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Cover: **Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)**. Providing what is surely the most remarkable record in *Washington* history, this adult Brown Pelican spent two days at tiny Boone Reservoir 13 to (here) 14 April 2011. It was clearly exhausted when first found on the 13th, but was active and plunge-diving for fish by the end of the day on the 14th, and was not seen thereafter. (*Geoff Malosh*)

Pennsylvania Birdlists

In Volume 24 Number 4, we announced our intention to increase the lower threshold for County Life Lists to 125 from its present level of 100. In so doing, I unsuspectingly touched off the longest series of feedback and discussion with readers in all my time yet as editor. (I knew there was something that readers were passionate about!) Without going much into the details of the discussion, suffice it to say that we will maintain the current format of the Pennsylvania Birdlists for the foreseeable future, and the lower threshold for County Life Lists will remain at 100. Thanks very much to everyone who took the time to participate in a thoughtful discussion.

County Compiler News

There is more news from the ranks of the compilers. After more than two decades of service to *Pennsylvania Birds*, Marty McKay has decided to call it a career, and has retired from compiling for *Mercer*. Of course, PSO owes a deep debt of gratitude for the countless hours of effort Marty has volunteered over the years. So thanks Marty, for everything. Taking over in *Mercer* is **Neil Troyer**, a sharp and dedicated Mercer County birder. Like Marty, Neil does not have an email address, so the best way for you to get him your sightings is via the good old U.S. Postal Service. Neil's address is 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137. So, western Pennsylvania birders, please help Neil get off to a good start by sending him all of your *Mercer* observations!

In *Greene*, Kathy Kern has turned over the controls to **Marjorie Howard**. I always enjoyed Kathy's reports, which I always thought had a certain flair about them. Marjorie's contact information is as follows: 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 852-3155, birdwatcher108@comcast.net. Thanks to both Kathy and Marjorie for keeping *Greene* amongst our most well-covered counties!

John Fedak, who also serves as PAMC co-coordinator with Frank Haas, has agreed to resume his old position as *McKean* compiler. No other volunteers stepped up in the time since John left the *McKean* compilership in 2008, so it will be great to have reports from *McKean* again. Thanks very much John! You can contact John with all of your *McKean* sightings at: 26 Race Street, Bradford, PA 16701, (814) 362-1052, (814) 366-2500, jlfedak@atlanticbb.net.

In *Lebanon*, Chuck Berthoud is handing things over to **Tim Becker**. Chuck answered the call two years ago when long-time compiler Randy Miller stepped aside. Thanks very much to both Chuck and Tim for ensuring continuity in this heavily birded county. Tim says he looks forward to the challenge. You can contact Tim as follows: 10283 Jonestown Road, Grantville, PA 17020, tjbecker81@aol.com.

Founding contributor Margaret Higbee (*Armstrong/Indiana*) recently drafted a new *Jefferson* compiler, **Tom Glover**. *Jefferson* has long been without reports so it will be great to hear from birders in that county again. Tom's contact information is: 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767, tomnglover@comcast.net.

Lastly, **Joe Greco**, *Lackawanna* compiler, has volunteered to take over the long-vacant *Pike* job, and has turned over *Lackawanna* to his son **Jeff Greco**. Joe's contact is the same, and Jeff can be reached at: 3116 Township Woods Road, East Greenville, PA 18041, (484) 941-2667, jeef20@grecofamily.org. Thanks to this father and son team for covering things in northeastern Pennsylvania!

The following counties are still without a compiler: *Blair*, *Cameron*, *Elk*, *Montour*, *Northumberland*, *Pike*, *Susquehanna*, *Union*, and *Warren*. The number is dwindling, but there is still a chance to help. If you are interested in contributing to PSO's journal of record as a county compiler, contact me.

Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief

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Raptor Migration Summary – Spring 2011

Laurie Goodrich

Rain dominated spring 2011 migration, as the Northeast recorded one of its wettest springs in more than 100 years (<www.nrcc.cornell.edu>). In Pennsylvania, April and May received more rainfall than any year since 1895. The persistent rain left migrating raptors with fewer days to migrate, and challenged their usual timing and patterns. The timing of the raptor migration throughout the state appeared more spread out, with some species moving later than usual and exhibiting lower peak counts than in past years. The southern sites were particularly affected by rain, where both numbers and effort were reduced.

Despite the challenging weather, total number of migrating raptors recorded statewide was above average, due to the two northern sites recording above average counts (Table 1). Both sites also showed increased hours of coverage whereas the two southern sites reporting had decreased coverage, due to inclement weather.

Migration Summary

Four Pennsylvania watch-sites set a new combined record for the state spring counts, tallying 28,328 migrating raptors of 17 species between mid-February and late May. An adult Mississippi Kite gliding north past Hawk Mountain, *Berks/Schuylkill* on April 29 was the rarest raptor recorded.

Table 1: Pennsylvania watch-sites reporting for spring 2009

Site	Hours	Total
Allegheny Front	363	1436
Hawk Mountain	204	836
Presque Isle	223	23415
Tussey Mountain	461	2641
Total	1250	28328

Total hours increased slightly over 2010 (1250) (Table 1) due primarily to increased coverage at Tussey Mountain in *Centre* and Presque Isle in *Erie*. The number of sites reporting in 2011 was lower than recent years with only four watch-sites contributing spring counts. Overall, 22.7 migrants per hour of counting were recorded for the state, with Presque Isle leading with 105 birds per hour. Most counting effort occurred in March and April with

greater than 500 hours at the four sites combined each month.

April was the busiest month for raptor migration with 17,011 hawks counted (Table 3). March was second-most active month with 9321 northbound hawks tallied. The 2011 upswing in raptor numbers was largely due to increased coverage and high numbers recorded at Presque Isle, a major spring concentration point within Pennsylvania. New statewide peak counts were observed for Turkey Vulture (14,520), representing the most numerous migrant detected with 51% of total (Table 3). The second most numerous migrant was the Broad-winged Hawk (6731), representing 24% of the flight. New statewide peak counts were tallied for Sharp-shinned Hawk (2161) and Red-tailed Hawk, (1883).

Site Highlights

Allegheny Front (*Bedford*) – The Allegheny Front recorded 1436 hawks in 363 hours of counts from February 23 to May 7. The highest one-day count occurred 10 April when winds shifted to east and brought 146 Broad-winged and 56 Sharp-shinned hawks along with 40 Red-tailed Hawks and a Peregrine Falcon past the watch-site. The count was 21% below the long-term average, possibly due to the rainy weather. In contrast to other species, above-average counts were recorded for Golden Eagle (73) and American Kestrel (36). A record low count of only one Merlin was a surprise. Allegheny Front, once again, tallied the second-highest season total and one-day count for Golden Eagles among the watch-sites reporting (73, 9 respectively) (Table 2). The last Golden Eagles of the spring (3) soared north on 3 May. A single Broad-winged and Cooper's hawk passed on 6 May to close the season.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (*Berks and Schuylkill*) – Hawk Mountain counted a below-average 836 hawks in 203.5 hours of counts from 8 March through 15 May. Many count days were shortened by rain or fog, and eight days recorded a shutout due to all-day rain or snow. Peak flights occurred earlier than usual with 104 raptors on 14 April and 194 on 17 April. Both days were

dominated by Broad-winged Hawks, with 66 and 119 respectively. The rarest migrant was observed 26 April when a Mississippi Kite glided past on the north side giving the observers an excellent look. Because the Hawk Mountain daily coverage begins in April, this site rarely records many early season migrants, e.g. Golden Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks. However in 2011, a new season record was set for Golden Eagle (6) and two Rough-legged Hawks were sighted (Table 3). Above-average counts were tallied for Turkey Vulture (64) and Red-shouldered Hawk (16), whereas lower than average counts were recorded for most other species (Table 3). The late flights could be a result of the rainy spring weather.

Presque Isle (*Erie*) – Presque Isle set a new record in 2011 with 23,415 raptors counted from 1 March through 15 May (Table 1). In the fourth year of counts from this Lake Erie site, hours of coverage increased slightly (223) while total counts soared. Site leaders moved the site slightly inland this year, which might have allowed better detection of some soaring migrants. The site set new records for all species except Broad-winged Hawk (5231) and Northern Goshawk (3) (Table 3). The highest one-day count for Broad-winged Hawks occurred 26 April with 3863 soaring north, accompanied by 33 American Kestrels (Table 2). The Turkey Vulture was the most abundant migrant at the site with 14,108 recorded, more than double the prior season high count. Turkey Vulture counts peaked 10 April with 2220 vultures moving north. The same day saw a one-day season peak count of 792 Sharp-shinned and 198 Red-tailed hawks. Presque Isle counters also recorded two Short-eared Owls flying north, one 17 March and another 17 April. On 13 May, the last day of the count, 618 hawks were counted including more than 400 Broad-winged Hawks and two light-morph Rough-legged Hawks.

Tussey Mountain (*Centre*) – Tussey counters recorded an above-average 2641 hawks from 16 February to 27 April, in 461 hours of counts (Table 1). The highest one-day count occurred 11 April when 304 raptors including 195

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

Site	Br.-winged Hawk		Golden Eagle	
	Count	Date	Count	Date
Allegheny Front	146	4/10	9	3/20
Hawk Mountain	119	4/17	2	3/8
Presque Isle	3863	4/26	2	4/10
Tussey Mountain	195	4/11	24	3/4

Broad-winged, 36 Sharp-shinned, and 25 Cooper's hawks, glided north. The second highest count for Tussey Mountain was made 20 April (258), including 194 Broad-winged Hawks. Early March was the peak period for Golden Eagles with 24 on 4 March and 12 on 5 March. Eagle peak daily counts were lower than observed in some recent years. Four Golden Eagles heading north along the mountain 25 April closed out the 2011 season with a season total of 180 eagles, slightly lower than the long-term average (Table 2, 3). A new site record was set for Bald Eagle (56) with a one-day high count of 5 on 15 April. New records also were set for Black Vulture (64), Osprey (166), Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks (261, 136), and all three falcons (Table 3). The Osprey numbers were notable for this inland ridge site, and higher than any other site in the state.

Conclusion

Spring 2011 brought an abundance of raptors to Pennsylvania despite the

rainy spring. Birds appeared to move in the greatest numbers through the central and the northwestern areas of the state. Presque Isle continued to lead the state in volume of migrants, whereas Tussey Mountain and Allegheny Front continued to lead in Golden Eagle numbers among all Pennsylvania spring sites, as well as others throughout the Northeast.

Early season migrants appeared more spread out with lower peak counts than usual. Late season migrants appeared to concentrate farther west than usual, perhaps avoiding the heavy fog and rain lingering in southeast and south-central counties. Of special note, two sites managed to increase coverage in spring 2011, allowing a better picture of migration patterns within the state. Because spring migration is much less monitored than autumn flights throughout the state, these four sites are especially important in providing a snapshot of raptor populations. I encourage birders to support these sites and other languishing spring sites to ensure they continue a healthy coverage of the spring raptor migration. To entice you further, remember most sites also record

thousands of other migrants, ranging from hummingbirds to loons. Besides, where else in Pennsylvania can you see 24 Golden Eagles in a day, or more than 3000 Broad-wings and more than 200 Sharp-shinned hawks over the course of a few hours? For more details on daily flights at any of these sites, please visit <www.hawkcount.org>. Join the fun!

Acknowledgments

I thank the site compilers Camille Concepcion, Jerry McWilliams, Dan Ombalski, and Bob Stewart, the manager of the migration count database, Jason Sodergren, and the sponsoring organization, the Hawk Migration Association of North America, <www.hawkcount.org>. I also thank the intrepid spring counters who recorded these valuable data and endured the extremes of spring weather. David Barber created the map of watch-sites. This is Hawk Mountain Sanctuary contribution to Conservation Science number 209.

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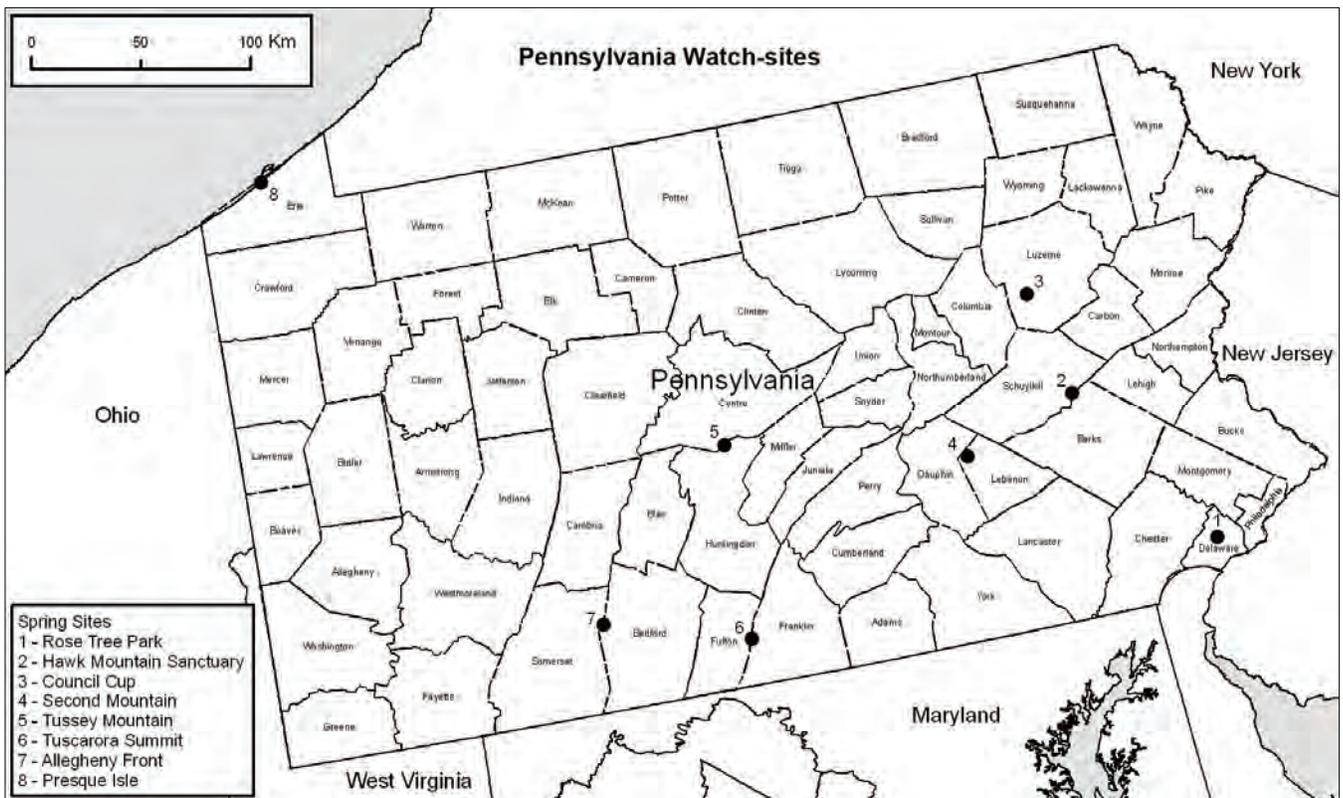


Table 3. Spring 2011 count results for Pennsylvania watch sites.

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.	SK	MK	TOTAL
February	17.5	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	16	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	34
March	170.5	10	152	0	9	4	3	21	3	25	0	181	0	47	7	0	1	15	0	0	498
April	140.3	0	2	36	3	8	119	45	5	334	179	1	18	27	1	1	43	0	0	0	822
May	34.8	0	0	20	0	4	9	6	2	0	20	16	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	82
Total	363	10	162	56	13	16	131	72	6	31	354	392	1	73	36	1	2	60	0	0	1436
Total/hr.		0.03	0.45	0.15	0.04	0.04	0.36	0.20	0.02	0.09	0.98	1.08	0.00	0.20	0.10	0.00	0.01	0.17	0.00	0.00	3.96
% flight		0.70	11.28	3.90	0.91	1.11	9.12	5.01	0.42	2.16	24.65	27.30	0.07	5.08	2.51	0.07	0.14	4.18	0.00	0.00	100.00
Average	407.0	13.0	331.5	101.5	19.5	29.3	172.2	68.4	5.5	58.3	417.7	446.1	2.2	72.8	25.6	6.0	3.7	90.10	0.00	0.0	1864.60

HAWK MOUNTAIN (Berks/Schuylkill) - Camille Conception, compiler

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	SK	MK	TOTAL
March	4.5	0	31	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	45
April	133.3	12	33	75	12	11	86	15	0	7	295	55	2	3	7	2	1	138	0	1	755
May	65.8	0	0	11	7	1	2	2	0	2	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	36
Total	203.5	12	64	86	19	14	88	15	1	16	295	62	2	6	7	2	1	145	0	1	836
Total/hr.		0.06	0.31	0.42	0.09	0.07	0.43	0.07	0.00	0.08	1.45	0.30	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.71	0.00	0.00	4.11
% flight		1.44	7.66	10.29	2.27	1.67	10.53	1.79	0.12	1.91	35.29	7.42	0.24	0.72	0.84	0.24	0.12	17.34	0.00	0.12	100.00
Average	278.6	19.6	26.1	102.9	18.1	18.4	97.6	35.6	0.9	9.6	346.4	106.3	0.3	2.1	22.1	4.1	0.6	69.0	0.0	0.1	879.9

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.	SK	MK	TOTAL
March	96.8	3	7134	1	28	8	49	33	0	302	0	462	32	1	28	2	4	53	0	0	8140
April	100.8	0	5964	87	37	87	1565	89	2	44	4756	377	21	3	482	21	8	19	0	0	13562
May	25.5	0	1010	10	50	12	47	3	1	2	475	81	0	0	8	3	3	6	0	0	1713
Total	223	3	14108	98	115	107	1661	125	3	348	5231	920	55	4	518	26	15	78	0	0	23415
Total/hr.		0.01	63.26	0.44	0.52	0.48	7.45	0.56	0.01	1.56	23.46	4.13	0.25	0.02	2.32	0.12	0.07	0.35	0.00	0.00	105.00
% flight		0.01	60.25	0.42	0.49	0.46	7.09	0.53	0.01	1.49	22.34	3.93	0.23	0.02	2.21	0.11	0.06	0.33	0.00	0.00	100.00
Average	153.1	1.0	7089.5	64.8	55.0	56.8	859.0	74.0	1.8	170.5	3668.5	484.0	23.3	1.0	258.5	12.0	5.8	66	0	0	12878.5

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.	SK	MK	TOTAL
February	48.8	14	37	0	1	2	1	0	0	5	0	43	2	24	0	0	0	2	0	0	131
March	235.8	38	89	6	24	10	40	25	2	49	0	205	0	120	20	3	1	6	0	0	638
April	176.3	12	60	160	31	32	220	111	0	12	851	261	0	36	44	4	4	34	0	0	1872
Total	460.8	64	186	166	56	44	261	136	2	66	851	509	2	180	64	7	5	42	0	0	2641
Total/hr.		0.14	0.40	0.36	0.12	0.10	0.57	0.30	0.00	0.14	1.85	1.10	0.00	0.39	0.14	0.02	0.01	0.09	0.00	0.00	5.73
% flight		2.42	7.04	6.29	2.12	1.67	9.88	5.15	0.08	2.50	32.22	19.27	0.08	6.82	2.42	0.27	0.19	1.59	0.00	0.00	100.00
Average	400.6	30.9	252.8	76.4	28.9	37.6	151.9	81.4	2.2	55.7	394.3	490.9	5.7	133.0	42.3	3.2	1.2	50.8	0.0	0.0	1889.2

TOTAL FOR ALL PENNSYLVANIA WATCHSITES

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	SK	MK	TOTAL
February	66.3	14	45	0	2	2	1	0	1	6	0	59	2	29	0	0	0	4	0	0	165
March	507.6	51	7406	7	61	24	92	79	5	383	0	850	32	170	55	5	6	75	0	0	9321
April	550.6	24	6059	358	83	138	1990	260	2	68	6236	872	24	60	560	28	14	234	0	1	17011
May	126	0	1010	41	57	17	58	9	4	4	495	102	2	4	10	3	3	12	0	0	1831
Total	1250.4	89	14520	406	203	181	2141	348	12	461	6731	1883	60	263	625	36	23	325	0	1	28328
Total/hr.		0.07	11.61	0.32	0.16	0.14	1.71	0.28	0.01	0.37	5.38	1.51	0.05	0.21	0.90	0.03	0.02	0.26	0.00	0.00	22.66
% flight		0.31	51.26	1.43	0.72	0.64	7.56	1.23	0.04	1.63	23.76	6.65	0.21	0.93	2.21	0.13	0.08	1.15	0.00	0.00	100.00
Average	1181.3	71.3	4645.1	319.0	103.9	120.1	927.7	234.6	9.4	223.4	3340.6	1317.0	21.3	257.6	241.4	20.00	8.40	248.10	0.10	0.30	12102.9

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

HAWKS AT A DISTANCE: IDENTIFICATION OF MIGRANT RAPTORS by Jerry Liguori, foreword by Pete Dunne, illustrates 29 species in various lighting situations and settings, 558 color photos, 896 halftones, 2 tables, 6 x 8½ in., xii + 193 pp., published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2011, paper, \$19.95.

If only *Hawks at a Distance* was available when I volunteered as Hawk Watch Station Master for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in the lower Rio Grande valley of Texas for the past ten years (2001-2010). Training approximately 500 neophytes and supervising about 5000 'mature' raptor observers in that timeframe, this book would have enlightened the identification of many migrating raptor unknowns. As Pennsylvania hawk watchers can attest when visiting Hawk Mountain Sanctuary or other raptor hot-spots, raptors are particularly difficult to identify even with powerful optics, precisely because they are most frequently seen in flight at great distances. Fortunately the evolutionary process of avian field guides, discussed previously in this journal (see *Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America, Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 23, No. 2, pp. 89-91 and *Birds of Western North America: A Photographic Guide* and *Birds of Eastern North America: A Photographic Guide, Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 24, No. 1, pp. 25-26), continues unabated thanks in large measure to advanced digital photography. Jerry Liguori, author of this book, draws upon the latest raptor data and experienced approaches to help birders and field ornithologists identify diurnal raptors in different lighting situations, settings, and horizontal and vertical distances.

Liguori has been studying raptors throughout North America since 1984. He has conducted numerous raptor migration counts at spring and autumn migration sites, such as Cape May Point, Sandy Hook, Darby Hill, Braddock Bay, Whitefish Point, Dinosaur Ridge, and the Goshute, Wasatch, and Sandia Mountains. Also, he is the author of the acclaimed book *Hawks from Every Angle*, published by

Princeton University Press in 2005. As Pete Dunne states in the succinct Foreword (p. ix), "It's all about 'the distance.' It always has been about the distance, ever since that first hominid ancestor fixed front-seated eyes on some dinosaur descendent, the challenge has been vaulting distance and getting across an invisible line. The line that defines the border between 'Too Far' and 'Close Enough.'" Dunne accurately defines Too Far as that region marked by frustration where birds of all kinds lie beyond the limits of ambition and skill, whereas Close Enough is that happy place where birds, and our designs upon them, meet and become one.

Indeed, as Dunne reminds the reader, raptor identification, and identification of all birds for that matter, has come a long way from the time when the primary tool of bird study was the shotgun. Methodology began to change in 1916 with Chester A. Reed's illustrated pocket-size guide that attempted to portray birds as they might appear in the field to the naked eye. Unfortunately, he failed to note that as birds get farther away, image contrasts sharpen, plumage patterns tighten, and become manifest. Roger Tory Peterson's field guide in 1934 revolutionized bird identification by emphasizing plumage field marks and focusing on 'a bird in the bush,' so to speak, instead of a bird in the hand. Next were Arthur Singer's color illustrations of all raptors on one compact plate in Chandler Robbins' *Birds of North America* (1966). For the first time in a popular guide, hawk watchers could compare relative size, shape, and plumage of all raptors. In 1987 the book *Hawks in Flight* by Clay Sutton, Dave Sibley, and Pete Dunne was dedicated solely to the identification of migrating raptors. Now, as Dunne states (p. xi): "Jerry Liguori, the raptor authority whose first book *Hawks from Every Angle*, was ground breaking and whose new book, *Hawks at a Distance*, is game changing."

Indeed it is. So what makes this guide so special, so different? First, it deals strictly with just one avian group, 29 hawks and allies that are experienced every year in Canada and the United States by thousands of hawk watchers.

Secondly, this book could not have appeared sooner in the evolutionary process of avian field guides because advanced digital photography has allowed only the best selection of tens of thousands of distant flying raptor images and portrays them accurately in a multitude of real life shapes, flight types, and behaviors. Note that some typical field marks are purposely left out of some images to show how these dependable traits are often so difficult to discern in the field. In fact, this guide is the first to present raptors of unknown identity, pointing out instances when telling age, sex, color morph, or species is impossible, and showing the effect that lighting and molt can have on a bird's appearance.

Thirdly, most of the images in the book were taken during autumn migration (15 August to 30 November), a particularly challenging time for properly identifying immature birds. The raptors in the pages are meant to appear distant purposely and perhaps seen with only a quick glimpse. Each color plate is a composite that includes up to six images and a single caption so that each plate is viewed in its entirety as the description is read. The black and white plates (pp. 172-190) are excellent, portraying shape characteristics for each species pointed out by the accompanying captions. Black and white plates are used so that the focus is placed solely on structure, not plumage, depicting various shapes and up to ten profiles from head-on, soaring, gliding, wing-on, hovering, flapping, stooping, dihedral, modified dihedral, and away from the hawk watcher.

Fourthly, the text throughout the guide is short and to the point so that it is easy to remember and simultaneously "keeps the guide uncluttered." Key identification traits are in boldface so that memorizing them will prove to be useful in the field.

Fifthly, terminology is simple, consistent, and practical. Liguori uses the term *adult* for a bird in its definitive plumage, *juvenile* for a bird in its first plumage, *immature* bird for all ages other than adult, and *sub-adult* for a bird in plumage and age between juvenile and adult. Adult and juvenile are most often used in all captions. Color morph is as simple:

“dark” to describe buteos that are mostly to entirely dark on the underside, and “light.” Surprisingly, he refrains from using the terms “morph” and “phase” in the text since they can be misleading and instead uses “light” and “dark” to describe a bird’s plumage.

Finally, under Helpful Hints (pp. 4-8), Liguori suggests that hawk watchers become familiar with the shape, flight style, and behavior of each raptor species in the sky that are the important keys to identifying them. In fact, it is an excellent idea to understand each species’ traits thoroughly by using this guide, such as a text for training beginning hawk watchers, before relying on them in the field. Keep in mind, though, that it is impossible to identify every bird, and to make accurate, positive identifications is much more rewarding than erroneously identifying every bird in the sky. Further, Liguori recommends watching raptors with quality seven power wide-field of view binoculars instead of a high-powered spotting scope because of the latter’s small field of view, high ineffectiveness in gusty winds, and susceptibility to strong image distortion from heat shimmer. He says that overall field experience is more valuable than high-powered optics when it comes to identifying migrating raptors. He completes the section with personal comments based on years of experience about raptor photography and the ethics involved. A cardinal rule of thumb in any avian photography must emphasize the safety and welfare of a bird before one’s own agenda, especially stressing disallowing photographing birds at nests. Annoying and illegal too is trespassing private property. He concludes (p. 10): “Photographers should enjoy witnessing a remarkable bird or event even if the chance to photograph it was unsuccessful.”

In sum, *Hawks at a Distance* isn’t only the hundreds of excellent raptor images snatched from the sky and portrayed so eloquently that makes this guide a winner, but also the superb layout, design, and selection. Admittedly, the book’s nineteen stunning full-color portraits leave the reader begging for more, especially if the author could have balanced each species with adult and juvenile images. Also, a fuller bibliography to include sources mentioned in the foreword would have been helpful. Perhaps the author could include in any revision

two other raptors that migrate or breed in the southwest from Texas to Arizona: Common Black Hawk and Grey Hawk. Finally, the Aplomado Falcon should be added to such a revision because it is doing well since its reintroduction at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge east of Brownsville, Texas.

Although experienced raptor enthusiasts will devour this tome immediately, aspiring hawk watchers should invest in it now because of the true to life flying images that will be experienced at any migrating raptor hot-spot in North America. In short, this reasonable guide is the optimum guaranteed quick-learning tool for identifying hawks and their allies and sets a high bar for future avian guides to emulate.

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Unusual Birds in Allegheny County

or, two reasons why digital bird photography is interesting

Geoff Malosh

I've been immersed in digital bird photography for most of a decade now. I dedicate a great deal of time these days to trying to make professional-grade images, which often comes at the expense of time spent "birding" in the traditional sense. But I'm still a birder too, and have over these years developed a real appreciation for how casual use of a digital camera can make birding that much more interesting and fun, even aside from trying for coffee-table-book quality. Two events in Allegheny County in the spring of 2011 demonstrated this: how using a digital camera while birding can occasionally reveal some interesting and sometimes amazing things which you might not otherwise notice.

* * *

The first event began in a nondescript rainwater detention ditch near Bald Knob in western Allegheny County. There, on 28 February 2011, Cory DeStein found two Ross's Geese late in the afternoon of a day that saw a furious cold front roll through western Pennsylvania, firing off many thunderstorms and dropping temperatures by over 30 degrees by day's end. Cory got the word out a few hours before sundown, and I was fortunate enough to be able to get to the site and photograph the birds, which represented the fourth record of Ross's Goose for Allegheny County. Here is a photo of the pair I made that evening:



Image 1. Ross's Geese at Bald Knob, Allegheny County 28 February 2011. Note the differences in the shapes of the bill, gape, and head between the two birds.

Cory was able to return to the site the next morning (1 March). The birds were still present, but at 9:10 they were chased off by a pair of Canada Geese. Cory watched them fly off toward the south, and he could not relocate them thereafter. They were not seen at the detention pond again.

Later that evening, I received a report of two Snow Geese at a pond at the Sewickley Heights Golf Club in Bell Acres, a small municipality in northwestern Allegheny County. I decided to check the site the next day (2 March) while on my lunch hour. The birds were still there, but they were not Snow Geese, they were Ross's Geese. Moreover, they looked strangely familiar...

Later that night I had a chance to review all of my recent Ross's Goose photos. Sure enough, the birds at the golf

course *were* strangely familiar. The two birds at Bald Knob were noticeably distinct from each other, something that was immediately obvious while watching them on the evening of 28 February, even when I wasn't looking specifically for differences between the two. One of them (the bird on the right in Image 1) appeared to have a slightly longer and less steep bill, and with much less of a black line at the gape (the "grin patch"), compared to the other bird in Image 1. Its bill was also more cleanly pink throughout, compared to the other bird's messier, shorter bill. Finally, the bird on the right in Image 1 also had a rounder crown, compared to the other bird's flatter, more squarely-shaped head.

Here is one of the photos I made of the birds at the golf course:



Image 2. Ross's Geese at Bell Acres, Allegheny County 2 March 2011. Note the consistent differences in the shapes of the bill, gape, and head as compared to the same differences visible in the Bald Knob birds.

The same differences were visible in the Bell Acres birds. One had a longer, cleaner bill with less grin patch and rounder head, compared to the other with a shorter, messier bill and flatter head. Now officially intrigued by all of this, I checked back to find out when the birds had been first seen at Bell Acres. They were originally found on the golf course on 1 March at 10:30 by Bob Mutz, one hour and twenty minutes after Cory DeStein watched two Ross's Geese depart from the Bald Knob area, albeit flying generally away from Bell Acres, not toward it. The straight-line distance between the detention pond at Bald Knob and the golf course pond in Bell Acres is 11.5 miles, short enough to be traversed in 80 minutes or less by two Ross's Geese on the wing, to be sure.

So, is this definitive proof that the same two birds were seen in two different locations? No, not *definitive*, but it certainly is compelling. Without the pictures, however, the question would be merely in the realm of whimsical speculation. But with the pictures—hard evidence of what the birds at Bald Knob looked like—the question as to whether the Bell Acres birds were the same two, while ultimately unanswerable, becomes that much more intriguing (read: fun) to think about and investigate. And of course, the instantaneousness and flexibility of digital photos makes investigating the matter that much more accessible. Indeed, digital cameras are cool.

Post-script: to determine the straight line distance between the two ponds, I created a Google map which can be viewed here: <<http://tinyurl.com/49v2jul>>. It turns out that the presumed flight path, if indeed such a path was undertaken by these two Ross's Geese on 1 March, passes within one mile of my house. If I had been standing in my yard and looking up around 9:30 on 1 March, I might have added Ross's Goose to my yard list!

* * *

The second event came on the banks of the mighty Ohio River on the afternoon of 12 April. Storms were raging that day, bringing heavy rains and strong ENE winds to western Pennsylvania. Readers of Mike Fialkovich's quarterly reports for Allegheny County will know that

I and others have been monitoring the migration of waterbirds, primarily Bonaparte's Gulls, at Dashields Dam on the Ohio in mid-April for eight years now. 12 April 2011 was no exception, and I found myself there at the height of the downpour, doing what I could to monitor the migration while keeping the inside of my car from being swamped. As the rains poured down, such rarities as Red-throated Loon and Lesser Black-backed Gull made their first ever appearances on our river watch. It was a day for the ages... or at any rate, a day of note for a guy (me) who excessively obsesses about what flies along the Ohio.

It's not possible to make magazine-cover art with a camera at Dashields Dam. Dashields is not a particularly picturesque setting. The birds are far away and the light angle is poor for most of the day, while barges other sundry craft frequently crawl through the foregrounds of birders' views. But at Dashields my camera is always out and ready anyway, now fully in "documentation quality" or "birding" mode. One never does know what will fly by, and even a poor photo of a memorable bird can be a special thing.

At Dashields we are concerned not only with listing the species that pass by, but also in what numbers they are passing by. When a new flock of birds wings by, the challenge is both to count them and examine them for something unusual, for they rarely stay in view for long. And it can be a real challenge to do both—to count and identify—especially when the birds are high against the sky. So, when particularly large flocks appear, I have recently been taking a new strategy: to let the camera do the counting. This consists of taking a wide-angle photo that includes the whole flock, and counting the birds in the flock later, and at leisure.

Of course, occasionally, the camera has to do the identifying too, even for a birder with close to 30 years of experience and who sometimes thinks too highly of his own skills. (Yes, me again.) Consider Image 3 at the top right of this page. It depicts 72 Bonaparte's Gulls winging their way over Dashields Dam in heavy rain and wind, at 18:36 on 12 April. The only problem is, the image only contains 71 Bonaparte's Gulls, a fact not revealed until I got home and found what only the camera saw in the skies over Dashields.



Image 3. Bonaparte's Gulls, plus one, over Dashields Dam, 12 April 2011. (Geoff Malosh)

Do you see which bird is different in Image 3? I certainly didn't when in the field. But I sure was surprised while at my desk. Look at the bird that is nearest to the top of the frame on the right side, at about one o'clock when considering the flock as the face of a clock. Here's a closer look at that bird:



Image 4. Common Tern over Dashields Dam, 12 April 2011. (Geoff Malosh)

It's a Common Tern. Note the small translucent triangle on the underside of the lower wing and the limited black "wedge" on the same wing. When I first looked at these photos on my computer, I was in a real panic because I thought it might be an Arctic Tern, but these features eliminate Arctic and point to the more likely Common. Regardless, it was a stern reminder that sometimes we don't really see everything we think we see. Sometimes digital cameras, in yet another display of their impressive versatility, see a whole lot more than their operators do!

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Documentation of Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) in Berks County

Scott Weidensaul



[Editor's Note: Here follows the author's verbatim report which he submitted to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee concerning the female Anna's Hummingbird that spent the winter of 2010-11 in northern Berks County. The record was accepted by a vote of 7/0.]

Facts

Location:

3450 Mountain Rd. M75
Shartlesville, PA (Berks County)
40 31' 51.74N, 076 16' 02.71W

Band number: L04401

Age: AHY (hatching year)

Sex: F

Wing chord: 50.19 mm

Tail: 29 mm

Exposed culmen: 18.36 mm

Percent grooving on maxilla: 0%

Iridescent gorget feathers: 10

Weight: 4.21 g

Fat: 1 (scale 0-5)

R5 width: 5.98 mm

First obs.: mid-October 2010

Last obs.: 7 December 2010*

Banded: 21 November 2011

(*Ed. note: the actual last obs. date was mid-March, 2011, well after this report was submitted to PORC.)

Overview

The bird was first observed in early or mid-October at lot M75 in a mobile home park at adjacent to Mountain Springs Campground by the resident, Renee Gery, who assumed it was a late rubythroat, although she noted that the hummingbird appeared larger and darker than usual. On 20 November 2010, concerned that the weather was getting cold, she called Jack Holcomb's radio show, and he put her in touch with me. When I suggested it was likely a *Selasphorus*, and asked about noticeable rufous, she said there was none, and that the hummingbird was very gray.

The next day, 21 November, I went to Ms. Gery's house with my banding gear. The bird quickly appeared at the feeder, and from its size, lack of chestnut tones, heavily marked sides and face, and general shape (large head, thick neck, fairly short, straight bill, tail somewhat longer than wings) I immediately suspected an Anna's. Within 20 minutes I'd captured the bird in a cage trap at the feeder, and measurements and plumage characteristics confirmed that this was Pennsylvania's first-record Anna's hummingbird.

Distinguishing the species

Calypte hummingbirds are distinguishable from other small North American hummingbirds by the combination of measurements, the presence of iridescent pinkish-red gorget feathers, fairly broad inner primaries, heavy green mottling on primarily gray underparts, a lack of buff on undertail coverts, and a lack of rufous on the rectrices (Pyle, *Identification Guide to North American Birds*, vol. 1, 1997, p. 141; Howell, *Hummingbirds of North America*, 2002, p. 119). As detailed below, this bird exhibited all these characteristics. Measurements were taken in accordance with Russell and Russell, *North American Bander's Manual for Banding Hummingbirds* (2001), North American Banding Council. Measurement ranges below are from Pyle 1997.

The bird was noticeably larger in the hand than an *Archilochus* or either of the expected *Selasphorus*, Rufous or Allen's. It showed slate-gray underparts with heavy dark green mottling, and had a central gorget spot of iridescent pink-red feathers, both consistent with Anna's. It had a grayish loreal spot in front of the eyes, which the smaller Costa's lacks.

Details

Age and sex: I examined the upper surface of the maxilla with a 20X loupe, and detected no bill striations, which are a juvenile characteristic through January in this species. This, combined with the presence of ~10 iridescent gorget feathers, indicated that the bird was an adult, and therefore a female, since an adult male would have a full gorget and iridescent crown feathers. The throat was also heavily marked in dusky green-gray, another characteristic of an adult vs. juvenile female.

Wing chord: The wing was measured with a digital micrometer (.00mm) from bend to tip of P10. The wing chord measurement of 50.19mm is well beyond the maximum for ruby-throated, black-chinned, rufous or Allen's (RTHU 47.3mm, BCHU 48.7, RUHU 46.6, ALHU 43.3), and is in the upper range for only broad-tailed hummingbird (52.1) which would exhibit extensive rufous on the rectrices. The other *Calypte*, Costa's hummingbird, has a maximum wing chord of 46.5, and has a tail which does not project past the folded wings, as this bird's did.

Tail: Tail was measured with a thin plastic millimeter rule, inserted to the base of the central rectes and measured to the tip. Tail range in AHY-F ANHU is 24.9-29.3, so the measurement of 29.0 is consistent, and exceeds all other

small gorgeted hummingbirds except broad-tailed. The undertail coverts were heavily marked in gray

Exposed culmen: Culmen was measured with a digital micrometer (.00mm) on the dorsal surface of the maxilla, from the front edge of feathers to the tip of the bill. The culmen measurement of 18.36mm is consistent with Anna's, but not diagnostic.

Gorget feathers: Both male and female *Calypte* hummingbirds exhibit iridescent gorget feathers. The ~10 gorget feathers formed a central cluster, with dark greenish-gray markings forming neat lines down the middle of the throat. In direct sun, the iridescent feathers were pink-red, correct for Anna's.

R5: One R5 rectrix was pulled as a voucher specimen, which I have retained under BBL permit #22918. It showed no rufous, eliminating any of the *Selasphorus* as well as Calliope, which is also eliminated by size. The width of the R5 was 5.98mm, which again exceeds the maximum width for any other small North American hummingbird species, but is in the range (5.0-6.3mm) for Anna's.

Molt: The hummingbird was in active flight feather molt, with P8-6 and P3-S6 replaced on both wings, and both P8 feathers about three-quarters grown. The primary tips were broad, a characteristic of *Calypte*. Rectrices were moderately worn, especially the white tips. It had bright, freshly replaced body plumage.

Anna's Hummingbird in the East

There have been previous records of Anna's Hummingbirds in the East, but the fall/early winter of 2010 has proven to be an especially active year for these vagrants. Other ANHU have been reported in recent months in Michigan (2), Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana (in April), Ontario (one or two) and Quebec (A. Chartier, pers. comm.).

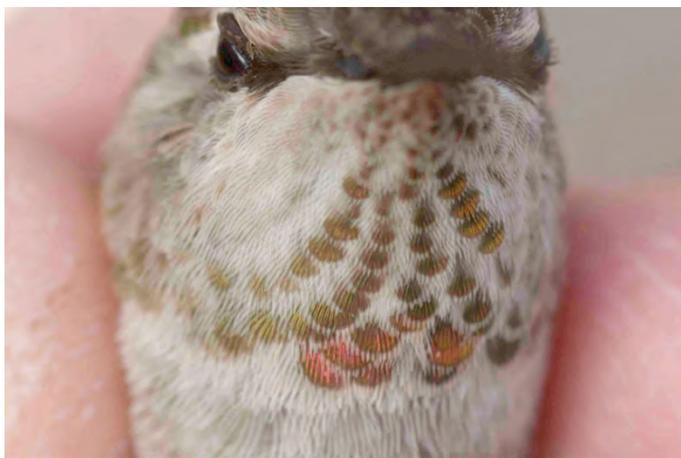
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(Tail detail)



(Ventral view)



(Gorget detail)



(Back detail)

All photos by Scott Weidensaul. Submitted to PORC 14 December 2010.

Summary of the Season

Mike Fialkovich

The season began with unusual weather including heavy rain and thunderstorms with hail and even tornados. Rain continued in May and many observers reported wet conditions during the PAMC.

Spring brings rare migrants and this season was no exception. A number of less common waders put in an appearance and a Brown Pelican that was discovered on a surprisingly small body of water in *Washington* left many observers with their mouths hanging open in disbelief.

There were a few fallouts of waterfowl as there are every spring, and each year brings surprises. Large numbers and variety are expected, but this spring there were remarkably high counts of a few species.

Winter finches remained from the previous season with **Common Redpolls** and **Pine Siskins** present across the state. A few **Evening Grosbeaks** were even reported this season.

eBird reports are beginning to become important contributions to county reports but there still needs to be more of a bridge between mere reporting and documentation of unexpected species.

The PSO Meeting was held in Bedford in May and participants recorded 180 species, which set a new high total for the conference weekend, just passing the previous high of 174 species in Erie in 2010.

Large numbers of **Snow Geese** are rare sights in western Pennsylvania, so unusually large flocks in *Bedford* (750) and *Crawford* (250) were notable. A total of 320 were tallied flying over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch in *Erie* over several days in early March; also an unusually large total for the season at that location. **Ross's Goose** is a rare but expected migrant in some parts of the state. A pair spent two weeks in *Allegheny*, adding to the handful of records; the last was in 2008. A single bird was in *Berks*. Two were in the Pymatuning Area in *Crawford*, last recorded in 2008. Six was a nice count in *Cumberland*, but 15 in *Franklin* represent the high count in the state, just edging the flock of 13 spotted flying near Presque Isle in 2003. *Huntington's* first spent only part of a day, and one was spotted in flight in

Lancaster. Two were a rare sight in *Mercer* (the first since 2009) as well as one in *Somerset*, the first there since 2007. A **Snow x Ross' Goose** was in *Lehigh*. **Cackling Goose** reports were submitted from *Adams*, *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Centre*, *Dauphin*, *Erie*, *Lancaster* and *Lehigh*.

With the growing population of **Trumpeter Swans** north and west of Pennsylvania, they are now found annually. A pair that wintered in *Clinton* remained well into the spring, two spent two weeks in *Bedford* and two spent an extended period in *Huntington*. *Crawford*, *Lehigh* and *Snyder* hosted trumpeters too. Perhaps Pennsylvania will become part of this species' winter range in the future, as long as there is open water to accommodate them.

A **Eurasian x American Wigeon** was seen by observers in *Crawford* at the expansive Geneva Marsh. A pure **Eurasian Wigeon** was also present in another part of the marsh prior to the discovery of the hybrid. **Eurasian Wigeons** were also found in *Berks*, *Cumberland*, *Dauphin*, *Lawrence* and *Montgomery*. **American Black Duck** totals were terrific in *Bedford* where 175 were counted, which was higher than the total Mallard count! A total of 170 were tallied in *Berks*. Large fallouts of **Northern Pintails** were highlights in *Bedford*, *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Centre*, *Mercer*, *Northampton* and *Snyder*. Read the county reports to find out how impressive the totals were. **Green-winged x Common Teal** are rare finds, however two were discovered this spring: one in *Berks* and one in *Bucks*.

The male **Harlequin Duck** that wintered in *Northampton* remained just a few days into this season. Huge numbers of **Long-tailed Ducks** stopped in *Crawford* and *Erie* creating a scene here like one more expected along the shores of Lake Ontario in Canada! An albino **Bufflehead** in *Dauphin* was certainly an interesting find. **Red-breasted Mergansers** occur in large flocks in the western part of the state, but in the east, they are very uncommon, so reports in *Bucks*, *Berks* and *Philadelphia* are notable.

There was quite a fallout of **Common Loons** in *Indiana* in early April with just over 300 counted. Over 100 were in *Mercer* 4/6, undoubtedly

brought down by the same weather system. Just over 200 were tallied in *Philadelphia* over a week later when another storm system brought birds down in numbers in that part of the state. **Red-throated Loons** were widely reported from 17 counties across the state.

Grebe highlights include **Eared Grebe** in two counties and a good showing of **Red-necked Grebes** in 13 counties. A pair of **Western Grebes** was found in *Centre*. Hopefully, documentation was obtained.

This was one of those rare seasons where both species of North American pelican were found in the state. An **American White Pelican** was at Presque Isle State Park in May for the second year in a row. Unlike last year's bird, this one stayed for several days. Much more surprising was a **Brown Pelican** in *Washington*, the sixth confirmed record for the state. The bird was on a surprisingly small body of water, however this reservoir provided a resting and feeding stopover for this wayward bird. Fortunately it spent two days at this location, providing opportunities for many birders to see and document it.

With the exception of 2009, **Anhinga** has occurred annually in the state since the first record in 1993, but is a species one has to be in the right place at the right time to glimpse. They are always seen in flight and are most often found by birders at hawk watches or those fortunate enough to be looking up at the right time. This season there were three reports in *Northampton* including several flying in formation where they headed east into New Jersey, and one was in *York* flying in a kettle of **Black Vultures**.

It was a great season for egrets and herons with reports of almost all the uncommon species. **Snowy Egrets** were in the expected southeastern counties, and a first for *Allegheny* occurred in May. **Little Blue Heron** was reported in five counties including *Beaver*, *Berks*, four at different locations in *Bucks*, *Lehigh* (second record), and *Mifflin*. **Cattle Egret** reports were good with observations in eight counties. Most were single birds however there were four in *Centre* and two in *Cumberland* and *Lebanon*. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** returned to an established nest site in

Dauphin. This was also a good spring for **Glossy Ibis**, which were found in eight counties. A flock of 25 were in *Berks* and there were reports of three others in two different *Berks* locations. Six were in *Chester*, four were in *Cumberland* and singles or pairs comprised the remaining reports. A **Wood Stork** was a first for *Franklin* this spring. **Least Bitterns** were very cooperative for PSO members on a field trip during the annual meeting in *Bedford*. One in *Cambria* was rare for that county and they were present in *Philadelphia* the entire season. Single birds were found in *Berks*, *Carbon* and *Huntington*.

I always try to note **Black Vulture** reports. While they are resident in the state, they do have a restricted range, and thus are newsworthy in many areas of the state. Surprisingly, they can be absent from counties fairly close to those where they are resident. Such is the case in *Centre*, where two this season were rather unusual. They were reported at hawk watch sites in *Bedford* where a few are recorded each year, and in *Erie* where they are rare anytime. Other notable reports came from *Bradford*, *Indiana* (only the third record), *Somerset*, *Westmoreland* and *Wyoming* (where a few appear each year). A new high count was tallied in *Lehigh* this season. Almost as rare is locating a nest, but that was accomplished in *Lebanon* where a few nests were found. *Luzerne* and *York* reports are expected, but no less important. A leucistic **Turkey Vulture** was in *Northampton*. A pair of **Osprey** attempted to breed for the first time in *Allegheny*.

Both "expected" species of kite made the state reports this year. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was discovered in the air in *Cumberland* and was a nice surprise for a routine day out birding. One was also seen in flight in *Lancaster*. Like the *Anhinga* mentioned above, this is a case in being in the right place at the right time. **Mississippi Kites** are much more regular and several were reported. Three counties reported single birds, but *Chester* observers recorded multiple birds and two lingered for a few days. **Northern Goshawks** are always a welcome sight and were found at hawk watches in *Bedford* and *Cumberland*. Flyovers were found in *Centre*, *Lehigh* and *Wayne*. A rare dark morph **Red-tailed Hawk** was spotted in *Erie* flying over the Presque Isle hawk watch.

Golden Eagles were counted at spring hawk watch sights in *Bedford*, *Berks*, *Erie* (rare along the Erie lakeshore) and *Huntington*. There was also a flyover in *Berks* away from the hawk watch site. Rare flyovers excited observers in *Chester*, *Indiana*, *Schuylkill* and *York*. One was seen on a frozen lake in *Carbon*, a rare sight indeed! For totals, see the individual county reports. **Merlins** are definitely spreading their breeding range. From the first confirmed breeding in the northern tier counties in recent years, they were found nesting further south and west in *Crawford* and *Erie* this season. It will be interesting to monitor the expansion of this species in the state.

Two rare rails are newsworthy. A **Yellow Rail** was found during the PAMC in *Westmoreland*, the first report in the state in three years. An astounding five **King Rails** were present this spring, making up for the lack of reports the past two years. One on private property in *Lehigh* was seen by many and fantastic video was made of this cooperative individual. Also making headlines were two reports of **Purple Gallinules**. One in *Berks* was seen for only one day, but a bird in *Erie* was seen and photographed by many during its prolonged stay at Presque Isle. **Common Gallinules** are usually listed in Birds of Note but this season they were reported in twelve counties including *Adams*, *Allegheny*, *Centre*, *Franklin*, *Lancaster* and *Westmoreland* where they are rare.

Shorebird reports included some interesting high counts. *Lehigh* observers tallied 152 **Dunlin** and 112 **Wilson's Snipe** were in *Somerset*. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were reported from many counties, another good spring showing for this species. There were widespread reports last spring from eleven counties; this year reports came from ten counties. A **Piping Plover** was found at Presque Isle during a survey of Gull Point in May. Single **Willetts** were in *Berks*, *Crawford* and *Somerset*. *Butler* and *Mercer* hosted four birds each. They were right on schedule with all reports from the last few days of April and the first few days of May. There was only a single **Whimbrel** reported, surprisingly in *Allegheny* where it was the third record, and there was a single **Marbled Godwit** reported in *Erie*. **Ruddy Turnstones** were in *Bedford*, *Bucks* and *Lancaster* (surprisingly no reports in *Erie*). Hundreds were tallied

in flight in *Chester* during a migrating shorebird watch. That same watch recorded the only **Red Knots** for the season with over 170 birds counted on two days as well as the only **Sanderlings**. Rare in spring a **Western Sandpiper** was in *Centre* and a **Baird's Sandpiper** was in *Bedford*. A female **Ruff** was a great find in *Lehigh* and it was well studied and photographed.

It was the spring for phalaropes with all three species reported. **Wilson's Phalaropes** were in *Crawford* and *Cumberland*. Seven county reports included **Red-necked Phalaropes**. All were single birds with the exception of *Northampton* where two (a male and a female) were present at different locations. Two reports were submitted for the rarest species, the **Red Phalarope**. Single birds were in *Bucks* and *Chester*.

There are a number of gull highlights from the spring reports. Single **Laughing Gulls** were in *Allegheny* and *Cumberland* and 18 were in *Bucks*. Single **Franklin's Gulls** were in *Berks* and *Cumberland*. A bird noted as probable was in *Clinton*. The **Little Gull** migration along the Susquehanna River occurred as usual. At least three were in *Dauphin* and *Lancaster* and one was in *York*. Only a single bird was found in *Erie*, the other regular location in the state for migrants. Away from those areas, single birds were found in a flooded field in *Cumberland* and on the Juniata River in *Huntington*. Two were at Memorial Lake in *Lebanon*. **Black-headed Gulls** moved through the same time and were also found in *Dauphin* (one bird), *Lancaster* (two separate reports) and *Perry* (which may have been the same bird found in *Dauphin*). Further east, one was in *Bucks*.

A very surprising find was a **Mew Gull** in *Beaver*, providing the first county record and the seventh for the state. Unfortunately it was found at dusk so few observers had the opportunity to see it, but fortunately it was documented. Efforts are being made to determine subspecific identification. A **California Gull** was a rare find in *Chester* and like the *Mew Gull* above, did not stay very long. A few **Iceland** and **Glaucous Gulls** that wintered remained in the state into the spring season with both species lingering in *Bucks* well into May. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found in 14 counties with *Northampton*

hosting hundreds.

An **Arctic Tern** was identified from a photograph in *Bucks*. A nice flock of 15 **Black Terns** were in *Bedford* and one in *Wyoming* was extremely rare for that county. A record number for *Butler* of 100 **Common Terns** accompanied by a record 70 **Forster's Terns** were forced down by weather and gathered in a wet field.

Centre and *Westmoreland* observers recorded the first county records of **Eurasian Collared-Dove**. Single birds were in *Lancaster* and *Lebanon* and two were in *York*.

There were only two reports of **Barn Owl** from *Bedford* and *Bucks*. **Long-eared Owls** were reported in six counties and were either holdovers from the winter or migrants. An injured bird in *Northampton* was taken to a rehabilitator.

Chuck-wills-widow returned to *Lebanon* after spending the summer there last year. One was heard in *Bucks* only on a single day. A **Rufous Hummingbird** visited a feeder in *Bedford* in May.

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was seen and photographed in *Berks*, but never relocated. **Northern Shrike** reports consisted of a mix of winter residents remaining into the spring season and others reported on single days.

Corvids such as **Fish Crow** and **Common Raven** continue to push beyond their traditional boundaries. **Fish Crow** reports continued in *Allegheny* and *Indiana*. PSO meeting participants noted a calling bird in the town of *Bedford*, where they are rare. One was present in *Crawford* for several days. **Common Ravens** were noted as becoming increasingly regular in *Clarion* and *Erie*.

A **Sedge Wren** was found in Geneva Marsh in *Crawford*. **Marsh Wrens** were in *Allegheny*, *Bedford*, *Cambria*, *Centre*, *Chester*, *Cumberland*, and *Huntington*. Most county reports indicated this species as a rare or occasional migrant. Birds in *Bedford* and *Chester* returned to locations where they bred in previous years.

An adult male **Mountain Bluebird** was discovered at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in *Lancaster*. The bird stayed in one large field for several weeks allowing opportunities for many to enjoy this beautiful visitor as it hovered while hunting and perched on corn stalks. It was interesting that it stayed in the

same location with acres and acres of similar habitat available throughout the area. This was the second Mountain Bluebird found at Middle Creek; a male was photographed in March 1974 (McWilliams and Brauning, 2000). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was observed in a backyard in *Crawford* for a single day. A partial albino **American Robin** with white patches throughout its plumage was in *Allegheny*. Albino **American Robins** were seen in *Greene* and *Wyoming*. *Wyoming* was also the site of an albino **Gray Catbird**.

The warbler migration was unremarkable for the most part. **Golden-winged Warblers** were found in *Allegheny*, *Bedford*, *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Carbon*, *Centre*, *Cumberland*, *Fayette*, *Indiana*, *Northampton* and *Sullivan*. **Brewster's Warblers** were found in *Bedford*, *Carbon*, *Cumberland*, *Indiana* (at two locations), *Lebanon*, and *Sullivan*. **Lawrence's Warbler** was only reported in two counties: *Carbon* and *Lebanon*. **Orange-crowned Warbler** is more common in fall than spring, but there were numerous reports from eleven counties across the state. A **Yellow Palm Warbler** was found in *Erie*. **Prothonotary Warblers** were reported in twelve counties: *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Butler*, *Chester*, *Crawford*, *Erie*, *Greene*, *Lancaster*, *Lebanon*, *Northampton*, *Philadelphia* and *York*. *Erie* was the only county where **Connecticut Warbler** was reported this spring.

A male **Summer Tanager** was photographed in *Allegheny* and one was in *Bucks*. An orange variant **Scarlet Tanager** was in *Westmoreland*.

Clay-colored Sparrows returned to the traditional breeding areas in *Clarion*. Migrants were found in *Erie* and *Lebanon*. Single **Lark Sparrows** were great finds in *Erie* and *Fayette*. The bird in *Erie* was seen during a bird club outing; unfortunately no details were provided regarding the bird in *Fayette*. A **Nelson's Sparrow** in *Erie* provided the first spring record in decades. A **LeConte's Sparrow** or **Nelson's Sparrow** was in *Bedford* in April, but a positive identification was unable to be determined due to the bird's secretive habits. A nice count of 23 **Fox Sparrows** was tallied in *Carbon*. Compilers in *Butler*, *Clarion*, *Erie*, *Forest*, *Indiana*, *Lawrence* and *Wayne* noted **American Tree Sparrows** staying later than usual.

Lapland Longspurs lingered into March in *Northampton* and mid-April

in *Mercer*. **Snow Buntings** in *Centre* and *Mercer* remained into mid-March. Two **Painted Buntings** graced the state this spring. One visited a feeder in *Allegheny* for a day and was made known only by a review of eBird reports. A good description of a male was submitted upon request. Another male visited a feeder in *Mifflin* and was photographed.

Dickcissel has been regular in recent years in a few southeastern counties. Up to three were in *Chester*, several in *Cumberland* and one in *Lancaster*.

A female **Brewer's Blackbird** made a stop in *Wayne*. The four remarkable **Baltimore Orioles** that spent the winter in a backyard in *Chester* remained into mid-April.

Like the Black Vulture, **Blue Grosbeak** is a regularly occurring species with a restricted range in the state. Reports were from the expected east and southeastern counties, 13 in all.

Two **Red Crossbills** were detected flying past a hawk watch in *Huntington*. **Pine Siskins** and **Common Redpolls** reported statewide during the winter lingered into the spring season and were reported from 24 and 21 counties respectively. Observers in *Erie* and *Lawrence* found few **Hoary Redpolls** among the commons. Five **Evening Grosbeaks** spent a few days in *Butler* on their way north.

Reports were submitted from 51 counties. Thank you to all the compilers who sort and organize piles of data during such a busy season.

Birds of Note – March through May 2011

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.

Greater White-fronted Goose – *Cumberland*: one in Middlesex Twp. 3/21-4/10 (Herbert Weigl, *et al.*); *Lehigh*: one at Dorney Pond in South Whitehall 3/14 (Bill Etter, Ed Sinkler).

Barnacle Goose* – *Montgomery*: one continued from last season at Green Lane Reservoir to at least 3/1 (George Franchois, *doc submitted*).

Snow Goose x Ross's Goose – *Lehigh*: one at Heidelberg 3/17 (Billy Weber).

