in total). One report came from the north in *Sullivan*. A **Dickcissel** that wintered in *Chester* remained into the spring and several birds were found at various locations in *Franklin*.

A **Western Meadowlark** was heard singing in *Huntington* at the end of April, however follow up searches did not result in hearing the bird sing.

There were a few northern finches reported. A small flock of **Red Crossbills** were found in Cowan's Gap State Park in *Franklin* and *Fulton* at the end of March bringing to mind the recent invasion. Apparently just passing through, the birds were present for a mere two days. A **White-winged Crossbill** visited a feeder in *Erie* for a day in April. There were reports of **Pine Siskin** from six counties across the state, mainly at feeders. Be sure to read the *Mercer* report to discover the origin of a banded **American Goldfinch**. An **Evening Grosbeak** visited a feeder in *Bedford* in March and one was in *Mercer*.

Reports were submitted from 50 counties.

Birds of Note – March through May 2010

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. "Listserv" indicates records deemed credible which were gleaned from the PABIRDS listserv for counties with no reporting compiler.

An * denotes species on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) Review List. Details or descriptions that are submitted for species on the PORC Review List will be reviewed by the committee. The terms "no doc" and "doc submitted" indicate whether documentation has been submitted on reports of Review List species listed herein; "no doc" indicates that no documentation was known to have been submitted as of the time of writing. The PORC Review List can be found at the PSO web site <<http://www.pabirds.org>>.

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

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

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

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

Black-bellied Whistling Duck* – *Dauphin*: 5 in South Hanover Twp. 5/30 (Tom Johnson, et al., *doc submitted*).

Greater White-fronted Goose – *Bedford*: 2 at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 3/12 (Tom Dick); *Lancaster*: multiple reports at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/6-17 (m.ob.), one at Greenfield Estates 3/7 (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler); *Montgomery*: two at Green Lane Reservoir 3/10-11 (Kevin Crilley, George Franchois).

Cackling Goose – *Berks*: single birds at Lake Ontelaunee and Gotwals Pond in Oley 3/5-20 (Rudy Keller, Ken Lebo, Matt Spence); *Bucks*: last of the season was one in Hilltown Twp. 3/4 (August Mirabella); *Delaware*: 2 at Springton Reservoir 3/4 (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: one at Wood's Edge Pond 3/15 (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler), 2 at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area up to 3/25 (m.ob.) and 9 at Greenfield Estates 3/7 (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Reservoir 3/11-16 (Kevin Crilley); *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 3/9 (Michael Schall).

Ross's Goose – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/5-9 (Andrew Albright, Rudy Keller, Matt Wlasniewski); *Chester*: one flying over Bucktoe Preserve 3/8 (Larry Lewis); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area up to 3/17 (m.ob.), one at Wood's Edge Pond 3/15 (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler); *Lebanon*: last reported 3/13; *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 3/11 (Michael Schall), one in Hecktown 3/13 (Dustin Welch).

Brant – *Berks*: 27 at Lake Ontelaunee 5/18 (Ken Lebo, Matt Wlasniewski); *Dauphin*: 19 on the Susquehanna River at Fort Hunter 5/12 (Drew Weber) and 70 flying downriver at Marysville the same day (Ramsay Koury); *Delaware*: 150 on Little Tinicum Island in the Delaware River 5/18 (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: 40 flying along the Susquehanna River at Bainbridge 5/12 (Chuck Chalfant).

Trumpeter Swan – *Crawford*: one at Custards 3/23 (Ronald Leberman); *Somerset*: one at Lake Somerset 5/11 where it was photographed and present for approximately a week prior to the report (Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Chris Payne); *Venango*: one juvenile at Kahle Lake 3/31-4/8 (Gary Edwards, Russ States, Jerry Stanley, Kathie Goodblood).

Mute Swan – *Armstrong*: 2 at Rosston 3/6 (Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee); *Berks*: a pair at Lake Ontelaunee were present and successfully bred during the season (Matt Spence, Rudy Keller); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Causeway 3/13 (Ronald Leberman), 4 at

Custards 5/26 (Ronald Leberman) and one at Pymatuning 3/17 (Bob VanNewkirk, Mary Ann VanNewkirk); *Lawrence*: one in Moravia 3/21 (Mark Vass); *Lebanon*: 2 at Lake Duffy during the season were last seen 4/11 (Dallas Dowhower).

Eurasian Wigeon – *Centre*: one at Scotia Pond 3/23 (Nick Kerlin); *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/28-31 (Kevin Ripka, David Boltz).

Tufted Duck* – *Chester*: one at the Upper Uwchlan Twp. Water Treatment Plant 3/18 (Holly Merker) where it remained to 3/27 (m.ob., *doc submitted*), first county record and third state record.

Harlequin Duck* – *Erie*: the bird present during the winter season at Presque Isle State Park was last seen 3/15 (Jerry McWilliams).

Surf Scoter – *Allegheny*: 8 flew past Dashields Dam 4/12 (Geoff Malosh); *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/27 (Adam Jacobs); *Beaver*: same birds as in Allegheny; *Centre*: 3 along Rte. 150 near the bridge to Howard 4/26 (Matt O'Donnell); *Dauphin*: 3 on the Susquehanna River at West Fairview 4/13 (Ramsay Koury, Richard Williams, Patricia Williams); *Union*: two in Winfield 4/28 (Carl Shaffer).

White-winged Scoter – *Berks*, *Beaver*, *Butler*, *Centre*, *Chester*, *Dauphin*, *Indiana*, *Venango*, *Washington*, *Philadelphia*.

Northern Bobwhite – *Dauphin*: one calling at Deer Valley Golf Course 5/30 (Richard Williams, Patricia Williams, Tom Johnson); *Fulton*: one in Union Twp. 5/24 (Dan Snell), 2 in Taylor Twp. 5/27 (Dan Snell); *York*: one heard along Pinchtown Road 5/21 (Peter Robinson).

Red-throated Loon – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/10 (Devich Farbotnik); *Butler*: one at Moraine State Park 4/13 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson); *Crawford*: one at Woodcock Lake 3/25 (Peter Hoke, Steve Rotkovech); *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 4/2 (Ramsay Koury).

Red-necked Grebe – *Armstrong*: 5 at Keystone Reservoir 4/30 (Ken Byerly); *Butler*: 2 at Moraine State Park 4/13 (Dave Darney, Debbie Darney, Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson); *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzin State Park 3/25 (Dave Gobert); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/16 (Justin Bosler).

American White Pelican – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/15 (Jimmy Marz, m.ob.).

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: 28 at Bristol and 8 at Mud Island 3/14 (Devich Farbotnik), one at Giving Pond, Uhlerstown 3/26 (Erich Boenzli) and 4 lingered at

Bristol 5/15 (Devich Farbotnik); *Delaware*: 4 on the Delaware River 3/21 (Al Guarente); *Northampton*: one at Martin's Creek Quarry 3/7 (Michael Schall); *Philadelphia*: last reported 3/26 (Frank Windfelder).

Snowy Egret – *Dauphin*: one in West Hanover Twp. 5/17 (Beth Carricato); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/5-6 (Brian Berchtold); *Northampton*: one in Hellertown 5/3 (Gene Fernandez); *Sullivan*: one in Cherry Twp. 5/22 (Skip Conant, Tom Reeves, Gary Becker, Mike Brawley, Rob Megraw); *Susquehanna*: one in Union Dale 5/6 (Bill Maile).

Little Blue Heron – *Bradford*: one at Peck Hill 5/8 (Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze); *Chester*: one at Longwood 5/8 (Larry Lewis, et al.); *Dauphin*: one at Haldeman Island 5/10 (Patti Barber, Scott Bills).

Cattle Egret – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/11 (Misha-Linda Spina) and 5/9 (Devich Farbotnik); *Centre*: one at the Penn State Airport 5/6 (Dan Ombalski); *Dauphin*: 20 at a farm along Piketown Road in early April with one remaining for a week (Beth Carricato); *Huntington*: one at Lake Raystown Dam 5/8 (Greg Grove); *Lycoming*: one in Muncy 5/12 (Staci Barto).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Cumberland*: 2 at Cabin Road 5/8 (Andy Markel); *Dauphin*: 7 returned to the nesting site in Harrisburg 4/5 (Ramsay Koury); *Lycoming*: one at Lycoming Creek 4/10 (Tiernan Ferry, Dave Ferry, Steve Pinkerton, Nate Fronk), first county record.

White-faced Ibis* – *Cumberland*: one in a flooded field on Mudlevel Road 3/21 (Vern Gauthier, Frank Haas, *doc submitted*), first county record and first documented state record if accepted.

Glossy Ibis – *Bedford*: one in flight over Oysterburg 5/7 (Sally Dick); *Berks*: one near Hartlesville 5/15-16 (Matt Wlasniewski); *Bucks*: one at Falls Twp. Community Park 4/10 (Devich Farbotnik), one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/8 (Al Bilheimer, Nancy Bilheimer); *Chester*: one at Kurtz Fish Hatchery 4/9 (Nick Pulcinella, et al.); *Lancaster*: one flying over Pumping Station Road 5/9 (Bruce Carl, et al.); *Lebanon*: one at Kreider Farm Pond on Mount Pleasant Road 5/8 (Jonathan Heller).

Plegadis sp. – *Perry*: a dark ibis was observed in flight near Blain (Ramsay Koury).

Black Vulture – *Bedford*: a total of 27 for the season at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (Counters of the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch); *Cumberland*: present 3/26-5/26; *Erie*: one flew over the Tom Ridge Environmental Center 3/18 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lycoming*: a nest was discovered in early May in Limestone Twp.; a first confirmed breeding record in the county (Wesley Egli, Mary Morrison); *Montgomery*: 137 flew over Unami Creek Valley 3/19 (Kevin Crilley); *Snyder*: one near Middleburg 3/6 (Jason Weller); *Somerset*: two in the Summit Mills Area 3/22 (Elmer Breneman).

Mississippi Kite* – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 4/17 (Joan Silagy, *no doc*) and one at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 5/8 (Laurie Goodrich, *no doc*); *Lebanon*: one at Route 322 and Coon Creek Road 5/13 (Tim Becker, *no doc*).

Northern Goshawk – *Bedford*: a total of 6 for the season at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (Counters of the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch); *Bradford*: one at Peck Hill 3/30 (Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze); *Crawford*: one near Norrisville 4/23 (Thomas Clare

Nicolls); *Erie*: one flew over the Tom Ridge Environmental Center 3/24 (Jerry McWilliams) followed by 2 on 4/1 (Sam Stull, Jerry McWilliams), and one at Erie Bluffs State Park 4/30 (Toby Cunningham, Jean Cunningham); *Juniata*: one in Oakland Mills 3/24 (Stevie Troyer); *Wyoming*: one near Tunkhannock 2/26 (Rebecca Lesko).

Golden Eagle – *Allegheny*: one flying over Lawrenceville (Al Borek, Carol Borek); *Bradford*: one flying over Sugar Run 3/4 (Jason Petlock); *Bedford*: one at the Allegheny Front 5/1; *Crawford*: one at Marsh Road 3/27, one at McMichael Road 4/10 (Ronald Leberman); *Huntington*: recorded at Tussey Mountain 4/2 (1), 4/3 (3), 4/4 (1), 4/10 (1), 4/17 (2) and 4/21 (2).

Purple Gallinule* – *York*: one at an undisclosed location 5/31 (*fide* Peter Robinson, *doc submitted*).

American Golden Plover – *Crawford*: one at the Miller Ponds 4/10 and 4/15 (Ronald Leberman); *Cumberland*: one at Mudlevel Road 4/4 (Andy Markel, Mike Wieble).

American Avocet – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/6 (Mike Plyler).

Willet – *Bedford*: one at Shawnee State Park 5/8 (Deb Bodenschatz); *Cambria*: 6 at Prince Gallitzin State Park 5/8 (John Salvetti); *Clarion*: 14 at Mt. Airy 5/2 (Carl Rowe, Joan Rowe); *Crawford*: one at the Miller Ponds 5/16 (Bonie Genader, Janace Grindle, Ronald Leberman); *Dauphin*: one on an island in the Susquehanna River off West Fairview 5/12 (Vern Gauthier, Ramsay Koury, Andy Markel); *Erie*: one at Gull Point, Presque Isle State Park 5/2 and one in Thompson Bay at Presque Isle 5/17 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: 15 at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 4/27 (Bruce Carl, et al.); *Lebanon*: 48 at the Krieder Farm Pond on Mount Pleasant Road 4/25 (Devich Farbotnik, John Hower, Jason Horn, Randy Miller); *Washington*: 2 at Bentleyville 4/26 (Andy Berchin).

Upland Sandpiper – *Chester*: one in Cochranville 4/30 (Kevin Fryberger, et al.); *Crawford*: up to 4 at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 4/21-5/28 (John Fedak, Thomas Clare Nicolls, Tony Bledsoe, Ronald Leberman, et al.); *Venango*: one near Nickleville 4/27 (Warren Thomas); *York*: one at the intersection of Althouse School and Plank Road at an old landfill 5/5 (Dick Cleary).

Whimbrel – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/23 (*fide* Dave Wilton).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/14 (Mark Vass); *Franklin*: one in Chambersburg 5/15-16 (Dale Gearhart); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware River 4/26 (Frank Windfelder).

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Bedford*: 6 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/31 (Tom Dick); *Franklin*: one at Kriner Road holding pond 6/6-8 (Carl Garner); *Lebanon*: one at Mount Pleasant Road 5/22 (Jonathan Heller); *Northampton*: one at Green Pond 5/8-9 (Dave DeReamus).

Sanderling – *Luzerne*: one at Francis Slocum State Park 5/15 (Bruce Troy).

Stilt Sandpiper – *Franklin*: one in Chambersburg 4/30 (Dale Gearhart); *Luzerne*: one at Plymouth Flats 5/12 (Kevin Ripka).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Allegheny*: one at Boyce Mayview Park/Wingfield Pines 5/8 (Al Fleckenstein) and one at Imperial the same day (Steve Gosser) which may have been the same individual; *Centre*: 2 at the remediation wetlands west of Julian 5/3-5 (Matt O'Donnell, Nan

Butkovich, et al.); *Franklin*: one in Chambersburg 5/6-7 (Dale Gearhart); *Lebanon*: 2 at Kreider Farm Pond on Mount Pleasant Road 5/3 with one remaining until 5/5 (Chuck Berthoud, et al.), one at the same location 5/20 (Chuck Berthoud, et al.) and another 5/29 (Tom Johnson); *Wayne*: 2 near Waymart 5/3 (Chris Fischer).

Red-necked Phalarope – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 5/27 (Becky Smith); *Centre*: 2 at the Remediation wetlands west of Julian 5/18 (Drew Weber, Matt O'Donnell), then 3 (Deb Grove, Greg Grove), then 4 (Joe Verica, Molly Heath, Mike Dreibelbis, Maria & LeAnn Verica, Jean & Craig Miller), then down to one (Nan Butkovich). One remained 5/19 (Ron Crandall, Donna Preskitt); *Chester*: one at Waterway Road Pond 5/14 (Larry Lewis); *Franklin*: one at Kriner Road Ponds 5/7 (Bob Keener); *Lebanon*: two at Kreider Farm Pond on Mount Pleasant Road 5/19-20 (Chuck Berthoud, et al.).

Laughing Gull – *Bucks*: 7 at the Penn-Warner Tract 3/22 and 1500 there 5/8 (Devich Farbotnik); *Centre*: one at Toftrees 5/12 (Joe Verica); *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 5/12 (Vern Gauthier, Ramsay Koury, Drew Weber).

Little Gull – *Butler*: one at Moraine State Park 4/13 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson); *Dauphin*: one on the Susquehanna River at Fort Hunter 3/26 (Patricia Williams, Richard Williams), one at West Fairview 4/2 (Ramsay Koury); *Lancaster*: one at The Rocks near Columbia (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler), 2 in that area 3/14 (Eric Witmer), one near Peach Bottom Village 3/14 (Bob Schutsky), up to 2 in the Columbia/Wrightsville area at least to 3/7 (Jonathan Heller, Eric Witmer) and 3 were there 4/24 (Mark Weible), all along the Susquehanna River; *Venango*: one adult at Kahle Lake 4/28 (Jerry Stanley) was a first county record.

Black-headed Gull* – *Cumberland*: one at Mudlevel Road 3/20 (Vern Gauthier, Ramsay Koury, Matt Sabatine, *doc submitted*), first county record; *Dauphin*: one along the Susquehanna River at Marysville 3/14 (Ramsay Koury, Andy Markel, Joan Renninger, Matt Sabatine, Devon Bosler, et al., *doc submitted*).

Thayer's Gull* – *Allegheny*: one continued from the winter at the Point in Pittsburgh 3/2-6 (Ben Coulter, Scott Kinzey, Dan Yagusic, Geoff Malosh, Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson).

Iceland Gull – *Bucks*: present at Morrisville Levee 3/3 (Bill Keim), Maple Knoll Farms 3/14 (Richard Smith, Vicky Smith), Warminster Twp. 3/14 (Gail Johnson), Nockamixon State Park 3/15 (Andrew Leidig), Peace Valley Park 3/26 (August Mirabella) and at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/1 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: 2 at South Eastern Chester County Refuse Authority Landfill 3/15 (Larry Lewis); *Erie*: 3 present at the Lakeview Landfill and Presque Isle State Park during the season (Jerry McWilliams).

Glaucous Gull – *Bucks*: one at Shady Brook Farm 3/30 (Bill Keim) and the last for the season was at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/10 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: one at Jamestown State Park 3/15 (Scott Kinzey); *Erie*: 3 present at the Lakeview Landfill and Presque Isle State Park during the season (Jerry McWilliams).

Arctic Tern* – *Allegheny*: two flew past Dashields Dam on the Ohio River 5/29 (Geoff Malosh, *doc submitted*), first county record; *Beaver*: same birds as Allegheny, first county record.

Eurasian Collared Dove – *Franklin*: 3 in Shady Grove

5/12 (Vern Gauthier, Andy Markel); *Lebanon*: one in Mount Pleasant 5/31 (Jonathan Heller) and 2 at that location 6/1 (Richard Williams, Pat Williams).

White-winged Dove* – *Northampton*: one in Williams Twp. 5/23 (Arlene Koch, *no doc*).

Barn Owl – *Bucks*: an owl believed to be this species was seen flying over a road in Quakertown (Arlene Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: present at State Game Lands 169 on 3/15 (Andy Markel) and 4/15 (Vern Gauthier); *Dauphin*: one in East Hanover Twp. 4/23 (Sally and Rich Zaino), three successful nest sites at the Milton S. Hershey School Barns (Richard Williams); *Juniata*: two visited a barn on Cuba Mills Road 3/24 (Raymond Swarey).

Snowy Owl – *Crawford*: the bird present from the winter season near Springboro was last seen 3/6 (Thomas Clare Nicolls, m.ob.); *Juniata*: one at Seven Stars (observer and date not listed).

Long-eared Owl – *Bucks*: last of the season at Peace Valley Park 3/18 (August Mirabella); *Erie*: one or two at Presque Isle State Park 4/4-5 (Dave Darney, Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: one at Octoraro Lake 3/19 (Jonathan Heller).

Short-eared Owl – *Adams*: 4 at Gettysburg National Military Park 4/1 (Tim Benedict, Richard Hutton); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 4/29 (Ronald Leberman); *Lancaster*: 3 at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area continued from the winter season and were last seen 3/20; *Lebanon*: same birds as in Lancaster (Pam Fisher, Fern Bauman).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – *Bucks*: one heard in Nockamixon Twp. up to mid-March (Devich Farbotnik), one at Peace Valley Park 3/18 (Judy Mirabella); *Chester*: one in Kennett Twp. 3/17 (Kevin Fryberger); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 4/4 (Dave Darney); *Lancaster*: 2 at Octoraro Lake 3/19 (Jonathan Heller); *Monroe*: one at Skytop 3/7 (John Serrao); *Sullivan*: one heard calling, date not listed (Rob Megraw).

Chuck-wills-widow* – *Philadelphia*: one calling at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 5/20 (Anne Bekker, *no doc*).

Northern Shrike – *Allegheny*: one continued at Imperial from the winter and was last seen 3/14 (Mark Vass, Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson); *Erie*: the bird at Franklin Center from the winter season was last seen 3/20 (Julie Dell); *Fayette*: one at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort 3/14 (Larry Durgin); *Lawrence*: one at Black Swamp 3/22 (Shawn Collins).

Loggerhead Shrike* – *Cumberland*: one near Newville 5/26 (Deb Seifken, *doc submitted*).

Sedge Wren – *Luzerne*: one in Dorrance Twp. 5/13 (Rick Koval).

Orange-crowned Warbler – *Allegheny*: one at Frick Park 5/4 (Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon) and 2 at Boyce-Mayview Park 5/19 (Shannon Thompson); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/14 (Randy Stringer) and 5/20 (Jerry McWilliams); *Franklin*: one near Chambersburg 4/22-24 (Bill Oyler); *Juniata*: one 5/8 (PAMC); *Luzerne*: one at Kirby Park 5/12 (Stan Galenty); *Washington*: one in Peters Twp. 5/19 (Andy Berchin).

Brewster's Warbler – *Allegheny Bucks, Cumberland, Franklin, Juniata, Lebanon*.

Lawrence's Warbler – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/2 (Jerry McWilliams); *Juniata*: one during the PAMC 5/8 (Henry Petersheim, et al.).

Answer to Photo Quiz 28

Rick Wiltraut

Note the plump, dark body of this bird. In some respects it could pass for a European Starling carrying food or nesting material. Note the relatively small head, the pot-bellied look, and overall pear-shaped body, dark pointed bill, and white underwings. I photographed this Black Guillemot from a boat off Matinicus Rock, Maine on July 27, 2008. Of all the alcids in the East, the Black Guillemot is the one most regularly seen close to shore during the breeding season. Black Guillemots prefer rocky shoreline where they hide their nests among crevices. Maine is a perfect place to become familiar with them. Usually Black Guillemots are seen flying low over the water or bobbing and diving in the waves, and fisherman often call them "sea pigeons."

The Black Guillemot is the most widely distributed member of the auk family. I first became familiar with them off the Gaspé Peninsula on August 13, 1971. The Black Guillemot in breeding plumage, with its jet-black color, bold white patches on the wings, bright red feet, and red mouth lining, is a handsome bird in every respect. It is easy to study and photograph since they spend so much time close to shore. Since first seeing it in 1971, it has always been one of my favorite seabirds. Although adults have a diverse diet, chicks are fed mostly fish. On Kent Island, New Brunswick and Duck Island, Maine, Rock Gunnel (*Pholis gunnellis*) were the most common fish brought in brought to chicks. The prey in the bill of the bird pictured appears to be a Rock Gunnel.

Because of their secretive in their nesting habits, they have escaped the onslaught by collectors and hunters over the years. Unfortunately, they still face many threats. Black Guillemot populations, especially those in the high Arctic, have been found to have high levels of Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in their eggs and liver. They are also at great risk for heavy metal biomagnification because of their habit of foraging in shallow waters where sediment contaminants are highest. Climate change has also taken its toll. The breeding populations at Cooper Island are increasingly threatened as August pack ice is harder to access where guillemots depend on cold water to find a favorite prey, Arctic Cod. Polar bears on the island have learned to prey on guillemot eggs and chicks as their food supply disappears. Along the Maine coast and in New Hampshire (southernmost extent of its breeding range), predation by Great Black-backed Gulls is also a concern.



References:

Birds of North America online, Black Guillemot

Erskine, A. 1992. Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces. Nova Scotia Museum and Nimbus Publishing Limited.

<http://www.adventures-in-climate-change.com/cooperisland/>

New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan, Black Guillemot

Vorkamp K., J.H. Christensen, M. Glasius, F.F. Riget. 2004. Persistent halogenated compounds in black guillemots (*Cepphus grylee*) from Greenland-levels, compound patterns and spatial trends. Marine Pollution Bulletin, 48:111-121.

Kirtlands Warbler* – Adams: one at State Game Lands 249 on 5/8 (Peter Robinson, *no doc*); Fayette: one in Stewart Twp. 5/16 (Dave Kreuger, *doc submitted*).

Swainson's Warbler* – Westmoreland: two banded at Powdermill 5/1 and 5/8 (Andrew Vitz, *doc submitted*). This species was heard singing just south of Powdermill 4/19-6/5 (*fide* Tom Kuehl). One was also seen in Stahlstown 5/13 (Len Hess, Linda Hess, *no doc*).

Connecticut Warbler – Allegheny: one at Boyce Mayview Park 5/12 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson); Erie: up to 4 present at Presque Isle State Park 5/4-17 (m.ob.); Franklin: one 4/22 (observer and location not specified).

Summer Tanager* – Dauphin: one at State Game Lands 246 on 5/1 (Jenni Horton, Barry Horton, *no doc*); Delaware: one at Ridley Creek State Park 5/8 (Chris Langman, *no doc*).

Clay-colored Sparrow – Bedford: two found during the Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/8 (Deb Bodenschatz); Clarion: returned to Curlsville by 5/14 (Carole Winslow); Cumberland: one at the intersection of Route 944 and Hunter Road 5/22 (Andy Markel, Ramsay Koury, Mike Wieble); Juniata: one in Van Wert 5/10 for the third year in a row (Amos Renno); Northampton: one in Williams Twp. continued from the winter season up to 5/1 (Arlene Koch), one at Jacobsburg State Park 5/8 (Kathy Sieminski, Stephen Kloiber).

Dickcissel – Chester: the bird present during the previous season remained in Cochranville up to 3/3 (Holly Merker); Franklin: present in the Newburg and Edinville areas 5/8 (Dan Snell); Lehigh: one in Heidelberg 5/30 (Bob Hoopes).

Western Meadowlark* – Huntington: one heard singing in Stone Valley 4/24 (Jim Dunn, *no doc*).

Red Crossbill – Franklin: several at Cowan's Gap State Park in March (Conococheague Audubon members); Fulton: the same birds were observed at Cowan's Gap State Park on the Fulton side, seven birds were present 3/27 (Alex Lamoreau) and 15 were there 3/28 (Brad Lanning, Byron Steele, Marilyn Snell, Dan Snell).

White-winged Crossbill – Erie: one visited a feeder in Waterford 4/22 (*fide* Sam Stull).

Pine Siskin – Allegheny: one visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 4/12 (Jim Valimont) and one visited a feeder in Brentwood 5/5 (Donna Foyle); Bucks: one at Bowman's Hill Park 3/21 (Jean Falcone); Erie: one in Fairview 3/17 (Pat Howell) and one in Erie 4/27 (Katie Anderson); Forest: 2 visited a feeder near German Hill 4/26 (Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire); Juniata: one visited a feeder at the Lost Creek Shoe Shop 5/22 (Aden Troyer, David Troyer, Stevie Troyer, Chad Kauffman); Luzerne: one in Pike's Creek 3/26 (Deb Petroski).

Evening Grosbeak – Bedford: one visited a feeder at the White-tail Wetlands 3/22 (Connie Hunt); Mercer: one in Farrell 3/21 (Nancy Mutdosh).

Corrigendum

In the Birds of Note on p. 37 of Volume 24, No. 1, a **Pine Warbler** was incorrectly listed as found 1/3 on the West Chester CBC. In fact it was found 1/3 on the Western Chester County CBC. Thanks to Barry Blust for bringing is error to our attention.

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*). A species ever more frequently found and long ago removed from the PORC review list is Ross's Goose; this bird at Hecktown Road, *Northampton* 13 March was one of seven found in the state this season. (*Dustin Welch*)



Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*). The continuing presence of a Harlequin Duck at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*, brought many birders to our state's northwestern corner, where they were treated to close encounters with many species of duck, such as this Canvasback there 6 March 2010. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). Photographed 13 March 2010 at Hecktown Road, *Northampton*, this bird's collar revealed it to be a female banded as an adult in August 2004 at Bylot Island, Nunavut, Canada. (*Dustin Welch*)



Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*). Photographed at the channel at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 6 March 2010, along with the Canvasback above. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Brant (*Branta bernicla*). Photographed at Woods Edge Park, *Lancaster* 18 May 2010, this bird was part of a strong push of Brant through southeastern Pennsylvania in mid-May. (*Stanley C. Stahl*)



Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*). Surprisingly fearless of human proximity in spring is Red-breasted Merganser; this displaying male at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 6 March 2010 approached the photographer within 30 feet as it courted a nearby female. (*Geoff Malosh*)



White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-necked Grebe. A small flock of waterfowl at Lake Arthur, *Butler* 13 April 2010 included three high-quality rarities, all in breeding plumage, which also happened to all find each other within the flock for a short time in which this image was created. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). This leucistic individual was found and photographed at Tulpehocken Creek, *Berks* in April 2010. (*Anthony Schoch*)



Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*). *Susquehanna's* first Snowy Egret was photographed nicely at Union Dale 6 May 2010. (*Bill Maile*)



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). A *Lycoming* first was provided by this adult on Lycoming Creek 10 April 2010. (*Judi Pinkerton*)



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). Another image of *Lycoming's* first Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, at Lycoming Creek 10 April 2010. (*Dave Ferry*)



Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). An uptick in the number of reports of pheasants in southwestern Pennsylvania this spring was probably indicative of increased numbers of released birds, rather than a recovery of their formerly stable population in the region. Photographed in Findlay Twp., *Allegheny* 2 April 2010. (*Cris Hamilton*)



Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). A fine portrait made at Falls of the Delaware Park, *Bucks* 21 April 2010. (*Bill Keim*)



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). These three chicks were photographed during their banding at the Pennsylvania Turnpike bridge over the Delaware River 7 May 2010. (*Howard Eskin*)



Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*). This excellent image of a normally shy and retiring species was made at Powy's Wetlands, *Lycoming* 10 April 2010. (*Judy Pinkerton*)



Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). These two Willets (note the second individual behind the foreground bird) were photographed at Bentleyville, *Washington* 26 April 2010. The date coincides precisely with several other Willets found southwestern Pennsylvania in recent years, showing that the species passes through the region much more frequently than previously believed, primarily in the last week of April and the first week of May. (*Andy Berchin*)



Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*). It seemed to be a good season for Black-bellied Plovers across the state, as evidenced by the photo above and the two that follow below. The four birds pictured above were at Green Pond, Northampton 22 May 2010. (Dave DeReamus)



Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*). A dredging project at Allegheny's North Park Lake provided good mudflats and shallow water throughout the season, attracting many shorebirds. Perhaps most amazing of all was the total of Solitary Sandpipers, which reached a maximum of 77 on 13 May 2010, quite probably a state record. This bird was photographed at the lake 14 May 2010. (Geoff Malosh)



Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*). A nice capture of a calling adult in full alternate plumage at the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster 23 May 2010. (Meredith Lombard)



Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*). This cooperative Lesser Yellowlegs was photographed at Bald Knob, Allegheny 7 May 2010 while the photographer waited for a Black-bellied Plover to approach (see below and left on this page). (Geoff Malosh)



Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*). The first of three Black-bellied Plovers found at Bald Knob, Allegheny this spring, this bird was present 7 May 2010. (Geoff Malosh)



Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutella*). The new mitigation wetlands at Wingfield Pines in Allegheny have quickly proven attractive to shorebirds. This Least was photographed there 15 May 2010. (Geoff Malosh)



Dunlin (*Calidris aplina*). Providing a rare spring record for Washington was this bird at Bentleyville 22 May 2010. (Andy Berchin)



Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*). This female at Kreider Farm Pond, Lebanon 29 May 2010 was the last of at least six Wilson's to be found in Pennsylvania this season, and the last of three at this location in May. (Tom Johnson)



Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limodromus griseus*). These two birds of the *griseus* ("Atlantic") subspecies used the mudflats at the drained North Park Lakebed in Allegheny 12 May 2010. Though the subspecies of Short-billed Dowitchers is not often noted in the records of southwestern Pennsylvania counties, *griseus* is probably more unusual here than the *hendersoni* ("Prairie") subspecies. (Geoff Malosh)



American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*). Normally hidden in thick vegetation by day, these five American Woodcocks surprisingly paraded out onto a road at McConnell's Mill State Park, Butler 16 May 2010 and posed for some photos. (Steve Sanford)



Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*). This outstanding image was made at Bald Knob, Allegheny 8 May 2010. Earlier in the day another Wilson's was at Wingfield Pines in southern Allegheny, raising the possibility that this was the same bird. (Steve Gosser)



American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*). Two of the five birds (pictured above) on a road at McConnell's Mill State Park, Butler 16 May 2010. (Steve Sanford)



Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). *Butler's* first Little Gull was this adult among a large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at Lake Arthur 13 April 2010. It marked the second year in a row that a Little Gull was found on a southwestern Pennsylvania lake among Bonaparte's; last year, three were at Ambridge Reservoir in *Beaver* in mid-April. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*). One or two Black Terns usually appear for a day at Bald Knob in *Allegheny* each year; this bird was photographed there 11 May 2010 just after it caught red-spotted newt. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). An annual feature at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* is Glaucous Gull; this first winter bird was one of two at the channel 6 March 2010. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). Red-tailed Hawks nested in this sycamore in Findlay Twp., *Allegheny* in 2009, but this season the nest was usurped by a pair of Great Horned Owls, which fledged two young in April. One of the two owlets is shown here 28 March 2010 (the other is just behind the one shown). (*Geoff Malosh*)



Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). Not so annual is Glaucous Gull in *Crawford*, where this first year bird was photographed at the southern end of Pymatuning Reservoir 15 March 2010. (*Scott Kinzey*)



Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*). Common Nighthawks are a species not often photographed; this bird was over the Susquehanna River 12 May 2010. (*Meredith Lombard*)



Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*). This red-phase male and gray-phase female nested in a backyard in Canonsburg, *Washington*, the second time in three years that the species attempted to nest in this location. (Ross Gallardy)



Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*). Eggs were laid at the Canonsburg, *Washington* location by 7 April 2010, when this photo was made. Hatching took place around the end of the third week of April. (Ross Gallardy)



Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*). A migrant characteristic of late spring, this bird was pretty much on time at Playwicki Park, *Bucks* 21 May 2010. (Bill Keim)



Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*). A fine portrait of this species in an unusual location in *Swissdale, Clinton* 10 May 2010; one might expect a *Myiarchus* flycatcher to be foraging close to artificial structures in late December rather than early May, and for the bird to prove to be a western vagrant. (Wayne Laubscher)



Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*). A quick side trip to Geneva Marsh, *Crawford* after the PSO Annual Meeting in Erie 16 May 2010 yielded this nice look at a species most often found in the highest treetops. (Wayne Laubscher)



Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). This leftover from the winter season was still hanging on at Beltzville State Park, Carbon 9 March 2010. (Dustin Welch)



American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). This American Robin with quite a mouthful was photographed as it gathered worms and insects from the road at Dashields Dam, Allegheny 6 May 2010. Presumably it was gathering food for a mate on nest nearby. (Geoff Malosh)



Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*). Dustin Welch continues to crank out some really great photos of warblers around his home in northeastern Pennsylvania. This image (21 May 2010 at Penn Forest Twp., Northampton) and the ones that follow showcase some of the outstanding images in the expanding library of this Pennsylvania photographer who continues to impress.



American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). It seemed that reports of birds exhibiting aberrant plumages were higher than average this season. This leucistic robin was photographed at Conestoga, Lancaster 22 May 2010. (Meredith Lombard)



Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). Penn Forest Twp., Northampton, 20 May 2010. (Dustin Welch)



Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). This singing male was nicely photographed at Brunner Island 15 May 2010. (Meredith Lombard)



Northern Parula (*Parula americana*). Treichlers Bridge, Lehigh, 6 May 2010. (Dustin Welch)



Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*). This species rarely stays for longer than a day in Allegheny, so this bird at Wingfield Pines 8 to (here) 15 May 2010 was a welcome surprise for county birders. Check out the October 2010 *PSO Pileated* for a relevant note penned by Paul Hess regarding the name change of this species' genus. (Geoff Malosh)

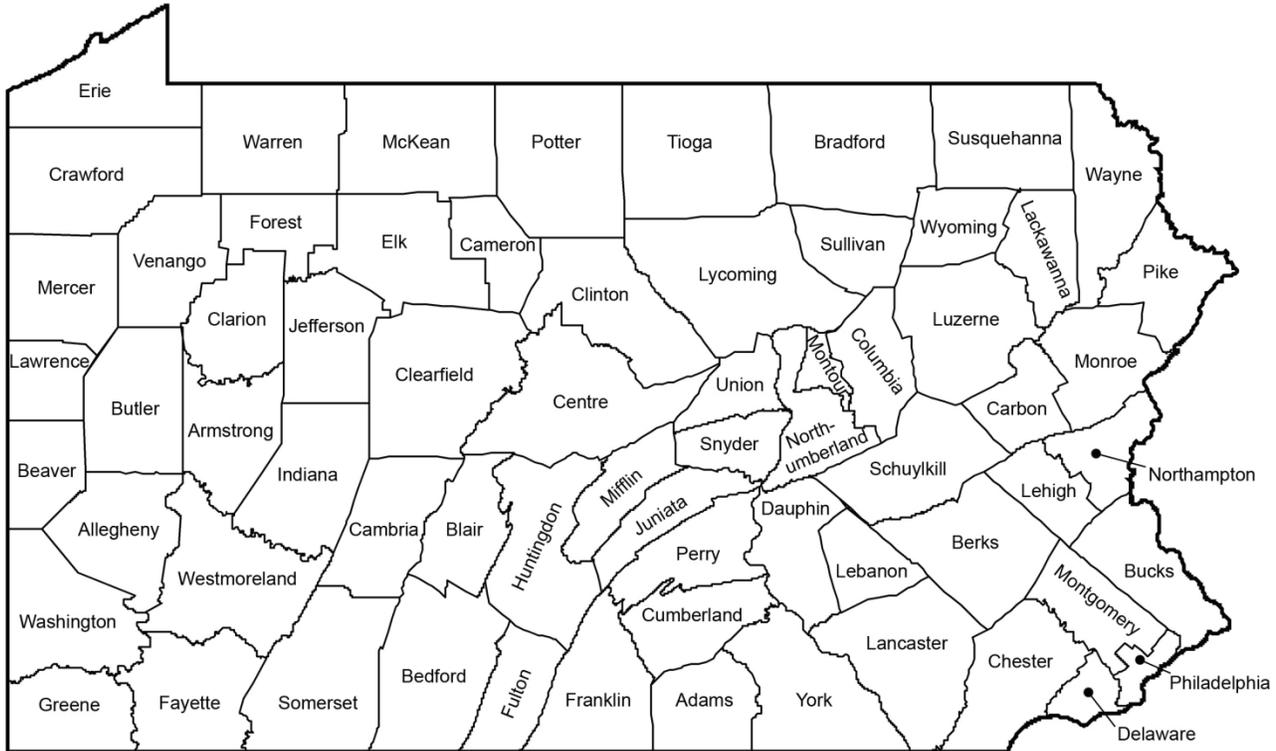


Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*). Bath, Northampton, 23 May 2010. (Dustin Welch)



Pine Siskin (*Carduelis flammea*). The epic invasion of 2008-09 seems a distant memory now, but an out-of-range Pine Siskin continues to turn up every now and again, such as this bird in Brentwood, Allegheny 5 May 2010. (Donna Foyle)

Local Notes – March to May 2010



ABBREVIATIONS

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

Adams County

Locations: Biglerville (BIGV), Carbaugh Reservoir (CRE), Carbaugh Run (CRU), CREP Route #1 (CREP), East Berlin (EB), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Michaux State Forest (MICH), Mountain Rd (MTN), SGL 249 (SGL), Waynesboro Reservoir (WR).

There were 124 species reported for the period with 89 on the PAMC. Notable for abnormally low numbers/species were waterfowl, shorebirds, and *Catharus* thrushes. Warbler species numbered 22, with 15 found on the PAMC. A **Kirtland's Warbler** found on 5/8 highlighted both the PAMC and this reporting period.

A seemingly healthy **Tundra Swan** was at LPRR from 3/27 (PK) to 4/5 (BK). **Wood Ducks** were paired at WR 3/27 (PK). Eight **Ruddy Ducks** seen at LPRR 5/15 (PJR) represent somewhat late movement.

Ring-necked Pheasant was found during a CREP on 5/13 (PJR) and at SGL 5/16 (DJG). There were three sightings of **Wild Turkey** but none of **Ruffed Grouse**. An **American Bittern** was seen along Rake Factory Rd. at BIGV 4/27 (MW).

The only **Bald Eagle** report was a sub-adult at CRE 3/27 (PK). Four **Northern Harrier** sightings with three along MTN (RDS) and one

at SGL (PK) from 3/17-29 may suggest a strong period for this species 2010 spring migration. The single **Broad-winged Hawk** report came from GNMP 4/23 (JM).

American Woodcock were at MTN 3/16 and 3/18 (RDS) and at SGL 3/20 (DJG). Both cuckoos went unreported. A **Great Horned Owl** was on a nest 4/1 along Williams Ave in GNMP (AF, AL). *Adams* birders continue to enjoy regular questioning regarding "Who cooks for you?" as a result of a good **Barred Owl** population. Vocalizations were noted at various locations from 3/20 thru 5/8. Four **Short Eared Owls** were found along Emmittsburg Rd. in GNMP 4/1 (TB, RH).

First-of-year **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** reports were 5/2 at SGL (DJG) and 5/3 at MTN (RDS). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen at MTN 3/10 and 3/29 (RDS) and one was also found on the PAMC. A **Least Flycatcher** at CRU 5/29 (DJG) and a **Blue-headed Vireo** at SGL 4/25 (DJG) were the sole reports of these species. As previously noted, *Catharus* thrushes were scarce. The only reports were **Veery** with two on the PAMC and one at CRU 5/29 (DJG).

The low warbler species count on the PAMC was likely impacted by strong winds masking some vocalizations. However, the **Kirtland's Warbler** at SGL (PJR) certainly brought some excitement to the count. Following the bird's initial vocalization, reference recordings were reviewed and the distinctiveness of the song was a clear match. The

bird was not seen nor did it respond to played recordings. In addition to the **Kirtland's Warbler**, 2 **Wilson's Warblers** were good PAMC finds.

Those warblers that were missed on the PAMC but reported for the period included a **Cape May Warbler** at GBG 5/7 (JM), three reports (PJR, DJG, PK) of **Black-throated Green Warbler** 5/15-31, three reports of **Pine Warbler** 3/27 (PK), 5/15 (PJR) and 5/29 (DJG), with two of the three sightings at LPRR and the latter at CRU, a pair of **Prairie Warblers** on the power line portion of Lippencote Trail in MICH 5/31 (PK), a **Palm Warbler** at CRU 4/25 (DJG), two reports of **Hooded Warbler** 5/15 (PJR) and 5/29 (DJG), and 2 **Canada Warblers** 5/15 on Milesburn Rd. (PJR).

An orange variant **Scarlet Tanager** at SGL (PJR) on the PAMC was an interesting study from the normal plumage. Although there were some winter reports of **Chipping Sparrow**, one 3/29 at MTN (RDS) and a pair at EB 4/2 (PK) were fairly typical of their spring arrival period. A CREP run 5/13 (PJR) produced the sole reports of **Vesper**, **Savannah**, and **Grasshopper Sparrow**. The only **Fox Sparrow** report was 3/21 at EB (PK). **White-crowned Sparrow** was at EB 4/2 (BrK) and again on the rather late date of 5/13 (PK).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported at GNMP 4/23 (JM) and at MTN 5/10 (RDS). **Bobolinks** were found on the PAMC and during the 5/13 CREP run with 2 along Storm Store Rd. and 4 on Christ Church Rd. (PJR).

Observers: **Phil Keener**, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com, Tim Benedict, Cy Dietz, Melissa Dietz, Anna Fasoli, Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Ann Hogan, Bart Hogan, Jodie Hogan, Richard Hutton, Bob Keener, Brett Keener (BrK), Alex Lamoreaux, Nancy Locher, Jenny McClintock, Mike O'Brien, Frances Parker, Bonnie Portzline, Peter Robinson (PJR), Ralph & Deb Siefkin (RDS), Mike Weible, Sue Whaley.

Allegheny County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Boyce-Mayview Park and Wingfield Pines Area (BMP), Dashields Dam on the Ohio River (DASH), Frick Park (FP), Imperial (IMP), North Park (NP).

Following an extremely snow-filled winter, spring progressed quickly and was welcome. Waterfowl highlights included a fallout in early March that brought a large number (by *Allegheny* standards) of Redheads to area rivers along with a nice assortment of other waterfowl. North Park Lake was completely drained as restoration efforts continued and offered extensive mud flats to passing shorebirds. Although nothing unusual was found, a record number of Solitary Sandpipers were tallied and two Short-billed Dowitchers put in a rare spring appearance. The warbler migration was good in numbers and variety; however numbers of thrushes appeared to be down this year.

A flock of 68 **Tundra Swans** were observed flying over the AR valley at Blawnox 3/7 (DY). Nine were on the AR at Ohara Twp. 3/8 (PB) and an unspecified number flew over Findlay Twp. 3/20 (SC, CD).

