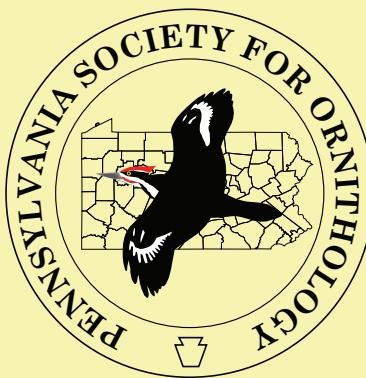


PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 26, No. 2
Mar - May 2012
Issued October 2012





PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 26 Number 2 Mar 2012- May 2012

Geoff Malosh, Editor-in-chief
450 Amherst Avenue
Moon Township, PA 15108-2654
(412) 735-3128 pomarine@earthlink.net
<http://www.pabirds.org>

Contents

73	Editorial	
74	Pennsylvania's Peregrine Falcons: a Comeback in Progress	Art McMorris and Patti Barber
76	Raptor Migration Summary – Spring 2012.....	Laurie Goodrich
79	Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania – publication forthcoming	Andrew M. Wilson, Daniel W. Brauning, Robert S. Mulvihill
82	Book Reviews – Avian Architecture and What the Robin Knows	Gene Wilhelm
85	Summary of the Season.	Mike Fialkovich
87	Birds of Note – March through May 2012	
90	Arctic Terns in Elk County.	Al Guarante
91	Photographic Highlights	
97	Local Notes	
In Focus ... inside back cover		

Suggestions to Contributors appear on page 84

Cover: Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*). Nearly a decade in the making, the *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* is finally complete. This timely image of Eastern Phoebe nestlings was made at Duck Hollow, Allegheny in May 2012 as the publication was in the final stages of preparation. Please see the preview of the Atlas in this issue on p. 79. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)

Seasonal Editors

Daniel Brauning
Michael Fialkovich
Greg Grove
Geoff Malosh

Department Editors

Book Reviews
Gene Wilhelm, Ph.D.
513 Kelly Blvd.
Slippery Rock, PA
16057-1145
(724) 794-2434
GeneWilhelm@aol.com

CBC Report
Nick Bolgiano
711 W. Foster Ave.
State College, PA 16801
(814) 234-2746
NBolgiano@minitab.com

Hawk Watch Reports
Laurie Goodrich
Keith Bildstein
410 Summer Valley Rd.
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
(570) 943-3411
goodrich@hawkmtn.org
bildstein@hawkmtn.org

PAMC
Franklin Haas
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555
fchaas@pabirds.org

John Fedak
26 Race Street
Bradford, PA 16701
jlfedak@atlanticbb.net

Pennsylvania Birdlists
Peter Robinson
P. O. Box 482
Hanover, PA 17331
pabirder@hotmail.com

Data Technician
Wendy Jo Shemansky
41 Walkertown Hill Rd.
Daisytown, PA 15427
pabirdsrus@zoominternet.net

Publication Manager
Franklin Haas
2469 Hammertown Rd.
Narvon, PA 17555
fchaas@pabirds.org

The Atlas is here!

In this issue we are very happy to provide you with a sneak preview of the forthcoming second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas publication. No less than eight years in the making, the second atlas is the culmination of six seasons of field work performed by nearly 2000 volunteers, and untold thousands of hours spent at the keyboard by the project's army of regional editors, account authors, and editorial team.

I personally have been involved in the atlas project from the beginning, first as a field volunteer, later as species account author, and finally as the publication's photo editor. In this last role I was afforded a close look at the publication as it was in process, and I have to say, it is a monumental achievement. An enormous debt of gratitude is owed to the project's leaders: Andy Wilson, Dan Brauning, and Bob Mulvihill, without whom the book would not exist. But the giving of thanks does not stop with them—not even close. As I look back on it now, I can only boggle at the sheer volume of time and energy it took to see this project through. Everyone involved—from the Regional Coordinator who spent six years compiling and vetting data to the volunteer who atlased a single block for one season—all of them own a piece of the final product, and all of them not only have an impressive and important publication to look forward to, but something in which they can all take pride.

The publication preview appears on page 79 of this issue, and includes a look at a full species account exactly as it will appear in the book (Hooded Warbler). Also be sure to check out the *Pennsylvania Birds* pages on the PSO website <www.pabirds.org> where we will be displaying full color copy of this article for a short time.

County Compiler News

Good news came this quarter in the ranks of our county compilers. **Brian Henderson** has agreed to take

on the compiling job for *Montgomery*, relieving August Mirabella who had been acting as interim compiler for that county while we searched for a new permanent compiler for this storied county. Thanks very much to both Brian and August!

Amy Davis has agreed to compile for *Susquehanna*, a county that has been without a compiler ever since I began as editor of this journal. Many of you will recognize Amy as the ABA's Sightings Department Editor for *Birding and Winging It*. Thanks very much to Amy for taking this task on alongside everything else she is doing. Be sure to help her out and send her your sightings.

Nan Butkovich, currently also co-compiler for *Centre*, has agreed to also submit reports for *Blair*, another long-vacant county. Thanks Nan!

Contact information for all of these new compilers can be found in the Local Notes of this issue.

Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief

United States Postal Service Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation				
1. Publication Title: Pennsylvania Birds				
2. Publication Number 2905				
3. Filing Date 09/03/2012				
4. Issue Frequency Quarterly				
5. Number of Issues Published Annually 4				
6. Annual Subscription Price \$30				
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730 Contact Person Franklin Haas ; Telephone 717-445-9609				
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730				
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor Publisher: Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology , 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730 Editor: Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology , 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730 Managing Editor: Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology , 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730				
10. Owner: Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology , 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730				
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagors, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: X None				
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 07/23/2011				
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation				
				Average No. Copies During Preceding 12 Months
a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)				449
b. Paid Circulation				450
(1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541.				416
(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541.				15
(3) Sales Through Dealers, etc.				0
(4) Other Classes				0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4))				430
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution				432
(1) Outside-County				0
(2) In-County				0
(3) Other Classes				0
(4) Outside the mail				8
e. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))				8
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)				438
g. Copies Not Distributed				440
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)				11
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation				98
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership Publication required. Will be printed in the Vol 26 No.2 issue of this publication (October 2012).				
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Date Franklin C. Haas, Treasurer, 08/29/2012				
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).				

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS (ISSN 0898-8501) is published four times a year by The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. Editorial and business offices are located at 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9730. Subscriptions, all in US\$: One year U.S.A \$30, Canada \$48, Foreign \$60. Library rate \$33. Single copies: \$9. Checks and money orders in U.S. dollars only should be made payable to PSO. Copyright © 2012 by the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NARVON, PA 17555 and additional entry offices.**
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **PSO**, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9726.

Pennsylvania's Peregrine Falcons: a Comeback in Progress

Art McMorris¹ and Patti Barber

As almost everyone is aware, Peregrine Falcons underwent a startling population crash during the 1940s and 1950s. Although the reason was unknown at first, it gradually became clear that the crash was due to the effects of DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides, which disrupted hormonal function in Peregrine Falcons and resulted in reproductive failure. This population crash occurred to a greater or lesser extent worldwide, and also affected other top predators, which bioaccumulated the insecticides that they ingested with tainted prey. Although numbers of Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Brown Pelicans and others were greatly reduced, remnant populations of these species remained. The effect was especially severe on peregrines, however, particularly in eastern North America. A thorough search in 1961 failed to turn up any evidence of successful nesting east of the Rockies. These majestic birds, the fastest animals on earth, which thrill with their domination of the air, were gone.

But thanks to the dedication and hard work of hundreds of wildlife biologists, cooperating individuals and agencies, and a veritable army of amateurs who volunteered their time and effort, we can enjoy these charismatic birds again. The population recovery of peregrines is one of the great success stories in the history of conservation. But it did not get off to an easy start, and the work is not done yet.

The population recovery was brought about by captive breeding and release of Peregrine Falcons at many locations in North America and abroad where populations had crashed. The falcons we enjoy today are their descendants. Release of captive-bred birds began in the 1970s, following three events which made it possible to even begin thinking of restoring peregrines to the wild: DDT and related compounds were banned; the Endangered Species Act was passed, giving peregrines protections that they had previously not had; and the public became better aware that peregrines and other raptors are an important part of the ecosystem, and are not simply "vermin."

The rationale of the captive-breeding-and-release approach seems fairly straightforward, even if it involves a huge amount of effort and expense. At the time, though, the main problem was that no one knew how to breed peregrines in captivity. No one had tried in a systematic way, and the very rare cases of success were due more to accident than to design. Due to the vision and dogged work of Dr. Tom Cade and associates, The Peregrine Fund was undertaken at Cornell University to

breed peregrines in captivity. Assistance by falconers played an important role in this effort: falconers had literally millennia of collective experience in handling falcons in captivity, even if they hadn't actually bred them. Seven different subspecies, with a combination of characters resembling those of the by-then extinct Eastern *anatum* subspecies of *Falco peregrinus*, were chosen for the breeding program. Thousands were raised in captivity and released in the eastern United States and Canada.

The release program in Pennsylvania was initiated by The Peregrine Fund and then carried forward by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC). It got off to a rocky start. Releases were initiated in 1976 at two cliff sites: along Towanda Creek in Bradford County, and at Dauphin Narrows on the Susquehanna River in Dauphin County. These sites seemed like good choices; both had supported successful Peregrine Falcon nests in the pre-DDT era, so they should have everything that peregrines would need. However, all of the falcons released during this first stage succumbed to predation by Great Horned Owls. The released peregrines were naïve and did not have experienced adults to protect them, and during the decades-long absence of peregrines, Great Horned Owls, a traditional enemy of peregrines which nest on some of the same cliff ledges, had no competitors at the cliffs. Peregrines released in other states met a similar fate, and releases were suspended. When they resumed, birds were released at urban sites and at hack towers in coastal marshes that had an abundance of avian prey, but much less pressure from predators. The site chosen in Pennsylvania was the PNB building in downtown Philadelphia. This time it worked, and the rest is history. In the mid-1980s, for the first time in decades, peregrines were found nesting in Pennsylvania. They were nesting on three large bridges: the Walt Whitman and Girard Point bridges in Philadelphia County, and the Commodore Barry Bridge in nearby Chester County.

Starting with the first instance of nesting in 1986, the peregrine population in Pennsylvania has gradually increased. The population was bolstered by a third round of releases during the 1990's at four sites: downtown Allentown, Harrisburg, Reading, and Williamsport. During the intervening 26 years, the population has grown to the 32 nesting pairs documented in 2012. This is an all-time high in the post-DDT era and is three quarters of the pre-DDT state-wide population of about 45 nesting pairs. The recovery is very well

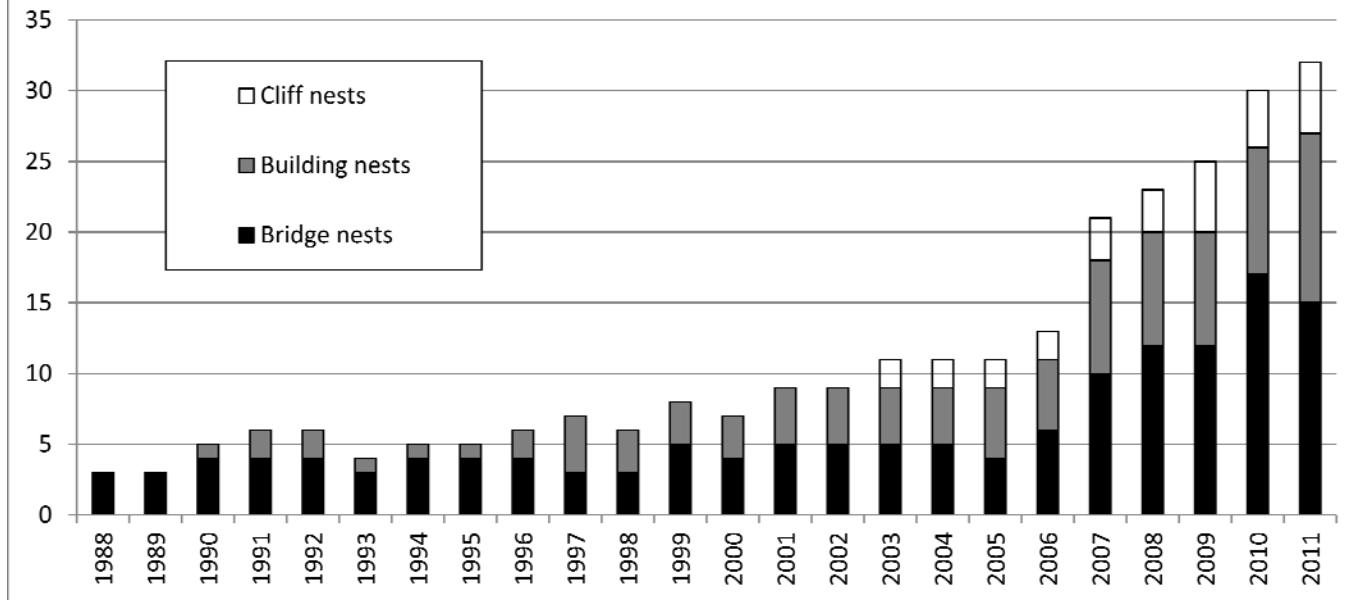
underway!

At first glance it seems that the population recovery is nearly complete. Indeed, peregrines were taken off the federal Endangered Species list in 1999, in part because of robust populations, mostly on natural cliffs, in many western states such as Arizona and Alaska. But there are important differences between the population in the pre-DDT era and the population today, and the difference is not just one of numbers. Historically, all but one of Pennsylvania's Peregrine Falcon nests were on natural cliff ledges in non-urban environments. The one exception was a nest on Philadelphia City Hall, one of only a handful of nests known on man-made structures in the world at that time. Today, 28 of Pennsylvania's nests are on man-made structures: 16 on bridges, ten on buildings, and two on smokestacks, all tall structures which can be thought of as manmade cliffs. Only four Pennsylvania nests are on natural cliff ledges. The reason that the population has shifted so heavily to man-made structures (almost all of them in an urban environment) is poorly understood.

"Poorly understood" is what scientists say when they just plain don't know to answer to a question. But several factors quite possibly contribute to the overall pattern. One is imprinting: falcons may prefer to nest at sites that resemble the sites from which they fledged. Some published studies show that peregrines that fledge from cliffs choose to nest on cliffs more often than random chance would indicate, whereas those from man-made structures prefer man-made structures. But there are plenty of exceptions, and the preferences are not absolute. Indeed, some peregrines that fledged from Pennsylvania cliffs have been found nesting on man-made structures, and vice versa. The ready availability of abundant "easy" prey such as pigeons in cities has been cited as another possible explanation for the shift to urban sites, as has the reduced pressure from predators in urban settings, especially nest predators. Another possibility is that, during the decades-long absence of peregrines, many potential cliff sites became overgrown, or have been occupied by Great Horned Owls. It is likely that several of these factors, and perhaps others, each contribute to the net shift towards a preference among peregrines for man-made structures in urban settings. Much remains to be learned, but the bottom line is that the population today is very different from the pre-DDT era.

So what does it matter, if the falcons are successful and productive (which they are) on man-made structures? What does

Peregrine Falcon nests in Pennsylvania, 1988-2011



it matter if urban-nesting peregrines produce young, some of which, as they do, go on to nest on natural cliffs? Why are peregrines still listed as Endangered in Pennsylvania and many other eastern states? If the objective of the PGC, which is responsible for Peregrine Falcons (and indeed all birds and mammals in Pennsylvania) is to establish a secure, wild population of Peregrine Falcons, hasn't this been achieved?

One concern is that, with only five cliff-nesting pairs, there remains a great deal of vacant habitat in Pennsylvania. Therefore if a goal of the PGC's recovery program is to restore the Peregrine Falcon to its normal place in the ecosystem, this has not yet been achieved. Another reason is that the success of peregrines nesting on man-made structures is heavily dependent on human assistance, both by the PGC and by the owners and managers of the many bridges, buildings and power plant smokestacks that host peregrines. Many of these structures do not have adequate nest sites, rather, the birds nest in nest boxes placed for their use.

Another concern is that those manmade structures are used by people. This can result in a great deal of disturbance that could easily cause nest failure if they were not highly regulated. This disturbance comes in many forms: installation and maintenance of rooftop equipment, bridge inspection and maintenance, use of balconies or rooftop patios, window washing, and even well-meaning attention by people peeking through windows at nesting falcons. All of these are regulated by a combination of legal protections and voluntary cooperation, often at significant inconvenience and expense to property

owners and managers.

Thirdly, fledglings often get into trouble. The early post-fledging period is the most hazardous time in a peregrine's life. If the nest is on a manmade structure, "getting into trouble" includes falling into a river, becoming grounded on a street or sidewalk, flying into glass, getting hit by cars, and other problems that just don't come up at natural cliff ledges. Individuals and organized "rescue squads" frequently rescue fledglings that would otherwise die. At some urban sites it is not uncommon for every fledgling to be rescued at least once in a season. Given all of these factors, it is fair to ask whether urban-resting peregrines are either wild or secure. Although it is undeniable that urban nesting peregrines contribute substantially to the growth of the population, any formula for determining whether the species has truly recovered must depend heavily on nests on natural cliffs, which succeed with minimal or no help from humans.