Mute Swan – *Berks*: up to 19 at Lake Ontelaunee through April (Rudy Keller); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Game Management Area 4/14-18 (Ronald Leberman, *et al.*); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 5/14 (David Beattie); *Philadelphia*: up to 20 present at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum to 5/11 (Steve Kacir); *Snyder*: one at Faylor Lake 3/18 (Aden Troyer, *et al.*).

Trumpeter Swan – *Bedford*: two at Dunning's Creek Wetlands arrived 3/5 and remained for two weeks (Tom Dick); *Clinton*: two continued from last season near Lock Haven up to 4/5 (m.ob.); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 3/19 (Mark Vass); *Huntingdon*: a pair from last season near Huntingdon remained 3/7 (David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Ian Gardner); *Lehigh*: one at North Whitehall 3/7 (Billy Weber); *Snyder*: three at Faylor Lake 3/18 (Aden Troyer, *et al.*).

Eurasian Wigeon – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/13-27 (Anne Hurst, Mark Wlasniewski); *Crawford*: one at Geneva Marsh 3/20 (Geoff Malosh); *Cumberland*: one at Kuhn's Pond in Upper Mifflin Twp. 3/7-11 (Mike Kotz, *et al.*), one in Penn Twp. 3/20 (Vern Gauthier, Andy Markel, Matt Sabatine, Billy Weber); *Dauphin*: two on the Susquehanna River at Millersburg 3/13 (Scott Bills, *et al.*); *Erie*: one at the head of Presque Isle Bay 3/15 (Mike Weible); *Lawrence*: one 3/5-9 at Black Swamp (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson, *et al.*); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Reservoir since Feb remained to 3/1 (George Franchois).

Green-winged Teal x Common Teal – *Berks*: one at Breneman's Quarry 3/26 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: one at Rohm and Haas in Bristol 3/16 (Devich Farbotnik).

Harlequin Duck* – *Northampton*: one from last season relocated on the Delaware River 3/5 (Rich Kane, *doc submitted*).

Black Scoter – *Berks*: two at Lake Ontelaunee 5/6 (Edith Leaman); *Clinton*: one on the Susquehanna River at McElhatten 3/4 (Beth Zbegner); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Causeway 3/13 (Shawn Collins); *Dauphin*:

one at West Fairview 5/26-28 (Deuane Hoffman, Ramsay Koury); *Lancaster*: one near Wrightsville 4/14 (Dick Cleary); *Northampton*: two at Minsi Lake 5/23-24 (Kathy Seminski, Stephen Kloiber, Michael Schall).

Northern Bobwhite – *Chester*: one during the PAMC 5/14; *Lehigh*: two at Leaser Lake 5/13 (m.ob.); *Washington*: three in Bentleyville 4/26 (Andy Berchin). All were thought to be introduced.

Eared Grebe – *Centre*: One at Colyer Lake 3/23-24 (Greg Grove, *et al.*); *Erie*: one off Liberty Park and off Big Pond at Presque Isle State Park 4/2-8 (Mike Weible).

Western Grebe* – *Centre*: two at Bald Eagle State Park 5/10 (Alan MacEachren, Fran MacEachren, *no doc*).

American White Pelican – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/23-24 (Michele Franz), and possibly the same bird 5/29 (Scott Kinzey); *Mercer*: one at the Lake Wilhelm marina 4/25 (ph. Scott Kinzey).

Brown Pelican* – *Washington*: one 4/13-14 at Boone Reservoir in Canonsburg (Kate Rodgers, m.ob., *doc submitted*), first county record.

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: continued from last season, with a high count 3/13 at Bristol (15) and Mud Island (4), and one remained at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/15 (Devich Farbotnik); *Philadelphia*: present from last season up to 4/13.

Anhinga* – *Northampton*: one flying over Rte. 33 and Freemansburg Avenue 5/2 (Dan Altif, *no doc*), several flew over the Koch farm 5/3 (Arlene Koch, *no doc*), and one was flying over the Lehigh River 5/8 (Matt Loyko, *no doc*); *York*: one at Brunner Island 5/5 (Lou Carpenter, *no doc*).

Snowy Egret: *Allegheny* – one at Wingfield Pines in Bridgeville 4/13 (Al Fleckenstein, m.ob.), first county record; *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 4/7-13; two were there 4/10 (Jim Eckert, Ken Lebo, Matt Spence); *Bucks*: one at Rohm and Haas 5/17 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: one in Carlisle Springs 5/2 (Peter Lusardi); *Lebanon*: one at the old Union Canal 5/1 (Tim Becker); *Lehigh*: one at Leaser Lake 4/13 (Billy Weber, *et al.*); *Northampton*: one at Green Pond 5/19 (Dustin Welch).

Little Blue Heron – *Beaver*: one adult at Independence Marsh 4/7 (Becky Smith, ph. Geoff Malosh); *Berks*: one in Heidelberg Twp. 4/23-25 (Peter Montgomery, *et al.*); *Bucks*: one adult in Tinicum Twp. 4/17 (Devich Farbotnik, Diane Allison), one first summer at Peace Valley Park 5/12-13 (Devich Farbotnik), one first summer at Rohm and Haas 5/14 (Bob Mercer), one adult at Churchville Park 5/17 (Bill Keim); *Lehigh*: one at

Haasville 4/26-27 provided the second county record (Dave Neimeyer); *Mifflin*: one in Big Valley 5/25 (Deb Brackbill).

Cattle Egret – *Bucks*: one at Maple Knoll Farms 4/21 (Richard Smith, Vicky Smith); *Delaware*: one at Philadelphia International Airport 4/29 (Martin Dellwo); *Centre*: four on Old Gatesburg Road 4/26-30 (Chuck Widmann); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 5/24 (Mark Vass); *Cumberland*: two along Horner's Road 5/27-28 (Andy Markel, m.ob.); *Lebanon*: two at the old Union Canal 5/28-30 (Mike Epler, Tim Becker); *Lehigh*: one at Haasville 4/25 (Dave Neimeyer); *Northampton*: one at Green Pond 5/31 (Dave DeReamus).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Bucks*: one 4/20 and 5/19 at an undisclosed location (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 on 5/29, two along the Conodoguinet Creek 5/30 (Ron Freed, Patty Freed, Kathy Grove, Dave Grove); *Dauphin*: several returned to the nesting area in Bellevue 4/16 (Juli Moffit), one in East Hanover Twp. 4/19 (Sally Zaino, Patricia Williams, Richard Williams), and possibly nesting in the Highspire area 5/9 (Pete Fox).

Glossy Ibis – *Berks*: 2 near Shartlesville 4/14 (Matt Wlasniewski); *Bucks*: 25 at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/12 (Devich Farbotnik), one in Blooming Glen 4/17 (John Good), two in Falls Twp. 4/19 (Devich Farbotnik), 3 at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/22 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: 6 flying over Exton Park at Church Farm School 4/28 (Nick Pulcinella); *Cumberland*: one at Horner's Road 4/22-24, one on Mudlevel Road 5/17-18 and again 5/28-29, four at Mudlevel Road 5/26 (Andy Markel, Dan Snell); *Franklin*: one near Shippensburg 5/24-28 (Dale Gearhart); *Lebanon*: one at the Old Union Canal 4/18-19 (Brian Weaver, Tim Becker); *Northampton*: two at Christian Spring Road Pond 4/20 (Michael Schall), one at Green Pond 4/26 (Dave DeReamus); *Schuylkill*: one at Sweet Arrow Lake 4/19 (Denise Donmoyer); *York*: two at a farm pond on Rte. 214 on 4/17-18 (Richard Cleary).

Wood Stork* – *Franklin*: one near Waynesboro 5/24 (Denny Bingaman, Dale Gearhart, *no doc*), first county record.

Least Bittern – *Bedford*: three at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/21 (Tom Dick, et al.); *Berks*: one in Maxatawny Twp. 5/22-25 (Bruce Williams, Drew Weber); *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzin State Park 5/20 (Margaret Higbee); *Carbon*: one at Lehigh Gap Nature Center 5/1 (Dave Levandusky); *Huntington*: one at Old Crow Wetland 5/4 (Tim Zador); *Philadelphia*: reported at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum the entire season.

Swallow-tailed Kite* – *Bucks*: one near Lumberville 4/24 provided a first documented report for the county (Kathleen Griffin, *doc submitted*); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 on 4/30 (Andy Markel, *doc submitted*); *Lancaster*: one near Lancaster 5/28 (Tom Garner, *doc submitted*).

Mississippi Kite* – *Berks*: one at Hawk Mountain 4/29 (Camile Concepcion, Bidur Khadka, *fide* Laurie Goodrich, *doc submitted*); *Bucks*: one well described at Giving Pond near Uhlerstown 5/24 (Paul Cooper, eBird, *doc submitted*), *Chester*: one at Downingtown 4/26 (Holly Merker, *no doc*), one perched in Malvern 5/21 (Nick Pulcinella, *no doc*), one perched at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/23 with at least two in flight at that location 5/27-31 (m.ob., *no doc*); *Juniata*: one perched along

Texas Hollow Road 5/19 (Toby Petersheim, *no doc*).

Northern Goshawk – *Bedford*: a total of six at the Allegheny Front spring hawk watch (Tom Dick); *Centre*: one flying over Millbrook Marsh Nature Center 4/29 (Drew Weber, Justine Weber); *Cumberland*: one at Waggoner's Gap 3/13 (Andy Markel); *Lehigh*: one at Leaser Lake 5/13 (Bill Etter); *Wayne*: one during the PAMC 5/14 (Don Hamilton).

Yellow Rail* – *Westmoreland*: one at a marsh on the Little Sewickley Creek Trail 5/14 (Jim Pemberton, *no doc*).

King Rail* – *Bucks*: two at Quakertown Swamp 4/10 and heard into May (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*); *Chester*: one at Cheslen Preserve 5/23 (Chuck Chalfant, *doc submitted*); *Crawford*: one at Geneva Marsh 5/28-31 (Lukas Musher, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton, Clare Nicolls, *no doc*); *Lehigh*: one at Haafsville 4/26-30 (Dave Neimeyer, *doc submitted*).

Purple Gallinule* – *Berks*: one at Hay Creek Reservoir 5/25 (Russ Hoffman, *doc submitted*); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 4/30-5/18 (Brian Berchtold, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Piping Plover* – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 4/26 (Sara Sargent, *no doc*).

Willet – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 4/28 (Russ Hoffman, Ken Lebo, Joan Silagy); *Butler*: four at Moraine State Park 5/1 (Mark Vass); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 4/28-5/1 (Lukas Musher, Ryan Ford, Mark Vass, Clare Nicolls); *Mercer*: 4 at Shenango River Reservoir 5/2; *Somerset*: one at Camp Soles Lake 5/8 (Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Chris Payne, Jeff Payne).

Whimbrel – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 5/27 (ph. Geoff Malosh) providing the third county record.

Marbled Godwit – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/20 (Jerry McWilliams).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Bedford*: a few present at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/19 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: two at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/17 (ph. Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: hundreds flying past Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/31 (Larry Lewis, Holly Merker, William Ryan, Lori Ryan); *Lancaster*: one at Conewago Rails to Trails 5/21 (Bob Essick, Mike Epler).

Red Knot – *Chester*: a flock of 70 flying by 5/27 and over 100 on 5/31 at Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Larry Lewis, Holly Merker, William Ryan, Lori Ryan).

Sanderling – *Chester*: a few identified in the fly-by shorebird flocks 5/31 at Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Larry Lewis, Holly Merker, William Ryan, Lori Ryan).

Western Sandpiper – *Centre*: one along Tadpole Road 3/23-24 (Drew Weber, Joe Verica); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/14 (Shannon Thompson).

Baird's Sandpiper – *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/19 (Tom Dick).

Ruff* – *Lehigh*: a female at Haafsville 5/20 (Billy Weber, *doc submitted*).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 4/28 (Lukas Musher, Ryan Ford, Bob VanNewkirk, Mary Ann VanNewkirk); *Cumberland*: one at Mudlevel Road 4/28-30 (Andy Markel, Matt Sabatine, Bill Oyler).

Red-necked Phalarope – *Bucks*: 2 at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/19 (Devich Farbotnik); *Butler*: one at Moraine State Park 5/16-18 (Deb Darney); *Cumberland*: one along Horner's Road 5/14 (Herbert Weigl, Andy Markel, Vern Gauthier, Joan Renniger, Ramsay Koury), one at Mudlevel Road 5/15 followed by two there 5/23 (Andy

Markel); *Lancaster*: one at Conewago Rails to Trails 5/19 (Tim Becker, Kyle Mongold, Mike Epler); *Lebanon*: one along Mt. Pleasant Road 5/19 (Mike Epler); *Northampton*: a female at Green Pond 5/16-19 (Dave DeReamus, m.ob.), a male at Greomar Road 5/18 (Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall); *York*: one at Lake Redman 5/13-14 (Lou Carpenter, Richard Cleary, Peter Robinson).

Red Phalarope* – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 5/18 (Devich Farbotnik, *doc submitted*); *Chester*: one at Longwood Gardens 5/17-18 (Larry Lewis, et al., *doc submitted*).

Laughing Gull – *Allegheny*: one at Duck Hollow 5/11 (Kathy Saunders); *Bedford*: one adult near Shawnee S.P. 5/1 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson); *Bucks*: up to 18 present at Shady Brook Farm 4/5-15 (Bill Keim), and on the lower Delaware River, where regular; *Cumberland*: one at Mudlevel Road 5/21 (Andy Markel).

Franklin's Gull – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 4/28 (Russ Hoffman, Ken Lebo, Joan Silagy); *Butler*: one seen briefly over Lake Arthur during rain 5/1 (Geoff Malosh); *Clinton*: one (probable) at South Avis 5/30 (Nate Fronk); *Cumberland*: one at Mudlevel Road 5/21 (Andy Markel, Bill Oyler, Dan Snell), first county record.

Little Gull – *Cumberland*: one at Mudlevel Road 4/1 (Vern Gauthier); *Dauphin*: three at West Fairview 4/1-5 (Ramsay Koury, m.ob.), three at Marysville 4/3 (Holly Merker), one at Marysville 4/17 (Ramsay Koury, Matt Sabatine); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 4/30 (Dave Wilton); *Huntington*: one on the Juniata River 3/28 (Ian Gardner); *Lancaster*: three on the Susquehanna River near Columbia 3/19 (Eric Witmer) and continuing for a few weeks, two near Columbia/Wrightsville 4/7 (Meredith Lombard); *Lebanon*: two at Memorial Lake State Park 3/23 (Tim Becker, Jarrod Derr); *York*: one at Wrightsville 3/20 (Meredith Lombard, et al.).

Black-headed Gull* – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/17-19 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*); *Dauphin*: one at Marysville 3/22-24 (Ramsay Koury, Andy Markel, Matte Sabatine, *no doc*), one at Harrisburg 4/3 (Geoff Malosh, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna River near Columbia 3/19 (Eric Witmer, *no doc*) and one on the Suquehanna River at Fisherman's/Wissler Run Park 4/23 (Tom Raub, *no doc*); *Perry*: one at Marysville 3/23 (Lou Carpenter, *no doc*).

Mew Gull* – *Beaver*: one 3/13 on the Ohio R. at Monaca (Mark Vass, ph. Geoff Malosh, *doc submitted*), first county record.

California Gull* – *Chester*: one at Struble Lake 3/4 (Larry Lewis, *no doc*).

Iceland Gull – *Bucks*: six at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/12 and one still present 5/28 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one at Struble Lake 3/4 (Larry Lewis); *Erie*: three at Presque Isle State Park 3/3-29 with one remaining 5/1 (Jerry McWilliams, Mike Weible); *Northampton*: up to four at Green Pond 3/14-20 (Michael Schall, Dave DeReamus, Dustin Welch).

Glaucous Gull – *Bucks*: present at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/5-23 with a high count of 6 on 4/5, one there also on 5/17 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: up to four at Presque Isle State Park 4/2-5/19 (Joao Tavares, Mike Weible, Jerry McWilliams).

Great Black-backed Gull – *Chester*: one at Struble Lake 3/5 (Larry Lewis), one at Willisbrook Preserve 3/9 (Al

Guarente); *Montgomery*: two at Green Lane Reservoir 3/23 (Joe Greco); *York*: one at Gifford Pinchot State Park 3/1 (Ramsay Koury).

Arctic Tern* – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/17 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*).

Black Tern – *Bedford*: a flock of 15 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 4/10 (Tom Dick); *Berks*: one at Shartlesville 5/14 (Matt Wlasniewski), one at Blue Marsh Lake 5/15 (Ken Lebo) and one at Lake Ontelaunee 5/24 (Rudy Keller); *Dauphin*: two at Marysville 5/20 (Dave McNaughton, Martin Wilson) and one there 5/23 (Ramsay Koury); *Lehigh*: two at Upper Macungie 5/20 (Jason Horn, Billy Weber); *Wyoming*: one at Lake Carey 5/1 (Joe DeMarco).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Centre*: one at the intersection of West College Avenue and Whitehall Road 4/23-30 (Jim Dunn, et al.), first county record; *Lancaster*: one in Paradise 5/8 (Jonathan Heller); *Lebanon*: two at Fontana 5/28 (Nick Pulcinella); *Westmoreland*: one at Wilpen 5/1 and 5/13 (Donna Mohny), first county record; *York*: one in Manchester 4/13-14 (Dick Humbert).

Barn Owl – *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/21 (Mike Lanzzone); *Bucks*: one at Bedminster Twp. 5/26 (Devich Farbotnik).

Long-eared Owl – *Bucks*: remained from last season at Peace Valley Park up to 3/6 (Devich Farbotnik); *Carbon*: one remained from last season at Beltzville State Park up to 3/29 (Dustin Welch); *Chester*: remained from last season at Struble Lake 3/5 (Larry Lewis), East Whiteland Twp. 3/5 (Holly Merker) and Pomeroy 3/14 (Jeff Wahl); *Dauphin*: one continued from last season in East Hanover Twp. up to 4/10 (Suzanne Donovan); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 3/21 (Jerry McWilliams) and four were there 4/3 (Dave Darney); *Northampton*: an injured bird was discovered at the Koch farm 3/27 (Arlene Koch, Dave DeReamus); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 3/12-17 (Ned Connolly, Chuck Hetzel).

Chuck-wills-widow* – *Berks*: one calling in Pike Twp. 5/15 (Jeff Zehr, *no doc*); *Lebanon*: one at Fort Indiantown Gap 5/1 (Tim Becker, *doc submitted*).

Rufous Hummingbird – *Bedford*: one at White-tail Wetlands 5/5 (Tom Dick).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* – *Berks*: one in Albany Twp. 5/19 (Jim Brett, *doc submitted*).

Northern Shrike – *Carbon*: one at Beltzville State Park to 3/13 (m.ob.); *Centre*: one at Coyer Lake 3/19 (Joe Verica); *Crawford*: one in the Meadville area 3/12 (Ronald Leberman); *Cumberland*: one north of Newville 3/14 (Dan Lehman); *Lawrence*: one from last season at Black Swamp remained up to 3/9 (Clifton McKee); *Lebanon*: one from last season at Fort Indiantown Gap continued to 3/11 (Moris Cox); *Venango*: last seen 3/20 at Rte. 38 near Kahle Lake (Gary Edwards).

Sedge Wren – *Crawford*: one at Geneva Marsh 5/1 (Ryan Ford, Darrea Masters).

Mountain Bluebird* – *Lancaster*: an adult male at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/30-4/14 (Sid Hostetter, Evelyn Koppel, *doc submitted*).

Townsend's Solitaire* – *Crawford*: one in Meadville 4/15 (Ronald Leberman, *no doc*).

Brewster's Warbler – *Bedford*: one seen during the PSO Meeting 5/21-22 (PSO Members); *Carbon*: one at the Hatchery Road Powercut 5/10 (Dustin Welch); *Cumberland*: one at SGL230 on 5/14 (Ramsay Koury);

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

Indiana: one at Yellow Creek State Park 5/10 (Lee Carnahan, Susan Dickson, Tom Glover, Margaret Higbee, John Taylor, Marge Van Tassel), one in Washington Twp. 5/14 (Mark Strittmatter, John Taylor); *Lebanon*: one at Fort Indiantown Gap 5/12 (David McNaughton); *Sullivan*: one on Dutch Mountain 5/28 (Rob Megraw).

Lawrence's Warbler – *Carbon*: one at the Hatchery Road Powercut 5/19 (Adam Smith); *Lebanon*: one at Fort Indiantown Gap 5/27 (David McNaughton).

Connecticut Warbler – *Erie*: up to five at Presque Isle State Park 5/13-21 (Mike Weible), one at Erie Bluffs State Park 5/25 (Mike Weible).

Summer Tanager* – *Allegheny*: a male at Frick Park 5/1 (Michael David, *doc submitted*); *Bucks*: one in Bristol Twp. 5/14-15 (Doug Filler, ph. Devich Farbotnik, *doc submitted*)

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Clarion*: found at Curllsville the first week of May (Mike Weible, Steve Gosser); *Erie*: single birds at Presque Isle State Park 5/6 and 5/12 (Mike Weible); *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake State Park 4/13 (Randy Miller).

Lark Sparrow* – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/14 (Bob VanNewkirk, et al., *no doc*); *Fayette*: one in Farmington 5/10 (*vide* Larry Durgin, *no doc*).

Nelson's Sparrow – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/11 (Jerry McWilliams).

Lapland Longspur – *Mercer*: over 30 along East Zahnizer Road 3/20 with a few remaining at least to 4/12 (Joseph Hockstetler, Neil Troyer, Samuel Troyer); *Northampton*: three in East Allen Twp. 3/24 (Dustin Welch).

Snow Bunting – *Clinton*: last seen at South Avis 2/22 (Carol, Hildebrand, Charles Hildebrand, Beth Zbegner); *Crawford*: two at the Pymatuning Causeway 3/6 (Scott Kinzey) and one 3/11 (Clare Nicolls); *Mercer*: one on East Zahnizer Road 3/13 (Neil Troyer).

Painted Bunting* – *Allegheny*: a male visited a feeder in Oakland 4/27 (Christopher McNamara, *doc submitted*) providing the second county record; *Mifflin*: one visited a feeder in Milroy 5/6-7 (Dwayne and Fran Shirk, *doc submitted*) providing the first county record.

Dickcissel – *Chester*: one 5/14 (Kevin Fryberger, Holly Merker, Edie Dondero), two on 5/19 (Nick Pulcinella, Larry Lewis) and 6 on 5/25 (Kevin Fryberger, Joe Sebastiani) all at a private farm; *Cumberland*: reported near Newburg and along Running Pump Road 5/28 (Andy Markel); *Lancaster*: one near Christiana 5/13 (Chuck Chalfant).

Brewer's Blackbird – *Wayne*: a female in Dyberry Twp. 3/23 (Chris Fischer).

Yellow-headed Blackbird – *Northampton*: one photographed in an Allen Twp. yard 4/1 (Jim Figlar).

Red Crossbill – *Huntington*: two flew over Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch 3/16 (Steve Kolbe).

Hoary Redpoll* – *Erie*: one in Erie near Presque Isle 3/19-20 (Jerry McWilliams, Mike Weible, *doc submitted*); *Lawrence*: two at Black Swamp 3/2-6 (Cory DeStein, Lukas Musher, Ryan McDermott, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton, *no doc*).

Evening Grosbeak – *Butler*: five at a feeder 5/10-14 (Linda Henz, Larry Lenz).

CORREGENDUM: The report of Spotted Sandpiper mentioned in the Volume 25, Number 1 Birds of Note (p. 34) was in error and should be removed from the record.



Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*). A large flock of Snow Geese might be a common March sighting on the eastern side of Pennsylvania, but it is a decidedly rare event in western Pennsylvania. This flock of over 200 birds was photographed in the Pymatuning area, *Crawford* 8 March 2011. (Scott Kinzey)



Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). These two wing-tagged birds at Lock Haven, *Clinton* continued from the last season to 5 April 2011 (here 29 March). They were found again by an observer near Niagara Falls, Ontario on 7 April, giving some insight into the movements these birds are capable of undertaking in a short period of time. (Wayne Laubscher)



Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*). This cooperative bird was photographed at Lake Arthur, *Butler* 1 April 2011. (Geoff Malosh)



American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). This bird was a surprise flyover at the marina at Lake Wilhelm, Mercer 25 April 2011; one of two found in western Pennsylvania this season. (Scott Kinzey)



Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). Following an 85-year drought with the species, Beaver scored its second Little Blue Heron in nine months when this adult stopped at Independence Marsh for an afternoon on 7 April 2011. (Geoff Malosh)



American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Bitterns occasionally appear in the strangest places. This bird somehow found itself on the "River of Rocks", a dry boulder field at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Berks, where it was photographed 4 April 2011. (Camille Conception)



American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). This outstanding portrait was made at Exton Park, Chester 7 April 2011. (Kelly Colgan-Azar)



Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*). Allegheny's long-awaited first Snowy Egret was represented by this highly celebrated bird at Wingfield Pines 13 April 2011. It was discovered in the morning and remained along Chartiers Creek all day to be enjoyed by birders from all over the Pittsburgh area. (Jeff McDonald)



Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). This bird was one of a flock of four that stayed in *Center* 26 to 30 April 2011 (here 29 April). (*Drew Weber*)



Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), leucistic. This striking vulture was photographed in *Northampton* 12 May 2011. (*Dustin Welch*)



Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). A handsome portrait made at *Booming Glen, Bucks* 17 April 2011. (*John S. Good*)



Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The Bald Eagle's recovery in Pennsylvania during the past few decades has been nothing short of remarkable. This bird was one half of a pair that successfully nested at *Kettle Creek State Park, Clinton*, shown here 1 May 2011. (*Charles Hildebrand*)



Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). This bird was one of two at the farm pond near *Shartlesville, Berks* 14 April 2011. (*Matt Wlasniewski*)



Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). This bird over Downingtown, Chester 26 April 2011 was the first of at least six sightings of Mississippi Kites in Chester this season, a remarkable total. (Holly Merker)



Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*). Willets continue to be found with frequency in southwestern Pennsylvania in a relatively narrow window during the last week of April and the first week of May. These four put down for the afternoon at the North Shore Beach at Lake Arthur, Butler 1 May 2011. (Geoff Malosh)



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). These two cranes at Buckingham Twp., Bucks 11 April 2011 provided Bucks with its tenth record, all of which have been made since 1991. (Diane Smith)



Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). Allegheny's third Whimbrel, and the finder and photographer's much sought-after county first, was this bird that put down during a thunderstorm at Bald Knob 27 May 2011. It was enjoyed by several birders before it departed at dusk. (Geoff Malosh)



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). Beautiful in-flight portraits of this species are normally made at places like Bosque del Apache, New Mexico, but this one was made right here in Pennsylvania at Middle Creek W.M.A. 6 April 2011. (Dustin Welch)



Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*). This outstanding flight shot of a wonderfully cooperative Marbled Godwit was made at Gull Point, Erie 20 May 2011. (Jerry McWilliams)



Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). This Reeve, shown at right with Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, was a one-morning wonder at a flooded field at Haafsville, *Lehigh* 20 May 2011. (*Dustin Welch*)



Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*). *Clinton's* first of this species was this first summer bird photographed at the Avis Flats 30 May 2011. (*Nate Fronk*)



Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). This stunning female in breeding plumage obliged observers for two days at Longwood Gardens, *Chester*. It appeared following an easterly storm 17 May 2011 (here) and remained the next day. (*Jeffery Davis*)



Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*). *Berks* also tallied its first Franklin's Gull with this adult at Blue Marsh Lake 28 April 2011. It was present only briefly but did not escape being photographed for the record. (*Russ Hoffman*)



Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*). This adult was a total surprise at a flooded field near Shawnee State Park, *Bedford* 1 May 2011. The bird later flew to the beach at Shawnee, where this photo was made. (*Shannon Thompson*)



Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*). This fine image was made at Hill Creek State Park, *Tioga* 25 April 2011. (*Gary Tyson*)



Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*). Lebanon scored its second Little Gull when this adult, one of two, stopped for a few hours at Memorial Lake State Park 23 March 2011. (Jarrod Derr)



Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). Bucks continues to be the center of winter operations in Pennsylvania for Lesser Black-backed Gull. This photo shows a portion of a flock at Lake Nockamixon 19 March 2011. (Bill Keim)



Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). This wonderfully charming portrait of two owlets was made in Harrison Hills Park, Allegheny 30 April 2011. (Steve Gosser)



Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*). This beautiful adult male was present 30 March to 14 April 2011 (here 3 April) at Middle Creek W.M.A. in Lancaster, only a stone's throw from the Lebanon line, but it was never seen in the latter county. (Geoff Malosh)



Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*). This truly marvelous image was made at Weiser State Forest, Carbon 10 May 2011. (Dustin Welch)



Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*). Probably a very early migrant, this Pine Warbler visited a feeder in Henningsville, Berks in mid-March 2011. (Peter G. Saenger)



Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*). Extremely rare anywhere in Pennsylvania in the spring, this bird at Gull Point, Erie 11 May 2011 represented the first spring record for Erie since 1934. (Jerry McWilliams)



Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). A beautiful image made in Lancaster 18 May 2011. (Jeff McDonald)

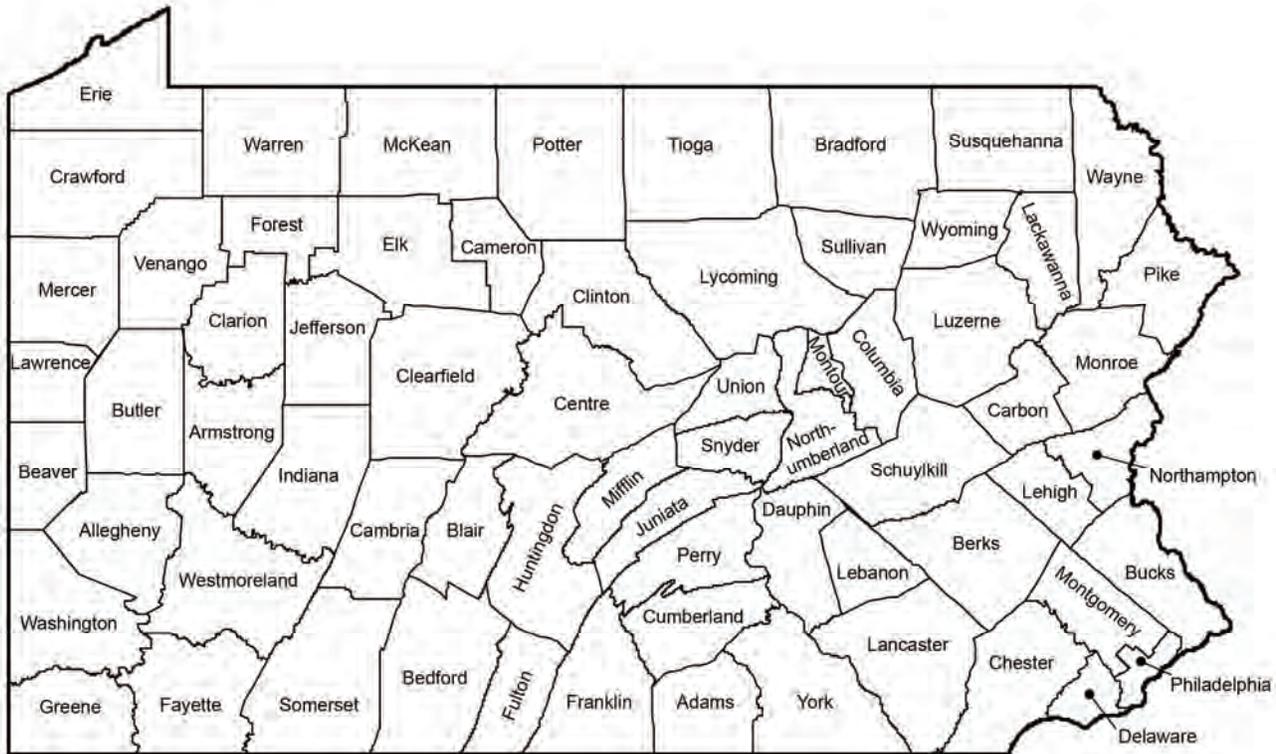


Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). This memorable portrait of this species of concern was made at Wingfield Pines, Allegheny 29 March 2011. (Jeff McDonald)



Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). This female was present at a feeder in Allen Twp., Northampton for no more than a half hour or so 1 April 2011. (Jim Figlar)

Local Notes – March to May 2011



ABBREVIATIONS

B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey	max	maximum	R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
C.A.	Conservation Area	min	minimum	Res.	Reservoir
CBC	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: Carbaugh Reservoir (CR), East Berlin (EB), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Huntington Township (HUNT), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Michaux State Forest (MICH), Mountain Road (MTN), Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count (PAMC), SGL #249 (SGL), Waynesboro Reservoir (WR).

South-central Pennsylvania had record April rainfall at 9.5" and wetter than normal conditions that carried into May. Nevertheless, the county had a productive 5/14 PAMC (led by PJR) with 107 species and a number of noteworthy sightings throughout the period.

Waterfowl sightings were an improvement over the spring of 2010. Thirty **Snow Geese** were seen along Hoover's School Rd and Rte. 234 on 3/4 (PK). A very nice find, a **Cackling Goose**, was at LPRR 3/10 (VG, AM). **Tundra Swans** continue their annual stopover along the fields of Germany Rd with numbers peaking at ~250 on 3/12 (PK). Tundras were also at LPRR on 3/10 (VG, AM) with a count of 53. The Michaux State Forest reservoirs and SGL accounted for the balance of waterfowl reports and nearly all occurred from 3/10-4/1. More noteworthy species included two **Gadwall** on the PAMC (PB), a single **Northern Shoveler** at LPRR 3/10 (VG/AM), a pair of **Northern Pintail** at SGL 3/12, single

Bufflehead at WR 3/13 (PK) and at LPRR 3/25 (BO), two **Red-breasted Mergansers** at LPRR 3/13 (VB) and 12 on 4/30 (MS), four sightings of **Common Loon** all at LPRR, two reports of **Pied-billed Grebe** at LPRR and four sightings of **Horned Grebe** with all three Michaux reservoirs—LPRR, CR, and WR—apparently to their liking. A rewarding sight 5/1 at SGL was of a **Hooded Merganser** hen with two chicks (PK). Neither Breeding Bird Atlas effort provided a record of confirmed breeding for this species in Adams.

Wild Turkey sightings were isolated to three at MICH 3/16 (KH) and one 5/7 (TB) and one at SGL 5/1 (PK). Wader highlights were a **Great Egret** at SGL on 5/22 (DJG) and a **Black-crowned Night Heron** at the Gettysburg High School campus 5/29 (JHi).

Bald Eagle sightings were possibly the same adult bird at LPRR 3/25 and 4/1(BO). A great count of up to 12 **Northern Harriers** was compiled at GNMP 3/1 (KL, AMS, DK)!

The likely highlight of the PAMC was a **Common Gallinule** at SGL (PJR). Shorebird reports were very slim as a result of the elevated water levels. **Wilson's Snipe** were found on the PAMC. The only **American Woodcock** report came from Milesburn Rd 3/30 (BF). There was a **Bonaparte's Gull** at LPRR 4/30 (MS).

Cuckoo reports were limited to a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** on the PAMC. The same 3/1 GNMP trip (KL, AMS, DK) that yielded the

Northern Harriers also found 6 **Short-eared Owls**. First-of-year **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were seen 4/24 at GBG (JMCC) and HUNT (DJG). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found at Cashtown 3/12 and MICH 4/9 (BF). **Pileated Woodpecker** was reported with good regularity. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at SGL 5/22 (DJG) was the flycatcher highlight.

Common Ravens continue to be present at MICH with two seen 5/7 (KH). The sole **Horned Lark** report came from Cashtown 3/12 (BF) with 3 individuals seen. The sole **Brown Creeper** report came from MICH 5/28 (CB). Both kinglets were found with one report of two **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at MICH on 4/9 (BF) and three reports of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** from 4/14-5/7.

As with last spring, *Catharus* thrushes were limited to **Veery** with three sightings from 5/7-29, all at MICH. Up to 60 **Cedar Waxwing** finally finished off the crabapple crop at an EB home 4/22 (PK). Prior years typically found this tree clearing event taking place in Feb or Mar.

The PAMC found 17 warbler species: **Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, and Canada**. The total for the period was 23 with the addition of **Blue-winged** 5/1, **Black-throated Blue** from 4/30-5/28, **Yellow-throated** 5/23, **Palm** 4/24, and **Worm-eating** 5/21. Two pairs of **Louisiana Waterthrush** were seen carrying nesting material along Friend's Creek in mid-Apr (JH).

Sparrow reports were sparse. Thirteen **Field Sparrows** were found on the PAMC. There were regular sightings of **Grasshopper Sparrow** at GNMP from 4/24-5/23. The sole **Fox Sparrow** report was from HUNT 4/19 (DJG). The latest **White-throated Sparrow** report was from the PAMC 5/14. **White-crowned Sparrow** was at EB from 4/29-5/13 (PK). Interestingly, the 5/13 date coincides with last year's late date at the same location.

There were three reports of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** from 5/1-21. Seven **Bobolinks** were found on the PAMC and four were at GNMP 5/22 (BH). **Eastern Meadowlark** were found at Cashtown 3/12 (BF), 4 were on the PAMC and 7 were at GNMP 5/22 (BH). Three **Orchard Orioles** on the PAMC and one at GBG 5/11 (JM) were the only two reports.

Northern finch sightings were fairly impressive. There were six reports of **Purple Finch** from 4/6-24 with locations spanning the county. High counts were 10 at GBG 4/17 (JM) and up to 16 at Pine Run Rd from 4/6-19 (EFN). Heading the northern finch "impressive" list was a female **Common Redpoll** at a feeder at Pine Run Rd from 4/8-11 (EFN). Nice pictures were obtained. In closing out the northern finches, **Pine Siskin** sightings were noteworthy from both high count and late date perspectives. The high count was 65 from MICH 4/9 (BF) and the late date was a single found at MTN on the 5/14 PAMC (RDS). The same Pine Run Rd yard noted above held a single Pine Siskin from 3/19-4/19.

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Val Barnes, Tim Becker, Chris Blazo, Peter Bugler, Sy Dietz, Bill Frantz, Vern Gauthier, Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Kevin Hall, Brain Henderson, Jordan Hillsley (JHi), Judie Hogan, Deb Kline, Karen Lippy, Andrew Markel, Jenny McClintock (JMCC), Peter Morgan, Ed & Fran Norton (EFN), Mike O'Brien, Bill Oyler, Peter Robinson (PJR), Matt Sabatine, Ralph & Deb Siefken (RDS), Anna May Shaffer (AMS).

Allegheny County

Locations: Boyce-Mayview Park (BMP), Dashields Dam on the Ohio River (DASH), Findlay Township (FT), Imperial (IMP), Wingfield Pines (WP).

April and May were quite rainy with severe thunderstorms in the area, particularly in May which prevented birders getting into the field at times. Only during the final week of May did we see some dry weather and the last few days of May were quite summer like with near record high temperatures and humid conditions.

Tundra Swan flocks included 50 over Barking Slopes 3/5 (PM) and 80-100 over IMP 3/15 (GM). A white morph **Snow Goose** was at the ponds on Moody Road in FT 3/1 (GM). The two **Ross's Geese** discovered at IMP the last day of Feb. continued 3/1 (GM, CD) and were observed flying off (CD). Presumably the same pair were found at

Sewickley Heights Golf Course in Bell Acres (BMu, *fide* MV) later that day where they remained up to 3/14 (m. ob.).

A **Mallard x American Black Duck** was at North Park 3/20 (MV) and another was at DASH 4/11 (GM, DW, MV). **American Black Duck** reports include 7 at IMP 3/1 (GG), 2 at WP 3/2 (ST), one at Brunots Island 3/13 (MV), two in FT 3/18 (GM), one at North Park 3/20 (MV), two at WP 4/10 (CD, LM) and one at DASH 4/11 (GM, DW, MV, MF). A **Gadwall** continued at IMP from last season 3/1 (GG). Five were at Brunots Island 3/13 (MV), 2 were at the Moody Road ponds in FT 3/18 (MV) and one was at WP 4/2 (GG). A few **American Wigeon** were reported. One was at Blawnox and Fox Chapel 3/5 (AH), 2 were at Beechwood Farms 3/13 (STh, SuT) and 2 were at the Moody Road Ponds in FT 3/18 (MV). A **Common Goldeneye** was at Emsworth 3/13 (MV). Two **Northern Shovelers** were at Moody Road 3/18 (MV), one was at WP 3/22 (JM) and 8 were in that same area 4/19 (AF). A nice count of 30 **Redhead** was made at the Moody Road Ponds in FT 3/14 (MV). A male **Canvasback** was at IMP 3/4 (MV, GM) where it remained to 3/14 (m.ob.), the only report of this species. The **White-winged Scoter** continued from last season on the Allegheny R. at Blawnox up to 3/6 (AH, PM, MF). A nice count of 5 **Long-tailed Ducks** were on the Monongahela R. at Duck Hollow during a snowy day 3/6 (TM, NM) and a female settled on a pond at IMP 3/9 (MV, GM) where it remained until 3/25 (m. ob.). A male was nearby in FT 3/26 (MV). A **Ruddy Duck** was at IMP 3/20 (JF, MV); 2 were there 3/21-29 (CD, et al.), one was at Edgewood 4/7 (SD, BVN), one was at North Park 4/12 (PL, SL) and one was at Moody Road in FT 4/20-24 (MV).

A pair of **Ring-necked Pheasants** at Frick Park 3/16 (DWe) were the first seen there in many years. **Ruffed Grouse** reports are very spotty these days, so receiving reports is very positive. One was at South Park 5/11 (GF) and one was crossing a street in Natrona Heights 5/12 (DH, PH).

A **Red-throated Loon** was on the Ohio R. at DASH 4/10 (GG) and one migrated past DASH 4/12 (GM, MV); a first for the spring migration watch at this site. There are only a handful of county records of this species. There were few reports of **Common Loon** this spring. One was at DASH 4/8 (GM) and 4 flew past that site 4/12 (GM, MV) and one was at Harrison Hills Park 4/23 (AH, PM). A late bird was spotted in flight over IMP 5/27 (BC).

Both **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes** were reported at various locations. The high count of **Pied-billed Grebes** was 5 at Duck Hollow 4/7 (TM, NM) and 8 **Horned Grebes** at that location 4/7 (TM, NM) was the high count for that species. **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported all season. The max count of migrants at DASH was 209 on 4/5 (GM, MV).

Seven **Great Blue Herons** were on nests at the rookery on an island in the Allegheny R. in Hamar Twp. 3/20 (AH, PM). Eight were on nests at BMP 3/26 (GG). A single nest was found at North Park 5/15 (MV). **Great Egret** reports include one at DASH 4/5 (GM, MV), 2 at BMP 4/7 (DW, ST), 2 at DASH 4/11 (GM, DW, MV), one there 4/13 (GM), one at WP 4/17 (JM) and one at North Park 5/20 (POB). A nice count of 4 was made at North Park 5/29 (SK). A **Snowy Egret** was a fantastic find at WP in Upper St. Clair 4/13 (AF), furnishing the first county record. The bird fed along Chartiers Creek the entire day so many birders had the opportunity to see it and take photographs. Less rare but very notable in the county, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was flushed from a stream at Pontafac Park in Sewickley 4/18 (SD, BVN).

An early **Osprey** was seen flying near the Allegheny R. in East Liberty 3/14 (DY). A pair was discovered at a nest on Neville Island 4/27 (RC, *fide* PB); probably a first record of breeding in the county. The nest is on the property of Neville Chemical Company, whose personnel are monitoring the nest through closed circuit television and are taking measures not to disturb it (PB). Two rather late dates include one at DASH on the Ohio R. 5/22 (MV) where they are usually seen after migration and are probably the birds that breed just downriver in *Beaver*. Another late bird was seen on the other side of the county at Harrison Hills Park 5/26 (PH, JV). Birds were reported during the season at various locations along all three of the major rivers. A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was noted on a nest in the North Side of Pittsburgh in late March (OM). Last year a **Bald Eagle** nest was discovered in Crescent Twp. (the first confirmed in *Allegheny*) and made the local news following the breeding season, but was unsuccessful. The pair is trying again this spring. A female **Peregrine Falcon** has been observed at the Tarentum Bridge this season (RP, SG, et al.). Observers are monitoring the scene in the hopes a pair will nest on the bridge, however only a single bird has been observed so far. Nest cams on the nests at the Cathedral of Learning in Oakland and

the Gulf Tower in Pittsburgh provide insight to those long standing breeding pairs. A **Merlin** was spotted in Robinson Twp. 3/19 (GM) and one was at IMP 4/20 (MV, BS).

A **Sora** was at IMP in the smaller marshy pond along Bald Knob Road 5/12 (DW, ST); the first in the county since 2005 (one was found dead in 2007). A brief view of a **Common Gallinule** was had at WP 5/14 (JM), the first since 2007.

The most exciting shorebird of the season was a **Whimbrel** which dropped in at IMP 5/27 (GM) following a thunderstorm, providing the third county record. As sunset approached the bird appeared restless and began calling. At sunset it took off to continue migrating. North Park Lake was still nearly empty this spring as restoration continued. Some shorebirds were attracted to the extensive mud flats. Three **Semipalmated Plovers** were at North Park 5/23 (MV). A good number of **Solitary Sandpipers** were at WP 4/28-5/4 with a max count of 23 on 4/30 (DW, ST, GG, DN, SC). Nine **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at North Park 5/23 and 15 were there 5/26 (MV). Three were at IMP 5/27 (GM) and 2 continued 5/30 (MF). **Least Sandpipers** were reported at WP and North Park with a high of 14 at North Park 5/13 (MV).

An adult **Laughing Gull** was at Duck Hollow 5/11 (KS), representing the third record for *Allegheny* (the last was in 2006). Fortunately it was photographed but unfortunately it didn't linger. A late afternoon / evening search by several birders failed to recover the bird. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were tallied at DASH in April. This year numbers were lower than in previous years; the local counts are likely dependent upon weather conditions. Observers were looking from 4/2-16. High counts include 97 on 4/7 (MV), 172 on 4/9 (GM, DW, MF) and 98 on 4/12 (GM, MV). An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** spent the evening of 4/12 at DASH (GM, MV), another first for the spring migration watch at the site. It was still present at dawn 4/13 but departed soon after (GM). Along with the gull watch at DASH, terns are also tallied. **Caspian Terns** passed by in small numbers with 6 on 4/11 (GM, MV) the high count. **Common Tern** is always found in small numbers and just a single bird was recorded for the entire spring season on 4/12 (GM). **Forster's Tern** is the most numerous species to pass the dam and was recorded in a rather tight time frame in April with a high of 17 on 4/11 (GM, MV).

An adult and a fledgling **Eastern Screech-Owl** were seen roosting at Schenley Park 5/11 (KSJ). A **Great Horned Owl** nest was found in Crescent Twp. 3/23 (BS), less than 0.4 mile and along the same road as the Bald Eagle nest mentioned above. Two **Great Horned Owl** chicks were found huddled together at Harrison Hills Park 4/30 (SG). A **Barred Owl** was found at Sewickley Heights Park 5/2 (BVN, TM, NM); one of the few known breeding locations in the county. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was discovered by accident at Beechwood Farms in Fox Chapel 3/14 (BSh). A tree was cut down in the parking lot of the nature center and a bird flew out during the process. It was not positively identified at the moment, but on 3/20-21 a Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard calling in the middle of the night and the observer realized that was the bird that was seen flying out of the tree.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported near McKeesport 4/23 (fide JS) and one was seen flying over Gibsonia 5/30 (BM). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported as usual with one exception. Two birds were noted clinging to the UPMC Building in downtown Pittsburgh outside the 39th floor 4/4 (BG)! The birds were able to cling to the steel skin of the tallest building in Pittsburgh. BG had his camera and was able to photograph them.

There were two reports of **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: one at the Edgeworth Dump next to Pontafac Park in Sewickley 5/4 (BVN) and one at Beechwood Farms 5/22 (STh). **Philadelphia Vireo** was only reported two days in May. Single birds were at Harrison Hills Park (PH), Settler's Cabin Park (SC) and North Park (PAMC) 5/14. One was at Beechwood Farms 5/15 (STh). An **American Crow** was observed on a roof of a house in Penn Hills 3/19 with an American Robin in its bill. It proceeded to pluck the robin until another crow landed near it. The first crow picked up the robin flew off with it (MF). **Fish Crows** were reported in a cluster of neighboring locations. One was at Duck Hollow 3/21-22 (TM, NM), one at Squirrel Hill 3/26 (JS), two were in another part of Squirrel Hill the last week of March (CD), one was in Homestead just across the river from Duck Hollow 4/3 (KSJ), one was in Greenfield 4/16 (KSJ), 3 were in Frick Park 4/26 (RM) and one was there 5/1 (DWe). Two **Common Ravens** were at Bruntos Island 3/25 (MV), a favored location, 2 were at WP 4/2 (GG) and one was at IMP 5/30 (MF). All three of the least common swallows in the county were reported at WP. Two **Purple Martins** were there 4/4 (DW, ST); 2 **Bank Swallows** 4/24 (DW, ST) and a **Cliff Swallow** was there 4/5 and 4/24 (ST).

There were a few reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, all single birds from IMP 4/24 (MV), Frick Park 5/1 (JS, SS) and 5/4 (RF), Penn Hills 5/6 (MH), and Frick Park 5/8 (PK). A **Marsh Wren** was a good find at Harrison Hills Park 4/10 (PH) providing the 4th record for that location. All the *Catharus* thrushes were reported with **Veery** and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** the least numerous. A Gray-cheeked at North Park 5/28 was studied closely and showed characteristics of a **Bicknell's Thrush** (POB), but the bird was scared off by a passerby. A leucistic **American Robin** was seen in Schenley Park 3/31 (KSJ) for the third year in a row.

A total of 34 species of warblers were tallied this spring. A well described **Golden-winged Warbler** was seen in Squirrel Hill 4/9 (eBird observer), which is early. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at BMP 5/10 (DW, ST). A **Cape May Warbler** at Frick Park 4/26 (JS, SS) was the only one reported. Single **Pine Warblers** were found at Frick Park 4/17 and 4/24 (JS, SS), Knob Hill Park 4/18 (KD) and up to 5 were at BMP/WP 4/17-25 (m.ob.). One to three **Palm Warblers** were at BMP/WP from 4/15-5/5 (m.ob.), one was at Knob Hill Park 4/26 (KD), one was at Frick Park 5/1 (JS, SS) followed by 2 on 5/3 (DWe) and one was at North Park 5/8 (SC). **Bay-breasted Warbler** reports were few with just three reported: Harrison Hills Park 5/1 (AH, PM), BMP 5/10 (DW, ST) and North Park 5/12 (POB). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Frick Park 4/30 (JS, SS), one was at Harrison Hills Park 5/1-14 (AH, PM, PH, DN), where they breed, one was at Walker Park in Sewickley 5/14 (SC); a past or possibly continuing breeding location. A bird in Forest Hills 5/28-29 (TBI) in unsuitable breeding habitat was thought to be a late migrant. **Northern Waterthrush** reports include singles at East Liberty 4/22 (DY), Frick Park 4/28 (SS) and 5/4 (DWe), and Harrison Hills Park 5/14 (PH). **Kentucky Warblers** returned to Sewickley Heights Park 5/2 (BVN, TM, NM) where they breed. One was at Harrison Hills Park 5/8 (SG) and 2 were there 5/22 (PH) where they also breed. One was heard singing at Boyce Park in Plum 5/12 (MF). A **Mourning Warbler** was at BMP 5/7 (SC) and one was at Sewickley Heights Park 5/13 (MF). **Wilson's Warbler** singles were reported at Frick Park 5/9 (PK) and Sewickley Heights Park 5/14 (PAMC). A **Canada Warbler** was at Boyce Park in Plum 5/12 (MF), one was in Schenley Park 5/17 (KSJ) and one was in Squirrel Hill 5/21 (KSJ).

A male **Summer Tanager** was photographed at Frick Park 5/9 (MD, fide SC).

Fox Sparrow reports began at BMP 3/14 (ST) and continued from twelve locations. High counts include 9 at BMP 4/7 (SC, DW, ST) and 9 at North Park 4/9 (POB). **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported in small numbers from eleven locations (m. ob.).

A well described male **Painted Bunting** visited a feeder in Oakland 4/27 (CM), providing the second county record as far as I'm aware (the first was in 1995). Strong storm systems from the south in late April may have pushed it into the area.

Rusty Blackbirds were at BMP/WP in March and April (m. ob.). The high count at that site was 20 on 4/2 (JM). One was in Pine Twp. 3/2 (PL, SL), one was in FT 4/4 (GG).

Purple Finch reports spanned the entire season from twelve locations. Up to 7 were visiting feeders in Pine Twp. (PL, SL) and Harmar Twp. (JV), representing the high counts.

There were a few northern finch reports this season. Surprising was a **Common Redpoll** visiting a feeder in Pine Twp. 3/25-4/11 (PL, SL). A few **Pine Siskins** were in the area during the season with 2 in Harmar Twp. 3/5 (JV), 2 in Crafton 3/9 (SC) and a single bird in Harmar Twp. 3/14-16 with two remaining to 5/22 (JV). They were present in Pine Twp. most of the season with a high count of 6 on 5/1 (PL, SL). Single birds were in Moon Twp. 4/20 (GM) and Hampton Twp. 5/10 (DN).

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Sinderson (SSn), Becky Smith, Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Bill Switala (BSw), Becky Szabo (BSz), Steve Thomas (STh), Sue Thomas (SuT), Shannon Thompson, Steve Tirone (Sti), Ryan Tomazin, Jim Valmont, Bob VanNewkirk (BVN), Marjorie Van Tassel (MVT), Susanne Varley, Mark Vass, Dan Weeks (DWe), Dick Wilford (DWi), Dave Wilton, Dan Yagusic.

Armstrong County

Locations: Cochran's Mill (CM), Crooked Creek Park (CC), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Leechburg (LB), Mahoning Dam (MD), Rosston (RT), Wood's Pond (WP).

First 2 **Tundra Swans** arrived at CC 3/2 (MVT), and top estimate of 200 occurred at CC 3/6 (SG, MS). Manorville yielded the first 4 **Wood Ducks** 3/5 (MH, RH). Four **Gadwalls** at KR 4/5 (MH) comprised the entire report for this species. Five **American Wigeons** appeared near LB 3/1 (MVT); CC yielded one 3/6 (SG) and KR, 5 on 3/27 (MH, RH); last noted were 3 at KR 4/5 (MH). Top **Mallard** counts were 12 near LB 3/1 (MVT) and 26 at Manorville 3/5 (MH, RH). Three **Northern Shovelers** at KR 4/5 (MH), a single **Northern Pintail** at CC 3/6 (SG), 2 **Canvasbacks** at RT 3/5 (MH, RH), and 2 **Redheads** at KR 3/27 were the lone reports for these species. Eleven **Ring-necked Ducks** were counted at Manorville 3/5 (MH, RH), and 14 was the high CC count 3/26 (LM). KR on 3/27 (MH, RH) harbored the last 3 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 10 **Lesser Scaup** (the only ones reported), and the first 11 **Long-tailed Ducks**. Four **Long-tailed Ducks** were last seen at KR 4/5 (MH). **Buffleheads** reported included 2 at CC 3/2 (MVT), the high of 24 at KR 4/5 (MH), and the last 4 at CC 4/21 (MVT). Single **Common Goldeneyes** appeared at CC 3/2 (MVT) and at RT 3/5 (MH, RH). Best **Hooded Merganser** reports listed 14 at RT 3/5 (MH, RH) and 13 at WP near Elderton 3/6 (MH, RH); 5 were still at CC 4/7 (MH). A flock of 26 **Common Mergansers** lingered on KR 3/6 (MH, RH); 3 were sighted 3/17 (JM, LM, TM) at CC where a pair remained 5/6 (MH, LR, JV). Nesting was suspected when a hen **Common Merganser** was observed entering a hole in the dam at Mahoning 4/30 (MH, RH); a hen flew over CM 5/28 (MH, RH). High **Red-breasted Merganser** count was 110 at KR 4/3 (KB, MG); last reported were 37 at KR 4/30 (MH, RH). **Ruddy Ducks** were noted on only two dates, 3/27 (MH, RH) when 2 visited WP and 7 stopped at KR and 4/5 (MH) when 32 landed at KR.

A **Ruffed Grouse** at KR 3/27 (MH) was the lone report. First **Common Loons** were 4 at KR 3/27 (MH, RH) and one at CC 3/31 (MVT); 33 was the top tally at KR 4/5 (MH). The only **Pied-billed Grebes** noted were singletons at Manorville 3/5 (MH, RH) and at KR 3/27 (MH, RH). Two **Horned Grebes** at CC 3/17 (JM, LM, TM) were first, and 49 was the high at KR on 4/5 (MH, RH); one still lingered at KR 4/30 (MH, RH). A **Red-necked Grebe** was a nice find at KR 3/27 (MH, RH). CC hosted the first 4 **Double-crested Cormorants** 3/21 (BJ); 39 were observed at KR 4/5 (MH). First **Green Heron** arrived at CC 4/21 (*fide* MVT).

LB produced the first 2 **Turkey Vultures** 3/4 (MVT). KR yielded single **Ospreys** 4/5 (MH) and 4/30 (MH, RH). Seven **Bald Eagles** near LB 3/4 (MVT) included two adults; 6 **Bald Eagles** were spotted at CC 3/6 (SG). A pair of **Cooper's Hawks** were copulating 5/13 (MVT) in a backyard near Ford Cliff.

Two **American Coots** were sighted at Keystone Power Plant 3/6 (MH, RH). A **Semipalmated Plover** was photographed at CC 5/28 (MVT). A **Spotted Sandpiper** at WP was the only one noted. An **American Woodcock** was still peenting 5/28 (MH, RH) near Margaret. Single **Bonaparte's Gulls** stopped at KR 4/5 (MH) and at CC 4/7 (MH). Amazingly, WP yielded the high counts of **Ring-billed Gulls**—14 on 3/6 (MH, RH) and 19 on 4/30 (MH, RH). Two **Herring Gulls** were photographed at CC 3/31 (MVT). A **Forster's Tern** visited KR 4/5 (MH).

Both cuckoos were more numerous this spring. First **Black-billed Cuckoos** were found 5/6 (MH, LR, JV) at CC and 5/7 (LM) near CM. The Margaret BBS 5/30 (MH, RH) yielded 3 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**. First **Chimney Swifts** were listed 4/30 (MH, RH) both at KR and at MD. LM noted about 100 near dusk on 5/5 entering the PennDOT chimney in Kittanning. First 2 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were spotted near LB 4/26 (MVT).

Dates of return included 5/12 (MVT) for **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at Rearick's Fording and 5/14 (MVT) for **Acadian Flycatcher** near CM. An **Alder Flycatcher** was a nice find on the Margaret BBS 5/30 (MH, RH). First dates included 3/26 (LM) for **Eastern Phoebe** at CC and 5/6 (MH, LR, JV) for both **Great Crested Flycatcher** and **Eastern Kingbird** at

CC. April 30 (MH, RH) yielded the first **Yellow-throated** and **Warbling Vireos** at KR and **Blue-headed Vireo** near MD. By 5/6 (MH, LR, JV) at least 3 **Red-eyed Vireos** were singing at CC. A pair of **Common Ravens** nested once again at CC (MVT), and an adult was already on nest at Keystone Cleaning Plant 3/6 (MH, RH). On a stop at WP 4/30 (MH, RH) 31 **Purple Martins** were counted in the vicinity of the colony. An estimated 40 **Tree Swallows** were feeding over KR 4/5 (MH). First **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were found along Dutch Run near Elderton 4/30 (MH, RH). KR produced the first **Bank Swallow** and Dayton, the first **Barn Swallows** 4/30 (MH, RH).