Four **Gadwall** were at Hamar Twp. 3/7 (DY) and 2 were at Wood's Run 3/8 (MV). A fallout of waterfowl 3/7 brought numerous **American Wigeon** to the area. Two were at Woods Run (MV), 6 were at Dashields Dam (MV), both on the Ohio R., one was in Aspinwall, a nice count of 17 were in Harmar Township, 4 were at Creighton, 8 were at Tarentum and 13 were in Natrona Heights (all DY), all on the AR. This probably represents one of the best totals of this species. A pair of **Northern Shovelers** were at BMP 3/26 (SC) and 3 were at McKees Rocks 4/17 (MV). Two **Northern Pintail** were at BMP 3/10 (JM) and the bird in Pine Twp. continued from last season through March (PL, SL). **Canvasbacks** were only reported 3/6 with 6 at Duck Hollow (DW, ST) and one at Tarentum (DY). A male **Redhead** was in Findlay Twp. 3/5 – 3/8 (MV, SC, KD), 9 were at Emsworth 3/7 (MV) and a single bird was at Hamar Twp. 3/7 (DY). A great count of 75 were at Natrona Heights 3/7 (DY); certainly one of the highest counts in the county. A good number of **Lesser Scaup** were present 3/7. One was in McKees Rocks (MV), 8 were in Aspinwall, 5 were in Blawnox, 12 were in Harmar Twp., one was in Creighton, and 27 were in Natrona Heights (all DY). Twenty were in Findlay Twp. 3/23 (MV). Eight **Surf Scoters** flew past DASH 4/12 (GM). **Red-breasted Merganser** reports include one in Lawrenceville 3/10 (AB, CB), one in Etna 3/11 (DY), 2 in Findlay Twp. 3/15 (GM), 2 at McKees Rocks 3/23 (SC) and 3 in Sewickley 4/11 (MV). Four **Ruddy Ducks** were reported at Lawrenceville 3/10 (AB, CB) and singles were at North Park 3/20 (SC), Findlay Twp. 3/23-28 (MV, SC,

CD, GM), McKees Rocks 4/11 (MV), and 5 in Findlay Twp. 4/19 (MV).

A female **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at BMP 3/17 (CD). This species has certainly declined in the county with sporadic reports, usually of males, so a female is quite rare.

A **Common Loon** was at Duck Hollow 3/6 (DW, ST) and 3/23 (TM, NM, MVT). One was at DASH 4/13 (GM) and another with an injured bill was there 4/24-5/2 (MV, GM). A total of 13 migrants were seen in flight at DASH 4/16 (GM). There were a few **Pied-billed Grebe** reports from several locations. A max. of 8 were on the AR at Creighton 3/21 (DY). **Horned Grebe** was only reported at IMP where a single bird was present 3/23 (MV). It was joined by another 3/25 and both remained up to 3/29 (m.ob.). **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted migrating at DASH. Counts include 25 on 3/31 (MV), 66 on 4/3 (MV), 68 on 4/11, and 41 on 4/14 (GM). Large numbers were on the AR near the Highland Park Bridge 4/4 (KSJ) where the birds gather each spring.

A pair of **Great Blue Herons** returned to their single nest at Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville (AB, CB). This nest was first occupied last spring. A **Great Egret** flew past DASH 4/11 (GM), one was observed flying over FP 4/12 (SS), one was flying over Bridgeville 5/4 (SC) and one was at BMP 5/19 (DW, ST).

The first **Osprey** report came from Etna 3/20 (DY). A bird observed at DASH through April was believed to be one of the pair nesting in nearby *Beaver*. A pair was observed at McKees Rocks mating and carrying nesting material to a power line tower 4/17 (MV, JF). Both were still present 4/24 but there was no evidence of a nest (MV, JF). Single birds were in Jefferson Borough 4/26 (SSn), NP 5/10 (SK), Pine Twp. 5/13 (PL, SL), near BMP 5/15 (CD) and Harrison Hills Park 5/23 (AH, PM). Single **Bald Eagles** were present at Fox Chapel 3/16 (TM, NM), McKees Rocks 3/23 (SC) and DASH 3/24 (MV). An adult and a fourth year bird were seen through April at DASH (GM, MV, m.ob.). It appeared the birds may have been pairing, but it was not clear if this was the case. Local residents reported a nest in nearby Crescent Twp. Subsequently a nest was reported in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette 4/23, and on 4/29 one of the local news stations broadcasted a report about the nest, but went on to say the pair was unsuccessful this spring. A **Broad-winged Hawk** was flying over FP 4/11 (SD) which was a reliable breeding location in past years. One was in Pine Twp. the same day (PL, SL) where they continue to nest. One was flying over Walker Park in Sewickley 4/12 (MK), one was at Harrison Hills Park (another former breeding location) 4/20 (PH), one was at BMP 5/13 (SC) and one was in Findlay Twp. 5/14 (LM). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was at IMP 3/7 (SC). The past winter yielded very few reports of this species. A **Golden Eagle** was reported flying over Lawrenceville 4/30 (AB, CB). The observers never saw one before but after checking a field guide, they felt certain of the identification. A **Merlin** was in Natrona Heights 3/8 (PH) and one was seen near the Highland Park Bridge 3/10 (EH). The **Peregrine Falcons** nesting at the University of Pittsburgh laid the first of five eggs 3/12 and all five hatched 4/21-23 (KSJ). The first of five eggs was laid at the downtown Pittsburgh nest 3/17 (KSJ). A single bird continued from last season through April at the Tarentum Bridge (CD, KSJ). An **American Coot** was at IMP 4/27-5/7 (MV, et al.) and one was at McKees Rocks 5/16 (SC).

While IMP continues as the favored site for shorebirds in the county, North Park Lake offered habitat this spring since it is still drained. A **Black-bellied Plover** in near breeding plumage was a welcome site at IMP 5/7-8 (MV, et al.); it was joined by another 5/8 (BC). Yet another, this one in basic plumage, was at IMP 5/18 (GM). **Semipalmated Plovers** were at NP 5/6-23 with a high count of 11 on 5/12 (GM). Reports from IMP included one 5/12 (MF), 4 on 5/8, including one abnormally pale individual (BC), 2 on 5/15 (SC) and 2 on 5/23 (GM). Up to 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** were at IMP 3/26-5/19 (m.ob.); five at the ponds on nearby Moody Road in Findlay Twp. 4/10 represented the high count (MV). A single bird was at BMP 4/30-5/4 (DW, ST, et al.), 2 were at NP 5/5-6 (GM) with one remaining 5/8 (MV). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present at IMP 3/29-5/18 with a high of 9 on 5/5 (MV). They were also present at NP 5/2-8 with a max. count of 7 on 5/5 (GM). Small numbers were at BMP 4/30-5/18 with a high of 6 on 5/3 (CHa). **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported from several locations with the highest numbers at NP. From a great count of 39 on 5/4, the numbers climbed to 64 on 5/6 (GM) and 77 on 5/13 (LM), probably the highest counts ever recorded in the county and rivaling numbers statewide for a single location. **Spotted Sandpipers** returned to DASH 4/14 (GM) and IMP 4/17 (MF). An interesting observation was made at DASH 5/6 where a flock of 12 flew past, presumably migrating along the Ohio R. (GM). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** reports include 3 at NP 5/6 (GM), one at IMP 5/8 (MF), 2 at NP 5/8 (MV) and 5/12 (GM) and 2 at

IMP 5/23 (GM). A tardy bird remained at IMP 6/2 (GM). **Least Sandpipers** were reported at NP, IMP and BMP. High counts at NP include 10 on 5/6 (GM), 15 on 5/12 (GM), 12 on 5/16 (AH, PM) and 23 on 5/18 (GM). Seven at IMP 5/5 (MV) were the high count at that location. Three 5/17 (ST) at BMP were the max. at that location. Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** at IMP 3/27 (GM) were the first of the spring. This species remained at IMP to 5/27 (m. ob.) with a high count of 6 on 5/3 (GM). One was at NP 5/3-12 (GM) and one was at BMP 5/9 (DW, ST). Five **Dunlin** were at NP 5/12 (GM). Uncommon in spring, 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers** of the *griseus* subspecies were at NP 5/12 (ph. GM). Small numbers of **Wilson's Snipe** were at IMP 3/15-5/5 with 5 on 4/17 (MV) the high count. Usually they are found in double figures in spring. The first displaying **American Woodcocks** of the spring were in Warrendale 3/5 (SK). Approximately 20 were displaying at IMP 3/15 (SC) and numerous birds were heard up to 5/7 (DW, ST). A male **Wilson's Phalarope** was a great find at BMP 5/8 (AF, et al.), and a male was also found and photographed at IMP that day (SG). It's possible this was the same bird moving around because the first bird was gone later in the day. The bird at IMP was also gone by late afternoon and both locations are relatively close. A night of rain followed by high winds and a passing cold front were probably responsible for the appearance of this county rarity. This furnished the eighth county record. A male **Red-necked Phalarope** was another good find at IMP 5/27 (BS) providing the fifth or sixth county record.

Gulls were still numerous the first few days of Mar after a good showing in Feb. A survey of the Pittsburgh area 3/1 included 1800 **Ring-billed Gulls** at the Point, 225 at the South Side and 150 at Duck Hollow, both on the Monongahela R. (SK). **Herring Gulls** totaled around 100 at the Point that day (SK). The first cycle **Thayer's Gull** reported last season was still present at the Point in Pittsburgh 3/2-6 (BC, DY, SK, GM, DW, ST). Two adult **Great Black-backed Gulls** from last season remained at DASH 3/1 (SK). A few **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen early in the season. One was along the AR at the Highland Park Bridge 3/3 (DY), 2 were at Fox Chapel 3/21 (DY) and 5 were at DASH 3/28 (GM).

The gull and tern migration in April at DASH was either missed by observers or poor due to weather conditions, because lower numbers were observed this year compared to previous years. The peak numbers for **Bonaparte's Gulls** included 133 on 4/11 (MV), 298 on 4/12 (GM) and 267 on 4/13 (GM). **Ring-billed Gull** numbers included 11 on 3/28, 103 on 4/13 and 59 on 4/25 (all GM). **Caspian Tern** numbers totaled 8 on 4/11 and 6 on 4/13 (GM). Seven passed nearby Neville Island 5/3 (GM). Two flocks of **Common Terns** flew by 5/14; 8 in one and 13 in the other (GM); unusual because this species usually appears in singles or pairs. Two were there 5/25 (MV). One **Forster's Tern** passed DASH 4/11 (MF, GM, ST, MV), 8 on 4/12 (GM), one on 4/24 (MV), 2 on 4/25, and one on 4/26 (all GM). Two **Forster's Terns** were found at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. 4/23 (JS, SS). A **Black Tern** flew past DASH 5/6 (GM). Single birds were at IMP 5/11 (GM) and 5/16 (BS). An astounding observation at DASH was made 5/29 when 2 **Arctic Terns** flew downriver (GM). The birds were well photographed in flight and details of the upper side and underside of the wings were clearly visible.

A **Virginia Rail** was heard calling at BMP 4/18 (SC, CD) and seen 5/1 (CD).

The **Great Horned Owl** nest in Findlay Twp. reported last season was successful with two young present during the season (m.ob.). A **Barred Owl** was calling at North Park 3/9 (MS) and 4/10 (SC). One was calling at BMP 4/10 (CD), one at Sewickley Heights Park 4/21 and 2 were there 5/6 (MV). With **Common Nighthawk** numbers declining in recent years, reports from thirteen locations this spring was encouraging. Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at NP 5/18 (BC), BMP 5/15-21 (ST, DW) and FP 5/23 (SD).

Fish Crow reports were surprisingly good following a lack of reports since April 2009. Two were seen and heard in Squirrel Hill 4/5 (MF), one was in Forest Hills 4/6 (TB), 2 were in Squirrel Hill 4/7 (CD), one was heard in Greenfield 4/17 (KSJ), one was at FP 4/17 (*fide* JS), one was in Squirrel Hill 4/18 (JS) and 2 were heard again in Greenfield 4/24 (KSJ). A **Common Raven** was seen along the AR at Creighton 3/21 (KSJ) and another was at Barking Slopes in Plum Borough, an Allegheny Land Trust site 3/28 (KSJ). One was at IMP 5/8 (MF), one was noted again at Barking Slopes 5/15 (PM) and 2 flew over the IMP area 5/28 (MV).

A **Northern Shrike** continued at IMP from last season 3/14 (MV, DW, ST). There was only one **Philadelphia Vireo** report for the season at BMP 5/14 (RT) and 5/19 (ST). There were 2 **Cliff Swallows** at DASH

4/26 (GM) and one at BMP 5/11 (ST), the least common species here. Four **Bank Swallows** were at BMP 4/18 (SC, CD) and 5/9 (DW, ST) with one remaining 5/11 (ST). One was in Hamar Twp. 4/28 (DY) and several were present at DASH 5/11 (GM).

There were only two **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports: one at IMP 4/10 (MV) and one at FP 4/27 (DWe). **Winter Wrens** were found at Barking Slopes. Single birds were there 3/28 (KSJ) and 4/24 (AH, PM); 3 were there 4/4 (KSJ). Other reports include single birds at NP 3/29 (JS, SS), Knob Hill Park 4/9 and 4/15 (KD), FP 4/11 (SS) and Harrison Hills Park 4/20 (PH). **Marsh Wren** is rare in the county and all recent reports were from the fall, so a bird at BMP 5/8 (JM) provided the first spring record since 2004. It was relocated 5/9 (DW, ST).

Four **American Pipits** were noted flying over Boyce-Mayview Park 3/4 and 10 were feeding in a field there 3/26 (SC). One was on the mudflats at NP 5/11 (GM) and 2 were there 5/15 (BM). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reports include single birds 5/15 in Pleasant Hills (SSn), 5/18 in Moon Twp. (GM) and 5/20 at BMP (ST). A lingering **Hermit Thrush** was in Warrendale 5/26 (STi). A leucistic **American Robin** was along a bike trail on the South Side of Pittsburgh 4/16 (YC).

A total of 34 species of warblers were reported this spring. A **Brewster's Warbler** was at Sewickley Heights Park 5/6 (BS, MV). Uncommon in spring, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at FP 5/4 (JS, SS) and 2 were at BMP 5/19 (ST). **Cape May Warblers** were reported at BMP 5/6 (DWi), DASH 5/11 (GM) and FP 5/14 (LM). A **Pine Warbler** was found in Crafton 4/8 (SC) and one was at FP 4/20-24 (JS, SS). Both Cape May and Pine Warblers are uncommon but regular migrants. **Prairie Warblers** were first noted at IMP 4/20 (BS) where they breed. This species is rarely detected during migration so a bird at FP 4/25 (CH) was certainly noteworthy. Also uncommon in spring, **Palm Warblers** were reported in a few locations. Single birds were at Sewickley Heights Park 5/5 (BVN, KD), Pine Twp. 5/6-8 (PL, SL), and BMP 5/19 (ST). Two were at BMP 5/13 (SC) and 2 were at NP 5/16 (SC). A pair of **Black-and-white Warblers** was observed at Harrison Hills Park 5/5 including a female building a nest (PH). Although a common migrant in the county, this species is a local breeder and Harrison Hills has been a consistent breeding location. **Worm-eating Warblers** returned to Harrison Hills Park 5/20 (PH, JS, SS); one of the few locations in the county where they breed. This part of the state is on the edge of their breeding range, so birds are found at scattered locations. One was at BMP 5/1-6 (DWi, SC). A few pairs have been noted breeding in the hilly Sewickley area over the years so reports of birds at Sewickley Heights Park 5/3 (DN) and nearby Walker Park 5/7 (BVN) provides some evidence they may still breed in that area. Very unusual was an out of season **Ovenbird** reported at North Park 3/4 (MS). Interestingly, an **Ovenbird** reported as "attempting to overwinter" was in Cook, Illinois in Jan. and Feb. (*Birding*, Vol. 42, No. 2). A **Northern Waterthrush** was at BMP 5/8-12 (ST, DW) and one was singing at NP 5/16 (MF). The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** of the spring was reported at Barking Slopes 3/28 (KSJ). A **Connecticut Warbler** was a nice find at BMP 5/12 (DW, ST). **Mourning Warblers** were found in Schenley Park 5/13 (KSJ) and 5/16 (PK), Boyce Park 5/16 (AH, PM) and Beechwood Farms 5/18 (DN). **Wilson's Warblers** were only reported on two days. Single birds were at BMP 5/15-16 (ST), Schenley Park 5/16 (PK) and FP 5/16 (SC). **Canada Warblers** seemed numerous this spring. Up to 2 were at BMP 5/14-16 (SC, CD, LM, ST) and single birds were at FP 5/14-16 (LM, AB, CB), and again 5/22 (JS, SS) and IMP 5/15 (SC).

Fox Sparrows moved through 3/11-4/13. There were no reports of **Lincoln's Sparrow**. A second hand report was received of a possible **Dickcissel** that visited a feeder in Lawrenceville 5/4 (*fide* AB, CB). **Rusty Blackbird** reports include 2 at IMP 3/14 (DW, ST), 2 at Harrison Hills Park 3/20 (PH), 2 with a flock of over 100 Red-winged Blackbirds at IMP 3/28 (GM) and 2 at Harrison Hills Park 4/3 (RS, MF, PH).

A male **Purple Finch** was visiting a feeder in Pine Twp. 3/25-31 and more were present in early April and last reported 5/6 (PL, SL). One was at Knob Hill Park 4/15 (KD), BMP 4/16 (SC), Harrison Hills Park 4/3 (MF) and 4/20 (PH) and FP 4/24 (JS, SS). Two were in Natrona Heights 4/22 (PH). A **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 4/12 (JV) and one visited a feeder in Brentwood 5/5 (DF).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Leechburg (LB), Manorville (MV), Margaret (MG), Robb's Fording (RF).

Canada Goose maxima included 44 at KR 3/18 (MH) and 33 at CC 5/21 (MVT). Two **Mute Swans** still lingered at Rosston 3/6 (MH, RH). First **Wood Ducks** were 9 noted near LB 3/11 (MVT). Three **American Wigeons** visited CC 3/20 (MM). Four **American Black Ducks** at KR 3/18 (MH) were the only ones reported. Best **Mallard** count was 38 at MV 3/6 (MH, RH). KR hosted 2 **Northern Shovelers** 4/15 (MH, RH). **Ring-necked Ducks** moved through the county between 3/18 (MH) when 6 were spotted at KR and 3/31 (MH) when 31 were noted there; 13 was CC's tally 3/30 (MVT). KR yielded 2 **Lesser Scaup** 3/18 (MH) and 3 on 4/15 (MH). **Bufflehead** reports included 9 at MV 3/1 (MVT), 2 at Rosston 3/6 (MH, RH), and 6 at KR 3/18 (MH); last noted occurred 3/31 (MH) at KR. **Hooded Merganser** maxima included 17 at MV 3/6 (MH, RH) and 12 at KR 3/18 (MH). KR harbored 25 **Common Mergansers** 3/17 (MF); a pair remained at CC through 5/9 (MVT); another pair was seen on the MG BBS 5/31 (MH, RH). **Red-breasted Mergansers** noted, all at KR, included 17 on 3/31 (MH), 3 on 4/15 (MH), and 6 on 4/30 (KB).

Wild Turkeys numbered 13 near LB 3/1, 5 (MVT) and 7 near Elderton 3/6 (MH, RH). A **Common Loon** was spotted at MV 3/1 (MVT) while 8 landed at KR 4/30 (KB) where 2 were still present 5/20 (KB). **Pied-billed Grebe** reports included singletons at CC 3/30 (MVT), at KR 4/7 (MH), and at CC 4/28 (MH, JV). KR yielded an amazing 5 **Red-necked Grebes** 4/30 (KB). Among many, **Double-crested Cormorant** reports included the first singleton at MV 3/1 (MVT), 21 at KR 4/30 (KB), and one to 4 at CC between 4/11-5/9 (MVT). First **Green Heron** was listed at CC 4/22 (SG).

First **Turkey Vulture** appeared near LB 4/28 (MVT). An **Osprey** visited CC 4/28 (MH, JV) and 5/4 (MVT). **Bald Eagles** nested again this year at CC with two young in the nest 4/30 (MF). KR yielded 2 **Bald Eagles** 4/30 and 5/20 (KB). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted only at Yatesboro 3/15 and 3/25 (ED), at KR 4/15 (MH) and 4/30 (KB), and on the MG BBS 5/31 (MH, RH). **Cooper's Hawks** were noted near LB 3/28 and 3/31 (MVT), at KR 4/30 (KB), and on the MG BBS 5/31 (MH, RH). First **Broad-winged Hawk** appeared at KR 4/30 (KB).

First **Killdeer** were 2 at CC 3/13 (MVT). CC hosted the first 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** 4/26 (MVT); 5 were tallied the following day (MH, JV); 6 was KR's best count 4/30 (KB). **American Woodcock** reports included one near Ford City 4/6 (JV) and 3 near MG 5/31 (MH, RH).

The only **Bonaparte's Gulls** recorded were 2 at KR 4/7 (MH), 31 at CC 4/10 (MVT), and one at KR 4/15 (MH). Top **Ring-billed Gull** counts, both at KR, were 21 on 3/18 (MH) and 26 on 4/30 (KB). The Allegheny River yielded 5 **Herring Gulls** at Kittanning and 3 at Rosston 3/6 (MH, RH). KR was the spot for terns this season with reports of one **Caspian Tern** and 3 **Common Terns** on 5/20 (KB) and one **Forster's Tern** on 4/30 (KB).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** on the MG BBS 5/31 (MH, RH) was the lone report. A **Great Horned Owl** was heard at CC 4/10 (MVT). Two **Common Nighthawks** flew over Kittanning 5/19 (MH, RH) and another was listed at KR 5/20 (KB). First 2 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** arrived near LB 5/2 (MVT).

Three **Eastern Phoebes** appeared at CC 3/22 (MVT). Dates of return included 5/3 (MVT) for **Great Crested Flycatcher** at CC and 4/30 (MVT) for **Eastern Kingbird** at RF. **White-eyed Vireos** were found 5/20 (KB) at KR and 5/29 (MH, RH) at RF which also yielded a **Yellow-throated Vireo** the same day. A **Blue-headed Vireo** was singing at CC 4/28 (MH, JV). The CC **Common Ravens** were on nest once again this spring (MVT). A flock of 29 **Horned Larks** lingered near Worthington 3/6 (MH, RH).

A single **Purple Martin** visited CC 5/29 (MVT). Arrival dates included 3/13 (MVT) for **Tree Swallows** at CC, 4/22 (MVT) for **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at CC, and 4/16 (MVT) for **Barn Swallows** at RF.

Brown Creepers were found only at CC 4/22 and 5/21 (MVT). A **Winter Wren** was spotted at CC 4/10 (MVT). First **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were listed 4/16 at CC (MVT). A single **Swainson's Thrush** was observed at CC 5/21 (MVT), and a **Hermit Thrush** was found there 4/26 (MVT). Both **Wood Thrushes** and **Gray Catbirds** arrived at CC 4/30 (MVT) and the first **Brown Thrasher** was also noted at CC 4/16 (MVT).

Warbler first dates included 4/30 (MF) for **Blue-winged Warbler** at CC, 4/16 (MF) for **Northern Parula** at Cochran's Mill, 4/30 (MF) for **Yellow Warbler** at CC; 5/4 (MVT) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at RF. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** appeared at CC 5/21 (MVT), the lone report. Last **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was seen at CC 4/28 (MH, JV). First **Black-throated Green Warbler** (MVT) and **Yellow-throated Warbler** (MF) occurred 4/30 at CC. **Cerulean Warbler** was noted at CC 5/23 (MVT) and at Cochran's Mill 5/29 (MH, RH). Other dates of return included 4/30 (MF) for **Black-and-white Warbler** and **American Redstart**, 4/26 (MVT) for **Ovenbird**, 4/11 (MVT) for **Louisiana Waterthrush**, and 4/5 (MVT) for an extremely early **Common Yellowthroat**, all at CC. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was singing at RF 5/29 (MH, RH).

Scarlet Tanager was first noted 4/30 (MF) at CC. **Eastern Towhee** returned 4/7 (MH) at KR. **American Tree Sparrows** lingered until 3/25 (ED) at Yatesboro while the first **Chipping Sparrow** appeared 4/11 (MVT) at CC. The first **Savannah Sparrow** was listed 4/16 (MF) at CC. Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were heard on the MG BBS 5/31 (MH, RH). At least 4 **Swamp Sparrows** were singing at KR 4/7 (MH). A **White-throated Sparrow** lingered and the first **White-crowned Sparrow** arrived at Yatesboro 5/8 (ED).

Two **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** 5/9 (MVT) and 2 **Indigo Buntings** 5/21 (MVT) at CC were first. At least 2 **Bobolinks** were at CC 4/30 (MF), and 3 were sighted at RF 5/29 (MH, RH). First 3 **Eastern Meadowlarks** appeared at CC 4/16 (MF). The only **Rusty Blackbirds** reported were 2 at CC 4/16 (MVT). **Orchard Oriole** returned 5/20 (MVT) near LB. First **Baltimore Orioles** were noted 4/30 (KB) at KR.

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Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Hereford Manor Lake (HML), Independence Marsh (IND), Montgomery Lock and Dam (MLD), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

The spring of 2010 was unremarkable aside from one major rarity: *Beaver's* first **Arctic Tern**. Small numbers of waterfowl were noted, probably a consequence of a relatively calm March and April, which created few fallout events. Passerine migration apparently received little attention this season from county birders.

Gadwalls were reported four times through 4/17, a date which also saw the season's high count of 10 at AR (MV). **American Wigeon** were found on the Ohio R. at Beaver 3/2 (ScB), at RCH 3/6 (MV), and at IND 3/19 (MV). The enigmatic **American Black Duck** was reported only twice: 5 at RCH 3/6 (MV) and 2 at AR 4/2 (MV). The season's first **Blue-winged Teal** appeared at IND 3/14 (KSJ) and were reported there sporadically until 4/11 (RN, ST, et al.). Another 2 **Blue-winged Teal** were at RCH 4/2 (MV). Four **Northern Shovelers** were at IND 3/21 (MV) and 2 were on the Ohio R. at Beaver 4/2 (MV). The apparent hybrid **Green-winged Teal x Mallard** stayed at RCH until 3/3 (ScB, MV). Four **Green-winged Teal** at RCH 3/28 (MV) were the only pure-bred green-wings reported for the season.

In stark contrast to their memorable show last winter and spring, **Canvasback** this season were limited to 5 at RCH 3/2 and 9 there 3/9 (MV). Similarly, **Redhead** were found only at RCH through 3/7 (MV). Even **Ring-necked Duck** reports seemed to be off; up to 13 were at IND in mid-Mar (MV et al.), and the peak count was a mere 38 at AR 3/27 (MV). A flock of 11 was still at Big Beaver Wetlands 4/11 (STi). The **Greater Scaup** from last season remained at RCH to 3/6 (m.ob.). The species was not specifically reported again; however, large flocks of

"scaup" were reported 4/2, when 36 were counted on the Ohio R. at Beaver and 44 were at MLD (MV). Eight **Surf Scoters** were tracked into Beaver as they passed Dashiels Dam in nearby *Allegheny* 4/12 (GM). The **White-winged Scoter** that accompanied the Greater Scaup at RCH from last season was not seen after 3/2. **Bufflehead** were reported variously through 4/2, when 17 were on the Ohio R. and 12 were at AR (MV), which also provided the highest single-day count for the season. Unusual for the location were 3 at IND 3/18-19 (KD). **Common Goldeneyes** were reported three times: one at RCH 3/6 (MV), 6 at RCH 3/7 (MV), and 3 at AR 3/18 (MV). Up to 10 **Hooded Mergansers** lingered at IND 3/13-19 (MV), and a female was seen with young in the vicinity of Big Beaver Wetlands again this year in late May (GM, et al.). Three reports of **Red-breasted Merganser** were received: one at RCH 3/6 (MV), 2 at AR 4/2 (MV), and one at Beaver Falls 4/9 (MV). The only report of **Ruddy Duck** was of 9 at RCH 4/25 (MV).

Two **Ring-necked Pheasants** were in the vicinity of IND 3/14-4/2 (MV, MF, et al.). **Common Loons** had a decent showing with 5 reports; best was a group of 13 which migrated along the Ohio R. and across the county line 4/16 (GM), and last was one at RCH 5/9 (MV). **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported from 5 locations 3/18 (KD) to 5/5 (MV). Eight **Horned Grebes** were counted 4/2, 7 on the Ohio R. and one at AR (MV). The first **Great Egret** was seen moving along the Ohio R. 4/11 (MV, GM); aside from this, the species was seen only at IND, where one or two were present periodically 4/30-5/23 (MV). **Green Heron** returned to IND 4/30.

First **Turkey Vultures** were 4 at Ellwood City 3/16 (DK). First **Osprey** was at HML 3/26 (MV); adults returned to nests in Aliquippa and Potter Twp. 3/28 and 4/2 respectively. A **Bald Eagle** was at HML 3/10 (DK). Two Bald Eagles wintered in the area of Dashiels Dam and remained into mid-April, and were occasionally seen on the Beaver side of the county line during that time. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen IND 3/18 (KD). A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was reported to ScB by Davina Cross on the north side of the city of Beaver, where it was last seen 3/25. An **American Kestrel** was out of place at IND 4/22 (ScB). The Monaca **Peregrine Falcons** nested again on the underside of the East Rochester Bridge, with hatching on or around 4/19 (SG). An **American Coot** stayed at IND 5/2-5 (MV), uncommon for the location.

Killdeer was first noted at RCH 3/7 (SC). Seventeen **Solitary Sandpipers** were found in a flooded field in Independence Twp. 5/7 (MV), a good spring total. First **Bonaparte's Gulls** were 9 at AR 4/2 (MV). Mid-Apr migration was monitored again this season near the county line at Dashiels Dam. Peak totals were 298 on 4/12 and 267 on 4/13 (GM, et al.). There were also 103 **Ring-billed Gulls** were counted 4/13 (GM, et al.), the highest post-winter total for the species. Nineteen at RCH 4/25 (MV) were somewhat late. Six **Caspian Terns** passed the county line 4/13, part of a season total of 14 (GM, et al.). Eight **Forster's Terns** passed Dashiels 4/12 (GM, et al.). Simply amazing was a lucky find of 2 **Arctic Terns** which passed Dashiels Dam in the afternoon of 5/29 and were tracked into *Beaver* (ph. GM). The birds were well photographed and documentation was submitted to PORC. This was, of course, the first record for both *Allegheny* and *Beaver*.

A **Barred Owl** was heard at RCSP 5/19 (RN, ML). The only report of **Common Nighthawk** was one at Ambridge 5/24 (MV). **Whip-poor-wills** were in good numbers at SGL 285 again this year, with at least 4 calling on the evening of 5/20 (GM). First **Chimney Swifts** were at Beaver 4/9 (MV). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** returned to North Sewickley Twp. 5/6 (DK) and Beaver Falls 5/10 (SB). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** reports were confined to RCSP 4/6-11 (m.ob.).

Earliest **Eastern Phoebe** was one at Economy Boro 3/25 (KD). Three **Great Crested Flycatchers** at RCSP 5/19 (RN, ML) was a nice report. One was also seen at SGL 285 on 5/27 (MV). A **Blue-headed Vireo** at RCSP 5/19 (RN, ML) was a bit late.

A **Purple Martin** was at HML 3/26 (MV), where they nest; nevertheless this was a fairly early sighting. By 5/16 nesting at this site was in full swing (MV). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** appeared at RCH 4/2, also a bit early. **Bank Swallows** again nested at MLD (MV) where they have been present in summer for many years now.

Six **Brown Creepers** at AR 3/27 (MV) was a good total; the only other report was of 2 at RCSP 4/11 (ScB). A **Carolina Wren** survived the epic February weather at North Sewickley Twp.; one was seen 3/1 (DK). It remains to be seen what impact the severe and extended snowfall of the past winter will have on the local population of Carolina Wrens. First **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at IND 4/11 (ST), and first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at RCSP 4/6 (RN). An **Eastern Bluebird** was observed nest building in a natural cavity at IND 4/2 (MF), unusual these days. The only reports of **Veery** and **Swainson's Thrush** both

came from RCSP 5/19 (RN, ML). A **Hermit Thrush** was at RCSP 4/11 (ScB). Two **American Pipits** were at Independence Twp. 3/26 (MV).

As noted in the introduction, passerine migration was not well-attended by county birders this season. This was particularly noticeable in the warblers, for which few migrant species were reported. A **Nashville Warbler** was at RCSP 4/25 (BS). **Northern Parula** was noted there through 5/19 (m.ob.). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was not reported after 4/25, telling testimony to the sparse coverage this season. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was still at SGL 285 on 5/27 (MV); this species is increasing as a summer resident in the county, which will be expanded upon in next season's report. **Prairie Warblers** were also in evidence at SGL 285 again this year, one of very few reliable locations for them in *Beaver* in summer. Only one report was received for each of the following: **Palm Warbler** at AR 4/25 (MV), **Bay-breasted Warbler** at RCSP 5/11 (BW), and **Blackpoll Warbler** at SGL 285 on 5/27 (MV). **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen deep into May at MLD (MV); with any luck they may nest again at that location someday. **Cerulean Warblers**, a species which interestingly might be expanding in *Beaver*, were noted at MLD 4/30 and SGL 285 on 5/27 (both MV), in addition to their stronghold in and around RCSP. The same two locations also held **Kentucky Warblers** in late May. A **Wilson's Warbler** at RCSP 5/20 (BS *vide* MV) may well have been the best of the warblers. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at IND 5/20 (BS *vide* MV) was a good find at that location.

Henslow's Sparrows were calling in darkness the evening of 5/20 at SGL 285 (GM). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were noted there as well 5/27 (MV). The only **Fox Sparrow** was at IND 3/20 (SC, CD). Most other sparrow species arrived/departed more or less on time.

Bobolinks were in evidence at SGL 285 on 5/27, one of very few locations in the county where they can remain undisturbed during the breeding season. An **Eastern Meadowlark** was seen around IND 4/6-11 (RN, ST). Trios of **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted in Independence Twp. 3/13 and 3/26 (MV). The heavy snowfall did not deter the first returning **Common Grackle**, which was seen at a feeder in two feet of snow 2/14 (DK). A **Purple Finch** was at North Sewickley Twp. 4/8-11 (DK), and 3 were at IND 4/11 (ST).

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Bedford County

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF), Blue Knob State Park (BKSP), Dunning's Creek Wetlands (DCW), Lambert Mt. Road (LMR), Shawnee State Park (SSP), White-Tail Wetlands (WTW).

Unless noted otherwise, the observations were of the author. Due to extremely deep snow we lost sixty hours at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch. Additionally, the snow covered frozen lakes did not open until 3/12 resulting in waterfowl overfly. However, there were some notables such as a Willet which was the third record for this species for *Bedford*.

On 3/12 two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were observed at DCW on the first day of open water. Six hundred **Snow Geese** flew over the Allegheny Front 3/9, and an additional 90 landed in DCW 3/10. Out of the 90, two blue phase and two white phases lingered until 5/15 at DCW. Since this is a repeat of last year it suggests they are probably the same birds. Twenty-five hundred **Canada Geese** arrived 3/13 and 80 **Tundra Swan** settled into DCW 3/16, again with a reoccurring scenario of 5 **Tundra Swan** lingering until 5/15. As of this writing 6/22 one **Tundra Swan** is still present.

The high counts for ducks at DCW are as follows: 147 **Wood Ducks** 3/31, 12 **Gadwall** 3/31, 96 **American Wigeon** 3/22, 88 **American Black Duck** 3/22, 310 **Mallard** 3/22, 19 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/9, 8 **Northern Shovelers** 3/24, 53 **Northern Pintail** 3/22, and 55 **Green-winged Teal** 3/27. The following diving ducks with some exceptions are mostly from SSP: one **Canvasback** 3/17 (DS), 10 **Redhead** 3/16, 58 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/22, 130 **Greater Scaup** 3/26, 20 **Lesser Scaup** 3/16, 20 **Long-tailed Duck** 3/26, 12 **Bufflehead** 3/22, 14 **Hooded Merganser** at DCW 4/7 (a pair of Hooded Merganser raised 10 chicks). Twenty six **Common Merganser** were observed at

SSP 3/16, 30 **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/16, and 38 **Ruddy Ducks** were there 3/26. Waterfowl numbers were not that low, but missing species apparently were flyovers.

The severe winter seemed to have little impact on **Ring-necked Pheasant** and **Ruffed Grouse**, whose numbers appeared stable. **Wild Turkey**, however, were impacted as evident by not only low numbers, but carcasses as well. Forty **Common Loons** were observed 4/17 and 8 **Pied-billed Grebe** were at SSP 3/27. A pair of **Pied-billed Grebes** were discovered on a farm pond off Shaffer Mt and of this date appeared to be nesting. Three hundred and eighty migratory **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen at SSP 4/7 and about twenty non-breeders lingered into June. At DCW 4 **American Bittern** were flushed 5/7, 13 **Great Blue Herons** were seen on 5/17, 3 **Green Herons** 5/31 and one **Black-crowned Night Heron** 5/31. A **Glossy Ibis** was seen flying over Oysterburg 5/7 (SD). Over the years the Glossy Ibis has become less uncommon in *Bedford*.

The short spring hawk watch produced the following results: 27 **Black Vultures**, 268 **Turkey Vultures**, 56 **Osprey**, 14 **Bald Eagle**, 23 **Northern Harrier**, 135 **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 87 **Cooper's Hawk**, 6 **Northern Goshawk**, 68 **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 276 **Broad-winged Hawk**, 429 **Red-tailed Hawk**, 2 **Rough-legged Hawk**, 86 **Golden Eagle**, 22 **American Kestrel**, 7 **Merlin** and 3 **Peregrine Falcon**. Although it took some 60 hours to remove one and one half miles of deep packed snow with drifts exceeding 6 feet, there were still many exciting days of migrating raptors.

This is the second year of low **Sora** numbers with only two seen on at DCW 5/15. These rails have persisted at DCW, but there is no evidence yet of breeding, although it's still a possibility. Again it is heavy spring rain that is the culprit, even though we have the management capability of lowering water levels, it is frequently thwarted by intense rain. A **Common Moorhen** arrived at DCW on 4/30, lingered for a day, and migrated. This is usually a predictable event each year. Unless marked otherwise the following are all from DCW. **American Coot** were common throughout the season, but no more than 5 (5/2) were ever down at the same time. Shorebirds at DCW included the following: 5 **Black-bellied Plover** 5/8, 4 **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/8, 42 **Killdeer** 5/8, 15 **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/30, 18 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/8, 2 **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/9, one **Willet** 5/8 at SSP (DB), 7 **Spotted Sandpiper** 5/8, 12 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/1, 13 **Least Sandpiper** 5/7, 6 **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/31, 6 **Dunlin** 5/15, 23 **Short-billed Dowitcher** 5/15, 51 **Wilson's Snipe** 4/9, and 6 **American Woodcock** 5/8.

Five **Bonaparte Gulls** were seen at DCW 5/9 and 11 **Ring-billed Gulls** on the PAMC. A particularly unusual event was the very early passage of 300 **Caspian Terns** flying over the AFHW from 3/7-9 (climate change?). Usually the earliest they fly is April with larger numbers in late April and May. Four **Caspian Terns** settled into DCW in small numbers 5/15 (an expected time). Seven **Common Terns** and 10 **Forster's Terns** were seen at DCW 5/8. **Black Terns** in numbers from 3 to 6 settled into DCW 5/4-6.

On 5/20, 5 to 7 **Common Nighthawks** were working DCW for hatches of Mayflies during the late evening. **Whip-poor-will** were seen or heard on at least seven occasions. May 20th was my most interesting episode with this bird on a rocky driveway on Lambert Mt. Rd. where my headlights outlined a Whip-poor-will on the road. This bird kept flying up for the moths attracted by my light. Once I turned off the lights she left. **Belted Kingfishers** first appeared 4/14 and by May were excavating nesting cavities on the bank of Dunning's Creek. On 3/17 a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was heard and seen on Lambert Mt. Rd. It's amazing they are not seen or heard more often when you see all the sapsucker holes in the abundant pine and butternut trees.

The first **Great Crested Flycatcher** made its appearance 6/1 at DCW. Two **Acadian Flycatchers** were present on Shaffer Mt. Road 3/31, one **Alder Flycatcher** on 5/31, **Willow Flycatchers** 5/31, and one **Least Flycatcher** 5/31 at DCW. Three **Eastern Kingbirds** were counted on the PAMC, and a **Fish Crow** was at Everett 3/17 (DN). The May (PAMC) swallow count was one **Purple Martin**, **Tree Swallow** 82, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** 12, **Bank Swallow** 11, **Cliff Swallow** 2, and **Barn Swallow** 99. **Marsh Wrens** were singing at DCW 5/4. A mixed flock of 3 **Golden-Crowned Kinglets**, 2 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, one **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** and one **Brown Creeper** were observed on 5/5 at SSP. Twelve **Catbirds**, 5 **Northern Mockingbirds** and 14 **Brown Thrashers** were seen at DCW 5/8.

The following thrushes were first observed: 3 **Veery** on the slope of the Allegheny Front, (5/5), one **Swainson's Thrush** at the AFHW 5/1, 2 **Hermit Thrush** along Lambert Mt. Rd. 5/12 and 3 **Wood Thrush** on Shaffer Mt. 5/12.

Two **Golden-winged Warblers** returned to their nesting site at DCW 5/8, one **Tennessee Warbler** was at DCW 5/8, 2 **Nashville Warblers** were at SSP 5/8, 2 **Northern Parula** were at BKSP (5/24), 6 **Yellow Warblers** at DCW 5/8, 9 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were at the AF (5/15), 4 **Magnolia Warblers** were at BKSP 5/24, 5 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** 5/24 and 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at SSP 5/17, 4 **Black-throated Green Warblers** were counted at the AF 5/21, 6 **Blackburnian Warblers** were tallied at BKSP (5/24), 2 **Pine Warblers** were at DCW (5/16), 2 **Palm Warblers** were there (5/1), 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were on Shaffer Mt. (5/15), 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** were at DCW 5/8, 10 **Cerulean Warblers** were at BKSP 5/2 (Blue Knob has rich biodiversity and a healthy population of breeding Ceruleans and many other warblers), 3 **Black and White Warblers** 5/8, 5 **American Redstarts** 5/24, and 2 **Worm-Eating Warblers** 5/8 were at LMR, 5 **Ovenbird** were at BKSP (5/24), 2 **Northern Waterthrush** at SSP (5/12), 4 **Louisiana Waterthrush** at BKSP (5/24), 2 **Hooded Warblers** at BKSP (5/24), one **Wilson's Warbler** at SSP 5/24, one **Canada Warbler** at SSP 5/22, and one **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Hyndman 5/8 (RK) round out the warbler reports.

Two **Clay-colored Sparrows** was a surprise on the PAMC (DB), 2 **Savannah Sparrows** were observed at DCW 5/15 along with one **Grasshopper Sparrow**. **Lincoln's Sparrows** were observed at a feeder on the AF (5/1), and 5 **Swamp Sparrows** were at DCW 5/8. Agitated **Dark-eyed Juncos** responding to a pish were observed 5/30 on LMR. Juncos are a relatively consistent breeder on the high elevations of the front.

Bobolink's nesting was well underway by 5/31 in fields off LMR. Five **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed at DCW on 3/15 and 20 were observed 3/27 (JP). Two **Orchard Orioles** and 10 **Baltimore Orioles** were counted at DCW 5/8. **Purple Finches** are relatively common as nesters on the AF and are seen routinely at feeders throughout the year. Lastly, a single **Evening Grosbeak** visited a feeder at White-tail Wetlands 3/22 (CH).

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Berks County

Locations: **Blue Marsh L. (BML)**, **Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS)**, **Lake Ontelaunee (LO)**.

The March-May period was the warmest on record. April precipitation was about one inch below average; March and May precipitation were about average. Many plants leafed out and bloomed one to two weeks earlier than usual. Most neotropical migrants arrived at their usual times.

The abrupt thaw and favorable winds in March facilitated a short, fast waterfowl migration. **Snow Geese** reached and passed peak numbers in less than two weeks, with a high of 35,000 (125 Blue) at LO 3/11 (RK). Single **Ross's Geese** were among Snows at LO 3/5-9 (AA, RK, MW). A flock of 27 **Brant** was briefly at LO 5/18 (KL, MW). Single **Cackling Geese** were in Snow Goose flocks at LO and Gotwals pond, Oley 3/5-20 (RK, KL, MS). The breeding pair of **Mute Swans** at LO was observed copulating 3/17 (MS); on 5/25, they were shepherding three downy cygnets (RK). Birders reported 22 duck species, but had few viewing opportunities. The only weather-related fallout of ducks occurred 5/12, when fog and rain dropped 23 **White-winged Scoters** at BML (RK, JS) and 51 at LO (KL, MW). On 4/17, Jeffrey Schucker banded a female **Hooded Merganser** incubating 12 eggs in a box on the Sacony Cr., ten years to the day after he banded the female that provided the first county breeding confirmation nearby. **Common Merganser**, another recent colonizer (or re-colonizer), furnished another nesting record when a female and six ducklings were seen on the Schuylkill R. near Shoemakersville 5/30 (SF), near the site of the first confirmed breeding at Five Locks.