There is much reason for optimism about the recovery of Peregrine Falcons in Pennsylvania, but a lot remains to be done. The long-term management goal of the PGC's Peregrine Falcon Recovery and Management Program is to re-establish a self-sustaining, secure population of Peregrine Falcons in Pennsylvania. Besides many people from various departments at PGC, many other people have made indispensable contributions. These include several dozen cooperating government and non-governmental agencies, many landowners and managers, and a veritable army of volunteers, people like those of you who are reading this now, who have made essential contributions. Especially

important are volunteers across the state who search for new nest sites and monitor known nest sites for activity; it is only because of these volunteers that the PGC has the information needed to carry the recovery program forward. Searching for new nest sites can be a targeted effort of searching tall structures and (most importantly) cliffs, or just a casual report of what you saw while hiking, canoeing or birding. Monitoring of known nests is especially important during the nesting season from mid-February until the end of July. Some nest sites are well-covered by local monitors; other sites could use some help. Anyone with sightings to report or who would like to help monitor nest sites is urged to contact Art McMorris: mcmorris@mac.com.

¹corresponding author
405 Bryn Mawr Ave.
Bala-Cynwyd, PA 19004
mcmorris@mac.com

Art McMorris is the Peregrine Falcon Coordinator and Patti Barber is the biologist leading conservation of endangered and threatened birds for the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Wildlife Diversity Program.

Raptor Migration Summary – Spring 2012

Laurie Goodrich

January and February were warmer than usual, and were followed by a warm spring that saw an early leaf-out across Pennsylvania forests, and early arrivals for some songbirds in spring 2012. Despite these patterns, raptor migration appeared to be right on schedule. Peak flight dates were similar to prior years and none of the sites reported unusually early dates. Rain and northerly winds occurred more often than usual throughout the season, possibly dispersing migrants and reducing daily and season totals below those of recent years at some sites.

Migration Summary

Four Pennsylvania watchsites tallied 21,164 hawks during 1502 hours of counting between mid-February and late May (Table 1). Two Mississippi Kites were recorded, an adult at Hawk Mountain in Berks/Schuylkill 15 April and a sub-adult at Presque Isle in Erie 24 May. A Swainson's Hawk at Tussey Mountain, Centre 14 April was the only other rarity spotted this spring.

Despite counts dropping at three of the four sites compared to 2011, the total number of raptors counted in 2012 was the second highest total recorded for the spring in more than a decade (Table 1). Prior to the beginning of coverage at Presque Isle in 2009, total counts of spring raptors in the state ranged from 6000 to 13,000, and often included more sites reporting than in recent years. The largest boost in counts from Presque Isle has been in tallies of Turkey Vulture, now exceeding 6000 birds each spring, when earlier statewide counts ranged from 600 to 2100 birds.

Table 1: Pennsylvania watch-sites reporting for spring 2012

Site	Hours	Total
Allegheny Front	492	1527
Hawk Mountain	259	1131
Presque Isle	263	16290
Tussey Mountain	489	2216
Total	1502	21164

In 2012, the total hours of effort increased to 1502 compared with 1250 hours in 2011, and the number of days of coverage increased to 245 compared to 210. This welcome increase in coverage at the four count sites, however, led to a slight dip in birds per hour, with sites averaging 14.1 migrants per hour of effort in 2012, compared to 22.3 migrants per hour in 2011. Presque Isle led with 62 birds per hour of effort in 2012, while Allegheny Front (Bedford/Somerset) and

Tussey Mountain led with 492 and 489 total hours, respectively (Table 1).

Pennsylvania set a new record for Bald Eagles in spring with 236 spotted among the four sites. The two Mississippi Kites tied the 2004 record of two sighted for spring watchsites, and the lone Swainson's Hawk matched the 2003 spring count. Presque Isle recorded the highest one-day count for Bald Eagle with 17 on 2 May. Other peak counts of this species were scattered throughout the season, underscoring the broad migration period for this species.

March was the best month to spot Golden Eagles in Pennsylvania. Tussey Mountain led the Golden Eagle parade with 32 on 1 March, and Allegheny Front had its peak Golden Eagle flight of 10 on 17 March. The most numerous migrant statewide was the Turkey Vulture, with 10,848 total birds representing 51% of all migrating raptors observed, and Broad-winged Hawk at 5089, representing 24% of all migrants (Table 3). Vultures peaked in late March with 1400 on 28 March at Presque Isle, and 89 Turkey Vultures at Allegheny Front 18 March. Tussey recorded 21 on both 22 and 23 March as well. Hawk Mountain had minimal coverage in March but recorded a peak of 8 Turkey Vultures 3 April.

Site Highlights

Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford) – Watchers at Allegheny Front recorded 1527 hawks in 492 hours of counts from 22 February through 7 May, at a rate of 3.1 hawks per hour (Table 3). The peak one-day tally occurred 18 March with 142 total hawks including 89 Turkey Vultures, 24 Red-tailed and 19 Sharp-shinned hawks. Lower than usual counts of Broad-winged Hawk disappointed observers, with a peak one-day count of just 42 on 14 April. In contrast, 67 Osprey flew past 30 April, setting a new one-day site record for this migrant. Six Bald and three Golden eagles were spotted that same day, making for a especially memorable time at the mountain (Table 2). The last day of counting 7 May resulted in 19 migrants including 9 Osprey and 2 Golden Eagles, a respectable ending. A new spring record was set in 2012 for Cooper's Hawk with 108 counted, and Osprey, Northern Goshawk, and Sharp-shinned Hawk were all above the 10-year average.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Berks/Schuylkill) – Hawk Mountain counters recorded an above-average 1131 raptors in 259 hours of counts from 10 March through 13 May, at a rate of 4.4 birds per hour (Table 1). New season

records were set for both Bald Eagle (46) and Black Vulture (121). A new one-day spring record also was set for Black Vulture with 11 migrating north above North Lookout 4 May. Frequent windy days in April and May might have increased slope-soaring migrants in 2012, as Hawk Mountain recorded total counts 25% above the ten-year average.

The rarest migrant was sighted 15 April, an adult Mississippi Kite heading north along the mountain. The peak one-day count of 92 hawks swirled past 16 April, including 72 Broad-winged Hawks. Several other days saw more than 50 migrants, but kettles of Broad-winged Hawks were rarely observed. Early May counters were challenged by rain, but on 12 May, Hawk Mountain sighted six Bald Eagles (two adult and four immatures) for the peak one-day count for the season (Table 2). The count ended early on May 13 as the lookout was shrouded in fog and drizzle for 14 and 15 May.

Presque Isle (Erie) – In the fourth season of counts at Presque Isle, watchers tallied 16,290 migrants in 263 count hours, a rate of 62 birds per hour across 66 days between 1 March and 26 May. The total was above average but below the 2011 total of 23,417 (Table 3). The peak day in March occurred on the 28th with 1429 migrating hawks including 1400 Turkey Vultures and 16 Red-tailed Hawks. In April the best count day occurred 15 April with 585 migrants including 355 Broad-winged Hawks. 2 May brought the highest count for the season with 1999 Broad-winged Hawks, 20 Osprey, 17 Bald Eagles, and 59 Sharp-shinned Hawks among the 2255 raptor migrants (Table 2). The rarest migrant for the season was spotted 24 May when a sub-adult Mississippi Kite glided into view while watchers were observing an approaching Bald Eagle.

Tussey Mountain (Centre) – Tussey counters tallied 2216 hawks in 489 hours from 21 February through 25 April, for 4.5 birds per hour (Table 1). Totals were slightly below the ten-year average of 2341. Golden Eagles concentrated at the site during early March with 32 spotted 1 March, 19 on 2 March, and 21 on 7 March. Golden Eagles were seen nearly daily throughout March, and the season total of 212 was average for the site, but the highest for Pennsylvania. A peak one-day count of four Bald Eagles also sailed past 7 March. The rarest migrant of the season, a Swainson's Hawk, was observed heading north on the afternoon of 14 April. Broad-winged Hawk numbers peaked 26 April, with 278 high-flying birds swirling past,

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

Site	Bald Eagle		Golden Eagle	
	Count	Date	Count	Date
Allegheny Front	6	4/30	10	3/17
Hawk Mountain	6	5/12	2	4/9
Presque Isle	17	5/2	1	many
Tussey Mountain	4	3/7	32	3/1

among a total of 323 migrants for the day. Above-average season counts were recorded for Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged hawks.

Conclusion

In spring 2012, migrants appeared to be more dispersed than in past spring seasons. Although vultures passed by in impressive flocks at Presque Isle in March, Broad-winged Hawks rarely surpassed 100 birds at any of the sites.

Eagles continued to amaze Pennsylvania spring observers, with 291 Golden and 236 Bald eagles tallied among the four sites. Most Golden Eagles were seen at Tussey Mountain and Allegheny Front (284), whereas Bald Eagles were observed in good numbers at all watchsites, although the lake shore site, Presque Isle, observed twice as many as the other three locations (128).

Despite the lowering number of spring sites covered in recent years, Pennsylvania plays a key role in eastern eagle monitoring in spring and in autumn. Tussey Mountain consistently records the fourth highest spring count for Golden Eagle across the continent, and autumn totals at both Allegheny Front and Waggoner's Gap are some of the highest in the east. Presque Isle is fast becoming a key spring site for vultures, where their season counts have been among the highest recorded at any spring site in the past two years.

Trends in numbers of eagles and other raptors sighted at Pennsylvania sites, for any watchsite with at least 10 years of hourly data are available at <www.rpi-project.org>. I encourage all Pennsylvania birders to assist your local hawkwatch in covering their location in either spring or autumn and to see the fruits of their labor at the above website. You only have to read the daily reports (archived on <www.hawkcount.org>) to realize how much fun these observers are having, and how many other migrants they are seeing.

Acknowledgements

I thank site compilers Adam Carter, Jerry McWilliams, Dan Ombalski, and Bob Stewart, the hawkcount.org database manager Jason Sodergren, and the sponsoring organization Hawk Migration Association of North America for access to the data and their insight on the spring 2012 flight. I also thank the many spring hawk counters for their dedication in manning the lookouts to collect these data despite sleet, snow, rain and heat. David Barber provided the map of watchsites and Keith L. Bildstein provided helpful comments on an earlier draft. This is Hawk Mountain contribution number 220.

*Acopian Ctr. for Conservation Learning
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association
410 Summer Valley Road
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
goodrich@hawkmtn.org*

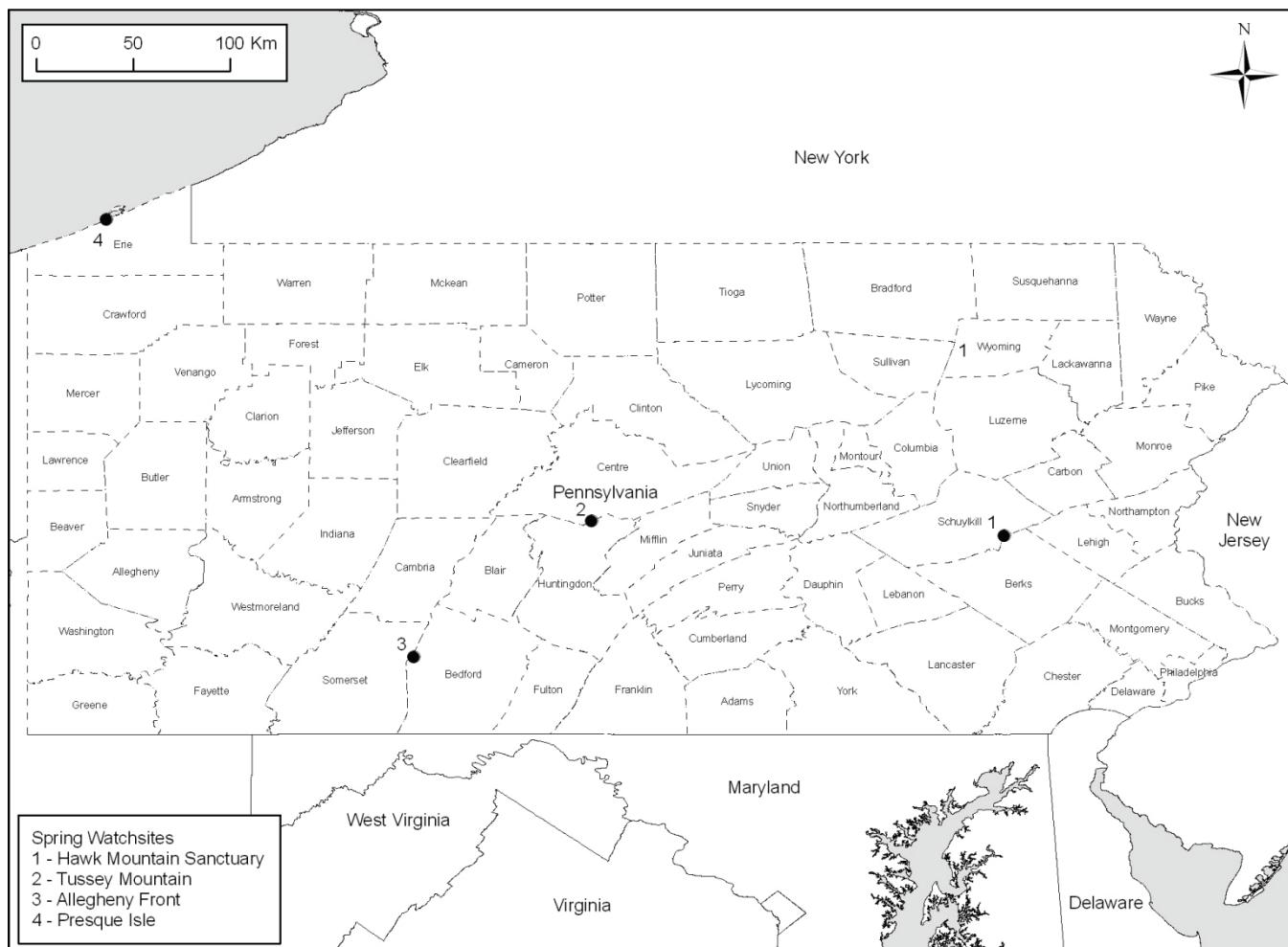


Table 3. Spring 2012 count results for Pennsylvania watch sites.**ALLEGHENY FRONT (Bedford) - Bob Stewart, compiler**

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	SWHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	MK	TOTAL
February	42.0	0	36	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	0	32	0	0	12	0	0	4	0	92	
March	208.3	9	249	1	6	11	114	61	2	45	0	223	2	0	47	10	1	25	0	807	
April	195.5	2	7	95	7	10	56	38	8	4	207	83	0	0	11	4	0	2	26	0	560
May	46.5	0	0	1	7	8	0	0	0	13	9	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	68	
Total	492.3	11	292	14	22	177	108	54	220	347	2	0	72	15	1	3	56	0	1527		
Total/hr.	0.02	0.59	0.25	0.03	0.04	0.36	0.22	0.02	0.11	0.45	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.11	0.00	3.10	
% flight	7.72	19.12	7.92	0.92	1.44	11.59	7.07	0.79	3.54	14.41	22.72	0.13	0.00	4.72	0.98	0.07	0.20	3.67	0.00	100.00	
Average	414.4	12.9	327.9	103.3	19.0	28.6	172.6	72.0	6.1	57.9	399.7	437.1	2.2	0.0	72.7	24.6	5.5	3.6	88.0	0.0	1833.9

HAWK MOUNTAIN (Berks/Schuylkill) - Adam Carter, compiler

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	SW	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	MK	TOTAL
March	14.0	3	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
April	185.0	87	45	86	25	30	100	35	0	5	276	84	0	0	4	18	2	2	58	1	858
May	59.5	31	8	35	21	7	31	9	0	1	60	21	0	0	0	2	0	0	35	0	261
Total	258.5	121	54	122	46	38	133	45	0	6	336	108	0	4	20	2	2	93	1	1131	
Total/hr.	0.47	0.21	0.47	0.18	0.51	0.17	0.00	0.02	1.30	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.08	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.36	0.00	4.38	
% flight	10.70	4.77	10.79	4.07	3.36	11.76	3.98	0.00	0.53	29.71	9.55	0.00	0.35	1.77	0.18	0.18	0.18	8.22	0.09	100.00	
Average	235.5	25.6	26.9	104.0	19.2	24.0	106.4	38.2	0.6	8.3	336.9	111.3	0.2	1.8	23.7	3.9	3.9	62.8	0.5	897.1	

PRESQUE ISLE (Erie) - Jerry McWilliams, compiler

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	SW	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	MK	TOTAL
March	100.0	0	5947	0	15	11	57	33	0	192	0	394	7	0	42	3	0	17	0	6718	
April	108.0	0	3438	41	50	53	573	25	0	3	1523	186	9	0	2	160	2	20	0	6993	
May	54.5	0	948	33	63	10	85	13	0	0	2260	42	0	0	1	7	0	2	9	1	3479
Total	282.5	0	10333	79	128	74	715	71	0	195	3783	622	16	0	3	209	5	10	46	1	16280
Total/hr.	0.00	0.00	39.36	0.30	0.29	0.28	2.72	0.00	0.74	14.41	2.37	0.06	0.00	0.01	0.80	0.02	0.04	0.18	0.00	62.06	
% flight	0.00	0.00	63.43	0.48	0.79	0.45	4.39	0.44	0.00	1.20	23.22	3.82	0.10	0.00	0.02	1.28	0.03	0.06	0.28	0.01	100.00
Average	169.1	0.8	7738.2	67.6	69.6	60.2	830.2	73.4	1.4	175.4	3691.4	511.6	21.8	0.0	1.4	248.6	10.6	6.6	45.4	0.2	13555.2

TUSSEY MOUNTAIN (Centre) - Dan Ombalski, compiler

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	SW	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	MK	TOTAL
February	45.0	0	57	0	21	0	5	1	2	3	0	28	0	0	18	0	0	0	3	0	83
March	248.3	7	122	9	25	15	127	23	1	36	0	324	4	0	176	26	3	1	9	0	908
April	195.5	9	26	76	18	13	17	17	1	3	750	154	0	1	18	14	1	0	7	0	1225
Total	488.8	16	169	85	48	29	245	41	3	43	750	506	4	1	212	40	4	1	19	0	2216
Total/hr.	0.03	0.35	0.17	0.10	0.06	0.50	0.08	0.01	0.09	1.53	1.04	0.01	0.00	0.43	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.00	4.53	
% flight	0.72	7.63	3.84	2.17	1.31	11.06	1.85	0.14	1.94	33.84	22.83	0.18	0.05	9.57	1.81	0.18	0.05	0.86	0.00	100.00	
Average	409.4	30.2	246.3	95.0	30.2	44.7	203.6	86.0	2.5	54.4	718.0	535.2	5.9	0.2	214.0	47.8	4.5	1.5	45.5	0.0	2341.3

2012 TOTAL FOR ALL PENNSYLVANIA WATCHSITES

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	SW	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	MK	TOTAL
February	87.0	0	6319	11	46	38	300	118	3	273	0	944	13	0	30	0	0	0	7	0	175
March	570.5	19	3516	298	100	106	846	115	9	15	2756	507	9	1	35	196	5	12	111	1	8445
April	684.0	98	956	85	123	30	0	1	2333	72	0	0	3	10	0	2	45	1	8736		
Total	1502.0	148	10848	407	236	163	1270	265	15	298	5089	1583	1	291	284	12	16	214	2	21164	
Total/hr.	0.10	0.72	0.22	0.16	0.11	0.85	0.18	0.01	0.20	3.39	1.05	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.14	0.00	14.09	
% flight	0.70	51.26	1.92	1.12	0.77	6.00	1.25	0.07	1.41	24.05	7.48	0.10	0.00	1.37	1.34	0.06	0.08	1.01	0.01	100.00	
Average	1265.5	104.1	4316.3	423.8	127.4	147.5	947.3	258.7	10.8	207.5	3600.9	1336.5	17.4	0.2	274.9	266.5	23.2	11.7	238.6	0.5	12254.7

Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania – publication forthcoming

Andrew M. Wilson, Daniel W. Brauning, and Robert S. Mulvihill

Twenty years after the first Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania was published (Brauning 1992), the *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* brings our knowledge of the state's breeding bird populations up to date, documenting current distributions and changes in status for nearly two hundred bird species. Highlights from that project are summarized here, including a sample species account from the publication (expected November 2012).