Two **Brown Creepers** at CC 4/7 (MH) were the only ones noted. First **House Wren** was heard along Dutch Run 4/30 (MH, RH). Both **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** arrived at CC 4/21 (MVT). A **Veery** at CC 5/6 (MH, LR, JV) was not singing; another was spotted at CC 5/14 (MVT). First **Wood Thrushes** were 2 near WP 4/30 (MH, RH). CC produced the first **Gray Catbird** 4/21 (MVT) and the first **Brown Thrasher** 4/7 (MH).

Single **Blue-winged Warblers** were observed 4/30 (MH, RH) at KR and near MD. Two **Nashville Warblers** were listed at CC 5/6 (MH, LR, JV). A **Northern Parula** was singing at MD 4/30 (MH, RH), and another was identified near CM 5/7 (LM). Both **Yellow Warblers** and **Chestnut-sided Warblers** arrived at CC 4/26 (MVT). Four **Cape May Warblers** were observed in the spruce at CC 5/6 (MH, LR, JV); along the stream the same day the observers oohed and aahed over a close **Black-throated Blue Warbler**. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** reports noted 2 at MD 4/30 (MH, RH) and a flock of 44 at CC 5/6 (MH, LR, JV). April 30 (MH, RH) yielded the first 2 **Black-throated Green Warblers** near MD and the first **Blackburnian** at MD. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was singing from a sycamore at CM 5/28 (MH, RH). **Cerulean Warbler** appeared 5/12 (MVT) at CC; 2 were singing at CM 5/28 (MH, RH). The first **Black-and-white Warbler** arrived at CC 4/26 (MVT). A late **Blackpoll Warbler** was heard on the Shelocba BBS 5/28 (MH, RH). **American Redstart** and **Ovenbird** were both found 4/30 (MH, RH) respectively near MD and near WP. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** at CC 4/21 (MVT) was first. Along Crooked Creek near Robb's Fording Road, 3 Louisianas were singing 5/28 (MH, RH). **Common Yellowthroats** were singing in full force by 4/30 (MH, RH) at various locations between Elderton and MD. First **Hooded Warbler** was recorded near MD 4/30 (MH, RH). A CC outing 5/6 (MH, LR, JV) yielded a beautiful singing **Wilson's Warbler**.

CC produced the first **Eastern Towhee**, **Chipping Sparrow**, and **Field Sparrow** 4/7 (MH). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were singing along Dutch Run and near WP 4/30 (MH, RH). A **Fox Sparrow** 4/7 (MH) at CC was the lone report. **White-throated Sparrow** was last noted at CC 5/6 (MH, LR, JV). **White-crowned Sparrows** were listed 5/6 (MH, LR, JV) at CC and the following day (LM) at CM.

First **Scarlet Tanager** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were found 5/7 (LM) near CM, and an early **Indigo Bunting** appeared 4/21 (MVT) at CC.

First **Red-winged Blackbird** was observed near Kittanning 3/5 (MH, RH) and the first **Eastern Meadowlark**, near Elderton 3/6 (MH, RH). Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were flipping leaves at RT 3/5 (MH, RH). Two **Common Grackles** near Ford Cliff were the first arrivals 3/3 (JV). CC yielded the first 3 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** 4/7 (MH), and both orioles returned 4/30 (MH, RH), **Orchard** along Dutch Run and **Baltimore** at KR. A single **Pine Siskin** flew over CC, calling 4/7 (MH).

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Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Big Beaver Wetlands (BBW), Gravel ponds north of BBW (BBWGP), Economy Borough (ECON), Hereford Manor Lake (HML), Independence Marsh (IND), Montgomery Lock and Dam (MLD), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

A **Snow Goose** in Independence Twp. 3/5 (MV) was *Beaver's* contribution to a fine season for the species in western Pennsylvania this season. It was probably the same bird that had been seen nearby in *Allegheny* a few days earlier. **Canada Goose** maximum at IND was 161

on 3/3 (MV). The only report of **Tundra Swan** was of 3 at the Shadow Lakes G.C. 3/5 (MV).

Wood Ducks appeared in numbers a bit early, as evidence by 15 at AR 3/14 (BS). **Gadwall** were noted at RCH 3/13 (MV) and at AR 3/14 (BS) and 3/22 (GM). **American Wigeon** were noted at the same locations and roughly the same dates (m.ob.), and were also noted at BBWGP to at least 4/9 (MV). **American Black Ducks** were typically scattered and unpredictable; 5 at RCH 3/1 (MV) was the best total. **Mallards** peaked on the same day as Canada Goose at IND, with 115 on 3/3 (MV). There was only one report each for **Blue-winged Teal**, 4/23 at RCH (MV), and **Northern Shoveler**, 3/23 at AR (GM, BS). **Green-winged Teal** were noted in small numbers only at IND (MV, JM) and at BBWGP (MV) in Mar. **Redhead** were at three locations through 4/9, with a max of 5 at BBWGP 3/11 (MV). **Ring-necked Ducks** had a great showing and were widely reported 3/1-4/22 (m.ob.). Well over 100 staged on the BBWGP from 3/17-4/9; peak was 138 on 3/31 (MV). One or two **Greater Scaup** were also noted at BBWGP in the first week of Apr (MV), and one was at RCH 3/1 (MV). **Lesser Scaup** were found very frequently this season at many locations; most notable was a fairly tardy bird at AR 4/22 (BS). The **White-winged Scoter** first found by MV at the mouth of the Beaver R. was last reported 3/15 (LM). A female **Long-tailed Duck** stopped at IND 4/8-9 (LM, CD), the second for this location. Like Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Duck, **Bufflehead** had a great season, appearing regularly through at least 4/9 (m.ob.). **Common Goldeneyes** reported were 2 at RCH 3/10 (MV) and one at AR 3/14 (BS). **Hooded Mergansers** were an easy find through mid-Apr (m.ob.); the best totals were flocks in the high teens at AR 3/14 (BS) and at BBWGP in the first week of Apr (MV). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were unusually easy to come across. First was one at RCH 3/13 (MV), followed by a growing flock at AR which peaked at 18 on 3/22 (GM). Reports persisted at AR to 4/22 (BS). Singles were located at HML 3/25 (MV) and 4/21 (SD, DK, ML). Last was one at RCH 4/23 (MV). The only **Ruddy Ducks** were 4 at AR 3/14 and 2 there 4/22 (BS).

A **Red-throated Loon** flew past observers at Dashields Dam in *Allegheny* and into *Beaver* during a period of rain and high east winds 4/12 (GM, MV), as did 4 **Common Loons** on the same day. **Common Loons** were as usual fairly visible at AR beginning 3/24 (GM) through 4/21 (BS). They were also found at HML 3/25 and 4/2 (MV), 4/14 (SD), and 4/21 (SD, DK, ML). **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted in small numbers through 4/24 (m.ob.). **Horned Grebes** were above average, with eight reports 3/1-4/6 (m.ob.) from four locations. Best were 6 at AR 3/23 (GM) and 5 at HML 3/25 (MV). An accommodating **Red-necked Grebe** spent a week at RCH 3/5-12 (BA, BS), often foraging very close to shore. Aside from large flocks noted during Dashields Dam migration counts in mid-Apr (see *Allegheny* report), **Double-crested Cormorants** were limited to one at AR 4/8 (MV, BS) and up to 7 at AR 4/13-22 (BS, et al.).

A probable **American Bittern** was flushed from along the wildflower preserve trail at RCSP 4/15 (DF, ML). Two **Great Egrets** were at AR 4/8 (BS, MV), and one was at IND 4/16 (PK). They were also noted migrating along the Ohio R. into *Beaver* on 4/11 (2) and 4/13 (GM). What would normally be the bird of the season came in the form of an adult **Little Blue Heron** at IND 4/7 (BS, ph. GM), but see the S.A. below to find out what eclipsed this species for top honors. This was the second record at IND in 10 months following an 85-year drought for the county.

A new **Osprey** nest, the county's fourth known, was found on the Beaver R. at New Brighton 3/29 (SG). The pair at the Potter Twp. site was already back on 3/20 (SG). There were no reports received of the Aliquippa nest or the Midland nest, though non-migrating Ospreys were frequently seen near Dashields Dam in *Allegheny* in Apr, which are normally presumed to be from the Aliquippa nest. Ospreys were also noted at AR 4/6 and 4/8 (BS, MV) which could have been either migrants or residents. A late bird was seen at RCSP 5/7 (RT); this species has been seen at the park's reservoir in recent summers. **Bald Eagles** were noted at MLD 3/16 (BS) and on the Beaver R. 3/16-4/6 (TJ). The **Peregrine Falcon** nest in Monaca held four fledglings 5/27; they were banded the same day (*vide* KSJ). The adults were reported to be exceptionally aggressive toward pedestrians on the bridge deck above the nest in late May (SG). Some interesting news was related to local Peregrine enthusiasts by AM: a pair of Peregrines at Ironton, Ohio (on the Ohio R. in extreme south-central Ohio) was found to be comprised of a female hatched and banded in 2008 in Monaca and a male hatched and banded in 2009 at the Cathedral of Learning in Pittsburgh in 2009.

A **Sora** found along the MLD access road 4/28 (BS, BA) was a nice discovery. **American Coots** were mentioned in low numbers and frequency through mid-Apr. Shorebirds were quite unremarkable, with only **Killdeer**, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpiper** (4/24 at IND by MV), **Spotted Sandpiper**, and **Wilson's Snipe** (3 at IND 4/8 by CD) making their way onto observers' lists.

S.A.

Certainly *Beaver's* bird of the season—and quite possibly of the millennium to date—came in the form of a **Mew-type Gull** found in the late afternoon 3/13 (MV) on the Ohio R. at Monaca among a flock of about 100 Ring-billed Gulls. GM raced to the scene and arrived in time to make several photos of the bird, despite the failing light. The Mew Gull, along with the entire flock of Ring-bills, picked up and migrated in near darkness at 19:48.

Initially it was thought that the bird may have been a “Kamchatka” Gull, *Larus canus kamtschatschensis*, but subsequent review showed it was more likely either a “Common” Gull *L.c. canus* or an American Mew Gull, *L. brachyrhynchus*. The matter of subspecific identification is currently being considered by PORC. Look for an article featuring GM's photos and notes submitted to the committee, along with the committee's analysis and final decision, in a future issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*. The article will also review previous records of Mew-type Gulls in Pennsylvania. In the meantime, see *In Focus* on the inside back cover of this issue for an image of this remarkable bird.

Bonaparte's Gull reports came mainly from the Dashields Dam monitoring in Apr, where the peak of a subdued season was 172 on 4/9 (GM), but some early returners appeared at RCH 3/25 (MV) and at HML 3/31-4/2 (KD, MV). Peak **Ring-billed Gull** count was 400 at RCH 3/1 (MV), but counts of over 100 were noted periodically on the Ohio R. through mid-Apr, including the flock of 150 that contained the aforementioned Mew Gull. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** discovered at Dashields Dam in *Allegheny* 4/12 was seen passing into *Beaver* airspace on the morning of 4/13 (GM). **Caspian Tern** reports were limited to those seen passing Dashields into *Beaver*; these included 6 on 4/12, 2 on 4/16, and one on 4/19 (GM). **Forster's Terns** followed the same plotline, with counts at Dashields including one on 4/7, 17 on 4/11, and 4 on 4/13 (GM).

A **Great Horned Owl** was seen on nest adjacent to a highway in an undisclosed location 4/1 (DaF). **Barred Owls** were found at RCSP 4/3 (KSJ), where the species is curiously under-reported, and at AR 4/13 (BS), where they are reliable as clockwork. The only report of **Common Nighthawk** was one over Ambridge 5/21 (MV). ECON was the spot for the only report of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, on 4/5 (KD).

Other than the dates of the first **Eastern Phoebe**, 3/20 at IND (MV), and **Eastern Kingbird**, 4/22 at AR (BS), reports of flycatchers were not noteworthy. Single **Blue-headed Vireos** were found at IND 4/13 (BS) and 4/30 (RN). A possible first for the county was a **Fish Crow** near Beaver Falls 4/27 (SG). The bird was not relocated in the next few days. Three **Purple Martins** were a nice find at AR 4/22 (BS). The colony at HML was active 5/6 (SD). Swallow arrival dates were: **Tree Swallow** 3/15 at RCSP (LM), **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** 3/25 at HML (MV), and **Barn Swallow** 4/8 at IND (LM, CD). The **Bank Swallow** colony at MLD was active again this year as of 5/30 (MV). Leftover **Red-breasted Nuthatches** lingered in the ECON area, most notably two present at a feeder since Nov held on until at least 4/21 (BA, BS). Another was seen in RCSP 5/16 (KSJ), very late for the species, but they do summer nearby in northern *Washington*. **Brown Creepers** were noted variously through 4/3 (SD, KD, KSJ). **Winter Wrens** were singles at RCSP 4/3 (KSJ) and at ECON 4/18 (KD). Following a strong appearance over the winter, **Golden-crowned Kinglets** remained in better than average numbers at both HML (SD, KD) and AR (BS, GM) through mid-Apr. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** suddenly appeared in numbers in the last half of Apr, beginning with 4 at HML 4/21 (SD, DK, ML) and 10 at AR 4/22 (BS). Last report was 5/6. Two **Veeries** were quite visible at Frankfort Springs 5/7 (RT). A **Swainson's Thrush** was still at MLD 5/30 (MV). The only **Hermit Thrush** reported was at ECON 4/18 (KD).

For whatever reason, observers submitted few species lists from mornings spent in woodlots in May. A search of eBird data did not add very much either. As a result, the warbler showing was poor, but a reflection of the sparse coverage. Transient migrants reported included

Nashville Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler (as early as 3/14), **Blackburnian Warbler, Pine Warbler** (MLD 4/22 by BS), **Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler** (3 at RCSP 5/16 by KSJ), **Blackpoll Warbler**, and **Black-and-white Warbler**. Arrival dates for breeding species, where relevant, were generally on time.

First **Scarlet Tanager** was in ECON 4/23 (KD), as was the first **Eastern Towhee** 3/22 (KD). **Fox Sparrows** were reported at feeders in ECON 4/5-10 (KD, BS, BA), and at IND 4/6 (SC). A **Swamp Sparrow** was located at IND 3/12 (SC). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was in Aliquippa 5/4 (eBird), the only report. **Rusty Blackbird** reports included: 8 in Independence Twp. 3/5 (MV), 15 at IND 3/22 (GM), 12 at IND 4/6 (SC), 9 at IND 4/8 (MV, BS), and 5 at IND 4/24 (MV). **Orchard Oriole** and **Baltimore Oriole** both arrived a bit early at AR 4/22 (BS).

Up to 12 **Purple Finches** attended a feeder in ECON 4/14-21 (BA, BS), and 2 were at another ECON feeder 4/15 (KD). Two reports of **Common Redpoll** were a bit unexpected considering that the extent of their movement in Pennsylvania over the winter seemed to be limited to the northern tier of the state. One appeared at a feeder in ECON 3/5-6 and again on 3/12 (KD), and another was in Aliquippa 3/18 (BW). **Pine Siskins** continued from the winter at the same ECON feeder as the redpoll, with fluctuating numbers of up to 10 through 4/30, and 5 there on 5/14 after two weeks of no reports (KD). A nice total of 30 **American Goldfinches** was made at a different ECON feeder 4/21 (BS).

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Bedford County

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Blue Knob State Park (BKSP), Dunnings Creek Wetlands (DCW), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Lambert Mountain Road (LMR), White-tail Wetlands (WTW), Bedford Co. at Large (BCAL).

This report will also cover the large birding impact of the 2011 Annual PSO Meeting held this year in Bedford 5/20-22. A special thanks to Tom Kuehl and PSO for having their annual meeting here in *Bedford*. The county is a gem for ornithology and the robust three days PSO spent here brings us closer to developing a better understanding of *Bedford's* avifauna. Those three days had a large impact on this report, given that 181 species and one hybrid were seen. Much of the data came from Dunnings Creek Wetlands (130 birds) and field trips to Blue Knob and multiple trips throughout the county. The entire 181 species will not be listed here but will be in the PSO newsletter. Most of the more common species were not entered in this report. Instead of initials, full names of PSO contributors are listed at the end of the report. In too many instances we simply couldn't put a name on the bird's identifier.

Frozen lakes began thawing 2/27. March to May provided record rainfall with flooding of streams plus many days of fog. Unless otherwise stated the following species were seen and counted by the author and the PSO participants.

Seven hundred and fifty **Snow Geese** flew over SSP 3/2. Sixteen hundred **Canada Geese** was the peak at DCW 3/2. Unless noted otherwise the location for most of the following was DCW. Two **Trumpeter Swans** arrived 3/5 and lingered for 2 weeks (this is a yearly event). Eleven **Tundra Swans** arrived 3/7. **Wood Ducks** were low this year at 35 on 3/5. Thirty-four **Gadwalls** along with 70 **American Widgeon** arrived 3/7 at DCW. A flock of 175 **Black Ducks** arrived at DCW 3/2, and **Mallards** reached their peak at 162 on 3/7. Eleven **Blue-winged Teal** arrived 4/25, which is about average for this DCW nester. Eight **Northern Shovelers** arrived 3/2, 220 **Northern Pintails** 3/7 (irregular nesters), 36 **Green-winged Teal** 3/2, and 120 **Canvasbacks** 3/24 (SSP). Forty-five **Redheads** arrived at DCW 3/16 and lingered for 17 days, which was both pleasing and unusual. One hundred and forty-six **Ring-necked Ducks** settled into DCW 3/2. Shawnee State Park played host to 50 **Greater Scaup** 3/24, 4 **Lesser Scaup** 3/16, 20 **White-winged Scoters** 3/24 (SSP), 17 **Long-tailed Ducks** 4/11 (SSP) and 42 **Hooded Mergansers** 3/2 at SSP and 18 **Hooded Mergansers**

at DCW. Twenty **Buffleheads** were counted 4/14 and one lonely **Common Goldeneye** 3/7, (DCW). The following merganser high counts at SSP are as follows: 41 **Hooded Merganser** 4/4, 107 **Common Merganser** 4/11 and 107 **Red-breasted Mergansers** on 4/11. **Ruddy Ducks** had a low peak of 30 on 4/23 at DCW.

Ring-necked Pheasants, Ruffed Grouse, and **Wild Turkey** were relatively unscathed by the harsh winter and wet spring. **Common Loons** peaked at 50 (SSP) on 3/24. **Pied-Billed Grebe's** high was 17 on 4/14 (DCW). The largest spike was **Horned Grebes** at 196 on 3/24 at SSP. One hundred and four migratory **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen at SSP 4/4. A low number of 3 **American Bitterns** were seen at (DCW) 4/11. Three **Least Bitterns** were counted at DCW 5/21. The high for **Great Blue Herons** was 10. A **Great Egret** was seen 5/20 and 4 **Green Herons** arrived at DCW 5/3. A **Black-crowned Night Heron** was sighted sitting on a large willow tree in the middle of Grebe Pool at DCW 5/21.

The constant spring rain and fog resulted in our lowest Spring Hawk Watch results ever at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch. The results are as follows: **Black Vulture** 10, **Turkey Vulture** 162, **Osprey** 56, **Bald Eagle** 13, **Northern Harrier** 16, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 151, **Coopers Hawk** 72, **Northern Goshawk** 6, **Red-shouldered Hawk** 31, **Broad-winged Hawk** 354, **Red-tailed Hawk** 392, **Rough-legged Hawk** one, **Golden Eagle** 73, **American Kestrel** 36, **Merlin** one, **Peregrine Falcon** 2, **Accipiter** sp. 10, **Buteo** sp. 12, **Eagle** sp. one, **Raptor** sp. 37, for a total of 1436. We also had 12 raptors during the PSO meeting, which included a flyover **Merlin** at DCW.

The first **Virginia Rails** arrived 4/10 and **Soras** arrived 4/17. Twelve **American Coots** arrived 5/2 at DCW. Two **Common Gallinules** arrived on the first day (5/20) of the PSO meeting at DCW.

Prior to the PSO meeting DCW was totally flooded and the impoundment designed for shorebirds needed a radical drawdown of 17 inches of water. The drawdown was started two days prior to the PSO outings. On the morning of 5/19 I checked the impoundment known as Bittern Pool and saw exposed mudflats; however, there were no sandpipers, I waited 5 minutes and to my delight several hundred shorebirds suddenly arrived. The following sandpipers were tallied in and around the mudflats of Bittern Pool unless noted otherwise: **Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, Upland Sandpipers** (near Buffalo farm), **Ruddy Turnstones, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpipers, Dunlins, Short-billed Dowitchers, and American Woodcock** (upland areas of DCW). Eighteen **Wilson's snipe** first appeared 3/3, lingered for a month and continued their migration 4/3. We generally get a pair that nest every 3 to 4 years.

Heavy rains and snow melt caused tremendous overflow from impoundments 2/27 resulting in fish flowing onto trails where they were landlocked as the water receded. This drew an estimated 500 **Ring-billed Gulls** to drop out of the sky and clean up the fish. On the same day we had an estimated record of 24 **Herring Gulls** among the Ring-billed Gulls. On 4/6, 75 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen flying around the wetlands. Two **Caspian Terns** were observed 4/4 at SSP and 2 were at DCW 4/17. Ten **Common Terns** were seen 4/11 at SSP and singletons at DCW 4/9 and 4/24. Fifteen **Black Terns** were observed at DCW 4/10.

Our owl listing is totally based on Mike Lanzone's acute acoustic ability in which he heard at night the following owls at DCW 5/21: **Barn Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Barred Owl**. I'm not sure how many PSO members would be out "owling" after those busy days. **Common Nighthawks** were seen in around the town of Bedford and one report suggested a night of traveling back roads of 30 plus **Eastern Whip-poor-wills**. A really good find was a **Rufous Hummingbird** at a feeder at White-tail Wetlands 5/5. All seven species of woodpeckers were found by the PSO, but the **Red-headed Woodpecker** required a special pre-meeting scouting. In that endeavor Sally Dick and Deb Bodenschatz found a ten-inch diameter tree with the top off at 10 feet above the ground with a pair nesting near the top. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found near the Blind at DCW and lingered there for close to a week. Other flycatchers included **Eastern Wood Pewee, Acadian, Alder, Willow** and **Least Flycatchers**. **Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher** and **Eastern Kingbird** were also found in good numbers by the PSO. The vireos reported included the following: **White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, and Red-eyed Vireo**.

A **Fish Crow** was reported flying over Bedford. **Common Ravens**

were also reported. **Horned Larks** were found in some fields, and **Purple Martins** were in the town square of Bedford. The swallows seen were **Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Bank, Cliff,** and **Barn Swallows**. **Brown Creepers, Carolina Wrens, House Wrens** and **Winter Wrens** were reported by PSO. **Marsh Wrens** were seen at DCW 4/3 in a location where they nested previously.

The **Golden-winged Warbler** is considered an "extremely High Priority Watch List Species" and was found in several different locations especially at DCW and WTW. The conditions are ideal for Golden-winged Warbler at the wetlands with upland hawthorns and other scrubby trees with wide openings. They were also found at various other locations within the county. The PSO list for warblers is as follows: **Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Brewster's Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler,** and **Yellow-breasted Chat**. The chat was found behind the blind at DCW and presently appears to be nesting.

Scarlet Tanagers were abundant as well as the ubiquitous **Eastern Towhee**. The sparrows seen during the PSO outings were as follows: **Chipping, Field, Savannah, Grasshopper, Henslow's, Song, Swamp, White-throated,** and **White-crowned Sparrow**. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were also reported. The lack of a Vesper Sparrow was a surprise. In the spring, mostly April, we had a likely LeConte's or Nelson's Sparrow that is yearly seen for several days in a wet meadow at DCW. It doesn't fly; rather it runs along as a yellowish mouse, but I have never seen the crown of this bird. I'm quite confident that within the next year we will be able to put a name on this bird and it is likely to be LeConte's Sparrow.

Observers: **Tom Dick, Hidden Acres Farm, 123 Hummer Lane Cairn brook, PA 15924, (814) 754-5727, thomasd102.d@gmail.com,** and the **PSO Participants:** Diane Bierly, Barry Blust, Brandes boys, David Brandes, Kate Brandes, Sally Dick, Tom Dick, Jane Earl, Gary Edwards, Mary Edwards, Erin Estell, John Fedak, Mike Fialkovich, Vern Gauthier, Doug Gross, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Marjorie Howard, Shonah Hunter, Laura Jackson, Mike Jackson, Luke Gerben Kaspar, Mark Kaspar, Todd Katzner, Chad Kaufman, Rudy Keller, Nick Kerlin, Kathy Kern, Arlene Koch, Ramsay Koury, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Sherri LaBar, Mike Lanzone, Gary Lockerman, Sandy Lockerman, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Francesca Massaratto, Annette Mathes, Mark McConaughy, Flo McGuire, James McGuire, Betsy Mescavage, Trish Miller, Ron Montgomery, Tom Pearson, Mary Jane Seipler, Wayne Sierer, Jim Smith, Rita Smith, Scott Stoleson, Jeff Territo, Trish Miller's mother, Kim Van Fleet, Marjorie Van Tassel, Linda Wagner, Daniel Winstead, Ray Winstead, Eleanor Wolfe, and Richard Wolfe. **Counters of the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch:** Jim Rocco, Bob Gorsuch, Rosemary McGlynn, Tom Dick, Ed Gowarty Sr., Bob Steward, Kevin Georg.

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Breneman's Quarry (BQ), Spring Twp. (ST), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands #110 (SGL 110).

The 2011 spring season was both birdy and well-birded. Only a selection of reported species could be included in this long account. Date ranges for all species reported can be found in the seasonal occurrence tables at <www.pabirds.org>.

As in 2010, **Snow Geese** moved through quickly after a Feb thaw, peaking at 12,000 at LO 3/5 (RK). A **Ross's Goose** was at LO and another at Gotwals pond, Oley 3/5 (RK). A **Cackling Goose** was at Gotwals pond, Oley 3/5 (RK), three were at Blue Mt. Academy pond near Hamburg 3/5 (BW), and one was at LO 3/8 (MS). A possible **Canada x Greater White-fronted Goose** hybrid was photographed at Gotwals pond 3/20 (AL). Up to 19 **Mute Swans** were at LO through April (RK). **Tundra Swans**, in a good year to see the species, peaked with geese, the high count of 234 at LO 3/5 (RK).

Many of the common early migrating ducks moved through in

goose season, with the following seasonal high counts from LO: 256 **American Wigeon** 3/5, 170 **American Black Ducks** 3/5, one **American Black Duck x Mallard** hybrid 3/5, 662 **Northern Pintail** 3/5, 204 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/4, and 850 **Common Mergansers** 3/2 (RK). A **Eurasian Wigeon** drake was at LO 3/13 (AH) until 3/27 (MW). Up to four **Blue-winged Teal** were at Peter's Creek near LO, the best location to see them, 3/27-5/1 (PM, m.ob.). **Northern Shovelers** wintered at BQ and continued to visit till at least 4/10, when eight were there (RE). A male hybrid American **Green-winged x Eurasian Green-winged** was among 72 **Green-winged Teal** at BQ 3/26 (RK). The bird had both the white vertical side bar of the American and the white horizontal side bar of the Eurasian ssp., but was otherwise indistinguishable. This is apparently the fourth record of this hybrid in *Berks*, the others from 1939, 1954 and 1993 (Uhrich, *A Century of Bird Life in Berks County, Pennsylvania*). High counts of four uncommon ducks were 5 **Canvasback** at BQ 3/2 (PM), 6 **Redhead** (only report) at BML 3/14 (JS), 6 **Greater Scaup** at LO 3/21 (TB), and 2 **Black Scoters** (only report) at LO 5/6 (EL). There were five reports of **White-winged Scoter** (high of eight at LO 4/23 - KL) and eight reports of **Long-tailed Duck** (high of 21 at LO 3/23, a rainy day - RK). Low numbers of **Red-breasted Mergansers** (10 or fewer per report) were scoped out of Common Merganser flocks at LO 3/5-5/23 (m.ob.).

Single **Red-throated Loons** were reported at LO on seven dates from 3/23-5/11 (RE, RK, AL, EL, KL, PM). Most **Common Loons** passed through during about a week in mid-Apr, with the high count of 100 at BML 4/16 (JS). **Horned Grebes** were unusually common, with at least 20 reports this spring. Most were seen in mid-March (50 at LO 3/13 - RK; 40 BML 3/14 - JS). The only reported **Red-necked Grebe** was at BML 4/1 (JS). There were 350 **Double-crested Cormorants** at LO 4/9 (RK) during the height of their migration.

Waders were unusually prominent and diverse, with nine species reported. The earliest of four reported **American Bitterns** demonstrated again that this species can turn up in odd places. One was photographed 4/11 (DP) on the River of Rocks, a dry boulder field in the middle of oak forest at HMS. A **Least Bittern** sometimes hid and sometimes perched openly at a pond in Maxatawny Twp. 5/22 (BW) until 5/25 (DW) or later, giving many birders a chance to see this notorious skulker. One to five **Great Egrets** were at LO 4/3-10 (KL, MS). **Snowy Egrets** made a rare and early spring appearance at the LO headwaters, where one was seen 4/7, 4/9 and 4/13 and two were seen 4/10 (JE, KL, MS). A **Little Blue Heron** fished along a creek in Heidelberg Twp. farm country 4/23 (PM) till 4/25 (RK, JS) or later, often hidden by a high bank. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** returned in early April to their rookery in Wyomissing Hills, only to find that one of the blue spruce plantings they had used for nesting had been cut down. The birds left, but some returned about a month later to nest in remaining trees (fide BU). Two **Glossy Ibis** were briefly seen at the farm pond on Old Rt. 22 east of Shartlesville 4/14 (MW).

A **Mississippi Kite**, probably an adult, was reported migrating past HMS 4/29 (CC, BK, fide LG). **Bald Eagle** reports were few (are even these iconic birds becoming ho-hum?). The pair in Marion Twp. had at least two nestlings in late May (RK). A female **Northern Harrier** in Maxatawny Twp. 5/24 (RK) was late, but there have been other late May records. A **Northern Goshawk** at SGL 110 on 4/10 (KG) was a spring surprise. A surge of **Broad-winged Hawks** was noted 4/20, when a few hundred passed over BML (KL, JS) and 425 (MW) were seen over Hamburg in late afternoon. **Golden Eagles**, not regularly reported in spring in eastern PA, were seen migrating along the Kittatinny Ridge, with two at HMS 3/8 (DH) and a sub-adult at SGL 110 on 3/17 (KG). The venerable female **Merlin** that winters at BML was last seen 3/23 (JS). Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** pair hatched four eggs about 4/29 (SW, fide BU).

An adult **Purple Gallinule** was discovered walking on the lawn at Hay Creek Reservoir 5/25 by Russ Hoffman, who managed to get a few photos of the bird in flight when it was unintentionally flushed by dog walkers. There is little cover for a marsh bird around this small woodland lake, and when the skittish bird flushed a third time, it flew into the woods for cover. It was not seen again that day or the next morning by birders watching for it. The only other record of Purple Gallinule in *Berks* is of a road-killed bird found near Peters Creek 9/18/1983 by Matt Spence, who salvaged a wing and took a photo, both of which are in the Reading Public Museum collection. A **Sandhill Crane** was seen walking down a suburban street near Sinking Spring 5/23 (fide EB).

Shorebirds of 13 mostly common species were reported. Birders (RH, KL, JS) who had gathered at the BML beach to see a **Willet** 4/28

were unexpectedly rewarded with excellent close views of *Berks'* first **Franklin's Gull**, an adult spotted and photographed by Russ Hoffman in the water nearby. It soon flew away and was not seen again. **Bonaparte's Gulls** straggled through over a long season, but were most common at the end of March (22 at LO 3/30 - RK; 19 at BQ 3/31 - PM). On 3/6, the only reported **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and the only five reported **Great Black-backed Gulls** were at BML (NP). The usual terns appeared in the usual low numbers. Three **Caspian Terns** were at LO 4/11 (RK) and two were at BML 5/4 (KL). Nine **Common Terns** were at BML 5/4 (KL). A **Forster's Tern** was at LO 5/10 (MW). Single **Black Terns** were at Shartlesville 5/14 (MW), at BML 5/15 (KL) and at LO 5/24 (RK).

Daytime calling **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard at SGL 110 4/10, 4/20, 5/1 and 5/13 (KG). The later dates suggest territorial birds. The only reported **Whip-poor-will** was a migrant heard in Earl Twp. 4/26 (AF). On the night of 5/15, Jeff Zehr awoke on his Pike Twp. farm realizing he was hearing a bird outside that was new to him. He recorded the song on his iPod and found a match on the internet, the song of **Chuck-will's-widow**. He didn't hear it on subsequent nights. There are four previous reports of Chuck-will's-widow in *Berks*, all from that ancient time when people did not routinely have sound recording devices close at hand. Birders watching for **Common Nighthawks** saw 57 migrating over Hamburg 5/21 (EG, KG). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen at three traditional nesting areas in April and May.

Three **Alder Flycatchers** were heard in the Oley Valley, at LO and in District Twp. 5/14, 5/15 (CE, RK), the same time **Willow Flycatchers** were arriving. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was spotted on a fence at Hawk Valley Farm on Pine Creek Rd. in Albany Twp. at 12:30 p.m. 5/19 by Jim Brett, who photographed it using his cell phone. Other birders were unable to relocate it. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was reported a few miles from here 5/14 and 5/23/08 by Lee Simpson and Sue Meitzler. Two **Horned Lark** nestlings close to fledging were found in an Albany Twp. hayfield 5/16 (BB).

Wintering **Red-breasted Nuthatches** lingered into April (HL) and northbound birds straggled through till 5/24 (RK). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Hay Creek 5/26 (RK) and one near Leesport 5/29 (DK) appeared in the traditional mid- to late May time frame for this species. Some **Swainson's Thrushes** migrated earlier than usual, with four reports 5/1-4 (RK, DKr, MW) and eight reported by 5/10. On 5/23, many nocturnal flight calls of this species were heard under a low cloud ceiling over Hamburg (KG). Two very early **Wood Thrushes** appeared at LO and in Pike Twp. 4/11 (RK) during a very warm period. A flock of 30 **American Pipits** was at Five Locks 4/2 (MW) and a flock of 40 was in the Oley Valley 5/14 (RK).

Birders reported 35 warbler species, essentially all of the species that are reasonably possible here in spring. This report merely samples the variety reported. There were more reports than in some years of boreal nesters like **Cape May Warbler** and of regular but uncommon species like **Wilson's Warbler**. The only reported **Golden-winged Warbler** was in District Twp. 5/18 (CE). **Orange-crowned Warbler** made a rare spring appearance when a singing male was found at SGL 106 on 5/1 (DKr). A **Yellow-throated Warbler**, rare at any season, was reported at LO 5/14 (DB). The **Pine Warbler** that wintered at BML was last seen 3/4 (JS) and newly arriving birds began to appear in mid-March. The only reported **Bay-breasted Warbler** was in Reading 5/15 (KL). **Cerulean Warblers** began arriving on breeding territories around 5/10 (KG, MW). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was at the LO headwaters 5/3 (SS, MW) for the seventh consecutive year, but was not reported later. **Kentucky Warblers** returned to at least three breeding territories. The only reported **Mourning Warbler** was at Kernsville 5/10 (MW).

A **Vesper Sparrow** in the Oley Valley 3/5 (RK) was at the early end of their arrival period, while two other Vespers in Heidelberg Twp. 4/7-9 (PM) were right on time. As usual, the high counts of **Fox Sparrows** came from SGL 110, where 36 were seen 3/15, 27 on 3/28 and 25 on 4/4 (TC, KG). A **Blue Grosbeak** was near Strausstown 5/22-31 (MW) and another was in the Oley Valley 5/27 (RK). A flock of 120 **Bobolinks** ducked into a hayfield near Hamburg 5/18 (KG). There were again depressingly few reports of **Eastern Meadowlark**, mostly of birds singing at scattered nesting areas. Reports of **Rusty Blackbird** actually increased over recent low norms, mostly because of counts at a staging area in Hamburg, where 43 were seen 3/30, 45 on 4/12 and 16 on 4/18, with smaller numbers on several other dates (KG). Without these counts, the total number of Rusty Blackbirds reported this season would have been four.

Northbound **Purple Finches** straggled through during most of the period, with higher feeder counts of 23 in Bern Twp. 3/23 and 29 on

4/19 (EB, JS). A **Common Redpoll** in Eckville 3/7 (SW), noted in the winter report, and another near Birdsboro 3/11 (DB) were the only reported *Berks* representatives of the 2010-11 redpoll incursion into the northeast. A few **Pine Siskins** continued from winter (four in District Twp. 3/14 and five on 3/20 - CE, RK), with the last two seen on the PAMC 5/14.

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Blair County

No compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: Armenia Mt. (AMT), Echo Beach Road (on the Susquehanna River south of Wysox) (EBR), Mt. Pisgah State Park (MPSP), PA Migration Count in Bradford Co. (PAMC), Peck Hill, (PEH), Riverhouse, Athens, on the SUR (RIV), Sayre/Athens Area (SAA), State Game Lands (SGL), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Troy area (TRO).

Rainfall and the occurrence of cloudy days were unusually high this spring: the NOAA office at Binghamton, New York reported 19.93 inches of rain, highest by far since 1951. Some of this rainfall was in the form of huge downpours. This has undoubtedly affected the nesting and feeding of numerous birds. An example seems to have been a failure of Sandhill Crane nesting and the disappearance of cranes from the area after their initial spring return from wintering areas. Also, days of high heat and humidity started early this year, in May.

On 3/1, 110 **Snow Geese** were at PEH (AV, GV); 200-300 were at EBR 3/4 (DNa, KN). On 3/6, 1000+ were on the Ulster Flats (DA, NA); a flock was at Milan/Ulster 3/7, a flock was on the Chemung River, Sayre 3/8 (RS) and 16 were in South Athens 3/18 (TL). Uncommonly seen, there were 5 **Tundra Swans** at EBR 3/4 (DNa, KN) and a small flock was on the Ulster Flats 3/6 (DA, NA). The number of duck species seen this spring was impressive for this area. On 3/6, 3 **American Wigeon** were at the Wysox Boat Launch (SR) and one was at the Taylor Marsh near Grover 4/8 (RY). On 3/16 3 **Green-Winged Teal** were at EBR (SR); and one was at TRO 3/20 (RY). Two **Greater Scaup** were at MPSP 4/10 (RY). The first sighting on the PAMC to this compiler's knowledge, 4 **White-winged Scoters** (apparently 2 mated pairs) were at MPSP 5/14 (RY). Three **Bufflehead** were at EBR 3/16 (SR); and one was at TRO 4/8 (RY). A **Common Goldeneye** was at the Wysox Boat Launch 3/6 (SR). Unusual, a **Red-breasted Merganser** was at MPSP 4/10 (RY). Four **Ruddy Ducks** were also at MPSP 4/10 (RY). The sole **Common Loon** reported this spring was at the Guthrie Ponds, Sayre 4/20 (DL). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was observed 4/8 on Taylor Marsh near Grover, and a **Horned Grebe** was at MPSP 4/10 (both RY). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was sighted at Big Pond 4/4 (RY); 3 were at the RIV 4/16 (DD); and 3 were on the Chemung River, Sayre 5/5 (DA, NA).

Eight **Green Herons** were observed during the PAMC 5/14 at various locations (LF, NF, MBe, RB, DB, TL).

Rarely seen, a **Black Vulture** was in Towanda 3/17 (SR). A nice number of **Osprey** were sighted: one 3/22 at Ackla's Pond (TL); one 4/20 on the SUR at Sugar Run (DB, MBu); and one 5/14 during the PAMC on the SUR between Hornbrook and French Asylum (DB, TL). Their population continuing to grow in the county, there were numerous **Bald Eagle** sightings: one 4/20 on the SUR at Sugar Run (DB, MBu) and 7 on 5/14 at various locations on the PAMC (MBo, JP, MP, DNa, KN, DB, TL, DP, SP, IH). Two **Northern Harriers** were at Coreyland 3/4, and one was on the PAMC at TRO 5/14 (all RY). On 4/26 a **Broad-winged Hawk** was calling and soaring near New Era, where it is

observed almost yearly and probably nests (TG); on 5/14 two were SE of Canton on the PAMC (LF, NF). Two dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were at Corelynd 3/4 (RY).

Not normally sighted in the county, a **Virginia Rail** was at Beer's Nature Center, Wysox 4/30 (SR). **Sandhill Cranes** returned as usual the past few years, but then, as stated above, no chicks appeared. On 3/14 crane calls were heard near Hollenback (RW); on 3/16 three returned near Wyalusing (MK); on 5/2 there were 3 in a field near Hollenback (RW).

Six **Greater Yellowlegs** were at Alba 4/8 (RY). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was observed 5/14 on the PAMC on the SUR in the Wysox area (SR). Rarely observed, a **Wilson's Snipe** was at Alba 4/8 (RY). There were few cuckoos, undoubtedly due to the scarcity of caterpillars this spring: on 5/14 on the PAMC there were 2 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** SE of Canton (LF, NF) and a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at TNE (TG). Sadly, no **Short-eared Owls** were reported this winter/spring: there is a natural gas drilling pad where they were observed in previous years (RY).

Delightfully, an **Acadian Flycatcher** started singing 5/12 near my house at TNE and has continued every day into the summer (TG). One was observed 5/26 in SGL 12 near Laquin (NaF). There were a fair number of **Willow Flycatchers**: one 4/14 and 5/14 during the PAMC in SGL 289 near Burlington (RY) and one 5/29 at Lake Ondawa, Big Pond (DS). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** 5/14 on the PAMC was in the SAA (MBo, JP, MP). Seldom seen, especially in this season, 2 **Horned Larks** were in SAA 5/15 during the PAMC (DP, SP, IH). Extremely unusual, 2 **Purple Martins** were in the SAA 5/14 on the PAMC (DP, SP, IH). There were a number of sightings of the more unusual swallows: 9 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at TRO 4/25 (RY); 10 were observed at various locations 5/14 on the PAMC (LF, NF, MBo, JP, MP, RY). A **Bank Swallow** was at TRO 5/2 (RY); and 20 were found 5/14 during the PAMC at various locations (MBo, JP, MP, RY). There were 25 **Cliff Swallows** 5/14 on the PAMC also at various locations (MBo, JP, MP, MZ). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was on Barclay Mt. 5/14 during the PAMC (TG, SR). A sole **Winter Wren** was reported 5/26 at SGL 12 near Laquin (NF). A **Blue-Grey Gnatcatcher** was at RIV 5/13 (DD). There was a wonderful sighting on AMT on 5/6 of a **Swainson's Thrush** (RY).

A marvelous number of warbler species were present this spring. A female **Tennessee Warbler** was found (unfortunately dead) at PEH 5/21 (AV, GV). A **Nashville Warbler** was present 5/6 on AMT (RY). A **Magnolia Warbler** was observed 5/11 at Athens (DNi); there were 5 on 5/14 on the PAMC: 2 of which were on Barclay Mt. (TG, SR), 2 near Canton (LF, NF), one at PEH (AV, GV); one was also at PEH on 5/22 (AV, GV). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were seen including one 5/6 at MPSP (DC), one 5/6 on AMT (RY) and 3 on 5/14 during the PAMC on Barclay Mt. (TG, SR). Observations of **Blackburnian Warblers** include one 5/10 singing in wet woods with hemlocks near New Era (TG), one 5/11 at Athens (DNi); and one 5/13 on AMT (RY). **Prairie Warblers** are not observed as frequently as in the past. A female was at PEH 5/11 (AV, GV), one was at SAA 5/14 on the PAMC (DP, SP, IH) and one was at PEH 5/18 (AV, GV). A single **Palm Warbler** was sighted 4/20 on Beebee Hill Rd (SR). Very rarely seen, a **Bay-Breasted Warbler** was at Athens 5/11 (DNi). More common, a **Black-and-white Warbler** was on Beebee Hill Rd. 5/2 (SR), one was in wet woods with hemlocks near New Era 5/10 (TG) and one was found 5/14 during the PAMC at SAA (DP, SP, IH). Quite unusual now, a **Northern Waterthrush** was found at a Barclay Mt. swamp near Mud Pond 5/14 during the PAMC (TG, SR). In normal years, there are quite a few observations of **Louisiana Waterthrushes**, but this year there was only a single one, perhaps due to the massive amounts of water in county streams. One was at SGL 12 sw. of Laquin 5/26 (NaF). **Canada Warblers** were found in more locations than normal: one was in wet woods with hemlocks near New Era 5/10 (TG); one was singing in an old orchard at TNE 5/11-12 (TG), and 3 were singing 5/14 during the PAMC on the trail to Mud Pond, Barclay Mt. (TG, SR). Three were observed 5/26 on SGL 12 sw. of Laquin (NaF).

One **White-crowned Sparrow** was at Echo Beach Rd. 3/8 (SR) and one was at a Sayre feeder 5/1 (DP, SP, IH). One in Herrick Twp. (MBe, RB) and one in SAA (DP, SP, IH) were both on 5/14 during the PAMC. Unusual, 6 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at the RIV 4/16 (DD). An **Orchard Oriole** was at a feeder in Sayre 5/1 (SP). One was on Falsey Hill Rd. 5/11 (SR); and one was found 5/14 during the PAMC at MPSP (RY). There were plenty of **Common Redpolls** around this spring. From one to 18 during the period from 3/4-4/2 were at a feeder at PEH (AV, GV). Three on 3/9, one 3/17, 3/25 and 3/31 were at a feeder at TNE (TG). Not common at all during the winter this year, there were

Pine Siskins during the spring. One was at PEH 3/9 (AV, GV); 15 on 4/11, 15 were feeding in the tops of Quaking Aspen, TNE (TG), 33 on 4/20 were at Towanda (SR), some were calling near my feeder 4/26 and 4/28 at TNE (TG), and a final one on 5/14 during the PAMC was at SAA (DP, SP, IH).

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Bucks County

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

Average temperatures were just under 2°F above normal for March and over 4°F above normal for April and May. Rainfall was above normal by almost 4 inches for the period, with all the surplus coming in March and April. Waterfowl passage continued longer than usual through April and into May, with some interesting late counts. Shorebird variety was good this year due to good habitat in the southern part of the county. The comments on migrating Neotropical species were all negative. "Migration was terrible" was a comment of many. The extended rainy period with easterly winds in mid-May didn't help. There were some good days from 5/5 through 5/10 for species diversity, but with no really large numbers of individuals reported. In general, the lack of significant numbers of warbler migrants after that—or anything else for that matter—was striking, making this at least partially a silent spring. Despite that, the local summer residents seemed to appear on schedule and in numbers consistent with recent years. Over the long term however, birders continue to lament the general decline in diversity and numbers of migrants and summer residents at favored hotspots. For local breeders, development, white-tailed deer destruction of understory, and alien invasive species such as stilt grass are taking their toll. Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism due to the habitat degradation is a major issue in my opinion as well.

A total of 238 species was reported in the three-month period, which was the second highest count in five years. Eleven species were recorded earlier than any previous spring, and three remained later. The PAMC 5/14 had 62 participants providing 20 area reports totaling 144 species, compared to the previous 10 year average of 158 and all time high of 172. The PAMC total of 744 individuals of 21 warbler species reported was far below the previous 10 year average of 1387. **Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat**, all common local breeders, provided 557 of those individuals. Another indication of the lack of migrants that day was the total of only 24 Yellow-rumped Warblers, the lowest count in the 19 year history of this count. For the date, the lack of migrants was startling.

Historical references are from *Birds of Bucks Co.* 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 for March and April and 1971-2000 for May. All reports without credit are from Devich Farbotnik. Where it was felt clarity was needed, he is credited. As usual, without his reports, this summary would be significantly less comprehensive. Bird observations entered into the eBird database have been reviewed for this report.

Eight **Snow Geese** at Bradford Dam 4/11 (GJ) were probably the last migrants reported. The only significant counts were 600 at Riegelsville 4/2 (EB), 400 at New Britain Twp. 4/18 (AM), and 250 at GVP 4/18 (EB). A handful of stragglers were reported into May (EB, DFa, GJ, BK, EN), but probably weren't going to make it north. A pair that was believed to be present at PVP from late Feb, ended up with one injured 3/8, and both ended up staying through the period (AM).

The last **Cackling Goose** reported was at CCP 3/10 (BK). Counts of 13 **Tundra Swan** at PVP 3/1 (AM) and 12 to 15 3/3-6 at NSP (DFa) continued the better than average reports from Feb. Although identified in flight, three observers were confident that a bird at GVP on the rather late date of 5/3 was a **Tundra Swan** (EB, EN). **Blue-winged Teal** seemed more visible this year probably due more to length of stay at frequently birded sites than increased numbers. They were reported from five sites. Bradford Dam provided the high single site count of 5 on 4/15 (AM). A count of 55 **Northern Pintails** at NSP 3/1 was noteworthy locally for this species on National Audubon's list of top 20 species in decline. A group of 88 **Green-winged Teal** 3/16 at Rohm & Haas, Bristol, included one hybrid **American x Eurasian Green-winged Teal** (DFa). Bradford Dam had its usual good numbers of this species, with a high of 91 3/30 (AM). Also on 3/30, CCP had 54 (BK). A **Canvasback** at Hidden Lake 3/2 (BK), Bradford Dam 3/12 (DFa), and NSP 3/19 (DFa) were the only reports. **Ring-necked Duck** high counts were approximately 400 at Rohm & Haas 3/5 (DFa) and 409 at State Game Land #56 4/12 (AM, JMi). A report of 177 **Lesser Scaup** 3/11 at Falls Twp. Community Park was a noteworthy high count (BK). Two **Surf Scoters** were at NSP 4/4, a new spring early date. One stopped at PWT 4/23, and 2 were at CCP 5/15. Two **White-winged Scoters** at NSP 5/20 provided the only report. Six **Long-tailed Ducks** stopped at NSP 4/1, and another stopped there 4/7. One was at PVP 3/13 (AM, JMi), and another was reported there 4/10 (JF). Nice tallies of **Hooded Merganser** were 40 at CCP 3/3 (BK) and 59 at NSP 3/4 (DFa). Birds noted through the period at QTS again suggest breeding there. The only significant reports of **Common Merganser** came from PWT, with thousands 3/5 (DFa), and PVP, with 1268 on 3/9 (AM). A count of 24 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 3/21 at PWT was believed to be the observer's highest ever single site count in the county. Another unusual single site count was 19 at PVP 4/5. Continuing unusual double digit counts were reported until 4/8 at PWT. Also, unusual were single digit counts at five sites continuing into May (m.ob.), with the last report being 3 at GVP 5/10 (EB). This year's high report for **Ruddy Duck** at Falls Twp. Community Park peaked at 114 on 4/11 (BK), an increase from the previous two years. Unusual were lingering birds at PVP through May, with a high of 10 on 5/2 diminishing to 2 on 5/31 (AM).

Northern Bobwhite and **Ruffed Grouse** were not reported. Individual **Red-throated Loons** stopped at PWT 3/16, NSP 3/22, and again at NSP 5/15 for the only reports. The many rain events in Apr resulted in double digit **Common Loon** counts on six days at one to three locations each day. The highest counts were from NSP, with 74 on 4/5, 29 on 4/8, 19 on 4/12, 90 on 4/13, and 22 on 4/16. PWT had 20 on 4/8. Other sites had lower counts. Surprising counts in the mid-single digits continued through 5/19 at three sites, with most being first summer birds. However, the highest May count occurred on the rather late date of 5/17 at NSP, when 18 mostly adults were noted. About 5 were first summer birds. Two pairs of **Pied-billed Grebe** were noted 5/14 back at our only known breeding site at the former USS property. **Horned Grebe** numbers were very unusual for magnitude and duration of occurrence. A fallout was first noted 3/12 at NSP, with 21 present (AM, HE). On 3/13, there were 39 at NSP, 40 at PWT, and one at CCP (all DFa), and 25 at PVP (AM, JMi), for a total of 105 that day. Double digit counts continued at NSP through at least 3/19 (DFa, HE, BK, AM), with the highest count 16 on 3/18-19 (BK, HE). Smaller numbers were reported at multiple locations through 4/24 (m.ob.). A **Red-necked Grebe** stopped at NSP 4/5 (DFa) for the only report. Large numbers of **Double-crested Cormorant** pass through our area, with probably the highest numbers at PWT, but no counts were reported. The 204 at PVP 4/15 (AM) was the highest single site count reported. A high count for **Great Cormorant** was 15 at Bristol and 4 at Mud Island 3/13. One lingered at PWT 5/15.

A total of 16 migrant **American Bitterns** were noted leaving QTS between 4/9-5/11 on eight of many evening visits. Counts of **Great Blue Heron** nests were not reported this year. However, a new site with two nests was detected in Holland 4/14 (BL), but only one nest was successful with two young produced (BK). A **Great Egret** at Churchville Park 3/5 (HD) provided a new early spring arrival date. The highest count was 6 at Rohm & Haas, Bristol 5/22. A **Snowy Egret** at Rohm & Haas 5/17 provided the only report. Reports of **Little Blue Heron** included an adult at Tinicum Twp. 4/17 (DFa, DA), first summer birds at PVP 5/12-13 (DFa) and Rohm & Haas 5/14 (BM), and another adult at Churchville Park 5/17 (BK). A **Cattle Egret** stopped at Maple Knoll Farms 4/21 (RS, VS), where it has been fairly regular in recent years. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** reports were few again, with the high count being 6 at Churchville Park 4/4 (MF). One adult **Yellow-crowned**

Night-Heron was reported 4/20 and 5/19 at an undisclosed location. The observer's highest ever count of 25 **Glossy Ibis** occurred 4/12 at PWT. One was in Blooming Glen 4/17 (JGo), 2 were at Falls Twp. 4/19 (DFa), and 3 stopped at PWT 5/22 (DFa).

Ospreys were first noted at nests at Riegelsville 3/19 (EB) and Mud Island 3/21 (DFa). These are still our only known nest sites. An eBird documented entry of a well described **Mississippi Kite** at GVP 5/24 (PC) provided our twelfth county report. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was well seen and described near Lumberville 4/24 for the first documented report for the county (KG doc.). One **Red-shouldered Hawk** nest was again active in Tinicum Twp. but failed (DA). The annual Milford Twp. all white **Red-tailed Hawk** was last reported 3/15 (*vide* Rfo). **Golden Eagle** is rare here anytime but particularly in spring. Thus, 2 together at NSP 3/14 (MH) were a surprise. Interesting counts of migrant **American Kestrels** gathered in a small area of Tinicum Twp. There were 14 on 4/17 (DFa, DA) and 18 on 4/18 (DA). Two **King Rails** were first noted at QTS 4/10 and heard a couple of times into May (DFa). Hopefully they were nesting there. **Virginia Rail** was reported at QTS 4/7 (DFa), Maple Knoll Farms 5/3 (RS, VS), and GVP 5/11(EN). Presumably they nested at one or more of these sites. A **Sora** was at Warminster Community Park 5/9 (CW), and another was near Newtown 5/14 (DFa). The pair of **Common Gallinule** returned to the former USS property, where they have nested recently in years when water levels were adequate. Two **Sandhill Cranes** at Buckingham Twp. 5/10-11 (DS ph.) furnished only the tenth county report, all since 1991.

A good total of 18 shorebird species was reported, but numbers were modest. The more noteworthy species' reports follow. Rare on the ground here anytime, a **Black-bellied Plover** stopped at PWT 5/7, providing a new spring early arrival date. A flock of 20 flew over Quakertown 5/27 on their way north. One going south there 5/29 was jokingly suggested as the first fall migrant. Some single site high count reports all came from PWT, with 22 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/14, 12 **Greater Yellowlegs** 5/7, and 20 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/14. Two **Ruddy Turnstones** made a brief stop at PWT in the rain 5/17 (ph. DFa). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at PWT 4/28 established a new spring early date. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at PWT 5/15, with 2 there 5/17 and 5/22 for the only reports. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at PWT 5/7 was the only report. Small numbers of **Dunlin** were reported on six dates at PWT from 4/28 to 5/22, with the high count being 6 on 5/22. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at PWT 5/22 for the only report. The most expected phalarope here, 2 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at PWT 5/19. Rare any time and particularly in spring, a female **Red Phalarope** found 5/18 provided our eighth county report and the fourth for PVP.

There were multiple days between 4/5 and 5/17 at PWT with double digit counts of **Bonaparte's Gull**, with 52 the highest count 5/7. A good local count of 58 was at PVP 4/8 (AM). A sixth county record for **Black-headed Gull** was provided by one at PWT 5/17-19 (ph. DFa). Unusual away from the lower Delaware River, **Laughing Gull** was at Shady Brook Farm, Lower Makefield Twp. 4/5-15, with the high count of 18 on 4/5 (BK). The PAMC total was 4105 on 5/14, almost all from PWT. The single site high count of Iceland Gull was 6 at PWT on 4/12 (DFa). One lingered there through at least 5/28, a new spring late date, although there is one previous report of a bird through at least mid-Jun. The modest high reports for **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were 145 at PVP 3/9 and 136 at Nockamixon State Park 4/12 (both AM). Eight were reported 5/14 on the PAMC and presumably a few will stay all summer. The single site high count for **Glaucous Gull** was 6 at PWT 4/5 (DFa), and after no reports after 4/23, one was at PWT 5/17. Three **Caspian Terns** stopped at PWT 4/17-19, with another there 4/28-30 and 2 more there 5/17. Four **Common Terns** were at PWT 4/23. A rare high count of 22 was at NSP 4/28. One spent the day at PVP 5/31 (HD, DW ph.). A tern at PWT 5/17 identified from a photo after the actual sighting, was believed to be an **Arctic Tern** based on leg length (ph.). A **Forster's Tern** was at PWT 4/23, one was at CCP 4/28, and another was at PWT 5/7.

Cuckoos were again on the scarce side. PAMC counts of 10 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** and 4 **Black-billed Cuckoos** are representative. A **Barn Owl** 5/26 was noted for the second year in a row at a Bedminster Twp. site but may not have stayed long. **Barred Owl** was again at QTS (DFa), and near SGL 56 (PC). The last report of **Long-eared Owl** was 3/6 at PVP, which was a very early departure date. **Common Nighthawk** was again reported in single digits from only six sites for a total of 14 birds (PC, DFa, BK, LK). None were tallied for the PAMC. One hopes these annual consistently low numbers are partially due to the off peak hours when they are active. The Tinicum Twp. **Red-headed Woodpecker** breeding site had a returning bird 4/26

(KF). Rarely reported as a migrant here, one was at Bradford Dam 5/6 (GJ). Unusual for apparently being nearly absent, there were only 2 entries for **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in eBird, one at Washington Crossing Park 4/5 and another at Langhorne 4/10 (both BK). Another indication of scarcity, there were no reports for the period at PVP (*fide* KK). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen well at PVP 5/11 (HMc, KA), and one was at SGL157 5/24 (DFa) for the only reports. One **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at PVP 5/25 provided the only report as did an **Alder Flycatcher** there 5/23. As last year, the more expected **Least Flycatcher** was only reported five times from three sites between 5/3 and 5/9 (JB, DFa, AM), indicating it may not be as common here as it once was in migration. It was also missed on the PAMC. It hasn't nested here for many years. An **Eastern Kingbird** at Silver Lake Park 4/16 (DFi) provided a new spring early arrival date. Rare in spring, **Philadelphia Vireo** was well seen and heard at QTS 5/26 (SS).