A few crowing **Ring-necked Pheasant** cocks heard on CREP breeding bird survey routes through farmland in May and June were a surprise, as birders seldom see these chickens nowadays (RK). **Ruffed Grouse** are increasing in recently logged areas of SGL 110 on the Kittatinny Ridge (KG), but as usual there were no reports from elsewhere in the county. Few **Common Loons** appeared on lakes. The high count of 15 on 4/30 (KG) was of birds flying over the Kittatinny. The

only reported **Horned Grebe** was at LO 4/9 (RK). **Double-crested Cormorant** peaked at 137 at LO 4/12 (RK). The only reported **American Bittern** was at Forge Dam Rd. pond, SGL 110, 4/29 (KG). A leucistic **Great Blue Heron** (white with a blue shoulder patch) was photographed on the Tulpehocken Cr. about 3/10. The known Great Blue heronries were active. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** returned to their nesting colony in West Wyomissing in late March and early April (fide RK). Birds were seen fishing at the base of the LO spillway in April and May (RK, MW). A **Glossy Ibis** was photographed at the farm pond on Old Rt. 22 east of Hartlesville, where it was seen 5/15 and for part of the morning 5/16 (MW).

A **Mississippi Kite** was seen at BML 4/17 (JS) and counters at HMS had a long look at a sub-adult drifting and foraging along the Kittatinny 5/8 (LG). **Bald Eagles** of all ages were reported all period. The Marion Twp. nest contained at least two young in late May (RK) and the Oley Twp. nest contained one young in May (fide JH). Migrating **Northern Harriers** were reported on seven dates, the latest 5/16 on the Kittatinny (MW). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** pair returned to nest in an old Norway spruce plantation in District Twp. (RK). Territorial **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen and heard at three places in the "Big Woods" Piedmont forest of southern Berks from late March through May (RK, KL, MW). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen in hayfields near LO 3/8 (DK) and one was in N. Heidelberg Twp. 3/10 (JS). BML's wintering female **Merlin** was last seen 3/3 and the wintering male stayed till 3/10 (JS). Migrating **Merlins** were seen near Lyons 3/7 (SF) and at HMS 4/2 and 4/3 (LG). Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** pair hatched four chicks (fide BU), but read the upcoming summer report for the troubles that followed.

A **Sandhill Crane** was seen in flight at LO 3/7 (MW). A dozen common shorebird species were reported in low numbers on a few dates. **American Woodcocks** seem to be benefitting from the same logging practices that have benefitted Ruffed Grouse at SGL 110 (KG). Birds were found there late into May. More terns were reported than usual. Both **Caspian Terns** (high of four at LO 4/18 - MS) and **Forster's Terns** (high of five at LO 5/8 - MW) moved through in their normal migration period. The rainy weather that grounded scoters 5/12 also grounded 8 **Common Terns**, 4 **Forster's Terns** and 2 **Black Terns** at BML (RK, JS), and 34 **Common Terns** at LO (KL, MW). Three more **Black Terns** were at LO 5/15 (MW) and one 5/16 (MS).

The only reported **Common Nighthawks** were single birds migrating over Hamburg 5/23 (MW) and District Twp. 5/26 (RK). A **Whip-poor-will** was singing at SGL 110 on 5/6 (KG). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at SGL 106 on 5/7 (MW), a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at SGL 110 on 5/24 (KG) and an **Alder Flycatcher** at SGL 110 on 5/21 (KG) were the only ones reported. Hundreds of **Blue Jays** passed through 4/30-5/7 (m.ob.), the period that also saw the arrival of most neotropical migrant breeders. **Common Ravens**, reported from two new sites, continue their excursions south of the Kittatinny. **Horned Larks** were heard singing at several places in the Oley Valley, Great Valley and nw. Berks on CREP routes in late May (RK). The **Purple Martin** colonies in Mohrsville and Centerport contained about 25 breeding pairs each in late May (RK). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and **Winter Wrens** were equally scarce, with two reports of each in April (TC, CRE, KG, RK). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at SGL 110 on 5/21 (KG). There were only two reports of **Swainson's Thrush**, usually more often reported.

Birders reported 33 warbler species. **Cape May Warbler** and **Bay-breasted Warbler**, elusive in spring, were each reported three or four times (TC, KG, KL). A **Yellow-throated Warbler**, now a rare migrant, was seen at BML in streamside sycamores 4/24 (JS). **Cerulean Warblers** were reported as migrants and at their usual breeding locations (RK, LS, MW). A **Prothonotary Warbler** returned on 5/13 to the inlet area of LO near Rt. 662 for the sixth consecutive year (SS, MS). It was seen again 5/25-26 (RK, MW). **Northern Waterthrushes** were widely reported, with six at various places on 5/15 alone (KL). **Kentucky Warbler**, which had declined in the 1990s and early 2000s, returned to three breeding territories (CRE, RK, DKr) and was also reported as a migrant on the Kittatinny Ridge (KG). No less than 8 **Mourning Warblers** were reported 5/7-17 at various places on the Kittatinny (KG, LS).

Arrival dates for grassland sparrows are poorly monitored, but **Vesper Sparrow**, **Savannah Sparrow** and **Grasshopper Sparrow** were all heard on a few breeding territories on CREP routes in late May (RK). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found at SGL 110 from 5/13-17 (KG). A **Blue Grosbeak** was at Strausstown 5/16 (MW). **Bobolink** and **Eastern Meadowlark** hold on at a few breeding sites. The latter

especially seems more scattered and hard to find every year as its habitat is converted to alfalfa, row crops and development. A **Rusty Blackbird** was at BML 3/10 (JS), another was at a feeder near Leesport 3/17 (DK), and two were at Kernsville Dam, Hamburg 4/3 (MW). Few **Purple Finches** were reported heading south last fall and even fewer were reported on the return trip. A bird at BML 3/10 (JS) and two near Dryville 3/15 (SF) were the only ones reported.

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Blair County

No compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Echo Beach Road (on the Susquehanna River south of Wysox) (EBR), PA Migration Count in Bradford Co. (PAMC), Peck Hill, (PEH), State Game Lands (SGL), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE).

Spring came somewhat early this year, something not totally unexpected in these days of warming climate. Many birds, amphibians and plants seemed a bit early. Again this year some fruit trees and vulnerable tree leaves which had come out early were frozen.

On 3/17 thousands of Canada and **Snow Geese** were flying over PEH (AV, GV). A **Green-winged Teal** was at a pond at PEH 3/28 (AV, GV). On 3/18 a **Bufflehead** was observed near E. Smithfield (RG). A **Hooded Merganser** was on Sugar Creek 3/17 (RG), and on 5/16 a female with one chick was on a pond at Mt. Pisgah State Park (RYo). A single **Pied billed Grebe** was reported 5/8 at EBR (DN, KN). Eight **Double-crested Cormorants** were found at EBR 4/28 where they roost every year around this time (DN, KN). An unusual sighting was an **American Bittern** flushed on 5/13 from cattails around a pond at PEH (AV, GV). Sadly, all known **Great Blue Heron** colonies in the Troy areas have been abandoned due to logging and other disturbance (RYo). A **Little Blue Heron** flying out of cattails by a pond on 5/8 (PAMC) at PEH is the first sighting in the county since I've been compiler (AV, GV). Not often seen, a **Green Heron** was at a beaver pond on Lone Mary Rd (near New Era) 4/21 (TG); and one was seen on the PAMC at SGL 239 in Athens Twp. (CaH, CHH).

Reported in Pennsylvania more frequently the in recent years, a **Black Vulture** was on Spring Hill Rd. just out of Laceyville on 3/5 (EW). Although no nests have been discovered, there were a few **Osprey** sightings: on 4/22 one flying over TNE (TG); and one near Troy 4/28 (RYo). **Bald Eagles** are doing excellently in the county: as of 4/23 there were three active nests along the SUR, with 3 chicks in one of the nests (RYa, RG). A number of **Northern Harriers** were reported: one 3/4 at PEH (AV, GV); 2 males flying/hovering over an agricultural field near West Franklin 4/5 (JPe); a pair on 4/12 at Austinville (RYo); one 4/28 and 5/14 at PEH (AV, GV). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** nest was discovered 4/17 near a house at PEH (AV, GV). A **Northern Goshawk** was checking out a feeder at the same PEH house on 3/30 (AV, GV). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** flew and called near this compiler's house (which is close to a number of wetlands and ponds) for many days from 3/31 to 5/21, probably there's a nest somewhere in the area (TG). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was in the Troy area on 5/14 (RYo); and on Bowling Alley Rd. near Merryall on 6/19 on a BBS route (BF). On 3/6 a **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen south of Troy (RYo). Unusual was a **Golden Eagle** 3/4 flying over the Susquehanna River at Sugar Run 3/4 (JPe). An **American Kestrel** was at PEH 4/14 (AV, GV). Two **Peregrine Falcons** were near North Rome 3/25 (JPe).

Sandhill Cranes have successfully moved into the county in the past few years undoubtedly the offspring of a nesting pair which settled outside Dushore about 10 years ago. On 3/11, three returned to pond near Wyalusing (MK); on 3/18, three others returned to the vicinity of a large pond near Hollenback (RW); on 4/11 one was heard calling for the first time ever in a field at TNE, on 4/15, two were heard calling from a pond/swamp also at TNE, 2 also called on 4/19-20, one called on

various days between 4/22 and 5/6, then 2 again called together on 5/13 and 5/19-20, all at TNE, and two were heard again 5/19-20 at Swamp Poodle, adjacent to TNE (TG). Possibly the same pair was seen at a farm near New Era 5/11 (FS). There is no evidence that this pair nested this year. There are reports also of a pair near Overton. Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at EBR on 5/8 (PAMC) (DN, KN). About 24 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were floating in the swift current of the muddy SUR in Towanda 3/3 (FI). On 3/9 50 **Ring-billed Gulls** were at the Burlington landfill (RYo).

Black-billed Cuckoos were very much in evidence: one on 5/1 singing at TNE (TG); 2 on 5/8 beside the SUR in the Wyalusing vicinity (PAMC) (DB, MBu, JC); 3 near Overton 5/14 (DN); and one on 5/17 on Armenia Mt. (RYo). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was in the Troy area 5/10 (RYo). Two **Barred Owls**, probable nesters, were calling in the E. Smithfield area 4/6 (RG). A **Common Nighthawk** was present from 3/16 for a few days near E. Smithfield (RG).

One **Acadian Flycatcher** was seen on 5/8 (PAMC) by a pond on Mosier Rd. near Rummerfield (SF, TG). A **Willow Flycatcher** was observed 5/20 in the Troy area (RYo). Infrequently seen, two **Yellow-throated Vireos** were in the Athens area on the PAMC 5/8 (MB, JPa, MP); and one in the vicinity of Troy 5/13 (RYo). Seen only in the Sayre area in *Bradford*, on 3/20 six **Fish Crows** focused on the Tioga Point Cemetery. They called a great deal, possibly were investigating a nesting place there, and chased a Red-tailed Hawk out of the cemetery (BH). The following three swallows are not often seen in *Bradford*. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was in the Troy area 4/14 (RYo). There were three sightings of **Bank Swallows**: in the Troy area 4/16 (RYo); on the PAMC on 5/8 two were in the Athens area (MBo, JPa, MP) and one in the Sayre area (DP, SP). **Cliff Swallows** were seen on the 5/8 PAMC in the Athens area (MBo, JPa, MP); in the Troy area 5/14 (RYo); and 2 on 5/18 in a mixed gathering of Barn and Tree Swallows on the bridge over the SUR at Wysox, alternately sitting on the wires, flying over the river, or sitting on a roof of a nearby home (TG). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was present on Woods Rd. 4/18, and one in the same location 5/8 (PAMC) (both CM). A **Winter Wren** sang its wonderful song along Iron Bridge Rd. near New Era on 4/1, 4/5 and 5/19 (TG).

There were only 3 sightings of **Blue-winged Warblers** this spring: one in the Athens area on the 5/8 PAMC (MBo, JPa, MP) and one singing 5/13 & 5/24 at TNE (TG). A **Nashville Warbler** was found 6/19 during a BBS route on Norway Ridge Rd. (BF). Only 2 **Northern Parulas** were reported, on the PAMC on 5/8 and at SGL 239 in Athens township (CaH, ChH). A single **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was on Armenia Mt. 5/17 (RYo). A **Prairie Warbler** was in the Troy area 5/15 (RYo). The only sighting this spring of a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was on the PAMC 5/8 singing by small stream on east side Tip Top Rd. (SF, TG). Armenia Mt., a good spot for warblers, was where a **Hooded Warbler** was found 5/7 (RYo).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was observed 4/14 at Leona (RYo). A number of **White-throated Sparrows** were seen or heard: one was singing 4/14 a little north of the Stoll Center in Wysox (TG); one was at PEH 4/15, 4/18, and 4/25 (AV, GV), and one was singing 5/1, 5/7, and 5/13 at TNE (TG). There was a single **White-crowned Sparrow** report: one was foraging on the lawn at TNE 5/6 (TG). Negatively noteworthy was that no **Grasshopper Sparrows** were observed in the county this spring; they have been declining here in recent years (TG). On 3/7 a few **Rusty Blackbirds** were in a mixed flock of **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Common Grackles**, and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** at EBR (DN KN). An unusual tan female **Common Grackle** with a dark brown head was found 5/18 at the Wysox bridge over the SUR (TG). An **Orchard Oriole** was observed on the 5/8 PAMC at EBR (DN, KN). **Baltimore Orioles** were in unusually large numbers this year (TG, RYo). There was a courting pair of **Purple Finches** at PEH 4/9 (AV, GV) and a pair in the Canton area 4/13 (LF).

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Bucks County

Locations: Bowman's Hill Park (BHP), Core Creek Park (CCP), Giving Pond-Uhlerstown (GVP), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), State Game Land #56 (SGL56), State Game Land #157 (SGL157), US Steel-Falls Twp. (USS)

Average temperatures were far above normal for all three months of the period, forcing foliage emergence weeks ahead of normal. The three months March through May averaged 6.9°F, 5°F, and 3.5°F above normal. Rainfall was high by almost 4 inches in March, but deficits in April and May resulted in a net surplus of 2.75 inches for the period. For the second year in a row, this season's waterfowl and shorebird reports were low, with some species missed completely. 30 April brought a surge of migrants into the area. A report of 126 species including 19 warbler species on 5/1, without any particular effort, supports that conclusion (DFa). A short foray into State Game Land #157 on 5/11 produced 17 warbler species indicating another probably good day (DFa). The biggest warbler migration fallout was reported during the 5/14-17 period, with 28 warbler species on 5/16 and a total of 31 species for 5/15-16 (DFa). The next day 5/17 produced 25 warbler species (JMi, AM). The 5/15-16 counts of warbler individuals were felt to be the observer's best ever for spring locally (DFa). A total of 135 species was tallied 5/15 (DFa), adding evidence to the positive report that weekend. State Gameland #157, Nockamixon State Park, and State Game Land #56 produced good numbers of birds (DFa, PC, JMi, AM). Unfortunately, despite the above, comments in general expressed disappointment with the number of Neotropical migrants.

A total of 221 species and one hybrid were reported in the three-month period, continuing the downward trend of the previous two years. Six species were recorded earlier than any previous spring, and three remained later. The Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) on 5/8 had 62 participants providing 21 area reports totaling 149 species compared to the previous 10 year average of 158. The PAMC total of 1009 individuals of 24 warbler species reported was far below the previous 10 year average of 1415. More than half or 599 were Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat.

Historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson (1998) and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Diane Allison compiled and submitted highlights for the PAMC data. Weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, New Jersey (NOAA). Note that per the NOAA website, the normal period used for averages is based on 1961-1990. All reports from PWT, QTS, Rohm and Haas, USS, and SGL157 are from Devich Farbotnik unless otherwise noted. Note that all comments regarding the number of reports include data obtained from eBird, which has provided new insight into bird status.

Probable migrant **Snow Geese** were reported until 4/2, with the highest reports being modest counts of 54 at GVP 3/3 (EB, EN), 175 at PVP 3/4 (AM), 43 at Shady Brook Farm, Lower Makefield Twp. 3/16 (BK), 41 at Churchville Park 3/20 (CS), and 125 at PVP 3/20 (AM). One lingering into mid-May at Morrisville (BK) and one in late May in Quakertown (DFa) were probably not going to migrate. A group of 5 stopped for 15 seconds at Riegelsville 3/23, with a small bird that may have been a **Ross's Goose**, but photos were distant and details lacking due to the short opportunity for observation (EB, ph.). The last **Cackling Goose** reported was in Hilltown Twp. 3/4 (AM). Peculiar was the lack of any **Tundra Swan** reports until a first summer bird was found at Pine Run Dam on a new late date of 5/21 (DFa). A count 3/14 of 33 **Gadwall** at USS and 37 at Rohm & Haas, Bristol, is noteworthy for the county. A count of 27 **Northern Shovelers** at Rohm and Haas 3/27 was only half the high count made there last year. The only significant report of **Green-winged Teal** was 150 at PWT 3/14. An excellent local count for **Canvasback** occurred 3/14 when 50 were at Mud Island (DFa). One at PWT 5/8 (ABi, NB, *no doc.*) was very late. A **Redhead** at NSP 3/26 was the sole representative of its species reported this season. **Ring-necked Duck** high count reports were low this year with 60 at GVP 3/10 (EB, EN), 150 at USS 3/14 (DFa), 100 at Rohm and Haas 3/14 (DFa), and 105 at SGL56 3/19 (AM, JMi). One **Surf Scoter** was spotted during a survey at PWT 4/27 (AJ) for our only scoter of the spring. Two **Long-tailed Ducks** at PVP (AM) and 5 at NSP (DFa), both 3/26, were our only reports. The highest single site report for **Common Goldeneye** was 106 just north of Morrisville 3/1 (AM), where many wintered this year. **Common Merganser** high counts continued into Mar, with 1100 at CCP 3/4 (BK) and 830 at PVP 3/11 (AM). Multiple **Hooded Mergansers** remained at QTS through Apr into May, with at least 5

present 5/11, 3 noted 5/13, and one female still present 5/28. Breeding there was suspected. This year's high report of 82 **Ruddy Ducks** at Falls Twp. Community Park was a duplicate of last year's count except for the date of 4/14 (BK).

There were no reports of **Ruffed Grouse** and **Northern Bobwhite**. A **Red-throated Loon** at PWT 4/10 was the only report. A fallout caused by a storm brought 90 **Common Loons** to NSP 4/26, our best high count in awhile but nowhere near some of the highest fallouts of the past. Otherwise, only single digit counts were reported (m.ob.). Only one was reported on the PAMC 5/8 compared to 15 last year, but stragglers continued through May (DFa). **Pied-billed Grebe** was noted back at our only known breeding site at USS 3/14. This site may have more than one pair, as 3 adults at three locations were found 5/8, along with 2 young. Migrant individuals were seen leaving QTS on the evenings of 4/20 and 5/1. NSP produced a good fallout of 22 **Horned Grebes** 3/26 (MHo, DFa), but only 10 others were reported for the season. **Red-necked Grebe** was missed. The highest **Double-crested Cormorant** report was 192 at PVP 4/13 (RFe). A high count for the year to date for **Great Cormorant** included 28 at Bristol and 8 at Mud Island on 3/14 (DFa). Four **Great Cormorants** lingered at Bristol 5/15 (DFa). One was at GVP 3/26 (EB), an apparent regular stopping point based on multiple reports over the years.

An **American Bittern** 4/14 was at wetlands in Blooming Glen created under a farm wetlands program (AM). A total of 22 migrant **American Bitterns** were noted leaving QTS on 10 of 19 evening visits between 4/5-5/13. One remained calling there 4/23-5/7 but was not heard later. All known **Great Blue Heron** colonies were counted again this year, plus one new colony with five nests was discovered in Durham Twp. (AR, MC). The total number of nests declined from last year's high of 154 (see table). There are likely more sites that are not reported. Between 4/17-5/31, there were 10 **Great Egrets** reported from six sites (m.ob.), a rather low report total. The highest count was at PVP, where 4 were present 5/3 (KA). Recently annual at PWT, a **Cattle Egret** was spotted 4/11 (ph. MS) and again on 5/9 (DFa). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** reports were low, with probably no more than 9 individuals reported at four sites between 3/7-5/29 (LR, NZ, DFa, VD). The high count was 4 at PWT 4/10. The 3/7 bird at Silver Lake Nature Center (LR) was assumed to be a migrant and established a new spring early arrival date. A **Glossy Ibis** was at Falls Twp. Community Park 4/10 (DFa). Another was found on the PAMC 5/8 at PWT (Abi, NB).

Great Blue Heron Nest Counts

Colony	Nests	Date	Obs.
Quakertown Swamp	33	4/25	DFa
Richland Twp.	31	5/28	AR, AM
E. Rockhill Twp.	31	5/28	AR, AM
NSP (adjacent)	28	6/17	AR, AM
Prahls Island	3	4/??	AM
Springtown Twp.	15	5/17	AR, MC
Durham Twp.	5	6/1	AR, MC
TOTAL NESTS	146		

An **Osprey** at Upper Black Eddy 3/2 (CW) was close to the record early date of 3/1. **Ospreys** returned to nests at Riegelsville (EN, EB) and Mud Island (DFa). A new nest was on a replacement channel marker at Bristol (DFa) that was apparently more attractive as a nest site than the old one. At least one and probably two more **Bald Eagle** nests were reported on the Bucks County side of the Delaware River, bringing the total known confirmed nests to five, plus one yet to be confirmed (GD, EN, JMr, JMa, AR, *vide* DFa). The one confirmed new nest was present at least two years. Four of the six nests are on the river. Two confirmed **Red-shouldered Hawk** nests in Tinicum Twp. away from historical sites were welcome news for this relatively rare local breeder (DA). Another was reported from Camp Onas, Tinicum Twp. (*vide* DA). **American Kestrel** took advantage of nest boxes, with at least 11 boxes occupied in five townships (SBe, DFa, AM). The two known **Peregrine Falcon** nests produced 6 young (AMc). Returning **Virginia Rail** was first noted 4/5 at Buckingham Twp. (AM, JMi), where 4 were reported 5/8 (DFa). They were first heard at QTS 4/11. One was at Silver Lake Nature Center 5/27 (MC), where not normally reported. **Sora** was heard 5/11-12 at QTS, and one was reported in Durham Twp. 5/8 on the PAMC for the only reports. A **Common Moorhen** was heard at QTS 4/29-30. The breeding pair at USS that moved to PWT last year was not located this year.

The best shorebird habitat reported was at PWT and Bradford Dam, but the results were modest, with only 12 species in mostly small

numbers. The more noteworthy species' reports follow. The highest report for **Semipalmated Plovers** was 30 at PWT 5/23. **Killdeer** is not expected in high numbers in spring, so 21 at Maple Knoll Farms, Buckingham Twp., on 3/25 was the highest report (RS, VS). Highest reports for **Solitary Sandpiper** came from CCP 5/7 and Bradford Dam 5/9, with 16 (BK) and 25 (DFa) respectively. **Least Sandpipers** gathered at Bradford Dam as usual, with the highest report 115 on 5/18. The high count of 16 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at PWT 5/1 is worth mentioning. **Pectoral Sandpiper** was reported from Bradford Dam 5/9-15 (DFa), with the high count of 4 on 5/9. An early **Dunlin** was at PWT 4/4 and 2 more stopped there 4/25. One stopped at Bradford Dam 5/16 (DFa). The highest single site **Wilson's Snipe** report came from Bradford Dam where 39 were tallied 4/18 (RFR). A count of 12 **American Woodcock** 3/15 at Nockamixon Twp. (DFa) is appreciated for a species that is usually under reported.

Seven **Laughing Gulls** at PWT 3/22 were the first for the spring, with an estimated 1500 there on the PAMC 5/8. **Bonaparte's Gull** counts of 13 and 20 at PVP 4/9 (AM) and PWT 4/10 (DFa) respectively were the highest reports we could muster. Away from the Falls Twp. hotspots, a high count for **Ring-billed Gull** was 700 at CCP 3/4 (BK). Similarly, but more unusual was a high count of 800 **Herring Gulls** 3/29 at Shady Brook Farm (BK). Also away from the normal Falls Twp. locations, **Iceland Gull** was at Morrisville Levee 3/3 (BK), Maple Knoll Farms 3/14 (RS, VS), Warminster Twp. 3/14 (GJ), NSP 3/15 (AL), and PVP 3/26 (AM). The last report was 5/1 at PWT. If very large numbers of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** gathered in Apr at NSP and PVP as in recent years, no one reported them. The highest reports were 63 at PVP 3/2 and 78 at NSP 3/19 (both AM). Also, it is normally assumed that a few young birds remain all summer at PWT, but none were reported there on the PAMC or later this year. A **Glaucous Gull** stopped at Shady Brook Farm 3/30 (BK). The last report was 4/10 at PWT. As many as 3 **Caspian Terns** stopped at PVP 5/14 (KA, AM). Five **Common Terns** were at PWT 5/9. One was at NSP the same day (DFa) followed by 6 there on 5/12 (JH). Single **Common Terns** were found at PVP on 5/14 and 5/29 (both AM). Two **Forster's Terns** 5/8 and one 5/9 were at PWT (DFa) and were followed by 3 at PVP 5/14 (AM). A **Black Tern** was at NSP 5/8 and another was at PWT 5/9. Thus, it was a relatively good spring for tern reports.

Cuckoos were generally very scarce. **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported only five times at five sites, all between 5/1-10 (EB, MC, WK, DFi, RS, VS). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** didn't fare much better, with only nine locations reporting (m.ob.). The only sites with repeated sightings indicating possible breeding were GVP, BHP, PVP, and SGL157 (m.ob.). Although reported by a non-birder familiar with the species, a bird believed to be a **Barn Owl** flew across Rt. 309 in Quakertown at the end of Apr (AF). This formerly common species has gone unreported most years for many years. **Barred Owl** was at QTS as usual (DFa), was heard in Applebachsville (PT, BT), and was noted in the vicinity of SGL56 (PC). The last report of **Long-eared Owl** was 3/18 at PVP (AM), which was an early departure by several weeks compared to the last couple of years. **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard tooting at a historical breeding site in Nockamixon Twp. but was not checked after mid-Mar (DFa). One was seen briefly as it was mobbed and then flushed by **Blue Jays** 3/18 at PVP (JMi). **Common Nighthawk** was again reported in single digits except for the high report of 20 at Bowman's Hill 5/14 (LK). Rarely reported here, a **Whip-poor-will** provided a new spring early arrival date 4/5 when it was heard for less than two minutes in Tinicum Twp. (PC). Another was in Bedminster Twp. on a rather late spring date of 5/17 (DMc). The **Chimney Swift** count of approximately 300 at Morrisville Levee 5/10 (BK) is consistent with last year's estimate. The Tinicum Twp. breeding **Red-headed Woodpecker** pair returned (DFa, KF, DA), one was seen in Plumstead Twp. 3/21 (AK), and one was near Lumberville for a couple of weeks in late April (*vide* KF), for the only reports. Using high counts only for each site, a total of 31 **Pileated Woodpeckers** were noted at 17 locations (m.ob.). eBird provides new insight into the status of this species.

Rare in spring, up to 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at SGL157 5/15-16 (DFa) and at least one remained 5/17 (AM, JMi). One stopped at Playwick Park 5/20-21 (BK). After no reports last spring, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported from SGL157 and NSP 5/15 (both DFa), BHP 5/16 (SW), and Playwick Park 5/21 (BK). An **Acadian Flycatcher** at BHP 5/2 (GG) was earlier than any other spring by one day. After only one report last spring, **Alder Flycatcher** far exceeded normal expectations, with 2 at GVP 5/13 (EB vr.), one at NSP 5/15, 2 at PVP 5/16, one at Bradford Dam 5/17 (all DFa), and 2 at SGL157 5/17 (AM, JMi). The more expected **Least Flycatcher** was only reported five

times from five sites, all between 5/14-17 (PC, DFa, CP, RS, SW). Due to it being heard only on a very early date, a **Great Crested Flycatcher** at BHP 3/26 will be tallied as a possible only (SF). Apparently this species has been previously recorded as early as the fourth week of March in Pennsylvania, although the third or fourth week of April is a more normal early arrival time. Very rare in spring, **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported at CCP 5/8 (SF). **Common Raven** was seen at Milford Twp. 3/6 (JGr), 2 were at GVP 3/8 (EN), 2 visited a deer carcass at Solebury Twp. 4/1-2 (DFa), 2 were at QTS 4/19 (DFa), and 2 stopped just north of New Hope in early May (BHo). This species is still a novelty locally and seen infrequently. Up to 65 **Horned Larks** were reported on multiple dates through mid-Mar at Maple Knoll Farms, with the last bird there 4/4 (RS, VS). One was singing in Nockamixon Twp. 4/11 (DFa) but was not reported later. Nesting has not been proven here in many years. The Upper Makefield Twp. **Purple Martin** colony recovered about 25% after declining about 50% last year (JMa). A noteworthy high count of 60 **Rough-winged Swallows** was reported at GVP 4/28 (EN, EB). The last known **Bank Swallow** nesting area in the county is at the PWT and former USS property that is now also used by Waste Management for landfill operations. The excavation for landfill cover results in banks that now provide excellent, although potentially temporary, nesting areas. More than 350 nests were counted there. Elsewhere only single digit counts were reported in swallow flocks at area lakes in May (DFa, RFe, BK, AM). **Cliff Swallows** are hard to quantify. They are widespread along the Delaware R. on bridges, and colonies away from the river are at area lakes such as PVP (AM) and Core Creek Park (BK). However, the highest site counts reported are only in the 20-25 range (EB, BK, AM, JMi). A report of 500 **Barn Swallows** at GVP 4/28 was the highest report by far (EB, EN) and certainly noteworthy for that species. One at PVP 3/26 established a new spring early arrival date (AM) by one day. Nine **Black-capped Chickadees** were reported for the PAMC. Certainly some birds in the northern part of the county probably can only be definitively defined by DNA. However, the four reported in the southern part of the county were surely **Carolina Chickadees**.

Red-breasted Nuthatch was very scarce for the second year in a row. There were only eight sites with 9 individuals reported (m. ob.). The last migrants stopped 5/2 at Doylestown Twp. (RH) and Solebury Twp. (GG). However, Churchville Park, which had regular reports in winter and spring, apparently had 2 on 5/8 and at least one continue through the season. Breeding status was not confirmed. A pair believed to be making a nest at Tinicum Park 4/11 (DH) could not be confirmed later (DH). **Brown Creeper** was incredibly under reported, with only 9 individuals at seven sites (m.ob.). Kinglet counts were unusually low, and were missed on the PAMC. **Ruby Crowned Kinglet** reports were almost all in the very low single digits except for 12 on 4/11 and 15 on 4/17 at SGL56 (PC). Similarly, all **Golden-crowned Kinglet** reports were in the very low single digits. Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** found 5/12 in suitable breeding habitat at NSP (JH) continued through May, and were assumed to be nesting (DFa). **Wood Thrush** counts of 20-26 were recorded a total of five times from BHP 5/8 (LK), PVP 5/8 (JMi, AM, et al.), SGL56 on 5/2 and 5/16 (PC), and SGL157 5/5 (JMi, AM). The highest single site report for **Hermit Thrush** was 7 at PVP 4/2 (AM). **Veery** seems to be in good numbers at BHP, where a high of 15 were reported 5/8 (LK). The deer fence there probably is a benefit in maintaining habitat. **Swainson's Thrush** and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** have previously been reported as being in low numbers here. The data from eBird provided somewhat higher numbers but no major change in status. **Swainson's Thrush** reports came from twelve sites between 4/30-5/22, with an estimated total of 45-50 individuals (m.ob.). At least 8 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported from five sites, between 5/7-19 (m.ob.). **American Pipit** was regular at Maple Knoll Farms through 5/16 when a surprising 21 were recorded, a rather late date for that many (RS, VS). The spring period high there was 38 on 4/6 (RS, VS).

A total of 34 warbler species was reported. Only **Orange-crowned Warbler** might be considered a miss but is rarely reported here. Individual **Golden-winged Warblers** were a rare find at SGL157 5/1 and 5/16. A **Brewster's Warbler** was reported at BHP 5/16 (SW). **Tennessee Warbler** continues to be reported in low numbers here but 5 at SGL157 5/16 (DFa) and 5 others reported 5/11-17 (DFa, JMi, AM) made this a relatively good year. The tallies 5/16 of about 15 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** at SGL157 (DFa) and 8 at SGL56 (PC) were good local counts. Only 6 were found on the PAMC 5/8. An approximate total of 45 **Magnolia Warblers** from SGL157, NSP, and PVP 5/16 was an indication of the warbler numbers present (DFa) and compares to a total of 11 for the PAMC 5/8. **Cape May Warbler** was at NSP 5/15-17 (DFa)

with 2 there 5/17 (AM, JMi), and another was at PVP 5/19 (CC) for the only reports. **Blackburnian Warbler** may be declining as a migrant here, as most reports were of individuals, but 15 at SGL157 and NSP 5/16 were exceptional. Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** was found at Riegelsville 5/30 after being found there as a probable breeder two years ago but missed last year (DFa). This is the only remaining known site left in the county where breeding may still occur. The Delaware River may have others but no one has reported them. The 16 **Bay-breasted Warblers** reported between 5/8-19 from seven sites (m.ob.) were well above average for recent years. A **Cerulean Warbler** was found at both SGL157 (DFa) and BHP (HM) on 5/15 for the only reports for this former local breeder. A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was at Bradford Dam 5/17 (MLy), and a female was noted at PVP 5/19 (DW) for the only reports. **Kentucky Warbler** was a very good find at Maple Knoll Farms 5/5-13 (RS, VS), one was at SGL157 5/16 (DFa), and one was found at NSP 5/13 and remained through May (DFa). A good local peak count of 5 **Hooded Warblers** 5/11 came from SGL157. There were 6 other reports between 5/2-5/12 from QTS (BB), Bensalem Twp. (IH), BHP (LK, GG), PVP (BW), and SGL56 (PC). **Mourning Warbler** was well reported this year, with the first at PVP 5/10 (WK), and one at SGL157 5/11 (DFa). The weekend of 5/15-5/17 had multiples at SGL157, with the peak day being 4 on 5/16. A total of approximately 35 **Canada Warblers** 5/16 from SGL157 and NSP was another highlight for the observer and certainly was an unusual local tally. **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at SGL157 5/5, and the same or another was there 5/17 (AM, JMi). One stopped at PVP 5/16 (DFa), the only other report.

Chipping Sparrow probably is present somewhere in the county all winter but one at New Hope 3/3 may have been the first migrant (BHo). **Grasshopper Sparrow** continues to be reported in very small numbers in Tinicum Twp. where 4 provided a new early arrival date of 5/1 (DFa). One was at Warminster Twp. Community Park 5/4-5 (GJ). Three were tallied for the PAMC 5/8 in the Churchville Park and Core Creek Park areas. Always difficult to find in the spring, **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Maple Knoll Farms 5/13 (RS, VS) and PVP 5/17 (DP). A count of only 13 **White-throated Sparrows** on the PAMC 5/8 indicated an earlier departure this year, which was also confirmed by the last report 5/12 at Chalfont (KA). Reports of **White-crowned Sparrow** were few, so over 20 at a Bedminster Twp. historical wintering spot 3/3 was noteworthy (SC, FG). A late one was at East Rockhill Twp. 5/21-22 (HR, JR). Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were first noted at USS 5/8, one was at Solebury Twp. 5/14, and the first one for PWT was 5/15 (all DFa). The high report for **Bobolink** was 61 at Maple Knoll Farms 5/4 (RS, VS). **Rusty Blackbirds** gathered as usual at QTS, with approximately 50 being the highest count 4/3 and 4/13, although there were probably many more unseen. The last 2 were noted there 5/3. The male **Baltimore Oriole** at New Hope finished its 6th consecutive winter 4/5 (SM), ten days earlier than last year. Scarce this winter, the only **Purple Finch** spring reports were at BHP, with the last report there of 2 on 4/1(AM). One **Pine Siskin** 3/21 at BHP was the only report (JFa).

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Butler County

A storm 4/13 resulted in a fallout of some exciting birds at Moraine State Park. Two **White-winged Scoters**, two **Red-necked Grebes** and a **Horned Grebe** were located at the south shore area of the park (DD, DeD, DW, ST). A short time later, a **Red-throated Loon** (DW, ST) and 2 **Long-tailed Ducks** (DD) were also discovered. A total of 63 **Double-crested Cormorants** were perched in trees along the lake shore (DD, DeD, DW, ST). A variety of waterfowl were present including 14 **Gadwall**, 2 **American Wigeon**, 2 **Blue-winged Teal**, 2 **Ring-necked Duck**, 3 **Lesser Scaup**, 33 **Bufflehead**, 15 **Red-breasted Merganser** and 23 **Ruddy Duck** (DD, DeD, DW, ST). On the north shore of the lake a flock of nearly 300 **Bonaparte's Gulls** contained a **Little Gull** (DW, ST). Another flock of 150 **Bonaparte's Gulls** arrived with 9 **Forster's Terns** among them (DW, ST).

Two **Broad-winged Hawks** were in the area and 5 **Osprey** were active, including a bird at a nest site. Two **Purple Martins** were present and hundreds of **Tree Swallows** were buzzing around the lake (DW, ST). Rounding out the swallows, single **Northern Rough-winged, Bank** (DeD) and **Cliff Swallows** were seen as well as 16 **Barn Swallows** (DD, DeD, DW, ST).

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Report compiled by Mike Fialkovich.

Cambria County

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

Waterfowl seemed to pass through PG rather quickly, perhaps because of the early warm weather. **Tundra Swans** passed through between 3/8 and 3/15, with most of the flocks flying overhead. Waterfowl highlights were **Lesser Scaup** and **Horned and Red-necked Grebes** all at PG. First **Osprey** was at PG 4/2 (DG). First **Broad-winged Hawk** was at PT 4/24 (DG). An early **Killdeer** was at PG 3/8 (JS). Unusual were 6 **Willetts** at PG 5/8 (JS). A single **Dunlin** was at PG 5/12 (DG, JS). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were at PT 3/18 (DG). A single **Black Tern** was at PG 5/19 (DG, JS).

Least Flycatchers were first seen at PG 5/8 (JS). An adult male **Purple Martin** was first seen at the gourd rack at PG 4/29 (DG). The warbler migration was good considering the leaves were on the trees when the birds began arriving. A **Northern Waterthrush** and a **Mourning Warbler** were at PG 5/12 (DG). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were first seen in the Patton area 5/8 (DG). **Bobolinks** were seen in good numbers at various locations 5/7 (DG).

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Cameron County

No compiler.

Carbon County

No report.

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

Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Colyer Lake (COL), Curtin Wetland (CUR), Millbrook Marsh (MM), Penn State University at University Park (PSU), Remediation wetlands west of Julian (JUL), Scotia Barrrens (SCB), State College (STC), Toftrees Pond and adjacent areas (TOF).

More information about some of locations mentioned is available at <www.scbirdcl.org> and from the newly published *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* (2010; hereafter, "BCP") by Nick Bolgiano and Greg

Grove. SCB is an IBA. Most of the species information comes from postings to the State College Bird Club group.

Rare/uncommon species reported below: **Cattle Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Wilson's Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope, Black Tern, and Eurasian Wigeon**. The PAMC for *Centre* 5/8 was a day of rain and strong continuous winds. Despite the major hindrance to birding, 26 volunteers reported 138 species and 4735 individual birds. The adverse birding conditions continued through the evening hours, so no one found it feasible to even attempt finding owls, Whip-poor-wills, etc. (One observer had 20 Whip-poor-wills at SCB the evening before the count). However a **Barn Owl** was found by two observers during the day and an **American Woodcock** at dusk. Notable species included **Greater Scaup, Sora, Forster's Tern, and Red-headed Woodpecker** (NK).

A gulp of 19 **Double-crested Cormorants** was spotted in some dead trees in the middle of the pond at TOF 4/8 (JV), and another group of 14 was found at BESP 4/11 (JV). An **American Bittern** was seen creeping along the back edge of CUR for three or four minutes before it disappeared into the grasses 4/22 (JL), and another was seen and photographed at TOF 4/30 (CG). A **Least Bittern**, a species rarely seen in this county, was discovered at the TOF pond 5/13 (MO). A **Black-Crowned Night-Heron** was found at the TOF pond 4/23 (AM) and seen again 4/24 (JV); the last record was in 1997 according to BCP. A **Great Egret** at JUL was enjoyed by a birding group lead by NK 5/3; another was mostly hidden in the reeds on the east side of the TOF pond 5/6 (MO); one was seen at the TOF pond 5/7 (JD); and four were spotted at the top of a dead tree at the east end of the TOF pond. About 7 pm a **Cattle Egret** was observed foraging along a fence line of one of the pastures on the north east side of the Penn State Airport 5/6 (DO); the last record was in 1990 according to BCP.

The only **Snow Goose** reported was at BESP 3/9 (NT). **Tundra Swans** were observed throughout March at various locations: four were viewed from the BESP Overlook 3/6 (MH); a fly-over of 45 at TOF 3/7 (NK); a regatta of 59 swans at COL 3/17 (JV); a flight of 45 seen heading north over PSU 3/16 (JL); six at JUL 3/20 (NAB); five at CUR 3/22 (MO); and five again at CUR 3/25 (MD). A **Eurasian Wigeon** in association with a pair of **Wood Ducks** was seen at Scotia Pond 3/23 (NK). A raft of 37 **Ring-necked Ducks** was found in the Frog Pond at BESP 3/14 (JV). Towards evening 15 **White-winged Scoters** were present near lower Greens Run at BESP 4/26 (GSY). Three **Surf Scoters**, 2 males and one female, were seen from the overlook along Rte. 150 near the bridge to Howard 4/26 (MO). A pair of **Common Goldeneyes** was present at the beach area at BESP 3/19 (JV).

An **Osprey** was found at TOF 3/30 (NK) and 3/31 (CG). At the Fisherman's Paradise PA fish culture station on 4/25, DR observed the following osprey-vulture interaction: "I watched a ballet of six **Osprey** and twelve **Turkey Vultures**. Four of the Osprey were eating fish and ten vultures were moving from perch to perch getting closer and closer to the osprey eating the fish. The final two vultures perched sunning themselves. When a vulture moved to within five feet of an osprey eating a fish, the osprey flew with its fish to another perch. Two or three vultures then flew to new perches within 25 feet of the repositioned osprey as the ballet continued". Two Osprey were seen at BESP 4/23 (NT), and four at COL 4/28 (NK).

At the end of the old Rte. 220, the well known **Bald Eagles** of BESP were seen at their nest 3/12 (MHe); the nesting eagles were seen 3/19 and one was on the nest (JV); on 3/25 the parents were at the nest and the heads of the fledglings could be seen in the nest (MD); by 5/5 they appeared as large as the adult with them in the nest (MH). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was on Middle Rd near Woodward 3/12 (BF). In Honey Creek Valley (eastern extension of Big Valley east of Milroy), BF and JL saw one light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** from Back Mountain Rd. 3/5, and BF and IF saw two light morphs (one from Back Mtn Rd and one from Siglerville Rd.) 3/7.

The "resident" **Sora** was heard by NK at JUL 5/4 (a Sora has been heard at JUL since 2006). An adult **Common Moorhen** was discovered by MO in a temporary pond next to Fox Hollow road not too far from Penn State Beaver Stadium 5/12 and later seen by JV and SB; three days later one was found in the south pond at JUL 5/15 (NAB). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was seen at the BESP beach 3/22 (MO); one was seen during the local Birding Cup at JUL 5/1 (NAB); and two were at JUL 5/1 (MO). A **Dunlin** was wading in a puddle at TOF 5/13 (CM). A pair of **Wilson's Phalaropes** (very rare for *Centre*) were discovered at JUL 5/3 (MO) and later seen by NAB; only one was left in the next two days 5/4 (MH, RC, NK, SB, DG) 5/5 (MG, TS). Two **Red-necked Phalaropes** were found at JUL 5/18 (DW) and seen later that day MO;

a bit later three were seen (DGr, GG); by 4pm four were present (JV, MH, MD, MLV, JCM), and by 7pm only one could be found (NAB); on the last day there was still only one 5/19 (RC, DP).