Pennsylvania Birds subscribers make up the core of the nearly two thousand dedicated birders who contributed to this project, which covered each of the state's 4,937 blocks during the period from 2004–2009. Those volunteers reported over 106,952 field hours and another 34,192 administrative hours (entering data) to complete this massive project. The resulting data provide an updated picture of the current distribution of every breeding species and reveal changes that have occurred since the first Atlas. In addition to the volunteer effort, a trained field crew carried out a rigorous point-count survey protocol at more than 34,000 locations statewide. These surveys tabulated individual birds in a manner that enabled the first ever statistical estimation of the statewide population size for more than half of the 190 breeding species detected during the second Atlas. In all, more than 1.5 million breeding bird observations were compiled and analyzed during the second Atlas, providing an unprecedented snapshot of the bird life of Pennsylvania—perhaps even of any comparably sized region in the world.

A total of 218 species and two hybrids were reported to the second Atlas, of which 190 species were considered breeders and given full species accounts. The resulting database equates to a median of 72 species per block (77 species per priority block), with a range of 24 to 126. Included among these confirmed breeders are three that had never been documented to nest in Pennsylvania prior to the second Atlas: Merlin, Great Black-backed Gull, and Eurasian Collared-Dove. All three species had been undergoing range expansions in recent years. Of these, the Merlin is part of a broad pattern of unaided expansion, which has continued since the completion of this project. Increased Great Black-backed Gull breeding populations in the mid-Atlantic may be due to increased food resources there, but the colonization of the Eurasian Collared-Dove has been more directly aided by humans, having spread rapidly across North America since the 1970s. The Trumpeter Swan, a probable breeder in the second Atlas, was also aided by

humans, having been reintroduced into eastern parts of its former range, including neighboring Ontario and Ohio. Additionally, Double-crested Cormorant, Sandhill Crane, and Blackpoll Warbler had not nested in Pennsylvania at the time of the first Atlas, so they represent new species for atlas projects in Pennsylvania. Other nesters confirmed breeding in the second Atlas but not during the first, were Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, and Red Crossbill.

The second Atlas documented major range expansions in a number of species. Notable among these is the Clay-colored Sparrow, not confirmed breeding in the first Atlas and increasing over nine fold, from three block records in the first Atlas to 29 in the second. Impressive, by sheer numbers, is the doubling of blocks documenting Canada Goose, the largest increase in number of block records (1,816) of any breeding bird. Other species increasing more than 1,000 blocks were Wild Turkey, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, and Hooded Warbler. In all, more species expanded their ranges than retracted.

However, a number of species with established nesting histories showed dramatic declines in second-atlas block records. Most notable among these are Summer Tanager (declining 91% in number of blocks), Black Tern (73%), Common Nighthawk (71%), Blue-winged Teal (68%), and Northern Bobwhite (68%). The nighthawk and bobwhite had previously been widespread. Other striking declines include the Ring-necked Pheasant (52%) and Ruffed Grouse (33%), each declining by approximately 1,000 blocks. These and many other changes are documented and interpreted in species accounts written by more than forty contributing authors.

Compilation of the point count results as density maps and population estimates for about 100 species constitutes a new feature of the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania. Analysis showed that the population sizes of no fewer than 23 species in Pennsylvania exceed one million adult birds. The three most abundant species—Red-eyed Vireo, Chipping Sparrow, and Song Sparrow—each have populations of close to three million pairs, closely followed by American Robin and Gray Catbird. The detailed density maps that accompany the written accounts for these species provide a ‘third-dimension’ of distribution for these widespread species that the first Atlas did not. The second Atlas shows not only where the species were found across the state, but also where they were found most commonly.

The species accounts (of which the following for Hooded Warbler is an example) highlight some of the changes in Pennsylvania's environment that are contributing to ups and downs in the state's bird community. Long-term declines in quality wetland and grassland habitats have resulted in declines of many birds associated with those habitats—several wetland and grassland birds are now seriously imperiled in the state. Similarly, species of successional habitats and young forests have also been lost from swathes of the state. In contrast, birds of mature forests and those that fare well in highly altered landscapes have generally fared well. However, the book's author's caution that all of these habitats face ongoing and new threats ranging from development and expanding energy infrastructure, to climate change, invasive species and diseases. The effects of climate change may already be evident—species such as Carolina Wren and Red-bellied Woodpecker are gaining ground, while some high elevation or northern species show early signs of retreat. However, changes in the status of many species are perplexing and difficult to explain, demonstrating the importance of atlas data in monitoring changes in an unpredictable world.

Many additional features, results, and insightful analysis are provided within the 616 pages of this full-color book, beautifully illustrated on the cover with a painting by Julie Zickefoose (who also painted the cover of the first Atlas) depicting a Brewster's X Golden-winged Warbler pair at their nest. Accompanying each species' write-up is For each of the species receiving a full write-up, a beautiful photograph of the species illustrates the account, and most were taken by Pennsylvania photographers. Up to three maps per species show in fine detail the current distribution based on the second Atlas, changes in distribution since the first Atlas, and, where we had sufficient, the detailed maps of abundance, and a chart of 40-year population trends based on the Breeding Bird Survey. Introductory chapters describe and discuss recent changes in climate, geography, and bird habitats within Pennsylvania. The chapter on bird conservation summarizes just some of the many reasons why the second Atlas promises to be a vital tool for bird conservationists in Pennsylvania. Accounts of past breeding species and a summary of nesting phenology and habitat correlations round out the Second Atlas. It is a definitive reference and rich source of information for anybody interested in the nesting birds of Pennsylvania.



Bob Wood and Peter Wood

Hooded Warbler

Setophaga citrina

The Hooded Warbler's loud song, *weeta weeta weet-ee-o* and its many variants, was a familiar sound to atlas volunteers through much of the western half of the state and scattered areas eastward. Males are unmistakable in appearance, with a jet-black crown and bib contrasting with bright yellow cheeks. Many females also have a "hood" of sorts, with a partial hood forming an outline trace of the male's head markings. The conspicuous flashing of the outer white feathers while foraging helps to distinguish this species from other similar warblers.

The Hooded Warbler is a forest-dependent gap specialist that is common in mature deciduous forest with a dense understory for nesting sites, readily occupying selectively logged forests (Evans Ogden and Stutchbury 1994). Nests are usually less than a meter off the ground and placed in the dense shrub layer typical of light gaps and forest edges; consequently, Hooded Warblers are frequently parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds. Hooded Warblers are often double-brooded, particularly if the first nest of the season fledge young (Evans Ogden and Stutchbury 1994), so nesting activity typically continues into late summer. In the second Atlas, singing males were most abundant on point counts in deciduous forest and were also found in mixed forest and woody wetlands, as well as forested residential settings (Appendix D). Though often linked to "forest interior," Hooded Warblers breed

at forest edges and are common in small fragments of mature forest (Norris and Stutchbury 2001).

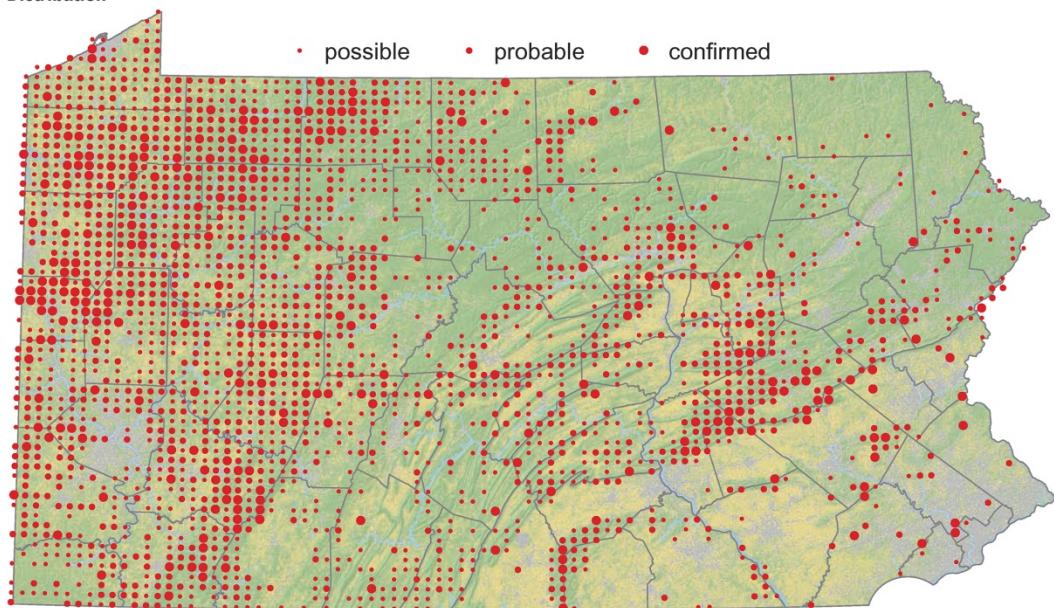
Pennsylvania lies at the northern edge of the Hooded Warbler range, and though abundant in western New York (McGowan 2008zn), this species is uncommon in Ontario (Badzinski 2007). The second Pennsylvania Atlas shows a highly significant increase in the number of blocks with the Hooded Warbler; it was found in 29 percent of blocks in the first Atlas and 49 percent of blocks in the second Atlas. This increase was partly due to expansion within the core range in the western half of the state, particularly the northwest, where this species was found in the great majority of blocks. There also were substantial increases in the central counties of the state, where the species was localized in the first Atlas. The Ridge and Valley Province stands out, with a 144 percent increase in blocks with Hooded Warbler between the atlases.

Density estimates derived from second Atlas point counts show that most areas of high abundance (>5 singing males per km^2) are in the state's western historic range, but with pockets of high density in well-forested high-elevation areas of the east. For the time being, the Hooded Warbler is still localized in distribution and scarce in the northeastern and southeastern corners of the state, but given the range expansion between atlases, this could change in coming years. Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data from Pennsylvania also show a steady upward trend, with an average increase of 3.9 percent per year from 1966 to 2009 (Sauer et al. 2011). Extrapolating from BBS data, we estimate that the statewide population of Hooded Warblers increased by 71 percent between atlas periods.

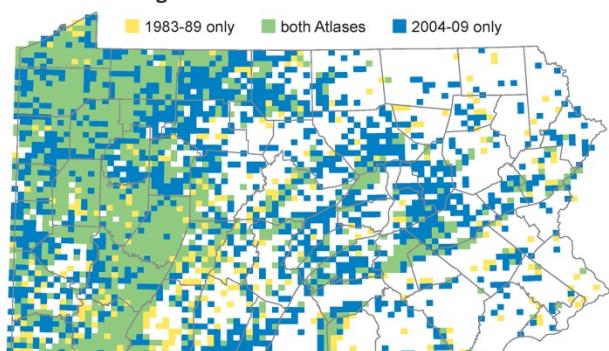
The Hooded Warbler is evidently in a period of northward range expansion across the region; even greater increases in atlas block occupancy occurred between atlases in New York (+146%; McGowan 2008zn) and Ontario (+400%; Badzinski 2007). The causes of the range expansion and population increases are not fully understood, but maturation of forest, combined with a possible response to climate change, may be important factors (Badzinski 2007; McGowan 2008zn). With an expanding range and increasing population, it is likely that this species' song will become increasingly familiar in most of Pennsylvania in the near future.

BRIDGET J. M. STUTCHBURY

Distribution



Distribution Change

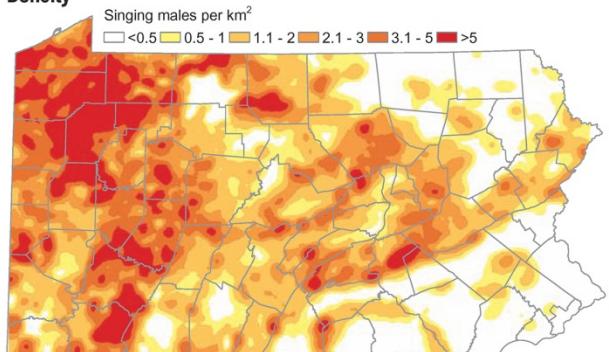


Number of Blocks

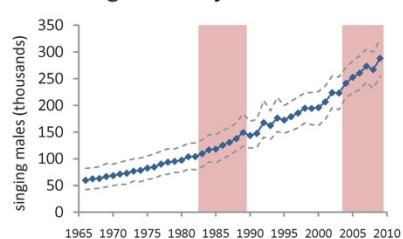
	first Atlas 1983-89	second Atlas 2004-09	Change %
Possible	532	1,219	129
Probable	681	948	39
Confirmed	205	256	25
Total	1,418	2,423	71

Population estimate, males (95% CI):
264,000 (251,000–278,000)

Density



Breeding Bird Survey Trend



BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

AVIAN ARCHITECTURE by Peter Goodfellow, edited and foreword by Mike Hansell, includes 300 full-color images covering more than 100 avian species worldwide, resources (books and websites), glossary, index, and acknowledgments, 8 x 10 in., 160 pp., published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2011, hard cover, \$27.95.

Perhaps this is the most appropriate time to congratulate the Princeton University Press for its 2011 American Publishers Awards for Professional and Scholarly Excellence. Two of the press's recent bird book titles won awards. *The Crossley ID Guide* by Richard Crossley received the Best Single Volume Reference in Science award as well as the highly prestigious Award for Excellence in Reference Works. See *Pennsylvania Birds*, Volume 25, No. 3, pp. 150-151 for a review of that book. The other tome, *Avian Architecture*, received the award for best book in Popular Science and Popular Mathematics and is being reviewed herewith. The Princeton University Press is not new at publishing bird books. Its first avian title, *Birds of Panama*, appeared in 1979. Currently, about 100 bird titles are available, the most of any American bird book publisher, surpassed only by Bloomsbury in the United Kingdom. Robert Kirk, Group Publisher in Science, Princeton University Press, tries to publish a diverse and high quality avian list that comprises the best domestic and inter-national field guides, references, and books that help people appreciate birds and other wildlife "in all its dizzying variety."

Avian Architecture is an excellent example of honoring Kirk's publishing philosophy and guidelines. Written and beautifully illustrated by Peter Goodfellow, a retired English teacher and lifelong birder, who has published books such as *Birds as Builders* and *A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of Britain and Northern Europe*. As emphasized on the inside front cover, "Birds are the consistently inventive builders, and their nests set the bar for functional design in nature. *Avian Architecture* describes how birds design, and build their nests, and deconstructs all types of nests found around the world, using architectural blueprints and detailed descriptions of the constructing processes and engineering techniques birds use. The wonderful blueprints are an artistic marvel, thanks to the dedication of Coral Mula.

Indeed, birds are excellent nest builders that far surpass other vertebrate animals, including mammals other than the human. Yet their excellent skills at

nest building are surprising for two reasons. First, birds spend comparatively little time in nest-building, even as nests serve as containers for eggs and a secure home for the growing chicks (but only for altricial species). Secondly, a bird builds a nest largely with only the beak, with some help from feet and belly or breast. Of course, a crucial scientific question is how do birds know how to build nests? Most evidence points to strong genetic influence, although in some birds, such as weaver-birds and bower-birds, it may be learned behavior. Regardless of the answer, another surprising fact about bird nests is that the topic receives little attention by birders and even field ornithologists. This fantastic book will change their minds.