Our first confirmed nesting of **Common Raven** occurred in 2008 at a quarry in Nockamixon Twp. (DFa). On 3/15, it was learned from quarry personnel that there was an occupied nest again this year, and 4 fledglings were noted 5/12 (DFa). Per a quarry worker, nesting also occurred in 2010, but the young and one adult died, possibly as a result of Great Horned Owl predation, but this was conjecture. This year, bad luck continued, with one adult believed to be the female being electrocuted by touching wires on the quarry premises 5/19. Three of this family may have been the birds seen at another Nockamixon Twp. site 5/28-5/30 (HMc). A **Common Raven** at PWT 3/21 and again 5/14-15 at the adjacent former USS property is the first report that far south in the county since the recent expansion of this species to our area. One was at Tinicum Twp. near the Delaware R. 3/28 (DA) and another was at Maple Knoll Farms 4/27 (RS).

Seven **Horned Larks** were at Warminster Twp. 3/19 and 25 were still at Maple Knoll Farms 3/20 (RS). The last report was one at Maple Knoll Farms 5/5 (RS), giving hope that they may nest somewhere in that area with much appropriate habitat. The winter scarcity of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** continued through spring, with reports of only about 5 migrants 4/20-5/10 (AM, SB, DFa). One was still at Churchville Park 5/28 (BL) where the species was confirmed nesting last year. A new late spring date for **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was furnished by one at PVP 5/20 (AS). About 6 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported from three sites 5/5-5/27 (DFa, GJ, BK, AM). **Swainson's Thrush** reports were down this year compared to last year, with about 25 birds reported from seven sites 5/5-5/25 (m.ob.). **American Pipit** continued into May at Maple Knoll Farms, with 16 still present 5/5 (RS). The last one was reported there 5/14 (RS).

A total of 34 warbler species was reported. Although almost all migrant warblers could be listed here as in very low numbers this year, the following includes some that are our most consistently scarce. A **Golden-winged Warbler** at SGL157 5/11 (BS) was the only report. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Bowman's Hill provided a new spring arrival date (WM), as did a **Blackburnian Warbler** at SGL157 4/26 (DFa). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was noted at PVP 4/21 (KA) and Kintnersville starting 5/7 (DFa). There were two others reported 5/14 near Point Pleasant (JGr). A **Cerulean Warbler** was found at Bowman's Hill Park 5/5 (JMi, AM) and was last reported 5/7 (JB). Another singing male stopped at the former USS property 5/14-15. No breeding birds were reported again. A pair of **Prothonotary Warblers** building a nest was at PVP starting 5/26 (RH). Another was reported at Silver Lake Park 5/28 (DFi). A male **Kentucky Warbler** was at Bowman's Hill 4/29-5/1 (AM, BHi). Possibly a different bird based on location was there 5/7 (BS) and a second bird was discovered nearby 5/22 (DFa). Both were singing males that continued through the period (BS). Another was detected at SGL157 5/21 (PC) and still there 5/28 (BS). These have been historical spots for them but reports have been sporadic in recent years. At least 2 **Hooded Warblers** were back at the SGL157 nesting area 4/26. One was detected at Giving Pond the same day (EB) for the only other report. A **Mourning Warbler** was reported from Tyler State Park 5/7 (SC), a new spring early arrival date. Individuals were at SGL157 5/9 (DFa), and State Game Land 196 5/25 (SS) for the only other reports. A **Canada Warbler** at PVP 4/29 provided a new spring early arrival date (DWi). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was noted at Bradford Dam a couple of days in the first week of May (RFR). Five were found 5/14, 4 in the PWT/USS area (DFa, et al.) and one at CCP (SF). A well heard and seen **Summer Tanager** at Bristol Twp. 5/14 (DFi, doc.) provided only our twelfth county report in 60 years. It was still there 5/15 (ph. DFa).

A **Vesper Sparrow** at Maple Knoll Farms 4/19 (RS) was the only report. **Grasshopper Sparrow** at Tinicum Twp. 4/24 established a new

spring early arrival date. A **Dark-eyed Junco** at Lower Makefield Twp. 5/15 (KL) was late. Five **Blue Grosbeaks** were in the USS/PWT area 5/14 (DFa) providing the first reports for the year. **Rusty Blackbirds** gathered as usual at QTS. A Cooper's Hawk there 4/18 provided an unusual opportunity to count them when it flushed a conservative estimate of 300. An **Orchard Oriole** at Tyler State Park furnished a new spring early arrival date (BK). The male **Baltimore Oriole** wintering at New Hope for its seventh year vanished 3/9 (SM), about a month earlier than past years leading one to surmise this may have been its last winter. A few scattered **Purple Finch** reports marked the return north after very few winter reports. The largest counts were a group of 9 at Chalfont (CC) and about 15 in Nockamixon Twp. (HMc), both in late Apr. A rare find here, one to two **Common Redpolls** visited a feeder sporadically 3/1-7 (MR), and one was at Bradford Dam 3/5-13 (GJ, DFa). One was in Nockamixon Twp. 3/31, and at least one was heard in Tinicum Twp. 4/2. Up to 8 **Pine Siskins** in Doylestown Twp. in Apr were last seen 4/23 (MH). One was at another Doylestown site 4/25 (BW), and one was heard at SGL157 5/5-5/9 (DFa).

EXOTICS: Egyptian Goose has been noted less often in recent years, but 3 stopped at PVP 5/21 (LG, MH).

ADDENDUM: A Golden-winged Warbler at New Hope 9/23-25 (BHo) was included on the fall 2010 seasonal chart but omitted from the summary. As it was the only fall report and fairly rare here, it is being mentioned now. Similarly a **Marsh Wren** on several days near New Hope 9/9-27 (BHo) is noteworthy for both the normally few reports and its length of stay for fall if only one individual was involved.

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Butler County

Locations: Birdwatchers Store (BS), Forrester Road (FR), Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC), Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), Miller Woods (MW), Moraine State Park (MSP), North Shore Beach (NSB), Old Stone House (OSH), Poplar Forest (PF), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Community Park (SRCP), Slippery Rock Creek (SRC), Slippery Rock Township (SRT), Slippery Rock University (SRU), The Glades (TG), The Narrows (TN), Waterfowl Observation Area (WOA), West Park Road (WPR), Wolf Creek Narrows (WCN).

Thus far 2011 is a La Nina carryover year from 2010, which meteorologically translates into a colder (-1.8°F.) and wetter (+6.25") departure from normal. The normal year to date precipitation is 11.25". March registered 5.5" of snow (equal to 2" rain), April had 8" of rain, and May had 7" rain with 4" of that total accumulating in four days (5/14-18).

The highlight of this spring period was the Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count (PAMC) on 5/14 that ran from 0500-1700 hours. It drizzled for the first hour, and then turned into an almost steady rain between 0600-1400 hours. The weather gradually cleared between 1400-1700 hours with temperatures ranging between 58-67°F. for the day. The steady rain period forced most avian migrants low, as witnessed by observers listening to migrants (especially flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and finches) as they landed at dawn and immediately started feeding furiously on and near ground level. Once the atmosphere cleared in the afternoon, the sun formed long-awaited

thermals, enticing the patient, perched Turkey Vultures and buteos to fly and hunt for food over MSP. The sun also stimulated the neo-tropical species, consisting of early, mid, and late migrants, to sing. Actually, these avian flocks overtook each other because of an exceptionally long-lasting, cool, and rainy weather pattern in April and May. Its cause was the jet stream dipping farther south than normal at this time of year, forming a high-pressure ridge above the northern tier of states and the Great Lakes. However, this atmospheric blockage certainly resulted in the 2011 PAMC being exceptional for tallying a high number of avian migrants that customarily are recorded separately over a much longer period of time. In fact, it is highly unusual to observe late spring migrants like Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chat lingering together with winter visitors like Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak in the middle of May. Nine observers in four field parties recorded 167 species and 2952 individuals for the day. Highlight species included **Common Loon**, **Horned Grebe**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Upland Sandpiper**, **Caspian Tern**, **Common Tern**, 31 warbler species, and the three boreal species mentioned above.

Because of the cool, wet weather pattern this period, the **Tundra Swan** spring migration 3/15-22 was later than usual, and mostly nocturnal, over SRB-SRT, making it impossible for counting individuals (GW, JW). LO was free of ice before LA this year, making the former location the hotspot for waterfowl, such as 55 **Canada Geese** 3/18 with 37 still there 3/27 and the last flock of 26 birds 4/17 probably local breeders (MV).

Other waterfowl 3/18 included 9 **American Wigeon**, a lone male **Mallard**, 7 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 19 **Lesser Scaup**, a single **Red-breasted Merganser**, and one **Ruddy Duck** diving with a lone **Horned Grebe** (MV). Only 2 **American Wigeon** remained 3/27 but 9 **American Black Ducks**, 13 **Mallards**, 3 **Hooded Mergansers**, one **Common Merganser** were present with probably the same **Horned Grebe** seen 3/18 (MV). **Common Mergansers** prefer rapids of streams to still water or wetlands and were found on SRC and WCN throughout the period with watchful males guarding nests in cavities of giant old sycamore trees (GW). The male guardians will leave as soon as the female and ducklings make it safely to the rapids. But where do all the males go? Only 2 **Blue-winged Teal** were observed at LO 4/17 for the period in the company of 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** and 6 **Double-crested Cormorants** (MV) but 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** there the same day remained until 4/24 (GW). However, LA took the usual spring birding limelight with one **Dunlin** and 3 **Forster's Terns** 4/16 starting the water bird show (LM). These were followed by an assortment of other species 5/1 including 2 **Buffleheads**, 5 **Ruddy Ducks**, 17 **Common Loons**, 7 **Double-crested Cormorants**, 6 **American Coots**, and 4 **Willetts** sharing the NSB with 20 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 17 **Ring-billed Gulls**, single **Common** and 13 **Forster's Terns** (MV). Later on 5/1 at NSB, while photographing the four Willetts, GM watched an adult **Franklin's Gull** pass over the main part of the lake (not relocated), and also watched at least 121 **Common** and **Forster's Terns** (mostly Commons) at the docks at NSB and over the lake nearby. At the WOA, 3 **Wood Ducks**, 12 **Ruddy Ducks**, 4 **Common Loons**, 2 **Pied-billed Grebes**, a lone **Horned Grebe**, 4 **Double-crested Cormorants**, 4 **American Coots**, 3 **Spotted Sandpipers**, and 9 **Ring-billed Gulls** were tabulated in a short period of time 5/6 with 13 ruddy, one loon, and 2 cormorants still there 5/20 with a **Bald Eagle** perched nearby (MV). An **American Bittern** returned to its usual haunts in early April in SRT (BS). A flooded field on WPR that hugs the western boundary of MSP became the only local 'hotspot' for shore birds this period with 2 **Solitary Sandpipers**, 2 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 21 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and 6 **Short-billed Dowitchers** recorded 5/3 but even more amazing was the 'fall out' of approximately 100 **Common** and 70 **Forster's Terns** landing in the same wet field, representing record numbers for both species in the county (DD). Later that same day, a single **Spotted Sandpiper** and 2 **Caspian Terns** at LO were added to a remarkable list, only to be surpassed by a relatively tame but rare **Red-necked Phalarope** at the Bear Run boat launch in MSP 5/16 (DD). The bird stayed to at least 5/19. A pair of **Upland Sandpiper** returned on schedule near Barkeyville 4/23 (RN) plus 21 other species including 3 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 2 **American Kestrels**, one **Common Raven**, 2 **Brown Thrashers**, 7 **Field** and one **Henslow's Sparrow** and 12 **Eastern Meadowlarks**.

This was the first 'full spring' spent at home in ten years, thus when my wife informed me 3/1 that 10 **Turkey Vultures** were apparently roosting overnight in our 50-foot tall black spruces behind our condo unit, I was dumfounded. The vultures also surprised a large female **Cooper's Hawk** that was attempting to build a nest in the highest black

spruce in proximity to the vultures' roost. The hawk managed to hold out for nearly a week, adding snatched green stems from nearby deciduous trees, then meticulously placing them in the high nest during daylight hours when vultures were absent. As soon as vultures started arriving late in the afternoon to roost, however, the hawk would retreat into the surrounding dense forest and remain there until the next morning when the vultures flew with the first thermal of the day. The vultures used the roost until 3/26 (GW, JW).

The **Osprey** continues its breeding explosion with eight active nest sites now in the county (DW) and the **Bald Eagle** occupied a new nest on LO 4/2 (DD) but abandoned the nest site along SRC discovered last year (GW), apparently due to human disturbance. A single male **Sharp-shinned Hawk** made his rounds in PF, SRB, SRT, and SRU all season, possibly nesting in the western natural area of PF (GW). Unfortunately, the pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** that called PF 'home' for many years experienced bad luck this year. Apparently two daring raccoons climbed the 40-foot oak tree at night in late March and disrupted the nest. Thankfully there was no evidence the next day that the predators devoured any eggs, chicks, or adults. This was the Red-shoulder pair that used the same nest for the past five consecutive years and in 2010 produced a record four fledglings. The pair immediately moved two city blocks from PF to SRCP (GW). The **Broad-winged Hawk**, **Red-tailed Hawk**, and **American Kestrel** are barely persisting within SRB and it remains to be seen how much longer these species can withstand continuous human development (GW). All rails, **Common Gallinule**, and **American Coot** had a severe challenge establishing territories and trying to build nests with extremely high water levels of all local wetlands. A flock of 89 over-wintering **Sandhill Cranes** did not disperse until early April with 5 or 6 pairs remaining in hopes of flooded wetlands receding to normal water levels by early summer. The future field report for summer certainly will shed more light on breeding success or failure for these wetland species.

Yellow-billed and **Black-billed Cuckoos** arrived the first week of May but in far fewer numbers than in 2010. **Eastern Screech**, **Great Horned**, and **Barred Owls** were heard often during the season in JEEC, MW, MSP, and PF but all species of nightjars were absent for the period (GW). The **Chimney Swift** was first reported 5/3 at least two weeks later than normal but the first male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** 4/23 was sipping sugar water in SRB, some ten days earlier than normal. Females arrived 5/6 in SRB. Unusual number of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed foraging for flying insects in several locations in SRB, SRT in April and early May but the small breeding colony of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in PF for years dwindled to just one male this season mostly because continuous construction of new homes in PF demands that all standing trees be removed with the clearing of the land (GW). All flycatcher species, except **Acadian** and **Great Crested**, and vireos were later than normal (second week of May) and fewer than in 2010. Surprisingly, the **Common Raven** actually was common this season with individual birds reported in MW, PF, SRB, SRT, SRU, TG, and TN (GW, et al.). A few ravens are still being reported at this writing (7/1) GW. The **Horned Lark** clings precariously to two SRT farm breeding sites east and west of SRB. All swallow species arrived later in April than normal, peaking mid-May in numbers when thousands could be seen flying almost at water level over LA and LO (GW, et al.). The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** pair that nested in the mixed forest behind our condo unit in SRB for three consecutive years did not return this season but instead shifted to the western boreal forest of PF where a second pair was discovered (GW). The **Carolina Wren** locally had another winter setback just about the time when it was bouncing back in population from severe winters a few years ago. For the first time since 1997 when I started keeping track of the birds in PF center, no **Wood Thrush** was heard or seen. The silent spring process continues unabated (GW). Transient thrushes for the most part passed over SRB-SRT and the **Gray Catbird** and **Brown Thrasher** arrived 4/30, at least a week later than normal (GW). **Cedar Waxwing** flocks scoured the landscape seeking the little natural food remaining after the severe winter, concentrating heavily on the less palatable staghorn sumac berries and decorative pear tree fruits lining the streets of SRB. By the end of March all such food was devoured and then the flocks of 50-100 birds disappeared until mid-May (GW). It is uncanny how this species 'knows' exactly where to go, every winter but certainly older adults have such sites fixed in their brains.

A singing male **Prothonotary Warbler** at the WOA 5/6 was a pleasant surprise (MV), especially since it lingered to the end of the season 5/31 and perhaps longer. No mate or nest was discovered (GW). Following is the list of 31 warbler species recorded on PAMC

5/14: 8 **Blue-winged Warbler**, 50 **Tennessee Warbler**, 2 **Orange-crowned Warbler**, 21 **Nashville Warbler**, one **Northern Parula**, 67 **Yellow Warbler**, 16 **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, 9 **Magnolia Warbler**, 13 **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, 9 **Black-throated Green Warbler**, 8 **Blackburnian Warbler**, 2 **Yellow-throated Warbler**, one **Pine Warbler**, 2 **Prairie Warbler**, one **Palm Warbler**, 5 **Bay-breasted Warbler**, 2 **Blackpoll Warbler**, 2 **Cerulean Warbler**, 4 **Black-and-white Warbler**, 19 **American Redstart**, 2 **Louisiana Waterthrush**, 13 **Kentucky Warbler**, one **Mourning Warbler**, 27 **Common Yellowthroat**, 18 **Hooded Warbler**, one **Wilson's Warbler**, and 3 **Yellow-breasted Chat**.

On the whole, transient and summer breeding finches were late to arrive in the area. **Eastern Towhees** didn't reach their peak in number until 4/15 and settled down for nesting about 5/14. The last 3 **American Tree Sparrows** were observed in SRB 4/9 at the same time that scores of **Chipping Sparrows** arrived in SRB, SRT, SRC, SRU, and MW (GW). The **Field** and **Vesper Sparrows** continue their decline in SRB and SRT due to human development of former field habitats. The three grassland sparrows, **Savannah**, **Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's**, did not appear in the area until after 5/10 with just 10, 2, and 2 individuals respectively recorded on the PAMC 5/14 (GW). Many of their breeding fields were still inundated with standing water until late May and early June. No **Fox** or **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported anywhere in the county this season (GW). **Swamp Sparrows** remained in the area throughout the year but became vocal only about the time of the PAMC. The last 2 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were males singing their melodious breeding song 5/15 in SRB (GW).

Finally as already stated earlier in this report, the shock of the season was the simultaneous appearance of a single male **Common Redpoll** in company with 4 **Pine Siskins** at a feeder and 5 **Evening Grosbeaks** (2 males, 3 females) at a separate feeder on the same property. What makes this rare occurrence even more eventful is the fact that none of these species were tabulated anywhere in the county in prior months, although all three species had been reported in *Mercer*, *Crawford*, and *Venango* to the north and northeast of *Butler* throughout the winter.

Species	3/19	4/3	4/17	5/8	Total
Mourning Dove	2	4	5	3	14
R.-t. Hummingbird				1	1
Red-b. Woodpecker	1	1	2	2	6
Downy Woodpecker	2	2	2	2	8
Hairy Woodpecker	1			1	2
Blue Jay	2	3	5	2	12
B.-c. Chickadee	5	2	5	2	14
Tufted Titmouse	1	1	1	2	5
White-br. Nuthatch	2	1	1	1	5
European Starling	3	6	6	3	18
Chipping Sparrow		1	3	5	9
Field Sparrow		1	1	1	3
Am/ Tree Sparrow	6	2			8
Song Sparrow	3	1	1	1	6
Dark-eyed Junco	6	6	5		17
White-thr. Sparrow		1			4
White-cr. Sparrow				4	4
Northern Cardinal	7	2	5	4	18
Rose-br. Grosbeak				6	6
Indigo Bunting				2	2
Red-winged Blackbird	4	7	5	3	19
Common Grackle	1	5	5	5	16
B.-h. Cowbird	1	2	6	4	13
Baltimore Oriole				4	4
Purple Finch			6	2	8
House Finch	4	4	4	2	14
Pine Siskin				9	9
American Goldfinch	23	23	31	11	88
House Sparrow	1	2	2		5
TOTAL	75	77	102	85	339

The preceding box clearly illustrates the change in avifauna over the spring season at the Birdwatchers' Store, a Bartramian Audubon Society Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary that has more than 25 bird feeders, bird baths, and nesting shelters. The store is on Rte. 108 one mile east of I-79 and three miles west of Slippery Rock. The sanctuary includes a large pond, dense forest, cattail marsh, savanna consisting of old oak trees and herbaceous vegetation, an open porch and a large indoor

picture window overlooking the entire landscape. An added attraction of this splendid sanctuary is a trained pair of **Eastern Bluebirds** which, when hearing Cathy ring a bell, come flying to the store porch to devour a dish of tasty mealworms. In the feeding process, the wise female waits for the male to serve her first before eating himself. Nearby readers should stop by to experience this adaptive behavior and check out the store's grand assortment of merchandise for birds and birders. Thanks to Cathy Setzer, owner of the store, for her keen dedication to birds and to Mark Vass for collecting the following field data.

Observers: **Gene Wilhelm**, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145, genewilhelm@aol.com, Jean Barcaskey, Jim Barcaskey, Marcia Brown, Barbara Dean, George Dean, Deb Darney, Dean Kildoo, David Knopp, Vicki Knopp, Sonya Lenz, Geoff Malosh, Joann McCrady, Luke Musher, Richard Nugent, Susan Race, Cathy Setzer, Brian Slamecka, Gary Uber, Mark Vass, Bob Walczak, Dorothy Weisberg, Joanne Wilhelm.

Cambria County

Locations: Patton (PA), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG), St. Lawrence (STL).

Waterfowl migration was good at PG with many species showing good numbers. **Tundra Swans** first showed up on 3/3. **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon**, **Northern Pintail**, **Redhead**, **Long-Tailed Duck**, and **Common Merganser** were notables (JS). Good numbers of **Horned Grebes** were seen at PG during March and April (DG, JS). A **Least Bittern** was at PG 5/20 (MH).

First **Osprey** returned 4/6 (JS). First **Broad-winged Hawk** was at PA 4/17 (DG). **Virginia Rails** were late probably due to the high water. Shorebird migration was sparse, again due to high water levels. First **American Woodcock** was at PA 3/1 (DG). **Caspian** and **Forster's Terns** were at PG 4/11 (DG, JS).

The first male **Purple Martin** returned to PG 4/12 (DG). A **Marsh Wren** was at PG 5/2 (DG, JS). **Veery** was first seen at STL 5/14 (DG). Warbler migration was very good. Large flights were seen but were primarily made up of **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. A single **Palm Warbler** was at PG 4/25 (DG, JS). A lone **Blackpoll Warbler** was at PG 5/20 (DG). A **Common Redpoll** was at a feeder at PA 3/4 (DG).

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

Cameron County

No compiler.

Carbon County

Locations: Beltzville State Park (BSP), Hatchery Rd. Power Cut (HRPC), Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC), Mauch Chunk Lake (MCL), Penn Forest Reservoir (PFR).

Many migrants took full advantage of clear, calm skies and migrated past our area, leaving very little in the way of fallouts and mixed flocks of migrants. Breeders returned to their grounds with very few migrant birds in tow. There were, however, several very good birds were found this season.

A small flock of 6 **Tundra Swans** was seen during a morning with a large movement of **Snow** and **Canada Geese** at BSP 3/2 (DW). A single drake **Gadwall** was present at BSP 4/12 (DW). A high count of 13 **Northern Pintail** was recorded 3/2 flying over BSP (DW). A check of MCL yielded 3 **Blue-winged Teal**, the only report for the period 4/5 (DW). Three **Lesser Scaup** were present 3/13 at BSP (DW) and 6 more were found at MCL 4/10 (DA). A large flock of 28 **Greater Scaup** at BSP 4/7 was a good count for the county (BR, RR). A check of PFR yielded a pair of **Surf Scoters** 4/26 (BR, RR). Single **White-winged Scoters** were present at BSP 4/4 and 4/21-28 (BR, RR). **Long-tailed Ducks** were found only twice at BSP, 2 on 3/13 and 4 on 3/24 (DW).

A single **Red-throated Loon** arrived with **Common Loons** 4/28 at BSP (BR, RR). A high count of 59 **Common Loons** was recorded from BSP 4/16 (BE). The last report for this species was of 2 birds at BSP 5/29 (DW). **Pied-billed Grebes** were recorded 3/13-4/12 with the high

count being 4 birds at BSP 3/24 (DW). A fallout of **Horned Grebes** occurred 3/13 at BSP, 38 birds in various plumages were present (DW). Other good counts for this species involved 14 at BSP 3/12 (DA) and 16 on 4/12 (DW) at the same location. A great find was a **Least Bittern** photographed near the small ponds at LGNC 5/1 (DL). A lone **Sandhill Crane** was discovered in corn stubble at BSP 3/25 (DH).

The first **Ospreys** of the season were seen 4/5, single birds at both Parryville Dam (DA) and BSP (DW). **Merlins** were observed 4/7-8 (DA, BR, RR) and 4/25 (BR, RR) at BSP. An adult **Golden Eagle** was found sitting on the ice of BSP 3/6 (DH).

Shorebirds were scarce once again for *Carbon*, with only eight species recorded. **Killdeer** first arrived in the area 3/11 at BSP (BR, RR). On the same day 9 **American Woodcock** were observed displaying at BSP (DA). BSP also produced one **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/4 (BR, RR), 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/13 (DW), and **Solitary Sandpipers** 4/25-5/19. **Spotted Sandpipers** first arrived 4/18 at BSP (BR, RR). **Least Sandpipers** were seen sporadically from 5/9-5/19. **Wilson's Snipe** were seen sporadically through the spring with a high count of 4 on 3/24 at BSP (DW).

Bonaparte's Gulls were observed 4/5-5/19 with a high count of 25 at BSP 4/8 (BR, RR). A single **Caspian Tern** was present at BSP 4/27 and 7 more were found 5/17 (BR, RR). A storm event 5/4 produced 3 **Common Terns** and a single **Black Tern** at BSP (BRe, DH).

A single **Long-eared Owl** lingered from last season until 3/29 at BSP (DW). **Chimney Swifts** first arrived in *Carbon* 4/19 (BR, RR). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** arrived 5/3 along the HRPC (DW). The last migrant **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** report was 4/20 at PFR (BR, RR).

Eastern Phoebes first arrived in the county 3/20 with a single bird at BSP (BRi). Two **Alder Flycatchers** were found 5/12 at MCL (RB) and **Acadian Flycatcher** was first found 5/14 at Penn Forest Reservoir (BR, RR). **Willow Flycatchers** arrived in numbers at BSP 5/14 and could be heard calling around the Pine Run boat launch (DW). **Least Flycatcher** established breeding territories once again at the intersection of Hatchery Rd and Hell Hollow Rd by early May (DW). An early **Great Crested Flycatcher** was found 4/29 at BSP (BR, RR) and **Eastern Kingbirds** were first detected 4/25 from the same location. An adult **Northern Shrike** continued from last period through 3/13 at BSP (m.ob.).

Yellow-throated Vireos were found 5/10 at PFR (BR, RR) and 5/19 at HRPC (AS). The first **Tree Swallow** of the season was found flying over the lake at BSP 3/12 (DA) and by the end of March hundreds of swallows began congregating at the lake. **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** were first found 4/5 at BSP (DW). Three **Cliff Swallows** arrived 4/12 (DW) and a high count of 56 were observed 5/14 gathering nesting material for the colony underneath the bridge along Pohopoco Dr. Three **Purple Martins** were found sitting on the beach at BSP during a storm 5/4 (DW). A single **American Pipit** was feeding with **American Robins** in the grassy fields of Christman Trail at BSP 3/29 (DW).

This spring 29 species of warbler were reported along with 2 hybrids. The first migrant warblers of spring arrived in the form of 2 **Palm Warblers** at BSP 4/5 (DA). A flock of at least 28 **Pine Warblers** mixed with other early migrants was present 4/13 at BSP (DA). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were recorded twice this spring, 2 birds along Drake's Creek Rd (AS) and one found along the HRPC (DW). A male **Cerulean Warbler** returned to its territory along Hell Hollow Rd 5/29 (DW). This bird was first found last year and is easily recognizable from other Ceruleans based on its unusual song that resembles no other warbler species. Only 3 **Golden-winged Warblers** returned to the HRPC this year, the only known breeding grounds in *Carbon*. The first bird was a male 5/3 (DW), singing a Blue-winged Warbler song. A female was found 5/10 searching for a nest location with a male **Brewster's Warbler** (DW). The third **Golden-winged Warbler** established a territory in the swamp area of this location and sang a standard Golden-winged song. A male **Lawrence's Warbler** was found 5/19 along the HRPC (AS), the much rarer hybrid of the Blue-winged Warbler x Golden-winged Warbler offspring. Another nice spring find was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** found singing at BSP 5/4 (BR, RR). **Wilson's Warblers** were found 5/12 at MCL (RB) and 5/13 at BSP (BR, RR). Single **Cape May** and **Worm-eating Warblers** were found 5/2 at BSP (BR, RR). Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were found 5/7 and one was found 5/22 at LGNC (CH). A **Hooded Warbler** was found 4/26 at Blue Ridge Golf Course, the first report of this species this season (BR, RR). **Blackburnian Warblers** and a **Northern Parula** both arrived 4/27 at PFR (BR, RR). An early **Canada Warbler** was found at the Blue

Ridge Golf Course 4/27 (BR, RR).

A single **Grasshopper Sparrow** 4/25 was the first arrival of this species found at BSP (BR, RR). **Savannah** and **Swamp Sparrows** both arrived 4/5, along with the season's first migrant **Eastern Towhee** at BSP (DW). **White-crowned Sparrows** lingered until 5/14 at BSP (BR, RR). **Fox Sparrows** were present around BSP from 3/2 through 4/11 with a high count of 23 individuals recorded 3/29 (DW).

A **Blue Grosbeak** was found 5/29 at LGNC, a known breeding location for this species (BR, RR). The arrival of **Eastern Meadowlarks** was noted as 4/5 near BSP (DW). A flock of 15 **Rusty Blackbirds** was found feeding in a corn field in BSP 3/24 (DW). **Orchard Orioles** first arrived in *Carbon* 5/2 at BSP, several days after the first **Baltimore Oriole** (BR, RR). A survey of LGNC yielded 25 **Baltimore Orioles** on both 5/7 and 5/22 (CH).

Purple Finches were found singing throughout the season and had returned to breeding territories along the HRPC by 5/22 (DW). A large flock of **American Goldfinches** during a rain event held at least 6 **Pine Siskins** at BSP 5/4 (DW).

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Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor (B2BE), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP), Colyer L. (COL), PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian (JUL), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Toftrees (TOF).

The nice run of waterfowl from the winter report continued at Duck Pond, and as other bodies of water began thawing out, the list grew even longer. It was a very wet spring, with frequent storms resulting in numerous fall-outs and holding waterfowl in the area; ponds and puddles big enough to float a duck often had at least one present. This pattern of wet weather continued into the shorebird migration and resulted in large numbers reported, particularly in the flooded farmlands along Tadpole Rd. and Whitehall Rd. near the Fairbrook Church. During the warbler migration, Scotia continued its reputation as a major hot spot, with Lederer Park in State College also producing significant numbers. Two species were reported for the first time in *Centre*: Western Grebe and Eurasian Collared-dove. Information for this report was obtained primarily from the State College Bird Club listserv, the State College R.B.A. and eBird, with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove (2010) Stone Mountain Publishing, State College, PA (B&G, 2010).

The reporting period began with a major waterfowl fallout in farm fields near the University Park Airport. Approximately 800-1000 **Snow Geese**, accompanied by several hundred **Canada Geese** and 20 **Tundra Swans** were first reported 3/2 (DO), with the **Snow Goose** numbers gradually diminishing over the following week to less than 100 on 3/9 (NK, MD) and a few of the **Tundra Swans** lingering until 3/15 (GG, MB). BESP also had two **Snow Goose** sightings: 3 on 3/5 (JV) and a flock 3/13 (MH). Other significant goose sightings included a **Cackling Goose**, which was observed on Old Gatesburg Rd. 3/10 (JV), who noted that it "sticks out like a sore thumb" among the accompanying Canada Geese. The status of this species in the region has not yet been determined; B&G (2010) state that "it seems likely that this 'new' species should be considered regular but rare." A second large fallout of 1000-2000 **Canada Geese** occurred along Rte. 150 near Milesburg 3/6 (GL). In addition to the University Park Airport report, **Tundra Swans** were found regularly throughout the area in Mar with stragglers in Apr. They were reported at BESP between 3/5-23 (JV, GL, MH, GG). As the ice began to thaw, COL also hosted large numbers of swans, with an adult and 2 imms. 3/6 (MH). Sightings there continued through 3/28 (MD, MH). The peak of their migration passed our area 3/14, with over 450 reported on that date at BESP (JV), about 80 at COL (MH), and numbers ranging from 60 to about 200 at Scotia Pond on that date (JV, MD). The last Scotia Pond sighting was a single swan 3/16 (NK). TOF Pond hosted a nice flock of ~130 on 3/18 (DW). Late stragglers in Apr and May included two in Linden Hall 4/15-19 (MH, DW) and a single swan at the JUL mitigation wetlands, which lingered from 4/4-5/8 (MS, NB, et al.)

Ducks were plentiful throughout the county, with concentrations of

them at BESP, COL, TOF, and the Duck Pond in State College. A large fallout occurred at BESP 4/5 (GG) due to thunderstorms and rains the night before with 18 species of ducks and geese effected as well as large numbers of loons and grebes. Some of the larger numbers included 50 **Gadwall**, 125 **Northern Shovelers**, 300 **Lesser Scaup/Scaup sp.**, 150 **Long-tailed Duck**, 300 **Bufflehead**, and 150 **Red-breasted Mergansers**. A second large fallout apparently occurred 3/14, also at BESP (JV). In addition to the **Tundra Swans** mentioned above and numerous common species, over 300 **Ring-necked Ducks** and 60 **Northern Pintails** were found. One of the more uncommon species seen was **Canvasback**, up to 20 of which were seen at BESP 3/23-34 (MH), and a single female at the Duck Pond 3/24-4/2 (JV, DeG, MD, RS, NB), and a single drake at COL 3/24 (MH). Yet another round of bad weather produced the unusual sighting of 4 **Surf Scoters**, a female and three males, at COL 4/7 (TS, DW, NF, IG, MD, MH). **Surf Scoters** are casual in this region, and sightings are usually of single birds, so finding four at one time is noteworthy. Although uncommon, a few **White-winged Scoters** are seen during most migrations, and this season was no exception. Most sightings are of small flocks; however, this spring the majority of sightings were of one or two birds: a female at Scotia Pond 3/16 (NK, AW); BESP produced one on 3/21 (GG) and two 3/23 (MH); and one at BMSP 4/29 (PS). The last sighting of the sighting was a small flock of 21 birds reported at BESP 5/15 (DW).

A **Red-throated Loon**, which is rarely found in this region, was located at BESP 3/23 (MH). **Red-necked Grebes** are casual in the region, so it was a surprise to find one at BESP, 3/13 (MH). A second one at BESP was sighted 3/24 (NF, DC, TS). An even greater surprise occurred ten days later at COL, when an **Eared Grebe** in winter plumage was observed in the company of **Horned Grebe**, which allowed a comparison of the field marks 3/23 (GG). It was also seen 3/23 by AW, JW and JV and was last seen 3/24 (NK). This species is accidental in this area. An apparent first for *Centre* was the sighting of a pair of **Western Grebes** at BESP 5/10 (AM, FM). Documentation has been requested from the observers. Large numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed at BESP. Over thirty were reported on 4/18 (MH) and 4/26 (NT), over 80 noted on 4/21, and rafts of approx. 100 individuals were observed 5/4 and 5/6 (NB, JL, RF, SB).

A battle of wits that began in Mar between humans and a **Great Blue Heron** over the fish in a backyard pond in Stormstown finally ended in Apr as reported by LW: "My friends' Great Blue Heron is no longer at their residential pond – and neither are the koi and goldfish ... Final score: GB Heron – 20, Humans – 0." An **American Bittern** was observed on a State College Bird Club field trip to the Fairbrook area 4/14 (JV) and 4/15 (AW, JW). This species is listed as a regular but uncommon migrant in central Pennsylvania. A second bittern, originally found with a broken femur in Blair Co. 4/15 (RG), was rehabilitated by Centre Wildlife Care and successfully released at TOF 6/1 (RG, JV). **Great Egret** is another regular but rare species making an appearance this spring. Two were observed and ph. on Tadpole Rd. 4/20 (HS). Single birds were reported in Phillipsburg 4/22 (TS) and at TOF 5/19 (JV). For the second year in a row, **Cattle Egrets** were reported in the county. The last *Centre* sighting prior to 2010 was in 1990. This year four birds were first observed in a cow pasture on Old Gatesburg Rd. 4/26 (CW); they remained through 4/30 (CW, et al.)

Although relatively common to the south and east of the county, **Black Vultures** are uncommon in *Centre*, so a 3/11 sighting of two birds from I-99 near the Benner Pike exit was noteworthy (HB). **Ospreys** are considered to be uncommon migrants, however many sightings were reported from late Mar through early May at various locations in the county (MH, et al.)

The BESP **Bald Eagles** have successfully hatched another clutch. The first chick is believed to have hatched about 3/11(CH), and either or both adults were seen at the nest and/or feeding young on several occasions, with the second chick confirmed 4/18 (MH, RS, NB, BZ). A second nesting pair has been confirmed at an undisclosed location in the county (HB, KE, JV). Single birds were reported at several locations in Mar and Apr (MH, JV, BS). Other uncommon/rare raptors of interest included **Northern Harrier**, which were found near COL 3/2 and 3/4 (MH), a single bird at BESP (JV), and 2 at Musser Gap 4/2 (JV). A late bird was seen hunting over a field off Tusseyville Rd. 5/7 (NB, JL, RF, SB). A single imm. **Northern Goshawk** was seen flying over MMNC 4/29 (DW, JW). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen at COL between 3/4-4/8 (MH, MD), and BESP 3/27 (JV).

Two rare to uncommon rails, **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were located at JUL beginning 4/24 (JV). The **Virginia Rail** was reported intermittently until 5/2 and was frequently seen in a brushy drainage

ditch beside the road (GG, et al.) The **Sora** continued to be heard irregularly through 5/30 (JV, NB). Other **Soras** were heard at MMNC 5/14 (NB) and in the Fairbrook area 5/24 and 26 (JV). A **Common Gallinule**, which is considered to be casual in the region, was seen at Scotia 5/22-23 (DW, JV, GL).

Although shorebirds were present at numerous locations throughout *Centre* in Apr and May, the vast majority of the reported birds were found in the flooded farm fields and ponds in the Fairbrook area along Tadpole Rd. and Whitehall Rd., and on Nixon Rd., and Old Gatesburg Rd. Because the fields near Fairbrook do not flood every year, flocks of area birders migrated to the roadsides during and after each front passed to feast on the viewing bonanza. Two rare or uncommon plovers were recorded in the county. **Black-bellied Plovers** were plum sightings amid the corn stubble in the Fairbrook area, with two reported 5/4 (DW, JV, DeG, TS). Additional sightings in the same area occurred 5/15-16 (JV, MD). **Semipalmated Plovers** were also observed in the same fields 5/4-5/27 (DW, et al.), with a high of seven reported on 5/14 (DW, JV). Among the regular unusual migrants, such as **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, and **Pectoral Sandpiper**, a number of rare migrants were also found. A **Western Sandpiper** stopped along Tadpole Rd. 3/23-24 (DW, JV). This was a particularly unusual sighting, since most observations of this species have been in the fall. **White-rumped Sandpipers** also made their first appearance in the county since 2005 on 5/23-25 in the Fairbrook-Tadpole Rd. area (JV, DW, GG). **Dunlin**, another rare species, were observed in three locations: BESP 4/27-28 (DW, NF, TS, JV) and 5/13-16 (DW, MH), on Old Gatesburg Rd. 5/3 (DW), and along Tadpole Rd. 5/21-25 (NB, GG). While rare in the county, a few are usually found each year, with Apr and May having most of the observations. Although not rare, **Wilson's Snipe** were notable for the occasional large numbers reported at single locations, such as 13-15 on Tadpole Rd. 3/13 (GG) and 4/8 (DW), 9-10 at JUL 4/9 (NB), and 20+ in the Fairbrook area 4/13-14 (JV).

Bonaparte's Gulls migrated through the region in Apr and were reported at many locations in the county: COL 4/5-7 (NK, MH), Fairbrook area between 4/5-23, (NK, JV, MB) including 57 on 4/13 (JV), TOF 4/7-8 (RSt, DW) and 4/26-28 (DW, JV), near Boalsburg 4/10 (MH), and BESP 5/7 (NB, JL, RF, SB). Some of the sightings were of large numbers, such as the 20 birds reported at JUL and 29 at BMSP 4/8(DW), and a raft of about 50 at BESP 4/30 (NB). **Ring-billed Gulls** were commonly sighted throughout the region, with 300-600 being reported at BESP 4/27-4/30 (NF, TS, DW, NB). Two **Herring Gulls** were reported at BESP 3/27 (NB).

Four tern species were observed all of which are uncommon or rare in the county. The first **Caspian Tern** sighting of the season was at TOF 4/7 (RSt). They were also observed at COL 4/19 (MH); however, most reports were from BESP, where they were seen 4/18-28 (MH, DW, JV, NF, TS). A later sighting of one repeatedly calling at BESP was reported 5/13 (DW). **Common Terns**, also uncommon in the region, were observed at COL 4/7 (MH) and 5/4 (DW). One was also reported at BESP 5/15 (DW). There were a couple possible sightings of **Forster's Terns** (PB, CG) as well as confirmed sightings of 2 at TOF 4/8 (DW), and BESP. At the latter location, 6 were seen 4/28 (NF, TS) and one on 5/15 (DW). **Black Terns** brought up the tail end of the migration with a single bird being reported at BESP 5/15 (DW, JV). However, the Fairbrook-Tadpole Rd. area again produced the best show, with a bird "actively foraging at the flooded fields" 5/18 (DW). They continued at this location through 5/20 (MD, et al.).

S.A.

Eurasian Collared-Dove made its first appearance in *Centre* 4/23 at the intersection of West College Ave. and Whitehall Rd. (JD). It was identified through plumage and call, and although some patience was required, it was observed and ph. regularly 4/24-30 (NB, et al). The last reported sighting of it was the afternoon of 5/5 (TS).

Black-billed Cuckoos were observed 5/14 near Curtin on the PAMC (BF), and 2 were reported at Scotia 5/16 (MD). Single **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were seen at Millbrook Marsh (NB) and Lederer Park (JV) 5/14, also during the PAMC. The county's only report of a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was from Bear Meadows 3/17 (JV). **Common Nighthawk** were reported 5/22 at Unionville (JV) and 5/14 and 5/22 in

Howard (BS). Most of the **Whip-poor-will** observations came from the Scotia Barrens 4/14 (JV), 5/2 (NB, JL), and 5/6 (NB, JL, RF, SB). The last report of the season was of a bird in Stormstown 5/30 (DeG). On 4/26 the first **Red-headed Woodpecker** of the season was reported in State College (NF). These uncommon birds were also observed on Williams Rd. 5/4 (DW) and 5/14 (JV), and on Science Park Rd. 5/21 (JC).

Several flycatchers are worthy of note, such as a rare **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, reported at Lederer Park 5/19-20 (DW, JV, MD). Several Empidonax flycatchers, all of which are uncommon to rare in the region, were also noted. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported 5/14-5/17 at Lederer Park (JV) and 5/22 at BMSP (JV). JV also reported **Acadian Flycatchers** at Musser Gap 5/12 and at BMSP 5/22. **Alder Flycatchers** were observed at Scotia 5/11 (JV) and BESP 5/13 (DW). There were five reports for **Willow Flycatcher**, including Millbrook Marsh 5/2 (JV), some PennDOT wetland mitigation area east of Port Matilda 5/6 (DW), Curtin area 5/14 (BF), the PSU Arboretum 5/24 (MB), and JUL 5/27 (JV). Noting that "They never sing in the nets!" NK reported a "Trail's" Flycatcher while banding at the PSU Arboretum 5/12. **Least Flycatcher** was the most frequently reported Empidonax species, with sightings at Lederer Park 5/1-2 and 5/17 (JV), BESP 5/8 (MaH), Bear Meadows 5/7 (NB, JL, RF, SB) and at least 3 on 5/10 (MaD), and the Curtin area 5/14 (BF).

There was a single sighting of a **Northern Shrike** at COL 3/19 (JV). Of the six vireo species found in *Centre*, three are listed as regular but uncommon and one regular but rare. All four of these were reported this season. **White-eyed Vireos** were the most commonly reported of the four, with sightings at TOF 5/1 (JV), Bear Meadows 5/2 (CM), Scotia 5/7 (NB, JL, RF, SB), and 5/19-20 at BESP (NF, DW). All the observations of **Yellow-throated Vireos** were from Scotia 5/9-10 (JV) and 5/30 (NB). **Warbling Vireos** were found at a variety of locations. The first report was from a State College Bird Club field trip to Lederer Park 5/7 (JV). Later observations were from the Scotia Barrens 5/10 (MaD), and Tadpole Rd. 5/23 (DW). A singing **Philadelphia Vireo** was identified at Scotia 5/10 (JV). Two regularly occurring but unusual swallows were reported. **Purple Martins** returned to their nest gourds in Howard 4/14, when BS observed a single male. The first female arrived the next day (BS). They arrived in Lindon Hall on 4/16 (DW). Single **Bank Swallows** were identified at Julian 5/2 and 5/7 (NB, JL, RF, SB). B&G, 2010 note that there are "few BBA reports" from the region for this species.

Late Apr-early May saw several reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. Although they do winter in the county and are uncommon breeders, they are considered an irruptive species. The earliest report this season was 4/23 when one was found at Musser's Gap (JV). Other reports included sightings at Lederer Park 5/4 and 5/7 (JV) and 5/10 (SF), and in the Scotia Barrens 5/7 (NB, JL, RF, SB). "At least 9 or 10" **Brown Creepers** were reported at Musser's Gap 5/10 (JV). **Winter Wrens** were reported at Scotia 4/6 (DW) and 4/25 (GG), in Centre Hall 4/15 (RM), and Shingletown Gap 4/30 (DW, JW). A **Marsh Wren** was observed and ph. at JUL 4/30 (NB). These rare migrants are described by B&G, 2010 as "probably regular but not reported annually".

Two rare **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were located in a "mini-thrush fallout" at BMSP 5/22 (JV). **Swainson's Thrush**, which are uncommon in the region, were noted at Scotia 4/25-26 (GG, JV), 5/1 (JV), and 5/11 (DW). Single birds were reported at TOF 5/1 (JV) and Lederer Park 5/2 (JV), who also reported "several" at that location 5/14. **American Pipits** were reported at several locations late Mar-early Apr, including a couple unusually large flocks. Most of the sightings were in the vicinity of COL with the first report 3/23 (GG) and a single bird on 4/2 (MH). The peak migration seemed to occur 3/31—a flock of approx. 50 working along the lake edge was reported at COL, and a roving flock of 75 was on Tadpole Rd. (GG). The last report was of a dozen seen on Williams Rd. 4/4 (JV).

Warblers were reported throughout the county, with numerous sightings from hotspots like the Scotia Barrens and Lederer Park among others. Species included **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Golden-winged Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Northern Parula**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Cape May Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **Pine Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, **Palm Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Ovenbird**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Mourning Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**,

Hooded Warbler, **Wilson's Warbler**, **Canada Warbler**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat**.

Of the 33 warbler species reported, an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, identified 5/11 at Scotia (DW) was a great find. B&G (2010) state these are casual in the area and are very rarely encountered during spring migration. A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at MMNC 4/22 was caught hook, line, and sinker by some cast-off fishing tackle until rescued (JV). Unionville hosted a rare **Yellow-throated Warbler** 5/13-18 (DO, JV, DW, MD). **Cerulean Warblers** were reported at Circleville Farm 4/21 (NEK). A singing male was heard at Lederer Park 5/4-5 (NF, JV). At least 9 were noted at BMSP 5/12 (DW), and one was located on Dug Rd south of BMSP 5/30 (MaH). B&G (2010) notes that this is "a species of concern—conservationists feel it should be designated as endangered." Mourning Warblers are rare in *Centre*, but one was observed 5/10-11 at Scotia (DW), and a single **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at BESP 5/15 (DW).

Several sparrows are uncommon to rare migrants and/or breeders in the county. **Vesper Sparrows** were first reported 4/10 at three locations: Sharer Rd. (MH), TOF (GL) and 2 on Williams Rd. (JV). The last reported sighting was a singing male on South Nixon Rd. 4/30 (DW, JW). The season's first **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported at B2BE 5/1-2 (JV, TS); one was also observed at Musser's Gap 5/12 (JV). The rest were reported in or near strip mines: the Panther Strip Mine and along Rusnak Rd., both near Clarence, 5/21 (JV). A week later they were singing at the latter location 5/28 (JV). In addition to **Grasshopper Sparrows**, 2-3 rare **Henslow's Sparrows** were also found at the Panther Strip Mine 5/21 (JV). **Fox Sparrows** were reported regularly throughout the county in Mar-Apr, with the first report of this season coming from Pine Grove Mills 3/1 (JK); the last sighting was 5/1 in Howard (BS). A few **Lincoln's Sparrows** make an appearance each year. This year 2 were sighted at TOF 4/10 (JD) and 5/7 (JV), and a single bird was seen at Scotia 5/11 (JV). "Several" were found in Thompson Woods Preserve 5/16 (DW). A few **Snow Buntings** lingered into this season. Four were reported on Williams Rd 3/7 (MH), and "a small flock working the edge of the road" were seen on Nixon Rd. 3/8 (JV).

Significant numbers of (probably) migrating **Bobolinks** were noted at B2BE. This is a new area formed by a series of property purchases and easements in Halfmoon Twp. by Clearwater Conservancy. Five were observed 4/25 (MD), 8 on 5/1 (JV) and 15 on 5/2 (TS). Outside this area, 2 were perched on a fence between Rte. 322 and COL 5/3 (GG). **Rusty Blackbirds** migrated through *Centre* Mar-Apr, with the first sighting 3/2 at TOF (NK) and the last 4/26 at the Municipal Lane in Halfmoon Twp. (DeG). In between there were numerous sightings at TOF (CM, et al.), State College (MO, RC) and Scotia (AW). There were a few reports of large flocks, such as 75-300 at TOF 3/17-18 (NK, DW). Approx. 150 were seen at TOF 3/27 (JV) and 50 at a residence in State College 4/16 (RC).

Finally, three "winter" finches make the list this season. **Common Redpolls**, a casual irruptive species, were identified at a feeder in Boalsburg 3/2-13 (AM). From the TOF area, two males were reported at a feeder 3/11 (CM) and heard 3/29 (DW). **Purple Finches** were reported widely throughout the county (NK, et al.). Although uncommon, they are found each winter and remain into the spring migration. **Pine Siskin** also continued in the county from the winter report (JK, et al.). An irruptive species, they tend to appear roughly every other year. Although reported from several locations, the numbers this year were very modest compared to the highs reported in 2008-2009. The last county report for this season was in State College 5/11 (NK).

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), Cheslen Preserve (CP), Kurtz's Fish Hatchery (KFH), Exton Park at Church Farm School (CFS), Longwood Gardens (LWG), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Rushton Farm Banding Station (RFBS), Struble Lake (SL).

A series of spring storms provided good conditions for late waterfowl and interesting shorebirds, while putting a damper on songbird migration at times. Spring passerine migration was reported by *Chester* birders to be low-to-average in numbers of individuals and diversity, and with no notable fallouts recorded. While the number of warbler species was typical, reports were few of the harder to find boreal species. Shorebird migration was a different story. A most exciting find was a breeding plumaged Red Phalarope in a sewage lagoon at LWG following a storm. An evening Shorebird Watch (SBW) at BCP, 5/23-6/5, yielded an unprecedented number of shorebirds, with a nice diversity, including the rarely observed and declining Red Knot. Birder host LL organized this well attended event, and sat watching daily for a fortnight, also documenting Mississippi Kite on four occasions.

Other census projects provided more good data for the county. BCP held a one-day Birding Blitz 5/8, where birders counted 91 species in a twelve-hour period. Forty-eight birders put effort into the annual PAMC held 5/14, which offered a nice snapshot of bird life on that day, and tallied 124 species overall.

Waterfowl made a typical showing in the county, with expected numbers of most individuals, some nice high counts, and a few late dates recorded. **Snow Geese** passed through the county in expected numbers, with a high report of 2500 seen 3/14 flying over BCP (HD). One hundred twenty-five **Tundra Swans** were reported from KFH 3/8 (JS), where numbers hovered at 100+ during the same week. (m.ob.). Sporadically reported, **Gadwall** were most often found at KFH (m.ob.).

Also favoring KFH, **American Wigeon** staged a high count of 150 there on 3/8 (JS). **Blue-winged Teal** were found in just a few locations this spring, a solo bird at the Honeybrook Water Treatment Plant 4/12-13 (LL, KF), a pair noted at CP 4/15 (HM), and 2 at the Wilson Rd Ponds 4/20 (LL, KP), and a report of one during the PAMC 5/14. The Honeybrook WTP was a well-attended site by migrating **Northern Shovelers**, whose numbers reached over thirty during the middle of April (m.ob.). A high count of 46 **Northern Pintail** were found in a puddle in the frozen lake at MCSP lake 3/2 (HM, KF). **Green-winged Teal** reports came in from multiple locations, peaking at 23 at CL 3/14 (KF). A nice count of over twenty **Canvasbacks** 3/27 at Honeybrook WTP was a high for this species during spring (LW). **Redheads** offered birders good looks, and were seen at multiple sites, including MCSP, where up to 9 were counted 3/7 (HM). An easy to find visitor in early spring, **Ring-necked Duck**, was reported from around the county in most suitable locations. Numbers peaked 3/11 with 183 counted at KFH (GT). Two **Greater Scaup** were seen 3/9 at SL (m.ob.), CL hosted 4 on 3/15 (RR) and one 3/14 (RR). The Schuylkill River held a high count of 8 on 3/18 (JE). Last report was of one 4/4 from Westtown Lake (P&RW). **Lesser Scaup** could be found during March in small numbers around the county watering holes. A late migrant was found at MCSP after a strong easterly storm 5/18-19. This same individual was associating with a female **Surf Scoter**, who established a late record on these same dates (HM, LL, KF, AG). Surprisingly, only one **Long-tailed Duck** appeared during spring, a drake at CL 3/18 (RR). **Buffleheads** were found in multiple locations with a peak date of 3/28 where 32 were noted in a pond in West Whiteland Township (CK). A lingering Bufflehead was found during the PAMC 5/14 (MP). Reports of **Common Goldeneye** were few, but this is not unusual for *Chester*. A single bird was seen 3/5 during a Big Sit at SL (LL), a female was a nice treat during a bird walk 3/9 at MCSP (West Chester Bird Club), another was found at MCSP 3/14 (NP). **Hooded Mergansers** peaked 3/5 in Chester, with a count of 30 at MCSP (AG). Easily found in good numbers around the county in March, **Common Mergansers** tallied over a hundred in several locations, including a high count of 200 on the Chester side of OCTRES 3/3 (GT). It was a very good spring for drop-in **Red-breasted Mergansers**, especially during or after storms. The sea ducks were found at MCSP, CL, and SL, on multiple dates. During a

3/21 rainstorm, an excellent high count was 26 discovered on CL (RR). **Ruddy Ducks** are ever present in spring in *Chester*, with this species lingering into late May with a count of 16 found at SL 5/20 (HM).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was reported during the PAMC 5/14, though the provenance of this bird is suspect, since they are no longer presumed to be of wild origins anywhere in *Chester*. **Wild Turkeys** were reported from a few locations including CFS (m.ob.), and 2 during the PAMC.

The easterly storm is presumed to have brought in the first **Red-throated Loon** seen in the county since 2009. This basic plumaged loon dropped in at MCSP 5/18 (KF, LL, HM). **Common Loons** were present in *Chester* 3/16-5/20, and found in the deeper waters of MCSP, CL, and SL. The numbers peaked at 41 as a result of a storm 4/13 (HM). **Pied-billed Grebes** were in attendance at many of the ponds and lakes around the county in small numbers. **Horned Grebes** had a nice showing during March, with a high count of 20 noted 3/20 at MCSP (WBH). The long-awaited return of a **Red-necked Grebe** finally occurred 3/13-4/2 at MCSP, marking the first revelation to *Chester* birders since fall 2009 (HM, m.ob). **Double-crested Cormorants** are an expected spring visitor, and are typically reported in handfuls at a time from any given location, so a group of 72 sitting on a pond was an unexpected find at KFH during a rainstorm 4/5 (KF, HM).

The elusive **American Bittern** made multiple appearances around the county during the period of 4/3-5/12. CP, which offers great habitat for this species, was host to both the first report 4/3 (JS), and last report 5/12 (LL, JF). A foraging **American Bittern** found in broad daylight at CFS 4/7 provided the finder great photo ops (KCA, ph). Reports continued from this location through 4/29 (m.ob.). An **American Bittern** found in a tiny wet area of BCP was a delight to participants on a birdwalk 5/1 (LL, et al.). Two others were spotted departing the Great Marsh IBA on the evening of 5/3 (KF, HM).

Great Egrets, first seen 4/5, were noted in small numbers from throughout the county through the reporting period. A lucky find was 6 **Glossy Ibis** flying east over CFS in between storms 4/28 (NP).

Two **Turkey Vulture** chicks, described as "Smurf-like whitish-yellow fluffs" were found in a "green cave" at Rushton Farm, and presumed to have hatched 5/9-19 (DM). **Osprey** reports were numerous in spring, with the first migrant reported from MCSP 3/20 (WBH). This was a remarkable season for **Mississippi Kites** sightings in *Chester*. The first was 4/26, when one was seen and photographed flying over Harmony Hill Nature Area in Downingtown (HM). On 5/21, a perched near-adult **Mississippi Kite** at the Willisbrook Preserve in Malvern was discovered and allowed for good looks for the observer until flushed off by harassing crows (NP). May 23 marked the beginning of what would be a flurry of observations of **Mississippi Kites** at BCP. This first was a fantastic surprise to those on a birdwalk; this kite offered great looks while flying low over the treetops. Additional observations at BCP were all in late afternoon from the site of the SBW, and occurred on 5/27, 28, and 31. At least one of these kites was recorded as an adult. Repeat encounters aroused suspicion of whether or not breeding attempts would be made. **Bald Eagles** were noted to be nesting in the traditional location in Cochranville. Other reports of nest activity came from the West Chester Reservoir area and Big Elk Creek. A pair is also presumed to be breeding on or near the Buck Run (KF). The most notable **Northern Harrier** report was a late migrant noted 5/26 during the BCP SBW (LL, KP, et al). **Red-shouldered Hawks** nested in Uwchlan Township again this year, with a nest in process of construction discovered 3/8, and adults found incubating starting 3/23. Hatching was presumed to have begun 4/25, and 5/19 three chicks were detected above the rim of the nest. Tending to the hatchlings continued through the reporting period (HM). The first **Broad-winged Hawk** report came in 4/12 of 17, from Kennett Square (JS); 4/18 proved to be a good flight day for this species, and 100+ were noted from Nottingham Co Park (TR). An adult **Golden Eagle**, a species not usually found in spring, was seen over Waterloo Mills Preserve 5/1 (KF). Wintering **Merlins** are frequently observed around BCP. This year was no exception, with the last report made 3/20 from this location. **Peregrine Falcon**, an uncommon spring migrant, was reported only once during this season, and was seen from Kennett Square 5/12 (JS).