A **Laughing Gull** was seen walking on a lawn at TOF 5/12 (JV) and 5/13 (CG). Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were present at COL 4/5 (MH); three were sitting on the water near the dam at COL 4/6 (MO); and two **flotillas** totaling 112 were seen at BESP 4/11 (JV) and 4/12 (MO). Six **Caspian Terns** were present at BESP 4/11 (NAB). Six **Forsters Terns** were found at Lower Greens Run BESP 5/3 (MO) and 5/8 (BF) and two were seen on a log in the pond at TOF 5/6 (CG, NK, MO). A **Black Tern** was observed at JUL 5/18 (AW).

It appeared that the **Common Ravens** that nest around the Penn State stadium raised at least four young 5/14 (BJ). About three **Purple Martins** were inspecting gourds at a residence in Howard 5/11 (BS). During a local Birding Cup, a group found a large colony of **Cliff Swallows** and a **Common Raven** nest with young under the high I-99 bridge over Sellers Lane outside STC 5/14 (JP). A **Swainson's Thrush** was found in Lederer Park 5/19 (JV). A large museum of about 120 **Cedar Waxwings** was seen in a group of Callery Pear trees. At least two of them had oddly colored tail borders with the edge of the tails bright orange (like an Oriole) instead of the normal yellow 3/12 (JV).

The primary sites for the spring warbler migration continue to be SCB and TOF. The following 18 warblers (27 last year) were seen between 5/1 and 5/23 during the annual migration at SCB which is an IBA: **Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Pine Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, and Hooded Warbler** (JV, TS, SL, JP, NF, AF, IG). Twenty-five species of warblers were observed at TOF from 4/18 through 5/23. Those species include those seen in the preceding SCB list (except **Cerulean**) plus the following eight that were not reported at SCB: **Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Canada Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Tennessee Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler** (JV, NK, MO, DW, SL, RS). A highlight of walking around the TOF area on 5/19 was hearing four singing **Mourning Warblers** and seeing three 5/14 (DW). A stop at MM after dinner resulted in hearing a half dozen or so **Blackpoll Warblers** vocalizing from the boardwalk 5/19 (JV).

A **Fox Sparrow** was seen one evening scratching under a sunflower feeder at a residence just outside Stormstown 3/16 (AK); four were seen one morning at COL 3/22 (NK); and four were near the SCB pond, and six later at a different SCB location 3/27 (SL). A **Vesper Sparrow** was singing in the morning on the east side of Nixon Road 4/6 (MO); and another posed and sang several minutes for the observer along Nixon Road 5/2 (DG). An extremely late **American Tree Sparrow** was seen and heard singing not too far from the SCB research station 5/2 (MO). A **Lincoln's sparrow** was seen near Sinking Creek 5/3 (LR). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were found in a wet area at TOF 3/20 (SL).

An interesting story of roosting birds: A staging area resumed again this year for mixed groups of blackbirds on Ridge Ave. (one block from the PSU golf course). At sunset an estimated 450 birds were noted arriving in the tops of tall oaks with the majority being **Common Grackle** and **Red-winged Blackbirds** and lesser numbers of **European Starlings**. About 150 **American Robins** arrived with the blackbirds, but perched separately. Arrival/departure seemed to occur with 20 minutes of dusk. Most of the robins then moved to the Spruce trees on the golf course 3/7 (NK).

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Chester County

Locations: Buck Toe Preserve (BTP), Chambers Lake (CHLA), Church

Farm School (CFS), Kurtz Fish Hatchery (KFH), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), South Eastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA), Struble Lake (STLA), Upper Uwchlan Township Water Treatment Plant (UUTP)

It was a good migration for most species this year especially shorebirds. Several songbirds were noted early, and rare or unusual birds—including a first county record—added to the excitement and awe of bird migration.

The **Snow Goose** migration peaked 3/8 with 5000 observed flying over BTP (LL). The following day 1000 were at STLA (NP) with stragglers noted through early May (m.ob.). A single **Ross's Goose**, a rare but regular migrant, was noted within the many Snow Geese over BTP 3/8 (LL). Three **Tundra Swans** at STLA 3/12 (AH) were the last of this year's northbound flight.

Dabbling duck migration was a bit above average this year. A few notable observations included 5-9 **Gadwall** at KFH 3/29-4/2 (LL, HM, et al), 53 **American Wigeon** at KFH 3/11 (HM), 9 **Northern Shovelers** at the UUTP 4/1 (NP), 242 **Northern Pintails** at STLA 3/9 (NP) and 66 **Green-winged Teal** at MCSP 3/10 (HM). **Blue-winged Teal**, a species that can be scarce some years, was found at multiple locations including STLA, KFH, Doe Run area and Westtown Lake (m.ob.). Two of the better counts were 6 at Embreeville Marsh 4/17 (JF) and 5 at STLA 4/27 (KF).

Outside of **Ring-necked Ducks**, which peaked 3/9 with 132 at UUTP, diving duck numbers were low. Single **Canvasbacks** were at STLA 3/2 (AH) and MCSP 3/9 (NP), a single **Redhead** was at Westtown L. 3/5-9 (HM, DK), single **Greater Scaup** were at UUTP 3/18 (KF) and MCSP 3/20 (TA), 3 **Lesser Scaup** were at Westtown L. 3/20 while singles were at UUTP 3/18-20 (m.ob.), STLA 3/26 (HM), CHLA 3/31 (RR) and KFH 3/31-4/29 (LL, et al.). A good find was a female **White-winged Scoter** seen briefly at CHLA 4/27 (RR). **Long-tailed Ducks** made two appearances with 4 at STLA 3/26 (HM) and 7 at MCSP 3/29 (HM). **Buffleheads** peaked 3/10 with 45 at Westtown L. (TS). The only report of **Common Goldeneye** came from CHLA with 2 there 3/4-8 (HM, et al.). The high count for **Hooded Mergansers** was 14 at MCSP 3/9 (HM), and **Common Mergansers** peaked 3/4 with 178 at MCSP (HM). Single **Red-breasted Mergansers**, a rare and irregular migrant, were found at STLA and KFH 3/29 (HM).

S.A.

The bird of the season was the female **Tufted Duck** found at UUTP 3/18 (HM). This first county and third state record was discovered among the many Ring-necked Ducks that use these water treatment ponds as a stopover during their northbound migration. The easy viewing access allowed the Tufted Duck to be seen by hundreds of birders daily through 3/27.

The **Common Loon** migration extended from 3/29-5/21 with most reports from MCSP and CHLA. The max one time count reported was 28 at MCSP 4/26 (KF, NP). **Pied-billed Grebes** peaked in early Apr with a high of 4 at Westtown L. 4/6 (DK). **Horned Grebes** were concentrated at MCSP where 10 were found 3/26 (HM). A late individual was at KFH 4/29 (LL). **Double-crested Cormorants** arrived 3/21 and could be found at most lakes through the season. A high of 30 were at Westtown L. 4/21 (TS). It was a good spring to find **American Bitterns** with singles reported from KFH 4/7 (LL, et al), CFS 4/9+ (NP, HM), Embreeville 4/24+ (JM), Longwood 4/28-30 (LL, et al.), Blackwood Sanctuary 4/29 (RK) and MCSP 5/11 (HM). There was a smattering of single **Great Egrets** with reports from Kardon Park 4/3 (CK), Shaw's Bridge Park 4/16 (DK), Brandywine Rd. Wetlands 4/29-5/25 (LL, et al.), East Goshen Twp. 5/1 (NP) and Longwood 5/8 (LL). A **Little Blue Heron**, an irregular and rare spring visitor, was at Longwood 5/8 (LL, et al) and a **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, a species becoming increasingly difficult to find in the county was at Glenville Farm 5/13 (HM). A **Glossy Ibis** was a one-day-wonder at KFH 4/9 (NP, et al.).

Ospreys arrived a bit early with a single bird over Longwood 3/17 (CM). They were found nearly daily thereafter with a max of 6 at STLA 4/8 (LL). **Northern Harrier**, an uncommon winter resident, was last reported 5/2 at BTP (LL). **Broad-winged Hawks** were also early with 6 reported over Downingtown 4/8 (LL). **Merlins**, which winter now regularly especially at BTP were last reported there 3/15 (LL, et al.). Single, probably migrant individuals, were recorded at the Brandywine Rd. Wetlands 4/30 (LL) and in the Doe Run area 5/1 (DE). **Peregrine**

Falcon, a rare, irregular spring migrant was noted over BTP 4/5 (CM).

Virginia Rails were recorded at several locations, 2 were at CFS 4/8-4/23 (HM, et al.), a single was at Embreeville 4/24+ (JM), and 2 were in the Doe Run area 5/8 (HM). Two **Soras** were also present at CFS 4/8-19 (HM, et al.) and singles were at Embreeville 4/24 (JM) and Longwood 4/28-5/8 (LL, et al.). **American Coots** continued their unusually low numbers from the winter season with 5 at STLA 4/8 (LL) and only one at MCSP 4/10 (DK) were upwards of 50-100 is the norm.

It was a very good year for shorebirds with some areas of excellent habitat especially at CFS where a partial draining of the lake has produced a nice wetland. Birders were also busy scouring rain pools and retention/detention ponds with some surprises. A very productive pond on Waterway Rd. Oxford Twp. produced 3-4 **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/11-14 (LL, et al.). Two were also at CFS 5/15 (HM). Similar to other areas in the state, **Solitary Sandpipers** staged an excellent migration with double-digit numbers at several locations. Some of the better counts were 18 at CFS 5/4 (NP), 14 at Brandywine Rd. Wetlands 5/6 (LL), 12 at Waterway Rd. pond 5/11-12 (LL, et al.). Lingered individuals were at Kirkwood Preserve 5/21 (MP) and Longwood 5/29 (CM). There were a few **Greater Yellowlegs** scattered about at CFS, KFH, and Brandywine Rd. wetlands. The high count was 5 at Longwood 5/8 (CM). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were early on 4/2, and more numerous with a high of 10 at the Century Oaks retention pond 5/14 (HM). Seven were at Brandywine Rd. wetlands 4/29 (LL) and 6 were at the Waterway Rd. pond 5/11-12 (LL, et al.). A single **Upland Sandpiper**, a rare, irregular and decreasing migrant, was found on a farm field in Cochranville 4/30 (KF, et al.). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, always outnumbered by Least Sandpiper in spring, was recorded at CFS 5/6-23 (PF, HM) and the Waterway Rd. pond 5/11-12 (LL, et al.). **Least Sandpipers** passed through in exceptional numbers with 100 at Waterway Rd. pond 5/11-13 (LL, et al.), 67 in the Doe Run area 5/8 (KF), 65 at the Brandywine Rd. wetlands 5/6 (LL), and 61 at Longwood 5/8 (LL, et al.). **Pectoral Sandpiper**, another rare, irregular spring migrant, was represented by single birds at Brandywine Rd. wetlands 4/28-4/30 (KF) and Doe Run 5/5 (KF). Five **Dunlins** at the Century Oaks pond 5/5 (HM) was an outstanding number for this scarce spring visitor. A single was also present at the Waterway Rd. pond 5/13 (LL, et al.). The wetlands at CFS held a good number of **Wilson's Snipe** with 28 found there 4/14 (NP). The best shorebird of the spring was a **Red-necked Phalarope** present at the Waterway Rd. pond 5/14 (LL, et al.). There are two previous spring records, the last in 2007.

Bonaparte's Gulls made two appearances with 3 at MCSP 4/3 (HM) and 2 at STLA 4/27 (KF). Two **Iceland Gulls** were present at SECCRA Landfill 3/15-22 (LL). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were noted at several locations with up to 4 at SECCRA Landfill 3/15-31 (LL, et al.), one with a flock of **Ring-billed Gulls** at CHLA 4/27 (HM) and a late individual at MCSP 5/1 (VS). **Caspian Terns** were numerous this season beginning with one at STLA 4/8 (LL). This was followed with 2 at CHLA 4/30 (RR) and 2 at MCSP 5/3 (KF). One was at MCSP 5/12 (NP) then later that same day the number grew to an outstanding 12 (HM). Single **Forster's Terns**, an irregular spring migrant, were at CHLA 4/27 (HM) and MCSP 5/12 (HM).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was on private property in Kennett Twp. 3/17 (KF). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was present at BTP 5/16-17 (HM) and another was in Downingtown 5/20 (HM). **Willow Flycatcher** arrived a bit early with a singing bird at CFS 5/4 (NP) and a single observer high of 11 were at Shaw's Bridge Park 5/20 (CM). Single **Least Flycatchers** were recorded at several locations including Hibernia Park 5/9 (RR), Black Rock Sanctuary 5/13 (RK), Warwick Park 5/14 (JT) and BTP 5/16 (HM). A good find, was a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Hibernia Park 5/20 (LL, et al.). An early **White-eyed Vireo** was at Okehocking Preserve 4/16 (HM). **Blue-headed Vireo** had a good flight with multiple reports from throughout the county 4/24-5/11.

Even though **Cliff Swallow** is a regular spring migrant through Chester, one can be hard-pressed to just go out and find one, but this year they were very cooperative. They were present at CHLA 4/27-5/12 though not more than one was seen at a time (RR, et al.) while at MCSP up to 6 could be found 5/12-13 (m. ob.). Northbound **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at a Willistown feeder 3/23 and 4/7 (MP) and at Waterloo Preserve 4/1 (KF). **House Wren** was early with a single at Waterloo Preserve 4/11 (KF). A singing **Marsh Wren** was at the Rustin H.S. campus 5/30+ (NP, et al.) a potential new nesting location. A single **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Laurels Preserve 4/1 (KF) was very early and a single site high of 13 at BTP 5/2 (HM) was a very good count. There were only two reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, both single birds in the Pickering Valley area 5/16 (RE) and West Goshen

Twp. 5/17 (NP). On the other hand, **Swainson's Thrush** was reported from throughout the county 4/30-5/17 (m.ob.).

Thirty-two warbler species were reported this year. Some of the better finds were single **Tennessee Warblers** in East Goshen 5/13 (NP), Springlawn Trail 5/15 (HM), Waterloo Preserve 5/16 (KF) and BTP 5/16. Five **Magnolia Warblers** at Hibernia Park 5/19 (RR), single **Cape May Warblers** at Waterloo Preserve 5/4 (KF) and BTP 5/16, 5 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** along Springlawn Trail 5/15 (HM), 3 **Blackburnian Warblers** at Hibernia Park 5/19 (RR), a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Kerr Park, Downingtown 5/30 (HM, DF), 11 **Pine Warblers** at Nottingham Park 4/11 (AW), 15 **Palm Warblers** at Westtown L. 4/14 (TS), a very early **Blackpoll Warbler** at CFS 5/1 (HM), 13 **Ovenbirds** at Laurels Preserve 5/8 (BB), single **Mourning Warblers** at Hibernia Park 5/12 and 5/19 (RR), 7 **Canada Warblers** at Springlawn Trail 5/15 (HM), and at least 12 **Yellow-breasted Chats** at Nottingham Park 5/30 (HM, DF).

A **Vesper Sparrow** at BTP 3/28 was the only one reported (DS). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** at CFS 5/11 (HM) was a new location for this species. Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found at Waterloo Preserve 5/12 (KF), BTP 5/16 (HM) and West Goshen Twp. 5/17 (NP). **White-throated Sparrows** lingered until 5/19 with one at Waterloo Mills (KF) and **Dark-eyed Junco** stuck around at Hibernia Park until 4/30 (RR). **Blue Grosbeaks** were found at several locations including BTP beginning 5/2 (m.obs), Runnymede Farm 5/26 (KF), Inniscrone 5/31 (AL) and one visited a feeder in Willistown 5/8-17 (MP). The **Dickcissel** present during the winter season at a feeder in Cochranville remained until at least 3/3 (HM). **Rusty Blackbirds** were found in small number at several locations 3/19-5/2 with a high of only 3 at Shaw's Bridge Park 5/25 (CM). An excellent count of 18 **Orchard Orioles** was made at BTP 5/17 (JS) and 18 **Baltimore Orioles** were also there 5/28 (CM). **Purple Finches** were recorded twice with 2 at BTP 3/7 (LL) and one at Hibernia Park 4/24 (RR).

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NEW COMPILER BEGINNING SUMMER 2010: Holly Merker, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335, (610) 733-4392, HCyelle@aol.com.

Clarion County

Locations: Curllsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mount Airy (MA), Mount Zion (Piney Tract/SGL 330), Strattanville (ST).

Spring reporting starts with the usual passage of **Tundra Swans** over the county, heard first in CV 3/8, with the last flock noted 3/17 (CW), and a large flock of around 100 birds over Marble 3/9 (PD). Some increased reporting from the western part of county on the Allegheny River near Foxburg yielded some nice varieties of waterfowl though the month of March, including **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon**, **Northern Pintail**, **Scaup sp.**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, and **Common Goldeneye** (KC). At KL, one of the other good locations for waterfowl in the county, a great sighting of 26 **Long-tailed Ducks** was noted 3/26 (MB, TB). Also here 3/25 was the first south-bound **Common Loon** for the area (TB), with the last noted bird seen on a medium size private pond near Kossuth 4/30, and another individual heard calling as it migrated over farm areas near CV 4/18 (CW).

Bald Eagles continue to be seen regularly through various areas of the county, and this spring the nesting area along the Clarion River reported last year appeared to be active once more 4/4(CW), and along a different stretch of the river an adult was reported 4/18 near the town of Clarion (BT). On 4/26, a small kettle of 9 **Broad-winged Hawks** was seen near ST, along with another kettle of 5 a short while later, the first report for spring and right on track with expected dates (RM).

Shorebird reports from the county are not always plentiful, so this year it was nice to see **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and **Solitary Sandpiper** present at a farm pond on MA 5/1(CW), along with **Upland Sandpipers** both heard and seen back there in their expected locations 5/2 (C&JR).

In a great sighting for the county, 14 **Willetts** were noted here also 5/2 at the moderate size farm pond, though the report has yet to be confirmed (C&JR). **Wilson's Snipe** returned back to their usual pasture in CV 4/3, and were noted through only 4/7, with decreased numbers and length of stay likely due to changes in the habitat there, pasture being left unused now (CW). **American Woodcocks** appeared back slightly later this year, both heard and seen in their expected locations of overgrown fields and woods edges 3/12 near CV (CW).

For spring there were no reports noted of **Short-eared Owls**, though lack of searching rather than lack of birds may account for the absence of sightings. Near CV, an **Eastern Screech-Owl** continued roosting in a barn as it had regularly through winter, as well as being joined by a second bird, a red-phase adult, for a week or so in mid-March before that bird then disappeared, possibly for the start of breeding (CW). In a rather late appearance this year, the first noted **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** appeared feeding on japonica near CV 5/6, a week later than the typical arrival (CW).

Through the month of March and April, a male **Pileated Woodpecker** put on a great show at a home in Shipperville, staking out its territory and trying to drive away that darn reflection in the window, though the bird continued to aggressively attack a window covered with a grocery bag as well, tearing through them regularly. Towards the end of April the behavior started to diminish, hopefully as the bird found more productive activities, such as caring for young ones! The bird was captured both in photo and video for fascinating footage of bird behavior (MB, TB). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** also put on a nice show of breeding behavior near CV, first seen 4/1, then 4/4 both calling and chasing between male and female, not always seen in this non-breeding area of the county (CW). Also near CV, a beautiful fresh looking **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** put in an unusual spring appearance 5/17, being cooperatively still at times as well as giving its signature *pu-weet* call to assure identification (CW). Both **Willow Flycatchers** and **Alder Flycatchers** were noted back on the same date, 5/14, near CV (CW). Often found here in some similar locations at this time of May, willows are fairly common breeders in the southern part of the county, while alders are usually moving on by the second week of June.

Along Champion Rd. in the southern part of the county, a possible **Golden-winged Warbler** was noted 5/5 in an area where they have been seen previously (MW). This bird was not able to be seen so unfortunately may have very well been a hybrid or the more common **Blue-winged Warbler**, as the bird was singing both types of songs. **Cape May Warblers** made an unusually strong showing this year for the spring season, being more common in fall usually. Singing males were seen regularly at a home near CV from 5/4-17, mostly utilizing the plantings of blue and Norway spruce (CW). **Bay-breasted Warblers** also made a nice showing this year in the same location, being seen from 5/14-19 (CW). **Cerulean Warblers** were found back singing 5/4 in their usual location at the southern border of the county along the Allegheny River near East Brady, along with a pair of **Worm-eating Warblers** already moving into breeding season as they were seen gathering nesting material (CW). Near this same area but along a hemlock lined stream leading to the river, **Louisiana Waterthrush** were back singing 4/3 where they have been found in the past, utilizing part of the stream that appears to have less damage from acid mine drainage common in this area (CW). For the first time in the past several years, **Kentucky Warblers** were noticeably absent from expected sites.

For grassland birds, **Clay-colored Sparrows** were first seen back visible and singing at the CV strips site 5/14 (CK, RK), but were noticeably absent from their expected areas at MZ. This appeared most likely due to changes made through PGC and Audubon working jointly in support of Henslow's Sparrow habitat, which varies significantly from clay-colored. Also at this site on 4/3, approx 300+ acres of grassland were affected by a fire accidentally set, so changes to the grassland habitat from that event will be interesting to study this year. **Savannah Sparrows** made the first appearance in their more agricultural sites 4/3 and as April continued, **Henslow's Sparrows** arrived slightly later this year, with the first singing birds noted 4/22 on Stockdill Rd. at the edge of MZ (CW). This area of MZ was unaffected by the grassfire earlier that month. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were first found back 4/30 at two areas near CV where they nest regularly (CW). Along with some other species already noted, orioles arrived a little later this year, with **Orchard Orioles** not sighted until 5/3, almost a week past the usual arrival, and **Baltimore Orioles** back 4/30, both near CV (CW).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd., Sligo, PA, 16255,**

(814) 745-3818, cjal@windstream.net, Margaret Buckwalter, Ted Buckwalter, Kurt Crosbie, Pete Dalby, Jason Hill, Chad Kauffman, Ramsay Koury, Ron Montgomery, Carl and Joan Rowe, Bruce Taylor, Mike Weible, Fran Williams.

Clearfield County

No report.

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Clinton County

The Kettle Creek SP **Bald Eagle** pair did attempt to nest this past spring, but reportedly there was a nest failure due to unknown reasons. This site is currently the only documented **Bald Eagle** nest in Clinton County (C&CH). During this period, the resident pair of **Peregrine Falcons** at McElhatten again nested and produced four chicks. The young falcons were banded on 5/25 by the PA Game Commission with the assistance of PennDOT (m.ob.).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA 17745-8153, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnnet.org,** Carol and Charles Hildebrand.

Columbia County

No report.

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Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Custards (CU), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva Marsh (GM), Jamestown State Park (JSP), McMichael Road (McM), Pymatuning (PYM), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Lake (PL), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarrack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

Later than usual by about 2 weeks into March was the full breakup of ice on local lakes and marshes. However a warmer and drier April and May made up for the later start of migration here. **Mute Swan** reports include one at PC 3/13 (RFL), 4 at C 5/26 (RFL) and one at PYM 3/17 (BVN, MAVN). Scott and Sherry Kinzey recorded 50 **Tundra Swan** at G and 40 at CL 3/7. One **Trumpeter Swan** was studied at C 3/23 (RFL) and was not seen the next day.

Some notable reports of ducks were as follows: 50 **American Wigeon** at Geneva 3/7 (RFL); 30 **Green-winged Teal** at Geneva 3/9 (RFL); 40 **Gadwall** at PGMA 3/7 (RFL); 11 **Northern Shoveler** at PGMA 3/15 (RFL); 80 **Northern Pintail** at PC 3/7 (RFL); 130 **Redhead** at PC 3/3 (RFL); 50 **Canvasback** at PC 3/3 (SS); 306 **Ring-necked Ducks** county-wide 3/3 (RFL); 80 **Common Goldeneye** at PC 3/3 (RFL); 242 **Bufflehead** county-wide 3/7 (RFL); 16 **Long-tailed Ducks** at PA 3/17 (BVN); 2 **Surf Scoters** at WL 3/21 (PH, SR); 130 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at PC 3/9 (RFL). Other species noted this season included **Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Greater and Lesser scaup, Common and Hooded merganser, and Ruddy Duck.**

A group of 4 **Horned Grebes** were first reported on CL 3/15 (CN) and RE found 10 at SL 3/25 for the best total reported. **Pied-billed Grebes** were recorded all period with 15 on WL the max (RFL). **Common Loons** apparently flew over the area this spring as a best total of just 6 birds WL 4/25 was many fewer than normal (RF). A **Red-throated Loon** was found on WL on 3/25 (PH, SR) and one was located between the FH and FI 4/17 (RFL).

Double-crested Cormorant were seen entire period (m. ob.) with 194 at PYM 4/25 the high total (RFL); 28 on SL may be a new record for that lake 4/26 (RE). **Great Egrets** were noted at CU, PYM, and Hickernell 4/14 to 5/19 (RFL, RCL, CN, LM). Single **Green Herons** were noted at SL 5/9 (RCL, RFL), PYM 5/5-6 (m. ob.), CM 5/20 (LM, CD, SL) and 5/27 (RE). CN found 6 **Black-crowned Night Herons** at

Geneva 4/3 all flying over. Two were noted at FI 5/5 (RFL) and one bird there 5/26 (CD). Three **Sandhill Cranes** were seen north of Cambridge Springs 3/27 and 3/30 with one at ENWR 3/20 and 3 there 4/12 (BS). From 3 to 10 were located at PGMA 5/7 to 5/22 (m.ob.). A good count of 3 **Ruffed Grouse** were found near SL 3/18 (RE) and one 5/26 near the Geneva Wells (CD). The first **Turkey Vulture** was recorded west of Meadville 3/14 (RFL).

A **Northern Harrier** was found near SL 3/12 (RE), one at PGMA 3/15 (CN) and one at PGMA 3/28 (BVN). Single **Cooper's Hawks** were seen 3/7 Towpath CM (RFL), 3/10 near SL (RE), 3/29 at Springboro (CN). A **Northern Goshawk** was located near Norrisville 4/23 (CN). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was sighted at FI 4/23 (LM). There were 14 reports of one to 3 **Rough-legged Hawks** from PGMA and SL and last recorded 3/28 (m.ob.). **Golden Eagles** returned about one week late. One was at Marsh Road on CM 3/27 and one at McM road near the bridge 4/10 (RFL). Numerous reports of **Bald Eagles** ranged from one to 16 birds (BVN) all period (m.ob.) over the entire county. A **Merlin** was found near WL 4/25 (RFL). The **Ospreys** returned to WL 3/31 seen on the two nests 4/17 (RFL) also on the relay tower, Espyville 5/6 (RCL). One was noted at PGMA 4/20 (CH) and one near SL 4/27 (RE).

A **Virginia Rail** was found at Geneva 4/3 (EN) and 4/11 (RFL), 4/21 (CN) and 4/28 (JF). A **Sora** was noted at G 4/23 (CN), 4/25 (RFL) and 5/10 (RCL). From one to 4 **Common Moorhens** were heard or seen at Geneva and CU from 4/25 to 5/29 (m.ob.). Six **Coots** were found on CL 3/7 (RFL) and 7 at C 4/4 (m.ob.).

Single **American Woodcocks** were seen 3/8 at SL (RE), Springboro Twp. 4/6 (CN) and Porter Road at CL 4/24 (RFL). Three **Wilson's Snipes** were observed at G 4/3 (CN), 5 at PGMA 4/24 (RFL) and 7 at PGMA 4/24 (LM). CN reported 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at PGMA 4/21, 3 were found at FH 4/25 and 2 last reported at PGMA 5/22 (RFL). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were well reported most from PGMA 4/10 to 5/25 from one to 40 on 4/23 (LM, m.ob.). At PGMA, **Least Sandpiper** were recorded 4/11 to 5/22 (m.ob.). Best total was 24 at PGMA 4/11 (RFL). **Dunlins** were noted on 4/16 PGMA (MV). Three were there 4/20 (CH) and 3 were found on 4/24 (RFL). Twenty-five **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found PGMA 5/20 (RFL) and 5/8 to 5/22 (m.ob.). **Greater Yellowlegs** ranged from 3/17 to 5/23 at PGMA (m.ob.). Top count was 51 then 4/16 (MV). Twelve **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at PGMA 4/10 and 40 were there 4/11 (RFL). There were several sightings—most from 2 to 12 birds—for most of April and May (m.ob.). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen at PGMA 4/21 (CN) and 4 there 5/16 (MF, m.ob.). One was found at the Causeways Bottom Flats 5/12 (CN). A lone **Willet** was seen at PGMA (Miller Ponds) 5/16 (BG, JG, RFL). There were 6 reports of **Upland Sandpipers** at PGMA 4/21 to 5/28. John Fedak's group had 4 there 4/28, all others were of single birds (TCN, TB, RFL). **Spotted Sandpipers** were noted 4/15 FH (RFL), TL 5/9 (RCL), one south of PC 5/16 (m.ob.). A lone **American Golden Plover** was found at the Miller Pond 4/10 (RFL) and again 4/15 (same bird?). Three to four **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen 5/13, 5/17, and 5/22 at PGMA (RFL).

A lone **Glaucous Gull** was seen 3/15 at JSP near the Pymatuning Dam (SK). Three **Great Black-backed Gulls** were off the PC on the ice 3/3 (RFL) and a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen at JSP 3/15 (SK) and an adult was at the PGMA 3/28 (CN). **Herring and Ring-billed Gulls** were reported in usual numbers all period. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were a little late at Pymatuning with one there 3/28 (BV, MVN) and 22 at CL 4/10 was the top count (RFL). Four **Caspian Terns** were noted at PS 4/23 (LM). A **Forester's Tern** was seen 4/28 (JF) and 6 at PL 5/6 (RCL) with 10 at PC 5/8 (RCL, RFL). Six **Common Terns** were found at TL 5/9 (RCL, RFL) with 40 at PYM 5/15 a good total (RFL). Two were last recorded 5/26 PC (CD). A good find was 2 **Black Terns** north of the PC 5/8 (RCL, RFL).

One owl often missed in this area is the **Short-eared Owl**. I did find one at 8am at PGMA 4/29 (RFL). **Barred Owls** were found at TL 4/10 and in Meadville 4/29 (RFL). A **Screech Owl** was seen sleeping in a hollow tree on McM, CM 5/23 (RFL). Two adults and one young **Great-horned Owl** were a good find near Fries Road southeast of the PS 5/26 (TB). Most likely the bird of the season was the **Snowy Owl** recorded near Springboro all winter and last noted there on 3/6 (CN, m.ob.). Over 500 showed up to see it from as far away as Colorado, Canada, and Europe. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen near SL 5/27 (RE). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at Meadville 4/19 (RFL) a first ever record for my property. Two **Common Nighthawks** were noted near SL 5/21 (RE) and a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen at SL 4/20 (RE).

The first reported **Eastern Kingbird** was recorded at PGMA 5/1

(MV). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at ENWR 5/20 (LM, CD). **Purple Martins** returned to Springboro 4/3 (CN) with 2 birds noted, and many were found mid-May. I had 58 on 5/20 at CL and PYM's FI (RFL). A **Cliff Swallow** was seen PGMA 4/16 (MV) and a high total of 197 were found 5/23 at PA (RFL). A **Barn Swallow** was noted at Wayland 4/10 (RFL). A lone **Tree Swallow** was seen at PGMA 3/13 and 1122 were counted at PA 4/17 (RFL). **Bank Swallows** first noted 4/22 at FH and 450 were there 5/6 (RCL). Some 45 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were recorded at TL 5/10 (RCL). A **Cedar Waxwing** was noted near SL 3/4 (RE) and 25 were found at PA 3/14 (SS). A **Red-eyed Vireo** was seen PGMA 5/1 (MV). A pair of **Philadelphia Vireos** was seen north of the PC 5/22 (RFL). Four **Warbling Vireos** were first noted at PGMA and McM 5/1 (MV). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were seen at PGMA 5/7 (RCL) and McM 5/15, and PGMA 5/22 (RFL). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was recorded at SL 4/13 (RE), and at ENWR 5/20 (LM, CD) and 5/23 McM (RFL). Two **White-eyed Vireos** were seen on Tounline Road east of Lineville 5/7 (RFL) and 2 were there 5/16 (m.ob.). Two were found at Geneva on Marsh Road 5/19 (LM, CD). RE recorded a **Common Raven** near SL 3/20, 3/25 and 5/10.

Single **Carolina Wrens** were recorded at Springboro 3/17 (CN), TL 4/25 (RFL), Towpath CM 5/16 (m.ob.) and Tounline Road in Linesville 5/29 (RFL). The first returning **House Wren** were 2 at FI 4/29 (RFL). **Winter Wrens** were noted at SL 4/19 and 5/23 (RE) and at Stizerville near ENWR 5/26 (RFL). A **Brown Creeper** was seen 3/18 at SL (RE). Single birds were at G 4/23 (CN), FI 5/5 (RFL), and McM 5/16 (MF, RFL, BG, JG, LM). The only report of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** came from TL 5/10 (RCL) where a pair was observed. A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was noted at SL 4/13 (RE), and 2 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were found at FI 4/29 (RFL), and 2 along Towpath Road 5/16 (LM, BG, JG, RFL). A **Northern Mockingbird** was south of Geneva on Mike Wood Road 4/22 (RFL) and one was seen at Springboro 5/7 (CN). **Gray Catbirds** and **Brown Thrasher** were seen in good numbers late April and through May (m.ob.). The first **Wood Thrush** report was one near SL 4/20 (RE). A total of 14 were noted at Towpath 5/29 (RFL). A **Veery** was recorded 5/5 at SP (RFL) and one was at SL 5/22 (RE). **Eastern Bluebirds** were recorded all period (m.ob.).

A **Black-and-white Warbler** was found in the SL area 5/1 (RE). AT saw the first returning **Prothonotary Warbler** at McM 4/23. A pair were seen there 5/16 (LM, BG, JG, MF, RFL). One was at the Wells G 5/20 (LM, CD). One was noted at PYM Fries Road 5/26 (TB) and one was at the Wells 5/26 (CD). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was found in SL area 5/1 (RE), two were at Towpath CM 5/2 (SR), one at Springboro 5/15 (CN), one at the Wells G 5/19 (LM, CD) and one McM 5/26 (CD). Excellent looks of a male **Golden-winged Warbler** was seen at Towpath Road close to I-79 on 5/2 (SR) and 5/16 (LM, JG, RFL). A **Nashville Warbler** was found at FI 5/26 (CD) and a **Tennessee Warbler** was there 5/9 (CN). One was at the Wells G 5/19 (LM, CD) and 5/19 at SL (RE). A **Northern Parula** was found at the Wells G 5/26 (CD). A **Cape May Warbler** was noted at SL 5/9 and 5/12 (RE). Single **Cerulean Warblers** were noted on McM G 5/19 (LM, CD) and 5/26 (CD). A pair of **Blackburnian Warblers** was nest building near SL 5/10 to 5/31 (RE). Most of the warblers were recorded in small numbers.

The first recording of a **Scarlet Tanager** was 5/1 at PGMA (MV) and good numbers were seen through May mostly at CM (m.ob.). The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found 4/22 at G (RFL) and an **Indigo Bunting** was noted 4/25 at McM (RFL). Single **Vesper Sparrows** were seen 4/7 at SL (RE), 5/5 at Wayland and PGMA 5/13 (RFL). A **Savannah Sparrow** was spotted at PGMA 3/21 (early) (RFL) and 10 were noted there 4/23 (LM) as the high count. A **Fox Sparrow** was noted at Springboro 3/26 (RN) and one at FI 4/29 (RFL). An **Orchard Oriole** was found at WL 5/20 (CL) and one was seen in S. Meadville 5/26 (RFL). The first **Baltimore Oriole** was noted near SL 5/1 (RE). **Rusty Blackbirds** were recorded 3/16 to 5/9 in western Crawford with 75 at Geneva 4/23 the best count (CN, m.ob.). An early **Bobolink** was seen PGMA 4/23 (LM) and up to 26 were noted 5/1 to end of period (m.ob.). A **Purple Finch** was noted SL 3/26 (RE) and 2 were found at CM, McM 5/16 (MF).

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Cumberland County

Locations: Big Spring (BS), Boiling Springs Children's Pond (BSCP), Mudlevel Road (MLR), Pine Grove Furnace State Park (PGFSP), State Gamelands 169 (SGL169), State Gamelands 230 (SGL 230), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF).

Early on in the period there was much excitement in *Cumberland* over the finding of a first county record and a possible first state record; unfortunately both of them were only one-day wonders. The rest of the season was pretty mundane as a calm period of weather with few fronts limited the fallout of migrants. Having said this, there was one species of warbler that was reported in greater numbers than usual. The period came to close with two surprise species that had only shown up one or two other times respectively in *Cumberland* over the past thirty years.

The **Common Loon** at BSCP has seemingly become a permanent resident as it continues to be seen there. One mortis **Common Loon** was also found on a ridge off Meadows Road trail of the TSF. Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported at SGL169 Marsh 4/5 (VG, AM, BO), one at Laurel Lake PGFSP 4/14 (VG), and 4 at Hidden Pond Huntsdale 4/30 (VG). Up to 4 **Double-Crested Cormorants** were reported throughout the period from SGL169 beginning on 4/1, and approximately 50 others were reported being seen migrating along the ridge north of Newville through the course of the morning of 5/1 (RK, KK, AnM, SS).

One **Least Bittern** was reported at Cabin Road 5/12 (VG, AM). There also were three separate reports of one **American Bittern** during the period including the Big Spring Sportsman Association 5/12 (VG, AM), SGL169 Mountain Road Marsh 5/16 (TB), and SGL169 Cabin Road 5/16 (TB). As in previous years numerous **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported at the Cabin Road section of SGL169 with up to 22 being reported at any one time. Two sub-adult **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** were reported with the Black-crowned Night Herons at Cabin Road 5/8 (AM). A stir was certainly caused when what seemed to be a sub-adult **White-faced Ibis** was reported by VG and photographed FH at MLR 3/21 (VG, RK, FH, BH, DS, BO, AL, DG, DW, AnM, SS). Unfortunately, the bird stayed but five hours before flying off. If accepted it will be the first record for the species in the state.

Aside from **Blue-winged** and **Green-winged Teal** and **Ring-necked Duck**, migrating waterfowl were fairly sparse this year. There were 7-28 **Tundra Swans** at a flooded field in Middlesex Township 3/15-3/31 (HW), with an additional 3 Tundra Swans present at MLR 3/19-3/27 (m.ob.). Other waterfowl of note included 2 **American Black Ducks** in a field near Hidden Pond, Huntsdale 3/13 (VG), one female **Lesser Scaup** on the BS at Laughlin Mill 3/13-3/19 (VG), one female **Bufflehead** at BSCP from 3/16 through 4/1 (HW), and a male/female pair of Bufflehead at SGL169 marsh 4/1 (VG), 2 **Northern Pintail** on a farm pond at High Mountain Road south of Walnut Bottom 3/20 (RK), along with 2 **Northern Shoveler** also on High Mountain Road 3/20 (RK), and 2 shovelers at MLR on 3/24 (VG).

There were a few reports of one **Merlin** including on 3/21 at MLR (DF), 3/23 at BS (VG), 4/3 at MLR (BO), Meadows Road 5/8 (AM, KK, SS, BF, LF) and 5/10 (VG). There was one **Peregrine Falcon** reported at the Sand Quarry on Sand Bank Road 5/22 (VG). It was also reported that the **Bald Eagle** nest in *Cumberland* downstream from Carlisle Country Club produced 3 large and healthy-looking fledglings by the end of April (PL).

The Ridge at Meadows Road of the TSF has become the most dependable place to find **Ruffed Grouse**, with several reports where the species was seen displaying or heard drumming. Even an aggressive female with chicks was reported. As usual there were several reports for both **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** received for them being present at the Mountain Road marsh of SGL169. In addition, a **Virginia Rail** was reported at Cabin Road 5/22 (VG, AM, MW). One **American Coot** was reported at SGL169 Cabin Road 5/16 (TB) and as usual a spring **Common Moorhen** was found in *Cumberland* at the SGL169 Marsh 5/22 (MW), 5/26 (AM).

There was probably too much water and too little mud for there to be much of a shorebird season in *Cumberland*. Add to this the limited fronts that moved through in May and shorebird migration was as a whole pretty dismal. Still the sheer numbers of two species of birds was impressive: there were 50+ **Pectoral Sandpipers** reported on MLR between 4/4 and 4/9 (m.ob.), and there were up to 80 **Wilson's Snipe** reported at the same location during the same dates. Up to 26 snipe were also reported from Ott Road 3/22-3/27. Also of note were one **Black-bellied Plover** MLR 4/3 (BO), one **American Golden-Plover** at

MLR 4/4 (AM, MW), along with one **Semipalmated Plover**, and one **Dunlin** observed along High Mountain Road 5/18 (VG).

Three species of terns and gulls were noteworthy during the period. A **Black-headed Gull** at MLR 3/20 (VG, RK, MS), represented a new county record. This bird was at the same location as the White-faced Ibis would be the next day, and like the Ibis it was only a one-day wonder. One **Bonaparte's Gull** was found at the SGL169 Marsh 4/5 (VG), and one **Black Tern** at the same location 5/12 (VG, AM).

Following the trend of a sparse migration season I received few reports of **Common Nighthawk** with up to 6 individuals reported 5/21-5/24 at New Cumberland (BH). Also of interest in the period was the pair of **Common Ravens** nesting at the quarry on Rte. 533 outside of Shippensburg, and the **Loggerhead Shrike** which was found at the intersection of Pine and Stanton Roads outside of Newville 5/26 by DS as she was running a CREP route. This was only the second Loggerhead Shrike reported in *Cumberland* over the past 30 years. One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported from PGFSP 5/20 (BO), as well as one **Alder Flycatcher** from the intersection of Frytown and Brick Church Roads 5/22 (AM, RK, MW). One fairly late **Marsh Wren** was found at SGL169 Mountain Road Marsh 5/26 (AM), and one **Swainson's Thrush** was reported at Pine Hill 5/6 (RK) and at New Cumberland 5/23 (BH).

Though as a whole warbler migration was tepid, there were still some "good" birds reported. One **Yellow-throated Warbler** was on Ice House Road near Laurel Lake 4/9 (VG), one was at West Fairview Boat launch 5/3 (RK) and one was at SGL 169 on Bridgewater Road 5/6 (AM). One **Prothonotary Warbler** was at SGL169 on Bridgewater Road 5/31 (RK). One **Golden-winged Warbler** singing a Blue-winged Warbler song was at Tuscarora State Forest off Meadows Road 5/1 through 5/12 (VG, KK, RK, AM, AnM, SS). Two **Brewster's Warblers** were at SGL230, both of which were singing a Blue-winged song. One was very yellow underneath, the other was almost entirely white 5/2 (RK), 5/11 (VG, AM, AnM, RK). One **Kentucky Warbler** was along Meadows Road 5/10 (VG), and at Thompson Hollow 5/12 (AM, VG, RK). One **Wilson's Warbler** was at SGL230 5/2 (RK), and Milesburn Road 5/12 (AM, VG). One **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at New Cumberland 5/2 (BH). A **Cape May Warbler** was along the Appalachian Trail near Berheisel Bridge 5/16 (BH, JH). Starting in late April, up to 5 **Cerulean Warblers** were reported on Elk Hill Road, 2 on Meadows Road and 3 on Three Square Hollow through the rest of the time period. Interestingly, up to 7 **Yellow-breasted Chats** were seen on the TSF Meadows Road trail through the month of May. The chats, which obviously were breeding there, were found in an unusual habitat for them made up of predominately 10-12 foot Red Pine. Finally, **Bay-breasted Warblers** were much more common than the one or two normally reported for the spring period, with one reported at Camp Michaux 5/8 (VG), 2 at SGL230 5/11 (VG, AM, AnM), one at SGL169 5/12 (VG, AM), one at Thompson Hollow 5/12 (VG, RK, AM), and one 5/13 and 5/14 from New Cumberland (BH).

Another bird making an unusual appearance in *Cumberland* was a **Clay-colored Sparrow**, which was found at the intersection of Rte. 944, and Hunter Road 5/22 (AM, RK, MW). It was the second bird of this species reported in the county in 2010, but only the third such report in the county for the past thirty years. There was also an uncommon spring sighting of a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at the SGL169 Marsh 5/12 (VG, AM). Other birds of interests include 17 **Rusty Blackbirds** at Huntsdale Hidden Pond 3/26 (VG, DS, BK), one at SGL169 on 4/5 (AM), 30 at SGL169 Cabin Road 4/10 (AM), and 5 on Cabin Road 5/8 (AM). Additionally there were 7 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** at Camp Michaux 5/5 (VG), one there 5/8 (VG, JR), and one on Milesburn Road 5/10 (VG, AM, RK).

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Dauphin County

Locations: Clarks Creek Valley (CCV), Harrisburg (HBG), Haldeman Island (HI), Hershey Important Bird Area #45 (HIBA), Stony Creek

Valley (SCV), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR at Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR at Harrisburg (SRHB), SR at Marysville (SRMV), SR at West Fairview (SRWF), Three Mile Island (TMI), West Hanover Twp. (WHT), Wildwood Lake (WL), Weiser State Forest (WSF).