Each of the twelve chapters begins with an overview of a specific nest type (e.g., Scrape Nests, Holes & Tunnels, Platform Nests, Aquatic Nests, Cup-Shaped Nests, Domed Nests, Mud Nests, Hanging, Woven & Stitched Nests, Mound Nests, Colonies & Group Nests, Courts & Bowers, and Edible Nests & Food Stores). For each, key structural characteristics and building methods are outlined, and the varied bird families and species that construct a specific type of nest are identified. Cleverly, the architectural characteristics of specific forms of the nest type are presented next as blueprint drawings. These annotated illustrations show the structure, shape, and dimensions of archetypal nests, stress specific architectural elements, and place the nest type in the context of different micro-habitats. Further, each chapter offers a close-up study of the materials and features used in nests via special figures, while pages of building techniques emphasize the remarkable construction skills—such as the intricate stitching of the African Masked-Weaver—through step by step illustrations. Finally, each chapter provides case studies (e.g., Killdeer, Ostrich, Arctic Tern, Common Eider in Chapter 1: Scrape Nests) how different species adapt the nest type to their specific habitat and requirements, alongside general information on the species itself.

The evolutionary pattern of nest building is still debated, but it is clear that nest evolution can be very rapid, as demonstrated by the different forms that can be found in one family. Of course, the nest is dependent upon and adapted to the habitat in which birds attempt to survive and reproduce. This statement can be illustrated by the swallows (Family: Hirundinidae) of North America. Nest construction and site vary widely among species, from the lone Northern Rough-

winged Swallow pair nesting in a drainage pipe of a bridge with scant grass, to a few scattered, platform mud nests of the Barn Swallow beneath the bridge, to colonial Cliff Swallows with hundreds of jug-shaped mud nests side by side on the outsides of the same structure.

However, it is the weaver birds (Family: Ploceidae) of Africa that epitomize the extreme of variation in nest building and micro-habitats. Ploceids occupy varied habitats from thorny bush, to marsh and swamps, to dense forests. Although their breeding habits are particularly diverse, all species construct covered nests. The buffalo-weavers build arboreal communal structures of sticks with separate internal nest chambers. Social weavers, on the other hand, build rounded or ovoid nests of dry grass or leaves with an entrance at the bottom. True weavers intricately construct elaborate nests with downward-pointing entrance tubes. Most weavers build nests in shrubs or trees but the thick-billed Compact Weaver and the Grosbeak Weaver build a ball of dry grasses with a side entrance hole attached to reeds. Weaver birds are indeed a celebration of the diverse ingenuity and great dexterity of the finest avian architects and engineers. Field ornithologists and birders alike can identify nearly 100 weaver species by their different nests on the African landscape, often long before the birds themselves are observed.

Chapter 11, Courts and Bowers, deserves special attention because it is the only chapter devoted to bird display, not nest type. For millennia, when Homo sapiens was much closer to nature, biomimicry (humans imitating nature in many ways) was best exemplified perhaps by primal peoples in New Guinea and Australia, who copied the male bowerbird's antics of singing, dancing, building, and decorating ostentatious bowers, courts, and lawns to charm females. Each bowerbird species has its own bower structures and decorations that are beautifully shown in colorful photographs and detailed blueprints (pp. 133-143). Although rare nowadays, biomimicry still exists in human art and architecture.

Finally, the last chapter deals with edible nests and food stores (pp. 144-153). Although a number of avian species use special skills to create and exploit food stores by constructing and using pantries, granaries, and orchards of various designs, two white-rumped swifts, the Edible-nest Swiftlet (*Aerodramus fuciphagus*) and the Black-nest Swiftlet (*A. maximus*), found in Malaysia and Indonesia, are the only species in the

world that produce a natural nest-building material from their own solidified saliva. The matter has been a significant human food resource for centuries. In fact, since the 1990s, a huge nest-farming industry has developed in northern Sumatra, with most nest-building material going to China to make bird's-nest-soup.

In sum, few avian titles have left me spellbound and excited to read cover to cover through the night as *Avian Architecture*. Everything about this book, layout, color photographs, handsome blueprint illustrations, a fascinating subject that deserves this overdue exposure, and succinct text, proves that this book deserves the recent publication awards. It shows too that the author had a top-notch editorial team at Ivy Press, coaching the author all the way through the publication process. *Avian Architecture* deserves to be placed in the bookcase next to the best of all avian titles. Ornithologists, naturalists, teachers at all levels of education, yes, even the curious public will be thrilled with the contents of this primary reference. Thank you, Peter Goodfellow, for sharing your avian nest-building expertise.

WHAT THE ROBIN KNOWS: How Birds Reveal the Secrets of the Natural World by Jon Young, with science and audio editing by Dan Gardoqui, 17 ink illustrations by Kilihi Fish Photo & Design; includes dedication, acknowledgments, introduction, 2 appendices, notes, references, and index; 5 ½ x 8 ½ in., 272 pp., published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, MA, 2012, hard cover, \$22.00.

It's 4:50 a.m., June 10, and the American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) is the first bird to sing in the predawn darkness. Within two minutes, every male robin in a city square block is singing the many different vocalizations of the thrush's rich repertoire. However, songs are only one (major) part of avian vocalizations, performed chiefly within the breeding season. A second segment of avian vocalizations are call notes that are uttered throughout the year for many particular reasons: alarm, surprise, flying, flocking, greeting, young begging food, feeding, communicating, and migrating, to name a few. Songs are usually mentioned in bird field guides or on tapes and disc recordings, but not calls. Simply stated, there are too many call notes of the robin, or really of any bird, to learn, even for most dedicated field ornithologists and hardcore birders "because it would take a lifetime." Yet, long ago when Homo sapiens was an integral part of nature, such learning was an accepted routine of

education for primal peoples of the world from youth through adulthood. Thus, the robin, so common and recognized so easily by contemporary urban inhabitants, is a fitting model for this book.

For the past 300 years, the western industrial syndrome has severed the human from nature, and in so doing, dulled human senses almost completely with every advancing technology. That is why Jon Young, author of this book, tracker, naturalist, and birder for four decades, has combined native skills with the tools of post-modern field ecology, emphasizing the nearly lost art of understanding deep avian language, or "bird talk" if you prefer. Young is an iconoclast; his book challenges many of the beliefs and attitudes of 21st century living. The simple but accurate message of the book is to go beyond just identifying bird calls, and to really *listen* to them as a deep, new, avian language, as messages of communication with you that truly reveal the secrets of nature. Use the robin, or other "reference species" like cardinal, blue jay, chickadee, or titmouse, to be your guide, because each bird already knows everything important about its habitat, be it your backyard or a nearby forest. Learn a new language by tuning into the bird's call notes and behavior in a special micro-habitat, and in the process acquire much of this natural wisdom for your own pleasure and benefit.

It is an attempt to raise self-consciousness, to become aware and sensitive to nature, using birds as our sentries and guides that demand frequent, long-lasting, and intimate contact through all of our senses. After all, the human is a sensuous being and there is a dire need currently to revitalize deadened sensations and feelings. So how do we start? The key to comprehending the natural world beyond our doorstep is to start at the most basic level of learning, by tapping the individual innate power of human curiosity in a natural setting (Young calls it a "sit"), whether it be a field, marsh, or forest. Once there, away from all human distractions, open all of your senses but concentrate on bird sounds and behavior. Unwitting humans create a zone of disturbance that scatters wildlife, whereas respectful humans using deep bird language, who heed birds and other wildlife, acquire an awareness that radically changes how they interact and interconnect with all life. Such folk are welcomed in this type of environment; birds don't fly away; larger animals don't race off. We are no longer hapless intruders but actually kin members of a community.

Remember, other animals in attend to bird language and behavior too. This fact is well illustrated by Young: how deeply bird language works in practice, with various alarm "shapes" that are

discussed at length in Chapter 7: A Shape for Every Occasion. The chapter lays out bird language specialists' codification of twelve alarm shapes, each a time-tested response by the birds to a specific kind of threat: bird plow, sentinel, hook, popcorn, parabolic or umbrella, weasel, cat, bullet, ditch, hawk drop, safety barrier, and zone of silence (pp. 119-163).

Appendix A: Learning Bird Language provides a tool kit to use in learning the ancient art of deep bird language. There is also a helpful DVD called Bird Language with Jon Young. The author reminds the reader that birds surround us every day and are our teachers, so start paying extra attention to them. Get to know your sit spot in all seasons, all times of the day, and in all weather conditions. This is the key to learning the baseline or the daily routine of your spot. Keep a pocket journal to write down key call notes or observations that you can transfer to a more permanent diary later (pp. 183-198).

Specific comments are geared to each chapter in the book. 1. A Cacophony of Harmony asks: "What's Happening Today?" 2. In the Beginning is the Song: Learn all the voices of one bird; put your audio source on repeat, and listen to the tracks over and over again until you have internalized the sounds. Listen for them in the landscape and after you learn one bird, learn another. 3. More Cacophony of Harmony: Listen for the quietest sound. Observe companion calls, territorial aggression, and adolescent begging. 4. The Sit Spot: Ask routine questions that connect: What did I observe? Hear? What is this telling me? What is this teaching me? How is this helping me? How is it helping me to help others? Asking these types of questions is at the core of learning deep bird language. Owl Eyes: Open your peripheral vision wide like an owl when you sit in your spot. Deer Ears: Send your hearing out in one direction at a time—left, right, behind, ahead, and up and down. Listen first for the quietest sounds in each direction. Then let your ears soak in all the sounds at once and keep track of the direction and distance of the origin of each sound. 5. An Alarm for Every Occasion: Ask questions about alarm calls. 6. They're All in This Together: Observe sentinel behavior, variations in aerial predator alarms, and land-based predator alarms. 7. A Shape for Every Occasion: Study the universal alarm shapes in this chapter. When understood, they will allow you to interpret bird language in many contexts around the world without even knowing the species in a particular area. 8. From Collision to Connection: Squirrels on the brain, Body tension checkup, the two-minute drill, etc.

Let me interject a few personal comments here. Let's face it. Bird calls are not easy to learn, but bird vocalizations are a big part of birding. Not only are bird

sounds aesthetically appealing, they're also a vital aid to locating birds and identifying them. Here are a few tips for improving your sound birding based on decades of field research. 1. Ears before eyes. You will always hear more birds than see them so develop the habit of being attuned to bird sounds, no matter where you are. 2. Try identifying every sound so that you can compare the known with the unknown. 3. Organize the sounds in your mind by asking the question, what does it sound like? Sound identification is based on discriminating between different sounds and sound patterns. The more conscious you are about how sounds are different and similar, the better organized your sound files are and the more easily you will remember and recognize bird calls. 4. Believe in your brain's capacity, for the human mind has the capacity for a lot more bird calls than you suspect. Don't tell yourself you can't do it. 5. Work at it. With patience and determination you can usually track down the origin of any unknown call; listen to recordings of bird sounds again and again, especially to those you have recorded yourself with a hand-held recorder, because the sounds will represent your birds in your special spot or sit.

Appendix B: Audio (pp. 199-206)

includes many of the baseline voices of backyard birds and recordings of birds in the presence of imminent danger. It also includes the voices of non-avian species whose calls can be helpful in detecting sneaky predators (e.g., chipmunks and squirrels), as well as tricky mimics.

In effect, the good news is that deep bird language allows humans to turn the tables, so to speak. If we learn to understand the birds' behaviors and vocalizations, we can, through them, understand nature surrounding us.

As the author rightly concludes, "[i]n bird language, the idea is to look at bird culture as an anthropologist looks at human culture. Each species occupies a different niche in the environment . . . The better we understand the whole ecology of a given place, the better we become at looking at this world from the birds' perspective, and the better we will be at learning the birds' language. Every living being has a purpose, a mission, a life strategy, a set of gifts, and a set of weaknesses. Set aside any assumption that its behavior is random and meaningless. Such a categorization applies to birds and other animals about as much as it applies to people, which is not at all."

Each of us, by practicing daily

respect, reverence, responsibility, and reciprocity with nature, attains harmony, connection, and dynamic equilibrium with the earth.

513 Kelly Blvd.
Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145
genewilhelm@aol.com

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

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION: We welcome submission of feature articles, artwork, or photographs focusing on any aspect of Pennsylvania birds or birding. We strongly encourage that submissions be sent in electronic format by email but will accept handwritten or typewritten material if necessary.

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.

Hard copies of any material must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope if the author desires to have the material returned. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** assumes no liability or responsibility for any unsolicited materials.

REPRINTS: Request reprints of articles from: PSO, 2469 Hammertown Rd., Narvon, PA 17555, or fchaas@pabirds.org.

ADVERTISING: Current rates for classified ads are \$0.75 per word with a minimum of 20 words. A copy-ready block of approximately 2" by 2" would be \$50.00 per issue. Rates for other sizes or types of advertising are negotiable. Copy deadline is as noted above. Payment should be sent with copy. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** and PSO are not responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised herein.

Send all articles, artwork, advertising, etc. to: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654,** pomarine@earthlink.net.

Summary of the Season

Mike Fialkovich, Spring Season Editor

This spring was unusually warm with summer like temperatures in March. This followed an exceptionally mild winter. Waterfowl left the state early and were not seen in large concentrations. Few storm systems meant a lack of fallouts. Despite the exceptional weather, many compilers for the most part noted normal arrival dates. Reports were submitted from 51 counties.

Only two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported, one paired with a Canada Goose in *Berks*, the other in *Lancaster*. **Snow Geese** are notable on the western side of the state. They were recorded on passage in *Bedford*, and a flock of 85 flying over in *Erie* was quite unusual. Four birds in *Centre* were a rare sight but a fallout the end of March brought two large flocks in two locations in that county. **Ross's Geese** made their annual stop over at Middle Creek; the only other report came from *Dauphin*. Rare in spring, there were two reports of **Brant**. Six were in *Bedford* and one that wintered in *Chester* remained into early March. **Cackling Geese** were found in eight counties. Ten counties reported **Mute Swans** which is concerning. There were many reports of **Trumpeter Swan** including six in *Bedford*.

Despite the mild weather, fallouts of waterfowl were noted in *Berks*, *Centre*, and *Somerset* on the last day of March resulting in impressive totals of over 1780, 6246 and 8000-9000 waterfowl, respectively. **Long-tailed Ducks** were found in terrific numbers at some sites during this time. *Bedford* tallied 48, 400+ must have been an amazing site in *Centre*, *Dauphin* tallied 83, over 85 were in *Lancaster*, 22 in *Lebanon*, 24 in *Lycoming*, 24 in *Luzerne*, and over 70 in *Snyder*. Only one **Eurasian Wigeon** made the record books this spring, found in *Wayne*. An **eider sp.** flew past Presque Isle, unfortunately too quickly to be identified to species. Small numbers of **Black Scoters** were found in five counties. **Surf** and **White-winged Scoters** were widely reported. A great count of 1233 **Buffleheads** were at Lake Ontelaunee and Blue Marsh Lake in *Berks* and over 2000 were in *Centre* on the last day of March. Hybrid waterfowl presented interesting identification challenges. A **Common Teal x Green-winged Teal** in *Berks* was noted as showing both the horizontal white stripe along the wing and vertical white stripe near the breast, but only on the left side! The **Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser** continued from the winter in *Erie*. A **Snow Goose x Canada Goose** was in *Bucks*.

Although reported in six counties, all

Northern Bobwhites were thought to be released. **Red-throated Loons** were in 14 counties with an impressive 62 in *Lancaster*. *Chester* hosted 66 **Common Loons** during a fallout in early May. **Red-necked Grebes** were in seven counties and **Eared Grebes** were in five counties. The only **American White Pelican** was one in *Somerset* for two days. **Great Cormorants** were along the Delaware River in the usual locations in *Bucks* and *Delaware* where they winter. One was in *Northhampton* and another was at Peace Valley Park in *Bucks*.

Egrets and herons were at their best this spring. **Least Bitterns** were in seven counties. Single **Snowy Egrets** were at Presque Isle in *Erie* and the beautiful Dunning's Creek Wetlands in *Bedford*. Four were in *Bucks* including two at Washington Crossing State Park. A **Little Blue Heron** in *Allegheny* was only the second and singles were in *Bucks*, *Lancaster*, and *Lebanon*. A **Tricolored Heron** was at Presque Isle in *Erie* the same day as the Snowy Egret! Three **Cattle Egrets** were found in *Bucks* (two at one location, one at another), two were in *Lebanon* in two different locations and one was seen in flight in *Erie*. The small nesting colony of **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** continues in Harrisburg, and one was in *Philadelphia*. The long staying immature **White Ibis** in *Berks* continued into mid-March, and one was in *Centre* in early May. Reports of **Glossy Ibis** came from four counties in the southeast. A nice count of twelve lingered in *Philadelphia* for a few weeks. A **White-faced Ibis** stopped in *Huntington* for a single day, but was well photographed and documented providing only the second state record. A dark ibis flying along the Susquehanna River in *Dauphin* was too distant to identify to species.

Both **Swallow-tailed Kite** and **Mississippi Kites** were present this spring. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was seen in flight in *Allegheny* providing the first county record, and one in *York* provided the first spring record for that county. **Mississippi Kites** were seen in seven southeastern counties. The eighth was in *Armstrong*, a first for that county. Normally an extremely rare fall migrant, two **Swainson's Hawks** were found this spring: one flying over the Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch in *Huntington* and one in *Monroe* at the Delaware Water Gap. Spring records are exceedingly unusual in the state with only two previous records. An interesting dark morph **Red-tailed Hawk** was in *Lancaster*. **Golden Eagles** were counted at the usual spring

hawkwatches in *Bedford*, *Erie* (where rare), and *Huntington*. A rare sight for *Allegheny*, one was seen as a flyover; two in *Berks* were rare away from the high elevations in that county. Middle Creek W.M.A. in *Lancaster* and *Lebanon* hosted two. One was in *Crawford* where they are rare but regular. Other counties with reports away from high elevations included *Bradford*, *Dauphin*, *Juniata*, *McKean*, and *Somerset*. *Luzerne*, *Lycoming* and *Sullivan* also had reports.