One of the best birds of the season was a highly vocal **King Rail** found at CP 5/23 (CC). This uncommon Pennsylvania visitor was detected through 5/28, during which time multiple birders had the privilege of an encounter. **Virginia Rails** were reported in small numbers from appropriate habitat. The first report came from LWG 4/15, 4 more were found in a wetland surrounding CL 4/21 (LL, KP). Other locations also hosted multiple birds, with 4 at CFS 4/29 (HM, WBH), and

4 in the Great Marsh IBA 5/3 (KF, HM). One was at CP 5/12 (LL, JF), and 2 were noted there 5/14 (JM). **Sora** are always a delight to actually see, so a very active pair at CFS 4/10 were a nice surprise (KCA, WBH, HM). This location collected multiple reports of Sora, including a high of 4 counted 4/29 (HM, WBH). Four more were at CP during the PAMC 5/14 (JM). Reports also came from The Great Marsh IBA 5/3 (KF, HM), and CP 5/12 (LL, JF). **American Coots** are annual visitors to MCSP in spring, and tend to stage in good numbers here. Though, this year the highest count was of only 14, lower than some previous springs. The latest report of American Coot was from LWG 5/14.

Shorebirds were the stars of migration for spring 2011 in *Chester*, with fifteen species being reported. Seven **Semipalmated Plovers** were a nice find during the PAMC 5/14 in the Embreeville area (JS), and an additional 3 were at a retention pond in Parksburg 5/24-25. **Spotted Sandpipers** were reported around the county with a high of 3 on 5/4 (KF). **Solitary Sandpipers** were also found in multiple suitable locations; 6 was a nice count early in the season from a flooded field in Kennett Square 4/30 (JS). Twelve, the highest count, was during the PAMC in the Embreeville area (JM). **Lesser Yellowlegs** reports were in expected numbers, with a high count noted of 6 birds along Brandywine Road 5/4 (KF). Interesting was one that flew over the SBW 5/23 (LL). **Greater Yellowlegs** also peaked at 6 in the CP 5/12 (LL, JF). BCP established the first-ever continuous evening shorebird watch 5/23-6/5, breaking county records for high counts of a few uncommon species. The location was chosen due to the proximity and positioning to the Delaware Bay. The actual viewing site was located in an open field with a broad view of the southern horizon. Two May evenings produced good numbers, 5/27 (LL) and 5/31 (LL, HM, WR, LR), the latter hosting a staggering number of shorebirds in flight, many too distant to identify and to count. During the evening of 5/31, waves of shorebirds continuously graced the skies until observers could no longer see. **Ruddy Turnstones** were one of the species that pushed out in full force 5/31, numbering in the hundreds as they passed over the site, and established a new county high count. **Red Knot** populations are fragile in today's world, so flocks of 70 on 5/27, and 100+ on 5/31, provided memories that will always be treasured and also new records for *Chester*. A handful of **Sanderlings** were identified accompanying the knots and turnstones in the big push of 5/31. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were presumed to be the dominant peep species seen in the large flocks over BCP 5/31, but only five individuals could be confirmed. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were also found in a few ground locations, including one in the Embreeville area 5/14 (JM), and two in a Parksburg retention pond 5/15-27 (m.ob.). A newly formed pond with muddy edges at CP hosted a grand high count of 69 **Least Sandpipers** during the PAMC. Additional spring reports were numerous of this more common peep. The latest reported, 5/29, from Parksburg (HM, DF). **White-rumped Sandpiper**, a species not annually recorded in *Chester*, was found twice in Parksburg: 5/15 (LL), and 5/27-28 (HM, JW, NP). A total of 200 **Dunlin** were seen in flight over BCP during the SBW 5/27, establishing a new high record of this species in the county. **Wilson's Snipe** were found in good numbers in suitable wetlands, such as CP, CFS, and surrounding CL. High count was of 9 on 3/30 from CL (RR). The last report was also from CL on 5/14 (RR). The courtship displays of the **American Woodcock** mark the beginning of spring for many birders, and first reported from BCP 3/1 (JS). Undoubtedly a highlight of the season was a stunning breeding plumaged female **Red Phalarope**, which appeared after a strong easterly storm in a sewage lagoon at LWG 5/17-18 (LL, m.ob.). This species is uncommon during spring in Pennsylvania, and always a rare find in *Chester*. The phalarope's two-day visit allowed scores of birders from around the state a chance to view the dazzling red plumage.

A storm on 4/5 brought a **Bonaparte's Gull** into SL (HM, KF). Three other reports followed including one at MCSP 4/8 (HM), and 7 at SL 4/13 (KF). A Big Sit held at SL on 3/4 -5 produced nice reports of staging gulls, and included a fantastic find of an adult **California Gull** (LL). This rare visitor was only present for a short while, rewarding the observer with distant but confirming views. Attempts to relocate the gull were not met with success. An **Iceland Gull** was found 3/4 at SL (LL), and a high count of 8 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** was recorded there 3/5 (NP). Single **Great Black-backed Gulls** were seen 3/5 at SL (LL) and 3/9 from Willisbrook Preserve (AG). Three **Caspian Terns** in flight high above BCP during the 5/26 SBW were a nice bonus of vigilant sky watching (LL, HM, CC, WR). An early **Forster's Tern** was found at SL during a rainstorm 4/5 (HM), and was the only report of this irregular spring migrant.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were scarcely reported in the county in

early May, but reports increased towards the end of the month (m.ob.). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was the star of the BCP Birding Blitz 5/8, allowing good views to many observers (HD, et al). Other reports, all of single birds, came from: the Laurels Preserve 5/9 (KF), LWG 5/23 (CM), BCP 5/23 (LL et al), and the Doe Run region 5/25 (KF).

Four **Barred Owls** were found during the PAMC: 2 in Mortonville (JM), and 2 in Rokeby (KF, HM, ED). A Barred Owl was reported for several weeks through the end of May at the Great Valley Nature Center (R&EW). A traditional winter resident, **Long-eared Owl** reports continued through March, with reports from SL 3/5 (LL), East Whiteland Twp 3/5 (HM), and Pomeroy 3/14 (JW). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** found in a yard in Jennersville in mid-Mar, was the only report of this owl for this season. **Common Nighthawks** were reported in small numbers from around the county through 5/26 (m.ob.). One was found roosting during a banding demonstration at RFBS 5/21, providing great looks to many young birders (DM). The best-known stronghold in the county for **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** is the Serpentine Barrens region. Five of these nightjars were found at the Goat Hill Preserve 5/27 (JS).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a nice find at Welkinweir Preserve during the PAMC 5/14, and the only report received of this species for spring (RW, EW). A **Least Flycatcher** was found singing at Crow's Nest Preserve 5/6 (JT). **Blue-headed Vireos** were sporadically reported during late Apr and early May, with an early report 4/15 (HM), and 2 lingering birds found 5/12 at CP (LL, JF). **Cliff Swallows** were hard to find this spring, and only reported three times: 2 at CL 5/5 and 5/17 (RR), and 3 at MCSP 5/17 (NP). This species historically bred in *Chester*, but has not been found nesting in the county in recent years.

Black-capped Chickadees irrupted into *Chester* for the winter period, and continued through 4/17. A high count was of 10 carefully scrutinized by multiple skilled observers on a bird walk at LWG 4/11 (JF). *Chester* bird feeders played host to handfuls of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** who visited through the spring season. A very late report from Nottingham Co Park 5/29 was intriguing, as the habitat there could be desirable for nesting (TR). Two **Marsh Wrens** were found at CP on 5/12 (LL, JF). Breeding was confirmed in summer of 2010 in this location. Another **Marsh Wren** was a good find at CFS 5/27 (JL). A singing **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Waterloo Mills Preserve 5/26 was the only report of this species (KF). **Swainson's Thrush** were noted in low numbers moving through the county beginning 5/6. Two were caught in a mist net and banded at RFBS 5/21 (DM).

Thirty-one species of warbler were recorded in *Chester* this spring. Few single day high counts were noted. An absence of **Bay-breasted Warbler** was noteworthy. Warbler highlights this season included a **Tennessee Warbler** at Waterloo Mills Preserve 5/18 (KF), an early **Nashville Warbler** banded 4/21 at RFBS (DM, WS), a high count of 6 **Magnolia Warblers** at LWG 5/23 (CM). Single **Cape May Warblers** were reported from Waterloo Mills Preserve 5/5, a yard in the Coatesville area 5/8-10 (JM), and LWG 5/18 (LL, KP, et.al). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported 4/20 along Cannery Road (KF), and beginning 5/7 from Kerr Park, a site where one has been found reliably the last two breeding seasons (HM, m.ob). A late **Palm Warbler** was found at LWG 5/18 during a birdwalk (LL, KP, et al). A high count of **Blackpoll Warblers** for one location was 5 at BCP 5/22 (JW). **Cerulean Warblers** were detected in a few locations, 4/24 in Coatesville (KF), 2 found 4/27 in Devon (WS). Ceruleans were in traditional breeding locations, the Struble Trail (HM, DE, NP) and Pickering Creek (RE) during May. **Prothonotary Warbler** historically bred in *Chester* but is not recently confirmed, and not found with ease during migration. This spring, Prothonotaries made a few appearances to the delight of birders: one singing was a lucky find during a birdwalk in Downingtown 5/3 (LL, KP, et al), another was heard singing that same evening at the Great Marsh IBA (KF, HM), a surprise was a singing bird heard along a creek at the Laurels Preserve during the PAMC 5/14 (KF, et al). An early **Worm-eating Warbler** was banded at RFBS 4/19 (DM). Reports of **Wilson's Warbler** were slim, with one banded at RFBS 5/10 (DM, WS), one at LWG 5/18 (LL, et al), and another from Pickering Creek Trail 5/22 (RE). An abundance of **Yellow-breasted Chats** exists in the Serpentine Barrens, where a high count of 13 was made 5/29 at Nottingham Co Park (DF, HM, TR).

A nice site count of **American Tree Sparrows** was of 15 made at BCP 3/7 (HD). A single **Vesper Sparrow** was a good find on a farm in Downingtown 4/19 (KF). Hibernia Park held a good high count of 19 **Fox Sparrows** 3/30 (RR). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** visited a yard in East Pikeland Twp 5/12 (VS). Another was banded at RFBS 5/21 (DM). **Dickcissels** returned to a private farm where nesting had been suspected in previous years. A somewhat early report was of one

singing male found 5/14 during the PAMC (KF, HM, ED). Additional reports from this site included 2 on 5/19 (NP, LL), and a record high count of 6 on 5/25 (KF, JS). Pairs in this location have been detected, and signs of breeding are pending.

Blue Grosbeak breed at BCP, and 4/24 marked the return of this species in this location (HD, LL, et al). Away from this area, they become difficult to find, so one visiting a feeder in Willistown 4/28 was a welcomed guest, and a female found in Doe Run during the PAMC 5/14 was a nice addition to the day's tally (KF, ED, HM). **Rusty Blackbird** populations are precipitously declining, so any report in *Chester* is noteworthy. One was found during the 3/5 Big Sit at SL (LL), and the only other report, of 3, came from Westtown School 4/20 (TS). Four **Baltimore Orioles** spent the winter months visiting feeders in a West Grove yard, and were noted to be present through at least mid-April (KFr). There were a respectable number of reports of **Purple Finches** in April, with a high count of 6 at a feeder in N.Coventry Twp 4/26 (SK). **Pine Siskins** made pit-stops in *Chester* during their journeys northward, and were reported from CL 4/21 (LL), in West Grove 4/29 (MD), and Kennett Square 5/9 (JS).

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Clarion County

Locations: Cook's Forest SP (CF), Curllsville (CV), Foxburg (FB), Kahle Lake (KL), Mount Airy (MA), Mount Zion (Piney Tract IBA/SGL 330) (MZ), Sarah Furnace (SF), Strattanville (ST).

The spring season does not always include sightings of **Snow Goose** for the county, but this spring there were two noted with the first on 4/1 of a single bird at KL (JS), and the second also of a single bird at the same location 5/13 (CW), looking as if paired with a **Canada Goose**, and certainly unusual for this date. **Tundra Swans** were first seen on migration 3/2 over ST (RM), and a high number of 300 were seen at KL 3/6 (GE, RS) with the last sighting there as well 4/1 (ML). Waterfowl reports were happily more numerous this spring than usual. The first was 12 **Wood Ducks** on the Allegheny River 3/15 near FB (KC), and a **Green-winged Teal** on a small pond near KL 3/6 (GE, RS). Also along the river near FB 3/12 were 6 **American Wigeon** and 6 **Ring-necked Ducks** (KC), and at KL 4/1 both **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup** (ML). On a small farm pond on MA, which is more known for grassland birds, a nice assortment of lingering waterfowl 4/25 included **Lesser Scaup**, **Horned Grebe**, **Ruddy Ducks**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, and **Bufflehead** (CW). For mergansers, both **Hooded** and **Red-breasted** were present at KL 4/1, as well as **Ruddy Ducks** which remained there through at least 5/13, with several birds present (CW). Three **Surf Scoters** were at KL 4/19 (GE), and to add to nice variety at this location, a **Red-throated Loon** was found there 4/4 (JS). **Common Loons** made their first appearance again at KL 4/1 (ML), and remained there with 3 in non-breeding and first summer plumage seen 5/13 (CW). A single bird was also found on the river near FB 5/7 (KC). Rounding out waterfowl sightings were **Pied-Billed Grebes**, seen first at KL 4/1 (ML), and a single bird near FB 5/25 (KC). **Horned Grebes** were seen in small numbers on a small pond near Clarion 4/5 (CW) as well as KL 4/1 (ML) and as noted earlier at MA. A good find for the county was a **Red-necked Grebe** seen both 4/19 and 4/20 at KL (GE). **Double-crested Cormorants** were found at KL 4/1 (ML) and were seen through at least 5/25 at various spots along the southwestern border of the county on the Allegheny River in numbers up to 8 (KC, CW).

Turkey Vultures made a rather early return showing 2/13 near MZ (MW). **Ospreys** were first reported back 4/3 near FB (KC), as well as near Clarion 4/5 (RM). **Bald Eagles** continue to become more common to see in the county. A single adult bird was reported from both Millcreek 4/4 and at CF 4/1 (DC), with 2 birds also on this date at KL (ML). The pair nesting along the Clarion River was present there

through the end of May, appearing to have two young in the nest active by that time (CW). **Northern Harriers** were seen back at MZ 3/6 (KC), and at CV strips area 5/31 (HF, BM), but overall numbers for these birds do appear to be going down for the county in the past two years. **Northern Goshawk** is of note only due to its absence this season, with no reported nesting activity this year despite searching areas with breeding activity for the past several years (RM). **Broad-winged Hawks** made their remarkably predictable return this spring again 4/21, returning to a known nesting site near Clarion (DB).

Sandhill Cranes are another bird not frequently reported for *Clarion*, but that were seen in two areas of the southern part of the county. The first was a single bird seen feeding in a hayfield near Rimersburg 4/13, where it remained through the day and was seen by several observers as well as having photos taken (DK). The second report was of a flyover bird near CV 4/30 (CW).

A remarkable number of 12 **Greater Yellowlegs** were found at CV strips area in a flooded bare part of the grasslands there 5/4 (MW). A single **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Pectoral Sandpiper** were seen along the river near FB 5/25 (KC), adding to the increased variety of shorebird reports this spring. One **Upland Sandpiper** was found 4/25 at the traditional county breeding ground at MA (CW) and an excellent count of 4 was reported from CV strips 5/12, where habitat is present but they have not been found breeding previously (ST, DW). Hopefully this species may continue to find new breeding sites in the county, but continued land use changes with gas and oil wells may preclude that, time will tell. **Wilson's Snipe** continue to be present in flooded pasture areas of CV, but in smaller numbers with habitat changes, just several birds being seen from 4/3 through 4/22 (CW). **American Woodcocks** made their predictable return to the area in the usual sites near CV 3/12 with several birds displaying at dusk (CW). The large areas of reclaimed strip mines in the southern part of the county that are now aging and growing up more provide excellent habitat for this species here, and these birds can easily be found in spring in many different locations.

Bonaparte's Gulls were noted first for the spring along the Allegheny near FB 3/27 with 10 birds seen, and a single bird there rather late 5/25 (KC). **Short-eared Owls** continued through spring at a few expected areas of the county with a single bird at CV strips area 3/26 utilizing remaining grassy areas next to a burnt expanse from an early spring fire there (CW). In a newer area for these birds, one was seen hunting at dusk on Over Rd. near CV both 4/2 and 4/16 (CW). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were first heard back calling near midnight at SGL 72 near Clarion 5/13 and also reported calling near Millcreek the third week of May (RS). The first report of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** was 4/27 near CV, coming to flowering quince there as well as a feeder (CW). An unusual report for the county was of a single **Red-headed Woodpecker** seen on a dead snag in a yard near FB 5/25, unfortunately not reported since (KC).

Yellow-throated Vireos are regular but not common in the county, usually occupying the southern riparian corridors along the Redbank and Allegheny, but this spring a single singing male was spotted 5/6 in a small woodlot near CV, possibly on his way to the more northern rivers in the area. A single bird was also singing in its more normal habitat near East Brady 5/10(SS), also near Hillville 5/14(CW). A pair of **Common Ravens** was present in mixed woods near ST 4/6, possibly breeders in some of the surrounding habitat there, as these birds are becoming more common in the county (RM). On 3/19 on hilltop fields along Over Rd. near CV, a single **Horned Lark** was singing by the light of the bright full moon, and at least 3 birds were present and singing at dusk there 4/2 despite fields being disced for spring planting (CW). **Winter Wrens** were back on territory in their usual strongholds at CF by 5/14, with singing birds heard in multiple areas there (CW). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** continued in a stand of blue and Norway spruce near CV through 5/19, past their safe date but unfortunately without other breeding evidence found, though they have been confirmed nesting here once previously (CW). A single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was heard in nocturnal migration over the CV area on a calm, clear but foggy evening 5/27, their usual migration period through the area (CW). A nice number of 3 **Swainson's Thrushes** were found for the PAMC at SF, two singing softly (CW). **Wood Thrushes** continue their trend of appearing somewhat earlier in the year, with the first birds heard calling at dawn 4/25 near CV (CW).

Several warbler reports this spring are worthy of some note, but overall the spring warbler migration seemed once again rather weak in numbers, with an early start of arrivals in late April and then the number and variety dropping by early May. A rather late arrival of good weather and more rain than usual may have also affected this as well.

Tennessee Warblers were first heard and seen just two days prior to the PAMC, and on count day made an excellent showing. Birds were easily found in various habitats, especially in the southern part of the county, with a total count for the day (and likely underestimated) being 21 (CW). A pair of **Northern Parulas** appeared to be starting nesting near the nature center at CF, also during PAMC count day (CW). These warblers are regular at this site and along scattered areas in the county, most commonly along the rivers. **Cape May Warblers** are usually more common in fall migration but this year were seen regularly 5/6-5/12 near Curllsville in stands of blue and Norway spruce as well as European larch, with most birds singing males (CW). **Blackburnian Warbler** numbers also appeared high this year, first noted back 4/25, with very good numbers in forested areas of the county with some higher elevation and high numbers noted at CF during the PAMC (CW). One of the common later spring migrants is the **Blackpoll Warbler**, which continued this year with a good showing with single to several birds heard or seen daily from 5/12-28 near CV and other scattered areas through the county, their continuous high-pitched song making them one of the easiest birds to detect. For the PAMC, **Cerulean Warblers** were found in good numbers in their usual habitat on the southern river borders of the county, with a count of 9 found over just a small count area (CW). **Black-and-white Warblers** were already finishing nest building 5/14 along a wooded roadside along the Allegheny River, with a nest found on the bank below overhanging tree roots (CW). **Worm-eating warblers** continue to be regular in specific areas along the southern border, especially south-facing slopes, and were first found back 4/28 near East Brady (CW, EM, SS). **Louisiana Waterthrush** were also found in this area along one of the streams leading to the Allegheny where they are regular, pretty much on expected time frame, singing there 4/11 (CW). Another southern warbler not usually found in large numbers and absent from regular locations last year, was found again this year near Hillville for the PAMC, with a single territorial singing male both heard and seen (CW).

American Tree Sparrows overlapped **Chipping Sparrows** by almost 2 weeks this year, with the last tree sparrow seen 4/15 and the first chipping arriving 4/3 (CW). **Clay-colored Sparrows** returned to their breeding grounds at CV strips the first week of May, as usual, later arrivals than the other grassland birds (MW, SG). **Vesper sparrows** were also first heard and seen that week near ST 5/4 at a previously known nesting site (RM). **Savannah Sparrow** is usually the earliest grassland sparrow and that continued this year with the first heard at MA 4/11, then the next arrival the **Henslow's Sparrow** near CV in several spots 4/16 (CW) and **Grasshopper Sparrows** towards the end of April near CV as well 4/27 (CW). Larger than usual numbers of **Fox Sparrows** were seen this year in some areas, reported near ST regularly from 3/6 through 4/14 with numbers frequently as high as 6 to 8 birds at a time (RM). Only a single record of the declining **Rusty Blackbird** was had this spring, a single bird at KL 3/6 (GE, RS). Following up with small numbers of finches this past winter, a single **Common Redpoll** was reported at a feeder near ST 3/25 (RM). A single **Pine Siskin** was present at the same location that day and also a single bird at a feeder near CV 4/9 and last seen 5/7 (CW).

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Clearfield County

No report.

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Clinton County

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

Although spring reports of scoters in Pennsylvania are not unusual *per se*, it is unusual to have reports of all three species in *Clinton* for the

period. A **Black Scoter** was seen on the SR at McE 3/4 (BZ), a **White-winged Scoter** was on the SR at LH 4/5 (DR), and a **Surf Scoter** was on the SR at McE 4/7 (m.ob.). **Snow Geese** made a strong appearance in the SA area in early March with flocks seen from 3/3 through 3/19, peaking around 3/7 with several thousand birds in flocks. Also mixed in with them at times were several hundred **Tundra Swans** (m.ob.).

The celebrated pair of visiting tagged **Trumpeter Swans** first reported during the previous period continued through early April, eventually moving to a flooded field east of LH (m.ob.). The pair had attracted much local attention which was generally positive and were very cooperative for photographers. The pair was last seen on 4/5 a few miles east of LH. Interestingly, information received by Bob Snyder through his website shed light on how far and fast these huge birds can travel. Bob reported that an Ontario resident reported the pair on 4/7 west of Niagara Falls, ON along the Lake Ontario shore. The observer confirmed the wing tag number on one of the swans. This meant that the pair of swans had made the flight from LH to the Niagara Falls area in less than two days. This pair of swans was two years old and had been hatched near Toronto, Ontario.

A single **Red-throated Loon** was observed on the SR at LH 5/14 (JB). Two **American Bitterns** were seen at the MH wetlands 4/25 (m.ob.). Several **Great Egrets** were seen on the SR at McE on 4/5 (SLF). A report was received that the Kettle Creek SP pair of **Bald Eagles** did successfully nest during the period (CCH). The resident pair of **Peregrine Falcons** at McE produced four chicks (m.ob.). Unfortunately, one of the recently fledged juveniles was found dead from a vehicle collision 6/20 (KP). A **Common Gallinule** was seen at the MH wetlands 4/25 (m.ob.). On 3/16 a group of three **Sandhill Cranes** was found at SA (DR, WL). On 5/30, a probable **Franklin's Gull** was reported from SA (NF). If accepted, this would represent a first county record for the species. A **Short-eared Owl** was reported at SA 3/25 (CCH).

From the Hyner area, a singing **Kentucky Warbler** was heard 5/14 (DF). On 5/4 a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was observed near MH (m.ob.). **Snow Buntings** were seen at SA on 2/11 and 2/22 (CCH, BZ). An interesting observation came on 6/25 from the MH area in which both a pair of **Orchard Orioles** and a pair of **Baltimore Orioles** were nesting in the same tree at the same time (MA). Small numbers of **Pine Siskins** were occasionally reported during the period in Woolrich and Swisssdale (CCH, WL). One **Common Redpoll** was seen at a feeder near Avis 3/15 (BZ).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA. 17745-8153, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnet.org**, Mervin Allgyer, Jo Ann Bowes, Dave Ferry, Nate Fronk, Skip and Linda Frye, Carol and Charles Hildebrand, Ken Packard, Dave Rockey, and Beth Zbenger.

Columbia County

No report.

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Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Custards (CUS), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Ernst Trail (ET), Fish Hatchery (FH), McMichael Road (McM), Ford Island (FI), Geneva (GEN), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Smith's Marsh (SM), Springboro (SPR), West Crawford County, (WCC), Woodcock Lake (WL).

There were several reports of **Snow Goose** from 3/1-17 at PA but the 250 at PGMA 3/13 had to be the largest ever recorded in *Crawford* (ST, DW). Two **Ross's Geese** were found at PS and PC 3/14 (LM, RF, SC), one was at PC 3/13 (ST, DW) and one at PC 3/16 (RS, CN). A **Mute Swan** was seen at PGMA 4/14 (RFL) through 4/18 (RF, RC, SC). There was a very good **Tundra Swan** flight with the top count of 1036 on 3/7 all at PA (RFL). A **Trumpeter Swan** was recorded at PGMA 3/19 (MV).

There were 60 **Gadwall** at WL and 30 at SM 3/27 (RFL). At least 3 remained at PGMA until 5/14 (MV). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was found at

GEN 3/20 (GM), and the same bird at CUS to 4/9 (m.ob.). **American Wigeon** were at SM and PA to 5/7 (MV) and 100 birds were found at CM 4/9 (RFL). A pair of **Green-winged Teal** were seen at PGMA 3/7 (RFL) with a good total of 56 there 3/13 (ST, DW). Twenty **Blue-winged Teal** were present near the ET south of Meadville 4/10 (CL) and one was found at FH 5/15 (SC). A **Northern Shoveler** was first sighted at PGMA 3/11 and 18 were reported there 4/1 (CM). A good total of 150 **Northern Pintail** were seen along ET 4/10 (CHD). I found 232 **Redhead** at PA 3/7 (RFL).

The top count of **Canvasbacks** at PA was 190 on 3/13 (ST, DW). An amazing 90 **Greater Scaup** were seen at Tamarack Lake and 2 on CL 4/19 (RCL) and 75 at PC 3/13 (ST, DW). The top count of **Ring-necked Ducks** was 1045 at CM and 180 at WL 3/26 (RFL) for 1225 total. The last report for **Common Goldeneye** was one at SL 4/3 (RE). **Buffleheads** were noted from 3/1 to 5/5 (m.ob.) and 141 was the best total reported 4/2 (RFL) from WCC. Some 502 **Long-tailed Ducks** were noted at PC and PS 3/13 (ST, DW); there were many reports of 30 or less (m.ob.). A **Black Scoter** was found at PC 3/13 (SC) and 10 **White-winged Scoter** were seen at PS 3/13 (ST, DW). A pair remained there 3/14 (LM, RF). RFL had a female **Surf Scoter** at PC 3/27 and a female was noted at SC 5/13 (RE). Twelve **Common Mergansers** were noted at WL 3/9 (RFL) and 2 at FH 4/9 were the last reported (RFL). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found there in March to the end of April with 200 at CL 4/5 (CN) the top total. The top report for **Ruddy Ducks** was the 400+ at PA and CM 3/13 (ST, DW).

A pair of **Common Loons** was first reported at PC 3/13 (ST, DW). A good count of 12 was noted at WL (SC) 4/10. Single **Red-throated Loons** were found at CL 4/20 (RCL), 4/27 (RFL) and at PC 4/30 (RFL). A **Red-necked Grebe** was noted along the PC 4/2 and one was at CL 4/17 (RFL). **Horned Grebes** were found in good numbers from 3/6-4/20 at all the local marshes and lakes (m.ob.). Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted in the area 3/13 and 3 at CL 4/19 was a rather low "high" count (RCL).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was spotted at FI 5/1 (may be the first for that location) and one was noted near SL 5/3 (RE).

Double-crested Cormorants returned to PA in April with 134 the top count on 4/30 (RFL). The lone report of **Great Egret** was of a bird at FH 4/19 (RCL). MV recorded a **Cattle Egret** PGMA 5/24. One to 3 **Sandhill Cranes** were reported on 16 dates this period at CM and PA. There were 8 at the FH 5/21 (RFL). Several reputable birders found a **King Rail** calling at GEN near the bridge 5/28-31 (LM, ST, DW, CN), a very good find. **Virginia Rails** were noted from GEN, HM and McM (m.ob.) all in May. One to two **Virginia Rails** were reported from CM 5/1 to the end of May (m.ob.). Single **Soras** were found at McM and GEN marshes 5/5-31 (m.ob.), as were **Common Moorhens** at CUS and GEN 5/9-21 (m.ob.).

The high count of **Turkey Vultures** was 20 at PC 3/13 (ST, DW), 4 **Northern Harriers** at PGMA 3/13 was also the best reported total. A single **Coopers Hawk** was seen near my feeder at Meadville 3/9 (RFL). A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** was nesting northeast of SL 3/29 (RE). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen 5/25 along Smich Road northwest of Tamarack Lake (RFL). Seven **Rough-legged Hawks** were noted 3/19 at PGMA (MV). They were also seen on many occasions at SPR and Beaver Center (m.ob.). **Merlins** were found at CL 4/2, Linesville 4/17 and PGMA 5/1 (RFL). A pair was nesting near Sunset St. in Meadville 4/20 (RM). An **Osprey** returned to WL 3/18 (RFL), 3 were there 4/22 (RFL, RCL). A pair was noted 4/9 at the Espyville signal (relay) Tower near PC (RFL). A pair was found on the Southern end of Wilson's Rd and the Hartstown Road on a new nest on a very short electric pole close to the road (LM, BG, JG, RFL) at PGMA.

Above average rains made area marshes, ponds and lakes unsuitable for good shorebirding with plowed fields better areas to find them. A lone **Black-bellied Plover** was located at PGMA 5/7 (MV). The first **Greater Yellowlegs** was noted 3/19 at PGMA (MV) and 66 were there 4/23 (MV). The first **Lesser Yellowlegs** was seen at PGMA 4/1 (MV, CN) and the highest reported total was 32 there 4/29 (MV). One to 10 **Solitary Sandpipers** were found at CM and PA (m.ob.). Always a good one to find was a **Willet** at PGMA 4/28 to 5/1 (LM, RF, MV, CN). Two **Upland Sandpipers** were seen at PGMA 4/24 (MJ), 4 were there 5/21 (MV) and one to 2 were there all of May (CN, MV, SC, CH, AH, PS). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen at CL 4/17 (RFL) and 4 were in the PA 5/7 (MV); 3 at SL was a good find (RE). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were seen 5/13 at SPR (CN), one was at PGMA 5/24 (MV) and 2 were there 5/28 (AH). The best count of **Least Sandpipers** was 18 at the FH and PGMA 5/14 and 4 were there 5/24 (MV). Two **Dunlin** were reported at PGMA 4/10 (LM) with several single birds seen 4/23 to

a late one 5/24 (MV). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found 5/14-28 with 4 at PGMA 5/24 (MV). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was recorded at PGMA 5/7 and 5/14 (MV). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was noted at PGMA 5/7, and 10 were there 5/8 (RFL). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was seen PGMA 4/28 (LM, RF, B&MAV). An **American Woodcock** was found near ENWR 4/21 (RE) and one was at SPR 5/7 (CN). Twenty **Wilson's Snipe** were at PGMA 3/27 (LM, RF) 2 there last reported 5/15 (SC).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was located off the PC 3/16 (CN, RS) and a lower than usual high count of 23 were at WL (SC). A **Common Tern** was found at PS 5/28 (AH, PMS, RFL). Eight **Forster's Terns** were noted at PS 4/27 (ST, DW) and 5 were there 4/28 (B&MAV). Seven **Caspian Terns** were seen 4/10 at WL (SC) and 4 at SL 5/16 (RE).

Barred Owls were heard 3/10 and 4/22 in Meadville (RFL) and a pair was near SL 3/22 (RE). A **Great-horned Owl** was seen South of PC 4/9 (RFL). One **Yellow-bellied Cuckoo** was found near SPR 5/18 (CN). Single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported at SL 5/13 (RE), SPR 5/24 and FI 5/25 (RFL). Lone **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were noted at SPR 5/8-13 (CN), 2 were at FI 5/16 (SS) and 5/21 (LM, BG, JG, RFL). Some 100+ **Chimney Swifts** were tallied over Meadville 5/4 (RE). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was recorded near SL 4/30 (RE). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was calling at FI parking lot 5/5 (RFL). All other flycatchers were reported in small numbers (m.ob.).

A **Horned Lark** was found at Wayland East of Meadville 4/2 (RFL) and one was at PGMA 5/14 (MV). A **Fish Crow** was calling at FI 5/1 (RFL), one was there 5/2 (Seneca Rocks Audubon Group) and again 5/16 (SS). A **Northern Shrike** lingered into the Meadville area until 3/12 (RFL). A **Red-eyed Vireo** was seen 5/10 near SL (RE) and 6 were counted at FI 5/15 (SC). The only report of **Philadelphia Vireo** was 3 at FI 5/15 (SC). A **Warbling Vireo** was singing at McM 4/27 (RFL). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was noted at FI, SPR, CUS and McM 5/8 to end of May (CN, SC, RFL, RF, DM). The first **Blue-headed Vireo** was near SL 4/3 (RE) and a **White-eyed Vireo** was recorded near SPR 5/5 (CN). Three **Purple Martins** were seen at CL and 3 were at PGMA 4/17 with 53 there 4/30 (RFL). A **Cliff Swallow** was found at C 4/17 and 176 at PA 5/21 (RFL). At CL a good 250 **Barn Swallows** were seen 4/19 (RCL). The first **Tree Swallows** reported were 13 at CL 3/19 (MV) and 583 were found at CL, CM, and PA 4/17 (RFL).

There were no reports of **Carolina Wrens**. There were 2 **House Wrens** at FI 4/30 (RFL, RCL) and one at SPR 4/30 (CN). A **Winter Wren** was located near SL 4/3 (RE). A **Sedge Wren** was noted at McM 5/1 (RF, DM) (no details). A **Brown Creeper** was recorded at HM 4/10 (LM), one was along the ET near Meadville 4/10 (CL), 2 were at McM 5/1 (RF, DM) and one was at SL 4/19 (RE). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at a feeder near SL 3/23 and 4/25 (RE). Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found near SL 4/5 (RE) and 1 near the WL dam 4/9 (RFL). There were no reports of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**! Four **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were seen at McM, 2 were at FI 5/1 (RF, DM), and 3 were at McM 4/20 (RFL).

A **Wood Thrush** was located near SL 4/30 (RE). There were 2 **Veeries** calling along Towpath at C and 5/8 (RFL). **Eastern Bluebirds** were present all period (m.ob.). Near SL 30 **American Pipits** were found 3/24 (RE) and one was noted along the edge of Tamarack Lake 5/12 (RFL). An early report of a **Gray Catbird** came from SL 4/27 (RE), and 20 at FI 5/28 was the top count (RFL). A **Brown Thrasher** was singing at FI 4/23 (RCL, RFL). I watched a **Townsend's Solitaire** at 25 feet sing and call for about 10 minutes in my backyard in Meadville 4/15. The bird was not seen or heard again (RFL).

A **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen SL 5/10 (RE) and FI 5/15 (SC). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was found at McM 5/8 and there were 8 more reports there (m.ob.) including a female with nesting material 5/10 (RN). A report of **Blue-winged Warbler** was near SL 4/27 (RE), one was at SPR 5/11 (CN), one was at FI 5/15 (SC) and 2 were south of G 5/21 (m.ob.). **Nashville Warblers** were noted in small numbers. **Tennessee Warblers** were found in small numbers but 25 were noted at FI (SC). One **Northern Parula** was noted at SL 4/17 (RE) and FI 5/15 (SC). Four **Cape May Warblers** were tallied at FI 5/15 (SC). The first sighting of a **Yellow Warbler** was at PGMA 4/23 (MV). Two **Cerulean Warblers** showed up at CUS on 5/9 (SS), one was at SL 5/10 and one was at SPR 5/26 (CN). Lone **Mourning Warblers** were seen at Towpath at CUS 5/12 (RFL), FI 5/15 (SC) and near SL 5/25 (RE). Most other **Warblers** were recorded here in small numbers and/or by several reporters.

The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were 4 at a SL feeder 4/26 (RE). Two **Indigo Buntings** were noted south of the PC 4/30 (RFL). A **Scarlet Tanager** was found near SPR 5/4 (CN).

Two **Snow Buntings** were recorded 3/6 at PC (SK) and one was

there 3/11 (CN). A **Vesper Sparrow** was noted 4/13 near SL (RE) and one was sighted at PGMA 5/15 (SC). A **Savannah Sparrow** was present at PGMA 3/17 (RFL). Several **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found PGMA 4/27 (ST, DV). A **Swamp Sparrow** was recorded at GEN 3/9 (RFL) with 14 noted there 5/21 (m.ob.). A **Fox Sparrow** was found near WL 3/26, one was at SM 4/2, one was at Meadville 4/17 (RFL), one was at Meadville 4/10 (CHL), and one was near SPR 5/6 (CN). **Eastern Towhees** arrived 3/26 and were well recorded to end of period (m.ob.).

One to 15 **Bobolinks** were found at PGMA from late April to the end of June (m.ob.). Thirteen **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen near SL 3/23 (RE). An early **Baltimore Oriole** was seen at FI 4/10 (LM, RF). An **Orchard Oriole** was found near SPR 5/7 (CN). **Rusty Blackbirds** reports include 8 at McM 3/20 (RFL), 6 at G 4/5 (CN), one at SL 3/22 (RE) and 6 at PA 4/23 (RCL).

Common Redpolls lingered with 2 at SPR 3/4 (CN), and 2 were at feeders in Meadville 3/7 (RFL). Two **Pine Siskins** remained at a SL feeder to 5/14 (RE).

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Cumberland County

Locations: Mudlevel Road (MLR), State Gamelands 169 (SGL169), State Gamelands 230 (SGL 230), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF).

In a word, wet! That is the description of the spring 2011 season. Perhaps it was due to this wetness that it was such an excellent season for waterfowl, a very good season of shorebirds and gulls, and only a so-so season for warblers.

One **Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported in the flooded fields at Horner's Road in Middlesex Township 3/21-4/10 (HW, m.ob.). One **Greater White-fronted Goose x Canada Goose** was found in the flooded fields along Creekview Road in Upper Mifflin Township (VG, AM, DS). One **Ross's Goose** was found among 11 **Snow Geese** at a pond on Enck's Mill Road in Dickinson Township 3/8 (AM, DS, VG), along with 6 more **Ross's Geese** at the same location 3/18-19 (RK, AM, m. ob.). The pond at Enck's Mill Road also produced a flock of 9 **Canvasbacks** 3/23 (AM, VG) and one **Ruddy Duck** 3/28 (VG).

Among the waterfowl reported where two separate reports of one male **Eurasian Wigeon**. The first was on Kuhn's pond at Creekview Road, Upper Mifflin Township 3/7-11 (MK, m. ob.), and another was on a small farm pond on High Mountain Road in Penn Township 3/20 (VG, AM, MS, BW). Other birds reported from Kuhn's pond included one **Lesser Scaup** 3/6-16 (VG, AM, m.ob.), one **Ruddy Duck** 3/16-20 (AM, m.ob.), one **Common Goldeneye** 3/23-29 (AM, m.ob.) and numerous flocks of **Tundra Swans**. Other waterfowl highlights during the period included 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** on a small farm pond Route 997 north of Newburg 3/1 (RN), and another on the Laughlin Mill Pond in Newville 4/25 (VG). Sixteen **Redhead** forced down by a snow squall on a farm pond near corner of Ridge and Britton Roads in Shippensburg 3/9 (AM, VG), and another on Horner's Road 3/28 (HW). There were also 6 **Northern Shovelers** at one of the propagation ponds at SGL169 3/14 (MS) and 3 more **Ruddy Ducks** at the Mountain Road marsh of SGL169 5/3 (MS). Finally, there were a much higher than normal report of **Horned Grebes** from mid-March into mid-April at locations such as Kuhn's pond, SGL169, and others.

Among the rails and birds of the marsh, up to 4 **American Bittern** were reported at SGL169 between 3/9-5/10 and another making an appearance on MLR the first week of May (RK). It seems likely that once again **Virginia Rails** bred at SGL169, first being reported 3/20 (MS), though it seems like **Sora** may not have, instead being found in a marshy area on Creekview Road beginning 4/20 (AM, MS, RK). **Common Gallinule** made its annual spring appearance being reported at SGL169 on 4/21 (MS) and then again on MLR 5/23 (AM, BK).

Cranes, egrets, and herons also made a good showing this spring.

One **Sandhill Crane** was reported from SGL169 3/29 (AM, DS, VG), one at Horner's Road Middlesex Township 4/27 (MS, HW, KW), and another at MLR 5/8-9 (DS, AM). One **Glossy Ibis** was reported at Horner's Road 4/22-24 and another on MLR 5/17-18 and 5/28-29. Four were driven down by a storm on MLR 5/26 (AM, DS). One **Snowy Egret** was reported off of Route 34 in Carlisle Springs 5/2 (PL), and another on MLR 5/5 (AM, HW, MS). Additionally there were 2 **Cattle Egrets** reported along Horner's Road 5/27-28 (AM, m. ob.). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were reported from SGL169 on 5/29 and one adult along the Conodoguinet Creek 5/30 along the Conodoguinet upstream from the Center Street Bridge (RF, PF, KG, DG). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were present as usual at Cabin Road and Huntsdale.

As for shorebirds, one could say it was the season of the phalarope. One **Wilson's Phalarope** was reported on MLR 4/28-30 (AM, MS, BO), and another at the same location 5/23 (AM). One **Red-necked Phalarope** was reported 5/14 along Horner's Road (HW, AM, VG, JR, RK), another was at MLR 5/15, and 2 were at the same location 5/23 (AM). Also more frequent than usual were reports of **Upland Sandpipers** with one to 3 being reported on MLR 4/18-5/1 (VG, AM, MS, RK, m.ob.). Other species of note reported at MLR and/or Horner's Road were **Black-bellied Plover**, **Semipalmated Plover**, **White-rumped Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, and **Short-billed Dowitcher**.

It was a good season for the less common gulls. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were relatively numerous being reported from Horner's Road, MLR, Huntsdale, and Boiling Springs. One **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported at MLR 3/6 (AM), and another one on Horner's 4/27 (MS, HW, KW). One **Little Gull** was found on MLR 4/1 (VG). One **Laughing Gull** was reported from MLR 5/21 (AM). One **Forester's Tern** was observed flying out of the Conodoguinet at West Fairview 4/27 (MS). However the best was saved for last as a county record **Franklin's Gull** reported from MLR on 5/21 (AM, BO, DS).

As for raptors and owls, there were winter leftovers of 3 **Short-eared Owls** at MLR through 3/23, and one **Rough-legged Hawk** at Creekview Road 3/7 (VG). One **Northern Goshawk** was reported from Waggoner's Gap flying south to north on 3/13 (AM), along with a very impressive **Swallow-tailed Kite** at SGL169 4/30 (AM) of which photos were taken.

Other birds of interest included a reported **Northern Shrike** 3/14 on Whiskey Run road between Middle Road and Route 997 north of Newville (DL). Unfortunately the bird was not relocated. One **Marsh Wren** was reported at SGL169 5/8 (AM), and one **Brewster's Warbler** at SGL230 on 5/14 (RK). One to two male **Golden-winged Warblers** were reported from the Meadows Road area throughout the season. It was not confirmed if they are breeding with other Golden-winged, Blue-winged or not at all. One **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported at West Fairview 5/3 (RK) and one at SGL169 5/20 (VG, RK, CK).

Rusty Blackbirds continued their good 2011 showing with flocks of up to 60 birds being reported Huntsdale, Creekview Road, the SGL 169 propagation and the Big Spring through the latter part of April. Sightings of **Dickcissels** were reported on Hilltop Road, Bear Hollow Road near Newburg and Running Pump Road 5/28 (AM). One **Blue Grosbeak** was reported on Hunter's Road 5/29 (BF, LF).

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Dauphin County

Locations: Blue Mountain (BMT), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), FIG (Fort Indiantown Gap), Haldeman Island SGL 290 (HI), Harrisburg (HBG), Harrisburg Important Bird Area #45 (HIBA), Hershey (HER), Lower Paxton Twp. (LPT), Milton S. Hershey School campus (MSH), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR from Harrisburg (SRHB), SR from Marysville (SRMV), SR from West Fairview, Three Mile Island (TMI), Wildwood Lake (WL).

This was a very wet and cool spring. The SR went over flood level twice, first in early March and then again near the end of April. That

said, it turned out to be a very productive season for both migrating waterfowl and for gulls and terns.

More than 500 **Tundra Swans** were counted 3/5 at SRHB (RK), and a week later, 18 were noted at WL (LU, et al.). Large flights of **Snow Geese** were reported in the HER and SHT during the first week of April. On 3/5 about 3500 were flying over SHT (JG), and on 3/8 more than 2000 were observed in the MSH farms (TB). A single **Cackling Goose** was observed 3/9 SRWF (RK), and a PSU Ornithology class field trip to HI 3/19 reported two **Cackling Geese** (MB, DW, et al.).

Two **Eurasian Wigeons** were among the 18 species waterfowl tallied at the annual Ned Smith Center waterfowl watch along the Millersburg SR waterfront 3/13 (SB, et al.) A popular gathering place for **Ring-necked Duck** each spring is Tobias Lake, where 162 were counted 3/7 (SB). Both **Redhead** and **Canvasback** also had a good showing this season. Both first appeared on the SR in mid-February with **Redhead** continuing through 3/24 and **Canvasback** to 5/23 (m.ob.). It was a good season for **Long-tailed Duck** as well. First reported 2/27, observations continued along the SR from HBG to Marysville through 4/24 (m. ob.) with a high count of ~30 at SRWF 3/23 (VG, RK). All three species of scoter made an appearance this spring, albeit very brief for both **Surf** and **Black Scoter**. The only **Surf Scoter** observed was a single male at SRHB 4/10 (P&RW, TB, RK), and the only **Black Scoter** reported was also a single male noted 5/26 (DH) and again on 5/28 at SRWF (RK). **White-winged Scoter**, however, was rather common, sometimes being reported in double figures from late March through mid-May on the SR from HBG to Marysville (m. ob.). The first report came from SRWF 3/24 where one was observed, and the last observation was 5/15 with the high count of 22 coming 5/14 SRWF (RK). An albino **Bufflehead** was one of the more unusual observations from SRWF 4/11 (RK). **Red-breasted Merganser** was another species that was reported regularly on the SR from HBG to Millersburg. First reported 2/28 observations came from various locations along the SR through 5/20 (m.ob.).

Another species that had a good spring was **Red-throated Loon**. The first observation came 3/22 from SRWF (RK, AMr, MSb) after which one or two were being reported with regularity from either SRWF or SRMV through 4/23 (m.ob.). The last report was 5/20 of one at SRWF (AMr). A surprising find along Canal Rd. in SHT the morning of 4/30 was one **Red-throated Loon** in a Water Company impoundment; two hours later it was gone (P&RW). The first reported **Red-necked Grebe** was at SRMV 3/5 (RK, CK, et al.). More than a month later one was found at this location (TB, DM), and three **Red-necked Grebes** were observed 4/23 at SRWF (RK). A rather late report of one at SRWF was made 5/20 (AMr).

The **Ospreys** again returned to the meteorological tower at TMI, in the same location as last year. They spent most of March enlarging their nest and were active at the nest site all through the spring. On 5/23 a second pair was observed building a nest in one of the transmission towers on the island (MSw). **Bald Eagles** were also active in the TMI area (MSw) as well as on HI where seven were counted 4/28 (SB). As has become the norm, **Bald Eagles** were reported throughout the county (m.ob.). Although the first **Broad-winged Hawk** of the season was reported 4/12 in SHT (P&RW), the real show was a week later, on 4/20, when more than 100 were counted in a half hour during mid-afternoon kettling over LPT (RS). At the same time, a few miles south in Swatara Twp., more than 20 were observed (AMt). A **Merlin** was found in SCV 4/23 (J&BH). The Rachel Carson **Peregrine Falcons** in HBG produced their first of four eggs 3/11 with the first, and only, hatching 4/22. The young male was banded 5/18 and fledged 5/27. See: <www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon>. The TMI **Peregrine Falcons** were also active again this year. On 5/5 five were observed in the vicinity of the TMI reactor building (MSw).

Two reports of **American Bittern** were made 4/19, one from WL (*vide* CR) and the other from a farm pond in EHT (SZ, P&RW). Another **American Bittern** was observed 4/22 at SRWF (RK, AMr, MSb). The first **Great Egret** reports of the year came on 3/13 when single birds were observed at both WL (LU) and SRWF (MM). Due to the high levels of the SR from late April into early May there was no Wade Island Nest Survey conducted (*vide* DB). This is the third time the survey was canceled due to river or weather conditions since its inception in 1985; the last cancellation occurred in 1993. The **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** returned to the Bellevue neighborhood of HBG on or about 4/16, about two weeks later than normal, and eight were counted 4/22 (JM). Another Yellow-crowned sighting came on 4/19 at the same EHT pond that had the American Bittern (SZ, P&RW). A new location for possible nesting Yellow-crowns was reported in the Highspire area 5/9.

Photos clearly showed adult Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (*vide* PF).

A **Virginia Rail** was reported in the HIBA 5/12 and two **Semipalmated Plovers** were found in a small retention pond on the MSH Venice campus near the end of May (NM). A single **Semipalmated Plover** was reported at WL 5/12-13 (CR, et al.). Ten **Least Sandpipers** were found in a wet field within the HIBA 5/10 (TB, NM). An impressive count of 80 **Dunlin** were observed flying up river 5/20 SRWF (AMr).

The **Bonaparte's Gull** movement up the SR began 3/18 and continued through 5/14 (m.ob.). The first week of April saw the highest counts with many reports in the hundreds. The highest single count was ~425 on 4/5 SRWF (RK). A **Black-headed Gull** was observed 3/22 SRMV, about a week later than the past two years, and remained through, at least 3/24 (RK, AMr, MSb, et al.). This species was observed again on 4/1, this time at both SRHB and SRMV. Observations continued through 4/5 (m.ob.). **Little Gull** was first reported 4/1 with three at SRWF (RK) and continued to be observed through 4/5 (m.ob.). Three **Little Gulls** were also reported SRMV 4/3 (HM). **Little Gull** returned 4/17 with one observed at SRMV (RK, MS). Many birders en route to Middle Creek WMA in *Lancaster/Lebanon* to see the Mountain Bluebird swung by the SR and picked up one or both of these rare gulls during the first week of April.

The first **Caspian Tern** of the season was observed 4/6, and the first report of **Forster's Tern** was 4/11, both from SRWF (RK). Both of these species continued through 5/3 b along the SR from HBG to Marysville (m.ob.). Two **Common Terns** were reported SRWF 5/4 (TB) and three were observed SRMV 5/14 (RK). The last of the terns to be noted this season was **Black Tern**. Two were reported 5/20 (DM, MW), and one 5/23 (RK), both at SRWF.

A single **Long-eared Owl** was still present at a winter roost site in EHT through 4/10 (SD). The first report of **Common Nighthawk** was from Swatara Twp. where two were observed 5/15 (LU). A **Whip-poor-will** was heard calling near Meadowood Lane in SHT the evening of 4/25 (JG). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** of the season was noted 4/17 at SHT (P&RW). This equaled the "earliest" date for the spring return of this species. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported in LPT 4/28 (AMt), on FIG property 5/2 and 5/13 (DM), and at Cummings Swamp north of Millersburg where two were spotted 5/14 (BB).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was among the species found at SGL 246 5/18 (DH, RK). An **Alder Flycatcher** was reported on FIG property 5/15 (DM). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was observed 5/3 in SGL 246 (DH). A **Purple Martin**, actually quite rare in the county, was noted flying over the river SRMV 4/13 (CK). Two **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reports came from SHT, the first 5/19 (TJ) and, the second 5/21 (P&RW). The only **American Pipit** report came from the HIBA 4/25 where six were tallied (TB).

The report of a **Northern Parula** in SHT 4/11 was a new "early date" for this species (JG). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was among the species reported in SCV 5/1 (AMt). A **Kentucky Warbler** was among the birds banded at the WL Wetlands Festival 4/30 (SL). Two reports of **Mourning Warbler** came from SGL 246 near Middletown, one 5/9 (RK) and the second 5/18 (DH, RK). Three **Wilson's Warblers** were counted for the PAMC 5/14 in EHT (S&RZ).

Fox Sparrow reports included three in SHT 3/1 (JG), three in LPT 3/7 (RS), one on Duncan Island 3/21 (TB), and three in SCV 4/2 (AMt). **Blue Grosbeaks** returned to the two locations at which they were noted last year. The first sighting came 5/5 FIG (DM). At the Canal Rd. location in SHT, birds were not observed until 5/12, but there were three males and one female noted on that date (P&RW). Two males and one female were found at the Canal Rd. site 5/26 (P&RW). All the **Rusty Blackbird** reports came in mid-April. Four were observed at Ft. Hunter 4/10 (P&RW) while a few to as many as 12 were reported at WL from 4/12-21 (CR, RK, et al).

Purple Finch returned to area feeders 4/1 and remained through 5/22 (m.ob.). Large flocks of **Purple Finches** feeding in tree tops were noted in mid-April in both SHT (JG), where more than 50 were counted 4/20, and in EHT (S&RZ). **Pine Siskins** also were reported at feeders throughout the season, usually in numbers of one to 5, to 5/11 (m.ob.).

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Delaware County

Locations: Big Bend Farm (BB), Brandywine Conservancy-Chadds Ford (BC), 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), Rose Tree Park (RTP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Swarthmore College (SC), Tyler Arboretum (TY), Waterloo Mills-DelCo portion (WM).

The weather was unremarkable. It couldn't be said the weather affected anyone's ability to go out birding. Perhaps as a consequence of the rather tranquil spring, no big fallouts of migrants were observed, despite fairly regular weekday coverage by our most committed birders.

Snow Geese moved through on time in mid-March but big numbers were not reported. High count was 300 over Garnet Valley HS 3/18 (SJ). An eBird report of a **Mute Swan** at TI 5/14 (DB) was the first report of this species I have received in my five years of compiling and is hopefully not a sign of things to come. Uncommon in *Delaware*, two **Blue-winged Teal** were reported at TI 4/3 (JS). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** were at the rain-filled "firefighter's pond" at PHL 4/28 (AG, DE) and 2 males and one female were at the same location 5/1 (AG). Another uncommon species, two **Greater Scaup** were found along with an **American Wigeon**, 16 **Ring-necked Ducks**, and 40 **Common Mergansers** at SR 3/8 (AG). Eight **Red-breasted Mergansers** at DR 4/4 (AG) are the most AG has ever seen in *Delaware*.

Three **Wild Turkeys** were at the usual spot at the DR 4/22 (AG) and at least 2 were at a feeder along Farnum Rd., Media 5/20 (*fide* DM). Reports of this species away from the DR/TI area are still scattered but appear to be increasing.

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was a first ever species at Ridley Park Lake for a regular observer of the lake 3/18 (NC). He reported it had been there for about a week and it was seen again 3/24 (AG). A rare to uncommon but regular visitor, a **Horned Grebe** was on SR 3/24 (AG). Both also hard to find in *Delaware* were a **Cattle Egret** at PHL 4/29 (MD) and a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** on the DR at Marcus Hook 5/28 (AG).

The *Delaware* **Bald Eagles** nested again but this time in a new nest built this winter within a binocular field of the old nest as of 3/4 (AG). A two-hour, one-day Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch was conducted this spring. Tallied were 6 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, one **Red-shouldered Hawk**, and 50 **Broad-winged Hawks** 4/17 (BK, CP). One **American Kestrel** was reported at PHL 3/4 (AG). Two **Merlins** were at DT 3/1 (AG) and at Haverford 3/5 (SJ), and one **Peregrine Falcon** was at Swarthmore 3/5 (DE).

Rails have been missing from *Delaware* for a number of years, so a report of **Virginia Rail** heard in the marshes of BC 4/26 (KF) was exciting.

Shorebird reports were generally disappointing, although the aforementioned "firefighter's pond" produced as many as 9 **Semipalmated Plovers**, one **Killdeer**, 3 **Solitary Sandpipers**, 15 **Greater Yellowlegs**, one **Lesser Yellowlegs**, one **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, 23 **Least Sandpipers**, 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, 3 **Dunlin**, and 4 **Wilson's Snipe** at PHL 4/21-5/15 (AG). At one of the few remaining places to observe them in *Delaware*, 4 **American Woodcock** were displaying at DT 3/6 (DE).

Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** at the DR 5/2 (AG) were the only gulls of interest reported this season. Rare in the spring, a **Caspian Tern** was on the DR 4/22 (AG).

Barred Owls, seemingly more common of late, returned for the second consecutive year to the Bridle Path at RCSP 5/2-5/20 (NP, AG). The earliest **Chimney Swift** report was of 4 individuals in Middletown 4/20 (AG). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, a male, arrived at a feeder in Swarthmore 4/20 (DE), an early date for reports but right on time for our region according to the texts.

The only report of this target bird not found every spring, **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at the Bridle Path at RCSP 5/9 (AG). A report of an **Eastern Wood-pewee** at RCSP 4/26 (eBird) was a week earlier

than the usual average, but similar to a report on 4/28 last spring. An uncommon **Least Flycatcher** was nicely photographed at RCSP 5/2 (MD).

Venerable *Delaware* birder AG has two lifetime **Common Ravens** in the county, one this past 11/2 and another at DT 3/1 (AG). Might this represent a trend? **Purple Martins** were first reported at the colony in Aston 4/8 (AG). **Cliff Swallows** were first spotted at the stables where they nest at RCSP 4/28 (AG, DE). The last reported **Black-capped Chickadee** was at Springfield 4/7 (JH).

Numbers of warblers were disappointing this season, and the species count was a four-year low of 27, compared to 30, 28 and 29 in 2008, 2009, and 2010 respectively. Disappointing were only single reports of **Nashville Warbler** at RCSP 5/11 (AG) and **Blackburnian Warbler** at RCSP 5/12 (AG, DE). Highlights were single reports of **Yellow-throated Warbler** at RCSP 5/8 (WS), **Bay-breasted Warbler** at RCSP 5/9 (AG), and **Worm-eating Warbler** Merion Golf Course West 5/4 (WS). Big misses were Tennessee Warbler and Wilson's Warbler. Misses in the "hoped for, but not necessarily expected" category were Cape May Warbler and Mourning Warbler.

A little late to depart were 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** at RCSP 5/9 (AG) and a **Dark-eyed Junco** at TI 4/26 (AG). An early season surprise was a male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at his feeder in Newtown Square 4/18 (GB). A hard to find species in *Delaware*, **Blue Grosbeak** was at the Edgmont Golf Course 5/14 (JD). A species of concern, 4 **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at TI 4/15 (BB).

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Elk County

No compiler.

Erie County

There was a magnificent flight of **Snow Geese** this spring with a total of over 320 counted, mostly over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch from 3/8 to 3/1 (JM, RS). Only the second record of **Cackling Goose** was studied at length off Beach 11 on 3/5 (MW, ph. JM). A nice male **Eurasian Wigeon** made a brief visit at the head of Presque Isle Bay 3/15 (MW). Up to six **Surf Scoters** were in Presque Isle Bay or off Beach 11 from 4/7 to early May (MW, JM) with a late pair lingering on Edinboro Lake until 5/18 (MV). The 180+ **Long-tailed Ducks** in Presque Isle Bay 3/13 was a high count for spring (JM). Quite a surprise was the **Red-throated Loon** swimming in a small stream at Baldwin Flats near Wattsburg 3/23 (MW). **Red-throated Loons** are rarely reported in spring, especially inland away from Lake Erie.

A single **Red-necked Grebe** was off Liberty Park and later off Perry Monument from 4/3 to 4/5 (MW). The single **Eared Grebe** off Liberty Park and later off Big Pond from 4/2-8 was a good find (MW). A stunning adult **American White Pelican** was discovered in Misery Bay and later at the head of Presque Isle Bay 5/23 and 5/24 (MF), and probably the same bird again 5/29 (SK).