The spring season ended with a *Dauphin* first when five **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** were found at the Deer Valley Golf Course pond along Stoudt Rd. in SHT 5/30 (TJ, et al.). Unfortunately they remained only for a couple hours, until about 8:00 a.m., when golfing activity increased on the fairway adjacent to the pond. About an hour later they were relocated at a nearby pond on Red Top Rd. (DS). Photos were taken at both locations.

Tundra Swan flights continued through the second week of April with 122 counted at SRWF 3/8 (RK) and 200+ flying over the HIBA 3/10 (P&RW). About 300 **Snow Geese** were found along Bachmanville Rd. 3/10 (P&RW). On 5/12, 19 **Brant** were observed at SRFH (DW) and about 70 **Brant** were counted while flying down river at SRMV 5/18 (RK). These two locations are directly across from each other and are two popular vantage points for this part of the SR.

The peak of an otherwise slow waterfowl migration season along the SR occurred from mid to late March. The first **Blue-winged Teal** of the season was noted at SRWF where two were observed 3/15 (RK). Good counts of waterfowl species were tallied on 3/18 SRMV (DH) and 3/26 SRHB (RK). The 3/26 count included many seasonal highs for waterfowl species including 45 **Gadwall**, 30 **Ring-necked Duck**, 180 **Scaup species**, 65 **Long-tailed Duck**, and 41 **Common Goldeneye** (RK). Three **Surf Scoters** were observed 4/13 SRWF (RK, P&RW) and two **White-winged Scoters** were observed at SRMV 5/12 (RK) and one was found at SRWF 5/22 (DH). **Green-winged Teal**, **Gadwall**, **American Black Duck**, **Wood Duck**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Northern Shoveler**, and **Northern Pintail** were all present at WL for much of the quarter (m.ob.) Although **Red-breasted Mergansers** were reported from various locations along the SR through March and April, the high count of 50+ came 3/31 SRWF (AL, et al.). A female **Common Merganser** with ten young was observed at SRMV 5/12 (RK).

The only report of **Red-throated Loon** came 4/2 when one was observed SRWF (RK). **Common Loon** was present on the SR from 3/24 to 5/27 (m.ob.). **Horned Grebe** was present on the SR only the last two weeks of March. The first report came from SRMV where one was noted 3/13 (CT); the last report came on 3/29. A high count of 112 occurred 3/26 at SRWF (RK).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was heard calling from the high grasslands of the Deer Valley Golf Course 5/30 (TJ, P&RW, et al.). **American Coot** was found on HI 3/21 (NF, TS), at WL from 3/23-4/49 (m.obs.) and, two were reported from SRWF 5/10 (RK).

During the first week of April a **Bald Eagle** nest was discovered on the south end of Three Mile Island. Along with the nesting **Peregrine Falcons**, **Osprey** and **Great Blue Herons**, "this makes TMI a premier bird sanctuary" as stated in the "TMI NewsFlash" newsletter (RD). The active **Osprey** nest on the powerline standards on TMI was also noted in April (EC). The **Bald Eagles** on HI had two young in their nest at the end of the quarter (SB). About 10 **Broad-winged Hawks** were counted lifting up from the forested hillside of The Hotel Hershey 4/7 (GK). The nesting pair of **Peregrine Falcons** on the Rachel Carson building in Harrisburg had another successful year. Five eggs were laid between 3/22 and 3/30 of which three hatched the first week of May. Banding took place 5/27 and revealed that all three were males (<www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon>). While with a group of students from Middletown Area H.S. a **Peregrine Falcon** was observed along Rt. 441 on 5/28 (PF). A **Merlin** was observed atop Blue Mt. 5/3 at its "normal perch" (M&RB). The same day, one was noted at SRWF (RK).

The first **Great Egrets** of the season were reported 3/11 at WL (SL, P&RW), a few days earlier than expected, and **Double-crested Cormorant** was first noted at SRFW 3/15 (RK). A **Least Bittern** was reported at WL near the end of April (DR), and at least three observations of **American Bittern** were noted here between 3/27 and 4/24 (SL, CR, et al.). About 20 **Cattle Egrets** were observed in a farm along Picketown Rd. in early April. One, apparently injured, remained for about a week (BC). A **Little Blue Heron** in breeding plumage was found on HI 5/10 (PB, SB, et al.) and a **Snowy Egret** was observed perched along Beaver Creek in West Hanover Twp. 5/17 (BC). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** returned to their nesting colony in Bellevue Park, HBG with seven found on or near five nests 4/5 (RK). On a visit to Bellevue Park on 5/29 two nests occupied by an adult each and a third adult in a tree above the road were observed (TJ). On another visit in

late May only a few Yellow-crowns were found (JM). Twelve **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were counted on Wade Island, viewed from Enola, 4/17, although they would have returned to this nesting colony a few weeks earlier (P&RW).

The results of the 2010 Wade Island Nest Survey, conducted by the PA Game Commission 5/3, showed a dramatic decrease in the number of **Great Egret** nests (133, down from 197 in 2009), and **Black-crowned Night-Heron** nests (42, down from 116); however **Double-crested Cormorant** nests increased by one to 121. The unusual spring leaf-out was far advanced when the survey was completed, which may in part explain the lower count (*fide* DBr).

A **Semipalmated Plover** was observed at WL 5/19-20 (SL, CR, et al.). A single **Willet** was noted on one of the grassy islets at SRWF 5/12 (VG, RK, AMr). Five **Wilson's Snipe** were found on HI 3/21 (NF, TS), two were reported in EHT 3/27 (S&RZ) and, two were observed in a retention pond along Canal Rd. in SHT 4/25 (P&RW). The first report of **American Woodcock** was from SHT 3/9 (JG).

A **Black-headed Gull** was found SRMV 3/14 in breeding plumage, and remained in this area through 3/19 (RK, AMr, JR, MS, DBo, et al.). This is the same time and same location one was reported in 2009 except this one remained for six days. One adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and the first **Bonaparte's Gulls** of the season were also noted 3/14 (RK, et al.). **Bonaparte's Gull** numbers peaked the last two weeks of March with counts sometimes exceeding 200 from 3/18-3/31 at SRHB (DH, RK, AL, P&RW). **Bonaparte's Gull** sightings continued through April and one was still noted 5/13 SRHB (RK, DW). The first **Little Gull** of the season was observed with a flock of about 50 Bonaparte's Gulls at SRFH 3/26 (P&RW) and, another **Little Gull** was reported at SRWF 4/2 (RK). Both a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and a **Laughing Gull** were reported at SRWF 5/12 (VG, RK, DW).

The initial report of **Caspian Tern** came 4/12 when five were observed at SRWF (RK) and, three were noted at SRFH 4/17 (P&RW). **Caspian Terns** continued to be reported through 5/13 when two were sighted SRHB (RK, DW). The first **Forster's Tern** was observed 4/26 (RK) and continued to be seen along the SR through at least, 5/20 (m.ob.). The first **Black Tern** of the season was noted 5/6 and reported observations of this species along the SR continued to 5/22 (m.ob.). An unprecedented flight of **Common Tern** was noted along the SR from HBG to Marysville with counts in the 75-100 range, on both 5/12 and 5/13 (DW, RK, et al.). The previous high count for **Common Tern** was 5/10/1990 when 20 were reported at SRWF.

A **Barn Owl** was reported in East Hanover Twp. 4/23 (S&RZ). The placing of **Barn Owl** nest boxes at some the Milton S. Hershey School barns has yielded impressive results with three successful nest sites this spring (NM). The first reported **Whip-poor-will** was heard calling near Carsonville 5/17 (E&AL). A single **Common Nighthawk** was observed the evening of 5/15 and another single sighting occurred 5/25 in SHT (P&RW), and another **Common Nighthawk** was reported from Steelton 5/17 (BH).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was one of the species reported along the SGL 246 trail 5/1 (J&BH). Two **Red-headed Woodpecker** sightings were reported, the first from the Halifax area 4/5 (PK) and the second along Schoolhouse Rd. in Conewago Twp. 4/22 (CB). **Eastern Phoebe** returned to WL 3/7 (JB). On 5/13 a **Least Flycatcher** was found along Front St. in HBG (DW, RK), obviously quite an unexpected spot. **Olive-sided**, **Yellow-bellied**, and **Least Flycatcher** were among the species reported from along White Oak Rd. in Weiser SF 5/20 (DH). A very large flight of swallows, 1000+, was noted along the SR 4/26 made up of mostly **Barn** and **Tree Swallows**, but also represented were **Northern Rough-winged**, **Bank**, and **Cliff Swallows** and 5 **Purple Martins**, thus accounting for all six of our expected swallow species (RK). The first **Wood Thrush** of the season was heard singing at WL 4/22 (JS). Singles of both **Gray-cheeked** and **Swainson's Thrushes** were observed along White Oak Rd., Weiser SF 5/20 (DH).

A good total of 32 warbler species were reported this spring. The only **Golden-winged Warbler** reported this season was one found in the WSF area 5/20 (DH). **Palm** and **Pine Warbler** were among the first warbler species to be noted. A **Palm Warbler** was found at WL 4/3 (RK) and a **Pine Warbler** was reported from SHT 4/7 (JG). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was among the species found in SCV 5/12 (DW). Two singing **Cerulean Warblers** were enjoyed at the top of Blue Mt., a reliable spot to find this species, 5/5 (RS). The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** of the season was heard singing in SCV 4/4 (P&RW) and the first **Northern Waterthrush** was reported at WL 4/25 (RK). A **Mourning Warbler** was heard singing along the Swatara Creek near Hummelstown and a **Wilson's Warbler** was observed near Middletown Area H.S. 5/14 (PF).

Another **Mourning Warbler** was noted at WL 5/20 (SL, CR, et al.).

A **Blue Grosbeak** was observed along Canal Rd. in SHT 5/2 and relocated 5/28 (P&RW). A male and female **Blue Grosbeak** were also found in the Dauphin County section of Fort Indiantown Gap's training corridor along McLean Rd. 5/26 (DM). Sightings at both locations continued into the summer season. A male **Summer Tanager** was observed "sitting on a dead snag" near the top of the trail in SGL 246 5/1 (J&BH). **Fox Sparrow** was present throughout the winter season and remained through at least 3/28 when two were reported from Swatara Twp. (LU). The last reported **White-throated Sparrow** was from HBG 5/10 (AMt) while the final **White-crowned Sparrow** observation came from near Middletown 4/25 (ME). A **Dark-eyed Junco** was still visiting the feeders at WL to 5/7, considered late by their records (SL, CR et al.).

The first **Bobolinks** were noted along Shellhammer Rd. in WHT 5/6 (P&RW). A small flock of 5 **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at Highspire Reservoir 3/26, two were found at WL 4/11, and one still present at the Fort Hunter wetlands 4/29 (P&RW). An early **Baltimore Oriole** was reported in WHT 4/14 (BC).

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Delaware County

Locations: Big Bend Farm (BB), Crum Reservoir (CR), Darby Creek watershed (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Haverford College (HC), Hildacy Farm (HF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Swarthmore College (SC), Tyler Arboretum (TY), Waterloo Mills-DelCo portion (WM).

The weather this spring was cooperative with very little rain. Two fallout days occurred, both on a weekday which was disappointing to working stiffs. Friday 4/30 featured a wide variety and number of birds including warblers, vireos, **Scarlet Tanagers** and other species. An early posting that morning on the PABIRDS listserve reported the radar at midnight was "lit up like a Christmas tree". The other big day was 5/17 (Monday). It is best summed up by Al Guarente's comments; "Wow. What a day on the bridle trail in Ridley Creek State Park this morning. 21 species of warblers including *Yellow-throated*, 2 *Bay-breasted*, *Tennessee*, *Black-throated Blue and Green*, 5 *Blackburnians*, *Kentucky*, *Hooded*, *Wilson's* and 6 *Canada Warblers*. Also seen were *Olive-sided Flycatcher* and an *Alder Flycatcher* that was singing away. *Yellow-billed Cuckoo* was also present and a report of a *Barred Owl*." A perusal of weather maps for those days each show retreating weather systems in New England and the Canadian Maritime which would have caused NW winds to abate. The April fallout may have been pushed by a high pressure area in the southeast and the May fallout was in front of an advancing weather system from the south.

Snow Geese were on the move in Mar. One thousand were counted in two flocks overhead in Swarthmore 3/20 (DE). They were also spotted overhead TY 3/10 (TR) and WM 3/21 (AG). A surprise find was 150 **Brant** sitting on Little Tinicum Island DR 5/18 (AG). This species is only occasional in *Delaware* and most records are fall and winter birds. **Cackling Geese** are being picked out more often and 2 were found at SR 3/4 (AG). A large number of **Ring-necked Ducks** moved through this season. The high count was 95 SR 3/9 (AG). Counts on surrounding dates were in the 40s and the vast majority were males. An uncommon migrant, 3 **Long-tailed Ducks**, one male and 2 females, graced the SR 3/29 (AG). Only 2 **Ruddy Ducks** were reported at SR 3/11 (AG).

Wild Turkey was reported on the usual spot along the DR 3/1

(AG), and two less likely spots Bryn Mawr Ave. 4/10 (SJ) and a heavily travelled Lansdowne Ave. near the Philadelphia city limits 3/30 (fide SJ). Always fun to see, 2 **Common Loons** were on the SR 3/30 (AG) and 12 flew over TY 4/21 (AG). A pleasant surprise was 4 **Great Cormorants** in "gorgeous breeding plumage" at the DR 3/21 (AG). Nine **Great Blue Herons** were first seen at the ever more populated herony on Little Tinicum Island DR 3/9 (AG).

A pair of **Bald Eagles** were at the same *Delaware* nest site as in the last 2 years 3/11 (AG, DE) and one of them was sitting on the usual nest. **Broad-winged Hawks** were spotted at various locations 4/17-29 (m.ob) but in single digit numbers except 25 at TY 4/28 (TR). An interesting sighting was a late **Broad-winged Hawk** circling overhead near Rte. 420 at TI 5/21 (BB) which suggests nesting in that area. Two **American Kestrels** were seen 3/4 at PHL (AG) which also suggests nesting. This species was seen regularly at TY 3/24-4/7 (TR, AG) as well. A **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted on the Commodore Barry Bridge over the DR 3/9 (AG). Unfortunately the bird was not located on subsequent checks so nesting could not be inferred. A **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted at TI 5/21 (BB).

Shorebird reports were remarkable only for low numbers and lack of variety. At TI were **Spotted Sandpiper** 5/3 (AG), **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/6 (AG), **Greater Yellowlegs** 5/6 (AG), **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/6 and 5/9 (AG), **Least Sandpiper** 5/6, 5/9 (AG) and 5/21 (BB). Eighteen **Wilson's Snipe** finally made their appearance 3/21 at PHL (AG).

Bonaparte's Gulls were moving along DR 4/25, 4/30 (AG). Migrating **Herring Gulls** numbered 100 DR 3/4 (AG). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was on the DR 3/4 (AG). Although still rare in *Delaware* individuals of this species have made almost annual late winter/ early spring occurrences over the past few years.

Cuckoos are also annual but reports are not frequent. The only reports received were a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at RCSP 5/17 (AG) and **Black-billed Cuckoo** from his yard in Middletown Twp 5/5 (AG). The earliest **Chimney Swift** report of 4 individuals in Glen Mills 4/22 (BB) was later than average. Earlier than average were male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird(s)** at a feeder in Rosemont 4/18-20 (MP).

A target bird not found every spring, **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at the Bridle Path at RCSP 5/17 (AG) and 5/21 (MM). A week earlier than average was an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at TY 4/28 (TR). A rarely reported migrant **Alder Flycatcher** was part of the fallout on the Bridle Path RCSP 5/17 (AG) and found again at the same location 5/20 (AG, DE). The trees along the impoundments at TI are the place to go for **Willow Flycatcher**. Thirteen (11 singing on territory) were found 5/21 (BB). Another regular rare migrant **Least Flycatcher**, was at the Bridle Path RCSP 5/11-12 (AG). **Purple Martins** returned to the colony in Aston 4/2 (DM) and to Middletown 4/10 (DM). **Cliff Swallows** were first spotted at the stables where they nest at RCSP 5/5 (AG). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported at TY as late as 4/21 (TR). A very late **Brown Creeper** was found weekly at TY until 5/26 (TR). This species did nest at adjacent RCSP in 1984. A single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** report was received from RCSP 5/22 (AG). The earliest **Wood Thrush** report was at RCSP 4/30 (AG).

Although warblers seemed sparse most days variety did hit average. A total of 29 species of warblers was reported relative to 30 species in 2008 and 28 in 2009. **Tennessee Warblers** were probably in above average numbers with 3 heard at RCSP 5/20 (AG). This species was reported on 5 other days 5/11-20. The vanguard **Northern Parula** was found at BB 4/23 (NP, AG). **Blackburnian Warbler** is regular but not common, so five records from RCSP 5/6-17 (AG) indicate a good showing of this species. A less common and not annual early migrant is **Yellow-throated Warbler** which was located at BB 4/23 (NP, AG) and RCSP 5/17 (AG). There were three reports of **Palm Warbler** this spring: HF 3/9 (MC), TY 4/14 (TR) and RCSP 4/21 (AG). There was only one **Bay-breasted Warbler** report: the 2 individuals in the fallout RCSP 5/17 (AG). Easier than usual to find was **Northern Waterthrush**; the species was reported on 11 days RCSP 5/5-20 (SC, AG, DE). An anticipated part of the spring for local birders is the return of the **Hooded Warblers** to the area known as the cemetery at the Bridle Path in RCSP; first located 4/30 (SC, AG) it appeared that at least 2 pairs nested along that ridge this spring. **Wilson's Warblers** were reported at RCSP 5/10, 17, 20 (AG) and **Canada Warblers** were plentiful there 5/5-20 (m.ob). **Yellow-breasted Chat** is regular but rare so its appearance at the usual locations at BB 5/21 (NP) and RCSP 5/22 (AG) should be mentioned.

The bird of the spring was a **Summer Tanager** RCSP 5/8 (CL, et al.). It was identified as an immature male. This was probably the 11th *Delaware* record dating back to 1943. The most recent prior sighting was a bird heard singing at SC 5/4/2008 and the one prior to that was

1998. Most of the county sightings have been in the first 10 days of May. A county bird for AG should be mentioned: it was his 281st *Delaware* bird. **Chipping Sparrows** seemed to appear early; first report was at TY 3/21 (DE) and many reports followed just after that date. The last reports of **White-throated Sparrow** were from RCSP 5/5 (AG), and HC 5/5 (SJ). The last **Dark-eyed Junco** report came from RCSP 4/19 (AG). An unusual location for **Bobolink** was RCSP 5/11-12 (AG). Nesting was hoped for but the birds were not seen subsequently.

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Elk County
No compiler.

Erie County

Locations: Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC).

The ice left Presque Isle Bay at a good time, matching the timing of waterfowl migration. However the ducks never came in the expected numbers. Diving ducks peaked at only about 20,000 birds, compared to the usual 50,000 expected in mid-March, which were 80% **Red-breasted Merganser** with small numbers of scaup and **Common Goldeneye**. Mid-March is usually the time for large gull concentrations as well, but that never happened.

Persistent northerly winds made for a rather slow hawk migration with totals for the season, which did not break the 10,000 mark, though **Sandhill Cranes** were seen passing by the hawk watch in fair numbers. There was a positive side to migration this spring: three good passerine fallouts with good timing for birders, occurring on the weekends of 5/1, 5/15, and 5/22. Highlight this season was an **American White Pelican** that appeared during the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology annual meeting at Presque Isle. The pelican stayed around long enough for at least 50 lucky birders to see before it flew off. The following birds of note were reported for the season from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Three intermediate morph **Snow Geese** flew over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch at TREC 3/19 (JM). The adult male **Harlequin Duck** that was reported in the winter season remained to 3/15 (JM). Rarely reported in *Erie* was an adult **Common Merganser** with seven young on 5/23 along Conneaut Creek in Edinboro (DS).

The bird of the season was the **American White Pelican** that put in an appearance for all to see who attended the annual Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology meeting 5/15 (JMa, et al.). Only 3 **American Bitterns** were reported this spring with singles seen 4/15, 5/15, and 5/24 (JM, CB, DS, resp.). Just 2 **Least Bitterns** were found and both were heard only on 5/23 (JM). A grand total of 6 **Great Egrets** were reported for the period from 4/6 to 5/15 (m.ob.). The **Snowy Egret** feeding among a group of 4 Great Egrets was exciting to see on 5/5 and 5/6 (BB). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** are not often reported these days so the three adults seen from 4/13 -4/15 (SS) were noteworthy.

Rarely reported in *Erie*, but becoming expected because of their recent expansion to the west and north, was the **Black Vulture** that passed the hawk watch at the TREC on 3/18 (JM). Not often reported at the hawk watches in *Erie* were one **Northern Goshawk** at the TREC 3/24 (JM), two at the TREC 4/1 (SS, JM), and one at Erie Bluffs S.P. 4/30 (TJC). **Sandhill Cranes** are becoming more frequent, so the total for the spring season of 21 individuals was not surprising (JM).

An **American Avocet** made a brief appearance at Gull Point 5/6 (MP). A single **Willet** was at Gull Point 5/2 (JM) and another was in Thompson Bay 5/17 (JM). The only **Whimbrel** reported was one flying over the Beach 11 parking lot 5/23 (*fide* DW). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were with a flock of **Dunlin** that set down during a storm at Gull Point on 5/9 (JM).

White-winged gulls were scarce this spring with only three **Iceland Gulls** and three **Glaucous Gulls** seen at the Lake View Landfill and at Presque Isle (JM).

One or two **Long-eared Owls** were flushed from the pines 4/4 (DD) and 4/5 (JM). The only **Northern Saw-whet Owl** reported this

spring was one in the pines 4/4 (DD).

There were 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** observed 5/22 (JM) and another one 5/23 (JM). The **Northern Shrike** reported in Franklin Center periodically during the winter season was seen off and on until 3/20 (JD). A new early County record was set when a **Bank Swallow** was seen flying over the TREC 4/9 (JM).

Always exciting to see was a male **Lawrence's Warbler** along Pine Tree Trail 5/2 (JM). Single **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported 5/14 (JM) and 5/20 (RS). Singing **Connecticut Warblers** were located along Pine Tree Trail and Fry's landing with up to 4 reported from 5/14-17 (m.ob.).

A record early female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** came to a feeder in Erie 4/9 (KA). The female **White-winged Crossbill** at a feeder in Waterford 4/22 was unexpected (*fide* SS). The only **Pine Siskins** reported this season were at feeders with one in Fairview 3/17 (PH) and one in Erie 4/27 (KA).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd. Erie, PA 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Katie Andersen, Brian Berchtold, Carolyn Blatchlee, Toby & Jean Cunningham, Dave Darney, Julie Dell, Pat Howell, Jimmy Marz (JMa), Mike Plyler, Randy Stringer, Don Snyder, Sam Stull, Dave Wilton.

Fayette County

Spring draws birders to *Fayette*, so there were a good amount of sightings this season. In addition, new observers have been reporting a few species that haven't been seen in years and observations came from locations that I normally don't receive reports from.

Five **American Wigeon**, 2 **American Black Ducks** and 5 **Ring-necked Ducks** were on the Cheat River 3/2 (TB). On 3/19 Greenlick Run Lake hosted 11 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 6 **Bufflehead**, and 2 **Common Mergansers** (MF). On 3/27 at the same location there were 7 **Lesser Scaup**, 2 **Bufflehead** and 2 **Hooded Mergansers** (MF). Mill Run Reservoir attracted 2 **Bufflehead**, 2 **Hooded Mergansers** and 6 **Common Mergansers** 4/13 (WS). A **Northern Pintail** was at Deer Lake 3/14 (LD).

Rarely reported a **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at Kentuck Knob 5/2 (DW, ST). It was good to receive **Ruffed Grouse** reports. SGL 51 was banded several times this spring and yielded 3 on 4/21 (CD), one 5/4 (CD, LM) and 2 on 5/30 (CD). A female **Wild Turkey** was performing a broken wing act to distract an observer from her nest at SGL 51 on 5/30 (CD).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** at Greenlick Run Lake 3/27 was the only report this season (MF). The only report of **Double-crested Cormorant** came from the Yough Dam 5/5 where 18 were tallied (DW, ST). A **Great Egret** was at Mill Run Reservoir 4/13 (WS).

A **Bald Eagle** nest with two young is at Lake Lynn near Point Marion (TB). A **Northern Goshawk** was reported from SGL 51 on 5/1 and 2 were reported at that location 5/30 (CD). Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 3/18 (TB) and a **Broad-winged Hawk** was found at SGL 138 on 4/20 (CD).

Fayette doesn't have a lot of shorebird habitat, but the common species are regularly found during migration. A **Greater Yellowlegs** stopped by Mill Run Reservoir 4/13 (WS) and 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers** provided a rare spring record at Yough Dam 5/2 (DW, ST). An **American Woodcock** was at Farmington 2/27 (LD).

Two small flocks of **Ring-billed Gulls** stopped by Greenlick Run Lake. Eight were there 3/12 and 15 were there 3/27 (MF). Two **Caspian Terns** were at the Yough Dam 5/2 (DW, ST).

A stop at a gas station in Connellsville produced a **Common Nighthawk** 5/2 (DW, ST). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort 3/14 and 3/22 (LD). Single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 3/18 (TB), SGL 138 on 4/20 (CD) and Farmington 5/23 (LD).

A **Northern Shrike** was a nice find at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort 3/14 (LD) and the first report since I've been compiler. There are no in past issues of *Pennsylvania Birds*, so this could have been a first county record. A **Winter Wren** was noted along the bike trail near Ohiopyle State Park 4/3 (FM, CM). The only migrant thrush reported was a **Swainson's Thrush** at Ohiopyle State Park 5/2 (DW, ST).

A total of 27 species of warblers were reported; most breed in the county. Migrant species include a **Nashville Warbler** at SGL 51 on 4/29 (CD), a **Cape May Warbler** at Farmington 5/13 (LD), 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 3/18 (TB) and 2 at an

unspecified location 5/2 (DW, ST), **Pine Warbler** at Farmington 4/26 (LD), a species rarely reported in *Fayette*, a **Palm Warbler** at Mill Run Reservoir 5/1 (KSJ) and a **Wilson's Warbler** at Farmington 5/13 (LD). A **Golden-winged Warbler** at SGL 51 on 4/29, 5/1 and 5/30 (CD) is an indication this species continues to hang on in proper habitat. There was an interesting report on the Western PA RBA of a possible **Kirtland's Warbler** in Stewart Twp. 5/16 (DK). Unfortunately no other details were provided.

Three **Savannah Sparrows** were in the farm fields along Middle Ridge Road just outside of Ohio State Park 5/2 (DW, ST). Nine **White-throated Sparrows** were found in various locations 5/2 (DW, ST). Five **Bobolinks** and an **Eastern Meadowlark** were also at Middle Ridge Road 5/2 (DW, ST), a reliable site for both species. An **Orchard Oriole** was at SGL 51 on 5/30 (CD).

Two **Purple Finches** were at Ohio State Park 5/2 (DW, ST).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Terry Bronson, Cory DeStein, Larry Durgin, Dave Kreuger, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Luke Musher, Kate St. John, Walt Shaffer, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton.

Forest County

Locations: Buzzard Swamp (BS), German Hill (GH), Red Brush (RB), Tionesta (TI).

A good variety of migrants was observed in the diverse habitats of Forest this spring. A Great Egret, an Osprey nest, and a new location for Whip-poor-will were notable.

The last report of **Tundra Swan** was a single bird observed 4/16 at BS. Buzzard Swamp was good for waterfowl: 2 **American Wigeon**, 2 **Green-winged Teal**, a **Ring-necked Duck**, 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, and 5 **Bufflehead** were reported 3/26 (TB). A **Hooded Merganser** was spotted on the Allegheny River near TI 3/1 (FM, JM). A **Common Loon** was sighted 4/16 at BS (TB) and four were noted 5/8 at various locations (FM, JM). A **Great Egret** was a nice find at BS 4/16 (TB).

A pair of **Osprey** was observed carrying sticks to a nesting platform 4/16 and 4/23 (TB); two adults appeared to be feeding young 6/19 (FM, JM). Another single **Osprey** was spotted 5/5 (CW). Two **Bald Eagles** were seen 5/5 flying together and interacting at a new location (CW). First **Broad-winged Hawk** was noted 4/12 near RB (FM, JM).

An **American Coot** was sighted 5/8 at BS (FM, JM), where a single **Greater Yellowlegs** was seen 4/23 (TB). Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were observed at Beaver Meadows 5/8 (FM, JM), and a **Wilson's Snipe** was reported at BS 3/26 (TB). Three **American Woodcock** were heard at Muzette 3/19. Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** and 2 **Common Terns** were tallied 5/8 at BS during the PAMC (FM, JM).

A **Whip-poor-will** was heard 5/8 at RB, and 3 were found 5/26 in a new location near West Hickory during the Nightjar Survey (FM, JM). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted 5/3 at GH. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was heard 5/8 near Nebraska. Six **Eastern Kingbirds** were tallied at Nebraska, and 2 more at BS 5/8. A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was spotted 4/16 at Cornplanter State Forest. Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were seen 4/22 along Tionesta Creek. A **Swainson's Thrush** was noted 5/8 near Muzette (FM, JM). **Brown Thrashers** were reportedly abundant 4/23 at BS (TB).

Nashville Warblers were heard and seen 5/3-8 at GH. **Northern Parulas** were noted 4/14 at TI, where they breed (FM, JM). Early date for **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was 4/23 at BS (TB); first **Black-throated Green Warbler** was spotted 4/16 at Cornplanter SF (FM).

The last **American Tree Sparrow** was noted 3/20, the last **Fox Sparrow** 4/2, and **White-crowned Sparrows** lingered until 5/12 at GH. The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was spotted 4/26, and two **Pine Siskins** came to a sunflower seed feeder one day only, 4/26, near GH (FM, JM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Margaret Buckwalter, Ted Buckwalter, Pat Conway, Jim McGuire, Carole Winslow.

Franklin County

Locations: Chambersburg (CBG), Conococheague Creek (CC), Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Fannettsburg Lake (FL), South Mountain

Area (SMA), Upper Strasburg (US).

Wood Ducks were located in good numbers on a pond near US and along CC in April and May. Thirteen other species of water fowl were reported primarily on the pond near US, along CC, GR, FL, and a retention pond near CBG. Some noteworthy birds at these areas were: **Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Mergansers, Red-breasted Mergansers, Pied-billed Grebes, Horned Grebes and Double-crested Cormorant.**

Shorebirds were attracted to a retention pond at an industrial park in CBG during the late Apr and most of May. **American Coots, Semipalmated Plovers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpipers, Dunlins, Stilt Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitchers, Wilson's Snipe and Wilson's Phalarope** were some of the migrant visitors to this pond. A goodly number of **Ring-billed Gulls**, a few **Bonaparte's Gulls**, and **Black Terns** also fed over the retention pond in CBG for at least two days. The **Black Terns** gave birders some good looks at their darting flight.

At least 6 nests of **Great Horned Owls** fledged young at various locations in the county. **American Woodcock** and **Whip-poor-wills** arrived in early March in SMA as if they were watching the calendar. The mountain area near Edenville also produced **Whip-poor-wills.**

CG observed five species of swallows (**Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Bank, Cliff and Barn**) together on the power line at the GR in April. Twenty seven species of warblers were reported: some noted ones were **Golden-winged, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Northern Parula, Prairie, Cerulean, Kentucky and Connecticut.** For some reason **Yellow-breasted Chats** were hard to find this year. Most of the warblers were along CC, on the slopes of SMA and US. A number of **Brewster's Warblers** were also sighted in Horse Valley and in SMA.

Dickcissels and **Bobolinks** were found at various locations in the Newburg and Edenville areas reported and also a few **Blue Grosbeaks** were near Mercersburg and Letterkenny Depot. An unusual sighting of **Red Crossbills** in the Cowans Gap State Park was an exciting find on one of the Conococheague Audubon bird trips in March.

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

Fulton County

Locations: Belfast Township (BEL), Cowan's Gap State Park (CGSP), Forbes Trail Road Pond (FTRP), Haines-Seville Wetlands Restoration Area (HSWRA), Meadow Grounds Lake (MGL), Redbud Nature Area (RNA), Taylor Township (TAY), Thompson Township (THOM), Union Township (UN).

The weather conditions were varied. The late spring thaw made it difficult for birds requiring ample waterways to rest in *Fulton*. Even by 3/18, MGL was still 95% frozen. The amount of precipitation was above average this spring. Storms of heavy snow accumulation actually decimated large tracts of deciduous trees in the mountain top areas of James Buchanon State Forest and made several areas inaccessible.

Duck reports were very few with a pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** at MGL 3/23 being the highlight (DS). **Wood Ducks** arrived at HSWRA 3/23 (MN, DS). Four **American Wigeon** courted and displayed at FTRP 3/17 (DS).

Game birds were detected in good numbers. **Ring-necked Pheasants** were found with 7 calling males in BEL 5/20 (DS) and 4 heard in THOM 5/22 (DS). **Northern Bobwhites** were only heard in two locations: one on Harmon Lane in UN 5/24 and 2 counter singing individuals along Mountain Rd. TAY 5/27.

A basic plumaged **Common Loon** was found through the end of the quarter at CGSP (BG). It is uncertain whether the loon was the same bird that was released on the lake in mid-May originally found stranded in a hayfield (BG). A flock of **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted 4/20 above farmland near Plum Run in THOM (DS).

CGSP had an early **Broad-winged Hawk** fly over 3/30 (DS). The tree that the **Bald Eagles** successfully nested for the past several years had blown down (DG). To my knowledge there is no known location where the eagles are now nesting. Early June a first year eagle was across the mountain in County farmland near St. Thomas (DS), so

hopefully the eagles found another nearby nesting location. CGSP hosted a pair of displaying **Osprey** 4/23 and 4/9 (RS).

Shorebird numbers were lower than normal as high water levels remained unfavorable at the local hotspot HSWRA. CGSP hosted a flock of 12-15 **Spotted Sandpipers** 5/8 (BG). The **American Woodcock** was first heard at the Harrisonville site 3/17 (MN). During late March, at least 8 displaying woodcocks were flying above State Route 30 (MN).

Cuckoo species were found in lower numbers; only one report of **Black-billed Cuckoo** 5/24 in UN and just a handful of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** might correlate with the diminished availability of local tent caterpillar tents. Two mid-morning survey spots had calling **Eastern Screech Owls** 5/24: McKees Gap Rd., UN (DS) and 5/27 on South Madden Rd, in TAY (DS,MS). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found 5/24 in a new location along McKee's Gap Rd., UN (DS).

On 5/20, the 28 stop CREP Farmland Bird Survey Route in BEL captured a mini fall-out of passerine species including cuckoos, flycatchers, warblers, and vireos. The 5/20 fall-out highlights were: 2 late **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, 30 **Wood Thrushes**, 29 **Red-eyed Vireos**, 15 species of warblers including **Yellow-rumped, Mourning, Blackpoll, Kentucky, Golden-winged, Prairie** and both **waterthrush** species (DS). A birdwalk 5/03 below Big Cove Tannery at RNA, netted participants with **American Redstarts**, many **Gray Catbirds** and **Baltimore Orioles** (MJ). The RNA pedestrian bridge is now fixed and visitors have full access to all the riparian nature trails once again.

Daily high may counts for the grassland sparrows included: 25 **Field** 5/20 in BEL, 8 **Vesper** 5/24 in UN, 6 **Savannah** 5/27 in TAY and 17 **Grasshopper** 5/27 in TAY (DS). Other grassland species high counts included 32 **Eastern Meadowlarks** 5/27 in TAY and 6 **Horned Larks** 5/24 in UN (DS). Only two spring reports for **Bobolink**: one male singing 5/27 along Witter Road, TAY and a flock of 4 flyovers 5/22 along Heavenly Acres Rd., THOM (DS).

A spring county hotspot for **Rusty Blackbirds**, HSWRA hosted a flock of 29 3/23 (DS). A **Blue Grosbeak** was on territory 5/24 along Harmon Road in UN (DS). The location has become the most reliable spot in the county for this uncommon bird.

The definite highlight of the quarter was the discovery of **Red Crossbills** at CGSP 3/27-28. The birds were initially discovered on a Conococheague Audubon Society bird trip when up to 7 were found 3/27 (AL). On 3/28, the number of crossbills found were 15 (BL, BS, MS, DS). On 3/28, several **Red Crossbills** utilized a leafy ditch for water and a picnic shelter grill for ash and grit. This afforded outstanding observations from 15 feet away (BL, BS, MS, DS). Personal observations noted that four paired birds stayed around the picnic shelter and courtship display was observed. However, subsequent trips did not relocate the birds on 3/29-30 and 4/5 (DS).

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Greene County

Locations: Claylick Road (CL), East View (EV), Enlow State Game Lands 302 (ENL), Franklin Township (FT), Independence Ridge Road (IRR), Kern Farm (KF), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Nineveh (NIN), Pollock Mill Road (PMR), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Richhill Township (RCH), Rogersville (RGV), Sycamore (SY).

Wood Ducks made their appearance at CL 4/10 (LA). A **Mallard** hen and 8 youngsters waddled through the grass near Big Shannon Run in Morris Twp. 6/6 (MLP). On a small pond that is sheltered by pine in EV a **Bufflehead** was spotted 3/30 (M&JH). The same day these observers found **Common Mergansers** at what remains of the Waynesburg Water Dam. Last year some shifting was noted in the breast of the dam and a lot of the water was released. This spring the dam was nearly drained after the fish were captured and moved. So now *Greene* is left with one 19 acre lake just north of Blacks ville, West Virginia and farm ponds of various sizes until Lake Duke at Ryerson State Park and the Water Dam are rebuilt.

The **Wild Turkeys'** displays seem to start earlier every year. In RCH the toms began strutting and displaying 3/9 which makes JuC feel that spring has officially arrived. Thankfully the **Great Blue Herons** are happy with our creeks and streams. The earliest report was one seen in

RVG 3/13 (MG). Also regular nesters are **Green Herons** with a pair reported at Lake Wilma (just north of Blacks ville, West Virginia) 5/29 (GS *fide* RKB). The next day GS saw an **Osprey** at the same location. An **Osprey** was first noted at ENL 4/25 (KD, SD, DF, *fide* MH). **Turkey Vultures** were noted in RCH 3/1 by JuC who states, "Somehow I admire these creatures. If I could fly, that's what I'd want to be." A late **Northern Harrier** was spotted at RFB 3/26 flying low over the hayfield (RKB). The Wildflower Walk held at ENL 4/25 turned up a **Red Shouldered Hawk** (KD, SD, DF, *fide* MH). The first **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed in EV 3/23 (M&JH).

The first reported **Killdeer** was flying over the area at RBF 3/11 (RKB). One **Spotted Sandpiper** was found at CL 5/6 nearly a month later than last year (LA). At RBF a real surprise was an **American Woodcock** seen in the yard 3/8 (RKB). He states this is the first time he had ever seen one in the yard. The earliest **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was noted 4/29 at LCR (MLP). The **Chimney Swifts** arrived 4/24 on PMR (KK). Always arriving early, the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted at NIN 4/25 by Carol Andrew.

A seldom seen **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found near NIN 5/4 (AS) and again at the same location following week (MH). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was heard calling in the yard at RBF 2/25 (RKB). The flycatcher family arrived sporadically. The early ones this spring were an **Eastern Phoebe** 3/11 at SY (JaC), then an **Eastern Kingbird** 4/24 on Pyle's Road in Morgan Twp. (KK, MH). May started with an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** heard 5/2 at LCR (MLP), and the other four including **Acadian, Willow, Least, and Great Crested** were all found 5/8 on the PAMC in various locations.

A **White Eyed Vireo** was noted on Beagle Club Road 4/24 (KK). The **Yellow-throated Vireo** arrived shortly after that on 4/29 at RBF followed the next day by a **Red Eyed Vireo** (RKB). At Hunting Hills Farm 3/26 was the arrival of the first **Warbling Vireo** (SS). At RBF 5/25 young **American Crows** were out of the nest (RKB). The early **Purple Martin** scout returned to RBF 4/1 as it did last year (CDB) but was again this year later than the **Tree Swallow** scout that arrived 3/18 (RKB). This is also the same date the Tree Swallows returned in 2009. The **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** turned up 4/25 at ENL (MH), while the **Barn Swallows** showed up 3/18 at CL (LA), about two weeks earlier this year than last. **House Wrens** showed up at SY 4/24 (JaC) and one **Winter Wren** was noted 3/10 at CL which was the only sighting (LA). RBF hosted the latest **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 4/27 which is two weeks later than last year (RKB). Observers watched as a pair of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** worked hard at building a nest at ENL 4/25 (RKB). Never ones to waste nesting time were 8 **Eastern Bluebirds** found 2/25 at RBF (RKB). The Holly berries at RBF drew in **American Robins** with more than 40 found on several occasions (RKB). He states the **Cooper's Hawk** that stays near his yard all winter chased the American Robins many times. The **Wood Thrushes** returned 4/25 at ENL (MH). **Gray Catbirds** were found a day earlier but in Morgan Twp. (KK). Both were later than the **Brown Thrasher** 4/3 at SY (JC).

The first reported **Blue-winged Warbler** arrived 5/1 IRR (KK). Not reported every year, a **Tennessee Warbler** was found 4/28 at ENL (KD, SD, DF, *fide* MH) and on PMR 5/15 (*fide* RKB). The earliest report of a **Northern Parula** was 4/21 at RBF (CDB). A **Yellow Warbler** was heard 4/24 in Morgan Twp. (KK). The first week of May a **Black-throated Green Warbler** spent several days high on a hill in FT (RB). First noted at RBF 4/7 was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** (RKB). A somewhat late **Blackpoll Warbler** was heard at RBF (LG *fide* RKB). The Wildflower walk at ENL 4/25 turned up several of the warbler family. The list included; **Cerulean, Black-and-white, American Redstart, and Common Yellowthroat** (MH). **Ovenbirds** arrived at LCR 4/28 (MLP). Always listening for the **Louisiana Waterthrush** at RBF, RKB heard the first of the season 4/14 which he states is late for this species. In FT a **Kentucky Warbler** was heard 5/1 (KK) and in another location in FT a **Hooded Warbler** was found the same day (RB).

A **Scarlet Tanager** arrived at EV 4/25 (M&JH). On 4/4 an **Eastern Towhee** arrived at RBF (CDB). **Chipping Sparrows** came to the ample feeders at EV 3/28 (M&JH). The first **Field Sparrow** was reported at RBF 4/4 (RKB). Fledglings, like human children, seem to get themselves into trouble. At LCR 6/1 MLP states, "I rescued a young song sparrow that was caught in the net covering strawberries, unharmed." A large hayfield in Morgan Twp. yielded a singing **Savannah Sparrow** 4/24 (KK). Lingering later this year **White-throated Sparrows** were last noted 5/2 at RBF (RKB). Tough a very late **White-crowned Sparrow** (5/31) was noted last year, this spring they disappeared after 5/10 at CL (RA). The **Dark-eyed Juncos** left the feeders at EV 4/2 right on schedule (M&JH).

At RBF a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** showed up 5/3 (RKB). On 5/1 on IRR an **Indigo Bunting** was found singing from the highest bare branch of a tree in the bright sunlight as that species is wont to do (KK). **Bobolinks** were found 4/29 at RBF (RKB) where later in the spring the males came to trees in the yard to sing. **Common Grackles** got an early and plentiful start. Most observers reported finding them at the feeders in early Mar with 3/2 being the earliest at CL (LA). In RGV, MG reported 30-40 each of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles at feeders in her yard 3/11. **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were not far behind, found 3/22 at SY (JaC). A pair of cowbirds showed courtship behavior 3/30 at KF (KK). An **Orchard Oriole** was first observed 4/28 at RBF (RKB), and a **Baltimore Oriole** came to EV 5/1 (M&JH).

Purple Finches were freed from a bird trap at RBF on 4/9 and 4/15 but not seen or heard after that (RKB). At LCR the battle for nesting sites goes on as MLP continues to remove **House Sparrow** nests from the Bluebird boxes. She found two interesting nests. "One was the most colorful ever! It had many feathers from hawk-killed Northern Cardinals, Blue Jays and a few golden chicken feathers. Another nest had a colorfully decorated interior with feathers, grasses and a big tuft of deer hair", she notes.

Thanks to all observers for their contributions and comments.

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Aitch Access Lake Raystown (AA), Huntingdon (HU), Lake Raystown (LR), McAlevys Fort (MF), Old Crow Wetland (OC), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Valley (SV), Summit Schoolhouse Road (SSR), Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch (TMHW).