A late report was submitted to the *Philadelphia* compiler of a window killed **Yellow Rail** from October 2011. See the county report for details. A **King Rail** was in *Lancaster* for a day in early March. **Sandhill Cranes** were found in 14 counties with nesting noted in *Crawford* and likely *Mercer*. Two migrating in *Allegheny* were a rare sight.

Shorebird migration is usually more exciting in fall, but there were many highlights this season. Rare in spring, an **American Golden Plover** was in *Franklin*. A **Black-necked Stilt** briefly graced *Lancaster*. Three counties hosted **Willetts** in their narrow window of passage in early May. Nine were in *Allegheny*, seven were in *Bedford*, and one in *Erie*. **Upland Sandpipers** are always a highlight at any time. One in *Beaver* provided the first county record, and breeders returned to five other counties. Now rare in *Erie*, one flying over Presque Isle was noteworthy. **Ruddy Turnstones** are usually found in *Erie*, but this spring they appeared in *Bedford*, *Lebanon*, and *Somerset*. Two **Red Knots** stopped in *Somerset*. Four **Sanderlings** were in *Bedford* and one was in *Bradford*. Another spring rarity, three **Western Sandpipers** were in *Bedford* and one was in *Franklin*. **White-rumped Sandpipers** were only found in four counties. Up to 28 were in *Somerset*, an impressive number. Another spring rarity, **Baird's Sandpiper** was in two counties, four in *Bedford* and one in *Somerset*. The most amazing shorebird this season was a **Ruff** that stopped briefly at Somerset Lake in *Somerset*. Fortunately it was documented. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were in good numbers in *Crawford* where at least 48 were found in several locations and in *Mercer* where 31 were present. An amazing find was a **Long-billed Dowitcher**, seen and heard and photographed in *Allegheny*; the second in that county. Two phalaropes were recorded: one **Wilson's Phalarope** in *Lebanon* and **Red-necked Phalaropes** in *Berks*, *Centre*, *Lebanon*, and *Northampton*.

Laughing Gulls were numerous in

Bucks as they are every spring. The only other report was a bird in *Erie*. Notable was the lack of **Little Gulls** in *Dauphin* this spring; the first time this species has not been reported in the county in a decade. An immature in *Centre* was the county's first, soon followed by an adult four days later. One in *Somerset* was a first for that county. One was in *Luzerne*, two in *Erie* and several in *Lancaster*. A **Black-headed Gull** first reported in February continued into March in *Lancaster*. The only **Thayer's Gull** was in *Erie*. A number of **Iceland Gulls** were in *Bucks* and *Erie*. *Bucks* continues as the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** capital with over 400 tallied. *Northampton* had a nice total of 41. *Erie* led the count for **Glaucous Gulls** with five; single birds were in *Bucks* and *Northampton*. **Great Black-backed Gulls** are regular in *Erie*, but a leucistic individual photographed at Presque Isle was an interesting find. The only other report was in *Indiana* providing a first county record.

A few **Common Terns** appeared in eight counties including a bird flying over the Allegheny River in *Forest*. An **Arctic Tern** in *Carbon* and two in *Elk* were excellent finds and were documented.

A **Monk Parakeet** was a surprise in *Northampton*. Could this individual have come from a nesting colony in the northeast? **Eurasian Collared Dove** sightings continue, but still in limited areas. A pair was in *Berks* where they were observed mating, but young were never found. One was in *Centre*, one in *Cumberland* and two in *Lebanon*. Several pairs continue to nest in *Franklin*.

Barn Owls were reported in six counties with nesting confirmed in three counties. A beautiful, nearly all white **Snowy Owl** was discovered perched along a road in *Armstrong* in mid-March. Its favorite perches included utility poles along the road and the roof of a home, where it sought shade from a chimney during the unseasonably warm weather. **Long-eared Owls** continued at winter roosts in March and individuals were heard calling in three counties. **Short-eared Owl** reports were limited to two counties. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were reported from seven counties. **Chuck-wills-widows** were heard in *Bucks*, *Lebanon* and *Philadelphia*. The *Lebanon* bird returned to the same location for the third year.

Two **Rufous Hummingbirds** that wintered in the state remained into March. One in *Chester* was last seen March 9 and one in *Northampton* remained until March 28.

This was the spring of the **Red-headed Woodpecker**. This species, so spotty in distribution in Pennsylvania, was reported in 19 counties in every corner of the state, including many where they are considered rare or unusual (e.g.,

Huntingdon, Indiana, Schuylkill, Wayne) and were seen in others in above average numbers (*Bucks, Crawford*). Please see the county reports for additional details.

The long staying **Say's Phoebe** in *Bucks* lingered until late April. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen for the first time at Monroe County Environmental Education Center in *Monroe*. **Northern Shrikes** continued from the winter season as usual and were found in nine counties. A **Loggerhead Shrike** was present for a day in *Bucks*.

Common Ravens continue their expansion away from the high elevations in the state. A pair nested in *Allegheny* and *Armstrong* (not a first for either county). *Beaver* recorded one in a new location, *Berks* recorded its first nesting (two pairs), nesting continues at several locations in *Bucks* with increased sightings, seen at a new location in *Chester*, sightings in *Delaware, Erie, Indiana, Mercer* (first county record), *Venango* and *York*. Another corvid spreading beyond the usual boundaries the past several years is the **Fish Crow**. Nesting was confirmed in *Bradford* and (after several years) *Allegheny* and birds were reported in *Centre* (increasing), *Indiana* (regular, but local), *Lycoming* and *Westmoreland*.

A **Bewick's Wren** was in *Lancaster*, the first reported in the state since 2000, and a **Sedge Wren** was in *Clinton* for a day. **Marsh Wrens** were reported in five counties. What was believed to be a **Bicknell's Thrush** was in *Bucks*. The only **Snow Buntings** were in *Crawford* where six lingered into early March.

Golden-winged Warblers were reported in sixteen counties. Most were migrants. One in *Erie* and *Mercer* were rare, and birds returned to traditional sites in *Bedford, Berks, Centre, Cumberland, Fayette, Somerset, Pike* and *Westmoreland*. **Brewster's Warblers** were in eight counties and **Lawrence's Warblers** were in two. **Prothonotary Warblers** were in nine counties; breeding birds returned to a traditional site in *Crawford* and were noted nesting in *York*. Two **Swainson's Warblers** were found this spring in *Lancaster* and *Westmoreland*. The *Westmoreland* bird was present for at least a few days. A **Kirtland's Warbler** was discovered in *Erie* in an unexpected location near railroad tracks, but who expects to find one of the world's rarest birds when in the field? Although it did not remain into the following day, it was photographed extensively and seen by several fortunate observers. The **Townsend's Warbler** in *Cumberland* enjoyed by many remained until 22 March. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** that wintered in *Chester* was last seen in mid-April and the one that wintered in *Lancaster* remained until late March. A bird in *Philadelphia*

overwintered and one seen in April was a migrant. Migrants were also in *Erie* and *Huntington*. *McKean* and *Mercer* were the only two counties with sightings of the elusive **Connecticut Warbler**.

A male **Summer Tanager** returned to Schenley Park in *Allegheny* for the second year in a row. Unlike last year, a female was not seen. Two were in *Bradford* and one was in *Montgomery*. A male at Presque Isle State Park in *Erie* was found during an annual birding festival so many people had the opportunity to see it.

The overwintering **Green-tailed Towhee** at Lake Ontelaunee in *Berks* was last seen 2 April. **Clay-colored Sparrows** continue in *Clarion* as breeders, three were in *Erie* and singles were in *Huntington, Jefferson* and *Mercer*. Another sparrow continuing from a long winter stay was the **Harris's Sparrow** in *Berks*, last seen 2 April. One appeared at a feeder in *Centre* where it remained for two weeks. A **Gamble's White-crowned Sparrow** was in *Lancaster*. A leucistic **Dark-eyed Junco** continued from the winter in at the Monroe County Environmental Education Center. A male **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** was photographed in *Erie* in March.

Blue Grosbeaks continue in the usual counties with reports from *Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia* and *York*.

This was a **Dickcissel** year as the worsening drought in the Midwest pushed birds east. Reports this season came from across the state in eleven counties. Look for news of **Dickcissels** to continue in the summer season.

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** surprised Erie hawkwatchers as it flew past. An early **Baltimore Oriole** was seen in *Dauphin* in March and the overwintering individual continued in *Lancaster* into March. The individual **Bullock's Orioles** that wintered in *Huntington* and *Montgomery* departed a month apart from each other.

A few **Common Redpolls** were surprise visitors this spring. Single birds visited feeders in *Crawford* and *Erie*, a flock of 16 were at *Tussey Mt.* in *Huntington* and seven were in *Wayne*. **Pine Siskins** were widely reported. Most were birds were on passage stopping briefly at feeders or seen in the field. A pair in *Clinton* may have been nesting. An amazing **Lesser Goldfinch** appeared at a feeder in *Franklin*, but only for a day. Seen by few and photographed, this represents the first state record pending acceptance. This species is on the hypothetical list for Pennsylvania due to the issue of provenance.

Birds of Note – March through May 2012

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. "eBird" indicates valid records deemed credible which were entered into the eBird database 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 – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee paired with a Canada Goose 3/6 (Rudy Keller), one at Big Spring Farm 4/16-19 (Kevin Lutz, Ken Lebo, Peter Montgomery); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/3 (Aden Troyer).

Ross's Goose – *Dauphin*: one along Rte. 734 on 3/16 (Tim Becker); *Lancaster*: up to 4 at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (Gordon Dimmig, Mike Epler); *Lebanon*: one flying over Mt. Gredna 3/2 (Sid Hostetter, Randy Miller), one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/5 (Randy Miller) and 3/10 (Rose Anderson, Kevin Graff).

Brant – *Bedford*: six at White-tail Wetlands 2/28 (Connie Hunt); *Chester*: one from last season continued at Somerset Lake to 3/7 (Joe Sebastiani, et al.).

Cackling Goose – *Berks, Centre, Chester, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Northampton, Somerset*.

Mute Swan – *Berks, Bucks, Chester, Clarion, Delaware, Indiana, Lancaster, Lebanon, Luzerne, Lycoming*.

Trumpeter Swan – *Bedford*: six at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 3/24-27 (Tom Dick); *Chester*: an untagged immature at Chambers Lake 5/2 through the end of the period (Amy Davis); *Clarion*: an immature in New Bethlehem 3/13-5/20 (Ron Montgomery, Gary Edwards, Dave Wilton, Alex Lamoreaux, Carole Winslow, Cory DeStein, Michael Dreibelbis, et al.), an adult at Kahle Lake 4/2 (Gary Edwards); *Dauphin*: one on the Susquehanna River at West Fairview 3/4 (Jim Dunn, Chad Kauffman); *Venango*: one listed as probable at Kahle Lake 3/30-4/2 (Gary Edwards, Russ States).

Eurasian Wigeon – *Pike*: one at Peck's Pond 4/7-14 (Amy Davis, Michael and Corinne Schall).

Green-winged (Common) Teal* – *Bucks*: one at Upper Makefield Township Firehouse 3/7 (Mark Gallagher, *doc submitted*), one at Silver Lake Park 4/19 (Doug Filler, *no doc*).

Common x Green-winged Teal – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/12 (Rudy Keller).

Eider sp.* – *Erie*: one flew past Gull Point 3/7 (Mike Weible, *no doc*).

Black Scoter – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/31 (Rudy Keller, Ken Lebo, Matt Spence); *Dauphin*: one on the Susquehanna R. at Harrisburg 4/2 (Chuck Chalfant), two on the Susquehanna River at West Fairview 5/3-7 (Ramsay Koury); *Erie*: up to 4 from 3/7-4/1 at Presque Isle (Mike Weible, Jerry McWilliams); *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 3/31 (Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall), *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 3/31 (observer not listed).

Hooded Merganser x Common Goldeneye – *Erie*: one continued from last season at Presque Isle 3/1-12 (Jerry McWilliams).

Northern Bobwhite – *Bedford, Centre, Lancaster, Lebanon*,

Northampton, Sullivan. All listed as likely introduced birds.

Red-necked Grebe – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/31 (Ken Lebo); *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 4/1-4 (Paul Cooper, Diane Allison); *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek State Park 3/9 (Holly Merker, Kevin Fryberger); *Crawford*: one at Jamestown 3/31 (Ronald Leberman), one at Conneaut Lake 4/3 (Ronald Leberman); *Dauphin*: one on the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg 3/11 (Chad Kauffman), two at West Fairview 3/25 (Ramsay Koury, Annette Mathes); *Mercer*: two at Shenango River Reservoir 4/14 (Steve Sanford); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 4/15 (Mike Lanzone).

Eared Grebe* – *Bedford*: present at Dunnings Creek Wetlands following a storm (Dawn Kleinflesher, *no doc*); *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzin State Park 4/25-26 (Michael David, *doc submitted*); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 3/31 (Mike Weible, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one noted as probable on the Susquehanna River 3/20 (Justin Bosler, *no doc*); *Wyoming*: three 3/31-4/1 at Lake Carey (Mark Catalano, *no doc*), two there 4/15 (Alan Thatcher, *no doc*).

American White Pelican – *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 3/24-25 (Mike Lanzone, Jeff Payne, Carolyn LaBute).

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 4/17-21 (August Mirabella), 8 on the Delaware River at Bristol 3/17 (Mark Gallagher); *Delaware*: one on the Delaware River 4/17 (Al Guarante); *Northampton*: one at Martin's Creek Quarry 3/16 (Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall).

Least Bittern – *Bedford, Bradford, Clinton, Erie, Franklin, Huntingdon*.

Snowy Egret – *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/12 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one at LaSalle College in Newtown 4/30 (Bill Keim), one at Peace Valley Park 5/4 (Chuck Crunkleton), two at Washington Crossing State Park 5/4 (Jeff Vinosky); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 5/27-30 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson).

Little Blue Heron – *Allegheny*: one at Boyce-Mayview Park 5/28-30 (Fred Kachmarik, m.ob.), second county record; *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 4/19-22 (August Mirabella, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats (Bob Schutsky); *Lebanon*: one at Camp Shand 5/12 (Susan Wheeler).

Tricolored Heron* – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 5/27-31 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson, *doc submitted*).

Cattle Egret* – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/2-4 (Howard Eskin, *doc submitted*), two at Blooming Glen 5/15 (Henry Rosenberger, August Mirabella, *no doc*), *Erie*: one flying over just outside of Presque Isle 5/28 (Ramsay Koury, *no doc*); *Lebanon*: one at Reistville and Prescott Road Ponds 4/30-5/1 (Randy Miller, Tim Becker, *no doc*), one at Fort Indiantown Gap 5/2 (Jarrod Derr, David McNaughton, *no doc*).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Dauphin*: up to 11 in Harrisburg 5/29 (Deuane Hoffman); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 5/9 (Denis Brennan, Martin Dellwo).

White Ibis* – *Berks*: one continued from last season at Kaercher Creek Park to 3/19 (Charles Hickey, *doc submitted*); *Centre*: one at the Penn State University Arboretum 5/4 (Nancy Ellen Kiernan, *no doc, fide* Alex Lamoreaux).

Glossy Ibis – *Bucks*: six at the Penn-Warner Tract 3/31 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one in Parkesburg 4/13 (Elaine Chalfant, Chuck Chalfant); *Lancaster*: one at the Conewago Trail Wetlands 5/5 (Mike Epler), four flying over Pumping Station Road 5/12 (Glenn Shaffer); *Philadelphia*: 12 at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 4/8-10 (Frank Windfelder, Doris McGovern, Todd Fellenbaum), small numbers seen there up to 5/3 (Todd Fellenbaum, George Armistead), small numbers at Woodland Cemetery in West Philadelphia up to 5/3 (Alexander Zorach).

White-faced Ibis* – *Huntingdon*: one at Old Crow Wetland 5/3 (David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, *doc submitted*), second state record if accepted.

Plegadis sp. – *Dauphin*: one flying over the George Wade Bridge in Harrisburg 5/2 (Deuane Hoffman).

Swallow-tailed Kite* – *Allegheny*: one flying over Marshall Township 4/30 (Grace Smith, *doc submitted*), *York*: one along the Susquehanna River at Accomac 5/3 (John Prescott, Jean Prescott, *doc submitted*).

Mississippi Kite* – *Armstrong*: one near Crooked Creek County Park 5/3 (Betsy Fetterman, Carolyn Glendening, Margaret Higbee, Josie Valesek, *no doc*), first county record; *Berks*: one at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary 4/16 (Matt Wlasiewski, et al., *no doc*), one at Lake Ontelaunee 5/24 (Rudy Keller, *no doc*); *Bucks*: one at New Hope 5/5 (Vincent Koczurik, eBird, *no doc*), one possible bird seen briefly from a moving car in Warrington Township 5/15 (August Mirabella, *no doc*), one possible bird high over Nockamixon Cliffs 5/31 (August Mirabella, Judy Mirabella, *no doc*); *Chester*: one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/19 (Larry Lewis, et al., *no doc*); *Dauphin*: one in Susquehanna Township 3/26 (Ed Chubb, Randy Brenner, *no doc*), one north of Wildwood Lake 4/13 (Marc Faubel, *no doc*); *Erie*: one flying over the Presque Isle Hawkwatch 5/24 (Jerry McWilliams, Roger Donn, *doc submitted*); *Lancaster*: one at Speedwell Forge 4/22 (Bruce Carl, Jim Fiorentino, *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: one flying over Pennypack on the Delaware 5/22 (Frank Windfelder, *doc submitted*).