Three **Black Vultures** came over low at the Presque Isle Hawk Watch during the course of the day 3/17 (RS, ph. JM). Very rarely reported was a dark morph **Red-tailed Hawk** over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 4/23 (MW, JM). It was a good season for **Rough-legged Hawks** with a very high one day count of 11 on 3/8 at the Presque Isle Hawk Watch (JM, RS). Then two late birds were observed over the hawk watch 5/13 (JM). The rarely reported **Golden Eagle** made a good appearance this spring at the Presque Isle Hawk Watch with up to four sighted from 3/28 to 4/11 with two passing the watch in one day (MW, ph. JM). A pair of **Merlin** was observed carrying food with food exchanges between the birds. They were also seen carrying food into a conifer on East 42nd Street and Brandes Street in Erie 5/8 through at least 5/15 (JKB). The find of the spring was a beautiful adult **Purple Gallinule** (second *Erie* record) at the head of Presque Isle Bay 4/30 (BB). It played hide and seek with observers as it would go in and out of the reeds. It was last seen 5/18 (BB).

Always exciting, a **Piping Plover** was at Gull Point 4/26 (SS). The bird had colored leg bands and was identified as one originating from the Sleeping Bear Dunes colony in Michigan. Unfortunately it was just present for a short time that day. An **Upland Sandpiper** made a brief appearance as it set down at Gull Point 5/24 (ST). Very rare in spring was a **Western Sandpiper** at Gull Point 5/30 (ST). Up to two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at Gull Point 5/24, 5/29, and 5/30 (ST). A very cooperative **Marbled Godwit** was at Gull point all day 5/20 for a very rare spring appearance (ph. JM). Two early **Short-billed Dowitchers** were along an industrial pond in Fairview on the early date of 3/29 (DN).

The only **Little Gull** of the season was an adult in Presque Isle Bay 4/3 (DW). Up to three **Iceland Gulls** were in the vicinity of Presque Isle from 3/3-29 (JM, MW) with a late bird at the channel 5/1 (JM). A third cycle **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was in Presque Isle Bay 3/8 (MW) and a first cycle was off Beach 11 on 3/22 (JM). Up to four **Glaucous Gulls** were present around Presque Isle S.P. from 4/2 to 5/19 (JT, MW, JM) with a late immature lingering to 5/29 (LM).

A **Long-eared Owl** was east of B-Trail 3/21 (JM), and as many as four birds were found 4/3 (DD). At least four **Short-eared Owls** were reported for the season with two of them over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch with at least two at Gull Point from 3/17 to 4/17 (JM, et al.). A total of five **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were tallied this spring from 3/18-29, mostly east of B-Trail (JM, MW).

Now reported regularly in *Erie* was a **Common Raven** near Lowville 4/24 (MW). At least a couple of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** made their annual appearance on Presque Isle S.P. with one 5/22 (MJ) and at least one other 5/29-30 (ST).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was spotted at Fry's landing 5/3 (MW) and probably a different bird was there 5/7 (JM). The rare and irregularly appearing **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen well by many at Fry's landing 4/29-30 (MF, ph. JM). A rather early **Cape May Warbler** was at Fry's landing 4/26 (JM). The rare, but regularly occurring **Eastern (Yellow) Palm Warbler** was spotted at the first parking lot on Presque Isle S.P. 4/20 (MW). A singing and calling **Prothonotary Warbler** was a one day wonder 4/29 along Sidewalk Trail (JM, MW). Another was seen and photographed by an unknown birder at Long Pond 5/8. A **Worm-eating Warbler** sang persistently in the thick honeysuckle at Fry's landing 4/26, but despite diligent searching, it could not be spotted (JM). Up to five singing **Connecticut Warblers** were at Fry's landing from 5/13-21; at least a few made brief appearances (MW). Another was singing at Erie Bluffs State Park 5/25 (MW).

American Tree Sparrows lingered well into May with a very late individual still present 5/20 at Gull Point (MW). There were two **Clay-colored Sparrows** on Presque Isle S.P. this season. One was at Fry's landing 5/6 (MW) and the other was along Coast Guard Road 5/12 (MW). An adult **Lark Sparrow** made a brief visit at Leo's landing 5/14 (BV, et al.). A **Nelson's Sparrow** at Gull Point on 5/11 was the first spring record in *Erie* since 1934 (ph. JM).

A female **Hoary Redpoll** was well studied at the foot of Sommerheim Road on the Erie side of Presque Bay 3/19-20 (MW, JM).

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Fayette County

Two **Mute Swans** were in Spring Valley 3/13 (BD). Despite rains in April there were no great waterfowl fallouts at Greenlick Run Lake, so there were few waterfowl reports. All the following were from Greenlick Run Lake. The only report of **Bufflehead** was 11 on 4/8 and the only **Hooded Merganser** report was of two 3/9. **Red-breasted Merganser** reports included one 3/9 and 2 on 4/8. Two **Ruddy Ducks** were there 4/12 (all MF). Waterfowl were also reported in Spring Valley and include 2 **American Wigeon**, 6 **Green-winged Teal**, 8 **Ring-necked Ducks**, and 6 **Greater Scaup** 3/13 (BD). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were found 4/2, 3 **Lesser Scaup** 3/20, 2 **Bufflehead** 3/16, 4 **Common Goldeneye** 3/20, and a **Ruddy Duck** 3/9 (BD). A **Common Merganser** and a **Red-breasted Merganser** were at Yough River Lake 3/26 (TR).

A **Common Loon** was at Greenlick Run Lake 3/31 (WS, DS, MF),

8 were there 4/8, and 5 on 4/12 (MF). Grebe sightings include one **Pied-billed Grebe** 4/8 (MF) and a **Horned Grebe** 3/10 (MF) followed by two 3/31 (WS, DS, MF).

A **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Ohiopyle State Park 4/17 (LD). A pair of **Bald Eagles** are nesting at Lake Lynn and appeared to be incubating eggs 3/13 (TB).

A flock of 12 **Ring-billed Gulls** were at Greenlick Run Lake 3/31 and a single first winter **Herring Gull** was with them (WS, DS, MF). A **Herring Gull** and a **Bonaparte's Gull** were in Spring Valley 3/2 (BD).

All the following sightings are from Spring Valley unless otherwise indicated. A **Great Egret** was there 4/8 and an **American Bittern** was a good find 4/10 (BD). A **Black Vulture** was another good find 3/2 (BD); the second report of this species in *Fayette* this year. A **Solitary Sandpiper** 4/27, a **Wilson's Snipe** 3/13 and an **American Woodcock** 3/2 round out the shorebird sightings (BD). Raptor sightings include a **Merlin** and an **Osprey** 3/20 and 2 **Broad-winged Hawks** 4/10 (BD).

A great count of 5 **Whip-poor-wills** were at SGL 151 on 5/23 (CD). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a nice find 5/7. One was reported at Nemacolin Woodlands in March 2010 and hopefully reports will continue. A **Purple Martin** was in Spring Valley 5/7 and a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was there 4/8 (all BD). Two **Veeries** were at Laurel Ridge State Park 5/25 (DN).

Warbler highlights include reports of single birds of the following species: **Golden-winged Warbler** 5/1, **Cape May Warbler** 5/7, **Pine Warbler** 4/16, **Prairie Warbler** 4/27, **Palm Warbler** 4/24, **Northern Waterthrush** 4/10, **Blackpoll Warbler** 5/7, **Cerulean Warbler** 4/27, **Worm-eating Warbler** 4/24, **Kentucky Warbler** 4/24, **Wilson's Warbler** 5/7, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** 5/7. Two **Canada Warblers** were reported 5/1 (all BD).

Four **Henslow's Sparrows** were at Spring Valley 5/7 (BD) and 4 were in Farmington 5/10 (LD). A **Savannah Sparrow** and 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were in Spring Valley 4/16 and 5/7 respectively (BD). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found 5/17. A **Lark Sparrow** was reported in Farmington 5/10 however no details are known (*vide* LD). A **Rusty Blackbird** was found at Spring Valley 4/24 (BD). A **Pine Siskin** was a nice find at Farmington 5/2 (LD).

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Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Tionesta Creek (TC), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake (TL).

Thanks to several eBird reporters for adding species for the county; unfortunately we did not have many visiting birders during April and May to supplement county arrival dates.

The last report of **Tundra Swans** was 3/3, when 40 were feeding at the mouth of Tionesta Creek. Duck sightings included **American Wigeon** 3/16 at TI, and **Canvasback** 3/16 at TI and again 5/14 at Beaver Meadows. **Redhead**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Long-tailed Duck**, and **Hooded Merganser** were at TI 3/16.

Two **Common Loons** were spotted 5/14, swimming about a mile apart on the river near TI. Three **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted 4/23 at TL; they were last seen 5/14 at Buzzard Swamp and Beaver Meadows. **Ospreys** are again nesting on the same platform as last year. There were several **Bald Eagle** sightings and at least one active nest is known. The first **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed 4/14 a few miles south of TI. An **American Coot** was found 3/16 at TI.

The first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and the first **Whip-poor-will** were heard 5/14 near TI; the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted 5/2 near TI.

Early date for **Acadian Flycatcher** was 5/14 at Nebraska; a **Great Crested Flycatcher** was present 5/30 near TI, and **Eastern Kingbird** 5/14 at TC. **Blue-headed Vireos** were spotted 4/14 near Muzette, and early date for **Red-eyed Vireo** was 5/11 in the ANF near TI. Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were foraging in a backyard 5/9 near TI, and three **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were observed 4/23 at TL.

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen 5/14 near TI. **Tennessee Warblers** were noted near TI and at TC from 5/12-14. Two **Nashville Warblers** were spotted 5/11 in the ANF. First **Northern Parula** was found 5/14 at TC. Earliest date for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was 5/11

at ANF. The first **Magnolia Warbler** was observed 5/13 in a backyard near TI. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and two **Black-throated Green Warblers** were seen 5/11 at ANF, and the first **Blackburnian Warbler** was heard 5/10 on Poland Hill. An **American Redstart** showed up 5/11 in a backyard near TI. A **Mourning Warbler** was spotted 5/14 near Muzette. The first **Hooded Warbler** was noted 5/6 at TL. A **Canada Warbler** 5/14 was a nice find near Nebraska.

The last sighting of an **American Tree Sparrow**, 4/3 near TI, was at least a week later than usual. A **Fox Sparrow** lingered until 4/14 in a backyard near TI, and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was observed under a feeder 5/15-16. A flock of 60 **Common Redpolls** 3/5 in a yard near TI dwindled to 30 by 3/16, and the last one was seen 4/15 (FM, JM).

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Franklin County

Locations: Conococheague Creek (CC), Creekside Trail (CT), Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Kriner Rd. Holding Pond (KR), Shady Grove Area (SG), South Mountain Area (SM).

Again this year waterfowl and shorebird numbers were low in the county. Most species were reported and some uncommon species made their appearance. A very unusual sighting at GR 3/11 was 15 **Ross's Geese**, a first for the county, and even more unusual was the number of them together, which was also record number for many birders. About 200 **Tundra Swans** were sighted near St. Thomas 3/14 (CG). Several **Common Loons** made their appearance, one at GR 5/16 which stayed for several days, and one at KR 5/16 which stayed about two weeks and died for an unknown reason.

A **Bald Eagle** nest at CC near Greencastle was discovered and confirmed this spring, a first for *Franklin*. Two fledglings hatched and were doing well at season's end. Hopefully, this will become an established site. An unusual visitor was a **Common Gallinule** (5/6-14) at KR, which gave many birders an opportunity to observe it. Several reports of **Double-crested Cormorants** flying over the Chambersburg area were unusual for the county. A well established rookery of at least 14 nest sites of **Great Blue Herons** near Waynesboro was been quite active. On 5/2 a **Green Heron** was observed on its nest south of Chambersburg along a farm pond. A first for the county was a **Wood Stork** 5/24 observed by DB and DG for a brief time as it flew along the Antietam Creek near Waynesboro. It was seen for a short time and flew out of sight and not seen or reported since after many attempts to relocate it. A **Glossy Ibis** was present for several days on a holding pond along Thornwood Road near Shippensburg 5/24-28. At this same location were **Dunlin**, **Short-billed Dowitchers**, **Semipalmated Plovers**, **Least Sandpipers**, **Spotted Sandpipers**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. A **Spotted Sandpiper** with several young was also observed at KR. The only **Ring-billed** and **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen at GR. **Black Tern**, a regular visitor, was not reported this year. Young **Great Horned Owls** were also seen in nests near GR and near Fayetteville.

Five species of swallows (**Tree**, **Northern Rough-winged**, **Bank**, **Cliff**, and **Barn**) were visitors to GR in April. Warblers were also low in numbers but most of our annual species were reported at CT, CC, and SM, with some scattered reports from various locations.

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Fulton County

No report.

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Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Enlow State Game Lands 302 (ENL), Franklin Township (FT), Hunting Hills (HH), Kern Farm (KF), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Pollock Mill Road (PMR), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Sportsman Club Waynesburg (SCW), Sycamore (SY).

Wood Ducks made their appearance at EV 4/6 (MH). A **Mallard** hen and 6 youngsters were seen at ENL 6/3 (MH). In Greene Township on Creek Road there are three pasture fields that, thanks to subsidence, have large puddles of water that have become permanent shallow pools. A nice surprise 4/11 for MH and KK was 12 **Blue-Winged Teal** stopping over, along with 6 Wood Ducks. At SCW 3/18 three **Ring-necked Ducks** were found at the pond (JH). Also at Rohanna's Golf Club Pond near Waynesburg, he found a **Pied Billed Grebe** 3/26. The first reported **Great Blue Herons** were noted near LCR 3/26 (MLP). However **Green Herons** were not reported until 5/14 at EV (MH).

Two **Turkey Vultures** were noted flying over RBF 3/5 (RKB), and on 3/8 his neighbor DBa saw 47 vultures. While driving through Waynesburg 3/12, JH found 66 **Turkey Vultures**. While on the annual Wildflower Walk at ENL 5/1, an **Osprey** was seen and enjoyed by several observers (MH). In the Golden Oaks area on Rte. 21 west of Waynesburg 4/25, LA spotted a **Bald Eagle** gliding over the stream. Though a nest has not been found to date, the frequency of sightings of Bald Eagles in *Greene* makes one anticipate that event soon. The last **Northern Harrier** reported was at RFB 3/12 (RKB). On 3/3 at EV, a **Sharp Shinned Hawk** visited the feeders (MH). At the Laurel Point Cemetery in Carmichaels a **Red Shouldered Hawk** was noted 4/21 (DB). The first **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed in EV 4/17 as it flew over the house (M&JH).

One **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at ENL 5/1 (LH, MH). On a trip to Ryerson State Park 5/8, a **Spotted Sandpiper** was found (TB). At SY a real treat was an **American Woodcock** seen 3/8, and on 5/11 an adult was found with 3 chicks (JC). As usual, the annual **Ring-billed Gull** was seen flying at the Big Lots parking lot in Waynesburg 3/4 (MH). The earliest **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was noted 5/13 at SY (JC). The **Chimney Swifts** arrived 4/23 in FT (KK). Always arriving early, the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted at LCR 4/19 (MLP).

The last noted **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen in the yard at EV 4/10 (MH). An **Eastern Wood-pewee** was seen and heard 5/11 at EV (MH). The earliest reported **Eastern Phoebe** at ENL 3/8 (MH). **Eastern Kingbird** was noted 5/1 at SY (JC). A **White-eyed Vireo** was first noted in EV 4/24 followed the next day by a **Blue-headed Vireo** (MH). The first **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen at ENL 5/1 by several observers. At Hunting Hills 3/27 was the arrival of the first **Warbling Vireo** (SS). **Red-eyed Vireo** was first sighted at LCR 4/30 (MLP). On 4/4, 7 **Purple Martins** returned to RBF (RKB) but was again this year later than the **Tree Swallow**, which arrived 3/19 (CDB). The **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** turned up 4/8 on Pitcock Run in Whiteley Twp. (KK & MH), and the **Barn Swallows** showed up 4/4 at RBF (RKB).

The last reported **Brown Creeper** was noted 4/12 doing circles around a Sycamore tree in the yard at EV (MH). **House Wrens** showed up at SY 4/18 (JC). PMR hosted the latest **Golden-crowned Kinglet** 4/14 and the last **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** date was 4/21 (RKB). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were first reported on PMR 4/14 (DB). An interesting find on the Snyder farm in Morgan Township was a completely white **American Robin** 3/14. A neighbor noted a white object in his yard and thinking it was a paper cup that the wind had blown in, went to pick it up. When he got within about 25 yards of the object, it flew up and over the fence, at which time he decided it was the robin his neighbor had mentioned (RT). The bird was subsequently seen by RKB, KK, and others. This bird continued in the area through the period. The **Wood Thrushes** returned 4/24 at RBF (RKB). **Gray Catbirds** were found 4/21 in the yard at EV (MH). The earliest **Brown Thrasher** was noted 4/8 at RBF (RKB).

The first reported **Blue-winged Warbler** arrived 4/23 at EV (JH). Not reported every year, a **Nashville Warbler** was found 5/1 at ENL (MH, et al.) as was a **Cerulean Warbler** and a **Kentucky Warbler**. The earliest report of a **Northern Parula** was 4/19 at SY (JC). A **Yellow Warbler** was heard 4/11 in EV (MH). First noted at LCR 4/25 was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** (MLP). Of note was a late **Blackpoll Warbler** heard 5/14 while working the PAMC (KK). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was first heard at EV 4/25 (MH). On Creek Road in Jefferson Township 4/24 the first **American Redstart** was heard (KK). An unusual occurrence was the arrival of a **Prothonotary Warbler** that showed up

on the porch at EV and visited the hummingbird feeders 5/19 (JH). The **Ovenbirds** arrived 4/24 at HH (SS). At LCR the **Louisiana Waterthrushes** arrived 4/7 (MLP). The first of many **Common Yellowthroats** was found at HH 3/31 and **Hooded Warblers** arrived the same date (SS).

A **Scarlet Tanager** arrived at EV 5/1 (M&JH). On 3/25 an **Eastern Towhee** arrived at RBF (CDB). **Chipping Sparrows** came to the ample feeders at RBF 3/28 (RKB). The first **Field Sparrow** was reported at LCR 3/23 (MLP). At RBF the last **White-throated Sparrows** were noted 4/27 (RKB), while the last **White-crowned Sparrow** was noted by him 5/13. The **Dark-eyed Juncos** were last noted at ENL 5/1 (MH).

At LCR a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** showed up 4/21 (MLP). On 3/27 an **Indigo Bunting** was heard at HH (SS). **Bobolinks** were found 4/24 at RBF singing in the top of the Holly Tree (RKB). The first reported **Eastern Meadowlark** was at RBF 3/2 (RKB). An **Orchard Oriole** was first observed 4/23 at KF (KK) singing loudly in a full flowering pink crab apple tree, and the first **Baltimore Oriole** came to HH 3/27 (SS).

Purple Finches were last noted at EV feeders 4/17 (MH). At LCR the latest **Pine Siskins** were seen 5/3 (MLP).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Aitch Access (AA), Alan Seeger Natural Area (AS), Greenwood Furnace SP (GFSP), Huntingdon (HU), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Lake Raystown (LR), Lower Trail at Alexandria (LT), McAlevys Fort (McF), Old Crow wetland (OC), Stone Valley (SV), Summit Schoolhouse Road (SSR), Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch (TMHW).

An eventful spring season was highlighted by the first county record of **Ross's Goose** and the second occurrences of both **Little Gull** and **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. The **Ross's Goose** was found in the morning 3/18, seen by a lucky few, photographed, and was gone by mid-day (SK, JK). It was found at LP, which has been drained for two years but which held a small pool of water this spring as a result of the persistent and often heavy rain. JK and DW recorded 66 **Tundra Swans** and 16 **Northern Pintails** there 3/10. The pair of **Trumpeter Swans** found in February near Huntingdon (also a first county record) stayed until at least 3/7 (DK, TK, IG). Duck reports were about average. The loss of LR means that relatively few ducks can be found now in the northern part of the county. From the spring TMHW, the **Common Loon** count was 735, with 211 tallied 4/14 (SK, NB).

One of the best finds of the spring was a **Least Bittern** at OC 5/4 (ph. TZ). It remained through at least 5/7. One-two **American Bitterns** were at OC 4/8-26, though whether the same bird(s) remained throughout is not known (IG, DK). A **Great Egret** was also at OC 5/14 (DK). On 3/30, 26 **Great Blue Herons** passed TMHW (SK). The small **Great Blue Heron** colony in the Big Valley portion of the county was active by mid-March; there are approximately a dozen nests at this site (GG).

It was an excellent season for the spring hawk watch on Tussey Mt on the *Huntingdon/Centre* line. Counter SK listed a total of 2641 raptors for the season. The **Golden Eagle** count was 180, close to average. The highest one-day count was 24 on 3/4. It was an atypical season—usually most of the **Golden Eagle** flight occurs within a narrow window during the first 15-20 days of March. This year, the flight was protracted and Golden's were seen on 45 different days, with a few still trickling through when the count ended in late April. A number of other raptors were well above average: **Osprey** (166), **Bald Eagle** (55), **Red-shouldered Hawk** (66), **Broad-winged Hawk** (848), and **Red-tailed Hawk** (507). Good one-day counts included 195 and 194 **Broad-winged Hawks** on 4/11 and 4/20, respectively, and 25 **Osprey** 4/25. Of note away from Tussey was a late **Rough-legged Hawk** at OC 4/6 (IG).

OC hosted a **Virginia Rail**, found approximately 4/17 (TZ) and again on 4/26 (IG, DK), as well as a **Sora** 5/2 (DK). A **Sandhill Crane** was seen briefly in flight near Calvin 5/29 (JK).

IG found a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at AA 3/24, the second ever in the county, following one in 2008. It continued there until at least 3/27 (GG). Another gull in the headlines was a **Little Gull** 3/28, also

found by IG, this one on the JR just below the LR dam. The first **Little Gull** in *Huntingdon* occurred in 1972 at LP. The first **Caspian Terns** of the season in the county were seen on the rather early date of 4/5 at LR (DK). Five **Forsters's Terns** were at AA 5/4 (DK).

A very unusual sighting was of a **Short-eared Owl** flushed from the ground on the Tussey Mt. ridge while NB was on his way out to the hawk watch 4/3. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling in SV 3/3 (DW) and 3/10 (JK). Migrating **Common Nighthawks** included one at McF 5/22 (DW) and 7 at GFSP 5/25 (m.ob.). Always difficult to find in the county, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at scattered locations in SV in northeastern part of the county, including one at Manor Hill 5/1 (JK), one on SSR 5/6, and one near McF 5/7 (DG, IG).

An uncommon bird here, especially in spring, a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at LT 5/3 (IG). First **Eastern Phoebe** at Ennisville was 3/17 (DW). **White-eyed Vireos** are uncommon in the county, but reports have slowly increased in the past decade. An apparent territorial bird sang at AA 5/6-7 (DK, TK, IG). Another was found a few miles away 4/26 (IG, DK). In recent years, OC has usually hosted a migrating **Marsh Wren** and that was the case this year, with one present 5/5-7 (IG, DK, TK). A species that is surely a regular migrant but seldom seen is **Gray-cheeked Thrush**; one was at AS 5/7 (GG).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at OC 4/26-5/6 (IG, DK, TK, GZ). A few **Yellow-throated Warblers** returned to their long-time breeding location at LT (m.ob.). On an 11.5-mile bike trip on the LT 5/7, NB tallied 23 singing **Cerulean Warblers**, and then the same number on the return trip, but some in different locations. A **Mourning Warbler** was at Trough Creek SP 5/13 (DK).

Two **Red Crossbills** flew over TMHW 3/16 and **Common Redpolls** were observed flying by on numerous occasions early in the hawk watch season (SK). **Pine Siskins** were present at feeders in SV in low numbers most of the period (DW, GG).

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Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Creekside (CS), Hemlock Lake County Park (HL), Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TLR), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Canada Geese peaked at YC at 391 on 3/3 (LC); by 5/3 (LC, TG, MH, ML) the first goslings were seen. **Tundra Swans** continued to move through the county with top count of 163 on 3/6 (LC) at YC, where a singleton lingered on the lake through 4/5 (LC, MH, GL, DM). First 4 **Wood Ducks** arrived at YC 3/4 (SD). **Gadwalls** used YC Lake between 3/15 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) when the first 8 were sighted and 5/3 (LC, TG, MH, ML), the last 10. March 10 (LA) yielded the first 11 **American Wigeons** on LA's pond near IN. YC's top count of 31 occurred 3/17 (LC, MH) and the last 2 were on Margus Lake 4/23 (MH, RH). The first 46 **American Black Ducks** appeared at YC 3/8 (LC, SD, TG, MH, ML); last noted was a singleton on Gallo's Pond near Penn Run 4/28 (BF, MH). Top **Mallard** counts were 72 at YC 3/15 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) and 200 at CD 3/31 (KB). Ten **Blue-winged Teal** at YC 3/29 (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML, MJS) were first arrivals and 4/28 (BF, MH) yielded the last 3 at YC and one at Gallo's Pond. YC hosted **Northern Shovelers** between 3/19 (LC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, LM, TM, DS) and 4/26 (LC, SD, RG, SG, TG, MH, GL, ML, RN, TP, CR, MJS) with high tally of 28 on 4/5 (LC, MH, GL, DM). **Northern Pintails** were in short supply at YC with sightings of 5 on 3/8 (LC, SD, TG, MH, ML) and 2 on 3/17 (LC, MH); CD harbored 2 on 3/31 (KB). Ten **Green-winged Teal** 3/3 (LC) at YC were first with a high of 19 on 3/29 (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML, MJS); last noted were 2 at YC 5/3 (LC, TG, MH, ML). One to 7 **Canvasbacks** were counted on six dates spanning 3/4 (SD) and 4/9 (3RBC, TBC, IUP). March 15 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) produced the first 54 **Redheads** which peaked at 136 on 3/20 (LC) at YC; a singleton lingered at YC 4/9 (3RBC, TBC, IUP). **Ring-necked Ducks** arrived at YC in good numbers with triple digits on seven dates; top count was 422 on 3/17 (LC, MH); 5/3 (LC, TG, MH, ML) was the day for the last 5. Four **Greater Scaup** were listed on LA's Pond 3/6 (LA), at CD 3/31 (KB), and at YC 4/23 (LC, EFu, TFu, TG, MH, RH) through 4/27 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM). Three **Lesser Scaup** arrived 3/3 (LC), peaked at 171 on 3/17

(LC, MH), and 3 lingered through 5/3 (LC, TG, MH, ML), all at YC. **White-winged Scoter** reports detailed 3 at YC 4/5 (LC, MH, GL) and 12 at YC 4/24 (LC), the same day 4 had landed on TLR. First **Long-tailed Duck** arrived at YC 3/15 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM); a single bird visited TLR 3/24 (LC) and another was on Urling treatment pond near SH 4/4 (RH); best count was 10 at YC 4/5 (LC, MH, GL, DM). Arrival date for **Bufflehead** was 3/1 (LC, TG, MH, DM); 99 was the best count 3/20 (LC); lingering through 5/3 (LC, TG, MH, ML) at YC were 14. Three **Common Goldeneyes** on 4/5 (LC, MH, GL, DM) at YC were the only ones noted. Both **Hooded Mergansers** and **Common Mergansers** arrived at YC 3/1 (LC, TG, MH, DM); respective highs there were 75 and 6, both on 3/17 (LC, MH). Arriving a week later at YC on 3/8 (LC, SD, TG, MH, ML) were 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** which peaked at 178 on 4/2 (LC, MH, RH, GL); 9 remained on the lake 5/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL). An even later arrival were the first 2 **Ruddy Ducks** on 3/15 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM); high tally of 100 occurred 4/5 (LC, MH, GL, DM); the PAMC 5/14 yielded the last 2 at YC (GL, GS) and one at HL (SC, MH, RH, JJ).

YC hosted single **Red-throated Loons** 3/29 (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML, MJS), 3/30 (GL), 4/8 (LC), and 3 on 4/28 (EF, MF). **Common Loons** stopped to rest on YC Lake between 3/24 (GL) and 5/31 (LC, TG, MH, MVT) with a fallout of 308 on 4/5 (LC, MH, GL, DM). **Pied-billed Grebes** were in lower than usual numbers at YC with the high a mere 12 on 4/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM). First **Horned Grebe** arrived 3/17 (LC, MH); numbers peaked at 38 on 3/30 (GL) and last was spotted 4/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM), all at YC. Twelve **Double-crested Cormorants** at YC 3/19 (MF) were first; high tally was 82 on 4/5 (LC, MH, GL, DM). The photo of an **American Bittern** in a yard near TLR 4/13 (JE) graced the *Indiana Gazette*. YC harbored single **Great Egrets** 3/27 (EF, MF), 4/5 (LC, MH, GL, DM), and 4/12 (LC, TG, MH, MS). First **Green Heron** arrived at YC 4/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM).

A **Black Vulture** photographed near LV 3/18 (MC) was a third county record. Best **Turkey Vulture** tally was 15 at TL 5/14 (PJ). **Ospreys** moved through YC between 3/24 (GL) and 5/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL). **Bald Eagles** frequented YC throughout the quarter with the best count of 3, which included two adults and one second-year bird, on 4/9 (3RBC, TBC, IUP) and again 4/28 (BF, MH). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at six locations this spring (m.ob.); **Cooper's Hawks**, at eight (m.ob.). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported only at YC 3/1 (LC, TG, MH, DM) through 4/5 (LC, MH, GL, DM). An early **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed at Smicksburg Park 4/11 (MH) and a pair at YC was seen carrying nesting material 4/26 (LC, SD, RG, SG, TG, MH, GL, ML, RN, TP, CR, MJS). During a birding session with United Elementary third graders on 4/27 (LC, MH, GL, DM), an immature **Golden Eagle** circled overhead, the fifth county record but the first YC record. A **Merlin** perched in a tree at YC 4/12 (LC, TG, MH, MS) was observed from a pontoon during a late Wood Duck box installation; another was spotted 4/24 (LC) at YC.

March 1 (LC, TG, MH, DM) brought the first **American Coot** to YC where numbers peaked at 223 on 4/12 (LC, TG, MH, MS); last 4 were sighted 5/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL).

Two **Killdeer** arrived 2/27 (MC) near LV; first young were reported 5/14 (GF) at Two Lick Wetlands. Seven **Greater Yellowlegs** landed briefly at YC, discovering little appropriate habitat because of high water levels, 4/27 (LC, MH, GL, DM); 2 appeared at YC 5/10 (LC, SD, TG, MH, GL, JT, MVT) and one was heard near West Lebanon in the dark 5/14 (MC, AD). Three **Lesser Yellowlegs** at YC 5/3 (LC, TG, MH, ML) were the only ones recorded. **Solitary Sandpipers** noted included one at YC 5/10 (LC, SD, TG, MH, GL, JT, MVT), one at Conemaugh Floodlands 5/14 (LC), and 4 at Margus Lake 5/14 (BF, JF, TF). TLR hosted the first **Spotted Sandpiper** 4/2 (PJ), the earliest date on record since 1988. A **Least Sandpiper** 5/10 (LC, SD, TG, MH, GL, JT, MVT) at YC was the only one noted. Just before dusk on 4/13 (MH) a **Wilson's Snipe** flew over near SH; 5 were counted at YC 4/16 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL). First 2 **American Woodcocks** were calling near LV 3/5 (MC).

Bonaparte's Gulls moved through the county between 3/15 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) and 5/14 (SC, MH, RH, JJ); highest tally was 104 on 4/12 (LC, TG, MH) at YC. Best **Ring-billed Gull** count was 62 at YC 3/30 (GL). **Caspian Tern** reports, all at YC, were limited to 2 on 4/12 (LC, TG, MH, MS), 3 on 4/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM), and one 4/24 (LC). Three **Common Terns** 5/3 (LC, TG, MH, ML) at YC were the only ones found. One to 5 **Forster's Terns** were listed at YC on eight dates between 4/5 (LC, MH, GL, DM) and 5/3 (LC, TG, MH, ML).

Cuckoo arrival dates were 5/10 (LC, SD, TG, MH, GL, JT, MVT) for **Black-billed** and 5/14 (m.ob.) for **Yellow-billed** at multiple spots across

Indiana. **Barred Owls** were vocal near SH between 4/8 - 5/10 (MH, RH); the PAMC produced **Barred Owls** at three additional locations (m.ob.).

First **Common Nighthawk** was heard in IN 5/12 by our PSO youth scholarship recipient DW; it was relocated the following night (RW); the PAMC produced one flying over the lake at BS 5/14 (DW, RW). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** reports cited one near Brush Valley 5/14 (JR) and 6 near West Lebanon also 5/14 (MC, AD).

First **Chimney Swift** arrived near SH 4/13 (MH). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrival dates included 4/23 (JG) near CS, 4/24 (MC) near LV, and 4/26 (BF, TF) near Penn Run. First migrant **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** arrived 4/6 (EF, MF, GL) at YC; one seemed to be on territory 4/28 (BF, MH) near YC where it had been confirmed nesting during the 2nd PBBA.

The PAMC yielded 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** 5/14 (SC, MH, RH, JJ), one near Lockvale, the other near the Gipsy strips, as well as the first **Eastern Wood-Pewees** across the county (m.ob.). The Ghost Town Trail 5/11 (BF, MH) produced the first 3 **Acadian Flycatchers**. First **Alder Flycatcher** was found near Tunnelton 5/14 (EF, MF) and YC hosted one 5/17 (LC, TG, MH), 5/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL), and 5/31 (LC, TG, MH, MVT); 2 were heard on the annual 4:00 a.m. YC pontoon ride 5/24 (MA, LC, AC, TG, MH, GL, MS). The PAMC was responsible for the first **Willow Flycatchers** 5/14 (m.ob.). First **Least Flycatcher** appeared at BS 4/25 (MH) and the first **Eastern Phoebe** showed up at Nolo 3/18 (CL, GL). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was first listed at BS 5/5 (BF, MH, JT). **Eastern Kingbirds** and **White-eyed Vireos** were first at YC 4/26 (LC, SD, RG, SG, TG, MH, GL, ML, RN, TP, CR, MJS). Three **Yellow-throated Vireos** were singing at BS 5/5 (BF, MH, JT). **Blue-headed Vireos** were at least a month late in arriving and short in number with the first not reported until 5/14 (m.ob.); they were also missing from their traditional breeding haunts at YC this season. A **Warbling Vireo** singing along Crooked Creek in CS on 5/9 (MH) and a **Red-eyed Vireo** near YC 4/28 (BF, MH) were first arrivals.

Fish Crows continue in IN with individuals heard on Reservoir Hill 3/26 (PJ), on the IUP campus 5/10 (RW) and 5/14 (JT), and at 5th & Philadelphia in IN 5/14 (MH, RH). Two **Common Ravens** at the Homer City Power Plant were observed carrying nesting material 3/3 (DB); other locations include YC (m.ob.), Nolo (AB, DB), and CD (EF, MF).

Twelve **Purple Martins** were counted at an Amish farm near Smicksburg 5/14 (MLT). **Tree Swallows** arrived 3/15 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) at YC where numbers had built to as estimated 620 by 4/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM). First **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** appeared 4/10 both at CD (EF, MF) and at CS (MH). One to 2 **Bank Swallows** were observed at YC on six dates between 4/23 (LC, EFu, TFu, TG, MH, RH) and 5/20 (CG, MH, RH, LW, DW, RW). First **Cliff Swallow** arrived at YC 4/12 (LC, TG, MH, MS) and **Barn Swallows** had arrived a week earlier on 4/5 (LC, MH, GL).

Red-breasted Nuthatches remained in IN 5/14 (RNo, MN) and near SH through the end of May. **House Wren** arrived near LV 4/14 (MC) and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** near SH 4/4 (MH); last kinglet was noted at BS 5/9 (MH). LV also produced the first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 4/14 (MC). A **Veery** at BS 5/5 (BF, MH, JT) was the lone report. Single **Swainson's Thrushes** were listed along the Ghost Town Trail 5/11 (BF, MH) and at HL 5/14 (SC, MH, RH, JJ). **Hermit Thrush** reports included only an individual at BS 4/25 (MH) and 4 at or near HL 5/14 (SC, MH, RH, JJ). LV yielded the first **Wood Thrush** 4/24 (MC). A single **Gray Catbird** was at BS 4/25 (MH), but by the next day (LC, SD, RG, SG, TG, MH, GL, ML, RN, TP, CR, MJS) 15 were counted at YC. Two **Brown Thrashers** had arrived at YC by 4/9 (3RBC, TBC, IUP).

YC yielded the first **Blue-winged Warbler** 4/26 (LC, SD, RG, SG, TG, MH, GL, ML, RN, TP, CR, MJS) and a **Brewster's** 5/10 (LC, SD, TG, MH, JT, MVT). Another **Brewster's** was found on the PAMC 5/14 (MSt, JT) along Hanging Rock Road in Washington Twp. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a nice find along the Conemaugh River in West Wheatfield Twp. 5/14 (MSt, JT). First **Tennessee Warbler** was singing near HL 5/14 (SC, MH, RH, JJ) and last was listed at YC 5/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL). **Nashville Warblers** migrated through the county between 4/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) and 5/14 (m.ob.). Dates of arrival, all at YC, included 4/26 (LC, SD, RG, SG, TG, MH, GL, ML, RN, TP, CR, MJS) for **Northern Parula**, 4/23 (LC, EFu, TFu, TG, MH, RH) for **Yellow Warbler**, 5/3 (LC, TG, MH, ML) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, and 4/23 (LC, EFu, TFu, TG, MH, RH) for **Magnolia Warbler**. First and last **Cape May Warblers** were spotted at YC 5/10 (LC, SD, TG, MH, GL, JT, MVT) and 5/20 (CG, MH, RH, LW, DW, RW) Four **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were found at BS 5/5 (BF, MH, JT) and a 2.5-

mile hike along the Ghost Town Trail 5/11 (BF, MH) yielded 12. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** returned to YC 4/12 (LC, TG, MH) with best count of 61 on 4/23 (LC, EFu, TFu, TG, MH, RH); the last individual was sighted 5/17 (LC, TG, MH) at YC. Both **Black-throated Green** and **Blackburnian Warblers** returned to YC 4/23 (LC, EFu, TFu, TG, MH, RH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was spotted at CD 4/10, 5/14 (EF, MF). First **Pine Warblers** appeared near SH 3/27 (MH) and at Nolo 3/29 (GL). April 23 (LC, EuF, TG, MH, RH) was also the date of return at YC for **Prairie** and **Palm Warblers**; single Palms were also seen at BS 4/25 (MH) and photographed at Rochester Mills 4/26 (RL). **Bay-breasted Warblers** moved through between 5/3 (LC, TG, MH, ML) and 5/17 (LC, TG, MH). First **Blackpoll Warbler** was heard and seen at YC 5/10 (LC, SD, TG, MH, GL, JT, MVT); 9 was a good count at YC 5/17 (LC, TG, MH) and the last 2 were noted on the 4:00 a.m. pontoon ride 5/24 (MA, LC, AC, TG, MH, GL, MS). **Cerulean Warblers**, listed only 5/14 (m.ob.), included 8 individuals. First dates included 4/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) for **Black-and-white Warbler** at YC and 5/4 (SB) for **American Redstart** just north of IN. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was a nice find near Parkwood 5/14 (LS, LuS, RS). By 4/25 (MH) 8 **Ovenbirds** were singing at BS. YC yielded the only **Northern Waterthrushes**: 3 on 5/3 (LC, TG, MH, ML), 2 on 5/10 (LC, SD, TG, MH, GL, JT, MVT), and one 5/17 (LC, TG, MH). First **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were noted 4/6 (KB) at CD, 4/9 (TS) near Rochester Mills, and 4/12 (LC, TG, MH) at YC. A **Kentucky Warbler** near CS 5/9 (MH) was first. A **Mourning Warbler** showed up 5/7 (MC) in a yard near LV where it was photographed. YC yielded the first **Common Yellowthroats** 4/23 (LC, EFu, TFu, TG, MH, RH) and **Hooded Warblers** 4/26 (LC, SD, RG, SG, TG, MH, GL, ML, RN, TP, CR, MJS). A **Wilson's Warbler** on Reservoir Hill 5/14 (PJ) and a **Canada Warbler** at YC 5/10 (LC, SD, TG, GL, JT, MVT) were the only ones reported. The PAMC (m.ob.) yielded 7 **Yellow-breasted Chats**.

The first **Eastern Towhee** was noted near Plumville 3/5 (MJ). Last **American Tree Sparrow** lingered n. of IN through 3/29 (SB). First returning **Chipping Sparrow** occurred at YC 3/22 (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML, RN) and the first **Field Sparrow** was noted near SH 4/21 (MH). A **Vesper Sparrow** was found near Heilwood 5/9 (RH). The PAMC yielded only 6 **Savannah Sparrows** (m.ob.) and one **Grasshopper Sparrow** (MC, AD). Twelve **Henslow's Sparrows** were reported near West Lebanon singing after midnight 5/14 (MC, AD). **Fox Sparrows** migrated through *Indiana* between 3/1 (LC, TG, MH, DM) and 4/14 (MC) with the high count of 7 near LV 3/28 (MC). First **Swamp Sparrow** returned to YC 4/4 (GL) and the last **White-throated Sparrow** was seen at YC 5/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL). Numerous **White-crowned Sparrow** reports spanned the dates 4/23 (BF, TF) through 5/17 (LC, TG, MH).

Scarlet Tanagers returned to YC by 4/26 (LC, SD, RG, SG, TG, MH, GL, ML, RN, TP, CR, MJS). April 25 marked the return of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** both near Penn Run (BF, TF) and n. of IN (SB). YC harbored the first returning **Indigo Bunting** 4/28 (BF, MH). The PAMC (m.ob.) yielded only 10 **Bobolinks**, the only ones noted this spring. An **Eastern Meadowlark** at YC 4/9 (SG) was first. A walk along Crooked Creek near SH yielded 5 **Rusty Blackbirds** 3/3 (MH) and YC hosted 4 on 3/8 (LC, SD, TG, MH, ML); singletons were spotted at YC 3/27 (EF, MF) and 4/26-28 (m.ob.). First **Brown-headed Cowbird** arrived n. of IN 3/22 (SB). Two **Orchard Orioles** arrived at YC 4/27 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) and a **Baltimore Oriole** had returned there by 4/23 (LC, EFu, TFu, TG, MH, RH).

Single **Common Redpolls** were listed near LV 3/3 and 3/6 (MC) and near YC 3/5 (PA). **Pine Siskin** reports included 6 near LV 4/14 (MC), 2 near SH 4/25 (MH), one in IN 5/4 and 5/14 (SGa), and 12 near LV 5/7 (MC).

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Stormer, Mark Strittmatter (MSt), Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Mary Lu Tucker (MLT), Marge Van Tassel (MVT), Linda Wagner, Daniel Winstead, Ray Winstead, Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC), Todd Bird Club (TBC).

Jefferson County

No compiler.

Juniata County

Locations: Cedar Springs Road (CSR), Licking Creek Valley (LCV), Texas Hollow Road (THR), Troyer Pond (TP).

The PAMC took place 5/14 with great results. Thirty-six people birded 166 miles in 78.5 hours. A total of 147 species and 11,767 birds were counted. The highlight of the count this year was the 3 **White-winged Scoters** found at Clearwater Reservoir (LCV). Highlights were 11 species of waterfowl, 7 raptors, 6 shorebirds, 4 owls, 6 woodpeckers, 8 flycatchers, all expected swallows, both chickadees, 28 species of warblers, and 10 sparrows.

Five **Snow Geese** visited a new pond in Oakland Mills henceforth called Troyer Pond 3/29 (AT). An **Osprey** was spotted near the Clearwater Reservoir (LCV) 4/9 (DB). Eight **Bald Eagles**, one adult and 7 young, were seen feeding near poultry buildings in Evendale 4/9, where the county's fourth nest was located this year, but the nest seems to have failed (DW). An immature **Mississippi Kite** was watched for an afternoon at THR 5/19 (TJP). Five **Caspian Terns** and 2 **Horned Grebes** were seen at TP in Oakland Mills 4/6 (SR). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was found along with 12 remaining **Wilson's Snipe** in Oakland Mills 4/5 (HP). Approximately 40 **Wilson's Snipe** were counted in Oakland Mills 4/3 (HP). The first **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at THR 4/12 (LY).

Purple Martins made their arrival in several locations in the county 4/4 (CK, PR, EP). A very early **Barn Swallow** was spotted at CSR 3/21 (DW). A **Gray Cheeked Thrush** was spotted near a home feeder at THR 4/9 (DW). A **Rusty Blackbird** visited a feeder in Licking Creek 2/3. It was seen almost daily until 2/7 (DB). A **Common Redpoll** was seen visiting a feeder in Locust Run 2/3 (TJP).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 994-6715 (m), (717) 436-8257 (h/w), chadkauffman@earthlink.net**, Deb Brackbill, Elmer Petersheim, Henry Petersheim, Toby J. Petersheim (TJP), Paul Renno, Sam Ritzman, Aden Troyer, Dusty Weidner and Lewis Yoder.

Lackawanna County

Once again, there were few reports from *Lackawanna*. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was seen at Merli-Sarnoski Park (JT) 3/27. Two **Pileated Woodpeckers** were seen in the Back Mountain Section of Scranton 4/1 (*vide* CW).

Observers: **Joe Greco, 3116 Township Woods Rd, East Greenville PA, 18041, (717) 571-2933, certhid@gmail.com**, Jon Thomas, Craig Waverka.

Lancaster County

Locations: Conewago Rail to Trails (CRT), Susquehanna River (SR), Middlecreek WMA (MC), Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SCRF), Susquehanna River, Long Level (SRLI).

The weather this spring was much wetter than normal, one of the wettest springs on record in fact. The highlight of the season was a male **Mountain Bluebird** at MC that was found in late March and stayed around long enough to be seen by many. It was also one of the worst seasons on record for numbers and variety of shorebirds at the Conejohela Flats. The explanation that seemed to make the most sense was that the vast amounts of rain flooded fields all over the region and created plenty of habitat away from the river.

This year 60,000 **Snow Geese** were at MC 3/11, lower than the 120,000 estimated at the same time last year. **Ross's Goose** was

reported at MC 3/4 and 7, including a blue morph, were reported 3/8 (AT). Another **Ross's Goose** was with 1000 **Snow Geese** at CRT 3/12 along with more common species (ME, et al.). Three **Cackling Geese** were at MC 4/6 (m.ob.) and another was at the wetland area at CRT near the Elizabethtown exit off of Rte. 283 on 4/14 (CC). A large flight of waterfowl over Woodland Drive north of Manheim 3/5 included 30,000 **Snow Geese**, **Ross's Goose**, and 20,000 **Canada Geese** (RM).

There was a very nice movement of waterfowl on the SR south of Columbia/Wrightsville to Long Level 3/19 (EW). There was a cold northerly wind for most of the day, and the total of 19 species had highlights of 8 **Redhead**, 50 **Ring-necked Duck**, 400 **scaup sp.**, and all three **Merganser** species including 6 **Red-breasted**, **Pied-billed Grebes** were also seen the same day, and a count of 40 **Horned Grebes** were respectable. This seemed to be a good year for Horned Grebes on the Susquehanna River as they always seemed to be easy to find, sometimes in good numbers. Other seasonal highlights at SRLL included a nice count of 265 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/2, **Long-tailed Duck**, and **Black Scoter** was seen 4/14 on the SR near Wrightsville (DC). Thirty **Canvasbacks** were on the lower Susquehanna River near Peach Bottom 3/5 (BS). There were a few reports of lingering waterfowl at SRCF this spring. They included **Tundra Swan** 5/14, 4 **scaup sp.** 5/23, and **Red-breasted Merganser** 5/23. A very late **Canvasback** was at CRT 5/25 (LC).

Rough-legged Hawks were seen into early March at MC (m.ob.), but a rare dark-phase **Red-tailed Hawk** was more unusual. There was a possible sighting reported 1/23 (JBo), and then it was seen again between stop #3 and stop #4 of the tour road at MC on 3/4 (AM, JM) and 3/5 (BC, et al.). An adult **Golden Eagle** was seen 4/24 flying over the intersection of Rte. 230 and Espenshade Road east of Mount Joy (JH). One of the more unusual reports this spring was of a **Swallow-tailed Kite** just east of Lancaster at the intersection of Rte. 340 and Rte. 30 on 5/28 (TG). Evidently this unmistakable bird can show up just about anywhere during migration. On 3/19, a pair of **Peregrine Falcons** was perching on the Norman Wood Bridge (TR, JS). Another was seen 4/1 along Queen Street in downtown Lancaster perched on the south side of the Marriott Hotel (BC). In April, two peregrines were seen in the vicinity of the Rte. 462 bridge (ML). A **Merlin** was at SRCF 5/23 (EW).

Common Gallinule is rarely seen in *Lancaster* so a sighting at the old Alcoa Marsh in the city of Lancaster 5/29 was quite noteworthy (BC, DW). A pair of **American Coots** was present at SRCF 5/14 (EW). Perhaps this species has the potential for nesting, but there were no reports after this sighting. **Sandhill Crane** showed up at MC 3/26 in the stop #3 area (PM). It was seen off and on up until at least 4/6. Another **Sandhill Crane** was observed 5/20 on Espenshade Road (between E-town/Mount Joy Road and Rte. 230) in a newly planted corn field with a flock of gulls (LM, MM).

This spring both numbers and variety of shorebirds on the SRCF were unusually poor. Hopefully this simply reflects the plentiful habitat in all of the flooded farm fields throughout the state. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was seen 4/5 at the rain water holding pond at the Houston Run Corporate Center near Gap (CC). Shorebirds at SRCF 5/14 included common species such as **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, and **Dunlin**. Four species of shorebirds were found at SRCF 5/23 (EW). A few **Semipalmated** and **Least Sandpipers** included a **White-rumped Sandpiper**. Away from SRCF there was actually a bit more variety with a **Red-necked Phalarope** at CRT 5/19 (TB, KM, ME) and a **Ruddy Turnstone** at the same location 5/21 (ME, BE). A visit to CRT on 5/27 resulted in 3 **Semipalmated Plovers**, 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, 3 **Least Sandpipers**, **White-rumped Sandpiper**, **Dunlin**, and 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers**.

This year **Little Gulls** were again reported with **Bonaparte's Gulls** on many occasions. The season started 3/19 with 3 adults in basic plumage with a flock of 700 Bonaparte's Gulls and one alternate plumaged **Black-headed Gull** (EW). These were all seen on the SR just south of Columbia. Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were also seen at the same location and as the observer noted, there are not many late March records in *Lancaster*. **Little Gulls** were present regularly on the SR in the area just north of Columbia/Wrightsville to the area just south over the next few weeks (m.ob.), with two still present 4/7 (ML). Two were also seen along the SR from Fisherman's/Wissler Run Park 4/23 along with a **Black-headed Gull** (TR). Both these species are seen almost every year, but it's quite unusual to see them both this late in April. The year's first of **Forster's Terns** were 3 at SRCF 4/14 (BS) along with 3 **Caspian Terns**. Eight **Common Terns** were at SRCF 5/14 (EW).

Great-horned Owls were observed and photographed nesting in the cavity of a sycamore tree during April (ML). **Short-eared Owls** were present again at MC all winter up to 4 were seen regularly once the tour road opened. The last report I am aware of was of 3 on 3/29 (RM). A group of 24 **Common Nighthawks** were seen over the Susquehanna near Wrightsville 5/21 (ML).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were first seen in several locations 4/20. This is not unusual, but is a bit earlier than some years. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was noted at Speedwell Lake 3/18 (BC) where it is not often seen. **Red-headed Woodpecker** is a regular, if uncommon, breeder in the county, but it was still noteworthy to look out the window of a private residence in Paradise 5/8 and see this striking bird on a suet feeder 10 feet from the window (JH, et al.). The very same day a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was heard calling at the same location, but flew off before it could be seen (JH). **Purple Martins** returned to Caernarvon Twp 4/3 (BH, FH) where up to 10 were seen at various colonies.

S.A.

As mentioned earlier the highlight of the season was a very handsome **Mountain Bluebird** that showed up 3/30 (SH, EH, RM, JBi, m.ob.) at MC and spent its time around the stop 3 area. The male Mountain Bluebird was found by Sid Hostetter and Evelyn Koppel while they were checking bluebird boxes. They first saw it around 10:30 on 3/30. The bird was seen past stop #3 at the crossroads looking away from the lake and was frequently chased by Eastern Bluebirds. It roamed a 400 yard area close to stop #3 to the woods to the north and to the top of hill to the northwest. During the time it was present it didn't really venture far from this area, and was seen rather regularly and dependably although it would occasionally be out of view for hours at a time. The bird was last reported 4/14 (PR).

A **Wood Thrush** near Manheim 4/20 (RM) was a bit early. Migrant warblers were reported modest numbers this year. May was a very rainy month so maybe there weren't as many people out birding or migration patterns were disrupted. Pumping Station road produced 13 species of more common resident and migrant warbler species 5/4 (CC, et al.). One bright spot at SRCF this year was that **Prothonotary Warblers** were in good supply. Nine were there 5/14 and two nest tubes contained incubating females (EW).

A **Dark-eyed Junco** with a white head was out of the ordinary at a feeder in northern *Lancaster* 3/13 (RM). **Blue Grosbeak** was seen 4/22-23 at the park at Safe Harbor in trees along the Conestoga River and by the ball field that is close to the river (TR). This is a bit on the early side. Another **Blue Grosbeak** was at MC 5/10 (RM). A male **Dickcissel** was found 5/13 along Williams Run Road west of Christiana (CC). It continued to be seen through at least the end of May and was joined by a female 5/26 (CC).

Winter finches were in short supply again this season, with only a few **Pine Siskins** and **Purple Finches** reported. Pine Siskin was noted near Manheim 3/29 (RM) and 10 were at a feeder in Gap 4/22 (CC).

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Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Three Rivers gravel pond (TR), McConahy Road gravel pond (MR), Copper Road Marsh (CR), Wampum-New Galilee Road marsh (NG), Volant Strips area (VS), Edinburgh Lake (EL).

This was an exciting season for *Lawrence*, with **Hoary Redpoll** and **Eurasian Wigeon** topping the highlight reel this spring, along with

Common Goldeneye and White-winged Scoter.

The **Eurasian Wigeon**, an adult male, was first spotted among hundreds of waterfowl 3/5 at BS (DW, STh). It was also seen in the same location 3/8 (SD), and last reported 3/9 (CM). The 3/5 outing at BS included counts of 108 **Tundra Swan**, 100+ **Canada Goose**, 115 **Northern Pintail**, 235 **Ring-necked Duck**, 65 **American Wigeon**, 14 **Gadwall**, 29 **Green-winged Teal**, 2 **Greater Scaup**, 6 **Canvasback**, 12 **Redhead**, 21 **Hooded Merganser**, 2 **Bufflehead**, 2 **American Black Duck**, 8 **Mallard**, and 2 **Ruddy Duck** (all STh, DW).

Another notable waterfowl sighting was a **White-winged Scoter** 4/25 at MR (RS). This is the first known record in *Lawrence* for this species, although it is not uncommonly reported in nearby *Allegheny* and *Beaver* counties. Similarly, although not a first county record, a lone **Common Goldeneye** was spotted 3/31 at TR (MV). The last record of **Common Goldeneye** was 3/8/2009 at EL, but this species is also more often found in neighboring counties.

Rough-legged Hawk continued to be seen in the area, the latest report being 3/21 at VS (RG). **Sandhill Crane** were seen in small numbers (two to four) throughout the season, with the exception of a group of 40 seen 3/6 at BS (STh). **Common Moorhen** were reported in their usual location at NG beginning 5/3, and were also reported for the first time 5/20 at TR (both MV). **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** made their way through the area 4/22 through 5/26 at various locations (m.ob.), along with reports of 9 **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/8 at BS (MV), 19 **Least Sandpiper**, and 7 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/26 at TR (MV).

Short-eared Owls are always fun to see, and 6 were spotted 3/14 at VS (RF, LM), coursing the fields and occasionally sparring. Last report of Short-eareds was a week later, one spotted 3/20 at VS again (RF, CD). **Eastern Phoebe** were first reported 3/9 at CR (MV); **Eastern Kingbird** and **Eastern Wood-Pewee** all were first reported in the area 5/12 at various locations (CH). **Willow**, **Alder**, and **Acadian Flycatchers** were also reported beginning 5/20 at various locations (MV, CH). The **Northern Shrike** reported last winter was spotted several times until 3/9 at BS (CM). **Tree Swallows** made their way into the area beginning 3/31 at NG (MV), and **Northern Rough-winged** and **Barn Swallows** winged their way in 4/9 at CR (MV).

Warbler reports for the season included **Blue-winged**, **Tennessee**, **Yellow**, **Cape May**, **Palm**, **Blackpoll**, **Cerulean**, **American Redstart**, **Northern Waterthrush**, and **Hooded Warbler**, beginning in early May and ending 5/26 with the Cerulean report.

Last report of **American Tree Sparrow** was 4/9 in the northwestern part of the county, coincidental to the first report of **Chipping Sparrow**, and the last report of **Fox Sparrow** (all CH). **Henslow's Sparrows** were reported heard 4/27 at VS (SS), and the first **Grasshopper Sparrow** report was 5/18 at VS (STh, DW).

Bobolinks were reported 5/4 at VS (RN). Encouragingly, good sized flocks of **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported this season, with over 75 reported 3/14 at BS (RF, LM), and more than 150 reported 3/20 at BS (RF, CD).

Last but not least, not just one, but two **Hoary Redpolls** (a male and a female) were reported among a flock of **Common Redpolls** 3/2 and 3/6 at BS (CD, LM, RM, STh, DW). This would be the first Hoary sighting since December of 1995, when one was seen in the town of New Castle by Barb Dean (*Pennsylvania Birds* vol. 9 no. 4). Kudos to the observers for finding these birds amongst the skittish flocks of 50-150 redpolls, and to LM for providing a detailed description of the birds in his report.

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Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand (CS), East Hanover Township (EHT), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Kreider Farms—Mt. Pleasant retention pond (KP), Lake Shuey (LS), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), the old Union Canal along Pine Road (PR) EHT, South Annville Township (SAT), Second Mountain Hawk watch (2nd Mtn), State Game Land 145 (SGL 145).

By the first of March a general thaw was fully under way on the county lakes. On 3/1 about half of MLSP was thawed and a nice variety of 14 species of waterfowl, including swans and geese, were recorded by ME. Shorebirds were not well recorded this spring due to heavy rains, which filled the pond along Mt. Pleasant Road in SAT.

The PAMC 5/14 had seven new species: **Lesser Scaup**, **Merlin**, **Chuck-wills-widow**, **Alder Flycatcher**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, and **American Tree Sparrow** for a new high total of 152 species. Highlights were 30 species of warblers and high counts for the following species: **Willow Flycatcher** 13, **Eastern Phoebe** 30, and **Prairie Warbler** 10.

TB counted 43 **Redheads** 3/8 at MLSP for a new county high. JT found a **Pied-billed Grebe** nest at LS 5/20. The nest was abandoned 5/30 possibly due to predation or poor nest selection. A second spring record of **Red-throated Loon** was made at MLSP 4/8 (TB); the bird stayed through 4/13 for many others to see. On 3/16 an **American Bittern** was flushed at LS by JD. This set a new early date by two weeks. The wetlands created on the north side of Boundary Road, MLSP, have proved to be attractive to **American Bittern**. A group of 3 **American Bitterns** were flushed 4/7 (TB, CB) and were seen through 4/10 (TB). At FIG an **American Bittern** was observed 5/9 (JD, DM). Finally a single **American Bittern** remained at a 15-foot diameter pond at a private residence the Conewago Creek in SAT and was seen daily between 4/25 and 5/17 (SH, m.ob.).