American Bitterns were found at MF 5/1 (LM, MM, DW) and at OC 5/6 (IG). A good find for the county was the 3 **Black-crowned Night Herons** at AA 4/30 (CR, JB, JS, JK, JW). Two **Great Egrets** were at OC 5/1 (LM, MM, DW). Another rarity here was a **Cattle Egret** at LR dam, 5/8 (GG), only the second county record since 1983. A lone **Cattle Egret** had been seen three days earlier in *Centre*, about 20 miles north, possibly this same bird.

Another excellent season was had at the TMHW. The **Golden Eagle** count of 201 tied for the second highest total. The **Golden Eagle** count hit double digits for 7 consecutive days 3/5-11 with peaks counts of 33 on 3/8 and 28 on 3/9. Other good seasonal counts included 41 **Osprey**, 24 **Bald Eagles**, and 67 **Red-shouldered Hawks**. On 3/11, an excellent total of 16 **Red-shouldered Hawks** passed the watch. The total of all raptors was 1327 in 319 hrs of coverage (JK, NB, CW, et al.).

Five **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at a retention pool near HU 5/1 (LM, MM, DW). **Caspian Terns** were seen at AA, the usual location in the county (DK, TK, LM, MM, DW). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard in SV 4/30 (LM, MM, DW). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were scarce as always and don't seem to have reliable locations in the county where they can be found each year. One was at Graysville 5/1 (CR, et al.) and singles were near MF (DG) and near SCEC (DW), both 5/8. Another scarce breeder here is **Purple Martin**. A colony was noted on an Amish farm south of Allensville in Big Valley, near the *Huntingdon/Mifflin* border (GG).

For the PAMC, DW heard 3 **Yellow-breasted Chats** and 6 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** at 00:45 on 5/8. On 4/24, native South Dakotan JD heard the distinctive song of a **Western Meadowlark** on SSR in SV. A follow-up search on 4/29 was inconclusive; however, one silent meadowlark flew up several times in response to a recording of the western song (GG, DG). A **Baltimore Oriole** was early at HU 4/10 (DW).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, (814) 667-2305, gwg2@psu.edu**, Jason Beale, Nick Bolgiano, Jim Dunn, Ian Gardner, Deb Grove, Jon Kauffman, John Kevern, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Laurie McLaughlin, Mark McLaughlin, Chris Rebert, Jon Smirk, Doug Wentzel, Chuck Widmann, Jared Woolsey.

Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Robinson (RB), Shelocta (SH), Smicksburg Park (SP), Two Lick Reservoir (TL), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

All waterfowl, loon, and grebe reports are at YC unless otherwise noted. Yellow Creek Lake remained almost completely frozen through mid-March. Only a small area where Yellow Creek enters the lake was open on 3/9; even Little Yellow Cove, which usually thaws early, was completely frozen. Waterfowl numbers were the lowest we've seen in years with many high counts less than one third last year's numbers.

A flock of 35 **Snow Geese** flew over YC 3/7 (BF, TF). March 9 (LC, JD, SD, MH, MVT) yielded the top **Canada Goose** count of 196 and the first 162 **Tundra Swans**, all passing overhead. Another 23 swans passed through the park 3/16 (LC, MH, GL); the last noted were 3 on the lake 3/21 (LC).

Fourteen **Wood Ducks** appeared 3/16 (LC, MH, GL), the same day the first 2 **Gadwalls** and one **American Wigeon** arrived; high count of 20 Gadwalls occurred 3/19 (EF, MF) and 3/23 (LC, MH, GL); the season's last was a singleton 4/17 (LC, EF, MF, MH, RH). Top **American Wigeon** count was 15 on 3/19 (EF, MF) with the last reported individual 4/29 (LC, MH, GL, MVT). Top YC counts (very low!) of 14 **American Black Ducks** and 14 **Mallards** occurred 3/19 (EF, MF). A wet field near SH yielded 32 Mallards 3/14 (MH, RH). **Blue-winged Teal**, with all reports of 6 or fewer, first showed up 3/26 (LC); last spotted were 2 on 5/11 (LC, MH, TG). Single **Northern Shovelers** were found on four dates between 3/21 (LC) and 4/20 (LC, MH, BJ); two were listed 4/13 (LC, MH, GL, MVT). Four **Northern Pintails** 3/19 (EF, MF) and one 3/21 (LC) were the only reports. Two **Green-winged Teal** arrived 3/16 (LC, MH, GL); numbers peaked at 12 on 3/19 (EF, MF) while last reported occurred 4/6 (LC, MH, FM, JM, MVT). One to 2 **Canvasbacks** were listed between 3/19 (EF, MF) and 3/23 (LC, MH, GL); 2 at nearby Margus Lake 3/21 (MH, RH) may have been the YC birds. YC yielded only 2 **Redheads** 3/21 (LC) and one 3/27 (SBo, SD, BF, GL, JK). **Ring-necked Ducks** numbers, too, were down with the best tally of 94 on 3/23 (LC, MH, GL); last reported were 3 on 4/29 (LC, MH, GL, MVT). Three **Greater Scaup** stopped at YC 3/16 (LC, MH, GL); one was still present 3/21 (LC); the only other individual reported was one at Margus Lake 5/8 (GL, GS). **Lesser Scaup** maxima included 62 on 3/26 (LC) and 60 on 4/11 (EF, MF). A **White-winged Scoter** was a nice find 5/22 (LC, SD, MH, RH). **Long-tailed Duck** reports included the first one 3/21 (LC), 2 on 3/23 (LC, MH, GL), and 20 on 3/26 (LC); TL also yielded 8 on 3/26 (LC). **Buffleheads** did not appear in their usual high numbers with best count a mere 47 on 3/21 (LC); last reported was one 5/22 (LC, SD, MH, RH). Ten **Hooded Mergansers** arrived 3/16 (LC, MH, GL); 19 was the high count five days later (LC). One **Common Merganser** on 3/23 (LC, MH, GL) was YC's lone report; SP, located along Mahoning Creek, yielded 5 on 4/7 (MH) while a pair remained on Mahoning Creek through the end of the season (m.ob.). First **Red-breasted Merganser** arrived 3/16 (LC, MH, GL); top tally of 21 occurred 3/23 (LC); last noted were 13 on 4/29 (LC, MH, GL, MVT). Thirty-four **Ruddy Ducks** landed at YC 3/23 (LC, MH, GL), providing the high count; last reported were 12 at YC (GL, GS), including one melanistic, and one at Hemlock Lake (MH, RH), all 5/8.

Only 5 **Ruffed Grouse** were counted on this year's PAMC (m.ob.). **Wild Turkeys** were mentioned at many locations with largest flock including 50 n. of IN 3/13 (SB); that flock had gradually dwindled to 5 individuals by 5/30 (SB).

First **Common Loon** arrived 4/6 (LC, MH, FM, JM, MVT); last noted was one 5/25 (MA, LC, SD, MH, JK, GL, MS). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** first appeared 3/20 (LC); the rather low top count of only 12 occurred 4/11 (EF, MF). **Horned Grebes** numbered 22 on 3/23 (LC, MH, GL); last reported was one 5/8 (GL, GS). Five **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared at YC 4/3 (TBC, 3RBC); 41 was the high 4/17 (LC, EF, MF, MH, RH); one lingered at YC through 5/25 (MA, LC, SD, MH, JK, GL, MS). The Plum Creek heronry contained only 3 active **Great Blue Heron** nests 5/9 (JT).

The season's highlight occurred 5/25 (MA, LC, SD, MH, JK, GL, MS) on a 04:00 YC pontoon ride when a **Least Bittern** began calling shortly after dawn; MS carefully and slowly drove the pontoon toward the calling bird until all were able to get great scope views and a few poor digiscoped pictures as the bird continued to call. First 2 **Green Herons** arrived at YC 4/29 (LC, MH, GL, MVT).

First **Turkey Vultures** were spotted near LV 3/8 (MC) and at YC 3/9 (LC, JD, SD, MH, MVT). **Ospreys** moved through YC between 3/27

(SB, LC, SD, BF, JK, GL) and 5/11 (LC), but again none stayed to nest. The 5 **Bald Eagle** reports at YC included an immature bird 3/27 (SB, LC, SD, BF, JK, GL), an adult 4/23-24 (LC, MH, RH, GL, DL, MVT), and 2 adults sitting side by side 4/29 (LC, MH, GL, MVT); 5/8 (GL, GS) yielded an immature bird. Away from YC a sub-adult flew over SH 4/7 (MH). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were respectively listed at 9 and 8 locations during the period. **Broad-winged Hawks** arrived 4/10 at Nolo (GL) and at YC (LC, SD, MH, RH, FOP). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was a nice find near YC 3/16 (MA). A **Merlin** was present near Edgewood 3/2 (LC, MH); another was seen at YC 5/10 (JT).

The YC **American Coots** peaked at only 93 on 4/3 (TBC, 3RBC), a continuation of the decline in numbers using YC; 2 lingered through 5/4 (LC, TG, MH, GL, RN, TP, MJS). A **Sandhill Crane** circled over YC 4/6 (LC, MH, FM, JM, MVT).

With the goose fence erected in early Apr to block the beach and with the high water levels in Little Yellow Cove, shorebirds were deterred from stopping at YC. A **Semipalmated Plover** stopped in Little Yellow Cove at YC 5/8 (EF, MF). Single **Greater Yellowlegs** visited YC on 4 days between 3/26 (LC) and 4/27 (LC, TG, MH, GL, TP, MJS); a singleton flew over a yard near LV 5/7 (MC). **Solitary Sandpipers** moved through YC between 4/20 (LC, MH, BJ) and 5/11 (LC, TG, MH). Arrival date for **Spotted Sandpiper** was 5/4 (LC, TG, MH, RN, TP, MJS) at YC where a pontoon ride 5/25 (MA, LC, SD, MH, JK, GL, MS, MVT) yielded 5 spotties. A **Least Sandpiper** visited TL 5/8 (PJ). First **Wilson's Snipe** was found at YC 4/3 (TBC, 3RBC) while last noted occurred there 4/24 (LC, MH, RH, MVT). First **American Woodcocks** were listed 3/10 (MC) near LV and 3/12 (MA) at Creekside when 3 were tallied. One was still performing its mating ritual in Dark Hollow between Creekside and SH 5/26 (EF, MF, MH, RH).

Bonaparte's Gull moved through our county between 3/19 (EF, MF) and 5/8 (EF, MF, GL, GS); estimated top tallies at YC included 200 on 4/11 (EF, MF) and 250 on 4/13 (LC, MH, GL, MVT). The highest **Ring-billed Gull** count of 75 occurred at YC 4/20 (LC, MH, BJ). Two **Herring Gulls** were noted 4/13 (LC, MH, GL, MVT) while a singleton was spotted 4/24 (LC, MH, RH, MVT). Two **Caspian Terns** on both 4/29 (LC, MH, GL, MVT) and 5/8 (EF, MF, GL, GS) were the only ones reported. A flock of 33 **Common Terns** arrived at YC 5/8 (EF, MF, GL, GS). First 2 **Forster's Terns** appeared at YC 4/6 (LC, MH, FM, JM, MVT); 3 were present 4/24 (LC, MH, RH, MVT). A **Black Tern** at dusk on 5/8 (EF, MF) was the only one reported.

Cuckoo arrival dates included 5/5 at BS (MA) and near SH (MH) for **Black-billed Cuckoo** and 5/8 (ED, JT) near RB for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**. **Eastern Screech-Owl** was noted only at LV (DC, MC) and SH (MH) this season; **Great Horned Owl** was reported only near SH (MH, RH); **Barred Owls**, were listed at 3 (m.ob.). Single **Common Nighthawks** were observed at YC 5/8 (EF, MF, GL, GS), near LV 5/14-16 (MC), and at Nolo 5/21 (CL, GL); 2 were counted at YC 5/22 (LC, SD, MH, RH). First **Chimney Swifts** were found 4/29 (LC, SD, MH, RH) at YC. First **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** arrived 4/30 (MC) near LV and 5/1 (MAN) near Creekside. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a nice find 5/6 (ED) near SH. A pair of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** was exhibiting pair behavior at Nolo 4/2 (GS).

The SP yielded an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/13 (MA). Three **Eastern Wood-Pewees** had returned to BS by 5/7 (MH, ML). First **Acadian Flycatcher** was found 5/8 (GL, GS) near Nolo. May 8 also yielded the first **Willow Flycatchers** near LV (MC) and near Tide (LC). BS yielded the first **Least Flycatcher** 5/7 (MH, ML) while TL produced another 5/8 (PJ). The earliest **Eastern Phoebes** occurred 3/17 both at BS (MH) and at IN (MC); Nolo's first appeared the following day (AB). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were first found at SP 5/6 (MH) and at BS 5/7 (MH, ML). **Eastern Kingbird** returned 5/4 (LC, TG, MH, GL, RN, TP, MJS) at YC. Vireo dates of return included 5/8 (m. ob.) across the county for **White-eyed Vireo**; 4/10 (LC, SD, MH, RH, FOP) at YC for **Blue-headed Vireo**; 5/1 (LC, SD, MH, RH, JT) at BS for **Yellow-throated Vireos**; 5/8 (m. ob.) at various locations for **Warbling Vireo**; and 5/1 (LC, SD, MH, RH, JT) at BS for **Red-eyed Vireos**. Seven **Fish Crows** were found in IN 3/14 (MH, RH); a singleton was listed several blocks away 5/20 (SG). **Common Ravens** were reported regularly from YC and Nolo throughout the period (m.ob.). A flock of about 100 **Horned Larks** remained near Iselin 3/3 (MC). A **Purple Martin** visited YC 4/24 (LC, MH, MVT) while another was at the same location 5/8 (GS). Arrival dates were 3/19 (EF, MF) for **Tree Swallow**, 4/6 (LC, FM, JM, MH, MVT) for **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, 4/24 (LC, MH, RH, MVT) for **Bank Swallow**, 4/17 (LC, EF, MF, MH) for **Cliff Swallow**, and 4/10 (LC, SD, MH, RH, FOP) for **Barn Swallow**, all at YC. One to 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** remained near SH through 5/30 (MH, RH).

First **House Wren** returned 4/12 (MH) near SH. A **Marsh Wren** in a tangle of brambles at SP 5/6 (MH) was totally out of habitat. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** arrived 4/10 (LC, SD, MH, RH, FOP) at YC. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** appeared near LV 4/8 (MC). The only **Veeries** reported were one near LV 5/8 (DC, MC, AD) and 2 near Tide 5/8 (LC). Two **Swainson's Thrushes** were noted near RB (ED, JT) while another was at SGL 174 (MH, RH), all 5/8. Reservoir Hill yielded single **Hermit Thrushes** 4/16 and 4/25 (PJ); one was along the road below the Gipsy strips 5/8 (MH, RH). First **Wood Thrushes** appeared 4/29 (LC, MH, GL, MVT) at YC. First **Gray Catbird** returnee arrived at YC 4/27 (LC, TG, GL, TP, MJS). **Brown Thrasher** was seen first 4/7 (MC) near LV.

Once again this year warblers dribbled through our region with no major fallouts. Two **Blue-winged Warblers** were found at BS 5/1 (LC, SD, MH, RH, JT). **Tennessee Warblers** began migrating through our county 5/8 when 4 were noted at TL (PJ), 2 were in Montgomery Twp., and one was at CD (EF, MF); last noted was one at SP 5/21 (LC, BF, MH). Amazingly, the only **Nashville Warbler** reported this spring was one at BS 5/7 (MH, ML).

Northern Parula arrived 5/8 at two locations: BS (RW) and YC (GL, GS). First **Yellow Warblers** appeared 4/27 at YC (LC, TG, MH, GL, TP, MJS). Other warbler first dates included 5/4 (LC, TG, MH, GL, RN, TP, MJS) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at YC; 5/6 (MH) for **Magnolia Warbler** at SP; 5/20 (SG) for **Cape May** at IN, the lone report; 5/7 (MH, ML) for **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at BS; and 4/3 (3RBC, TBC) for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at YC. Best **Yellow-rumped Warbler** count was 27 at YC 5/10 (JT); 8 at YC 5/11 (LC) were last. Earliest **Black-throated Green Warblers** and **Blackburnian Warblers** occurred respectively on 4/20 both at Nolo (GL) and near YC (MH) and 5/8 (m.ob.) on the PAMC. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were noted at CD 4/8 (MF) and near RB 5/8 (ED, JT). **Pine Warblers** returned near SH 3/14 (MH) and at YC 3/30 (LC, MH); **Pine Warblers** were on territory near SH through the end of May. The Jacksonville area yielded the season's first **Prairie Warbler** 5/7 (EF, MF). The only **Palm Warbler** this spring was one at YC 5/11 (LC, TG, MH). Single **Bay-breasted Warblers** were observed 5/8 both at YC (EF, MF) and at TL (PJ), the season's only reports. **Blackpoll Warblers** were first recorded 5/8 (LC) near Tide; other reports included as many as 11 at YC 5/22 (LC, SD, MH, RH) with last report of 6 at YC 5/25 (MA, LC, SD, MH, JK, GL, MS). **Cerulean Warblers**, all reports 5/8, included one at CD (EF, MF), one near RB (ED, JT), and 2 near LV (DC, MC, AD). First dates included 5/7 (MH, ML) for **Black-and-white Warbler** at BS; 5/1 (LC, SD, MH, RH, JT) for **American Redstart** at BS, 5/13 (MA) for **Worm-eating Warbler** at SP; and 4/23 (LC, MH, GL, DL) for **Ovenbird** at YC. A **Northern Waterthrush** was singing at its traditional location below the Gipsy strips 5/8 (MH, RH); YC harbored 3 on 5/10 (MH) and one the following day (LC, TG, MH). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was first found at YC 4/3 (TBC, 3RBC). Other first dates included 5/8 (m. ob.) at five locations for **Kentucky Warbler**, 4/27 (LC, TG, MH, GL, TP, MJS) at YC for **Common Yellowthroat**, and 5/4 (LC, TG, MH, GL, RN, TP, MJS) at YC for **Hooded Warbler**. A **Wilson's Warbler** at BS 5/20 (MH) comprised the entire report for this species. **Canada Warblers** were listed 5/8 (PA) near YC, 5/8 at TL (MH, RH), and 5/20 (MH) at BS. Four PAMC parties yielded the first **Yellow-breasted Chats** 5/8 (m.ob.) with the best count of 5 near LV (DC, MC, AD).

First **Scarlet Tanager** surfaced at YC 4/24 (LC). First returning **Eastern Towhee** occurred 3/10 (MC) near LV. **American Tree Sparrow** lingered 3/17, both n. of IN (SB) and at the IN mall (MC). YC produced the first **Chipping Sparrow** 3/21 (LC). The only **Vesper Sparrow** was found near SP 5/28 (MA). A **Savannah Sparrow** was spotted at YC 4/23 (LC, MH, GL, DL). First **Grasshopper Sparrow** was singing near SH 5/29 (MH, RH). A nocturnal trip to the West Lebanon strips added only one **Henslow's Sparrow** to the PAMC count (MC, AD) as it was rather windy. **Fox Sparrows** moved through our area between 3/13 (LC, MH, RH) and 4/3 (TBC, 3RBC). The season's only **Lincoln's Sparrow** was spotted at YC 5/10 (MH). Observers at four locations noted the last **White-throated Sparrows** 5/8 (m.ob.). **White-crowned Sparrows** were recorded between 5/4 (LC) when 4 were present at YC and 5/11 (LC, TG, MH) when 4 were again counted at YC. A **Snow Bunting** was seen at Alverda 3/10 (DR).

Arrival date was 4/28 (CL, GL) for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Nolo. Dates of return included 5/6 at SP (MH) for **Indigo Bunting**; 5/8 (m.ob.) at three locations for **Bobolink**, and 3/19 (EF, MF) for **Eastern Meadowlark** at West Lebanon. **Rusty Blackbirds** were once again in low numbers with all reports at YC; first arrivals were 14 on 3/13 (LC, MH, RH); 19 was the best count 4/13 (LC, MH, GL, MVT) while a single bird 5/8 (EF, MF) was last. Both **Orchard Oriole** and **Baltimore Oriole**

were first listed 5/1 (LC, SD, MH, RH, JT) at BS.

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Jefferson County

No report.

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Juniata County

Locations: Cedar Springs Road (CSR), Cuba Mills Road (CMR), Juniata Forest (JF), Licking Creek Valley (LCV), Locust Run (LR), Lost Creek Shoe Shop (LCSS), Muskrat Springs River Access (MSRA), Oakland Mills (OM), Van Wert (VW).

Lesser Scaup were seen on the Juniata River at MSRA 3/9 (TP, EP). An **American Bittern** was seen flying over LCSS 4/5 (DT). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was observed in VW 4/30 (MT).

Good flights offered many sightings in the county 4/27 including **Osprey**, up to 30 **Broad-winged Hawks** and 6 **Common Loons** flying and seen in 2 locations: LCSS and LR (AT, MT). Three **Bald Eagle** nests were confirmed again in the county 2/5. A fourth year **Bald Eagle** was reported flying over CSR 2/20 (JL). A dark-phase **Rough Legged Hawk** was seen in two spots east of Oakland Mills, possibly the only one seen all winter in our county (CK, HP, AT). A **Northern Goshawk** was seen during early migration in OM 3/24 (ST).

American Woodcock were found 3/11 at CMR (RS); an early sighting. A **Forsters Tern** was seen on the Juniata River 5/1-13 (CP).

Barn Owls came for a visit to a barn on CMR 3/24 (RS). A detailed report of a **Snowy Owl** was reported from the Seven Stars area. It was never confirmed or seen again after this report came in, but from the description by the non-birders, it probably was a Snowy Owl. A **Whip-poor-will** was seen while hunting at JF 4/17 (DT). Three **Common Nighthawks** were observed 3/24 for an early date (EmP). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was first noted to arrive at LCV 4/29 (DB).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at a feeder 5/13 and there was a flyover 5/20 at LCV (DB, DH). A **Least Flycatcher** was seen in OM 5/6 (AT). An **Eastern Phoebe** at LR 2/24 (MT) and one at CMR 3/11 were early (RS). **Fish Crows** were seen and heard at the early date of 2/23 in Mifflintown (BW). **Barn Swallows** were first noted back at CMR 4/4 (RS). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen hunting at JF 4/17 (DT). A **Brown Thrasher** was at a feeder at the LCSS 3/16 (AT). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was seen at OM 3/7 (AT). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was in JF 4/17 (DT) and an **Ovenbird** was at LCV 4/23 (LW).

Four **Chipping Sparrows** were observed at LR 2/24 (MT). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was located for the third year in a row on a farm in VW 5/10 (AR). A **Savannah Sparrow** was seen at the same feeder and the same time (CK, AT) up to 2/13. A **Fox Sparrow** at CMR 3/11 was early (RS) and one visited a feeder at the LCSS 3/16 (AT). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** visited a feeder in Oakland Mills at the LCSS 2/1. It was seen off and on until 5/16. We assume that it was the same one during that entire time (AT, DT, ST, CK, JD, et al.). **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** were first reported at CR 3/2 (MT). Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed at OM 3/7 (AT). A **Purple Finch** was seen at a feeder in LCV 4/6 (DB). A **Pine Siskin** was found visiting a feeder for several days at LCSS 5/22 (AT, DT, ST, CK, et al.).

The PAMC occurred 5/8; 25 people counted 146 species with the highlights as follows: **Tundra Swan, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser** and **Double-crested Cormorant**, ten species of raptor/vulture including 8 **Bald Eagles**, seven species of shorebirds: **Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs,**

Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe and **American Woodcock**, two species of owls: **Eastern Screech-Owl** and **Barred Owl**, all woodpeckers except **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, seven species of flycatcher, all 6 vireos, all swallows except **Bank**, all thrushes except **Hermit**, 31 species of warblers with highlighted by: **Brewster's, Lawrence's, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Prothonotary, Mourning, Wilsons,** and **Canada Warbler**, nine species of sparrows including **Lincoln's Sparrow**, one **Rusty Blackbird**, and 3 **Purple Finch**.

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Lancaster County

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

The weather this spring was rather ordinary compared to the unusually severe winter. The precipitation was about average and the temperatures were slightly above average, particularly in May.

This year **Snow Geese** peaked at MC around 3/10 with about 120,000 counted (MC staff estimate). At least one **Ross's Goose** was reported on multiple occasions at MC up until 3/17 (m.ob.). Another was reported from WE on 3/15 (DB, JBo). It was with about 1800 Snow Geese and one **Cackling Goose**. Very unusual was a report (and photo) of the rare blue morph **Ross's Goose** at MC 3/5 (DB, JBo). An apparent hybrid **Snow x Ross's** was also in the area the same day. At least 2 **Cackling Geese** were at MC until 3/25 (m.ob.) and 9 were on the ponds at Greenfield Estates 3/7 (DB, JBo). This is the highest count that I can remember for *Lancaster*. Sightings of **Greater White-fronted Geese** continued with multiple reports at MC between 3/6 and 3/17 (m.ob.) and another at Greenfield Estates 3/7 (DB, JBo). Rounding out the list of unusual geese was a flock of 40 **Brant** that flew down the SR past Bainbridge 5/12 (CC, et al.). This was notable because of the season and also the large number of individuals.

Tundra Swans always occur in good numbers at MC, but 2500 flying over Columbia 3/9 (ML) was a nice count. Reports of lingering waterfowl were not as numerous this spring. They included **American Wigeon** 5/1, **Lesser Scaup** 5/11, **Long-tailed Duck** 5/1, **Hooded Merganser** 5/11, and **Ruddy Duck** 5/11. A **Red-necked Grebe** was at MC 3/16 (JBo). This species can be a frequent visitor to the SR some years, but it is always scarcer at MC. This was the only report this spring.

Least Bittern was heard on the SRCF 5/19 (BS). This species has been found a number of times at this location over the last ten years, but all the birds are most likely migrants rather than breeding birds. The only **Glossy Ibis** report was a flyover at Pumping Station Rd. 5/9 (BC, et al.). This may have been the same bird that briefly stopped over at the Mount Pleasant Rd. pond in nearby Lebanon County (JH).

On March 26 a pair of **Peregrine Falcons** was discovered at Safe Harbor Dam (TR). They appeared to be using the higher old steel railroad bridge at the mouth of the Conestoga River. It is believed that this nesting attempt was not successful. At the same time pairs of **Peregrines** were present on the Columbia/Wrightsville bridge and in downtown Lancaster in the vicinity of the convention center and Marriot Hotel tower. The Conejohela Flats on the Susquehanna River are well known for the wide variety of shorebird sightings, but 2 hen **Wild Turkeys** sitting on a duck blind on Green Island was a first 4/4 (EW).

Virginia Rail was at WE 3/20 (DB, JBo). This is a very early date, but both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** persisted at this site into June and adult **Virginia Rails** were seen with a juvenile (CC, et al.). Both the adult and juvenile were photographed.

This spring both numbers and variety of shorebirds were unimpressive again. The most notable sighting was a group of 15 **Willetts** seen at a small pond north of stop #1 at MC 4/27 (BC, m.ob.). This is a very good count for *Lancaster* and for Pennsylvania. Also notable because of its early date was a **Dunlin** at SRCF 4/4 (EW).

This year **Little Gulls** were again reported with **Bonaparte's Gulls**

on many occasions. The season started with one adult 3/13 with a flock of 150-200 Bonaparte's Gulls at "The Rocks" just south of Columbia across from Blue Lane (DB, JBo). Two **Little Gulls** were near the same location 3/14 (EW). Another **Little Gull** was on the SR across from Peach Bottom Village 3/14 (BS). **Little Gulls** were present particularly in the Columbia/Wrightsville area at least until 3/27 when one or 2 were present (JH, EW). Three **Little Gulls** were in the same location 4/24 (MW) with a flock of 20 **Bonaparte's Gulls**. This is getting a bit late although imm. **Little Gulls** are frequently seen into May. **Forster's Terns** are uncommon in the spring so 2 at SRCF 4/11 were noteworthy. It was a good spring for **Caspian Terns** with reports at SRCF from 4/8 to 5/1 and a high of 18 on 4/8. A single **Common Tern** was also reported from the SR south of Columbia 5/11 (DW).

Last year both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were in good supply. This spring the numbers were noticeably reduced and though both species were reported, numbers were very low. A night of owling near OL on 3/19 resulted in 5 species of owls. Two **Eastern Screech-Owls**, 3 **Great-horned Owls** and 3 **Barred Owls** were expected, **Long-eared Owl** and 2 **Northern Saw-Whet Owls** were regular, but more unexpected. **Short-eared Owls** were present again at MC all winter up to 3 were seen regularly once the tour road opened. The last reports received were from 3/20. **Common Nighthawk** was reported on 5/19. This is a species that continues to be reported less frequently and in lower numbers in recent years.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Lancaster County Central Park 5/19 (CC, et al.). **Least Flycatcher** was at the same location 5/19 and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** added to the nice selection of migrating flycatchers at Lancaster County Central Park 5/19 (CC, et al.). **Alder Flycatcher** was a good find along the power line off of Pinch Road 5/15 (RM). A leucistic **American Robin** was noted 5/24 along River Road between the Lancaster Solid Waste Landfill and Oak Road (ML). Once again thrushes were in very limited supply this year, but there was a report of a **Swainson's Thrush** at the Lancaster County Central Park 5/19 (CC, et al.).

Migrant warblers were reported modest numbers and variety this year. The variety of species was about normal, but I did not receive any reports of any major fallouts. Highlights included **Golden-winged Warbler** and **Cape May Warbler** in Safe Harbor 5/9 (TR), and 2 **Yellow-throated Warblers** at the same location 4/2. A **Northern Parula** was very early at the Falmouth River Access Park 4/7 (DW, PW). **Prothonotary Warblers** first appeared 4/30 and good numbers were reported from the SRCF this spring with other sightings in the Bainbridge area. The **Nashville Warbler** that was a late winter visitor to the Lancaster Area Sewer Authority was still there 3/7 (DB, JBo). A single **Rusty Blackbird** was at MC 4/20. Hopefully there were other sightings of this declining species, but this was the only report received.

Finally, this year was a dramatic change from last year in the complete absence of Pine Siskins, crossbills and winter finches in general. Even **Purple Finches** seemed scarce with the first report at a feeder near Gap 3/14 (CC) and only a few scattered sightings in the county after that date.

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Lackawanna County

No report.

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Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Three Rivers gravel pond (TR), McConahy Road gravel pond (MR), Copper Road Marsh (CR), Cotton Road (CO), McConnell's Mill State Park (MM), Plain Grove (PG), Volant Strips area (VS), Vosler Road farm pond (VFP).

Highlights this season include **Trumpeter Swan** and **Northern**

Shrike. The **Northern Shrike** was seen 3/22 at BS (SC), and as reported previously, had been seen in late February and early November, making a long stay for perhaps the same bird. An adult **Trumpeter Swan**, originally spotted in *Butler* by DD, was acquired in *Lawrence* at BS 3/20 (MV). This bird, with a yellow wing-tag "H04" is a male who originates from Waldemar, Ontario, Canada, and was hatched in 2008. He has a band number of 1959-00504 per the information received from the USGS upon reporting the wing tag. He was last reported in the company of two **Tundra Swans** 3/27 at BS (SG). Additionally, an immature Trumpeter Swan (no tags reported) was seen in *Lawrence* at BS 4/24 (RS), 5/6 at MR (MVT), and back at BS 5/6 (RN). As has been reported previously by others, these birds are probably associated with the reintroduction efforts in Ontario. Given the effort's proximity, it is likely sightings like this will be more common in the future, so one would be wise to brush up on Trumpeter/Tundra distinctions. Video of the Trumpeter and Tundra swimming side-by-side at BS can be found at this compiler's YouTube account, sttpabirds.

A **Mute Swan** was reported at a gravel pond in Moravia 3/21 (MV), not a common sight here. **Ring-necked Duck** counts began with "at least a hundred" 3/10 at BS (SG), followed by 83 on 3/13 at BS, 84 at CR 3/25 (all MV). Reported numbers steadily declined, as expected, at this location to a reported 26 individuals 3/28, 19 on 4/3, eight on 4/18, and six on 4/29 (all MV). **Northern Shoveler** were had in decent numbers, with nine at CR 3/25 and 10 there 3/28 (both MV). A nice count of 20 **Redhead** were at BS 3/7 (AH), and one was also found at an unspecified gravel pond 3/24 (KD). A good count of 33 **Northern Pintail** was had at CR 3/25 (MV). A high count of 20 **Greater Scaup** was obtained 3/24 at BS (KD), with six reported 3/25 at CR (MV). An early high count of 19 **Wood Duck** were spotted at CR 3/24 (MV), with a high count for the reporting period of 44 individuals at CR 4/3 (MV). A raft of 21 **Hooded Merganser**, nine adults and 12 juveniles, was reported 5/22 and 5/24 at TR (MV). MV reports that they have been nesting here the last few years now. Two female **Buffleheads** were also reported as late as 5/24 at TR (MV). As we will see in the next report, at least one of these individuals was seen again in June.

Adult **Bald Eagles** were reported at Edinburg Lake 3/11 and 4/3, and an immature was reported at CR 3/28 (all MV). It is nice to get some reports from Edinburg Lake, which has not been mentioned lately. An **Osprey** was had at CR 4/18 and 4/29 (both MV), and also 5/6 at BS (MVT). A **Broad-winged Hawk** allowed RN and ML to watch it eat a live snake 4/30 at MM.

A **Virginia Rail** was present at CR 4/29 (MV). The **Common Moorhen** reported in recent years at NG was there 5/9 (MV). As we will see in the next report, there is a decent sized family there this year. The **Sandhill Crane** population in the area remained healthy, with a good count of 22 3/13 at PG (MV).

A **Dunlin** was a nice find 5/8 at VFP (MV). Thirteen **Short-billed Dowitcher** were present at MR 5/14, with 20 there 5/15, and 11 there 5/16 (all MV). **Greater Yellowlegs** made their presence at MR singly 5/14 and 5/16 (MV). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were found 5/16 at the small bridge on Black Road (MV). Eight **Least Sandpiper** were reported 5/8 at VFP, nine at MR that same day, and six also reported 5/16 at MR (all MV). **Semipalmated Plover** were had in ones and twos at MR 5/15 and 5/16 (MV). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were reported at TR 5/16 and 5/22 (MV). **American Woodcock** were peenting at VS 3/17 (STh), but the notable display of them was had 5/16 by SS when five paraded out onto the open road at MM, giving him a fantastic clear view of these birds, which he captured with his camera and shared with the PA Birds listserv readers—thanks, SS!

Two **Short-eared Owls** were seen hunting at VS 3/17 (STh). An **Alder Flycatcher** was a very nice find 5/22 at Pulaski Twp (CH). Fourteen **Tree Swallow** were had 3/25 at CR (MV). Three **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were seen 4/11 at TR (ST), while many **Barn Swallows** were reported 5/6 at BS (MVT). Two **American Pipit** were had 4/18 TR (MV), with four 5/2 at VS (RS), and a nice count of 13 on 5/8 at LR (MV). Two **Winter Wren** were singing loudly along the rushing creek at MM 4/30 (RN), and again 5/2 (ST).

Warbler reports started coming in mid to late Apr beginning with four **Yellow-throated Warblers** in some Sycamores 4/18 at Moravia (MV), and a **Palm Warber** among a flock of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at CR 4/29 (MV). RN made a nice survey 4/30 at MM, and spotted eight **Black-throated Green**, two **Cerulean Warblers**, two **Northern Parulas**, four **Yellow Warblers**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, and one **Louisiana Waterthrush**. Several Louisiana Waterthrush were seen and heard 5/2 at MM (ST), and a single **Louisiana Waterthrush** was also reported along Slippery Rock Creek 4/15 (SD). Warbler

reports continued with **Chestnut-sided, Blue-winged, Common Yellowthroat,** and **Ovenbird** in various locations in the county.

American Tree Sparrows were last reported 3/24 at BS (KD). **Chipping Sparrows** were prominent, and at least two **Field Sparrows** were calling, at BS 4/11 (ST). A pair of **White-crowned Sparrows** were calling 5/16 in the pines at the short road leading to the strip mine behind Black Road (ST), a somewhat reliable location for this species at this time of year. **Savannah** and **Henslow's Sparrows** were heard and seen 5/2 at VS (ST), with a nice count of six Henslow's there 5/6 (RN).

More than 100 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were reported at CO 3/7 (AH). **Eastern Meadowlarks** began to make their appearance in *Lawrence* at CO 3/7 (AH), and were spotted again in greater numbers at VS 3/21 and 3/22 (TM, SC). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** found in a pasture along Edwards Road 3/25 (MV) represented the only report for this species in this reporting period. A single **Bobolink** was reported 4/24 at VS (RS), but at least a dozen were present 5/2 (ST), and at least 40 counted there by 5/6 (RN, RS), right on schedule for this region despite the early warm weather. A brilliant **Purple Finch** male and two females were courting in the conifers at BS 4/11 (ST).

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Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Kreider Farm Pond on Mount Pleasant Road (KP), Lake Duffy (LD), Marquette Lake (ML), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Second Mountain Hawk watch (2nd Mtn), Shuey Lake (SL), SGL 145.

There are numerous highlights this spring including 16 early sightings. KP, dubbed "The Little Pond That Could" by *Juniata* compiler Chad Kauffman, produced many interesting shore bird sightings that attracted the attention of birders regionally. Up at FIG, DM the Assistant Wildlife Program Manager and staff kept our attention to the marsh birds at SL as well as many first-of-the-year sightings. As the new county compiler I was delighted by the diversity of sightings but was overwhelmed trying to organize them!

An average count of 141 species of 3447 individual birds for the PAMC 5/8 was due to the high winds that started around mid-day. Two new species were found: **Glossy Ibis** and **Yellow-throated Warbler**.

Snow Goose numbers peaked at 120,000 on 3/11 and **Tundra Swan** peaked at 2300 3/8 (MC staff). A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** at MC on 3/28-31 was a sixth county record (KR, DB, m.ob.). This bird was in the first pond after entering MC from Kleinfeltersville. To help end confusion of MC sightings, an eBird hotspot for the *Lebanon* portion was created by JB, an eBird administrator/editor. Please note that the county line on Hopeland Road falls roughly between the Willow Point Trail parking lot and the auto tour drive entrance road. Observations on the auto tour drive (excepting Sunnyside Drive) and around the lake as always should be recorded on the *Lancaster* side (JB). Tour Stop #3 is actually in *Lebanon*, but the county line is just a little south of the stop and sightings from there can be listed from either or both counties.

An **American Bittern** not observed every year, was found at FIG 4/9 (DM). **Great Egret** found at MLSP 3/21 was a first Mar record (SEH, EK, RS). A **Green Heron** on 3/27 at MLSP was a first Mar record (BJH). A **Glossy Ibis** made a quick stop at KP on 5/8 for a sixth county record (JH). An early **Osprey** on 3/19 at SGL 145 beats last years early date by 2 days (RCM, LM). **Mississippi Kite** at Route 22 and Coon Creek Road 5/13 is an eighth county record (TB). **Peregrine Falcon** 3/9 was on Burd Coleman Road, Cornwall (GB). **Virginia Rail** was found at SL on 4/23 (DM) and was last reported on 4/29 (DS). Marsh bird surveys at FIG on 4/20 recorded 4 **Soras** (DM, JD).

The **Sandhill Crane** that stayed around all winter at LD departed 4/11 (DD). This is the same bird that was seen 5/20-28/2009 on Spangler Road (PR). It then was found at LD 6/15/2009 (AA) and was seen regularly throughout the fall and winter (m.ob.). There were 2 **Mute Swans** that departed at the same time as the crane.

Here is a summary of shorebird sightings at KP. **Black-bellied Plover** set a new early date on 4/24 (RCM). Another individual was

found 5/20 (ME). **Greater Yellowlegs** arrived 12 days early on 3/19 (CB, RCM). On 4/25, an astonishingly large number of 48 **Willet** (DF, JH, JHo, RCM) furnished a second county record. No **Willet** were found at first light 4/26 (DDe, RCM) indicating how fleeting these birds are. **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/20 at KP was a good find away from the Susquehanna River (RK, RW, PW). Early were **Pectoral Sandpiper** 3/19 (RCM) and **Dunlin** 4/15 (DPW). A first Apr record **Short-billed Dowitcher** was 4/29 (PF, FB). A pair of **Wilson's Phalaropes** was found 5/3 for a fifth county record (CB, m.ob.). The female persisted until 5/5. One female **Wilson's** was present 5/19-20 for a sixth county record (CB, m. obs.). On 5/29 a seventh county record female **Wilson's** was found (TJ). A pair of **Red-necked Phalaropes** was found 5/19-20 for a third county record (CB, m.ob.) The female Wilson's was closely associated with the Red-necks for an interesting comparison.

The only **Bonaparte's Gull** sighting was 4/12 at MLSP (GK). A single **Eurasian-collared Dove** reappeared after a many-year absence in the county 5/31 south of KP near Rte. 322 (JH). The next day a pair was observed (RW, PW). Both cuckoos found 4/30 were early this year. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at SGL 145 (SH, RCM, LW) and **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at MLSP (PW, RW). Three **Short-eared Owls** were found at MC Auto Tour Stop #3 on 3/20 (PF, FB). This is a reliable location to find these rarer owls. TB heard the first **Whip-poor-will** on 5/1 at SGL 211 north of Green Point School Rd off the old Appalachian Trail. This was the first time this species was heard at this location in 15 years. **Chimney Swift** in Lebanon City on 4/14 was early by one day (RCM). This was the tenth species early date for the county this quarter. A singing **Alder Flycatcher** on 5/15 was in SGL 145 power line cut west of Pinch Road (RCM, DC). Early by about 2 weeks was **Eastern Kingbird** 4/3 near the intersections of Gingrich and Eckert Roads in S. Londonderry Township (RCM). Another kingbird was also found 4/3 on Black's Bridge Rd, Annville (DeDo). **White-eyed Vireo** 4/16 tied an early date set in 1992 (PW, RW). A first-of-the-year **House Wren** at LD 4/11 tied the early date (DW). A single **Marsh Wren** was found 4/23 at SL for a third county record (JD).

Brewster's Warbler was found 5/8 in the logged area along Cold Springs Road on the east side of Second Mountain (JH). **Golden-winged Warbler** 5/1 was early by one day at General Biddle Rd., SGL 145 (RCM). **Yellow-throated Warbler** 5/8 provided a 4th county record (GK). A brief song confirming **Prairie Warbler** 4/9 at FIG was a week early (DM). A **Hooded Warbler** at MLSP 4/23 was early by a few days (ME). **Wilson's Warbler** was early 5/1 at SGL 80 (GK). **Bobolink** was reported by several observers away from MC: SL and MLSP 5/3 (DM) and KP 5/4 (PF). **Rusty Blackbird** was only reported 3/25 (DB) and 4/8 (RCM), both times at LD.

Addendum: An **Eastern Meadowlark** found in the first quarter on 1/29 was a new early date (MRB).

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Lehigh County

Spring in *Lehigh* began with a warm, wet March; mean temperatures for the month were 6.7° F above the 30-year norm, and average daily precipitation was higher by +0.08 inches. Rain kept smaller bodies of water full, and melting snows kept the Lehigh River flowing hard. The deeper parts of Leaser Lake, drained in 2009, began to re-fill through the season. Precipitation in April and May was closer to average, but mean temps for these two months were a combined 4.15° F above the 30-year norm. Southwest winds and clear skies on the nights of 4/30 and 5/1 produced favorable conditions for birds and birders alike, resulting in a number of county firsts-of-season on the weekend of 5/1-2 (NOAA / National Weather Service data for Allentown,

archived at <<http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=phi>>). A total of 170 species was reported in *Lehigh* this spring. The PAMC took place on 5/9 (JL, compiler). Data from the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society database were very useful in preparing this report (LF, LVAS records chair).

Waterfowl were sparse this season. **Snow Geese** were largely absent from the county compared to recent winters, with no wintering flocks reported. A fly-over flock at South Whitehall Twp 3/10 was the only significant report (JH). A pair of **Northern Shovelers** was in North Whitehall 3/24 (ML), and a small flock of **Green-winged Teal** was in Upper Macungie Twp 4/3 to 5/1 (JH). In Slatington, a drake **American Wigeon** was a fly-by 3/16, and a lone drake **Bufflehead** associated with a flock of **Mallards** for at least a week, 4/19 to 4/25 (BE).