Northern Goshawk – *Bedford*: a total of 12 for the spring count at the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch (Tom Dick, et al.); *Centre*: one flying over State College 3/23 (Kurt Engstrom), one at Kurtin 3/24 (Joe Verica); *Clarion*: nesting attempt observed 4/27 (Dave Brinker); *Cumberland*: one at Carlisle 3/18 (Frank Galaskewicz); *Lebanon*: one in the Mount Gretna area 4/27 (Sid Hostetter, Randy Miller); *McKean*: one near Sugar Bay 4/10 (John Fedak); *Mercer*: one flying over Williamson Road 4/7 (Neil Troyer).

Swainson's Hawk* – *Huntingdon*: one over the Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch 4/13 (Nick Bolgiano, Chuck Widmann, *no doc*); *Monroe*: one over the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area 5/11 (Katie Barnes, Nick Ernst, Greg George, Terry Master, *no doc*); *Montgomery*: one 4/15 on private property (Scott McConnell, *no doc*).

Yellow Rail* – *Philadelphia*: late report of a window-killed bird at Temple University 10/11/2011 (Keith Russell, *specimen at the Academy of Natural Sciences*).

King Rail* – *Lancaster*: one at Woods Edge Park 3/9 (Roger Stoner, *no doc*).

Common Gallinule – *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/6 (Dawn Kleinflescher); *Centre*: one at the

PennDOT Remediation Ponds near Julian 4/23-26 (Alex Lamoreaux); *Clinton*: one at the Mill Hall Wetlands 5/20 (m.ob.); *Crawford*: two at Erie National Wildlife Refuge 4/15-16 (Shawn Collins), one or two at Conneaut Marsh during the season (m.ob.); *McKean*: one at Eldred Swamp 4/12 (John Fedak); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz Refuge at Tinicum 4/30 (Adrian Binns), one at Roxborough Reservoir 5/12 (Matt Sharp).

American Golden Plover – *Franklin*: one along Kriner Road on the south edge of Chambersburg 5/11-12 (Carl Garner).

Black-necked Stilt* – *Lancaster*: one at the Conewago Trail Wetlands 5/22 (Mike Epler, Chuck Chalfant, Gordon Dimmig, Meredith Lombard, *doc submitted*).

Willet – *Allegheny*: nine along the Monongahela River at Duck Hollow 5/4 (Tom Moeller, Nancy Moeller); *Bedford*: 7 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/1 (Tom Dick); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 5/4 (*fide* Sam Stull).

Upland Sandpiper – *Beaver*: one in Independence Township 4/23 (Geoff Malosh), first county record; *Bedford*: one at Rte. 30 on a Buffalo Farm, no date (Tom Dick); *Clarion*: at least 4 returned to Mt. Airy 5/2 (Carole Winslow); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 5/12 (Thomas Clare Nicolls) and 5/30 (Ronald Leberman); *Erie*: one flying over Presque Isle 5/6 (Mike Weible); *Somerset*: 4 near New Centerville 5/6 (Mike Lanzone, Chris Payne, Jeff Payne), two in Summit Mills 4/17 (Elmer Brenneman); *Venango*: one at the Barkeyville Strips last reported 5/23 (Andy Wilson).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Bedford*: three at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/20 (Tom Dick); *Lebanon*: one at the Kreider Farm on Mount Pleasant Road 5/21 (Tim Becker, David McNaughton, Jarod Derr, Randy Miller); *Somerset*: single birds at Somerset Lake 5/23 (Jeff Payne, Carolyn LaBute) and 5/30 (Mike Lanzone).

Red Knot – *Somerset*: two at Somerset L. 6/2 (Mike Lanzone).

Sanderling – *Bedford*: four at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/20 (Tom Dick); *Bradford*: one in the Edinger Hill Area 5/12 (Ellen Whipple, Phyllis Rosencrance).

Western Sandpiper – *Bedford*: three at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/20 (Tom Dick); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 5/12 (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart).

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Bedford*: three at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/22 (Tom Dick); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 5/19 (Ronald Leberman); *Lancaster*: one at Speedwell Forge 5/25 (Bruce Carl); *Somerset*: up to 28 at Somerset Lake 5/17-6/13 (Jeff Payne, Mike Lanzone).

Baird's Sandpiper – *Bedford*: four at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/24 (Tom Dick); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 6/4-12 (Mike Lanzone, Jeff Payne).

Ruff* – *Somerset*: a male in transitional plumage at Somerset Lake 4/16 (Mike Lanzone, *doc submitted*).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – *Crawford*: one at Miller's Pond 5/12 (ph. Andy Wilson, listserv) may represent just the second spring record for Pennsylvania.

Short-billed Dowitcher – *Bedford*: two at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/21 (Tom Dick); *Chester*: 18 at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/23 (Holly Merker, Chuck Chalfant, Brian Novak); *Crawford*: 3 at Tamarack Lake 5/3 (Ronald Leberman), 15 at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 5/10 (Ronald Leberman), five at Tamarack Lake 5/12 (Thomas Clare Nicolls), 18 at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area (Steve Sanford), 28 there 5/11 (Mark Vass); *Lancaster*: one at Speedwell Forge 5/3 (Stan Stahl); *Mercer*: one at the Shenango Wildlife Propagation Ponds 4/17 (Steve Sandford), 31 at that location 5/9 (Neil Troyer); *Somerset*: present at Somerset Lake 5/12 (Mike Lanzone), five at Buffalo Creek 5/23 (Jeff Payne, Carolyn LaBute).

Long-billed Dowitcher – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 5/1 (Geoff Malosh) was the second for the county.

Wilson's Phalarope – *Lebanon*: one at the Kreider Farm on Mount Pleasant Road 5/30 (Richard Williams, Pat Williams, Randy Miller, Chris Bortz, Stan Stahl, Mike Epler, Jim Fiorentino).

Red-necked Phalarope – *Berks*: one at Gotwals Pond 5/21 (Rudy Keller); *Centre*: one in Howard 5/22 (Nick Thomas), two at Bald Eagle State Park 5/22 (Drew Weber); *Lebanon*: one at the Kreider Farm on Mount Pleasant Road 5/26-30 (Tim Becker, Jarrod Derr, Randy Miller, Chuck Chalfant, Chuck Berthoud); *Northampton*: two in Bath 5/21 (Jeff Kablyo).

Laughing Gull – *Bucks*: first reported for the season at the Penn-Warner Tract 3/24 (Devich Farbotnik), PAMC total of 550; *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 5/28 (Ben Coulter).

Little Gull – *Centre*: an immature at Bald Eagle State Park 4/14 (Alex Lamoreaux, et al.), an adult at the same location 4/18 (Alex Lamoreaux, Nadia Barkawi, Steve Brenner, Josh Lefever); *Erie*: single birds at Presque Isle 3/29 and 4/17 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna River at "The Rocks" 3/12 (Chuck Chalfant), one at the Rte. 462 Bridge 4/8 (Meredith Lombard, Joe Yoder); *Luzerne*: one at Harvey's Lake 4/22 (Jim Hoysen); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 4/25 (Mike Lanzone), first county record.

Black-headed Gull* – *Lancaster*: the bird present from Feb in Washington Boro was last seen 3/10 (Eric Whitmer, et al., *doc submitted*).

Thayer's Gull* – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 3/3 (Ed Kwater, Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*).

Iceland Gull – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 3/11 (Sam Perloff), two at the Penn-Warner Tract and 3 at Falls Twp. Community Park 3/31 (Devich Farbotnik), one at Falls Twp. Community Park 4/2 (Michael Mayer); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 3/10 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – *Bucks, Crawford, Erie, Luzerne, Mercer, Northampton, Somerset*.

Glaucous Gull – *Bucks*: one at Morrisville 4/19 (Nick Delo); *Erie*: five at Presque Isle between 3/3 and 5/7 (Jerry McWilliams); *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 3/17 (Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall), one (perhaps the same bird) at Nazareth Quarry 4/1 (Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall).

Great Black-backed Gull – *Erie*: present all season. A leucistic individual was noted at Presque Isle 5/28-31 (Jerry McWilliams, et al.); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 5/15 (Lee Carnahan, Tom Glover, Margaret Higbee, Richard Nugent, John Taylor), first county record.

Common Tern – *Bedford*: two at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 4/15 (Tom Dick); *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 5/8 (Peter Montgomery); *Bucks*: two at Peace Valley Park 5/8 (August Mirabella, Judy Mirabella, Mike Homel); *Centre*: five at Bald Eagle State Park 5/4 (Nan Butkovich, et al.); *Dauphin*: one along the Susquehanna River at Marysville 5/8 (Ramsay Koury); *Forest*: one near Tionesta 5/12 (Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire); *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake State Park 5/15 (David McNaughton, Jarrod Derr); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 5/8 (Mike Lanzone, Jeff Payne).

Arctic Tern* – *Carbon*: one at Beltzville State Park 5/21-22 (Rick Wiltraut, Dustin Welch, et al., *doc submitted*); *Elk*: two at the East Branch Clarion River Lake in Elk State Park 5/22 (Al Guarente, *doc submitted*).

Monk Parakeet – *Northampton*: one in Williams Township 3/22 (Arlene Koch).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Berks*: a pair in Shartlesville 4/15-16 (Ellen Grim, Matt Wlasniewski); *Centre*: one at State College 4/2-3 (Larry Ragan, Joe Verica, Alex Lamoreaux, Steve Brenner, Josh Lefever); *Cumberland*: one on Fish Hatchery Road in Middle Spring (Vern Gauthier); *Franklin*: nesting in Shady Grove (Dale Gearhart);

Lebanon: two in Fontana 3/19 (Randy Miller), single birds reported through 5/31 (Tim Becker, Pat Williams, Richard Williams, m.ob.).

Barn Owl – *Bedford, Bucks, Dauphin, Franklin, Huntingdon, Lebanon, Snyder, Somerset*.

Snowy Owl – *Armstrong*: one near Worthington 3/14-3/23 (Mark McConaughy, m.ob.).

Long-eared Owl – *Bucks*: last seen at Peace Valley Park 3/8 (Barbara Hiebsch); *Centre*: one near University Park Airport 3/3-4 (Justin Valentine), one heard at Scotia Barrens 3/11-15 (Drew Weber, Steve Brenner, Alex Lamoreaux, Josh Lefever, Mike Dreibelbis); *Erie*: found at Presque Isle, 3/14, 3/31 and 4/8 (Jerry McWilliams, Mike Weible); *Huntingdon*: one heard at Ennisville 5/12 (Doug Wentzel); *McKean*: one near Smethport last seen 5/12 (John Dzemyan); *Somerset*: one at the Payne property 3/13 (Jeff Payne), one at Somerset Lake 4/8 (Mike Lanzone).

Short-eared Owl – *Adams*: last reported 3/4; *Clarion*: up to 4 present at Mt. Zion 3/3-4 (Carole Winslow, Ron Montgomery), one at Cullsville 3/8 (Carole Winslow), one at Mt. Airy 4/5 (Carole Winslow).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – *Bradford*: one at Peck Hill 2/8-3/22 (Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 3/15 (Cory DeStein); *Fayette*: one near Hopwood (EJ Regula, eBird), *Huntingdon*: five near Whipple Dam State Park 5/15 (Diane Bierly, Nan Butkovich); *McKean*: a total of 15 on the PAMC 5/12 (John Fedak); *Sullivan*: one heard in the Splashdam Pond area in mid-April (Doug Gross); *Somerset*: one calling at Mount Davis 5/8 (observer not listed).

Chuck-will's-widow* – *Bucks*: one calling in Springfield Township 5/25 (Mark Chilten, *fide* Diane Allison, *no doc*); *Lebanon*: one at Tomstown Road 5/2-29 (Kath Becker, Tim Becker, et al., *doc submitted*), *Philadelphia*: one calling at Spring Lane 5/8 (Cliff Hence, *no doc*).

Rufous Hummingbird* – *Chester*: the bird that wintered in Paoli was last seen 3/9 (Bruce Garrard); *Northampton*: the bird that wintered in Walnutport as least seen 3/28 (Dave Wagner).

Say's Phoebe* – *Bucks*: the bird that wintered at Maple Knoll Farms and Crooke Farm was last seen 4/24 (Richard Smith, Vicky Smith, *doc submitted*).

Loggerhead Shrike* – *Bucks*: one at Van Sant Airport 5/27 (Mark Gallagher, *doc submitted*).

Bewick's Wren* – *Lancaster*: one on the Canal Path Trail 5/2-3 (Mike Epler, *no doc*).

Sedge Wren – *Clinton*: one at Mill Hall Wetlands 4/15 (Jim Dunn).

Marsh Wren – *Bedford*: two at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/26 (Tom Dick); *Centre*: one at the Penn State University Arboretum 5/1 (Drew Weber, et al.); *Chester*: one at Waterloo Mills Preserve 4/17 (Kevin Fryberger), one at Exton Park at Church Farm School 4/23 through the season (Brian Quindlen, et al.); *Huntingdon*: one at Old Crow Wetland 4/28 (Ian Gardner, et al.); *Montgomery*: one at Wings Airport 5/12 (Barbara Hiebsch).

Bicknell's Thrush – *Bucks*: one at Chalfont 5/21 (Chuck Crunkleton, Eileen Chalmers, *no doc*).

Snow Bunting – *Crawford*: six at the Pymatuning Causeway 3/7 (Ron Leberman).

Brewster's Warbler – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 5/29 (Matt O'Donnell); *Clarion*: one near Cullsville 5/10-17 (Carole Winslow); *Crawford*: one at Toby's Road 5/7 (Steven Rotkovecz); *Fulton*: one at Knobsville Tract 5/15 (Dan Snell); *Greene*: one in Washington Township 5/12 (Jan Churney); *Juniata*: one on the PAMC 5/12; *Pike*: one at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area 5/2 (Patrick Blake); *York*: one at Rocky Ridge County Park 5/11 (Randy Phillips).

Lawrence's Warbler – *Franklin*: one in Lower Horse Valley

(Bill Oyler, et al.); *Lebanon*: one at Fort Indiantown Gap 5/4 (Jarrod Derr, David McNaughton).

Swainson's Warbler* – *Lancaster*: one at Octoraro Lake 5/11 (Tom Raub, no doc); *Westmoreland*: one at Linn Run State Park 5/22-28 (Mike Lanzone, et al., no doc).

Orange-crowned Warbler – *Chester*: the bird wintering in West Chester was last seen 4/19 (Mary Alice Knox); *Erie*: one banded at Presque Isle 5/2 (Walter Wehtje), one at Presque Isle 5/16 (Jerry McWilliams); *Huntingdon*: one at Masseyburg 5/5 (Doug Wentzel); *Lancaster*: the bird that overwintered at Wood's Edge Park was last seen 3/22 (Justin Bosler, Jim Smith, Rita Smith, Chuck Chalfant, Elaine Chalfant, Bruce Carl, Barbara Hunsberger); *Philadelphia*: a bird believed to be overwintering was last seen at Pennypack on the Delaware 3/10 (Frank Windfelder), one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 4/18 (Adrian Binns, Todd Fellenbaum).

Connecticut Warbler – *McKean*: one at Kinzua Bridge 5/12 (John Fedak); *Mercer*: one at Rattlesnake Swamp 5/17 (Neil Troyer, Samuel Troyer).

Kirtland's Warbler* – *Erie*: one in Erie 5/22 (Mike Weible, doc submitted).

Townsend's Warbler* – *Cumberland*: the bird that wintered in Dickenson Township was last seen 3/22 (Andy Green, doc submitted).

Summer Tanager* – *Allegheny*: one at Schenley Park 5/6 through the end of the season (Hiro Fukuda, et al., doc submitted); *Bradford*: two at Barclay Mountain near Franklindale 5/18 (Dan Natt, no doc); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 5/13 (Shawn Collins, et al., doc submitted), *Montgomery*: one at Pennypack Environmental Restoration Trust 5/6 (Paul Driver, no doc).

Green-tailed Towhee* – *Berks*: the overwintering bird at Lake Ontelaunee was last reported 4/2 (Jeffrey Ritter, et al., doc submitted).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Clarion*: first noted at Cullsville 5/3 (Carole Winslow); *Erie*: up to 3 at Presque Isle 5/8-15 (Don Snyder, Dave Wilton, Cory DeStein); *Huntingdon*: one at Old Crow Wetland 5/1 (David Kyler); *Jefferson*: one at Coal Glen 5/11 (Dan Richard); *Mercer*: one in a yard along Airport Road 5/5 (Jerry Troyer).

Harris's Sparrow* – *Berks*: the bird that overwintered at Old Philly Pike was last reported 4/2 (Jeffrey Ritter); *Centre*: one in Howard 4/17-5/2 (Bob Snyder, et al., doc submitted).

Gamble's White-crowned Sparrow* – *Lancaster*: one at Wood's Edge Park 3/7 (Justin Bosler, no doc).

Oregon Dark-eyed Junco* – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 3/25 (Michele Franz, doc submitted).

Yellow-headed Blackbird – *Erie*: one flew past the Presque Isle Hawkwatch 3/20 (Jerry McWilliams, Russ States).

Bullock's Oriole* – *Huntingdon*: the bird that overwintered was last seen 3/7 (m.ob.); *Montgomery*: one that wintered in Douglas Township was last seen 4/7 (Mary Ache, m.ob.).