TB found a hard to see **Snowy Egret** at PR 5/1. He was able to relocate it again later in the day. On 5/28, ME noted two small egrets in the remnants of the old Union Canal at PR. He was pleased to identify them as **Cattle Egret**, which are rare in the county and only stayed until 5/30 (TB). Also at PR was a **Glossy Ibis** 4/18 (BW) and 4/19 (TB). During an owl survey in the morning of 3/20 a **Ruffed Grouse** was heard drumming in the dark (TB). A single **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen in the FIG grasslands 4/20 (MC, JD, DM). Pheasant were stocked in the area in October 2010. The first **Double-crested Cormorant** report was 3/19 at MC (MJ). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found only at MLSP 3/28 (TB, PK) and 4/17 (MJ).

Black Vulture eggs were found 3/27 on Governor Dick Hill (BM, LM, WM, JT). On 4/2 two more nests were found and fledgling birds were noted moving around on the rocks later in the month. On 3/1 MC had an **Osprey** fly past the 2nd Mtn Hawk Watch. This is a new early date for the county and was probably the first report in the state. Four **Peregrine Falcons** were at the power line cut at Pinch Road, South Londonderry Township 4/4.

A **Virginia Rail** was seen at FIG 5/9 (JD, DM). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** 3/24 (matching last years early date) on a flooded field on Mt. Pleasant Road SAT started the spring migration of shorebirds (CB, TB). A first March record **Spotted Sandpiper** at MLSP was reported 3/26 (ST, DW). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were seen at KP 5/21 (JF, AH). Four **Short-billed Dowitchers** at KP (TB, JD, DM) were reported 5/20. *Lebanon* contributed to the numerous state-wide sightings of **Red-necked Phalarope**, when one female was found on a flooded field along Mt. Pleasant Road 5/19 (ME). Two **Little Gulls** accompanied by a single **Bonaparte's Gull** stayed for a few hours at MLSP 3/23 (TB, ph. JD), providing a second county record. A single **Bonaparte's Gull** still in basic plumage in a flooded field along Mt. Pleasant Road, SAT 5/18 provided a new late date (CB). RCM caught sight of an early **Caspian Tern** at MLSP 4/6 as it briefly flew over the lake. **Caspian Terns** were also seen there 4/8 and 4/11 (DM). Three **Common Terns** were at MLSP 5/2 (MC, JD, DM).

Two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were reported at Fontana along Rte. 322 5/28 (NP). Multiple **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports are as follows: PR 5/30 (TB); MLSP 4/1 (CG); Tomstown Rd, FIG 3/12 (ME), FIG restricted area 5/30 (JD, DM) and Pinch Rd. Governor Dick park 5/2 (RCM). Two **Short-eared Owls** were at the traditional location on Auto Tour Stop #3 on the evening of 3/3 (ME). On the morning of 3/20, TB did an owl survey along the railroad bed off of Goldmine Road. Using a Northern Saw-whet Owl recording, 2 **Great-horned Owls** and 2 **Barred Owls** responded rather quickly, and later a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** responded clearly. Five **Whip-poor-wills** calling on 4/21 along Cold Springs Road FIG were early by three days. Last year's resident **Chuck-wills-widow** returned 5/1 to the same area at FIG (TB).

The continuing **Northern Shrike** at FIG off of Cold Spring Road first seen 1/4 was last seen 3/11 (MC). A second county breeding record of **Common Raven** was first noted 2/13 at Swatara Gap State Park on the bridge support of I-81 (RL). By 4/9 there were 4 young in the nest (FH, RL). The nest was empty 5/7. Early by two days was a single **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** in the company of 10+ **Tree**

Swallows 3/29 at PR (TB, CB). A second March record, a **Barn Swallow** was found at MC 3/19 (CB), and 4 were reported on eBird also on 3/19 at MC (MJ). Three **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** 5/14 tied the late date at CS (SW).

Two **Wood Thrush** were at 2nd Mtn 3/16, a new early date (MC). Very close (within a few hundred yards) to the county line was a **Mountain Bluebird** just southeast of MC Tour Stop #3 3/30 to 4/9 (SH, EH, m.ob.). The bird was seen daily except on 4/1. The same habitat extended across the county line but was not visible from the road leading me to believe that it could have been in *Lebanon* on 4/1. If accepted it would be the sixth record for Pennsylvania.

Brewster's Warbler seen last year at FIG was seen in the same vicinity 5/12 (DM). **Lawrence's Warbler** was found at FIG 5/27 (DM) and photographed 5/31 (JD). A **Prothonotary Warbler** Camp Shand 5/14 was a good find for *Lebanon* (SW).

First of year reports were filed on eBird by MJ on 3/19 at his residence in EHT for **Eastern Towhee**, **Chipping**, **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrow**. A first spring record and fifth county record **Clay-colored Sparrow** was heard just west of the boat rental building at Memorial Lake State Park 4/13 (RCM). The last **American Tree Sparrow** was found at CS 5/14 for a new late date (SW). **Fox Sparrow** sightings continued from the winter quarter. At a Mt. Gretna backyard 6 **Fox Sparrows** were seen 3/3, 8 on 3/5 and 2 on 3/18 (SH). **Fox Sparrow** was last seen 5/14 at CS (SW). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen by SH and others 3/11 on Hicks Rd., SGL 145 for a new early date. Four separate **Rusty Blackbird** reports were noted on eBird: 4 on 3/29 in EHT (TB), 20 on 3/29 in North Londonderry Township (CB), 3 at SGL 145 on 4/15 (CB, m.ob.) and 2 at Quittapahilla Nature Park 4/21 (MM). On 4/26 DM had a singing male **Blue Grosbeak** at FIG, besting the previous early date by five days.

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Lehigh County

Locations: Bake Oven Knob (BOK), Dorney Pond (DP), Fogelsville Quarry (FQ) in Upper Macungie, Leaser Lake (LL) in Lynn, Trexler Nature Preserve (TNP) in Lowhill and North Whitehall, and Walking Purchase Park (WPP) in Salisbury.

The spring of 2011 in the Lehigh Valley was warmer and wetter than the 30-year norm. Precipitation in March and April was well above average (+2.87" and +2.49" respectively); mean temperature in March wasn't unusual, but April and May brought temps of 3.7° and 4.6° F above norm, respectively (NOAA / National Weather Service data for Allentown, archived at <<http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=phi>>). Bodies of water remained full, and many agricultural fields were flooded during spring migration, creating favorable conditions for waterfowl, waders, and shorebirds. Continuing work to improve the dam at Leaser Lake kept the lake drained through the season, but heavy precipitation resulted in patches of water and grassy mud flats around the small creek that currently flows through the bottom of what is usually the county's largest lake. A total of 199 species was reported this spring in *Lehigh*.

Some interesting waterfowl lingered in the county into March and beyond. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at DP in South Whitehall 3/14 (BE, ES). The max **Snow Goose** count was 3500 over North Whitehall 3/6 (BE). Small numbers remained through 4/13 (55) at Lynn (JL). Beyond the expected migration window, several **Snow Geese** lingered within the county, including 5/16 at South Whitehall (2-ES), and 5/23 at Heidelberg (4-BW). Also at Heidelberg, a well-studied goose 3/17 was determined to be a **Snow x Ross's Goose** hybrid (BW). Single **Cackling Geese** were at DP 3/5 (BE) and FQ 3/7 (BW). **Tundra Swan** was reported 3/5-9 from 5 locations, with a max of 50 at Haafsville. (This report proved to be the first of many very nice sightings at the flooded fields along Haaf Road this season... read on.) At North Whitehall, a lone first-year **Trumpeter Swan** was discovered with a

small group of **Tundra Swans** 3/7 (BW), an apparent first county record. Nineteen duck species was excellent for the period. A **Gadwall** was at DP 3/15 (ES). **American Wigeon** visited North Whitehall 3/20 (max 20-BW), and DP 3/18 (BE). Max count for **American Black Duck** was 37 at Haafsville 3/15 (ES), and the latest report was 4/20 at LL (BW). **Blue-winged Teal** appeared at Haafsville 4/18 (2) and 5/11. Three **Northern Shovelers** at FQ was a good find for *Lehigh* 3/16. **Northern Pintail** stayed at Haafsville through the first half of March (max 9, 3/15, m ob.), and stopped at Cetronia Road, Upper Macungie 4/2 (JH). **Green-winged Teal** was fairly common at Haafsville 3/14 to 5/8 (m.ob.), with a max of 78 on 4/4 (BW). A lone **Redhead** made an appearance at FQ 3/13 (BW). A wintering flock of **Ring-necked Ducks** (max 60) lingered into late March at North Whitehall (BW); elsewhere, the latest report was 4/18 at LL (BW). There was only one report each of **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup**: the greater number was Greater (6) at North Whitehall 3/6 and 3/7, with two fewer Lessers at FQ beginning 3/22 (BW). Another nice find from FQ were 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** 3/31 (BW). **Bufflehead** was at South Whitehall 4/1, and FQ 4/18-20 (BW). A hen **Hooded Merganser** remained at LL through at least 5/28 (BW). Highlights of five reports of **Red-breasted Merganser** were a max count of 9 at FQ 3/21 (BW), and a late report 5/7 at LL (JH). Two **Ruddy Ducks** were last reported 3/23 at North Whitehall (BW).

Ruffed Grouse was not reported this spring. At least 2 **Northern Bobwhites** were at LL beginning 5/13 (m.ob.). Bobwhite reports from here have been sporadic over the past few years; these are almost certainly released or escaped birds, though the chance that they might breed in the wild is an interesting possibility. Lone **Common Loons** were at quarries in North Whitehall 4/13 and 4/20 (BW), and at Upper Milford 5/1 (BM, PM). A **Pied-billed Grebe** at Upper Macungie continued through late spring. This possible breeder was last reported calling at the late date of 5/24. There were five reports of **Horned Grebe** from as many locations (BW), with a max of 4 at FQ 3/13. The most visible report was from the Haafsville flooded fields 4/27, where it was seen by many. The **Red-necked Grebe** on the Lehigh River at Allentown beginning 2/20 continued into this period, last reported 3/6 (MB, BW). **Double-crested Cormorant** arrived 3/26 at both North Whitehall and FQ (BE, BW).

American Bittern was a nice find at the Dorney Road landfill in Upper Macungie 4/20 (BW). There were four reports of **Great Egret** from as many areas 4/25-5/25, three of which were attracted to flooded fields within the county. An adult **Snowy Egret** (quite possibly representing a first record for *Lehigh*) was seen by many, including several lucky participants on a Lehigh Valley Audubon Society field trip to LL 5/13 (BW, m.ob.). An adult **Little Blue Heron** delighted many at Haafsville 4/26-27 (DN); this is apparently the second county record, and first since April 1984. Continuing with unusual wading birds, a **Cattle Egret** at Haafsville 4/25 (DN) was the third reported in the county since 1960. The first **Green Heron** was reported from Haafsville 4/18 (DN).

A group of 33 **Black Vultures** at Allentown 3/23 (BW) is, surprisingly, the new working high count for *Lehigh*. **Osprey** was first reported from multiple locations 4/11. Last year's breeding pair returned to North Whitehall this spring, and was first seen making repairs to their nest 4/13. The birds were tending to an unknown number of chicks by late spring. There were eight reports of single **Bald Eagles**; the latest was from WPP 5/29. Of the reports, 4 were from the Lehigh River near Allentown, 3 were from the upper Lehigh above Treichlers, and one was from TNP (m.ob). **Northern Harrier** sightings at the late dates of 5/15 and 5/16 in Lynn (BW) and especially 5/21 at nearby LL (DW) were all of interest! A **Northern Goshawk** sent the previously mentioned Snowy Egret into full panic mode as it flew over LL 5/13 (BE). Max counts for **Broad-winged Hawk** came from Upper Milford (300) 4/20 (BM, PM), and Allentown (309) 4/21 (MB). The latter were part of an impressive late afternoon flight tallied between 17:15 and 18:15. A **Merlin** at Haafsville 5/20 was a new late date for spring (TJ, MS, DW). The only **Peregrine Falcon** report away from the Allentown nest site was also from Haafsville 3/11 (BW).

The hands-down highlight of the season in *Lehigh* was a **King Rail**, present 4/26-30 at the Haafsville flooded fields (DN). This bird, rarely seen anywhere in Pennsylvania, let alone seen well, gave very obliging looks to many birders as it spent five days along the wooded edge of a flooded field. It was fairly easily viewed and photographed by many from the nearby roadside. It marked the county's second record, first seen in *Lehigh* 57 years ago! A **Sora** was discovered 5/2 at Lower Milford (BW), and was heard once again 5/3 (DF). **Black-bellied Plover** was at LL 5/16 (BW). **Semipalmated Plover** was present in the county

5/13-31, with max of 14 at LL 5/18 (BW). All **Greater Yellowlegs** reports came from Haafsville, with max of 7 on 5/26 (DN). The max count of 21 for **Lesser Yellowlegs** was also from Haafsville 5/8 (BE). **Pectoral Sandpiper** visited Upper Macungie 4/6, LL 5/2-4, and Haafsville 4/26, 5/8 (2), and 5/14 (m.ob.). Grassy mudflats on the exposed lake bed at LL produced a remarkable count of up to 152 **Dunlin** 5/23 (BW). Only 3 were detected the following day (BE). A handful of lucky birders got to see a female **Ruff** ("Reeve"), present only briefly at Haafsville on the morning of 5/20 (BW). Distant photos of this wayward Eurasian migrant were obtained, commemorating our second county record. **Wilson's Snipe** was present in *Lehigh* 3/29-4/23 (max 4, m.ob.), and **American Woodcock** was first detected 3/1 at Lower Milford (BW).

Late dates for our various gulls were as follows: **Ring-billed Gull** 4/10, **Herring Gull** 4/25, and **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 3/26. A max count of 3 for the Lesser Black-backs was 3/20 at DP. A pair of **Black Terns** was located at Upper Macungie 5/20 by birders attempting to relocate the aforementioned Reeve (JHo, BW).

At BOK, 2 **Barred Owls** were heard 4/29 (BW). A **Short-eared Owl** was discovered at North Whitehall 4/10 (BH). Our only **Common Nighthawk** report was made 4/23 at Bethlehem (BW). There were no reports of Eastern Whip-poor-will this spring. The early date for **Chimney Swift** was 4/12 at Allentown (BW), and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was first found 4/27 (m.ob). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** remained at South Whitehall through 4/14 (AS).

Acadian Flycatcher and **Willow Flycatcher** arrived 5/14; **Alder Flycatcher** was found 5/23 at Lynn (BE), 5/25 near LL (BW), and 5/30 at Heidelberg, where it almost certainly nested (BH, BE). The first **Eastern Phoebe** of the season was at North Whitehall 3/8 (BW). The breeding status of **Blue-headed Vireo** in *Lehigh* remains uncertain, but apparent territorial males at BOK 5/25 (BW) and SGL 217 in Washington 5/31 (BE) suggest this species as a possible breeder here. Another unusual breeding event occurred at North Whitehall, where **Common Ravens** were seen carrying nesting material and food into a quarry in mid-March (BW). Ravens are fairly common along the Blue Mountain at the northern end of the county, but this apparent nesting some 8 miles south of the ridge is unexpected; the species has been noted sporadically in this area since at least early 2010 (ML, et. al.). The **Purple Martin** colony at Slatedale in Washington was again productive beginning 4/5, with a max count of 32 on 5/14 (DA, BE); a new, smaller colony was reported from Allemaengle Rd. in Lynn beginning 5/14 (BW). Also at Lynn, **Cliff Swallows** were found nesting within the eaves of a barn along Hummingbird Rd. 5/13 (BW). **Bank Swallows** had returned to their breeding grounds at Upper Saucon by 4/24 (BE); elsewhere, they were seen at Haafsville 5/13 (BW) and 5/20 (TJ), and along the Lehigh River at Salisbury throughout early May (ES). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was once again at west Allentown through the spring period (BCM), at Lynn 4/24 (DA), and at Haafsville 4/29 (ST). Late reports for kinglets were **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at Slatington 4/19 (BE), and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at WPP 5/4 (ES). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** arrived at South Whitehall by 4/14 (BE). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and **Swainson's Thrush** were at Salisbury 5/1 (SB) and the former remained at BOK through 5/25 (BW). American Pipit was unreported.

Twenty-nine warbler species were detected in *Lehigh* this spring. There were 4 reports of **Tennessee Warbler** 5/7-4 (m.ob.). **Magnolia Warbler** remained later than expected for *Lehigh*, singing from conifers at LL 5/25 (BW). **Cape May Warbler** was near LL 5/7 (JH) and 5/13 (BW). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was last reported 5/25 at BOK (BW), a probable late date for the county. Rodale Park in Upper Macungie hosted **Pine Warbler**, present 4/13 (max 3 - AS) to at least 4/24 (JL). **Palm Warbler** was last seen 4/25 at Haafsville (DN). **Blackpoll Warbler** was present 5/12-29 (m.ob.) with a max of 14 at Slatington 5/17 (BE). **Cerulean Warbler** arrived 4/29; away from presumed breeding territories at typical Blue Mountain sites such as BOK, LL, and Lehigh Furnace Gap, the species was noted along the Lehigh River in North Whitehall 5/1 (DW), and at Jordan Creek Parkway in Whitehall 5/2 (BM, PM). The latter two locations held Northern Waterthrush as well, same dates and observers; the only other report was from Slatington 5/17 (BE). **Kentucky Warbler** was a nice find at WPP 4/30 (ES). Kentucky Warbler was a probable breeder near LL, where it was present from 5/24 into June (BR, RR, BW). **Hooded Warbler** was at various breeding territories along the Blue Mountain beginning 4/24 (m.ob.). There were four reports of **Wilson's Warbler** this spring, from Bethlehem 5/12, Salisbury 5/14, Lehigh Gap Nature Center 5/15, and Lynn 5/23 (DA, BW). **Canada Warbler** was present 5/3-17 at several

locations (m.ob.). As last year, Yellow-breasted Chat was missed in *Lehigh* this spring.

The last report of **American Tree Sparrow** (6) occurred 3/12 at Salisbury (SB). **Vesper Sparrow**, **Savannah Sparrow**, and **Grasshopper Sparrow** were all first reported in the county 4/24 at Lynn (DA). **Fox Sparrow** was noted through 4/16, with a max count of 17 at Salisbury 3/27 (BW). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was noted from various locations at Heidelberg and Lynn 5/2-23 (BW), and from Upper Milford 5/8 (BM, PM). At LL, a **White-throated Sparrow** was singing at the late date of 5/25 (BE); other than this, the latest reports were 5/16 at both WPP and TNP (BW). Another late occurrence was **White-crowned Sparrow** at Haafsville 5/20 (DN). The last reported **Dark-eyed Junco** was at WPP 4/25 (ES). **Blue Grosbeak** returned to its territory in Lynn for the third consecutive year, where it was seen along Springhouse Rd. 5/14 to at least 5/21 (BW, DW). Nearby, Blue Grosbeak was also reported from LL beginning 5/14 (SB), and continuing into summer. There was speculation that the Springhouse Rd. bird relocated to LL, as it was not seen at its traditional territory after 5/21, but it also seems possible that there were either two different birds on adjacent territories, or maybe just one bird on a very large territory. **Rusty Blackbird** was at Haafsville 3/17 (max 7 - BW), at TNP 4/17 (JL), and at Lower Milford 4/23 (BW). Finally, despite very few local reports over the winter and no reports since early January, **Purple Finch** was noted this spring from Haafsville 4/12 (DN), Lynn 4/29 (BW), and North Whitehall (max 12) 5/1 (DW).

Observers: **Bill Etter**, 209 E South St., Slatington PA, 18080, (215) 964-3613, billetter01@gmail.com, Dan Altif, Sara Blauman, Mark Boyd, Devich Farbotnik, Linda Freedman, Bob Hoopes, Jeff Hopkins, Jason Horn (JHo), Corey Husic, Tom Johnson, Jon Levin, Matt Loyko, Barbara Malt (BCM), Bernie and Pauline Morris, Dave Neimeyer, Rich and Barbara Rehrig, Matt Sabatine, Peter Saenger, Ed Sinkler, Adam Smith, Kathy Stagl, Shannon Thompson, Todd Watkins, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch.

Luzerne County

Despite the on-and-off rain showers we had throughout the day and the cloud cover, which obscured good visibility for many raptors, the 2011 PAMC turned out to be very good with a total of 147 species, up 21 from last year's count. Even though the weather was less than perfect, I believe it was much less a factor in this year's count compared to last year. Participation more than doubled from last year as well leading to our higher counts.

Some waterfowl highlights included one **Ring-necked Duck**, one **Red-breasted Merganser**, a fairly high count of 40 **Wood Ducks**, 24 **Common Loons**, and 5 **White-winged Scoters** (seen by two different groups). Shorebirds were also seen in good numbers with nine different species and nearly 100 total individuals. Amongst the usual were both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Least**, **Semipalmated**, **Spotted**, **Solitary**, **Killdeer** and **American Woodcock**; a nice find was a single **Dunlin**. Another nice find by two separate groups was **Virginia Rail**; 3 total were recorded. American Bittern and Sora were not seen on the day of the count. Another absent bird, which escaped us on the Christmas count too, was Pied-billed Grebe. A blatant miss we had this year was Ring-billed Gull.

Even with gray skies, the raptor counts remained steady, with 12 species of raptors and 3 owl species listed (111 birds total). Among the highlights for raptors were one **Merlin**, 5 **Peregrine Falcons**, 4 **Bald Eagles** and one **Black Vulture**. I don't believe anybody covered the area for the roost of Black Vultures where we've seen 50+ in the past. **Barred Owls** showed a slight uptick with 6 listed in total by 3 separate groups. Despite great efforts put forth by one owling group, they struck out on Northern Saw-whet Owls. We know they are in the area, but they just didn't want to cooperate. Another miss for the county was American Kestrel.

All species of woodpeckers expected to be seen were listed with highest counts going to **Northern Flickers**, **Red-bellied**, **Downy**, and **Pileated Woodpeckers**. A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was a great find by one of our new participants on the count. Eight species of flycatcher were listed including an **Alder**, **Willow**, and **Acadian**. All species of swallows were seen except for Purple Martins. Even with the many purple martin houses that dot *Luzerne*, I don't believe we've found any actually occupied by martins. Apparently they were present in the past but have been absent in recent years. Another nice find by one of

the groups was a **Gray-cheeked thrush** and 5 **Swainson's Thrush**. It was nice to see the most abundant thrush was **Wood Thrush**, with 28 found. Warblers were also seen in good numbers. Altogether, 27 warbler species (538 warblers total) were seen including highlights of one **Blue-winged Warbler**, one **Tennessee Warbler**, one **Canada Warbler**, 2 **Cape May Warblers**, 2 **Bay breasted Warblers**, 3 **Cerulean Warblers**, 4 **Hooded Warblers**, one **Wilson's Warbler**, and a high number of 10 **Blackpoll Warblers**. Nine species of sparrow with a total of 174 birds included **Grasshopper**, **Savannah**, **Lincoln's**, **Swamp**, **White-throated** and **White-crowned**. Finally, two other species of note were 2 **Pine Siskins** and 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** still hanging around.

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Lycoming County

No report.

Compiler: **Dan Brauning**, 1920 Inverness Rd, Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 433-0309, dan@thebraunings.net.

McKean County

No report.

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Mercer County

Locations: Lake Latonka (LL), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Rattlesnake Swamp (RS), Sandy Lake (SL), Shenango R. Res (SRR), E. Zahnizer Road (EZR), Williamson Rd. (WR).

Strange weather caused fallouts, and resulted in one of the best in years for migrants. All the expected waterfowl were recorded. Two **Ross's Geese** were found 3/5 mixed in with a large flock of **Canada Goose** at RS along Otter Creek (NT, ST). **Tundra Swan** moved through 3/4-4/1. More than 50 **Northern Pintail** were also at RS 3/5 (NT, ST). A female **Surf Scoter** was picked out of a flock of **Greater Scaup** on SL 4/6 (NT), and a pair of **Lesser Scaup** were at LL 4/10 (HB, LD). A great count of 125+ **Common Loons** was noted on LW and SL 4/6 (NT), and 20+ were still at LW 4/9 (HB). HB also had 10+ **Horned Grebe** at LW 4/9.

Ospreys are doing well county-wide. The pair nesting on the raised platform on the Rte. 18 Causeway at SRR arrived 3/15 and were successful in raising two young. An early **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was along Coolspring Creek 3/27 (JH, NT, ST). **American Coot** were noted 3/5-4/27 at the SRR marina, and 4 **Willet** put down on the marina docks 5/2 during passage of a weather system. **American Woodcock** were spotted as early as 3/1 (NT).

A migrating **Short-eared Owl** appeared 4/24 along EZR (JH, NT, ST). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard 4/30-5/8 in Sheakleville (OB).

The wet, cold April caused starvation among young for the early-nesting **Tree Swallows** and **Eastern Bluebirds**. Thirty-one warbler species were recorded. Two singing **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found, one 5/12 and another 5/15 (JH, NT, ST). A **Prairie Warbler** was heard singing along Poole Road (NT). Numbers of **Cape May**, **Bay-breasted**, and **Blackpoll Warblers** were up from previous years, probably due to unusual weather patterns and stalled systems during their migration period (NT).

An early **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found 4/10 along EZR mixed in with other sparrows (NT, ST). A single **Fox Sparrow** was recorded 3/21 at SRR. **White-crowned Sparrow** passed through 5/3-19. Thirty or more **Lapland Longspurs** were seen at the expected location during migration at EZR 3/20. Stragglers remained until at least 4/12 (JH, NT, ST). A single **Snow Bunting** also showed itself at EZR 3/13 (NT).

One **Common Redpoll** frequented a feeding station at WR 3/27-4/1 (NT, ST), and a **Pine Siskin**, also at a feeding station, was at Sheakleville 5/15 (JT). Grove City hosted 4 **Pine Siskins** 5/4 (LD).

Observers: **Marty McKay**, 841 E. Lake Rd., Transfer PA, 16154, (724) 962-7476, Harriet Bauer, Owen Byler, Lynne Doolan, Joseph Hockstetler, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Neil Troyer, Ruth Troyer, Samuel Troyer.

Mifflin County

Locations: Back Mt. Rd. in Big Valley (BMR), Belleville (BE), Big Valley (BV), Kishacaquillas Creek in Big Valley (KC), Watynesburg Rd in Big Valley (WR).

The bird of the season came to the county in March, but the news did not emerge until May. A **Painted Bunting** attended the feeders of Dwaine and Fran Shirk in Milroy for two days, 3/6-7. The bird was photographed, leaving no question of its identity. Not too surprisingly, this was the first record for the county or anywhere in central Pennsylvania to my knowledge.

JZ hosted a **Green-winged Teal** and a **Northern Pintail** in the small creek at his farm near BE 3/8. A **Little Blue Heron** was seen at a small fish hatchery in BV 5/25 (DB), the first report in *Mifflin* since 2000. **Ospreys** were in BV 4/9 and 4/24 (GG).

The extremely wet spring was not good news for farmers with low-lying fields, but it did produce some transient "mudflats". One field along KC on WR can be good for shorebirds during wet weather, at least by *Mifflin* standards. Visits there from late April through May produced **Killdeer** and on some visits **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Least Sandpiper** and **Wilson's Snipe**. A flock of about a dozen **Pectoral Sandpipers** was there 4/16-24 and 4 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/28 (GG). The latter two species are seldom reported in the county. Unusual to find on the ground in BV, a single **Bonaparte's Gull** was on Bunker Hill Rd. in BV 4/3 and a flock of 11 on the wet field on WR 4/9 (GG).

CK reported on a large **Cliff Swallow** colony on the Rte. 103 bridge in Lewistown 4/20, estimating about 50 nests. Flocks of **American Pipits** were easy to find in the wet fields of Big Valley through most of the season (GG). Considering the lack of real wetlands in the county, **Swamp Sparrows** are not easy to find; one was in small cattail stand on BMR 4/24 (GG).

On the migration count 5/14, warblers found included **Yellow**, **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Black-throated Green**, **Blackburnian**, **Blackpoll**, **Ovenbird**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded**, and **Canada** (JZ).

Observers: **Greg Grove**, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg PA, 16669, (814) 667 2305, gwg2@psu.edu, dsg4@psu.edu, Deb Brackbill, Chad Kauffman, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

Locations: Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC).

The spring season was notable for being one of the wettest on record. The Pocono Birdathon was held 5/15 as a fundraiser for MCEEC—a healthy total of 113 species was recorded including 24 warbler species. Several observers commented on experiencing outstanding migration days in late April and early May.

A single **Horned Grebe** and the following waterfowl were all found 3/18 on a MCEEC field trip: **Northern Pintail** and **Green-winged Teal** in Cherry Valley and a single **Canvasback** and 5 **Ruddy Ducks** at Saylor's Lake (BH). The 3 **Redheads** on a Camelback pond in mid-March was an excellent find (PF). A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** were first seen on the MCEEC pond 3/15 (CT) and nested in a box there for the fourth consecutive year.

The pair of **Peregrine Falcons** returned again to the Mt. Minsi cliffs on the *Monroe/Northampton* line in the Delaware Water Gap and was seen on the same ledge they occupied last year during a failed nesting attempt (AA, JT). If they are successful this year, it would be a first for this location in the post-DDT era. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling in suitable breeding habitat on the night of 3/19 near Camelback (PF), and the first report of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** came from Brodheadsville 4/26 (DG). A single **Common Redpoll** was seen at a Mt. Pocono feeder 3/21 (PF).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman**, Monroe County Environmental

Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA, 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net, Allan Ambler, Pat Fellion, Dennis Giffels, Darryl Speicher, Jim Thomson, Craig Todd, Rick Wiltraut.

Montgomery County

Locations: East Norriton Twp. (ENT), Evansburg State Park (ESP), Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Gwynedd Preserve (GP), Haverford College (HC), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Frederick Twp. (UFT), Upper Hanover Twp. (UHT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The spring season in *Montgomery* brought below average precipitation in March and May, but April's precipitation was well above average. Temperatures were generally above average for the period.

Waterfowl variety was very good with 24 species reported. The **Barnacle Goose** originally reported in February lingered until at least 3/1 at GLR (GAF). **Snow Goose** numbers peaked at 1300 birds at UPVP 3/12 (GAF). **Tundra Swans** reached a maximum of 61 at Walt Rd., GLR 3/1 (GAF).

Dabbling ducks showed well, highlighted by 4 **Blue-winged Teal** at a Perkiomenville pond 3/27 (GAF). **Northern Pintail** numbers reached 51 at Church Rd., GLR 3/14, and 59 **Green-winged Teal** were there 3/20 (JG). The **Eurasian Wigeon** found in February remained at GLR until at least 3/1 (GAF). Two **Gadwall** at UPVP 5/7 tied a record late spring date (KC, m.ob.). Diving ducks also had a good showing for the quarter. Highlights included a **Canvasback** at Walt Rd., GLR 3/5 (BD, KC, m.ob.), and 93 **Ring-necked Ducks** were there on the same day (JG). **Greater Scaup** reached a maximum of 5 at Walt Rd. 4/7 (KC), and **Lesser Scaup** numbers reached 15 at a Perkiomenville pond 3/20 (RG). A season-high 22 **Buffleheads** were accompanied by 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Walt Rd. 4/7 (KC). Two **Ruddy Ducks** at Walt Rd. 5/24 tied another record late date (GAF).

Common Loons were noted overhead at East Norriton Twp (WBH), GLR (GAF) and Norristown Farm Park (WBH). A season "high" count was 3 birds over Haverford College 4/25 (SJ). **Horned Grebes** reached a disappointing high of 5 at Walt Rd., GLR 4/7 (KC). **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported from various locations including GLR, NFP, and UPVP (m.ob.). **Double-crested Cormorants** peaked at 71 birds at Walt Rd. 4/10 (GAF), a low number by recent standards. This count likely reflects a lack of effort by observers, and not a population trend. **Great Egret** is never a given in *Montgomery* in spring, so 5 birds overhead at NFP 4/24 was a nice surprise (BH). Other reports were 2 in Perkiomenville 5/16 (RG), and one at GLR 5/27 (GAF).

Raptors of note included a **Northern Harrier** at GLR 3/1 and one at NFP 3/24 (BH). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** reports were fairly widespread, with reports from Evansburg State Park, NFP, UCV, and UPVP (m.ob.). **Red-shouldered Hawk** reports came from NFP both "early" 3/13 (WBH), and "late" 5/6 (BH). **Broad-winged Hawk** reports were scarce, coming from only ENT, ESP, and NFP (WBH). **Merlin** reports were received from GLR 3/19 (WBH) and Upper Frederick Twp. 3/28 (RG).

Two **American Coot** were at Walt Rd., GLR 3/5 and 3/15 (KC). Shorebirds included 5 **Solitary Sandpipers** at the UPVP ice-skating rink 5/16, and 2 were at NFP 5/11 (WBH). **Spotted Sandpipers** reached a season high of 6 at Walt Rd., GLR, 5/11, and 3 **Least Sandpipers** were present the same day (GAF). **Wilson's Snipe** peaked at 6 at Gwynedd Preserve 4/6 (AJM), and 2 were at NFP 4/4 (WBH). Numerous **American Woodcock** reports came from ENT, GLR, GP and NFP, all in the first 3 weeks of March (m.ob.). High counts of 4 each were at NFP 3/5 (WBH) and GLR 3/6 (KC). Our latest reported date was 4/2 at GLR (KC). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** reached a season high of 3 at Church Rd., GLR (several dates, m.ob.), and 2 **Great Black-backed Gulls** were there 3/23 (JG).

Black-billed Cuckoo reports came from UPVP 5/7 (KC, m.ob.), ESP 5/8 (JG), and Church Rd., GLR 5/28 (GAF). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were tallied at GLR 5/11 (GAF), and UHT 5/25 (JG). **Common Nighthawks** were found at ENT, GLR, NFP, and UCV; all reports were of one to 3 birds (m.ob.). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported from HC until 3/27 (SJ), NFP 4/13, and ENT as late as 4/15 (both WBH).

Our only flycatcher of note was a **Least Flycatcher** at ENT 5/2 (WBH). **Blue-headed Vireos** were found as late as 4/24 at HC (SJ), and ENT 5/11 (WBH). Since 2008, **Common Ravens** have been reported

with some regularity in western *Montgomery* including GLR, UCV, UFT, and UPVP; all reports have been of one or 2 birds. This trend continued during the spring season, but a group of 4 birds soaring and calling over UPVP 5/25 was quite a surprise (KC, MS). Even more surprising was a pair of birds at NFP 4/26+ (KC, RW, m.ob.). This may represent the eastern-most sighting in *Montgomery* to date.

Purple Martins were at UPVP on several dates in mid-May (KC), and a **Bank Swallow** at Walt Rd. 5/11 provided our only report (GAF). **Winter Wrens** lingered at NFP until 4/7 and at ENT until 4/9 (WBH). **Veery** reports came from ESP 5/8 (JG) and 5/13 (WBH), and ENT 5/25 (WBH). **Hermit Thrush** lingered at Prophecy Creek until 4/25 (BH), and in ENT until the same date (WBH). **Swainson's Thrush** was reported from ENT 5/11 and 2 birds 5/12 (WBH). **Brown Thrashers** were tallied at GLR (GAF), and NFP (BH, WBH).

Warbler variety was excellent with 28 species recorded for the period. Overall numbers, however, were largely dismal again. The best finds from ENT were **Nashville Warbler** 5/10-11, **Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Worm-eating, and Northern Waterthrush** 5/15 (WBH). ESP's best were **Nashville** 5/8, **Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Blackburnian** 5/5 (WBH) and 5/8, **Bay-breasted and Canada** (all JG 5/8, except as noted). HC hosted **Black-throated Blue** and **Cerulean** 4/25, **Northern Waterthrush** 4/30 and **Wilson's Warbler** 5/7 (SJ). GLR held a **Pine Warbler** 4/9 (WS, KC, L&JH), and **Northern Waterthrush** 5/11 (GAF). Best warblers in UCV were **Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Worm-eating** (GAF). UFT held **Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Northern Waterthrush, Wilson's Warbler, and Canada Warbler** 5/10 and 5/12 (RG). Lastly, UPVP had **Worm-eating Warbler** (GAF) and **Yellow-throated Warbler** 4/11 and 5/10 (RG).

A season-high 4 **Savannah Sparrows** were at NFP 3/30 (WBH), 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were there 5/16 (WBH), and another **Grasshopper** was in Limerick Twp. 5/22 (JG). A high of 3 **Fox Sparrows** were at HC 3/13, and the last one for the season was found 4/20 (SJ). One was at NFP until 4/13 (WBH). Our only **Lincoln's Sparrow** report came from ESP 5/8 (JG). **Swamp Sparrows** were at ENT until 4/23, and NFP until 5/12 (WBH). Late **White-crowned Sparrows** were at HC 5/9 (SJ), and NFP 5/19 (BH). Others were in Pennsylvania until late April (GAF).

An impressive 15+ male **Bobolinks** were displaying in a Gilbertsville field in late May (BA), and 2 were in NFP 4/29 (WBH). Four **Rusty Blackbirds** at NFP 4/11 marked our lone report (WBH). Finally, a **Purple Finch** was seen in ENT 4/21 (WBH), and a season high of 6 were tallied in UFT 4/24 (RG).

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Montour County

No compiler.

Northampton County

Locations: Christain Spring Rd. (CSR), East Bangor Dam (EBD), Echo Lake (EL), Green Pond (GP), Jacobsburg State Park (JSP), Koch Farm (KF), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Minsi Lake (ML).

As March began, practically every body of water was frozen including the quarries, indicating just how cold of a winter we had. Fortunately warm air and longer days cleared the ice quickly for migrating waterfowl in March. There was even a small fallout in mid Mar at ML. Plenty of spring rain flooded farm fields creating habitat for dabblers and shorebirds. GP became a bird magnet as is discussed below. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** in large numbers began using GP as a resting area close to the landfill as they did several years ago. The PAMC 5/14 went well in spite of the fog, mist, and light rain. There were a number of rarities this period including **Harlequin Duck, Glossy Ibis, Snowy and Cattle Egret, Anhinga, and Red-necked Phalarope**.

Four **Tundra Swans** were at GP 3/8 (MS). The GP location is a depressed area of farm field along Green Pond Rd. that floods easily and can remain flooded for most of the year. Across the street is a small pond. A farm pond on Rte. 611 and Del Haven Rd. hosted 4 **Tundra**

Swans 3/11-12 (MSa). An **American Black Duck** and a female **Northern Pintail** spent the entire period at GP (DD). The female pintail may be the bird responsible for hybrid pintail-mallards seen at this location in recent years. **Blue-winged Teal** were found at EBD 3/22 (AS). CSR near Nazareth hosted **Blue-winged Teal** 4/6-21 (high of 6 on 4/21, DD) and a **Blue-winged Teal** was at EL 4/5 (AS). **Northern Shovelers** were observed at EL 3/13 (MSa), MCEP 3/12 (MSa), and GP 4/10-12 (DA, MS). A **Canvasback** at ML 3/11 (MSa) may have moved to nearby EL 3/12-13 (MSa). A late male **Canvasback** was at Albert Rd. pond 5/12-16 (KS). The waterfowl fallout occurred 4/10 when 150 **Northern Pintails** and 73 **American Wigeon** were on ML (MSa) and on 4/11 when 100 **Common Mergansers** were on ML (MSa). The Albert Rd. ponds are an annual staging area for **Ring-necked Ducks**; on 3/10 over 400 were counted (RW). Both Scaup sp were observed at EL and ML in Mar with a high of 18 **Lesser Scaup** at ML 3/22 (AS). The male **Harlequin Duck** reported in the winter summary was relocated on the Delaware R. by the Martins Creek power plant 3/5 (RK). Two **Black Scoters** stopped at ML 5/23-24 (KS, SK, MS). An unexpected find at GP on 3/14 was a **Long-tailed Duck** (EV). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found at ML 3/15 (AS).

The first report of **Common Loon** was 4/5 at ML (AS). A fog covered ridge kept migrating loons low on 4/19 and during an hour of observation 5 groups of **Common Loons** totaling 45 flew over ML (MS). Among the migrating **Common Loons** were 2 **Red-throated Loons**. There were also 32 **Common Loons** on the lake. Three **Horned Grebes** were at ML 3/22 (AS).

When seeking rare birds, luck always helps. Three birders on different days saw an **Anhinga** flying in the county this period! The first was a flyby on 5/2 at Rte. 33 and Freemansburg Ave. (DA). Several **Anhingas** in formation flew over the KF before heading east into NJ 5/3 (AK). Lastly, in Northampton an **Anhinga** flew over the Lehigh R. into the county 5/8 (ML). Someday I will find myself in the right location and see an **Anhinga** in Pennsylvania! An **American Bittern** was reported at ML 4/23 (AS). A **Great Egret** was sporadically seen at GP 4/25-5/26 (m.ob.). Much less common was a **Snowy Egret** at GP 5/19 (DW) and a breeding plumage **Cattle Egret** at GP 5/31 (DD). On 4/20, 2 adult **Glossy Ibis** spent a few hours at the CSR pond (MS). On 4/26, an adult **Glossy Ibis** was found at GP (DD). The wetland at GP, host to so many great birds, was almost to construction. Though the area does dry up during dry summers, conditions this spring were good. Many rare and uncommon migrants are found here each year and this spring was special.

Somewhat of an oddity was a leucistic **Turkey Vulture** photographed in Moore Twp 5/12 (DW). The first **Osprey** was seen 3/11 at the KF (AK) and the first **Broad-winged Hawk** was from Smith Gap 4/25 (DD). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was a surprise on National Park Dr and a **Peregrine Falcon** was at MCEP, both 5/14 during the PAMC (MS, CCS). Another **Peregrine Falcon** was seen flying at Rte. 33 and Freemansburg Ave. 3/26 (DD). School Rd. near Bangor HS hosted a **Virginia Rail** 5/11-14 (MS, CCS).

Shorebird variety was good but numbers were not especially high considering the amount of habitat. GP was the primary location that received good coverage. Typical shorebirds seen at GP were **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary** and **Spotted Sandpipers**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Killdeer**, **Semipalmated Plover**, and a few **Semipalmated Sandpipers**. **Black-bellied Plovers** (high of 2) were seen at GP 5/21-31 (DD, m.ob.). There was a high of 10 **Semipalmated Plovers** at GP 5/21 (MS). One **Short-billed Dowitcher** was present 5/11 (MS, MSa) and 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were observed 5/23 (DW, MSa). Another exciting GP find were 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 5/27-31 (MS, CCS). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were a difficult find this spring with 2 at GP 4/31 (DD). **Dunlin** are seen most years and birds at GP were seen 4/20-21 and 5/25-27 with a high of 9 on 4/20 (DD). Two **American Woodcock** were observed at Bear Swamp 4/4 (MS, CCS). Phalaropes are always a big attraction, and a lingering bird usually draws a crowd. A female **Red-necked Phalarope** with bright breeding colors lingered at GP 5/16-19, allowing a fair number of birders to see it (DD, m.ob.). There was also a male **Red-necked Phalarope** at Gremar Rd. 5/18 (MS, CCS).

In March, **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** gather at GP after feeding at the landfill. During the last few years, the big numbers did not appear, however. That changed this year. High numbers were as follows: 43 on 3/12 (MSa), 227 on 3/14 (MS), 100+ on 3/15 (DW), 155 on 3/16 (MS), and 257 on 3/19 (DD). Nearby at Rte. 33 and Freemansburg Ave, 114 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were counted 4/6 (MS). **Iceland Gull** could also be found among the resting gull flock 3/14-20 (m.ob.). A high of 4

Iceland Gulls (county record) were present 3/19 (DD). Outside of Mar, there was an **Iceland Gull** at GP 4/19 (MS). The only tern reported was an adult **Black Tern** at EL 5/18 (MSa).

Based on listserv reports and my own field data, cuckoos were scarce this spring. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at JSP 5/12 (RW) and a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was in Moore Twp 5/14 (MS, CCS). A **Barred Owl** was seen at Bear Swamp 5/2 (RW) and another was heard at EBD 5/11 (MS, CCS). An injured **Long-eared Owl** was discovered at the KF 3/27 (AK, DD). It was taken to the Pocono Wildlife Rehab Center. Six **Common Nighthawks** flew over EBD 5/11 (MS, CCS). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited a feeder in Plainfield Twp 5/12-18 (KS). An **Alder Flycatcher**, likely a migrant, was heard along National Park Dr. 5/9 (MS). The first **Willow** and **Acadian Flycatchers** (Bear Swamp) appeared on PAMC day (MS, CCS). There was a **Common Raven** at Smith Gap 4/25 (DD). **Swainson's Thrush** was seen at Bear Swamp 5/2 (RW) and at JSP 5/15 (MSa).

On PAMC day, 8 birders located 126 species and 4599 individual birds. Besides the birds already mentioned, 19 species of warblers were seen including 12 **Blackpoll Warblers**, 2 **Yellow-throated Warblers**, 63 **Ovenbirds**, **Hooded Warbler**, and 2 **Canada Warblers**. Heavy fog on the ridge with mist and light rain impacted the day. **Cerulean Warbler** was missed, despite recent reports on National Park Dr. Other highlights included 7 **Snow Geese** and 131 **Ring-billed Gulls** at Martins Creek Quarry, 4 **Purple Martins** (E. Allen Twp), 17 **Bank Swallows** (most at EL), **Common Raven**, 18 **Carolina Wrens**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, 36 **Warbling Vireos**, 2 **American Pipits** (Graver's Hill), 7 **Vesper Sparrows**, 15 **Bobolinks**, and 3 **Eastern Meadowlarks**.

Just outside of Bath in E. Allen Twp there were 30 **American Pipits** and 3 **Lapland Longspurs** 3/24 (DW). On 5/15, 19 **American Pipits** were at Graver's Hill (DD, local Audubon field trip). It was a good warbler day at JSP 4/29 with **Chestnut-sided**, **Blue-winged**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Black-throated Green**, **American Redstart**, **Yellow**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Black-and-white**, **Common Yellowthroat**, and **Louisiana Waterthrush** (KS). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was discovered 5/12 in Upper Mt Bethel Twp (MSa). The first report of **Yellow-throated Warbler** was 4/17 at the Bethlehem Boat Club (DD). An early **Bay-breasted Warbler** was found at ML 4/30 (LS). There were 3 **Bay-breasted Warblers** and a **Nashville Warbler** on Institute Dr. 5/12 (MSa). Always difficult to find, there was a **Cape May Warbler** in Bethlehem Twp 5/8 (ASm). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was photographed at the small patch of trees between the flooded field and the road at GP 5/12 (DA).

Both **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrow** were seen during the PAMC at the KF and continued until 5/24 (AK). The first **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at JSP 5/9 (RW), and the first **Fox Sparrow** was at the KF 3/4 (AK). Another **Lincoln's Sparrow** was on National Park Dr. 5/11 (MS). The KF hosted a male **Blue Grosbeak** 5/22-24 (AK). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at EL 4/2 (AS) and 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** were in Bath 4/24 (DW). One **Pine Siskin** showed up in an apple tree in Bath 4/28 (DW).

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Northumberland County

No compiler.

Perry County

Locations: Laurel Run Rd (LRR), Little Buffalo State Park (LBSP), Miller's Gap (MG), SGL 170 (SGL170). All sightings are by the compiler, unless marked otherwise.

A cold, wet April provided good weather for finding waterfowl. The most notable find was three **Surf Scoters** 4/10 at LBSP (JW). A **Ruddy Duck** at the same location 3/27 (JW) was also a good sighting for **Perry Hooded Mergansers** continue to be successful breeders in the county. A female with 11 young was found on Sherman's Creek near Dellville 5/14, and a lone female was also on the creek along Warm Springs Road the same day. A pair of **Common Mergansers** was also present

at Warms Springs, a probable breeding site. **American Bitterns** often turn up in unusual places during migration and the one found on 4/29 at SGL 170 was certainly unexpected.

A somewhat late **Rough-legged Hawk** was found 3/5 on Ridge Road (KC) however the one seen 4/10 on nearby Rte. 17 was a very tardy migrant (JW). A **Black-headed Gull** was seen sitting at the boat launch at Marysville 3/23 (LC). This species has been a regular visitor on the river at this location, but to my knowledge this is the first time one has actually crossed into *Perry!*

There were a few nice finds for the PAMC 5/14. An **Alder Flycatcher** at LBSP, as well as a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and a **Mourning Warbler** at MG, were particularly notable. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at SGL 170 was also a very nice sighting 5/14. A singing **Gray-cheeked Thrush** found on a BBS route 5/28 on Laurel Run Road was a fun surprise. Hard to find anytime in Pennsylvania, a singing **Orange-crowned Warbler** at MG 5/6 was the highlight of a nice assortment of migrants, which included 18 warbler species.

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Philadelphia County

Locations: Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware River (DR), Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Fairmount Park (FP), Glen Foerd Mansion (GF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum (TI), Morris Arboretum (MA), Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant (NEWPCP), PA Migration Count 5/14 (PAMC), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

There was consensus that following the late-winter migration of field birds, our spring season began and ended at least a week early. The arrival of neo-tropical migrants was strong, with good diversity prior to mid-April, but it dwindled to a trickle by mid-May. The end of May saw more than a week of rain followed by extreme heat, but there were enough birders working on their year lists and competing in the DVOC "Billing's Challenge" to support this observation.

The PAMC 5/14 tallied 120 species, five species more than last year and with far fewer participants. It was a slow day. I birded wooded areas in Fairmount Park for 2.5 hours before encountering a migrant. Of 19 species of warbler recorded, only a **Prothonotary Warbler** at TI (m.ob.) was exceptional. On the SR a lingering **Lesser Scaup** was found (LA, et al.).

One relatively tiny city park, POD at Rhawn St. and the Delaware River, has produced 210 species for this report thanks to FW's effort. Philly birders should seriously consider adding this site, with its fields, shrubs, and tidal flats, to their regular birding haunts. Frank has proved that birds using the DR to move north-south find POD to be an excellent place to stop and rest.

I don't remember a calendar year when Philly recorded 10 **Common Loon** and that's a generous estimate, so an amazing record was set on 4/13 when FW saw 55 **Common Loon**, mostly in alternate plumage, streaming northward on the DR past an additional 200 **Common Loon** sitting in two flocks across from GF (possibly on the New Jersey side). An equally impressive group that day was 13 **Red-breasted Merganser** just north of the loons. The weather system which brought these waterfowl to us also swept away our **Great Cormorants**, which were not reported thereafter.

The lamentation of 20 **Mute Swan** wintering at TI made us dread the possibility of their nesting at the refuge. I don't understand why they haven't. Sixteen swans lingered until 5/11 (SK) and then departed, to everyone's delight. At TI and FDR, small groups of up to 50 **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail** and **Green-winged Teal**, **Mallard** and **Ring-necked Duck** could be found. **Blue-winged Teal** arrived 4/10 and two pair stayed at TI until 4/24 (UA). Several **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup** were on the DR and at TI through 4/24. Three **Surf Scoter** were a fine sighting on the DR from both GF and POD 4/13 (FW). Three **Common Goldeneye** at TI, rather than as usual on the DR, were a good find 3/18 (NC). One **Common Merganser** lingered until 5/14 (FW). Along with the long-staying **Pied-billed Grebe** (5/20), 8 **Horned Grebe** were at TI 3/13 (DM).

Least Bittern have been reported sporadically at TI through Aug. suggesting that at least one pair is nesting. Reports of raptors were few and unremarkable except, of course, for the successful **Bald Eagle** and **Peregrine Falcon** nests. A **Ring-necked Pheasant** at TI made its way onto the PAMC list for the first time in years. Also at TI, **Wild Turkey** hens appeared to be on nests again, since only Jakes and Toms were visible and noisy. A **Virginia Rail** at POD was part of that amazing 4/13 flight of water birds (FW), and a **Sora** at TI posed for photos 4/21 (FW).

Eleven species of shorebird comprised the few and sporadic reports of this group. Most reports were from POD, since the impoundment at TI was not managed this season. Notable was a **Solitary Sandpiper** at the "new" wetlands at MA 4/20 (KJ), a good report for this increasingly birdy location. **Solitary Sandpiper** stopped briefly at TI and POD 5/5-11 (FW), and FW also found them in two unlikely places, a pond near BRSP and in a meadow along the Pennypack Creek. A **Dunlin** 5/14 and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** 5/18 were good birds at POD (ph. FW). Up to 20 **Wilson's Snipe** were reported at TI 3/8-5/14. **American Woodcock** were scarce with only one report of 10 dancing at TI on 3/11 (PR). Woodcock were mostly reported from the Redevelopment Authority fields called the Eastwick Property abutting the refuge.

Also on 4/13, a basic-plumaged **Bonaparte's Gull** was on the ball fields at POD (FW). Just two days later 100 Herring Gull were at TI (FW). In addition to our "long-staying" **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (affectionately known as Shrimpy), a second individual in second cycle plumage was at POD 4/23 (FW).

In northwest Philly at MA, a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was an excellent find 4/29 (KJ), and two were nearby at Houston Meadow 5/25 (FW). No nesting behavior was observed. The elusive Mt Airy **Barred Owl** which hasn't been reported recently was heard hooting in the predawn hours near CW 5/27 (*fide* KR). A **Long-eared Owl** was at TI 3/12-17 (NC, CH). Our **Northern Saw-whet Owl** departed from TI on or after 3/20. Sports fans at evening games were treated to **Common Nighthawk** flights over the stadium lights through June. A male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at her Center City feeder was a surprise to SB 4/22, and was again when his mate arrived 4/24. Twelve **Bank Swallow** were "diving in holes" in the earthen banks near GF 4/30, but only two were seen 5/14 (FW). Conjecture is that they nest in New Jersey and occasionally feed on our side of the DR. Any information about this species nesting in Philly would be appreciated.

We tallied 29 warbler species with 20 recorded on or before 4/24. Among them were **Cape May Warbler** 4/27 and **Cerulean Warbler** 4/24-26 (m. ob.) at TI. In addition to a window-killed specimen in Center City (KR), **Yellow-throated Warbler** was first seen at TI 4/6 (DB) and lastly at Valley Green in the WC 4/24 (JG). At Hermit Lane, **Pine Warbler** nested again. **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at TI 4/27, and at Houston Meadow a chat was seen 5/12-25; by 6/4 there were three birds including two males (FW, KR).

In the fields of POD, 18 **Savannah Sparrow** fed 4/23 (FW). A singing **White-throated Sparrow** got DR's attention at BRSP 6/9. **White-crowned Sparrow** were found in the Woodland Cemetery in West Philly 5/7-10 (AZ) and at POD 3/16-30 (FW).

Rusty Blackbird were last reported 4/24 at TI. A **Blue Grosbeak** was in Harper's Meadow 5/14 (KG, et al.) and at Houston Meadow 6/5 (KR, FW). On 5/2, several **Bobolink** arrived at Spring Lane in the Manatawna Farm fields and exhibited breeding behavior for a month. In spite of our hope for nesting, the birds did not persist (CHetzel, KR, FW, DM). The area has 13 acres of native meadow/shrubland, 45 acres of actively managed hayfields, and 5 acres of organic community gardens. Last year, six acres of old field were restored to a native meadow with a mix of warm season grasses and forbs.

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Pike County
No compiler.

Potter County

No report.

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Schuylkill County

Locations: Landingville Dam (LVD), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL).

It seemed that spring would never come to *Schuylkill* this season. Winter weather lingered, and generally miserable conditions persisted through much of the reporting season, right up through the (PAMC) on 5/14. Poor conditions during the count produced the lowest numbers in a decade.

Waterfowl reports were generally low. No **American Black Ducks** were reported, though were likely out there somewhere. Even the usually omnipresent **Ring-necked Ducks** were hard to come by. **Blue-winged Teal** were at SAL 3/30 (DD), and at LVD 4/11 (TC). A lone **Redhead** was seen through the mist at LVD 4/9 (MW). The rarely seen **White-winged Scoters** were at Still Creek 4/9, as well as at SAL during the PAMC (DD).

Both **Horned Grebe** and **Red-necked Grebe** were found at Still Creek 4/9. A **Glossy Ibis**, a very rare find for our county, was at SAL 4/19 (DD). The lone report of an **American Bittern** came from LVD 4/11 (BJ). **Great Egret** were at SAL 4/19 and 4/27 (DD). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** made a rare county appearance at SAL during the PAMC (DD).

Bald Eagles and **Osprey** were reported from many locations throughout the period, though there is still no confirmed nesting for either species. A **Golden Eagle** was seen flying over SGL 110 on 3/17 (KG), and a **Merlin** was at that same location 4/10 (KG). Disturbingly, very few reports of **Broad-wing Hawk** were received, and *none* were reported during the PAMC.

American Coots have become a rare sight for us in recent years, but LVD produced reports 3/27 (SS, DS), and 4/11 (TC). The only peep sandpiper found was a single **Semipalmated Sandpiper** outside of Ringtown during the PAMC (MW). Sandpipers in general have become harder to find, especially since the complete draining down of a spill basin at Landingville. The only **Wilson's Snipe** was at SGL 286 on 4/27 (BJ).

Eastern Whip-poor-wills returned to their usual haunts in early May, though **Common Nighthawks** are becoming harder to come by.

Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found during the PAMC (DB, JD, JoD, JL), and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen and heard 5/13. A rare spring sighting was a **Philadelphia Vireo** in a mixed flock above Ringtown during the PAMC. During the few warm spells warblers migrated through the county, though overall, numbers were low. Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat were not reported. Unusual was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** found at SGL 106 on 5/1 (DK, et al.). A **Cape May Warbler** was reported from the northern parts of the county, among a mixed flock of migrating warblers 5/6 (MW). A report of a **Wilson's Warbler** was made 5/13. **Vesper**, **Grasshopper**, and **Savannah Sparrows** were found in their usual locations, but the only **Lincoln's Sparrow** was 5/13. The **Common Redpolls** reported from the Forest Hills area of Pottsville last season persisted until 3/11 (DK, NK).

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Snyder County

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

At the gradually thawing FL, nearly 200 **Tundra Swans** were counted 3/6 and about 225 on 3/13 (JW). Three **Trumpeter Swans** and one **Mute Swan** were observed at FL 3/18 (AT, et al.). The heavy rains and high water level on the Susquehanna River turned the Isle of Q,

near SEL, into wetlands leading to a "waterfowl bonanza" 3/12-13. More than 400 **Tundra Swans**, about 90 **Snow Geese**, nearly 1000 **Northern Pintails**, 100 **American Wigeons**, 200 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 45 **Wood Ducks**, 50 **Green-winged Teal**, 5 **Blue-winged Teal**, and 11 **Redheads** were among the waterfowl present (JW). At FL on 1/16 were two **Gadwall**, three **American Wigeon**, three **Northern Pintail**, six **Lesser Scaup**, five **Bufflehead**, a dozen **Hooded** and nearly two dozen **Common Mergansers** and both **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebe** (CK, AT, HP). A nice variety of waterfowl was also observed at FL 4/10 including both **Green** and **Blue-winged Teal**, **American Wigeon**, **Redhead**, **Bufflehead**, **Common** and **Hooded Merganser**, **Common Loon**, and **Pied-billed Grebe** (D&GG). A single **Ring-necked Duck** was found at FL 5/22 (JW) and again 5/24 (P&RW).