The only **Ruffed Grouse** report was near Bake Oven Knob 4/17 (JH). Small groups of **Common Loons** migrated over the Bake Oven Knob 4/18 (3, JT) and over Lehigh Furnace 4/24 (5, BEg). **Double-crested Cormorants** (2) first arrived in the county near Cementon 3/27 (ML). On 4/29, an **American Bittern** was flushed from a creek in Whitehall Twp. (KS). That evening, another (or maybe not...) American Bittern was seen migrating over Slatington (BE). The season's first **Osprey** was over the Whitehall Home Depot 4/4 (BH). **Bald Eagles** were reported regularly throughout the season. Nearly all reports were from three general areas: Allentown, Whitehall Twp., and Lehigh Gap in Washington Twp. In Allentown: a pair spent the winter near Lehigh Canal Park (MB). An immature eagle was near Fountain Hill 3/1 (ES), and adults were at Lehigh Canal Park as late as 5/2 and 5/9 (MB). In Whitehall: an adult Bald Eagle was seen 3/19, 4/16, then multiple times through 4/28 (ML). On 4/3, three adult Bald Eagles were observed from the bike path south of Laurys Station (BH). At Lehigh Gap an adult was noted 3/2, and an adult and a juvenile were seen in chase, then perched together 5/7 (BE). Up to three eagles were seen here 5/22 and 5/23 (CH). Breeding activity should be looked for in all three of the above locations. It should also be noted that many of the sightings above occurred near, on, or possibly ever-so-slightly over the county line at the middle of the Lehigh River, and could just as easily be attributed to *Northampton*. The only Bald Eagle report away from the Lehigh River was an adult flying low and hard over a youth soccer game in South Whitehall Twp. 5/15 (BE). In other raptor news, 30 **Broad-winged Hawks** migrated over Salisbury Twp. 4/16 (ES). Two days later, 96 were tallied over Bake Oven Knob (JT). The only report of **Merlin** was of three migrants over Lehigh Furnace 4/24 (BEg). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** was seen hunting at Lehigh Gap 3/5-7 (BE, JW). In Allentown, adult Peregrine Falcons were reported from the 2009 nesting location at the 8th Street bridge throughout the season, but no conclusive breeding activity was noted (MB, TW).

The most interesting shorebird reports came from the Air Products field in Upper Macungie (JH, BE). The flooded field held small numbers of several species from mid-Apr through mid May, including **Semipalmated Plover** 5/14-16 (3), **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/16 (3), both **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/17-5/16, **Least Sandpiper** 5/1-16, **Pectoral Sandpiper** 4/17-5/16 (max 4, 5/16), and **Wilson's Snipe** 4/17 (2). Elsewhere, **Greater Yellowlegs** (2) were in Whitehall 4/26 (ML), a **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at Leaser Lake 5/15 (FB), and **Wilson's Snipe** (2) were at Leaser Lake 4/13 (ML). **American Woodcock** was first reported 3/9 at Lehigh Gap (BE). The only notable gull was **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, with a high count of 14 at Dorney Pond 3/28 (JH); the last report was 6 Lessers at Salisbury 4/11 (JH, MB).

Cuckoos were hard to find this spring, apparently, with only a few **Yellow-billed** reports in the first days of May. There were also very few owl reports this season, but **Barred** and **Great Horned Owls** were heard below Bake Oven Knob 4/12 (BE). **Whip-poor-wills** appear to be doing well on Blue Mountain: a pre-dawn survey in Washington Twp, on 5/8 noted 15 birds calling (BH). Two more were reported from Lehigh Gap the same day (CH). In Salisbury, 120 **Chimney Swifts** 4/29 was a nice count; the species was first noted here 4/18 (ES). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at the usual location in Lynn Twp. 5/16 (JH). A definite PAMC highlight was an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** on South Mountain in Salisbury (MB). **Alder Flycatcher** was in Salisbury 5/16 (JH) and Heidelberg Twp 5/30-31 (BH); the latter appeared to be territorial. **Common Ravens** continued to be seen and heard along the stretch of the Lehigh River between Fountain Hill and the Bethlehem Steel furnaces in *Northampton*. Reports this spring came on 4/30, 5/1, 5/4, and 5/20 (MB, ES, KS).

Purple Martins had returned to the Slatendale colony by 4/3 (DA); high count for the colony was 23 on 5/29. A very early **Tree Swallow** was heard over Slatington 3/5 (BE). **Bank** and **Cliff Swallows** were first

reported 4/28 at Salisbury (ES), and the Bank Swallow colony in Upper Saucon Twp. was active with dozens of birds present by 5/2 (JH). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in Macungie 3/20 and 4/30 (BM, PM), at Trexlertown 3/25 (AS), at Hanover Twp. 4/22 (BE), and at Leaser Lake 5/1 (AS). **Swainson's Thrush** (3) was reported 5/11 at Macungie (BM, PM), and 5/22-26 at Salisbury (ES).

Thirty species of warblers were tallied in *Lehigh* this spring. **Tennessee Warbler** was at Macungie 5/10 (BM, PM), and several reports of this species came from Bake Oven Rd. and the Leaser Lake area 5/15-5/17 (m.ob.). Lone **Cape May Warblers** were at Macungie 5/5 and 5/13 (BM, PM), and Allentown 5/20 (BCM). **Pine Warbler** was scarce, with just one report from Trexlertown 3/25 (AS). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were along the river in Bethlehem 4/18 (AS) and 4/29 (KS), and in Allentown 5/3 (MB). **Bay-breasted Warblers** (2 max) were seen in an Allentown yard 5/16-5/20 (BCM), and 3 were found on Blue Mountain 5/17 (AS). **Blackpoll Warblers** seemed to arrive early (5/1, AS) and were widely reported—daily in certain locations—through at least 5/27. A total of 17 Blackpolls on the PAMC seems good for *Lehigh* at such an early date. Most **Cerulean Warbler** reports came from the Leaser Lake area beginning 5/1 (JH), but a single bird in Macungie 5/11 was surely a welcomed yard visitor (BM, PM). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at Leaser Lake 5/15 (FB), and a **Mourning Warbler** was at Macungie 5/10 (BM, PM). Notable misses for the county were Wilson's Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Our lone reports of **Fox Sparrow** (3/21) and **White-crowned Sparrow** (5/4) both came from Fountain Hill (ES). A **Blue Grosbeak** was back on territory in Lynn by 5/15 (FB), and another was reported from Heidelberg 5/22 (BW, DF). Elsewhere in Heidelberg, a Dickcissel was briefly seen and photographed 5/30, but not re-found (BH).

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Luzerne County

Locations: Francis Slocum State Park (FSSP), Harveys Lake (HL), Plains Flats (PF), Plymouth Fats (PLYF), Susquehanna River (SR).

The weather during the spring migration season was unusually warm which resulted in the season being advanced by at least two weeks. Many migrants apparently took advantage of the accelerated season and continued their migration rather than stopping. The spring migration count held on 5/8 proved to be one of the worst on record with only 127 species recorded (mostly resident breeders) due to rain and lighting followed by wind which was followed by even more wind as noted by our new county compiler Kevin Ripka.

Waterfowl started moving through the area in the first few days of Mar with thousands of **Snow** and **Canada Geese** seen flying over Dallas on 3/10 (EJ). Most reports of migrating ducks came from PLYF or PF as is expected. These top soil mining pits situated along the SR create ideal duck and shorebird habitat along a major river corridor with close proximity to farmland feeding areas. Good numbers of the following species were reported from 3/7-29 (dates in parenthesis indicate first sighting): **Redhead** (3/7, PLYF), **Green-winged Teal**, **Northern Pintail**, **American Wigeon**, **Ring-necked Duck**, (3/14, PLYF), **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded Merganser** (3/21, PLYF), **Blue-winged Teal** (3/29, PF) (KR, et al). HL is another traditional location for finding interesting waterfowl and this year brought 5 **Northern Shoveler** (4/9, RK, et al.), one **Surf Scoter** (5/3, KR et al.), one **Long-tailed Duck** (4/9, RK et al.) and one **Red-throated Loon** (4/8, KR et al.).

The first shorebird appeared 3/4, a **Killdeer** at PF, followed the next day by **American Woodcock** in Wyoming along Swetland Lane (KR, et al). **Wilson's Snipe** began appearing on 3/21 with birds seen at PLYF & PF (KR). Early April saw the first reports of **Greater Yellowlegs** with 2 seen at PLYF on 4/7 (RK). A wave of shorebirds came to the area 5/9 with at least five species not recorded the day before on the spring migration count. At PF there were **Semipalmated Plover**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Least Sandpipers**. In addition to the previously mentioned birds there were 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at PLYF (KR). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was

easily the best shorebird find of the season with one seen 5/12 at PLYF (KR). On the same day there were also 15 **Dunlin**, 6 **Semipalmated Plovers**, one **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, 17 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, 25 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 4 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 75 **Least Sandpipers**, 8 **Spotted Sandpipers** and 10 **Solitary Sandpipers**. This was quite a nice mix of shorebirds for our county and really nice to see all in one afternoon. The last shorebird of note was a lone **Sanderling** found and photographed at FSSP on 5/15 (BT).

In addition to the shorebirds reported on 5/12 from PLYF there was a **Common Tern** and a **Black Tern** present (KR, RK). A single **Forster's Tern** was seen 5/15 during a Big Day (RK, SGa, JH) and 2 **Black Terns** were found at HL on 5/3 (RK, et al.).

A **Sedge Wren** was seen and heard singing on 5/13 in Dorrance Twp. on private land (RK). This bird was most likely a migrant since it wasn't in typical habitat and subsequent visits were not productive in relocating the wren.

Cerulean Warbler was first reported at the PA Fish & Boat Commission Access near Shickshinny 4/24 (RK) and an active nest was located 5/15 (RK, SGa, JH). One of the more interesting warbler sightings was of a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Lake Catalpa 4/22 (KR). **Cape May Warbler** numbers continue to show an upward trend with numerous reports from several different people (SGa, et al.). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found in Kirby Park on 5/12 (SGa). This species is not reported very often in the county and perhaps due to its drabness it's overlooked.

Interestingly we had some reports of "winter birds" reported during the period even though they were missed for the most part during the winter season. There were 12+ **Snow Buntings** seen at the PLYF on 3/14 (KR) and a small flock of **Pine Siskins** that visited a feeder in Pikes Creek on 3/26 (DP). A **Purple Finch** was seen and heard singing on 4/8 in Trucksville (RK).

Observers: **Jim Hoyson, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA 18708, (570) 696-4925, birdder@aol.com**, Stan Galenty (SGa), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Ed Johnson, Rick Koval, Deb Petroski, Kevin Ripka, Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

Lycoming County

Locations: Muncy Creek (MC), Picture Rocks (PR), Susquehanna River (SR), Washington Township (WT).

The county's first confirmed record of **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was found on Lycoming Creek 4/10 (TF, DF, SP, NF). This bird was well-photographed and observed several times. Another county first, a **Black Vulture** nest was found in early May in Limestone Twp (WE, MM). Although **Black Vultures** are increasing in north-central Pennsylvania and have been seen annually for a number of years within the county, this nest site is over 75 miles north of the closest nest documented during the 2nd PBBA.

Extraordinary was the report of a single **Cattle Egret**, photographed perched on a fence in Muncy 5/12 (SB). Up to 9 **Double-crested Cormorants** were on the SR at Muncy from 4/11-29 (WE). An adult **Bald Eagle** was on MC in Picture Rocks 4/7 (DH) and 4/8 (WE), and an immature was there 4/16 (WE).

Seasonal firsts and other reports by WE include: a pair of **Wood Ducks** in Shrewsbury Twp. 3/27, a pair of **Hooded Mergansers** on MC near the river in Muncy 4/25, and a lone **Common Nighthawk** roosting in a tree in Muncy Creek Twp. 5/27. At PR (unless otherwise listed), first **Osprey** 4/1, and seen on MC through 5/2, **Tree** and **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** 4/2, **Killdeer** 3/7, **Turkey Vultures** 3/7, **Fish Crow** in Muncy 3/3 and then 26 were seen moving north in the rain and snow 3/30. On 5/13 in Shrewsbury Twp., first **Warbling Vireo**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, **Dark-eyed Junco**, **Indigo Bunting**, and **Baltimore Oriole**, and on 5/16 in Muncy Creek Twp., **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, **Least Flycatcher**, **Great Crested Flycatcher**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Wood Thrush**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, and **White-crowned Sparrow**. At PR, **Red-winged Blackbird** 3/9, **Brown-headed Cowbird** 3/11, **Common Grackle** 3/6, and **White-throated Sparrows** were observed from 3/15-5/2 and **Fox Sparrows** in Shrewsbury Twp. 3/27.

House Wren and **Wood Thrush** were heard several days prior to 5/5. On 5/5 **Orchard Oriole**, both male and female, **Baltimore Oriole** eating tent caterpillar off black cherry, and **Ovenbird** arrived (LW).

In WT, a **Brewster's Warbler** sang for an hour in a brushy backyard habitat 5/8 and a singing migrant **Wilson's Warbler** was seen briefly 5/17 (DB).

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McKean County

No compiler.

Mercer County

Locations: Lake Wilhelm (LW), Nicklin Lane (NL), Poole Rd. (PR), Shenango River Reservoir (SRR).

Tundra Swan were noted 3/9-20, with none stopping at SRR. Parts of the shallow eastern end of SRR thawed enough to support 33 **Wood Duck**, 4 **Gadwall**, 10 **American Black Duck**, 44 **Northern Pintail**, 10 **Green-winged Teal**, 17 **Canvasback** and both **Scaup** 3/11 (MV). A pair of **Long-tailed Duck** 3/23 at LW were probably part of a major fallout of this species in the state (NT). **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, all 3 mergansers and **Ruddy Duck** were also present at SRR 3/9-27.

The **Osprey** saga continues. A pair returned to the new raised nesting platform on the Rte. 18 causeway over SRR 3/18. After three weeks of activity this nesting attempt failed. Then a lengthy pause, and now a second try is underway as of this writing. A new **Bald Eagle** nest site was discovered in West Salem Twp. 3/20 (NM).

The presence of **Sandhill Crane** continues in the southern part of the county. **American Woodcock** arrived 3/8, a **Great Black-backed Gull** flew over Williamson Road 4/15, and several **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were observed at SGL 130 (NT).

A total of 31 species of warblers were recorded. NT writes that a male **Golded-winged Warbler** sang both the alternate song of a Blue-winged and the normal Golden-winged 5/13 at NL. He also got a female **Prairie Warbler** (rare here) at PR 5/6. Unrecorded were Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned, Yellow throated, Worm-eating, Connecticut and Yellow-breasted Chat. **Dark-eyed Junco** cleared during out the first week of Apr, but was on territory 5/28 at SGL 130 (NT). A male **American Goldfinch** became trapped in a feeding station at Williamson Road. It was freed and released, but not before its leg band was read. It was banded 5/10/2009 at Dry Lake NR in Clanbrassil, Ontario, Canada and recovered in Mercer 10/4/2009. One male Evening Grosbeak showed up in Farrell 3/21 (NM).

OBSERVERS: **Marty McKay, 841 E. Lake Rd., Transfer, PA, 16154, (724) 962-7476**, Harriett Bauer, Suzanne Butcher, Lynne Doolan, Nancy Mutdosh, Steve Sanford, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Neil Troyer, Ruth Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Mark Vass.

Mifflin County

There was a large waterfowl passage over the Jack's Mt. Hawk Watch 3/10, with 3200 **Canada Geese** and 310 **Tundra Swans** counted during a three hour period (GG). Two light-phase **Rough-legged Hawks** were found in Honey Creek Valley, near Reedsville 3/5 (BF, IF, JL). A nice shorebird fallout in a muddy field along Waynesburg Rd. 5/12 included 40 **Least Sandpipers** and 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** (GG).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were found near their usual area on Kanagy Rd. near Belleville 5/8 (JD). A flock of 60 **American Pipits** was on Kanagy Rd. 5/12 (GG).

Observers: **Greg and Deb Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg Pa. 16669, 814 667 2305, gwg2@psu.edu, dsq4@psu.edu**, Jim Dunn, Bob Fowles, Ingrid Fowles, Jim Lukens.

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware State Forest (DSF), Delaware Water Gap National

Recreation Area (DWGNRA), Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC).

The season was marked by periods of unseasonably warm temperatures, especially in mid-March, early April, and again in early May.

Snow Geese were moving north 3/11, with scattered flocks totaling about 1000 birds seen over MCEEC (DS). A **Wood Duck** started egg laying late Mar in a MCEEC nest box, with the hen incubating a clutch of 15 eggs 4/19 (BH). **Hooded Merganser** nested in a box for the third year in a row at MCEEC. Two eggs were in the box 3/18 with the female incubating a full clutch 3/31; hatching occurred in the first week of May (BH).

An **American Woodcock**, seen walking across twelve inches of snow, was early at DSF's Meesing site 3/1 (BH).

A scolding chickadee alerted JS and his snowshoeing group to a roosting **Northern Saw-whet Owl** in a stand of young white pines at Skytop 3/7. The first report of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was from Brodheadsville 4/25 (DG). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a good find by a birding group 5/16 at the swamp at DWGNRA's headquarters in Bushkill (DS, JS); this is a reliable location for this migrant. The **White-eyed Vireo** at Cherry Valley 4/30 was a bit on the early side (JS), and the **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Tobyhanna 5/15 (JS) was the only report received of this uncommon migrant.

First arrivals of **Northern Parula** and **Black-throated Green Warblers** were reported from the Freeman Tract Road in DWGNRA 4/16 (JW). The only **Wilson's Warbler** report received was from Tobyhanna 5/15 (JS). **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** were in Cherry Valley 5/16 by DS and JS and their birding group. **Bobolinks** also continued in their Long Pond stronghold this spring (DS).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Dennis Giffels, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Jim Wilson, Rick Wiltraut.

Montgomery County

Locations: Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Haverford College (HC), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Frederick Township (UFT), Upper Gwynedd Township (UGT), Upper Hanover Township (UHT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The spring season 2010 brought above average temperatures and below average precipitation in *Montgomery*. Good ice cover on area lakes quickly vanished as temperatures rose in early March.

The waterfowl migration could best be termed disappointing, with only 21 species reported, and most of these in small numbers. Ice cover on GLR (and elsewhere) disappeared in less than one week, allowing many species to pass by undetected. Our best species was undoubtedly 2 **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Church Road, GLR on 3/10-11 (KC, GF). A **Cackling Goose** was present there 3/11-16. (KC). A high count of 1090 **Snow Geese** flew over Walt Road, GLR 3/7 (GAF). Five **Tundra Swans** were at Walt Road 3/11, marking our only report (KC). Dabbling duck numbers were extremely low during the spring. **Northern Pintail** reached a high count of 55 at Walt Road, GLR 3/9, and **Green-winged Teal** peaked at 16 at Church Road 3/21 (JG). Two **Northern Shovelers** were at Walt Road 3/24 (GAF), and a lone **Blue-winged Teal** was seen at UPVP 3/19 (RG). Diving ducks were also in short supply, with high counts of 54 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/9 and 71 **Common Mergansers** 3/7, both from Walt Road, GLR (GAF). Among diving ducks not reported were Canvasback, Redhead, Common Goldeneye, Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser.

Common Loons achieved a high count of 10 at Walt Road 4/8, and 3 **Pied-billed Grebes** were there 3/29 (GAF). **Double-crested Cormorants** reached a maximum of 71 at Walt Road 4/15 (GAF). A **Great Blue Heron** was carrying nesting material near NFP 4/21, but its destination was not certain (KC). An immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Walt Road, GLR 5/22 (GAF). On the evening of 3/19, a whopping 137 **Black Vultures** flew over a UCV backyard (KC). The birds were flying east-northeast at roughly 100 feet above ground, and the procession passed in under ten minutes.

Raptors of note included a male and a female **Northern Harrier** at Church Road, GLR 3/4 (KC, GAF), and a male at Walt Road 4/6 (GAF).

Green Lane's **Bald Eagles** hatched a single egg on 3/20 (m.ob.). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was along Knight Road, GLR 3/2, and a **Merlin** was at Church Road the same day (GAF). A late **Merlin** was at UPVP 4/30 (RG).

A nice mixture of shorebirds was found at Church Road, GLR 5/1. In the group were a **Greater Yellowlegs**, 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs**. 2 **Solitary Sandpipers**, 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** and 8 **Least Sandpipers** (GAF, KC). Single **Wilson's Snipe** were found at NFP 3/2 and 4/18 (KC) and Walt Road, GLR 3/23 (GAF). **American Woodcock** were seen at Church Road, GLR 3/14 (KC) and 3/19 (JG), and another at NFP 3/31 (KC). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** reached a maximum of 11 at Church Road 3/4, marking the only noteworthy gull report (GAF). Single **Black Terns** were at Walt Road 5/13 and 5/15 (GAF).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos appeared scarce with single birds calling in the UCV 5/2-3, making our only report for the species. **Common Nighthawk** numbers peaked at 6 birds at Walt Road 5/15 (GAF).

A **Common Raven** was heard only being mobbed by **American Crows** at Green Lane Nature Center 3/6 (KC) and one was seen over a UVC backyard 4/5 (KC, MC). Swallows had a good showing this spring, with 3 **Purple Martins** in the UVC 5/10, and 3 more were at Knight Road, GLR later that day (KC, MC). **Bank Swallows** reached a high of 80 and **Cliff Swallows** numbered 30 at Walt Road, GLR 5/12. These were among a total of roughly 600 swallows found that day (GAF).

An **American Pipit** at Gwynedd Preserve 4/18 was our only report (AJM). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** reached a high of 3 at Walt Road 4/18 (GAF). A **Brown Creeper** at HC 3/19 our only report (SJ). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was first noted at Walt Road 3/4 (GAF) and last reported at Green Lane Nature Center 4/30(KC). A **Veery** in UHT 5/23 marked our only report (JG). **Swainson's Thrushes** were located in UCV (GAF). Haverford College (SJ), and UHT (JG). A **Hermit Thrush** was found at Walt Road 3/21. (GAF). **Brown Thrasher** reports came from Church Road, Walt Road, UPVP, and UVC (GAF, KC).

A total of 25 warbler species were reported, but all in very low numbers. Best among the group were **Tennessee Warbler** 5/8 at HC (SJ), **Nashville Warbler** 5/4 in UCV (GAF), **Magnolia Warbler** from both UCV and HC (KC, SJ), **Blackburnian Warbler** at HC 5/16, **Yellow-throated Warbler** at UPVP 4/11-5/7 (RG), **Bay-breasted Warbler** at HC 5/15 (SJ), **Northern Waterthrush** from Walt Road 4/27 (GAF) and HC 5/6 (SJ), **Kentucky Warbler** at Meng Preserve in Limerick (JG) and **Wilson's Warbler** at HC 5/16 (SJ).

Sparrows of note included 2 **Savannah Sparrows** at HC 4/30, an unusual species for that location (SJ). Two **Fox Sparrows** were at Knight Road, GLR 3/14 and one was at HC 3/20 (SJ).

Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at Church Road 4/11 (GAF), and another 4/25(KC). An **Orchard Oriole** was early in the UCV 4/30 (KC). After a lean winter for winter finches regionally, **Purple Finches** visited a UFT feeder from 3/1-4/10, eventually reaching a max of 13 birds (RG).

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Montour County

No report.

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Northampton County

Locations: Bear Swamp (BS), Green Pond (GP), Jacobsburg State Park (JSP), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Minsi Lake (MS), Williams Township (WT).

It was a rather good spring for birders to search *Northampton*. Topping a big list was a county first **White-winged Dove**. Waterfowl variety was good but numbers small. Habitat was great for shorebirds and early spring gulls, particularly at Green Pond, yet large numbers of gulls as in previous years did not show. Shorebird numbers were average. There was a good variety of warbler species found but in low numbers with maybe the exception of **Blackpoll Warbler**. A list of 197 species were found for the period in this county.

An adult **Ross's Goose** was among 20,000 **Snow Geese** at Nazareth Quarry 3/11 (MS). Another **Ross's Goose** was with **Snow Geese** in Hecktown 3/13 (DW). Nazareth Quarry also hosted a **Cackling Goose** 3/9 (MS). Three **Tundra Swans** spent a morning at GP 3/10 (MS). GP also hosted **American Wigeon**, **American Black Duck**, **Blue-winged** and **Green-winged Teal**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, **Ring-necked Duck**, and **Wood Duck**. A male **Blue-winged Teal** lingered at GP to 5/26 and appeared to have an injured wing (DD). There was a single male **Redhead** and **Long-tailed Duck** at Nazareth Quarry 3/17 (MS). There were 2 **Redhead** at MCEP 4/1 (AS). At ML 4/26-27, a **Red-throated Loon** was amongst **Common Loons** (KS, SK, MS). A **Horned Grebe** was at ML 3/20 and 4/16 (AS) and a **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/17 (DA).

There was an adult **Great Cormorant** at Martins Creek Quarry 3/7 (MS). A rare find for the county was an **American Bittern** at E. Bangor Dam 4/21 (AS). It was relocated 4/26 (MS). At GP, a **Great Egret** was seen 4/2-4 (DD) and on 5/9 (MS) with 3 the latter date. A **Snowy Egret** was in the Grist Mill area of Hellertown 5/3. The first **Osprey** report was of a pair at a cell tower nest by the Belvidere bridge 3/25 (L&JS). A kettle of 68 **Broad-winged Hawks** was over WT 4/16 (AK). Along the powerline at BS were a vocal pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** 3/11 (AS). A fly-by **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen near Little Gap 3/20. There was a **Merlin** hunting the fields at the Koch farm 4/28.

At School Rd near Bangor HS there was a **Virginia Rail** 4/6 (AS). A **Sora** was at the same location 4/21 (AS). For the second year in a row, a **Common Moorhen** was found at a pond on Gremar Rd. in Lower NazarethTwp. (BW) 4/30. It continued until at least 5/12 (MS). A fly-by **Sandhill Crane** was over Plainfield Twp 3/22 (AS). Shorebirds that stopped to feed and rest at the flooded fields by GP included **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary** and **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated**, **Least**, **White-rumped** (5/8-9) and **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Dunlin**, **Killdeer**, **Black-bellied Plover** (4 on 5/22, DD), **Semipalmated Plover**, and **Wilson's Snipe**. An early **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at GP 4/2 (DD). Very rare in the county was an **Upland Sandpiper** at Graver's Hill 4/24-25 (DW,CH). A high count of 7 **Dunlin** was made at GP 5/14 (DD). **American Woodcock** were reported displaying in late Mar at BS.

On 3/9, there were 8 **Bonaparte's Gulls** and 45 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at ML (AS). A few **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at GP 4/9 (DA) and at MCEP 5/3 (MS). There were 18 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at GP 4/29. Three **Forster's Terns** were reported from ML 4/11. A **Black Tern** was seen at GP 5/14 (DD). Then on 5/15, possibly the same **Black Tern** was at Gremar Rd. (AH).

I don't remember ever mentioning doves before in my report so I am glad to report the counties first **White-winged Dove** stopping briefly at a feeder at the Koch farm in WT on 5/23 (AK). Continuing with doves, on that same day, an **African Collared-Dove** (likely an escaped bird) was seen on a wire on Leithsville Rd., Hellertown (BW, DF). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported from Jacobsburg SP in May (KS). **Barred Owls** were reported from E Bangor Dam and BS. A **Common Nighthawk** was flying around over the planted grasses on the Blue Mt. above Danielsville 5/24 (MS). This species has nested here in the past so maybe this wasn't a migrant. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed on Morgan Hill in WT 5/17.

Flycatchers may be one of the more intriguing groups to search out and all the expected species were located in the county. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at the Koch farm 5/21 (AK). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported from BS 5/27 (AS) and at Gracedale 5/22 (MS). **Alder** and **Acadian Flycatchers** were at BS where they nest each year. Uncommon in the spring is **Philadelphia Vireo** and one was found in WT 5/21 (AK). Unusual away from the Blue Mt. was a pair of **Common Ravens** at Sand Island, Bethlehem 5/27. **Purple Martins** returned to their nesting site on Driftwood Rd in E Allen Twp. 4/26 (DW). A few early **Bank Swallows** were at ML 4/16 (AS). There was a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Monacacy Nature Center 4/22 (DW). Some early arrival dates were for **House Wren** on 4/9 at Monacacy Nature Center, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** in Roseto 3/23 (AS), and **Brown Thrasher** at MCEP 3/27 (ASm). The woods along National Park Dr. hosted a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and 2 **Swainson's Thrushes** 5/18 (MS). An **American Pipit** was seen along Beacon Rd., Moore Twp. 3/4.

Birders found 30 species of warblers during the period. An early **Blue-winged Warbler** was at Monacacy Nature Center 4/22 (DW). A **Cape May Warbler** was found at JSP 5/2 (DW). On 4/6, there was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at the Bethlehem Boat Club (ASm), a traditional nesting area. In Bethlehem Twp., a **Pine Warbler** was found 3/21. **Blackpoll Warblers** were reported in numerous locations

especially the third week in May. There was a **Louisiana Waterthrush** at JSP 4/3 (ASm). **Kentucky Warbler** was seen in Bangor 5/2 (AS) and at JSP on 5/2 (DW). The bird at JSP returned for its third year. The **Yellow-breasted Chat** at JSP returned on 5/6 (MS).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** first reported in WT on 1/21 was still present 5/1 (AK). It was observed copulating with a **Chipping Sparrow** 4/22. Another **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at JSP 5/8 (KS, SK). Several **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at JSP 5/10 (RW) and another was in WT 5/8 (AK). Some other early arrival dates were **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 4/25 and **Orchard Oriole** 4/28 in WT (AK) and a **Baltimore Oriole** 4/4 in Bethlehem.

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Northumberland County

No compiler.

Perry County

Locations: Hemlocks Natural Area (HNA), Little Buffalo State Park (LB), Miller's Gap (MG), Pine Hill Road (PH), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF), Warm Springs Road (WS).

Migration was fairly unremarkable this spring. Nice weather with clear, cool nights in May did not produce many nice migrant flocks. All observations are by the compiler, unless otherwise noted.

Both **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers** were found on Sherman's Creek along Warm Springs Road on the PAMC 5/8. Both species have bred at this location and apparently are continuing to do so. A dark ibis was seen flying away 5/20 near Blain. The observer attempted to follow the bird for a better look, but was unsuccessful. A rather late **Osprey** was seen at LB 5/25 (CK).

The only **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** report was one at MG 5/6. This species has been downright rare this season. Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, always a treat in the county, were seen west of Liverpool during a CREP survey 5/21. The first **Blue-headed Vireo** was found at PH 4/6. A nice variety of swallows was found at LB 5/8 including 10 **Bank Swallows** and 2 **Cliff Swallows**. An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing on Pfoutz Valley Road on 5/21.

Two **Golden-winged Warblers** and one **Kentucky Warbler** were found on Bryner Road 5/7. A **Cape May Warbler**, always a nice find, was found 5/6 at MG. A singing **Mourning Warbler** was a nice find for the PAMC 5/8 at WS. The migration count also produced some good warbler totals in TSF: 21 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, 44 **Blackburnian Warblers**, 56 **American Redstart**, 29 **Hooded Warblers** and 104 **Ovenbirds**. A **Lincoln's Sparrow**, always a tough spring migrant in the county, was seen 5/6 at MG.

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Philadelphia County

Locations: Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Darby Creek (DC), Delaware River (DR), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Naval Business Center (aka Navy Yard) (NBC), Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/8 (PAMC), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

The 2010 spring migration was relatively strong in mid-April, but other than a few good days in May, it didn't get many rave reviews. Your compiler was temporarily wheel-chair bound for the entire season and missed the many verbal reports and personal observations that normally round out this report. The seasonal chart also reflects limited

contacts and observations. A report of note was a **Chuck-will's-widow** heard calling around 18:00 (!) at TI 5/20 by two birders from Cape Henlopen, where the species is common (AB).

The PAMC 5/8 tallied only 115 species. The warbler total of 22 species (of which five were single birds!) had a high of 65 **Blackpoll Warbler** on that relatively early date, exceeded only by 147 **Yellow Warbler**. Even allowing for several inexcusable 'misses' of breeders such as **Peregrine Falcon**, **Field Sparrow**, and **Acadian Flycatcher**, etc., we did not come close to a good total, around 135 species.

Snow Goose was reported as usual in low numbers from 3/20 with one bird lingering on the DR until 5/27 (FW). **Wood Duck** arrived at POD 3/5 (FW) while at TI returning birds found new nest boxes recently installed to replace those removed several years ago. **American Black Duck** continue to be reported in low numbers with a high count of 45 at TI (TF) instead of the hundreds usually found on the DR. Two **Blue-winged Teal** were in the Tacony Creek area 3/25 (MW), but all other reports came from TI 4/5-27. At TI acres of wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*) continue to increase and extend farther north up Darby Creek and even into the impoundment. Its decline and ultimate extirpation from TI thirty years ago is the reason most often given for why teal no longer nest in *Philadelphia*. Will the return of large stands of wild rice attract teal as breeders? Time will tell. Our most common dabblers, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, **Green-winged Teal**, and **Gadwall**, were present, but in declining numbers. Suggesting that our dabblers now leave "earlier" than in the past, as observers report, could simply mean that when one small flock of ducks gets up and migrates, there are no others remaining.

The areas where **Canvasback** have been observed, EPR and the Pennypack St. basin of the Baxter Water Treatment Plant, have very limited access, so 21 **Canvasback** on 3/21 were a welcome sight (FW). It's always fun to watch divers such as **Ring-necked Duck**, driven out by the deep freezes in Feb., return in good numbers at EPR, FDR, TI and the DR. A **Lesser Scaup** 5/10-11 was a late find at TI (TF, HM). A **White-winged Scoter** was spotted flying south on the DR 3/6 (FW). Three **Common Goldeneye**, a diver which is increasingly hard to find, were a high count on 3/9. One **Red-breasted Merganser** lingered at POD 4/26-27 (FW). **Common Loon** were reported over TI in early May and a breeding plumage bird was on the DR 5/23 (FW). A **Horned Grebe** was at the Frankford Arsenal boat ramp 5/8 (JS). One hundred **Double-crested Cormorant**, about half the record high for TI, impressed birders 4/19 (m.ob.). The last **Great Cormorant** of the season was reported 3/26 (FW). A single **Least Bittern** was seen in the lagoons near the Trolley bed, where they nested last year, and from the main boardwalk (MD, FW).

The **Osprey** seen daily at TI are probably birds from an active nest in Lester, *Delaware*, the closest known nest which I found two years ago. But there could be a closer nest which we are unable to access. **Bald Eagle** nests produced four chicks, one of which successfully fledged. At TI a pair (presumably the same pair or at least one of the parents) of **Cooper's Hawk** returned to nest within 10 feet of their 2008 nest site and raised three chicks. A least one **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen or heard in early May at the NBC (DBeer) and at TI (SC).

One or possibly 2 **Virginia Rail** were heard at TI 4/18 (MD). When MD returned to look for the rail, 2 **Virginia Rail** were indeed seen and photographed 4/25 (MD, DBeer). Like **Blue-winged Teal**, **Virginia Rail** also used to breed at TI, but I suspect their demise was the result of structural changes to the marsh vegetation rather than the dearth of wild rice as a food source since they consume a high percentage of animal food while breeding and only increase their plant intake in fall and winter as they migrate. **American Coot** was most numerous at FDR until mid-March, but **Common Moorhen** was not reported in the county.

An attempt to draw down the impoundment at TI failed when extreme heat decreased the dissolved oxygen to dangerously low levels and then a series of intense rain events brought water levels back to normal. In the past, the low water and mud flats attracted thousands of shorebirds and many hundreds of herons and egrets. The FWS staff have indicated a desire to have a yearly drawdown in the future much to the delight of birders who remember the Ruff, the Hudsonian Godwit, and thousands of shorebirds seen in past draw downs.

Most observations of shorebirds come from the DR at POD when the tide is low and mudflats are exposed. Only nine species of peeps were found. On 4/26 a **Ruddy Turnstone** at POD was unique and **Wilson's Snipe** were reported 3/18-4/26 (FW). **American Woodcock** have been illusive at TI. The annual schedule of evening "woodcock walks" at TI found no "peenting" or dancing woodcock. Next door to TI in the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority property, aka "the

Eastwick Property," at least 5 **American Woodcock** were heard and seen 3/6 (MD) from the southern end of Lindbergh Blvd. The **Barred Owl** living in and around CW was seen and heard through 5/4 (EB, LG)

I received more reports of **Common Nighthawk** than usual. Prior to the "safe dates" for breeding confirmation, there were numerous reports from the sports stadia in south Philly (MS), from Manayunk Canal 5/16 (KJ), from 9th & South St. almost every night in May (TC), and roosting in the willow trees along the dike at TI to the delight of bird watchers on 5/9 (PR). Many of these birds could be migrants, but some had to be breeders. We just don't have the summer breeding reports of this species whose numbers have declined in *Philadelphia*. In addition to the **Chuck-will's-widow** report above, a **Whip-poor-will** was heard in Germantown 5/4 (PS).

Eastern Bluebird nested in boxes at the recently restored Houston Meadow in the Bells Mills area of Philly's northwest section. This is the first time I received three reports from Houston Meadows. Fairmount Park staff have overseen the removal of invasive plants and the restoration of appropriate grassy meadows with the expectation that new bird species will be attracted. Please check this new birding spot out and let me know what you see. There was one report of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** on 5/21 in the Millbrook section of northeast Philly (PS). The spring window for **Swainson's Thrush** was a normal 5/9-25 although a few of us thought they were late and relatively scarce.

Among the 27 species of warbler reported were **Tennessee Warbler**, seen for a week 5/9-15, a possible breeding **Northern Parula** at Houston Meadow 6/26 (AA) and a **Cape May Warbler** at Lemon Hill Mansion 5/4 (LW) and at Bartram's Garden on 5/8 (MD). Two early sightings were a **Prairie Warbler** 4/8 and a **Black-and-white Warbler** 4/14 both at TI (TF). **American Redstart** nested for the second year at TI where 13 **Northern Waterthrush** were a high count on 5/5 (FW). Several years ago after losing the last breeding **Kentucky Warbler** SCEE attempted to restore their nesting habitat which was overrun by invasive plants but the species has not returned. That history led to birders' excitement when in the Pennypack at Krewstown & Veree Rds. a **Kentucky Warbler** sang from 5/7-6/16 possibly as a breeder or perhaps as an unattached male (FW). Its mate was not seen. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported from CW 5/5 (MW).

A **Blue Grosbeak** was in the Spring Lane section of the city on the PAMC (JS). **Savannah Sparrow** was common in the grassy fields along the DR 4/6-5/12 and also was at TI 4/20 (TF). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was first reported 5/8, but a long staying bird was at POD 5/14-20 (FW). **White-throated Sparrow** presumably departed 5/12, but an enthusiastic male was singing in Harper's Meadow 6/12 (AA). **Dark-eyed Junco** remained until at least 5/4 (TF) and **Bobolink** were so abundant in the recently restored grasslands at the Saul Agricultural High School in Roxborough that Chuck Hetzel was sure they would stay to nest. Alas, they did not. An **Eastern Meadowlark** probably bred at the Northeast Airport (access limited) where it sang 3/22-5/8 (FW). One last **Rusty Blackbird** was reported from the Tacony section 5/24 (MW). A **Purple Finch** was reported from Andorra Natural Area 5/16 (AA).

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Pike County

No compiler.

Potter County

No report.

Compiler: **David Hauber, RR 2 Box 153, Coudersport, PA 16915, (814) 274-8946, haubers3@penn.com.**

Schuylkill County

No compiler.

Snyder County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Forest (BESF), Faylor Lake (FL), Walker Lake (WL).

Twenty **Tundra Swans** 3/7 (DG) and, two **Trumpeter Swans** 3/23 were reported at FL (AT, DT). A single **Snow Goose** was noted at FL 3/16 (CK). Two **Northern Pintails** and about 60 **Ring-necked Ducks** were among the species observed at FL 3/16 (CK). On 3/21, 12 **Greater Scaup**, 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, and one **American Coot** were present here (JW). Five **Green-winged Teal**, 2 **Blue-winged Teal**, 5 **Wood Ducks**, 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, and 8 **Horned Grebes** were among the species reported 3/23 at FL; and 3 **American Wigeons**, 2 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, and 3 **Common Loons** were at WL (AT, DT, LT). A single **Common Loon** was still at WL 4/2 (P&RW). On 4/2 **Tundra Swan**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Ruddy Duck**, and **Pied-billed Grebe**, were among the species noted at FL (P&RW). Three **Ruddy Ducks** were also present at FL 5/2 (P&RW).

Double-crested Cormorants were found at both FL and WL through much of the quarter (m.obs.). A single **Great Egret** was at FL 4/2 (P&RW). Two **Black Vultures** were observed south of Middleburg 3/6 (JW). An immature **Bald Eagle** was observed at both FL and WL 3/23, "not sure if it was the same bird" (AT, DT, LT).

At the SGL 188 Wetlands 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** and one **Pectoral Sandpiper** were observed 5/2 (P&RW). A **Dunlin** was found at FL 5/22 (MD) and a **Solitary Sandpiper** was there 5/30 (CK, MT). Five **American Woodcock** were found at WL 3/16 (CK). **Wilson's Snipe** was found along Walker Lake Rd. 5/2 (P&RW). While kayaking on FL 5/22, a **Sandhill Crane** was found with some Canada Geese (MD). The Sandhill was observed again at this location 5/29 (DU). A single **Bonaparte's Gull** was observed at FL 4/15 (P&RW).

A **Least Flycatcher** was found at FL 5/29 (CK). Two **Purple Martins** were reported at the Mahantango Orchard Farm 5/3 and a single **Cliff Swallow** was observed over the Renard Rd. farm fields 5/2 (P&RW). Two **Cliff Swallows** were also observed at WL 5/30 (CK, MT).

A **Swainson's Thrush** was reported near Hummels Wharf 5/15 (JW). A **Northern Parula** was reported near the shale bank along Shale Pit Rd. and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at the "sunken" bridge at the Middle Creek inlet to FL 5/29 (CK). A drive along Hunter Rd. atop of Jack's Mt. from Rt. 235 to Short Mt. Rd. 5/30, and within the BESF, yielded a nice variety of warblers and woodland birds including **Black-throated Green**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Magnolia**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Blackburnian**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Hooded**, and **Worm-eating Warblers**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, and **Veery** (DG).

Renard Rd. near Port Ann has been a good spot for farmland sparrows. Both **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrow** was found there 4/15 (P&RW) and a **Vesper Sparrow** was observed 5/30 (DG). A **Fox Sparrow** was at the Mahantango Orchard Farm near Oriental 4/2 (KC). One **Rusty Blackbird** was found at FL 5/2 (P&RW).

Observers: **Richard Williams**, 3 **Parkside Dr.**, **Hummelstown, PA 17036**, (717) 566-6562, **RWPuffin@aol.com**, Kay Cramer, Michael Dreese, Deborah Grove, Chad Kauffman, Aden Troyer, David Troyer, Leroy Troyer, Marvin Troyer, Don Ulrich, Jason Weller, Patricia Williams.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Confluence Area (CA), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills Area (SMA), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

The cold, snowy winter held on until mid-March and then the ice melted rapidly. On 3/16, SL was still 98% frozen and it was felt some waterfowl migration passed over without putting down. Most noteworthy were a pair of **Sandhill Cranes** returning with a probable breeding attempt and a three week visit to SL by an unbanded **Trumpeter Swan**.

The second **Trumpeter Swan** to have visited the county was an unbanded, apparently young bird first detected at SL (JM, MM). Digiscope pictures of head morphology were taken by CP 5/9 and a report was sent to PORC. Various reintroduction programs (NB, WI, MI) are resulting in wandering birds. The last Trumpeter Swan which was neck-banded was from Wisconsin and visited in the autumn of 2000 and again briefly in spring of 2001. Will we get nesters in the near future? An

American Wigeon drake was attending the swan until they both left by 5/21. Overall migrant waterfowl numbers were modest; of note were 135 **Tundra Swans** 3/8-10 in SMA (EB), 6 **Long-tailed Ducks** at SL 3/23, and the fact that Northern Pintail and Canvasback were not reported. All other expected ducks (except scoters) were found.

Common Loons were first found SL 4/13 when 5 were present; there were no large fallouts and the last birds were past by early May. Several **Great Egrets** were detected including the earliest 4/16 and latest 5/31 both at SL. The only **Black Vultures** reported were 2 on 3/22 in SMA (EB). They have not proliferated as fast as expected possibly partly due to being "controlled" by Wildlife Services when sheep farmers complain of lamb predation. A first winter **Bald Eagle** was eating a pike on the ice at SL 3/8. The only **Rough-legged Hawk** reports were one in SMA (EB) and one in BA (JP) both on 3/8. A pair of **Virginia Rails** was well observed at BC 4/25 (JP, CP, JM, MM); they were present at least until the end of the period. **Sora** were heard 5/4 (JP) and seen 5/5 (CP) at BC which is very flooded thanks to some beavers.

The **Sandhill Crane** pair returned to BC 4/14 (JP,CP). They were observed throughout the period. Early on, both would noisily fly into roost from surrounding farm fields at dusk, but by 5/4, there was usually just one bird flying silently into the same area at last light. A bird on nest is suspected but cannot be seen in the tall Reed Canary Grass; hopefully a colt will show up next period!

Shorebird migration was modest with **Greater Yellowlegs** at BC 4/26, 13 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at BC 5/4, many **Spotted Sandpipers** at SL 4/25, six SL and 3 at SMA (EB), **Least Sandpipers** 5/9, and an early **Pectoral Sandpiper** in BA 3/16. **Wilson's Snipe** were fairly numerous at BC starting 3/10 and persisting through the period. **American Woodcock** started dancing during the thaw 3/10 at PP.