Common Redpoll – *Crawford*: one at a feeder in Meadville 3/11 (Shawn Collins); *Erie*: one in Waterford 3/15 (Chuck Gehring); *Huntingdon*: 16 at Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch 3/1 (Adam Sell); *Wayne*: seven near Honesdale 5/12 (Roberta Vrona Lichtenstein).

Lesser Goldfinch* - *Franklin*: one visited a feeder in Shady Grove 4/9 (Dale Gearhart, doc submitted).

CORRIGENDUM: The Birds of Note in Volume 26, No. 1, page 34 listed a Baird's Sandpiper in *Centre* 12/7/2011 as the first winter season record for Pennsylvania. In fact it was the second record; the first was of one bird in *Lehigh* 12/2-9/2008, as reported in Volume 23, No. 1.

Arctic Terns in Elk County

Al Guarente

My wife Sharon and I have been trying to visit all the counties in Pennsylvania for some years now. This spring we decided to visit Armstrong and Forest counties, both of which would be new for our list. While visiting Kinzua Bridge State Park in McKean County during a thunderstorm (not recommended by the way), we picked up a brochure for Elk State Park. On 22 May we headed south to the park just across the border in northern Elk County.

Upon our arrival and not having a map of the park, it looked as if there was only one way in, so we proceeded down the only road toward the lake, where there was a large parking area adjacent to the lake. While still in the car I immediately saw two white birds flying over the lake, which I took to be terns. Once I got a decent view with binoculars I saw they were indeed terns. I figured they would be Forster's Terns but I wanted to check them out just in case it was something unusual. By the time I had the scope set up, the birds were approaching for a closer view. I could see stiff wing beats and a very uniform gray color on the upper wings. The upper wing had no black on the primaries that I could see, and the photos that I made of the birds didn't reveal any black markings either. As the birds passed and allowed a profile view, I noticed a thin black trailing edge on the under wing primaries. The outer primaries only had a trace of black on the tips of the feathers. The birds also had very dark, red bills, which to me appeared to be short. The birds were bullnecked in flight; that is, the neck was short but thick. The breast also looked to be gray. The tail on both birds was deeply forked, but one bird showed a very long tail while the second bird appeared to have a shortened tail. This could have been due to the angle of view or actual physical differences. All of these are good field marks for Arctic Tern—I was psyched!



Arctic Tern at Elk State Park, Elk, 22 May 2012. (Al Guarente)

We observed the terns for approximately a half an hour to make sure of the identification, and made a call to put the word out on the PABIRDS listserv. This was only the third sighting of Arctic Tern for me in Pennsylvania; the other two were in Delaware County along the Delaware River. I filed a report of these birds with the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. Unsurprisingly, this represents the first record for Elk County if accepted. The day before (21 May), an Arctic Tern was also spotted at Beltzville State Park in Carbon County. There seemed to be no significant weather factors that contributed to these sightings.

In the end, we added two new counties and eight new state parks to our list and had a great opportunity to study a rarely seen bird in Pennsylvania.

Media, PA 19063
owlguarente@yahoo.com

Photographic Highlights



Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). This species is reported in Pennsylvania with ever increasing frequency; this bird was photographed at Chambers Lake, Chester at the odd date of 13 May 2012. It was present though the season. (Bill Keim)



Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). Rare indeed in Pennsylvania is the opportunity to view Red-necked Grebes in full breeding plumage. This bird at Somerset Lake, Somerset 15 April 2012 provided just such a chance. (Mike Lanzone)



Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). This drake, likely injured, provided a rare opportunity for close study throughout the month of March at Wingfield Pines, Allegheny, shown here 19 March 2012. Its fate was unknown. (Jeff McDonald)



Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*). Eared Grebes are rare in Pennsylvania and even more rarely are they photographed, so this image of one at Prince Gallitzin State Park, Cambria 26 April 2012 was quite noteworthy. (Alex Lamoreaux)



Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). Rainstorms in early May grounded good numbers of Common Loons in Bucks; this bird was nicely photographed at Lake Nockamixon 9 May 2012. (Bill Keim)



Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). One of the more easily photographed heron rookeries in western Pennsylvania is in Collier Twp., Allegheny, where this image of an incubating adult was made 28 April 2012. (Geoff Malosh)



Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*). Normally more common in the fall in Pennsylvania, a few Snowy Egrets turn up most springs as well, especially in the southeast; this bird was photographed at LaSalle College in Newtown, Bucks 30 April 2012. (Bill Keim)



Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Catching a glimpse of a Golden Eagle away from a hawkwatch is always a treat. This bird was on Laurel Mountain on the Westmoreland/Somerset border 18 March 2012. (Mike Lanzone)



Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). Though the second for Allegheny, this bird was long overdue for that county nonetheless, considering the string of little blue sightings in nearby counties in recent years. This adult was present for a few days at Boyce-Mayview Park in late May, shown here 29 May 2012. (Geoff Malosh)



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). A pair successfully nested at McElhattan, Clinton again this year, where they have been present since 2007. This fine picture of an adult in flight was made there 25 May 2012. (Wayne Laubscher)



Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). Cattle Egret was recently added back onto the PORC review list. This bird was a nice find and nicely photographed at Bristol, Bucks 2 May 2012. (Howard Eskin)



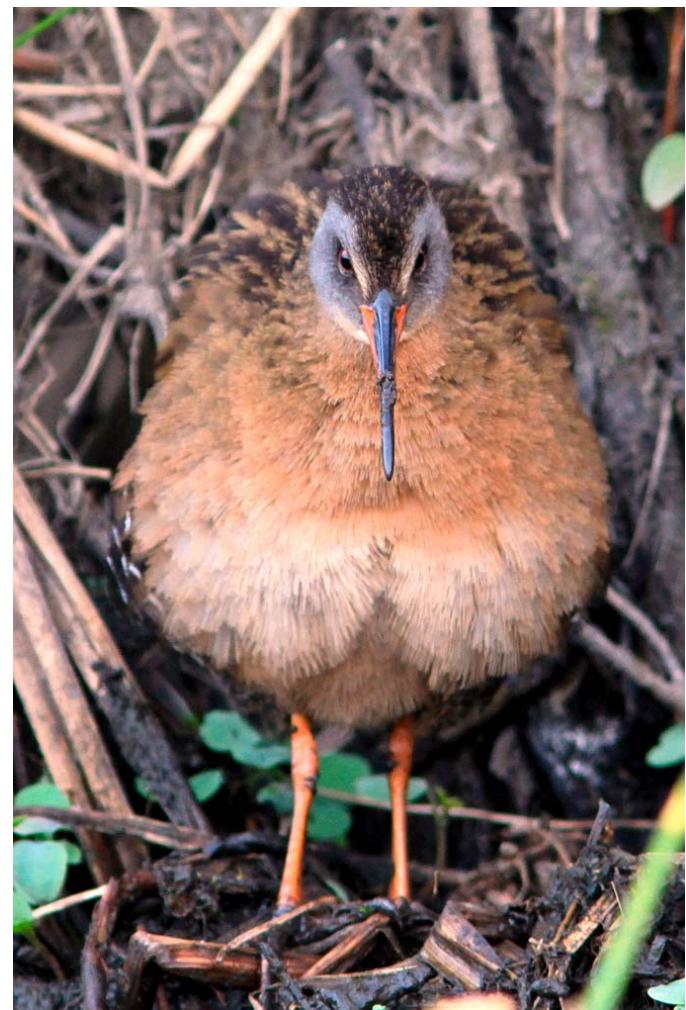
Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*). The early onset of spring brought an early nesting season for some species. This Killdeer nest with four eggs was photographed at Independence Marsh, Beaver on the very early date of 31 March 2012. (Mark Vass)



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). This bird at Bradford Dam from 13 (here) to 24 April 2012 was the latest of 12 records for Bucks since 1991, representative of the overall increase in the occurrence of this handsome species statewide in recent decades. (Bill Keim)



Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*). Though the relentless march of “progress” continues unabated at Bald Knob, the famous pond there continues to attract shorebirds that would otherwise be accidental in urbanized *Allegheny*. This bird in bright breeding plumage was there 23 May 2012. (Jeff McDonald)



Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*). This gorgeous adult in breeding plumage was cooperative at Bald Knob, *Allegheny* 15 April 2012. (Geoff Malosh)

Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*). This unique look at the secretive Virginia Rail was a highlight of a survey of private property by canoe in Chester 16 April 2012. (Holly Merker)



Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). The “shorebirdwatch” was on again this season at Bucktoe Creek Preserve in Chester, where a clear highlight of the season were two separate large flocks of Whimbrels spotted high overhead in the late afternoon. This flock was photographed 23 May 2012. (Holly Merker)



Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*). A total surprise at Bald Knob, Allegheny 1 May 2012 was this one-minute wonder, which was very luckily photographed as it flew and called over the pond in mid-afternoon. It provided just the second record for Allegheny. (Geoff Malosh)



American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*). This charming image was made at Presque Isle State Park, Erie 16 May 2012. (Cameron Rutt)



Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*). Relatively rare in Allegheny, this Dunlin was one of three at Bald Knob 15 April 2012, providing one more bit of evidence of the power the pond there still holds in attracting migrating shorebirds. (Geoff Malosh)



Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). Another recent re-addition to the state review list is Thayer's Gull; this first year bird was photographed nicely at Presque Isle State Park, Erie 3 March 2012. (Jerry McWilliams)



Forster's Tern (*Sternula forsteri*). This impressive and artistic image of a Forster's in flight was made at the Toftrees Pond, Centre 15 April 2012. (Alex Lamoreaux)



Arctic Tern (*Sternula paradisea*). One of two reported in the state this May, this Arctic Tern was present for two days at Beltzville State Park, Carbon 21 (here) and 22 May 2012. See the article on p. 90 in this issue for a report of the other Arctic in Elk. (Dustin Welch)



American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). Always opportunistic, a pair of American Robins took quick advantage of a two-day absence of the photographer from his house in Moon Township, Allegheny, and promptly set up a nest on the top of the light on the front porch. The bird was on nest here 18 May 2012. Four young fledged 9 June. (Geoff Malosh)



Barred Owl (*Strix varia*). This fledgling was one of a very confiding family of Barred Owls in Boyce-Mayview Park, Allegheny 10 May 2012. (Geoff Malosh)



Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). Prothonotaries have long been a fixture on McMichael Road at Geneva Marsh, Crawford; this image of a male taking flight was nicely captured there 27 May 2012. (Jeff McDonald)



Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). Few species have such a complex breeding history in Pennsylvania than Golden-winged Warblers, a topic covered in some detail in the forthcoming Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania. This male was near Confluence, Somerset 6 May 2012. (Mike Lanzone)



Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). A species much underrated for its subtle beauty, this Savannah Sparrow was wonderfully photographed in Northampton 15 April 2012. (Dustin Welch)



Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*). Another species often secretive and difficult to photograph is Kentucky Warbler. This fine portrait was made at Sewickley Park, Allegheny 8 May 2012. (Jeff McDonald)



Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). Centre's second of this species caused quite a stir at a feeder in Howard 17 April to 2 May 2012 (here 18 April). The first record for Centre was in 1983. (Wayne Laubscher)

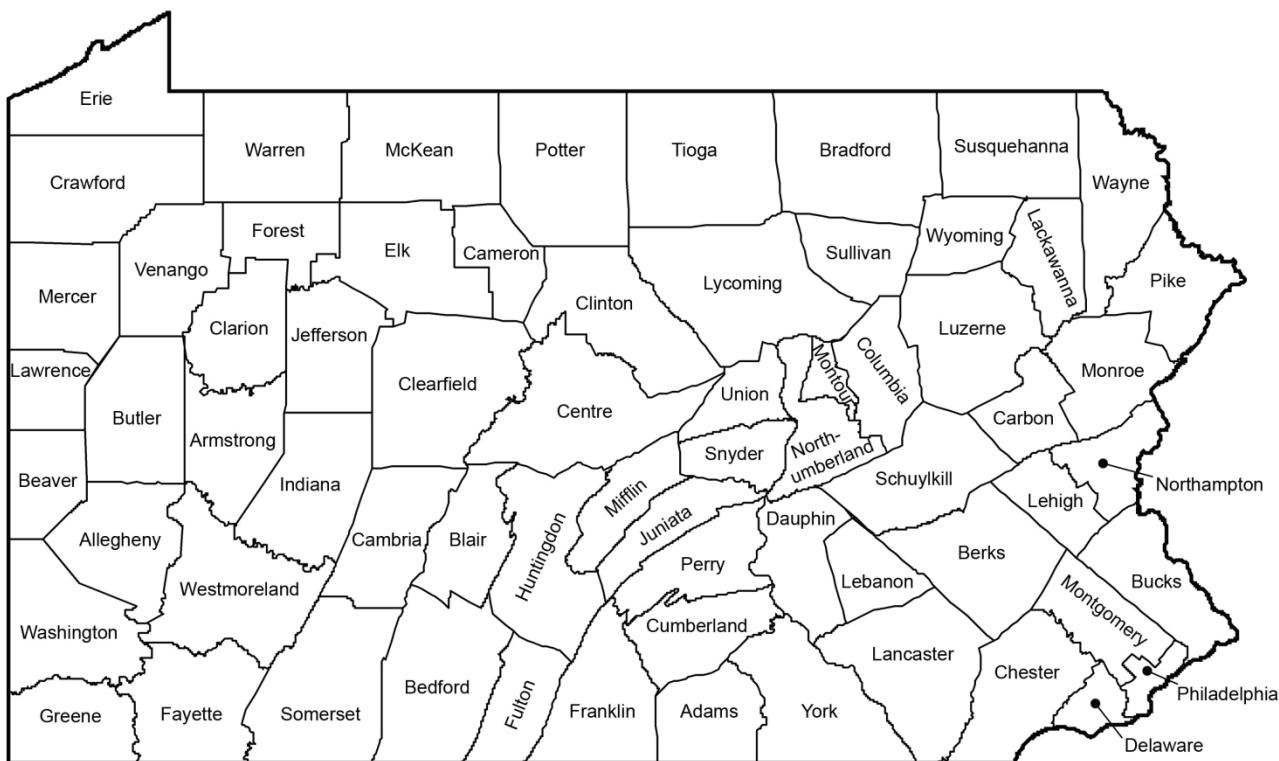


Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). Despite a few well established breeding colonies in the state, Clay-colored Sparrow remains an exceedingly difficult species to find on migration. This bird was nicely photographed at Presque Isle State Park, Erie 15 May 2012. (Cameron Rutt)



Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). This bird in an East Allen Twp. yard in Northampton proved to be a harbinger of a statewide irruption of Dickcissels as spring and summer progressed. This bird was photographed 5 April 2012. (Dustin Welch)

Local Notes – March to May 2012



ABBREVIATIONS

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

Adams County

Locations: Buttonwood Rd Farm Pond (BTWD), East Berlin (EB), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Michaux State Forest (MICH), Mountain Rd (MTN), State Game Lands 249 (SGL).

Abnormal weather patterns continued in south central Pennsylvania, with March and April flip-flopping their normal trends. The balmy early spring temperatures appeared to get more birders out, resulting in more frequent reports and an especially strong season for waterfowl (25 species). Overall, there were 157 species reported for the period and 100 species for the 5/12 PAMC (compiled by PJR).

Good **Gadwall** counts of 20 and 18 came from SGL and BTWD 3/9 (AW). There were four reports of **Blue-winged Teal**; a single at BTWD (PB), three at LPRR (RTSG, PB), two along Emmitsburg Rd (AW), and one at SGL (DJG), from 3/16-4/7. **Northern Shovelers** were at BTWD from 3/9-28 (AW, PB) with a high count of 17 on 3/9. LPRR held four **Canvasback** 4/14 (CB) and a single **Redhead** 3/17 (MWI) and three 4/14 (CB). The period 3/31-4/6 was good at LPRR. **Bufflehead** (high count of 17), **Ruddy Duck** (high count of 4), **Common Loon**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, and **Horned Grebe** were found in addition to the more common species (m.ob.).

There were four reports of **Wild Turkey**, including one of 10 pouls 5/30 (RDS). **Ring-necked Pheasants** were limited to two reports, both from the eastern part of the county. A nicely-sized **Great Blue Heron** colony was found at Hershey's Campground near York Springs. Thirty-four nests were counted prior to leaf out (RDS). Singles of **Great Egret** were found at a wetland pond along Rte. 30 on 4/14 (PK) and at SGL 4/15 (DJG). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at a pond on a PGC co-op farm along Fish and Game Rd. 4/15 (PK).

Reports of **Osprey** and **Bald Eagle** numbered five each. **Northern Harrier** continued to be present at GNMP through 4/11, but their **Short-eared Owl** cohorts were last reported 3/4. There were two reports of **Merlin**, one from Cashtown 3/10 (BF) and the other from LPRR 5/7 (AW).

Sightings of **Sora** are uncommon for Adams so the finding of four was a pleasant surprise. The first was at the intersection of Red Rock and Schriver Roads 4/28 (PM) and the other three were on the PAMC, with two at Fairfield and one at SGL. Shorebirds were limited to the expected. **Wilson's Snipe** reports came from Schriver Rd. 3/1 (AW), Cashtown 3/10 (BF), and BTWD 4/20 (AW). **American Woodcock** were at MTN 3/13 (RDS) and GNMP 5/5-6 (BH).

Although **Ring-billed Gulls** are not uncommon in this period, 160 at BTWD 3/21 (AW) was a good count for Adams. Neither cuckoo species was found. The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were 4/23, a male, and

4/26, a female, at MTN (RDS). It was a good period for woodpeckers. Six reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and five **Hairy Woodpecker** from 4/7-5/20 (m.ob.) were higher than normal.