Two **Horned Grebes**, the first of the season, were among the species present at FL 3/13 (JW) and nine were counted there 3/28 (LW). A **Common Loon** was observed on the Susquehanna River (*Northumberland*) from the Isle of Q 4/5 (JW), and a **Red-throated Loon** was observed at FL 4/26 (P&RW). **Double-crested Cormorants** have become common spring and summer visitors to both WL and FL but an impressive count of 85 **Double-crested Cormorants** was reported at FL 4/10 (D&GG). One of the more unusual species reported this season was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** observed at FL 4/10 (D&GG) and again 4/26 (P&RW).

A **Northern Harrier** was noted at FL 3/13 (JW). There were a few **Bald Eagle** reports from both the SEL and Susquehanna River area, as well as from FL and WL (m.ob.). The highlight, however, was the confirmation of an active **Bald Eagle** nest along Ridge Rd. southwest of FL. This nest had been first reported by local residents. By the end of the quarter it was occupied by two nestlings (P&RW, et al.). The first **Osprey** of the season was observed at FL 4/10 (D&GG). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were still present 3/16 at FL (CK, AT, HP) and one was observed 3/18 (AT, et al.) On a drive around FL 3/6 eleven **American Kestrels** were counted (JW); this reinforces the high Kestrel count from the Winter Raptor Survey conducted in that part of the county.

An **American Woodcock** was reported near Middleburg 3/27 (WW). Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were observed at FL 3/16 (CK, et al.) and 15 were noted at this location 4/10 (D&GG). One was present at FL 4/26 (P&RW). As many as 1000 **Ring-billed Gulls** were noted in the wet fields in and around SEL during the first two week of March (JW).

A **Least Flycatcher** was one of the species reported along Kettle Rd. on Jack's Mt. 5/22 (JW). More than 60 **American Pipits** were observed near the Selingsgrove airport 3/23 (JW) and about 35 were noted 4/3 at this location along with about a dozen **Horned Larks** (JW). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** paid a visit to a yard birdbath 4/12 (JW). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was among the species observed 4/10 at FL (D&GG), one was reported near Middleburg 4/21 (JW, WW) and another near SEL 5/6 (JW).

A **Pine Warbler** was frequenting feeders near Middleburg 3/27 (WW). A walk along Middle Creek trail at FL yielded, among other species, a **Yellow-throated Vireo** and two **Cape May Warblers** 4/26 (P&RW). Two **Cape Mays**, a **Nashville**, two **Northern Parula**, one **Magnolia**, eight **Yellow-rumped**, and two **Blackburnian Warblers** were among the species of warblers reported from near SEL 5/7 (JW). A walk along Kettle Rd. atop Jack's Mt. 5/22 included two **Chestnut-sided**, a **Magnolia**, two **Worm-eating**, and a **Canada Warbler** among the species reported (JW).

One **Fox Sparrow** paid a visit to yard near Selingsgrove 3/23 and again 4/10 (JW) and a **White-crowned Sparrow** was reported at FL 4/10 (D&GG).

Along Creek Road near the Selingsgrove airport two **Rusty Blackbirds** were found with a flock of **Common Grackles**, **European Starlings** and **Red-winged Blackbirds** 3/9 (JW).

Two **Purple Finches** were visiting feeders near SEL 4/10, four on 4/21, seven on 5/1, and six 5/3 (JW). At least four **Pine Siskins** were visiting feeders near Middleburg 4/21-22 (JW, WW). A single **Pine Siskin** was at a SEL feeder 4/27 and two on 5/1 and 5/3 and one 5/9 (JW).

Observers: Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com, Deb & Greg Grove, Chad Kauffman, Henry Petersheim, Aden Troyer, Don Ulrich, Jason Weller, Wayne Weller, Linda Whitesel, Patricia Williams.

Somerset County

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

After a cold winter with significant snowfall, the county enjoyed a relatively early thaw and a better waterfowl migration than seen in recent years. Most of the spring period was very wet with rainfall amount and frequency above average which seemed to slightly delay the return of some nesting passerines. The bird of the season was the second record of Willet for the county, with a returning Sandhill Crane pair and Ross's Goose being close seconds.

Single **Snow Geese** were present in BA in early March (CP) and a late bird was at SL 4/26 (JP, CL). A **Ross's Goose** was reported from SL 3/12 (CT) but could not be relocated later. **Tundra Swans** touched down several times throughout county but highest number seen was 112 on 3/15 at SL. There was a decent fallout 3/13 at SL with over 1700 birds present. Some high numbers that day were 21 **Northern Pintail**, 20 **Canvasback**, 146 **Redhead**, 220 **Ring-necked Duck**, 975 combined **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup**, 7 **Long-tailed Duck**, 30 **Hooded Merganser**, and 106 **Red-breasted Mergansers** (CP, JP, CL, JM, MM). Other high counts include 45 **American Wigeon** at BC 3/13, 30 **Green-winged Teal** in BA 3/13, and 6 **Common Goldeneye** at SL 3/4.

A nice group of 45 **Common Loons** were at SL 4/2 (CP, JP). **Horned Grebes** topped out at 40 at SL 3/29 but **Pied-billed Grebes** never accumulated above about 10. It was a good year for migrant **Great Egrets** with up to 3 at SL starting 4/2 and 2 still present at the late date of 6/2 (CL, MM, JM, JP) and a bird was also in SMA 4/6 (EB). There were 7 **Great Blue Heron** at SL 4/2 and they are apparently nesting in a couple places in the county including a new rookery near Stoystown (DS). A **Green Heron** put in its first appearance 4/29 at SL. The first returning **Turkey Vulture** was near Somerset 2/27 (MM) and the only **Black Vulture** report was in SMA 4/15 (EB). There are rumors of **Black Vultures** killing newborn lambs in the county and the Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services is out to get them. Speaking of scavengers, there were at least 4 different **Bald Eagles**, 2 adult and 2 immature, eating the dead gizzard shad as the ice thawed in early March at SL. WCO Travis Anderson reported a wintering mature **Bald Eagle** at QR. On 3/3 while watching an adult **Bald Eagle** at SL, a late soaring **Rough-legged Hawk** passed by followed by a **Sandhill Crane** heading to the north (JP, DJ)! The BC pair of **Sandhill Cranes** returned for the third year 4/14. A **Merlin** flew by the main shopping area of Somerset 4/14 (AP, JP).

A **Virginia Rail** first started calling at BC 4/24 (JP) and seemed to stay, hopefully to breed. Shorebirds were not numerous but put on a better showing than some years. **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at BC 4/10 and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** was in SMA 4/13 (EB). A nice accumulation of 12 **Solitary Sandpipers** were at BC 4/28 (CL, JP). An apparent western subspecies **Willet** was at the partially drawn down Camp Soles Lake 5/8 (JM, MM, CP, JP) and made a nice find for a Big Day run. One lonely **Pectoral Sandpiper** was in BA 5/8 (CP, JP). EB found 29 **Wilson's Snipe** in SMA 4/3 and an impressive 112 were in a wet pasture in BA 4/12 (CP, JP).

Bonaparte's Gulls were not in as high a numbers as some years, with 40 on 4/1 the maximum at SL (JP). **Ring-billed Gulls** maxed at about 400 on 3/4 during the thaw when dead gizzard shad are available.

Both cuckoos were detected in June when they started calling. Interesting was a **Short-eared Owl** circling with a **Red-tailed Hawk** mid afternoon 4/2 (CP, JP). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were not heard until July in the Glencoe area. A past favored spot on Allegheny Mountain had no birds on several trips. The only things that could be heard were the rather noisy wind turbines—coincidence?

All of the expected **flycatchers** except Alder and all **vireos** except White-eyed were found in expected places and at expected times. The only **Purple Martin** was a single female 4/21 in SMA (EB) despite a new house that was erected at SL. **Carolina Wrens** are at a low point with a few birds in lower elevation areas.

There were 25 warbler species found in *Somerset* this season. Notable were **Yellow-throated Warblers** at Confluence 5/8 (MM, JM, CP, JP) for the first time in several years. Also **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at PP 6/4 were possible breeders; they were not found in county during past atlas period. **Rusty Blackbird** was first found in SMA 3/12 (EB) and 50 were in BA 4/1 (CP, JP). **Pine Siskins** were at

feeders in SMA 5/6 and at PP 5/3 until at least 6/6.

Observers: **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Elmer J. Brenneman, Dan Jenkins, Carolyn LaBute, Anthony Marich, Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Chris Payne, Alan Peterson, Dan Seibert, Clayton Tressler.

Sullivan County

Locations: Dutch Mtn, SGL 66, Cherry Township, Colley Township, Loyalsock State Forest, Briskey Mtn, High Knob Overlook, Splashdam Pond, Ricketts Glen State Park

As in years past, almost all of the reports used to create this narrative come from nonresidents 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. This is in keeping with what years past. All Easter and PAMC observations are by RM. All other observations as noted.

Easter weekend fell this year 4/23-24. It started cold and breezy, eventually warming with periods of rain both Saturday and Sunday. The 75 species seen was a good number. Waterfowl numbers and diversity were good. Returning breeders included a large count of **Canada Geese** (45), eight **Mallard** and **Wood Duck**, six **Hooded Mergansers** & 10 **Common Mergansers**. Single **American Black Duck** and **Pied-billed Grebes** could be breeders or migrants. Migrants included four **Ring-necked Ducks** which is a low spring count for this species. Conversely, 22 **Bufflehead** may be the highest count I have had in the county in such a short period. Four **Common Loons** were a nice find; however the best bird of the weekend was a pair of **Red-breasted Mergansers** at a beaver pond along route 487 near Lopez. They were a county record for this observer but not a county record overall.

Ten **Ruffed Grouse**, 14 **Wild Turkey** and 7 **Great Blue Heron** were nice numbers. A lone **Green Heron** was seen in a small marsh near Dushore. The same species was seen in the same marsh on several other weekends in May. A good diversity of raptors was also found although in smaller counts than waterfowl, as follows: 2 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, one **Cooper's Hawk**, 3 **Osprey**, 13 **Turkey Vultures**, 8 **American Kestrels**, and 5 **Northern Harriers** in multiple locations. Splashdam Pond was the best location for raptors with several species observed including **Bald Eagle**. Two adult **Sandhill Cranes** were found near Dushore, marking the eleventh consecutive year this species has been found in *Sullivan*. Three **Killdeer** and 3 **American Woodcock** were found.

A single **Belted Kingfisher** and singles of **Hairy** and **Pileated Woodpecker** were observed along with three **Downy Woodpeckers**. More abundant were the 10 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** and 12 **Northern Flickers**.

The passerine group was represented in small numbers of the following returning breeders: 3 **Eastern Phoebe**, 3 **Blue-headed Vireo**, a lone **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, two **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, **Brown Thrasher**, 3 **Eastern Towhee**, and 3 **Eastern Meadowlark**. More abundant breeders included 6 **Brown Creeper**, 8 **Hermit Thrush**, 9 **Brown-headed Cowbird**, and 5 **Purple Finch**. Other than the 10 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, warblers were hard to come by. The only flock was at Splashdam Pond which included **Black-throated Green** and **Blackburnian Warbler** among **Yellow-rumped**. A single **Ovenbird** flushed on my property on Dutch Mountain. A single **Common Yellowthroat** was observed. Sparrows were far more numerous with 5 **Chipping**, 8 **Field**, 8 **Song**, 6 **Swamp**, 10 **White-throated**, and 20 **Dark-eyed Juncos**. Twenty-five **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackle** were scattered throughout multiple locations. I also located 20 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and a single **Palm Warbler**.

I was forwarded an interesting story right around the Easter timeframe (R&PP *vide* WE). An **Osprey** was flying over carrying a good sized Palomino Trout. The bird saw Roy, the fish flopped, the **Osprey** lost its grip, and down the fish dropped. Roy attempted to revive the fish in the pond but was unsuccessful. I don't believe he dined on trout that evening instead of the Osprey. Thanks to WE for forwarding a great story. R&PP also photographed **Mallard**, **Purple Finch**, **American Goldfinch**, and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** on their property.

Overcast skies and scattered showers did not manage to put a damper on the PAMC 5/14. The species count was a respectable 84

with some very good individual numbers. An additional four species were located on Sunday. Coverage was primarily in the eastern portion of the county and included Dutch and Briskey Mountains as well as a portion of Cherry Township. The species count included only two true transient migrants, both of which were waterfowl.

I located a single **Common Loon** in breeding plumage at Martin's Dam. I hiked into Shady Nook Lake which on maps is marked Shuman's Lake. Sitting on the water not too far from the shoreline was a pair of ducks. I was certain that this was a pair of **White-winger Scoters**, but I needed a closer look. The only available method to make that happen was crossing the beaver dam to get on to the spit of land that juts into the lake and obscures the northeast corner. This would cut the distance to the birds in half. Thankfully, beavers are fantastic engineers. The dam is very sturdy and easy to cross. I was afforded wonderful looks at the scoters. The male was in nice breeding plumage and both birds showed the white secondaries frequently. This was another county first for me although I doubt a county record.

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** of unknown origin appeared in an agricultural area near Dushore. A **Green Heron** was in the same nearby marsh area where one was observed at Easter. Two adult **Sandhill Cranes** were seen in a large grassy field in Cherry Township. This was a different location than past years and is several miles from the traditional spot. The hope is that this is a different pair. The next time I checked the location the vegetation had turned brown. I have since found cranes in a corn field about a half mile down the same road on multiple locations. I have not seen cranes in this or the traditional location on the same day but I do believe these are separate pairs.

Shorebirds were very few this year. Other than **American Woodcock**, **Killdeer** was the only species recorded. I heard a very strange sound standing near a marsh in Cherry Township. I searched low among the thick vegetation fully expecting to find a wader when a **Black-billed Cuckoo** flew across the road and perched briefly. Night birding netted both a single **Northern Saw-whet Owl** and single **Eastern Whip-poor-will**. Downtown Dushore is the most reliable place to find **Chimney Swift** and there were three present on count day. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** visited my recently hung feeder. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and **Northern Flicker** were the only woodpeckers seen on the count.

Only three flycatchers were new for the year: **Least Flycatcher**, **Willow Flycatcher**, and **Eastern Kingbird**. Ten **Red-eyed Vireos** far outnumbered the lone **Blue-headed Vireo** which seemed to be a very low number for such an early returning species. Twenty-seven **Barn Swallows**, 13 **Tree Swallows**, and 3 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were found. **Red** and **White-breasted Nuthatches**, **House Wren**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were represented by single individuals. Although I have no data to support the theory it seems that thrushes in general this year are not singing as frequently as they have in past years. The count produced two **Veery** that were not singing. One **Wood Thrush** was singing in the Dutch Mountain area where they are less common at the higher elevation. Only one bird was found on the trip down Briskey Mountain where they are rather numerous at times. More of the 17 **Hermit Thrush** counted were seen than heard.

Warblers were fairly well represented and in good numbers for some species. High counts included 30 **Chestnut-sided**, 28 **Ovenbird**, 17 **Common Yellowthroat**, 16 **Yellow**, 12 **Blackburnian** and 11 **Black-throated Green**. There seem to be more **Black-throated Blue Warblers** this year than in the past, and 8 were found on the count. I also found 8 **Prairie Warblers**. All but one were in one of two locations and the birds at McCarroll's corner on Dutch Mountain were very active. Three **Black-and-white Warblers** and 3 **American Redstarts** represented the first of year records for the county. A single **Louisiana Waterthrush** was heard singing in the ravine down Briskey Mountain. I traveled through Loyalsock State Forest on Sunday and heard two countersinging **Canada Warbler** while passing a bog.

Only one **Scarlet Tanager** could be located but there were 11 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**. Sparrow numbers were again good; the only new species not on the Easter trip list was four **Savannah Sparrows**. **Bobolinks** were back in force. Fifteen individuals in several different fields were found. Five **Baltimore Oriole** round out the highlights of the PAMC.

Five of us converged on the county the weekend prior to Memorial Day, 5/28-29, for an annual birding trip that extends back over twenty years for several participants and pushing thirty years for at least two of them. The group counted over 100 species. The weather was warm but mostly cloudy with showers and storms Friday evening. The species count is considered high for this trip and made more impressive by the

fact that it included no migrants.

At least one **American Woodcock** was still displaying at McCarroll's corner. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was still heard calling on Dutch Mountain. First of the year county records included both one **Acadian** and five **Alder Flycatchers**. **Blue-headed Vireo** numbers jumped to seven birds over the week. **Cedar Waxwings** returned to the county in force with a count of 25. A **Blue-winged Warbler** sang on my property on Dutch Mountain. This is not a common bird in the county and was a property first. **Northern Parula** is another uncommon warbler in the county; one was found singing high in conifers by the ranger station for Loyalsock State Forest along Dry Run Road. A total of nineteen warblers were found. New for the year in the county included **Northern Waterthrush** in Shanerburg Bog and **Mourning Warbler** near the High Knob Overlook. The last of the new arrivals was **Indigo Bunting**.

There is an actual airstrip on Airport Road in Cherry Township. I don't remember seeing any airplanes there but it is a nicely maintained grass strip lined with small lights and looks very capable of handling small aircraft. Across the street from the airstrip is a very large field where the grass is allowed to grow. That large grassy expanse contained two singing male **Grasshopper Sparrows** on the morning of 5/29. On the morning of 5/28 I walked up to the Old Home Place of Shady Nook on Dutch Mountain. You follow the old farm lane that is lined by trees and brush up past where the house stood and eventually all the way up to the top of the hill and the old hayfield where the barn stood. There was always a big hay pile there where we played as kids. The barn was magnificent; built to last with single beams made from the surrounding Hemlock, many of which were upwards of seventy feet in length. It was all secured with mortise and tenon joints and pegs. Before I even passed the game commission gate to start up the lane I could hear a **Blue-winged Warbler**. Again, this is not a common bird in the county. Shady Nook is one of the only places in the county where I have ever found this bird. After tracking the bird down, I found it most resembled a **Brewster's Warbler**. It had two yellow wingbars, yellow on the crown and a black eye line. The chest and under parts were mostly white except for a large area of the chest that was a light yellow all the way across the bird. That light yellow color extended up through the middle of the throat in a very thin line with white on either side. I could still hear the bird singing when I got back to my car.

There are several more localized reports from May and June that contain some very good birds. The Hayfields area of Ricketts Glen State Park held both **Lincoln's** and **White-crowned Sparrows** 5/21. Also present were **Northern Flicker**, **American Crow**, **Tree Swallow**, **Yellow** and **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Swamp**, **Song** and **White-throated Sparrow** and **Red-winged Blackbird**. A **Northern Harrier** was found at Splashdam Pond the same day (all PD). The Hayfields was revisited twice in June with additional species including **Willow Flycatcher**, **Northern Rough-winged** and **Barn Swallow**, **House Wren**, **Prairie Warbler** and **Field Sparrow** (PD, CH). **Winter Wren** was reported from the Shanerburg Run area of Loyalsock State Forest. **Swainson's Thrush** was reported from further up Shanerburg Road 6/20. One male and one pair of **Golden-winged Warbler** were located in the McCarty Road clearcuts of Loyalsock State Forest. This is great news and well worth watching (all DG).

Observers: **Rob Megraw**, 131 **Butternut Drive**, **Pottstown, PA 19464**, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com, Mike Brawley, Skip Conant, Wes Egli, Tom Reeves, Paul Dennehy, Corey Husic, Doug Gross, Bob Kelly, Roy & Penny Peterman.

Susquehanna County

No compiler.

Tioga County

Locations: Hammond Lake/Tioga Lake/Ives Run Recreation Area (HL), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Marsh Creek, the Muck.

Nearly daily rains in April and May resulted in severe flooding throughout the county and the closure of some of the major birding areas. All facilities at Ives Run Recreational Area, which includes Hammond and Tioga Lakes, and Cowanesque Lake were closed for almost three weeks in May. The high, muddy, debris-filled water

resulted in several abandoned **Osprey** nests (Hammond Lake/Crooked Creek) or no nest occupation at all, as at HCSP. **Bald Eagles** seemed to have fared better in the rainy weather and high water. The eagles at Cowanesque Lake were incubating as of 4/14, and an adult was observed feeding a nestling in the nest at Hammond Lake on the same date (JH). **Bald Eagles** nesting at the Darling Run access to the Pine Creek Rail Trail produced three young ones again this year (GT).

Despite the weather problems, over 80 species were reported for the PAMC 5/14. Thirteen species of warblers were reported and a surprising variety of waterfowl on some of the smaller lakes (Hills Creek Lake and Nessmuck Lake), including **Common Loons**, **Horned Grebes**, **Buffleheads**, and **Lesser Scaup** (PK).

Highlights of the PAMC included: **Soras** and **Virginia Rails** at the Muck (DF, KR, BR); nesting **Great Crested Flycatchers** at Hills Creek State Park (**Common Loons** could be seen there as of 5/24) (RF, GT); large numbers of **Common Yellowthroats** and **Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warblers** on the Pine Creek Rail Trail (GT); and nesting **Baltimore Orioles** along Crooked Creek and Pine Creek (GT).

Other sightings of note: A pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** was seen 3/22 in a pond near Roaring Branch (JM), and another 8 were seen on Tioga Lake 4/14 along with 20 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, 56 **Ring-billed Ducks**, and 87 **Double-crested Cormorants** (JH). A **White-winged Scoter** was seen 3/26 at the west end of Cowanesque Lake. Although most of the lake was frozen at the time, also seen were **Hooded Mergansers**, a **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Green-winged Teal** and a female **American Kestrel** (DW).

A pair of **Caspian Terns** and several **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported 4/7 at the Muck. A **Bonaparte's Gull** also showed up 4/15 at HCSP, and a **Caspian Tern** was observed 4/21 at HCSP (GT).

Observers: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA 16901, (570) 724-5789, gnats3@ptd.net**, Rich Faber, Dianne Franco, Jeff Holbrook, Phil Krajewski, Janet McIlvaine, Kathy Riley, Bob Ross, Drew Weber.

Union County

No compiler.

Venango County

Locations: Barkeyville Fields (BF), Kahle Lake (KL).

It was a very wet spring. Overall variety of species was good, but numbers were not.

A **Snow Goose** was seemingly paired with a **Canada Goose** and remained through the period, though there was no indication of nesting. The expected waterfowl were present. There was a **Mallard x American Black Duck** at KL 3/24 (GE, RS). An early **Blue-winged Teal** was seen 3/5 (ST, DW). A **Red-throated Loon** was seen on 4/4 at KL. A **Red-necked Grebe** was at KL 4/20. An **American Bittern** was near Utica 4/24 (EA). The **Great Blue Heron** Rookery on Sandy Creek had 28 birds present 3/22.

Broad-winged Hawks were scarce this spring. Our only **Rough-legged Hawk** of the period was observed 3/3 at KL (RS, GE). Shorebird variety was low, with only eight species. An early **Greater Yellowlegs** was found 3/27 (DW, ST). **Upland Sandpiper** returned to BF again this year. The fields around KL had 250 **Ring-billed Gull** 3/15, which is a fairly high number for here. A **Herring Gull** was at KL 3/13 (ML, GE). Forster's Tern was a no-show for this spring, but the other three regular terns were observed. Both cuckoos were seen in mid-May.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was another miss for the spring, as was Alder Flycatcher. **Northern Shrike** was last seen 3/20. All vireos were observed, including the sometimes hard to find **White-eyed**. A new colony of **Purple Martin** was found at BF, probably the only colony in *Venango*. Twenty-eight species of warbler were found, though none in good numbers. The last **American Tree Sparrow** report was 4/11 and the first **Chipping Sparrow** was 4/10. **Rusty Blackbird** was reported 3/6-4/6. A **Common Redpoll** was found 4/11.

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd., Apt. 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net**; **Russ States, 11 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, pabirder@verizon.net**, Ed Atts, Nancy Baker, Kathie Goodblood, Craig Holt, Mike Leahy, Meg Kolodick, Jerry Stanley, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton.

Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Bavington (BAV), Bentleyville (BENT), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Robinson Township (RBT), Scenery Hill (SH).

Tundra Swan reports consisted of a flock of 96 in BENT 3/4 (AB) and 30 over East Findlay Twp. 3/21 (PH). The former were part of a large waterfowl event 3/4-5 brought on by a strong storm. Other highlights recorded by AB in the BENT area during this event included 25 **American Wigeon** 3/4 and 65 on 3/5, 28 **Blue-winged Teal** 3/4 (a very early date for such an impressive number), 65 **Redhead** 3/5, 35 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/4, 10 **Greater Scaup** 3/4, 15 **Lesser Scaup** 3/4, and 23 **Hooded Merganser** 3/4. A close examination of the dates reveals there was significant turnover on the second day.

Other waterfowl of note were as follows. Three late **Gadwall** were at BENT 5/2 (AB). Two or 3 **American Wigeon** spent time at a pond in RBT 3/14-21 (MV, CD). The only report of **American Black Duck** was one at Lake Joann 3/9 (GG). Small numbers of **Blue-winged Teal** were seen throughout Apr at CL, RBT, and Boone Res. (m.ob.). The only **Northern Shoveler** was one at BENT 4/23 (AB) and the only **Northern Pintail** was one at CL 4/4 (GG). **Green-winged Teal** reports were curiously low; 3 at CL 3/7 was the total for the season. Nine **Redhead** at a small pond in RBT 3/14 was a good find (MV); one was also at CL 3/21 (MV). Aside from the early-Mar fallout at BENT, **Ring-necked Ducks** were found only on the ponds of RBT, with the last report on 4/6 (SC). A **Lesser Scaup** lingered in BENT until 5/1 (AB). A remarkable find was a female **Long-tailed Duck** on a small pond at Frosty Valley G.C., found by the course's owner 3/10 (DR). Two **Bufflehead** were found at Boone Res. 3/9 (GG), and 38 were in BENT 4/16 (AB) with one remaining to 4/23 (AB). **Hooded Merganser** was the most frequently non-Mallard waterfowl reported, with well over a dozen reports through 4/16 (m.ob.). Three **Common Mergansers** at Lake Joann 3/3 (GG) were a pretty good sighting for *Washington*. Four reports of **Red-breasted Merganser** were above average: one was at CL 3/21 and again 3/28 (MV), one was at AMD, quite an unexpected location for the species, on 4/10 (MV), and one was in BENT 5/1 (AB). First **Ruddy Duck** was at Lake Joann 3/9 (GG), but BENT sported the best numbers of the species including a peak of 37 on 4/23 (AB). Up to 15 were still present there to 5/1 or 5/2 (AB).

S.A.

This season brought what is undoubtedly the most remarkable rare bird sighting in *Washington* history. Late in the afternoon 4/13, an adult **Brown Pelican** was found at Boone Res. by KR as she happened to be driving past the water. The bird appeared to be exhausted and spent most of its time resting with its bill tucked in, but it was seen in flight at least once that evening. KR posted the sighting to the PABIRDS listserv and shared some pictures with this author. Amazingly, the pelican was still present the next morning, and after initial announcements to that effect on PABIRDS, birders from all over descended on the reservoir to take in this once-in-a-lifetime event. The bird still seemed quite exhausted at first light on 4/14, but steadily looked stronger and stronger as the day wore on and eventually was successfully plunge-diving for fish. It remained until last light on 4/14 and was the subject of what must have been thousands of photographs, but it was gone the next morning. Truly, it's hard to imagine a more incongruous sighting involving a bird: a **Brown Pelican**, that large and proud denizen of coastal waters in the temperate and tropical Americas, plunge diving for fish in a tiny municipal reservoir in suburban Pittsburgh. I, for one, will never forget it, nor expect to see anything quite like it again.

Ruffed Grouse was reported in traditional areas in BAV (CD, RF). Three **Northern Bobwhites** were seen at BENT 4/26 (AB); this species is no longer known to sustain itself in western Pennsylvania. **Common Loons** were one at Boone Res. 4/13-14 (KR), and one or two at BENT 5/1-2 (AB). **Pied-billed Grebes** moved through in small numbers in Apr.

Double-crested Cormorants were above average. Good counts included 53 at BENT 3/24 (AB), 34 at CL 4/4 (GG), and 63 sharing

Boone Res. with the Brown Pelican 4/14 (MV, GM) with 31 still there 4/16 (GG). The **Great Blue Heron** rookery in North Strabane Twp. contained 52 active nests 5/5 (PB). The putative **Great Blue Heron x Great Egret hybrid** was present again for a ninth year, first reported at CL 3/28 (JBo). It was not reported often at CL this year, but it was seen on a nest at the rookery 4/14 (PB); however, the same nest was occupied by normal Great Blues on 5/5. **Great Egrets** were one at CL 4/11 (JF) and 2 there 5/2 (MV).

One or two **Osprey** were seen around Boone Res. 4/13-25 (m.ob.), and one was at Greencove Wetlands 4/18 (MC *fide* LC). It's only a matter of time until a nest is found within county borders. First **Broad-winged Hawk** was found 4/6 in Washington (LC), a bit early. Wintering **American Kestrels** were still in RBT as of 3/12 (SC).

American Coots were very widely reported in small numbers through 5/3. AMD often held 3 or 4 at a time, so the resident coot was difficult to distinguish. It was probably still there through the season.

Shorebird reports of note were limited to the BENT area, as usual. All of the following were reported in BENT by AB: **Semipalmated Plover** 5/19 and 5/27, 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/19, 20 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/27, up to 3 **Least Sandpipers** 5/19-27, 5 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 5/27, and one **American Woodcock** 3/5. Away from BENT, only **Killdeer**, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, and **Wilson's Snipe** were found. Of these, numbers and frequency of **Solitary Sandpiper** were notable, with reports from six locations 4/10-5/9 (m.ob.); both end-points of that date range occurred at CL (MV).

Seventy-five **Ring-billed Gulls** were found at BENT 3/4 (AB), an unusually high total for the county. More normal daily counts included one at Lake Joann 4/1 (GG), 2 at CL 4/4 (MV), and one at BENT 4/23 (AB). First **Black-billed Cuckoo** was one window-killed bird at Houston 5/7 (CH). The first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was more fortunate, at least while under observation, at Coal Center 5/2 (AT). A **Barred Owl** was heard at BAV 5/25 (MV). Two **Common Nighthawks** were over BENT 5/14 (AB). AT in Coal Center beat CH in Houston by one day for first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** honors, with AT's appearing 4/27. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were represented by singles at East Findlay Twp. 3/21 (PH) and at Mingo Creek County Park 3/29 (ST).

AB had quite a run of flycatchers at BENT 5/14, with sightings including one **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, 2 **Acadian Flycatchers**, 2 **Alder Flycatchers**, 3 **Willow Flycatchers**, one **Least Flycatcher**, and one **Great Crested Flycatcher**. Otherwise flycatchers were thinly reported, a reflection of poor coverage this season. All **vireos** other than Philadelphia were located, and pretty much on time. Two **Purple Martins** at BENT 4/9 were the only report (AB). Both **Tree** and **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were back before March closed out (MV). A **Cliff Swallow** at BENT 5/1, though not a rare species by any measure, was a good find for the county anyway. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** persisted from the winter season at Washington Park to at least 3/7, when 8 were found (PB). Good numbers remained at usual areas at BAV on 5/25 (MV), and, perhaps more notably, at Washington Cemetery 5/29 (MV). A **Swainson's Thrush** 5/14 at Washington Park School (LC) and a **Hermit Thrush** at BAV 4/30 were the only non-breeding spot-breasted thrushes found.

As was the case in *Beaver*, birders did not submit many lists detailing the passerine migration in May, however a few outings by AB provided the necessary sightings for a respectable list of warbler species for the season. Non-breeders included the following: **Tennessee Warbler** at BENT 5/14 and 5/21 (AB), **Nashville Warbler** at SH 5/7 (AB), **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at BENT 5/14 (AB), **Magnolia Warbler** at BAV 5/25 (MV), **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at SH 5/7 (AB) and at East Findlay Twp. 5/16 (PH), **Yellow-rumped Warblers** 4/30-5/7 (m.ob.), **Black-throated Green Warbler** 4/30-5/28 (m.ob.), **Blackburnian Warbler** at BENT 5/21 (AB), **Pine Warbler** at BAV 4/3 (CD, RF) and 4/30 (MV), and 3 at Washington Cemetery 5/29 (MV) (possible breeders), **Palm Warbler** 4/30-5/2 (m.ob.), **Bay-breasted Warbler** at BAV 5/25 (MV), **Blackpoll Warbler** at BENT (AB) and Coal Center (AT) 5/14-28, **Worm-eating Warbler** at BAV 5/25 (MV), **Northern Waterthrush** at Washington Park School Pond 5/10 (LC), **Wilson's Warbler** at BENT 5/14 and 5/21 (AB), and **Canada Warbler** at BENT 5/14 (AB). Among breeders, a total of 16 **Ovenbirds** at BAV 4/30 (MV) and the number of mentions of **Yellow-breasted Chat**, which numbered at least a dozen in several locations (m.ob.), were notable reports.

Sparrow reports were unremarkable, with breeders returning generally on time. RBT continues to support the healthiest population of **Henslow's Sparrows** in the county, and as usual **Grasshopper**

Sparrows are normally alongside them in these areas. A late **Fox Sparrow** was at Washington Park School 5/10 (LC). First **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at a feeder in Peters Twp. 4/20 (GG). **Bobolinks** seemed to be setting up for a successful season at undisturbed grasslands in RBT this season, with reports throughout May (BS, MV, MF). Two were also seen in the Buffalo Creek IBA 5/9 (RN). Five **Eastern Meadowlarks** were noted at BENT 3/5 (AB). Reports of **Rusty Blackbird** included 12 at CL 3/7 (MV), 5 at Rees Park 3/9 (GG), and at CL 4/2 (GG). **Baltimore** and **Orchard Orioles** first appeared 4/26 (PH) and 4/27 (AT), respectively. Eight **Purple Finches** and 6 **Pine Siskins** were present at feeders in Peters Twp. 4/20-21 (GG), the only reports of either species.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh**, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net, Andy Berchin, Jim Bohn (JBo), Mark Bowers, Paul Brown, Mike Campsey, Shawn Collins, Lauren Conkle, Sheree Daugherty, Cory DeStein, Mike Fialkovich, John Flannigan, Ryan Ford, Gigi Gerben, Cris Hamilton, Pat Hutchinson, Richard Nugent, Kate Rodgers, Dan Ruffing, Becky Smith, Amy Taracido, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Yan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

Wayne County

Locations: Dyberry Township (DT), Keen Lake (KL), Lake Ladore (LL), Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count (PAMC), River Rd., North of Stalker (RR), Spojnia pond near Waymart (SPW), Tanner's Falls (TF).

Unless otherwise noted, the observations were of the author. Lakes and ponds remained frozen through mid-late March. Four large flocks of **Snow Geese** (about 750 total) were flying north near Lakewood 3/12 (TG). The season's first **Green-winged Teal** appeared at SPW 3/18 and were reported there sporadically through 4/17. **Blue-winged Teal** were also found at SPW 4/12-17. The peak count for **Ring-necked Duck** was 42 at Finn Swamp 4/15. 2 **Red-breasted Merganser** were found on White Oak Pond 4/13. On 4/15, 11 **Common Goldeneye** were on LL with another 3 on Long Pond. Other species noted this season include **Bufflehead**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Common Merganser**, **Wood Duck**, and **American Black Duck**.

Common Loons were found at Lake Wallenpaupack and KL 4/15. Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported in the river behind the Seelyville Firehouse 3/19 and on LL 4/15. **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted on KL and LL 4/15.

Nine **Bald Eagles** were observed during the PAMC 5/14. Another highlight of the PAMC was a **Northern Goshawk** (DH). A female **Northern Harrier** was observed coasting the fields near Lakeville from 5/16 through at least 5/28 and is thought to be possibly nesting in the area (TG). A male **Merlin** was observed hunting in Aldenville 3/21.

Wayne doesn't have much shorebird habitat, so reports were minimal. The few species observed included 5 **Least Sandpipers** at SPW 5/9, 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** at SPW 5/9, and one **Spotted Sandpiper** along Alder Pond in SGL 159 on 5/7. Four **Wilson's Snipe** were located along Cavage Road 3/19. **American Woodcock** were first reported in DT 3/15. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported at Lake Wallenpaupack 4/3 (MCS).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo were noted on private property in DT 5/11 and 5/25, as well as in SGL 159 on 5/29. A single **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard during the PAMC 5/14 (BL). A **Red-headed Woodpecker**, rarely seen in the county, was spotted in DT 5/12 (JS).

Winter Wren are doing well in the county, with individuals found singing along an old railroad bed north of Poyntelle 5/8 (TG), as well as in SGL 159 on 5/7, 5/14 and along RR 5/14. A **Swainson's Thrush** was found in SGL 159 on 5/14.

Twenty-six species of warblers were reported including **Hooded**, **Nashville**, **Northern Parula**, **Cerulean**, and **Prairie**. **Blue-winged Warblers** were abundant in SGL 159, with a high count of 19 on 5/14. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was found in SGL 159 on 5/7 and along RR 5/14. A **Wilson's Warbler** was seen on private property in DT 5/19, and another nearby along the Dyberry Creek near TF 5/24 (JS). A **Mourning Warbler** was found in SGL 159 on 5/29.

Four late **American Tree Sparrows** were spotted during the PAMC 5/14 (BL). First **Bobolinks** were reported on 5/6 along S. Preston Rd. (JB). A flock of 6 **Eastern Meadowlarks** made their first appearance in a field near the intersection of S. Preston and Redshale Rds. 3/19 (TG). A spring highlight was an adult female **Brewer's**

Blackbird on private property in DT that was brought in by a late winter storm 3/23. **Rusty Blackbirds** were found along Little Keen Rd. and along Long Pond Rd. 3/19. Two **Orchard Orioles** were located off Upper Woods Rd. during the PAMC 5/14 (J&PS). **Common Redpolls** continued throughout the county through 4/21 (CF, SWP, TG). There were also multiple reports of **Pine Siskin** near Honesdale and in DT through 5/14 (CF, J&PS, SWP).

Observers: **Chris Fischer, c/o Bugaj/Fischer, PC, P.O. Box 390, Honesdale, PA 18431, (570) 446-9597, cfischer17@gmail.com**, John Bromberg, Don Hamilton, Trudy Gerlach, Barbara Leo, Jim and Pat Sanders, Mike & Corrine Schall, Sandra Ward Povse.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Acme Dam (AD), Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Cedar Creek County Park (CCCP), Delmont (DEL), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Lake (EL), Hess Property (HP), Kuehl Property (KP), Keystone State Park (KSP), Mammoth Park Lake (MPL), New Stanton (NS), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Tree's Mill (TM), Trout Run Reservoir (TRR).

The highlights of this report were the result of a timely check of her bird feeders by DM, which produced a first county record, a second county record of a rare migrant recorded by JP at Little Sewickley Creek, and some nice-surprise visitors at the Powdermill Nature Reserve pond. Thanks to DB for his compilation of the county's participation in the PAMC held 5/14.

Seven **Wood Ducks** were at DEL 3/28 (MJ) and in good numbers on the PAMC. **American Wigeon** were found at AD 3/24 (DM). Two **American Black Ducks** were at BRR 3/18 (MJS). Three **Blue-winged Teal** were at TM 4/6 (KB). An unusually high count of 24 **Northern Shovelers** was reported at BRR 3/18 (MJS). Six **Green-winged Teal** were located at the Hamilton Road pond 4/2 (KB). The best count of **Redheads** were 10 found at the pond behind the Colonial Inn near Ligonier 3/12 (TK, JK). Two **Greater Scaup** were spotted at DL 3/14 (BL) and **Lesser Scaup** were reported at EL 3/19 (SG). Scaup species were observed at BRR 4/25 (MVT). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were at Donegal Lake 3/10 (BL). A high count of 11 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at BRR was made 3/19 (R&SG). **Common Loons** were reported at various locations, most notable being a count of 24 at Trout Run 4/4 (BL). **Horned Grebes** were reported in good numbers at various locations in March, with a high count of 24 at TRR 3/12 (TK, JK). There was a flock of 42 **Double-crested Cormorants** at DL 4/5 (BL). A **Great Egret** was at Mammoth Park 5/6 (DM). The first of two surprises for Crisp Pond at PNR was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 5/21 (BC).

A **Northern Harrier** was near the BRR 3/12 (KB). A single **Osprey** was at the Donegal L. nesting platform 3/18, and a pair was observed 3/25 (DM). No reports of a new nest, however other **Osprey** sightings reported were 2 at Acme Dam 4/6 and 4/8, one at MPL 4/23 (DM), one at PNR 4/30 (JK), and one along Loyalhanna Creek just 2 miles east of Ligonier 5/1 (TK). A mature **Bald Eagle** was seen on 4/10 on the West Penn Trail outing of the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club, which is within several miles of a second year nest along the Conemaugh River Lake, where a pair were observed 4/6 (KB). Not surprisingly, a record high of 7 **Bald Eagles** was recorded on the PAMC, and a single **Black Vulture** observed that day was a new species for the count. A female **Merlin** had a bird in its talons at the HP 4/23 (LH).

The private marsh at the end of the Little Sewickley Creek trail was again to provide the highlight of the PAMC for *Westmoreland*. A **Black Rail** was recorded at this location in 2007. This year on 5/14, JP was thrilled to find a **Yellow Rail**, which he was able to identify by both song and sight. (Note, permission by the land owner must be arranged for in advance, and is provided on a very limited basis.) The second surprise for Crisp Pond at PNR was a **Common Gallinule**, which was seen regularly from 5/3-10 (BL). **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Killdeer** were at Acme Dam 4/8 (DM). **Wilson Snipe** were in NS 4/5 (MF) and 11 in a neighbors wet horse pasture was reported by Linda Hess 4/5. The first **American Woodcock** report was for the fields above the Kuehl Property 3/1 (TK). Twenty **Ring-billed Gulls** flew over NS 4/4 (MF) and 65 were at DL 4/5 (BL). Trout Run Reservoir was the location for 24 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 4/5 (BL) and 13 on 4/13 (DM). There were 2 **Forster's Terns** at TRR 4/11 (BL) and one **Caspian Tern** at DL 5/17 (BL). There was an eBird report of a **Black Tern** at KSP (RL).

On 5/1, DM snapped a picture of what she first thought of as "an unusual mourning dove". She quickly determined that she had

photographed a **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, the first documented sighting of the species for *Westmoreland*. That bird only stayed for a few moments, however there was a return visit 5/13, and in the several minutes of that visit DM was able to take additional photographs.

Both cuckoos were reported by KB, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** in DEL 5/7 and **Black-billed Cuckoo** on the Westmoreland Heritage Trail 6/3. **Great Horned Owls** were on a nest in Greensburg (ph. TV). The only **Common Nighthawk** report was for New Kensington 5/11 (SG). **Chimney Swifts** returned to Jeannette 4/16 (TK). The first report of returning **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at the HP 4/21 (LH). More common (and breeders) in the higher elevations in the eastern part of the county, a male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was observed near the Kuehl Property 4/16 (TK).

There were no reports of **Olive-sided Flycatchers**. With the exception of an early arriving **Eastern Phoebe** in Murrysville 3/17 (MJS), all other flycatchers moved through or arrived in May, including 7 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** that were captured at PNR in May. First arrival **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Warbling Vireo** were recorded at CCCP 4/24 (KSJ). TV reported that **Common Ravens** were on a nest near Greensburg 3/18. Earliest reports for swallows were **Tree Swallows** were at KSP 3/19 (SG), **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** in NS (MF), **Bank Swallow** at MPL 4/23 (DM), and **Barn Swallows** at TM 3/27 (MJS) and also 3/27 in DEL (KB). DB reports that the Cliff Swallow colony at MPL has been abandoned. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited feeders in early March (DMa). The earliest report of **Winter Wren** was in TM 3/12 (KB). Other reports were at Little Sewickley Creek on a WB&NC outing 3/20 and one singing in NS 4/7 (MF). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was in DEL 5/4 (KB). The first reported **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at the KP 4/15 (TK). The earliest **Wood Thrush** report was 4/24 in South Washington Township (MB). **Wood Thrush, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Hermit Thrush** were all reported on the 5/14 PAMC. A single **American Pipit** was reported near Derry 4/19 (DM). Fifteen **Cedar Waxwings** were in DEL 3/10 (KB).

The banding station at PNR reported the capture of 29 warbler species, the same species count totaled by PAMC observers 5/14. Missing from both were Pine Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Swainson's Warbler (which were reported near PNR in 2010). The first returning **Louisiana Waterthrush** was reported at Cedar Creek 4/3 (GB), and several pairs were observed at the same location 5/7 (TK, JK). Also on 5/7 at Cedar Creek at least 4 **Cerulean Warblers** singing on territory, and 2 **Worm-eating Warblers** were found (TJ, JK). One **Nashville Warbler** and one **Cerulean Warbler** were seen at the KP 5/8 (TK, JK). **Kentucky Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler** and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were reported in Harrison City 5/9 (MM). A **Wilson's Warbler** was in DEL on 5/6 (KB). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was a standout among other species reported at a Bell Township property, as was an orange-variant **Scarlet Tanager** (KD).

Seven **Henslow's Sparrows** were reported at the Sarver Property near Laurelville on the 5/14 PAMC (TP). A **Fox Sparrow** visited the Hess Property feeders for an extended period in March (LH) and 3 **Fox Sparrows** were still around to be recorded for the PAMC. Twenty **Lincoln's Sparrows** were captured at the PNR banding station in May. A **Rusty Blackbird** was observed during a WB&NC West Penn Trail outing (TK, JK). Two male **Purple Finches** were at the KP feeders 3/19 (JK), and 4 were on feeders in Murrysville 4/16 (DMa). A **Pine Siskin** was reported on a feeder 4/23 (DM).

Observers: **Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724)-325-1918, tjkuehl@comcast.net**, George Bercik, Mark Bowers, Ken Byerly, Dick Byers, Blain Carnes, Karen DeSantis, Mike Fialkovich, Randi and Sarah Gerrish, Steve Gosser, Len and/or Linda Hess, Janet Kuehl, Bob Leberman, Ryan Locke, Dale Matuza (DMa), Mark McConaughy, Donna Mohnney, Tom Pearson, Jim Pemberton, Mary Jane Seipler, Kate St. John, Marjorie Van Tassel, Tim Vechter, Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club (WB & NC).

Wyoming County

Locations: Beaumont (BM), Lake Carey (LC), Mulligan's Pond (MP), Oxbow Lake (OL), Russell Hill (RH), Scottsville Road (SR), Vosburg Neck (VN).

One hundred forty-two species were reported during the period, the best we've done in the last three years (2009 had 133, 2010

had 138). The PAMC 5/14 totaled 110 species, one above the average of the previous five counts, and 4370 individuals, some 72% higher than the average individual count and nearly 20% higher than the previous high. We had seven teams afield for the PAMC, more than our usual complement, which contributed significantly to that success.

Including flyover flocks of **Snow Goose** and **Canada Goose**, observers reported 19 species of waterfowl during the period. Highlights included a male and female **American Wigeon** 4/9 at OL (JD), **Green-winged Teal** 4/6-12 at BM (SG) and a pair 4/9 at MP (JD), a **Greater Scaup** 4/7 at LC (RL), **Lesser Scaup** 4/21 and 5/1 at LC with a merganser and a **Bufflehead** (JD), a single female **Long-tailed Duck** present for about a week up to 5/15 at LC (MC), 3 **Common Goldeneye**, an uncommon species for *Wyoming*, 3/19-21 at LC (MC), and one to 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 3/21-5/1 at LC (JD, MC, RL). Additional waterfowl highlights included up to 4 **Common Loons** beginning 4/7 at LC (RL) with one remaining to the end of the period, 3 **Red-throated Loons** 4/26-5/15 at LC (JB, JD, MC), and 3 **Horned Grebe**, another uncommon species for *Wyoming*, 4/7-9 at LC (JD, MC, RL). The grebes were just getting into breeding plumage, but left before attaining it fully.

Black Vulture was reported on the PAMC at LC 5/15 (MC), for the first time I'm aware of. We have been getting occasional reports of Black Vulture over the years, but only one or two at a time.

On 4/21 a local farmer reported the presence of 3 **Sandhill Cranes** on his property near Jenningsville, near Sharpe's Lake. A number of us have observed one or two of them since then, and I observed 2 during the PAMC 5/15. This is the same location Sandhills visited last year and, likely, at least one year before that. There is as yet no confirmation that the birds are breeding. I observed a single **Black Tern** at LC 5/1. This is the first Black Tern reported in *Wyoming* since I've been compiling. I heard no other reports of the bird beyond 5/1.

On 5/21, while sitting in my yard, 3 **Common Nighthawk** flew over, the first I've seen in *Wyoming* in at least eight years. An abundant bird of my childhood in *Luzerne*, it has become only a memory these days. The PAMC also yielded a calling **Eastern Whip-poor-will** at VN 5/15 (RL), the first heard or seen in *Wyoming* in some time. For many of us, the presence of this bird is delightful, and most of us haven't heard the call in many years. I last heard one in the Pine Creek Valley over 10 years ago.

Other observations of note, all during the 2011 PAMC, included great numbers of thrushes, including 19 **Veery**, two more than the total of the last five counts, and 70 **Wood Thrush**, 50% higher than the previous high count of 52 and nearly double last year's count. However, no **Hermit Thrush** was reported. Nineteen species of wood-warblers, including 34 **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, well above our average (12), and 8 **Blackpoll Warbler**, more than twice the total of the last five counts. Some interesting sparrow numbers were recorded, such as 135 **Chipping Sparrow**, more than the total of the last three counts combined, 13 **Savannah Sparrow**, our highest PAMC count in eight years, 4 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, also the highest in eight years, and 2 **Henslow's Sparrow**, the first since 2007. The Henslow's were found near Douglas Hollow Road near Jenningsville, where I have observed them over the past few years. First seen during the PAMC, they were still there through the end of the period, thereby making them possible breeders. Finally, **Orchard Oriole** was reported in Tunkhannock 5/2 (JD) and 5/6 (BD), a relatively uncommon appearance and my first observation in four years.

Observers: **Joe DeMarco**, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468, jdemarco@epix.net, Jim Borden, Peter Carlen, Jeanne Chadee, Mark Catalano, Bob Daniels, Sandy Goodwin, Rebecca Lesko, Bill and Becky Loftus (BBL), Lynn Mowka, Mitch and Marie Rowland (MMR), Alan Thatcher, Jon Thomas.

York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd Landfill (ALT), Brunner Island (BI), Carroll Township (CARR), Codorus State Park (CSP), Fairview Township (FRVW), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hanover (HNVR), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Native Lands County Park (NLCP), PAMC (Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count), PGC (Pennsylvania Game Commission), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Shepperd-Myers Reservoir (SM), Spring Grove (SPGR), Spring Valley County Park (SVCP), SGL 242 (SGL), State Game Lands at Sunnyside Road (SUNN), Wrightsville (WRIT),

York City (YORK).

A wet spring with record rainfall in April didn't appear to have much impact on arrival dates. With good numbers for both waterfowl and warbler species and with the addition of a few unexpected species, it was an interesting reporting period. The 5/14 PAMC (co-compiled by AP and RP) found 132 species.

A 3/5 (PK) visit to SPGR lakes and ponds yielded ~1200 **Canada Geese**. **Tundra Swans** were reported 3/5-4/9 with a high count of ~400 at CSP 3/14 (BM). A nice count of 65 **American Wigeon** came from GPSP 3/5 (RK). The sole **Blue-winged Teal** report came from LAR 4/5 (RC). SM provided the **Northern Shoveler** report with two birds 3/22 (RC). **Green-winged Teal** sightings and numbers were good with a high count of 56 at SM 3/22 (RC). Irregular for the county, **Canvasback** was reported from GPSP 4/18 (RK). **Redhead** sightings were impressive; "many" on 3/11 (BM), 25 on 3/12 (BF), and 12 on 3/13 (RP) all came from CSP while 6 were at SM 3/22 (RC). The **Ring-necked Duck** high count was 130 from SPGR 3/5 (PK). **Scaup sp.** and **Lesser Scaup** were reported in small numbers from three locations. Good birds for York included three **White-winged Scoter** at LAR 4/14 (BM), four **Long-tailed Duck** at CSP 3/13 (RP), and two reports of **Common Goldeneye** with two 4/5 (RK) at CSP and one 4/10 (RP) at LW. All merganser species were reported with 428 **Common Merganser** at GPSP on 3/1 (RK) and four reports of **Red-breasted Merganser** from 3/12-4/9 being the highlights. Maxima for **Ruddy Duck** were 20 at CSP on 4/5 (RC).

The single **Ring-necked Pheasant** sighting came from SGL 5/15 (RC). There were three **Wild Turkey** reports with a good count of 18 from NLCP 3/2 (DS). **Common Loons** were present from 3/13- 4/14 with a high count of 170+ from CSP on 4/9 (RC). Regular sightings of multiple **Pied-billed Grebes** were paced by 10 at GPSP 3/19 (VG). **Horned Grebes** were present at CSP and HNVR area reservoirs from 3/13-4/9. A wanderlust **Red-necked Grebe** was found at CSP on the very late date of 5/20 (AMS). The largest rafts of **American Coot** were 100+ from CSP 3/13 (RP) and 4/14 (AP).

Recent years have brought more Pennsylvania sightings of **Anhinga**. A female was reported to be seen at BI 5/5 (LC) in a kettle with six Black Vultures. **American Bittern** was at a SPGR wetland 4/13 (DK). The **Great Blue Heron** colony at SPGR reached 34 nests on 4/16 and it appears to remain a one species colony. The Kiwanis' Lake rookery produced a count of 41 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 4/22 (LC) and that was followed by a count of 30 on the 5/14 PAMC (RP). No matter how often this compiler sees this phenomenon in this heavily urban setting, it still leads to headshaking and some laughter. Why there? Whatever it is, it has been to their liking since 1992 and hopefully for many more years to come. A nice find on a farm pond along Rte. 214 were two **Glossy Ibis** 4/17-18 (RC).

Osprey were a highlight with two nests at BI 4/22 (RC) and the long awaited occupation of the nesting platform at CSP. The PGC documented 10 **Bald Eagle** nests in the county. One nest site, occupied by the "Harley eagles", is rather amazing for its proximity to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Nevertheless, on 5/23 (PK), there was at least one very active nestling observed. Three **Broad-winged Hawks** were over WRIT 4/14 (ML). Rarely reported, even during fall migration, was a **Golden Eagle** near New Bridgeville 4/28 (AP). There were three reports of **Peregrine Falcon** from WRIT (ML), YORK (AM), and Lock 15 (TA).

Shorebird numbers and variety were a bit low but a **Red-necked Phalarope** at LR on 5/13-14 (LC, RC, PJR) was certainly a bonus for both the period and the PAMC. Other shorebird sightings included six **Semipalmated Plover** (RC), three **Greater** and four **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and four **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at LR 5/11 (RP). A follow-up visit to LR 5/13 (RC) produced one **Pectoral Sandpiper**. There were three sightings of **Wilson's Snipe**; a count of 25 at Plank Rd 4/25 (RC) was noteworthy. Although more common than reported, the one report of **American Woodcock** from CSP 3/5 (RP) reflects the county's prime location for them.

Lancaster's mid-March **Little Gull** pleased York listers by entering York airspace at WRIT 3/20 (ML, et al.). Nice 4/5 (RC) counts of **Bonaparte's Gull** came from CSP and LR with counts of ~50 at each location. Thirty **Herring Gull** were at GPSP 3/5 (RK). A **Great Black-backed Gull** was at GPSP 3/1 (RK). **Caspian Terns** were at four locations from 4/9-18 with a high of six coming from GPSP 4/14 (EB).

Eurasian Collared-Dove was at a Manchester residence (DH) 4/13-14 feeding with **Mourning Dove**. Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were found on the PAMC with subsequent reports of Yellow-billed coming from 5/20-29. A flock of 24 **Common Nighthawks**

were working a large mayfly hatch at WRIT 5/21 (ML, CA). The first report of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was 4/29 (GK) from CARR. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** sightings were from LW 3/28 (CK) and CARR 4/2 (GK).

There were some impressive numbers involved with **Acadian Flycatcher** reports. On 5/25, 12 were located along McCalls Ferry Rd. (CC) and 7 were at Lock 12 (CG). First-of-year **Eastern Phoebe** was 3/7 at LR (LC). Three **Yellow-throated Vireo** were at Lock 12 on 5/14 (RC), a **Blue-throated Vireo** was at GPSP 4/14 (EB), and there were three **Warbling Vireo** at BI 5/17 (RC). A trio of **Bank Swallows** was at LR 4/19 (KA) and GPSP 4/23 (RK). The **Cliff Swallow** colony at CSP was in evidence with a count of 12 on 5/12 (RC). A nice count of eight **Black-capped Chickadees** came from BI 4/22 (RC). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at RRCP 4/30 was a good find. Finding the shy **Brown Creeper** is always rewarding and multiply that by four for a 3/28 (CK) sighting at LW. **Winter Wren** was found at Lock 15 on 3/25 (TA) and GPSP 3/29 (RK). Octets of **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were found by CK at LW 3/28 & 4/18, respectively. Although only a single report of **American Pipit**, it was a good one with 32 at SUNN on the 5/14 PAMC (RP).

It was a good warbler reporting period with 33 species in total and 29 on the PAMC. An individual (RP) 5/7-13 warbler count week produced 27 species with hotspots being RRCP and SVCP. The PAMC warbler highlights were 3 **Prothonotary**, one **Mourning**, and one **Wilson's Warbler**. The four warbler species found outside the PAMC were four sightings of **Yellow-throated Warbler** from 4/15-5/25, **Palm Warbler** at various sites from 4/4-4/27, and **Bay-breasted** and **Canada Warbler** at RRCP during count week (RP). Not surprisingly, non-reported species for the period were **Golden-winged**, **Orange-crowned**, **Swainson's**, and **Connecticut Warbler**.

Sparrow reports reflected a normal spring reporting period. **Vesper**

Sparrow was at YORK 5/22 (AM). **Savannah Sparrow** reports spanned 4/4-5/21 with a high count of five. **Grasshopper Sparrow** were found at ALT 4/30 and 5/14. The seven **Fox Sparrow** reports came from all corners of the county from 3/12-4/5. A count of 25+ **White-throated Sparrow** 4/20 (BP) in HNVR reflected some larger movement while 5/16 (CK) was the last date with a single at LW. The last **White-crowned Sparrows** were found on the 5/14 PAMC. **Dark-eyed Junco** was reported up until 5/1 (CH) at SR.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported at five locations from 4/25-5/14. **Blue Grosbeak** reports were of 2 at YORK 5/21 (AM) and a single at BI 5/29 (RK). **Bobolinks** were reported from 5/14-21 and **Eastern Meadowlark** from 3/15-5/21. A single **Rusty Blackbird** was found at GPSP 4/19 (RK). Fourteen **Orchard Oriole** were found on the PAMC and a nice count of seven came from BI 5/7 (RC).

Similar to our neighboring county of *Adams* to the west, but in a shorter timeframe, **Purple Finch** sightings/movement through *York* was from 4/15-23 at four locations with a high count of 20 at HNVR 4/20 (BP). The sole **Pine Siskin** report came from a FRVW backyard 3/15 (RK).

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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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For articles, the Microsoft Office suite (any version) is preferred; however we will accept any popularly used format, or plain text. Please email written materials in an attached document in its original source format (i.e., no PDF files, please).

Digital photos or scanned image files sent for consideration should be in JPG format and resized down to 600-1200 pixels on the longer axis (if the source file is larger than these dimensions), and compressed to no larger than 250kB. Larger files will be requested by the editor if necessary. Submitted photos may be cropped or adjusted for color, brightness, or contrast as the editor sees fit without notice to the photographer. When submitting by email, all files should be sent as attachments—DO NOT embed pictures or documents within the email body. Photos with copyright or signature text visible in the image will not be accepted. Photographers will be acknowledged in the photo caption.

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