Maximum numbers of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were 200 4/13 when flocks were coming in then leaving. A third winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was a nice find at SL 3/16 (JP). All four expected terns were found at SL including **Caspian** 4/13 and 5/9, **Common** 5/9, **Forster's** 4/13, and **Black** 5/2.

Overall cuckoo numbers seem very low with **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** not heard until 5/27 at PP and a single flying **Black-billed Cuckoo** seen 6/7 near Somerset. **Whip-poor-wills** were plentiful but patchy from Glencoe to near the top of Allegheny Mountain. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported in May near Somerset (MM) and found near Callimont 6/7 (JP, CP).

Flycatchers all came in at expected times and reasonable numbers. The only **Alder Flycatcher** was one at PP starting 5/23. Vireos were all found except for Philadelphia, which is a common fall migrant. **Tree Swallows** first showed in SMA 3/11 (EB), **Northern Rough-winged** 4/13 at SL, **Cliff** 4/1 in SMA (EB), and **Bank** at SL 5/4.

Red-breasted Nuthatches passed PP for about two weeks starting 4/11. **Carolina Wrens** died back heavily over the winter. The last big die off was in 1996. Interestingly, the only spring **Carolina Wren** found was along Laurel Hill Creek at the same farm where the only survivor in 1996 was detected. We should not exclude this bird from the migration forms, as this type of interesting information will be overlooked. **American Pipits** were not detected until one in BA 5/2 (JP, CP) and 3 in SMA (EB).

Twenty-three warbler species were reported this spring. Notable were **Blue-winged Warbler** in CA 5/22, **Golden-winged Warbler** near Glencoe 6/8 and on Allegheny Mountain 6/10, **Nashville Warbler** 4/25 in SMA (EB), **Palm Warbler** in BA 5/2, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** in CA 5/22.

A **Henslow's Sparrow** was found in a grassy farm field near Glencoe 6/8 away from the usual strip mines. **Rusty Blackbirds** were at BC from 3/21-4/1 and an **Orchard Oriole** was found in BA 5/22.

Observers: **Jeff Payne** 9755 **Glades Pike**, **Berlin, PA 15530**, (814) 267-5718, Elmer J. Brenneman, Anthony Marich, Jim Moses, Meg Moses, and Chris Payne.

Sullivan County

Locations: SGL 66, Cherry Township, Colley Township, Loyalsock State Forest, Briskey Mtn, SGL 13.

All of the reports used to create this narrative come from non residents of the county. This almost assuredly skews the earliest date records for many species. Almost every weekend in May and June did

have some coverage somewhere so what is mostly unknown this year is what occurred between Easter and the PAMC. All Easter and PAMC observations are from Rob Megraw. All other observations as noted.

Easter weekend fell across the first four days of April and found the early nesters of the county already at work. **Canada Goose** was observed on nest. Other regularly observed breeding waterfowl included **Wood Duck**, **Mallard** and **Hooded Merganser**. **Ring-necked Duck** was the most numerous species of waterfowl observed. Thirty-two individuals were counted. **Green-winged Teal**, **Bufflehead** and **Common Merganser** were seen in pairs. All but Bufflehead have been previously confirmed as breeders in the county.

Driving down a country road, I caught sight of a good sized bird walking along a power wire. Once I got the car stopped I found that the bird was a **Ruffed Grouse**. I couldn't think of any other time that I had seen Ruffed Grouse off the ground when not flying. The bird was leaning into a young birch and feeding on buds. I eventually found a second bird half way up the tree as well as two more on the ground. Several **Wild Turkeys** were seen and some were heard gobbling.

Two **Osprey** were seen in the Splashdam Pond area on the same day. Follow up trips have not produced any further observations. An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen in the area of a known nest and an immature bird was seen about two miles away. I found a **Red-shouldered Hawk** one morning that looked to be carrying a stick until it became apparent that the stick was drooping at both ends and wriggling in the talons of the hawk. Other raptors observed were **Northern Harrier**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **Red-tailed Hawk** and **American Kestrel**.

Sandhill Cranes again returned to the same area near Dushore. They had been recorded just a short time earlier by a local couple and reported to Trudy Gerlach. **American Woodcock** were found displaying in three separate locations. Four **Killdeer** were seen.

Some of the wintering species and early migrants were found in good numbers across the four days. I have very limited winter records for the county making it difficult to know for sure which birds fully overwinter and which come and go with the vagaries of weather. Nor can I be certain that individuals observed of a species that does overwinter are the same individuals that will nest in a given year. Everything found is considered hearty enough that winter records would not be a big surprise. Species observed that are more likely found in winter included 25 **Mourning Dove**, 12 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, 35 **Northern Flicker**, 30 **American Crow**, 18 **Common Raven**, 40 **Black-capped Chickadee**, 8 **White-breasted Nuthatch**, 11 **Brown Creeper**, 18 **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, 13 **Eastern Bluebird**, 100+ **American Robin**, 38 **Song Sparrow**, 50 **Dark-eyed Junco** and 6 **Purple Finch**. Species observed that are still hearty but less likely to be found in winter included 18 **Eastern Phoebe**, 45 **Tree Swallow**, 2 **Hermit Thrush**, one **Eastern Towhee**, 7 **Field Sparrow**, 28 **Red-winged Blackbird**, 5 **Eastern Meadowlark**, 50 **Common Grackle** and 10 **Brown-headed Cowbird**. And perhaps the least likely species to be found in winter was the single **Chipping Sparrow** found 4/4 at lower elevation at the bottom of Briskey Mountain.

Noteworthy was that the **Tree Swallow** numbers climbed during the four day period. Shady Nook Lake had only two individuals present on 4/1 and close to thirty by 4/4. **Fish Crow** was found at higher elevations in the county again this spring. Three species considered to have ranges more Southern in latitude that are relatively uncommon in the county were seen in small numbers or singly. They included 4 **Tufted Titmouse**, a lone **Carolina Wren** and 2 **Northern Cardinals**. No warblers were found.

Three pass-through migrant species were observed and in all three cases only a single individual was found. They included **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Fox Sparrow** and **Rusty Blackbird**. The latter constituted this observer's first county record for that species.

The PAMC was conducted 5/8. I was the lone observer for the county. Weather conditions were less than ideal for the count. Thunderstorms rolled through the area around 04:00 and rain was steady until 08:00. The skies cleared to partly cloudy but a steady wind remained throughout the day. There were a few good finds on the count but the overall numbers were disappointing. The report included 610 individuals of 85 separate species. The species count is low compared with previous years.

Waterfowl numbers were low with only common breeders observed. No Ruffed Grouse were found. A single **Ring-necked Pheasant** was relocated in an agricultural area where they have been found before. Only 7 **Wild Turkey** were counted. Single counts were made for both **Great Blue Heron** and **Green Heron**.

There were some interesting raptor observations. There is a stand of virgin Hemlock that extends about half way along the path into Shady Nook Lake. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was heard making its kiw-kiw-kiw call at the bottom edge of the hemlock grove. The bird flushed into the open but remained in the general area. Subsequent trips have not confirmed this as a nesting location. Two of the seven **Red-tailed Hawks** counted were seen carrying snakes making them fairly common raptor fodder. I'm hopeful all the wriggling in talons is an indication that it is a good year for snakes in *Sullivan*. Rounding out the raptor observations were 11 **Turkey Vultures**, a lone **Northern Harrier**, a single **Broad-winged Hawk** and 6 **American Kestrel**.

The **Sandhill Crane** pair in the Dushore vicinity was relocated. An adult was spotted alone at first. Closer approach to the location found the second adult a short distance away. Once in position to thoroughly scan the brushy area it was revealed that each adult was accompanied by a recently fledged chick. The adults seemed agitated by the approach of the vehicle even though the distance away was several hundred yards. They came together with the chicks and one of the adults bugled briefly. They then settled down and went back to foraging.

A beaver pond that sits on private property immediately adjacent to Rte 487 near Rouse Pond Road was the county hotspot for shorebirds. This pond has had low water levels the past two years and the area near the road has been mostly vegetation and exposed mudflats that are large enough to attract birds and small enough to contain them in close proximity. Nice comparative looks were had at 5 **Lesser Yellowlegs** and single individuals of **Solitary**, **Spotted** and **Least Sandpiper**. Two **Wilson's Snipe** were more difficult to find as they were content to remain stationary and probe the mud in a single location. They blended into their surroundings very well.

Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard very briefly in response to playback. A single **Chimney Swift** had returned to the county. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (one) and **Northern Flicker** (5) numbers dropped significantly in comparison to Easter weekend. Almost every species that was seen during the PAMC that had been present Easter weekend was found in lower numbers. The exceptions were 20 **Blue Jay**, 60 **American Crow**, 10 **Eastern Towhee**, 6 **Chipping Sparrow**, 42 **Red-winged Blackbird** and 6 **American Goldfinch**. This could be weather related or possibly supports the theory that many of the individuals found over Easter were indeed migrants on the way north.

There were quite a few breeding species that had returned somewhere between Easter and the PAMC. Most of them appeared in small numbers. A single **Alder Flycatcher** seemed early. First dates for this species in my records are later in May. Other species with only a single individual recorded were **Wood Thrush**, **Brown Thrasher**, **Cedar Waxwing**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Scarlet Tanager**, **Savannah** and **Swamp Sparrow**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Indigo Bunting**.

Returning breeders in good numbers included 12 **Eastern Kingbird**, 44 **Barn Swallow**, 19 **Yellow Warbler**, 22 **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, 10 **Common Yellowthroat** and 18 **Bobolink**. Those species with fewer than ten individuals observed included 5 **Least Flycatcher**, 3 each of **Blue-headed** and **Red-eyed Vireo**, 4 **Gray Catbird**, 6 **White-throated Sparrow** and 6 **Baltimore Oriole**.

A total of fourteen warblers were observed during the PAMC. Breeders not previously mentioned with number of individuals counted were 2 **Nashville**, 5 **Black-throated Blue**, 3 **Yellow-rumped**, 6 **Black-throated Green**, 8 **Blackburnian**, 7 **Prairie**, 2 **American Redstart** and 8 **Ovenbird**. The lone pass through passerine migrant was a single **Palm Warbler**. First of the season for the county records made between 5/9 and 5/16 in LaPorte Township included **Cooper's Hawk** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**. Other good sightings made throughout the week were **Green Heron**, **Barred Owl**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, **Wood Thrush**, **Magnolia Warbler** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (all PAMC).

An annual pilgrimage to bird watch the county has occurred the weekend prior to Memorial Day for close to thirty years. The veteran members of the crew (SC & TR) joined by three others (GB, MB, RM) have made the pilgrimage about 100 times in total when all combined. The weekend was warm but remained mostly cloudy with a few periods of rain. Both Saturday and Sunday were breezy. Just under 95 species were found during the three days.

All but two of the species observed are at least probable breeders. Returning birds since the PAMC was conducted included 2 **Whip-poor-will** in the Splashdam Pond area, 5 **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, single individuals of **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, **Willow Flycatcher**, **Warbling Vireo** and **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, multiple **House Wren**, 4 **Veery**, single **Northern**

and **Louisiana Waterthrush**, 2 **Canada Warbler** and **Orchard Oriole**. **Blackpoll Warblers** have nested locally but none of the three individuals seen were in proper breeding habitat.

The first of two non breeders found was a lone **Snow Goose** seen 5/22 at a private pond on Dutch Mountain. This would seem to be a rather late record. The bird did not move about at all while observed but did appear alert and uninjured. It was not relocated. By far the best bird seen during the weekend was a **Snowy Egret**. The bird was found in a small wetland in Cherry Township and has not been relocated. The sighting was a county record for all five birders and is possibly a first county record.

First of the year records for the county made over the Memorial Day weekend included **Great Horned** and **Barred Owl**. Both birds were heard calling in the Dutch Mountain area (RM). A different **Barred Owl** was also found in the LaPorte area (PM). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was found in World's End State Park (RM). A **Common Merganser** with young and a **Spotted Sandpiper** pair were seen in the LaPorte area (PM).

A pair of **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** was observed 6/3. The female was nest building while the male remained nearby and mostly silent. The nest was rechecked 6/6 and appeared abandoned, however, another attempt has been made. The female was banded in a previous year indicating site fidelity. The location was not revealed.

A male **Blue Grosbeak** was seen and heard singing 6/10 and 6/11. The bird was located at the outlet pond of Eagles Mere Lake near the Conservancy. A single **Philadelphia Vireo** was also reported from Eagles Mere as part of the same report (both observations KH).

A pair of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** was observed behind a conserved property in an open swampy area of SGL 66 on the morning of 6/11 (RK). One of the birds was singing while the other produced only call notes. Two subsequent visits to the area by two separate individuals have so far failed to relocate either bird. It is hoped that more visits can be made. Although probable migrants, it is certainly worth the effort to check for these birds.

Osprey was found in Davidson Township 4/ 23. The only spring record for **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was 5/29 near Nordmont. Also observed then were **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Carolina Wren**, **Veery**, **Wood Thrush**, **Cedar Waxwing**, **Scarlet Tanager** and **Baltimore Oriole**. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was found the same day near Sonestown (all WE).

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Gary Becker, Mike Brawley, Skip Conant, Wes Egli, Doug Gross, Keith Huffman, Rick Koval, Pete Moffett, Tom Reeves.

Susquehanna County

No report.

Compiler: **Jerry Skinner, Woodburn Preserve, RR 6 Box 6294, Montrose, PA 18801, (570) 278-3384, jskinner@epix.net**.

Tioga County

Locations: Cowanesque Lake (CL), Colton Point State Park (CPSP) and Darling Run Access to Pine Creek Rail Trail (DR), both of which are a part of Pine Creek Gorge Important Bird Area #28; Hammond Lake/lives Run Recreation Area (HL), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Muck/Marsh Creek Important Bird Area #27 (Muck).

Spring came early again this year with many unusually warm days featuring temperatures as high as 80 degrees. The county's lakes were completely open by the last week of March, a week to a week and a half earlier than in many past years. There were also many clear days in late March-early April, which may have facilitated rapid migration northward. As in 2009, both waterfowl numbers and variety seemed low.

However, the season did get off to a good start with 5 **Wood Ducks** 3/11 at Cowanesque Lake (GS); 6 **Tundra Swans** 3/20 at HCSP (AP); 11 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 4 **Gadwalls**, 4 **Northern Shovelers**, 3 **Hooded Mergansers**, 20 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 5 **Lesser Scaups**, 2 **Buffleheads**, and 3 **Horned Grebes** 3/23 at Nessmuck Lake (PK).

Two **Common Loons** were seen 4/17 at HCSP. These were the only ones reported for the season, which is a bit unusual (GT). Four **Horned Grebes** were also seen at HCSP 3/19 and another 11 on 3/21

at Hammond Lake (GT). Two **Pied-Billed Grebes** were reported at the Muck 4/17 (JF). **Virginia Rails** were first reported 5/2 at the Muck (LC), and a single **American Coot** was seen 4/11 at Hammond Lake (GT).

First **Ospreys** were seen 4/4 at Cowanesque Lake. For the first time, **Ospreys** started building a nest on a pole next to the dam at Hills Creek State Park, but the effort was not successful. The birds continue to hang around the lake, though, as of mid June. One **Bald Eagle** was seen 4/4 at Cowanesque Lake and two were seen on the same day, incubating eggs at a nest at Hammond Lake (JH). There are 3 eaglets in the **Bald Eagle's** nest at the Darling Run access to Pine Creek Rail Trail. A few **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen 4/20 at Leonard Harrison Park, which is part of Pine Creek Gorge (GT).

With the exception of **Killdeer** and **Spotted Sandpipers**, there were not many shorebird sightings reported this year. A single **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen 5/2 at HCSP (GT). Two **Wilson's Snipes** were reported 3/11 and two **American Woodcocks** were seen 3/21 in the Millerton area (LB).

Five **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen 4/4 at Hammond Lake (JH). There were an unusual number of tern sightings at regional lakes this year. A pair of **Caspian Terns** were seen 4/11 at Hammond Lake, another one was seen 4/24 at HCSP, and three more were seen 5/3 at HCSP along with two **Forster's Terns** (GT). **Forster's Terns** (5 this time) showed up again at the park 5/8 (PK, GT). There were other tern sightings as well, but the birds were not identifiable because of the distance (GT).

The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** to be reported was seen 5/8 in the Hills Creek area (GT). Sixteen **Tree Swallows** were seen 3/21 at Hammond Lake. Exceptionally large numbers of them—easily over 500—were seen on several inclement days in early April at HCSP (GT). The **Tree Swallows** were followed by **Barn Swallows** at HCSP 4/27; **Northern Rough-wing Swallows** at the Muck 5/2 (LC); **Bank Swallows** at Hammond Lake 5/10 (GT); and **Cliff Swallows** at the Muck 5/25 (KB). First **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen 5/4 at Colton Point State Park (GT); first **Red-eyed Vireos** and **Warbling Vireos** were seen 5/8 at the same place (AP).

Warblers started to arrive as usual at the end of April and beginning of May. However, a **Pine Warbler** was reported 3/16 at the PA Welcome Center on Rte. 15 north of Mansfield (HH), and the first **Yellow-rumped Warbler** of the year was seen 4/17 at HCSP (GT). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was seen 4/30 and **Blackpoll Warblers** were seen 5/2 at CPSP (KB). Other warbler species reported by various birders during the period include **American Redstart**, **Blackburnian**, **Black and White**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Black-throated Green**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded**, **Magnolia**, **Ovenbird**, **Palm**, and **Yellow**.

A **Scarlet Tanager** was first reported 5/8 at CPSP (RF). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were first seen 5/8 at CPSP (AP), and a **Baltimore Oriole** was first reported 5/1 near Roseville (BS). Many **Baltimore Oriole** nests have been found this year, particularly along Pine and Marsh Creeks (GT). Eight **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen 4/1 on the Pine Creek Rail Trail near the access at Rte. 286 and Rte. 6 near the Pagomar Market (GT).

Observers: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA 16901 (570) 724-5789, gnats3@ptd.net**, Kate Black, Larry Brown, Lisa Cass, Rich Faber, Jeff Fiorentino, Dianne Franco, Hans Holbrook, Jeff Holbrook, Phil Krajewski, Audrey Patterson, Jason Patterson, Robert Ross, Gordon Shedd, Barbara Silverstein.

Union County

A pair of **Surf Scoters**, unusual for *Union*, was sighted at a quarry pond in Winfield 4/28 (CS, *fide* AS).

Observers: **Christy Bowersox, 968 Furnace Road, New Columbia, PA 17856, (570) 205-5434, cabowersox@yahoo.com**, Allen Schweinsberg, Carl Shaffer.

NOTE: No compiler beginning Summer 2010. Please contact the chief editor if you are interested in compiling for Union County.

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City (OC),

Rhoades Farm (RF).

The highlight of the period was *Venango's* first **Little Gull**. JS found the adult flying over KL on 4/28. It remained long enough for GE and RS to arrive and view it. Other highlights were a juvenile **Trumpeter Swan** at KL 3/31-4/8 (GE, RS, JS, KG), a **White-winged Scoter** at KL 5/18 (JS, KG), a **Long-tailed Duck** on the AR near OC 3/2 (GE, JW), a **Sandhill Crane** at KL 3/26 (KG, JS), and an **Upland Sandpiper** at a farm near Nickleville 4/27 (WT).

Other notable sightings were: **Great Egret** 4/15-4/16 (NB), at least three pair of nesting **Bald Eagles** (GE, JS, RS, JW), **Black-bellied Plover** 5/8-5/22 at RF near KL, **Dunlin** at KL 5/11-5/18 (JS, RS), **Caspian Tern** at KL 5/8 (GE), **Black Tern** at KL 5/8 and 5/21 (GE, RS), **American Pipit** 3/26-5/7 (GE, KG, JS), and the first **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen and photographed 5/1 at a residence in OC (MK).

Spring migration numbers were down for everything from waterfowl to shorebirds to warblers. We missed several species normally seen including Snow Goose, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Philadelphia Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler. One potentially bright spot is that KL will be drawn down for at least the next two years due to a leak in the dam. While the fishermen don't like it, it has the potential to be a shorebird haven as there will be exposed mud surrounding the lake for the foreseeable future.

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@conline.net**, Nancy Baker, Kathie Goodblood, Meg Kolodick, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Warren Thomas.

Warren County
No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Bavington (BAV), Buffalo Creek IBA #80 (BC), Bentleyville (BENT), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Scenery Hill (SH), Washington Cemetery (WCEM), Washington Park (WP), Washington Reservoir #3 (R3), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

Wood Duck returned to GCW 3/12 (CH, SG) where they breed annually. The only report of **Gadwall** was of 11 at BENT 3/26 (RG). **American Wigeon** were reported four times 3/11-26. **Blue-winged Teal** were reported many times from GCW and the surrounding BC area beginning 3/17, including a peak of 9 at GCW 4/18 (ST, DW), but evidence of breeding was not found. A male **Northern Pintail** flew over WCEM 3/19 (LC), providing the only report. Similarly **Green-winged Teal** was reported only once: 2 at Washington Reservoir #2 on 4/2 (ST).

The **Redhead** that spent the second half of the winter at AMD was last noted 3/10 (MV et al.). **Ring-necked Ducks** were widely reported from at least six locations up to 3/26, which was also the date of the highest count: 31 at BENT (RG). A **Greater Scaup** was at R4 3/19 (MV), and 6 **Lesser Scaup** were there 3/22-23 (MV) with another 4 at BENT 3/26 (RG). Very nice for a *Washington* year list were 2 **White-winged Scoters** at R4 on 3/26 (RG). **Bufflehead** were found only three times from 3/19-29, at R3 and R4 (MV). Thirty **Red-breasted Mergansers** at R3 on 3/29 (MV) was a very good total for the county. The only other report, however, was of one at R4 on 4/16 (ST). The **Ruddy Duck** which wintered alongside the Redhead at AMD outlasted its counterpart by five days; it was last seen 3/15 (MV et al.). Twenty Ruddies were at R4 on 3/26 (RG), and a flock of 4 at R4 on 4/16 had grown to 11 by 4/18 (ST, DW).

Releases of **Ring-necked Pheasants** in the BC area must have been a priority this year, because they were frequently reported this season, particularly in Apr, including several sightings of females (LC, ST, DW, RG, RN, JB). Best count of females was 5 at GCW 4/27 (RG). An odd sighting of two pheasants sitting on the fence at the AMD pond was made 5/11 (RT). Four **Ruffed Grouse** were on their usual grounds at Burgettstown 5/1 (RG); they were also reported at BAV 5/5 (CD). A **Wild Turkey** with young was seen at BAV that same day (CD).

Common Loons were represented by 3 at R4 on 3/23 (ST) and one in BENT 3/26 (RG). **Pied-billed Grebes** were few; one at CL 5/10 (MV) was late. Since the Monongahela River receives almost zero coverage, **Double-crested Cormorants** are perhaps fewer in the

county record than they should be, and this year's six sightings beginning 3/26 was well above average. Best count was 15 at Washington Reservoir #2 on 4/2 (ST). One which lingered at BENT 5/22-29 (AB) was unusually late.

The putative **Great Blue Heron x Great Egret hybrid** returned to CL for a seventh year on 3/22 (SC). However as mentioned in last year's report, the fact that a white-headed heron apparently bred at the nearby colony on Chartiers Creek in North Strabane Twp. last year may permanently muddle the status of "the" white-headed heron at CL, as the fate of that bird's offspring is unknown. Regarding the rookery on Chartiers Creek, this season 49 nests were active, and the white-headed bird was not observed (PB).

Five **Turkey Vultures** at Taylorstown 3/6 (CH) were the first. **Osprey**, a species still not known to breed in *Washington*, was reported three times: at R4 on 3/29 (MV), at Cross Creek County Park 5/4 (JB), and at the Chippewa Lakes G.C. in BENT 5/16 (AB). The latter two sightings are intriguing with respect to the species breeding status in the county. CD reported 2 **Northern Harriers** at BAV in May. They were seen in aerial display 5/5 and were still in the area 5/30, raising another intriguing possibility of breeding in the county. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were at BENT 3/26 (RG) and WP 4/28 (LC). First **Broad-winged Hawk** appeared at WP 4/19 (LC). The leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** remained at Taylorstown to 3/6 (CH). One of WCEM's wintering **Merlins** remained to at least 3/20 (LC, ST). A survey of GCW and Buck Run Wetlands 4/27 turned up 3 **Virginia Rails** and 2 **Sora** (RG); one **Sora** was still at GCW 5/18 (JB). The AMD **American Coot** survived another season. The only other coot was at GCW 4/10 (ST).

There were a fair number of shorebirds reported, better than average for *Washington*. One **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at CL 5/13 (MV), and one was seen on both 5/22 and 5/29 at BENT (AB). The season's first **Killdeer** was at AMD 3/8 (MV). Two each of **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at BENT 4/26 (AB). Lesser Yellowlegs was also reported from BC 5/5 (LC). **Solitary Sandpipers** were as follows: one at WP 5/3 (LC), at BC 5/5 (LC), 2 at BAV 5/5 (CD), and up to 11 at CL 5/10-13 (MV). The birds of the season for *Washington* were 2 **Willetts** at BENT 4/26 (AB). This date fits precisely with records from surrounding counties from the past decade, which, compared to historical records, suggest that Willetts migrate through southwestern Pennsylvania in greater numbers than previously thought, primarily in the last week of April and the first week of May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** numbers fluctuated between 8 and 27 at BENT 5/22-31 (AB). Best count of **Least Sandpipers** was 10 at BENT 5/22 (AB). **Dunlin** at BENT 5/22 and 5/29 (AB) were good records for spring. Several observers found **Wilson's Snipes** in the BC and GCW areas through 5/5. An **American Woodcock** was seen perched on top of a tree in a West Pike Run Twp. yard 4/25 (WJS). Best count for this species was 10 at Burgettstown 5/1 (RG). The only **Ring-billed Gull** reported was one at Washington 4/27 (AB), a poor showing for a county that features a major river along one of its borders (which, as mentioned, receives no coverage).

Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were first detected at BC 5/5 (LC). Yellow-billed in particular was well-reported this season. Two **Great Horned Owls** were found at Burgettstown 5/1, as was a **Barred Owl** (RG). **Barred Owls** were widely reported from 3/15 to the end of the season, including birds at Peter's Lake (MV), WP (LC), and BAV (CD, LM). Several were heard calling back and forth at West Pike Run Twp. 4/25 (WJS). **Whip-poor-wills** were easily found at BAV 5/24 (DWs) and 5/30 (CD, LM). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** for the season appeared at West Pike Run Twp. 5/1 (WJS) and at Coal Center 5/2 (AT). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** returned to a nesting area in BENT 4/24 (AB). Single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at East Findlay Twp. 4/5 (PH), Mingo Creek County Park 4/10 (ST), and at BC 4/10 (LC). A **Pileated Woodpecker** at WCEM 3/18 (LC) was unusual for the location.

An **Eastern Phoebe** at Robinson Twp. 3/11 (BS, SM) was in a hurry to get north. An **Eastern Kingbird** at BC 4/25 (RT) was likewise a shade early, otherwise the other expected flycatchers (**Eastern Wood-Pewee**, **Acadian**, **Willow**, **Least**, and **Great Crested flycatchers**) were on time. All vireos other than Philadelphia appeared by the end of April; Philadelphia was never recorded for the season. **Blue-headed Vireos** were found only at WP 4/24 and 5/13 (LC). A nice count of 12 **Warbling Vireos** was made at Cross Creek County Park 5/4 (JB).

Surprising now as a lack of reports, there was only one mention of **Common Raven**: 2 were at BENT 3/26 (RG). A **Horned Lark** at BENT 5/22 (AB) may suggest breeding; despite considerable suitable habitat there are very few confirmed breeding records of Horned Larks for

Washington. Four **Purple Martins** returned to a nest site in BENT 4/4 (AB), providing the observer with his earliest date at that location. Martins were also observed on Covered Bridge Road near Cross Creek County Park 5/4 (JB). First **Tree Swallow** was very early at Robinson Twp. 3/15 (SC). A **Bank Swallow** at GCW 5/18 (JB) was probably a late migrant.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found periodically at WCEM through 5/18 (ST, PB, JB). A **Brown Creeper** was at BAV 5/22 (MF). **Carolina Wrens** were found in a few locations this spring, having survived the hideous February weather. **Marsh Wrens** were represented by one at GCW 5/2 (JB) and one at BC 5/5 (LC). Early **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** included one at East Findlay Twp. 4/5 (PH) and one at WP 4/6 (LC). As many as 7 were at WP 4/21 (PB), and one was still at WP 5/13 (LC). A **Swainson's Thrush** at BENT 5/15 (AB) was the only one reported. A **Hermit Thrush** was at CL 3/11-17 (SC), and one was found in WP 4/2, 4/9, 4/14, and 4/21, all of which may well have been the same bird (LC). **Wood Thrush** was punctual, with an arrival date of 4/24 at BENT (AB).

Twenty-nine species of warblers were found, with only Pine Warbler an unexpected miss. Cape May and Canada warblers were also missed, but both can be difficult to find in spring. Golden-winged, Prothonotary, Connecticut, and Mourning rounded out the "misses", all of which are more often absent than present. A superb count of 25 **Blue-winged Warblers** was made at Burgettstown 5/1 (RG). Many **Tennessee Warblers** were there the same day, which is a bit early for them. The only other Tennessee was one more timely bird at Avella 5/7 (JB). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was a great spring find at Peters Twp. 5/19 (AB). **Nashville Warblers** first appeared 4/24 at WP (LC). An amazing 30 **Nashvilles** were at Burgettstown 5/1 (RG). The observer commented that he seems to see more and more of this species every year, and this author agrees. **Northern Parula** is a sporadic breeder in Washington and singles were seen at BC to the end of the season (m.ob.). The first **Yellow Warbler** was a tad early at WP 4/19 (LC), and were downright abundant at Burgettstown by 5/1 (RG), with as many as 50 noted. Single **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were noted six times from various locations 4/24-5/22 (AB, LC). WP was the place for **Magnolia Warblers** this spring, with many sightings 5/10-21 (LC). A very late **Magnolia** was at West Pike Run Twp. 5/30 (WJS). The only **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Peter's Lake 5/4 (RT). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was seen as early as 3/12 in Houston (CH); the species graced many day lists through 5/15 when 4 were still at SH (AB). **Black-throated Green Warbler** was remarkably well-reported 4/16-5/21. **Blackburnian Warblers** were 2 at Burgettstown 5/1 (RG), at Avella 5/7 (JB), and 2 at WP 5/19 (LC). Seven **Yellow-throated Warblers** were in full song at Mingo Creek County Park already by 4/10 (ST). **Prairie Warblers** for some reason are seldom reported in spring but they are common in the northwestern part of the county nonetheless; as many as 9 were found 5/11 at BAV, for example (CD). Four singleton **Palm Warblers** were found in four different locations by four different observers: at Eighty Four 5/1 (AB), at Cross Creek County Park 5/4 (JB), at Peter's Lake 5/4 (RT), and at WP 5/13 (LC). At least 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were at WP 5/19 (LC, PB). **Blackpoll Warblers** were frequently reported 5/11-22 (m.ob.). **Cerulean Warblers** continue to have success at BC despite recent changes to the area. Many were heard and seen into late May there (JB). They were also reported from BAV (CD), SH (AB), and WP as late as 5/22 (LC). **Black-and-white Warbler** is a species that seems ripe to be added to the list of Washington's breeding species, but this year they were not seen past 5/15, when one was at SH (AB). A **Worm-eating Warbler** at BAV 5/1 (RT) was a welcome report. At least 20 **Ovenbirds** were singing at Burgettstown 5/1 (RG). Very nice was a **Northern Waterthrush** at Washington Park School Pond 5/1-13 (LC). This species is rarely reported in the county. **Kentucky Warbler** reports from four locations were encouraging (m.ob.). A **Wilson's Warbler** was at WP 5/19 (LC). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found by AB in BENT and SH, and 3 were at GCW 5/2 (JB).

Chipping Sparrow reappeared at WCEM 4/2 (ST). An early **Field Sparrow** was at Coal Center 3/25 (AT). A group of **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found near Avella 5/7 (JB); otherwise they were reported only from traditional locations in Robinson Twp. **Henslow's Sparrow** were in BAV 5/11 (CD) and at Robinson Twp., as usual. **Fox Sparrow** was reported at WP 3/22, 4/6, and 4/10 (LC). First **Swamp Sparrow** was at CL 3/17 (SC). A **White-crowned Sparrow** at GCW 3/17 (LC) had probably wintered locally. One was at BC 5/5 (LC), and in BENT 5/11-18 (AB).

Twenty-five **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were at Burgettstown 5/1

(RG). The first **Indigo Bunting** was on the front-end of their usual window of spring arrival at West Pike Run Twp. 4/25 (WJS). **Bobolinks** were at BC 5/5 (LC), at Avella 5/7 (JB), and BENT 5/13 (AB), and at BC 5/18 (JB). A somewhat early **Eastern Meadowlark** was at Robinson Twp. 3/11 (BS, SM). The only **Rusty Blackbird** was at BC 3/31 (RN). Both orioles were on time and widely reported. A single **Purple Finch** at West Pike Run Twp. 5/8 (WJS) was the only report.

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Wayne County

A male and female **Wilson's Phalarope** were found on Honesdale Road near Wymart (CF). The first female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted in Honesdale 5/7; the first male was seen 5/16 (SWP). A pair of **Tree Swallows** were seen interacting and a **Wood Thrush** was singing in Honesdale 5/16 (SWP). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were also in the area (SWP). **Bobolinks** were noted on Sawmill Road in Hamlin 5/16 (SVP).

Observers: Chris Fischer, Sandra Ward Povse.

No compiler. Report compiled by Spring Editor, Mike Fialkovich.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Acme Reservoir (AR), Donegal Lake (DL), Hess Property, Stahlstown (HP), Jacobs Creek Reservoir (JCR), Jacobs Creek Wetlands (JCW), Keystone State Park (KSP), Kuehl Property Area, Murrysville (KP), Pleasant Valley Park (PVP), Powdermill Banding Station, Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Trout Run Reservoir (TRR).

Consider this a limited report from a compiler who took the job as the season was ending. Of most significance is the reporting on **Swainson's Warbler**.

Note that this report on waterfowl is limited to the sightings from a 3/20 WB&NC outing, which was almost ice-free after the hard winter. There was some variety, but no significant numbers. Best waterfowl seen were **Horned Grebe** at both JCR and TRR, and two **Canvasbacks** at TRR. A **Wilson's Snipe** was seen at JCW and an early **Belted Kingfisher** was at TRR on that outing.

A **Peregrine Falcon** on 4/14 and a **Golden Eagle** on 5/25 were flyovers at HP. A **Common Nighthawk** was seen in Delmont 5/15.

HP yard birds of note included 2 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 4/29, and a **Philadelphia Vireo** and a **Wilson's Warbler**, both 5/26. Of more significance, they also reported a **Swainson's Warbler** 5/13. All of these species, including a record 2 **Swainson's Warblers**, were netted at PBS on 5/1 (this individual was recaptured four times in May) and 5/8. Just south of PNR, **Swainson's Warblers** were heard singing 4/19-6/5. Singing was also heard near the PNR banding station. Of note is that singing was heard either before 07:00 or late in the day.

Winter Wren, Black-throated Blue, Cerulean Warbler, and Canada Warbler were all found at their traditional breeding ground at LRSP 5/8. Also, on the PAMC (5/8) there was a pair of **Forster's Tern's** at JCW, a **Brewster's Warbler** at PVP, and a **Worm-eating Warbler** at KSP.

Observers: **Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724)-325-1918, tjuehl@comcast.net**, Ken Byerly, Dick Byers, Len and Linda Hess, Phyllis Flasher, Martin Forrester, Mike Lanzzone, Dale Matusa, Jim Pemberton, Diane Scott, Mary Shirland, Andrew Vitz (PBS), and the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club (WB&NC).

Wyoming County

Locations: Beaumont (BM), Fire Tower Road Mehoopany (FTR), Grist

Flats (GF), Lake Carey (LC), Lake Winola (LW), Oxbow Lake (OL), Russell Hill (RH), Scottsville Road (SR), Vosburg Neck (VN).

One hundred thirty-eight species were reported during the period, including 22 species of wood warblers. Of these, 19 were also reported during the annual PAMC. Observers noted 12 species of waterbirds during the period (not counting Canada Goose), a bit better than last year (8). The PAMC netted 115 species, 11 more than last year, above the average of the past four counts (108), yet still well below our all time county record of 129 for this count. I attribute this year's success to the fact that we fielded five counting teams, instead of our usual 2-3.

We had a few good flights of **Snow Goose** and **Canada Goose** in the first three weeks of March, although the numbers were not all that impressive. A lone **Common Loon** was observed 4/1 at LC (JD). The bird was last reported 5/17, and there are unconfirmed reports that it may have hung around until even later in May.

A probable juvenile **Northern Goshawk** was reported 2/26, perched along the highway just west of Tunkhannock (RL). This is a rare sighting in *Wyoming*, although we did have one in the 2008 Tunkhannock Christmas Bird Count. Subsequent attempts to find and observe this bird were unsuccessful.

One highlight of the spring for me (and some others) was the observation of 3 **Sandhill Cranes** 5/7 on Sharpe's Lake near Jenningsville (JB, JD, AT). These were the first reports I've heard of in the county, although the species has been reported in adjacent *Sullivan* for years. I recently talked with a part time resident on the lake, and he informed me that he saw the species on Sharpe's Lake last summer as well. I noted just one bird 6/8 and was unable to locate any of them on visits more recent than that. That date corresponds closely with the landowner's personal observations.

Although counters tallied some **Chimney Swifts** during PAMC, there's a general impression that swift numbers have declined significantly. And, we wonder whether this is indicated in other parts of the state or whether it's limited to *Wyoming*.

Other highlights of the 2010 PAMC are: **Philadelphia Vireo** (JL, RL, AZ), the first reported on the PAMC since 2004; **Fish Crow** (JL, RL, AZ), the first in at least six years; 8 **Northern Mockingbirds** (SG, BL, BC), more than the combined total of the last four PAMC counts put together; 14 **Blue-winged Warblers** (JL, RL, AZ, BL, BC, JD), again more than the total of the last four counts. Also noted were these warblers: **Nashville** (BL, BC), **Northern Parula** (BL, BC), **Magnolia** (JL, RL, AZ), **Blackburnian** (BL, BC), **Worm-eating** (BL, BC), the first since 2005, **Northern Waterthrush** (SG), and **Hooded** (BL, BC, JL, RL, AZ).

Once again, I found **Henslow's Sparrows** 5/3 along Douglas Hollow Road near Jenningsville. As usual, I heard them singing more times than I saw them. This is the same spot that I reported Henslow's two springs ago. They were still there 5/18, but I've not heard them since.

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York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd. Landfill (ALT), Brunner's Island (BRUN), Codorus State Park (CSP), Dillsburg (DILL), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Lake Redman (LRED), PA Migration Count (PAMC), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Sheppard-Myers Res. (SMR), Spring Grove (SPGR), York City (YORK).

A total of 163 species were reported, including 27 species of warblers. The PAMC participants found 125 species.

There were some noteworthy waterfowl sightings. Thirty **Snow Geese** were seen along Vineyard Rd. 3/15 (DC). Between 50 and 100 **Tundra Swans** flew over DILL 3/9 (CR). **Blue-winged Teal** are scarce in the county, but two were at New Cumberland 3/21 (DC), three were at BRUN 4/2 (DC), seven were seen at BRUN 4/28 (LC), two were found on the 5/8 PAMC, and two were at SPGR 5/15 (PK). At BRUN 4/28 there was an adult **Hooded Merganser** with eight juveniles, as well as two other adults on another pond (LC). GPSP hosted a flock of between 100 and 150 **Common Mergansers** 3/14 (CR), and 85 were at Lake Williams 3/15 (DC).

The only **Ring-necked Pheasant** report was the one at CSP 5/01 (BM). **Wild Turkey** reports were more numerous than usual: 15 along Lee Rd. 3/21 (BM), three 4/2 at SMR (DC), one 4/7 along Rte. 234 (BK), nine found on the 5/8 PAMC and one 5/25 on Bahn's Mill Rd. (PJR). A **Northern Bobwhite**, believed to be a wild one, was heard 5/21 from Pinchtown Rd. (PJR).

A few **Great Egrets** returned to nest at Kiwanis Lake in YORK: one was seen 3/19 (BM), one was seen 4/2 (LC), and five were there 5/24 at or near three nests (PJR). The **Black-crowned Night-Herons** also nested at Kiwanis Lake again. Ten were seen 4/2 (LC) and about 15 were there 5/24 (PJR). Two **Osprey** were seen 4/1 on the edge of a roof in SPGR along Codorus Creek (PK). An **Osprey** flew over DILL 4/22 (CR), two were seen 5/1 using an old eagle nest at Lock 12 (JS), and nine were reported on the 5/8 PAMC. A **Bald Eagle** sighting was reported 4/2 at a new site on the north side of YORK (LC), and eight were tallied on the 5/08 PAMC. The two **Peregrine Falcons** that were seen regularly during the winter in downtown YORK were reported last 3/3 (AE).

A **Sora** and **Purple Gallinule** were found 5/31 on private property at an undisclosed location. A good photograph of the Purple Gallinule was taken (*vide* PJR).

Some very shallow water at LRED attracted shorebirds: a single **Semipalmated Plover** 5/22 (DC) and 5/24 (LC), 7 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/14 (LC), 22 **Spotted Sandpipers** 4/29 (RP), 10 **Least Sandpipers** 5/14 (LC) and six 5/24 (LC), six **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/14 (LC). Twelve **Bonaparte's Gulls** showed up at CSP 4/3 (LC). Eleven **Caspian Terns** were at LRED 4/19 (SW).

No Black-billed Cuckoos were reported, but there was a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at BRUN 5/15 (LC) and one was heard 5/26 at Lock 12 (PJR). A **Whip-poor-will** was calling at dusk near DILL 5/14 (DC). There were four sightings of single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**: 3/17 in Hanover (BP), 4/3 at CSP (LC), 4/5 in Carroll Twp. (GK), and 5/8 on the PAMC. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found 5/24 at CSP (BM). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Spring Valley County Park for the 5/8 PAMC (RP). A **Least Flycatcher** was seen 5/15 at BRUN (LC, ML). There were seven reports of **Yellow-throated Vireos**. The only **Blue-headed Vireo** was the one on the 5/8 PAMC.

A **Common Raven** was seen 3/27 soaring along a wooded hillside along the Susquehanna River at Wrightsville (EW). There were no reports of Bank Swallow. One **Cliff Swallow** was seen 5/6 at CSP where there are a few nests (PJR), five were found on the 5/8 PAMC, and there were six 5/20 on Park Rd. collecting mud for nests (PJR). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** visited a Shaffer's Church property 5/15 (RP). A **Hermit Thrush** was at DILL 4/30 (CR).

Migrant warblers were hard to find. The 5/8 PAMC reported seven **Blue-winged Warblers** and one was singing along Benedicts Rd. 5/21 (PJR). There was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Lock 12 on 5/1 (JS). Single **Palm Warblers** were seen 4/8 in YORK (AP), 4/25 at RRCP (SG), and 5/8 (rather late) on the PAMC. **Cerulean Warblers** were found at Lock 12. At BRUN a **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen 5/10 (DC), two were there 5/15 (LC, ML). The 5/8 PAMC reported 3 **Worm-eating Warblers**, and one was singing 5/25 beside Old Forge Rd. (PJR). A few **Kentucky Warblers** were found: one on the 5/8 PAMC, one on Blouse Rd. 5/22 (PJR), one on Blain Rd. 5/25 (PJR), and a total of 6 at 5 locations in the SE part of the county 5/26 (PJR). A **Mourning Warbler** was at DILL 5/14 (CR) and another was singing along Senft Rd. 5/20 (PJR). The only **Canada Warbler** was in a YORK yard 5/24 (AP).

The only **Fox Sparrow** reported was the one at DILL 3/20 (CR). The two **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** reports included one on the 5/8 PAMC, and one at GPSP 5/16 (SW). A **Blue Grosbeak** was perched on a utility wire on Black Rock Road 5/20 (PJR). Five **Bobolink** were found on the 5/8 PAMC, and 80 or more were seen 5/19 at ALT but none stayed (RP). Eighteen **Orchard Orioles** were located on the 5/8 PAMC.

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IN FOCUS



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Dauphin County. See p.109. (Photo by Tom Johnson)



Tufted Duck, Chester County. See p. 105. (Photo by Dustin Welch)



Trumpeter Swan, Lawrence County. See p.118. (Photo by Steve Gosser)



Red-necked Phalarope, Allegheny County. See p. 95. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)

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

Issue	Sightings due to Compilers by...	Articles due to Editor by...	Publication Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 March	1 May	July
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 June	1 August	October
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 August	1 October	December
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 December	1 February	April

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