Flycatchers were typical for the period with the exception of a very early **Eastern Phoebe** at LPRR 3/3 (RDS). A **Gray Catbird** was found that same day. Was it the unseasonably mild late winter/early spring temperatures that accounted for these sightings, or could both species have overwintered at this site, at an elevation of 1400 feet? Of the expected **vireo species**, only Philadelphia Vireo was missed. **Common Raven** sightings away from MICH continued with two at GBG 4/24 (JW) and two on the PAMC at Fairfield. There were four reports of **Horned Lark** with reasonable numbers at two locations: 20 at Cashtown 3/10 (BF) and 15 at BTWD 3/28 (AW). The earliest reports of the swallow families were a pair of **Purple Martin** at Gettysburg College 4/13 (AW), a **Tree Swallow** at Cashtown 3/10 (BF), **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at GNMP 4/4 (NR), and **Barn Swallow** at GNMP 4/14 (RSTG).

There were four reports of **Black-capped Chickadee**, all in the MICH region. It was a good period for **Brown Creeper** with five sightings and a nice high count of 6 at MICH 4/19 (CB). Both kinglets were found. A single **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at LPRR 3/31 (RTSG) and three reports of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were made from 4/6-19 (PB, CB, RDS).

The two prior springs saw an absence of *Catharus* thrushes with the exception of **Veery**. This spring broke that trend with a **Veery** at MICH 5/20 (BF), a **Swainson's Thrush** on Milesburn Rd 5/5 (CB), and **Hermit Thrush** at LPRR 4/6 (RTSG) and Milesburn Rd 4/15 (CB). **American Pipits** were at Gettysburg College 4/9 (AV) and BTWD 4/20 (AW).

PAMC brings the hope of good warbler sightings but it wasn't to be for **Adams** this year, despite good weather. The 22 participants were only able to find 13 species. It was evident from eBird and other submitted reports that prime warbler movement for **Adams** was likely 7-10 days earlier than normal. For the overall period, 22 warbler species were found with the highlight a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at GNMP 5/5 (BH).

Reports of sparrows were good but Fox Sparrow went unreported. **Chipping Sparrow** was on the early side at MTN 3/20 (RDS). **Vesper Sparrow** was at Possum Hollow Rd 4/8 (PK). **Savannah Sparrows** were at LPRR 3/17 (MWi), Possum Hollow Rd 4/8 and 5/6 (PK), and at GNMP 5/5 (BH). Eight sightings of **Grasshopper Sparrow** were from 5/1-15 (m.ob.). Rarely reported in the county, a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at GNMP 5/5 (BH). The late dates for **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrow** were 5/6 (DJG) from SGL and on the 5/12 PAMC, respectively. A pair of **Dark-eyed Juncos** lingered at MICH to 5/10 (JP).

A report of **Dickcissel** at Bollinger School Rd. 5/31 (AW), 6 **Bobolink** at GNMP 5/5 (BH) and 9 on Cunningham Rd. 5/15 (AW), numerous reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** in the GNMP area with a high count of 20+ on 3/14 (JMcC), and the grassland sparrow reports, all suggest that the spring of 2012 was a good season for grassland species. The only northern finch reported was **Purple Finch** at MTN from 3/20-28 (RDS).

Observers: Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com, Paul Banks, Jr., Val Barnes, Chris Blazo, Scott Blanchard, Bill Franz, Ron-Tracy Snyder-George (RTSG), Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Deb Grove, Brian Henderson, Judie Hogan, Georgia Kagle, Nancy Locher, Jenny McClintock (JMcC), Henry McLin, Peter Morgan, Mike O'Brien, Jessica Paoli, Peter Robinson (PJR), Nancy Rogers, Ralph & Deb Sieken (RDS), Carole Simon, Andy Wilson, Martin Wilson (MWi).

Allegheny County

Locations: Dashields Dam on the Ohio River (DASH), Imperial (IMP), Wingfield Pines (WP).

Following a mild and calm winter, March was unbelievably warm, with temperatures near 80°F for over a week making it feel more like late May. Some migrants returned quite early. April was for the most part more typical with a few unseasonably warm days; however a late winter storm moved through 4/23 bringing wind, rain mixed with snow and cold temperatures.

Waterfowl numbers were low due to warm weather and lack of major weather systems. A flock of 40 **Tundra Swans** flew over Frazier Twp. 3/11 (JMa, CMa). Ten **American Wigeon** were at Duck Hollow 3/2 (TM, NM) and two were at Boyce-Mayview Park 4/3 (FK). An **American Black Duck** was in Pine Twp. 3/1 (PL, SL). A **Gadwall** was at IMP 3/2 (MV) and the individual reported last season remained at WP to 3/28, apparently injured (ST). Nine were on the Allegheny R. at Blawnox 4/7 (DY) and 4 were at DASH 4/14-15 (GM, MF). A nice count of 14 **Blue-winged Teal** were at North Park 4/11 (BM). A great count of 16 **Northern Shovelers** were at IMP 3/16 (MV). Two were at Duck Hollow 4/7 (TM, NM) and 3 were at North

Park 4/11 (BM). A **Green-winged Teal** was at IMP 3/31 and 3 were in nearby Findlay Twp. that day (MV). Max count of **Ring-necked Ducks** was 46 at IMP 3/18 (MV). Eight **Greater Scaup** were on the Allegheny R. at Hamar Twp. 3/10 (AH, PM) and one was on the Ohio R. at Woods Run 3/16 (MV). Max count of **Lesser Scaup** was 19 on the Monongahela R. at Duck Hollow 4/10 (JS, SS). **Common Merganser** reports include two at DASH 3/28 (GM) and the bird continuing at Duck Hollow since last winter 5/12 (MF). A high count of 87 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were observed migrating along the Ohio R. at DASH 4/10 (GM, MV, MF). A small flock of females spent most of April at DASH, often swimming along shore, which allowed interesting underwater views from the elevated river bank as the birds submerged in the clear shallow water. After a week long stretch of unseasonably warm weather, rain 3/24 brought down **Long-tailed Ducks**, with 3 on the Ohio R. at Brunots Island (SC) and 3 on the Allegheny R. at Blawnox (DY). Six were on the Allegheny R. at Cheswick 4/1 (DY). A **White-winged Scoter** was on the Allegheny R. at Penn Hills 4/1 (JS, SS) and a **Surf Scoter** was at Woods Run on the Ohio R. 5/5 (MV). Four **Ruddy Ducks** were at North Park 3/4 (MV) and two were at Brunots Island 3/24 (MV). There were several reports of this species 3/31: two at DASH (GM), one at IMP (MV), five in Findlay Twp. (MV) and two in Harmar Twp. (AH, PM). One was at Duck Hollow 4/7 (TM, NM) followed by two 4/11-28 (JS, SS, MD). Eleven were in Findlay Twp. 4/9 (MF, MV) and one was in Blawnox 4/9-11 (AH, PM). Six were at DASH 4/16 (GM). There was a small fallout of **Bufflehead** 4/7 with 30 on the Ohio R. at Brunots Island (MV), 37 at Duck Hollow (TM, NM) and 6 on the Allegheny R. at Blawnox (DY). Twenty remained at Duck Hollow 4/11 (JS, SS). A male **Bufflehead** first reported at North Park 4/6 was still lingering 5/23 (BM, PL, SL); assuming it is the same bird.

A movement of **Common Loons** was noted over WP in Upper St. Clair 4/7. Flocks of 15, 3 and 5 were counted (DW, ST). Four flew over nearby Boyce-Mayview Park 4/9 (DW, ST). Three flew past DASH 4/8 (GM) where one was present 4/10-5/2 (MV, GM, MF, BVN). Single birds were reported at Duck Hollow 4/9 (ST), Blawnox 4/11 (AH, PM), Findlay Twp. 4/22 (MV) and Lawrenceville 5/5 (AB, CB). Two were at North Park 4/11 (BM) and two flew over Frick Park 4/28 (MD). A rainy day put down good numbers of **Horned Grebes**: 23 were on the Ohio R. at Brunots Island (MV) and 12 were on the Allegheny R. at Harmar Twp. 3/24 (AH, PM).

An **American Bittern** was at IMP 4/15-17 (GM, et al.). The **Great Blue Heron** rookery in Harmar Twp. contained 24 nests this spring (AH, PM). A **Great Egret** was at WP 4/4 and 5/15 (DW, ST). One was in Plum 4/10 (AH), one at North Park 4/22-5/3 (PL, SL) and two were at Boyce-Mayview Park 5/28 (GM). An adult **Little Blue Heron** was discovered at Boyce Mayview Park 5/28 (FK, m.ob.). This provided just the second record for the county; the previous was in 1974. It remained until at least 5/30.

A pair of **Osprey** was building a nest on an electrical tower in Leetsdale 4/9 (GM, et al.). The **Osprey** nest discovered last year on Neville Island appeared to be active again; a pair was observed at the nest 4/12 (CD). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was flying over Marshall Twp. 4/30 (GS). The observer saw it well and described it very well noting the tail shape and the black and white color of the bird. Two **Bald Eagles** were seen flying at Harrison Hills Park 3/22 (fide SVA) and one was just downriver at Tarentum 5/28 (RP). The pair continued at DASH this season (m.ob.). A **Golden Eagle** was spotted flying over Shaler Twp. 5/11 (JH). A **Merlin** flew rapidly through a yard in Natrona Heights 5/21 (PH).

A **Virginia Rail** was found dead in downtown Pittsburgh 3/9 (MK), and one was found at IMP 4/15 (GM). Two **Sandhill Cranes** were seen flying high over DASH 4/8 (GM).

Single **Semipalmated Plovers** were at IMP 5/1 (GM), 5/24 (MV), and 5/28 (GM). **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Solitary Sandpipers** were present at IMP in small numbers in April and early May. Single **Solitary Sandpipers** were found at WP 4/21 (JM), 4/29 (SC), 5/7 (ST), Findlay Twp. 4/22 (MV), Baratti's Ponds in Jefferson Borough 4/26 (SSn) and Duck Hollow 4/18 and 5/4 (TM, NM). Three were at Harrison Hills Park 4/30 (PH). A flock of 9 **Willetts** were discovered at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela River 5/4 (TM, NM) providing the sixth county record. As usual, they remained until dusk and moved on. Fortunately many people were able to see and photograph the very vocal flock. Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at IMP 5/28 (GM) was the lone report. **Least Sandpipers** were present the entire month of May at IMP with a max of 8 on 5/2 (GM). Three **Dunlin** were at IMP 4/15 (GM) and one was there 4/29 (MV). A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was seen flying over Bald Knob at IMP 5/1 (GM). Fortunately it was calling which confirmed the identification. A quick photograph was also taken. Unfortunately the bird landed only briefly before taking off again. This furnished the second county record. **Wilson's Snipe** appeared in good numbers at IMP this spring with 31 there 3/16 (MV), 33 on 3/25 (MD) and 22 on 3/26 (MD, CD). **American Woodcocks** continue to be found at IMP despite ongoing development. Three were heard 3/7 across the road from Beechwood Farms in Fox Chapel (GH, BSh), three were at Sewickley

Heights Park 3/14 (BVN, DN) and one was at WP 3/24 (DW, ST).

A few **Bonaparte's Gulls** moved through in March with 4 at North Park 3/21 (SK) and 4 at The Point in Pittsburgh 3/24 (MV). The migration of gulls and terns at DASH on the Ohio River was monitored again this year. Numbers were lower than in past years, perhaps due to the extremely mild weather and southerly winds. Max counts of **Bonaparte's Gulls** include 148 on 4/1 (GM) and 137 on 4/7 (GM, MF, DW, ST). The only other double figure totals include 10 on 4/5 (MV) and 28 on 4/8 (GM). **Caspian Terns** were seen 4/8-5/ with max. counts of 10 on 4/10 (GM, MV, MF) and 8 on 4/11 (GM). An early **Forster's Tern** flew past 3/31 (GM). The only others were five 4/13-14 (GM, MF). The only report away from DASH was one at Duck Hollow 4/25 (TM, NM).

A **Barred Owl** was in Schenley Park 3/20 (KSJ) and remained to 5/2 (JK). This bird probably wintered in the park because one was reported there last fall. A nest with two young was found at Boyce-Mayview Park 5/10 (FK, DW, ST, GM); a rare breeding confirmation in the county. One or two were calling at North Park 5/10 (POB). Two **Short-eared Owls** were at IMP 3/17 (MV). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was calling in Brentwood 4/30 (DF).

A **Northern Shrike** was at IMP 3/3 (AC). A flock of 22 crows were circling over Frick Park 3/21 (MD). The only voices heard were **Fish Crows** so they may have all been of that species. One was also seen nearby in Squirrel Hill 3/23 and 4/16 (JS, SS). Two nesting pairs were found in Squirrel Hill in April (CD). Single birds were in West Mifflin and Homestead 4/4 (CD) and single birds were in Frick Park in May (TM, NM, MF, DWe). A **Common Raven** was at IMP 3/16-17 (MV) and 4/29 (GM). A pair feeding young were seen at Woods Run 5/5 (MV).

Uncommon in the county, a **Purple Martin** was at North Park 3/28 (DN). One was at WP 3/30 (ST), four were in Pine Twp. 5/2 (PL, SL) and two were at IMP 5/24 (MV). Purple Martins nest in very few locations in Allegheny, but are not often reported during migration. Two **Tree Swallows** in Findlay Twp. 3/16 (MV) were a bit early. **Bank Swallow** reports include one at IMP 4/1 (CD), two in Bridgeville 4/26 (ST) and two at IMP 5/21 (GM). Five **Cliff Swallows** were at DASH 4/11 (GM), one was there 4/13 (GM) and two were in Elizabeth Twp. 5/22 (CD). This is the least reported species in the county.

We had great news regarding **Eastern Bluebirds** this spring. A pair was observed at nest boxes in Frick Park 3/21 (MD) and eventually built a nest (m.ob.). Another pair in East Liberty was attempting to nest in April (DY). This may be the first time this species has nested within the Pittsburgh city limits! **Swainson's Thrushes** were in low numbers this spring and Gray-cheeked went unreported. **Veeries** were only reported in Pine Twp. and North Park where they breed. **Brown Thrashers** returned about two weeks early with one at IMP and one nearby in Findlay Twp. 3/22 (BS).

There were two reports of **Golden-winged Warbler** this spring. One was in Moon Twp. 4/30 (GM) and one was at North Park 5/3 (BC). **Northern Parula** was found in Moon Twp. 4/15, Frick Park 5/10-12 (DWe, MD, MF) and Beechwood Farms 5/12 (BSh). **Cape May Warblers** are not common here so two reports are noteworthy: one was at Frick Park 4/26 (JS, SS) and was in Moon Twp. 5/6 (GM). An early **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at WP 3/28 (ST). A **Pine Warbler** was at Renzie Park 3/17 (SC), one was at Knob Hill Park 4/4 (KD), one at Frick Park 4/15 (JS, SS) and one at WP 4/29 (SC). There were two reports of **Palm Warblers**: one was at Carnegie 4/15 (SK) and one at Beechwood Farms 5/12 (BSh). **Worm-eating Warblers** are also uncommon here. One was in Sewickley 5/2 (GM), and one was at Harrison Hills Park 5/19 (SG). **Northern Waterthrush** reports were good with single birds at WP 4/29-30 (SC, ST, JM), the future Pittsburgh Botanical Garden Site near Settler's Cabin Park 4/19 (BMU), Harrison Hills Park 5/12 (PH) and Duck Hollow 5/12 (MF). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** had record early returns. One was at Walker Park in Sewickley 3/20 (BS) and one was at Hampton Twp. 3/21 (DN).

A male **Summer Tanager** was photographed and recorded singing in Schenley Park 5/6 (HF). This is the same location a pair attempted to nest last year. The male remained through the end of the spring season but a female was not detected as of this writing.

Vesper Sparrows, **Savannah Sparrows** and **Grasshopper Sparrows** still can be found at IMP despite continued construction. A **Vesper Sparrow** was at Knob Hill Park 4/4-17 (KD); a first for that location. A **Henslow's Sparrow** was singing at IMP 4/21 (MF). **Fox Sparrow** reports include one at Renzie Park 3/10 (SC), two at Frick Park 3/21 (JS, SS), one at Boyce-Mayview Park 4/8 and one there 4/11 (DW, ST). Single **White-crowned Sparrows** were at Schenley Park 5/1 (AH, PM), Squirrel Hill 5/1 (DWe), Pontefract Park in Leetsdale (BVN), Penn Hills 5/3 (MF), North Park 5/8 (POB) and Natrona Heights 5/13 (PH).

Ten **Rusty Blackbirds** were at WP 4/7 (DW, ST) and two were observed flying over IMP 4/21 (MF).

A male **Purple Finch** visited a feeder in Hampton Twp. 3/25 (DN), one was at a feeder in Harmar Twp. 3/27-28; that number grew to four and were present regularly to 4/3 (JV). One was in Pine Twp. 3/28-30 and two were

present at that location 4/3-5/31 (PL, SL). One was singing in Natrona Heights 4/2, 4/22-28 and 5/23 (PH). An immature male was present in Penn Hills 4/18-5/21 (MF). A **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 3/14 (JV) and one was at WP 4/29 (SC).

Observers: Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net; Tony Bledsoe (TBI), Al Borek, Carol Borek, Shawn Collins, Ben Coulter, Annie Crary, Sherree Daugherty, Michael David, Karyn Delaney, Cory DeStein, Donna Foyle, Hiro Fukuda, Gigi Gerben, Eric Hall, Amy Henrici, Chuck Herrold, Deb Hess, Paul Hess, Joyce Hoffmann, Gabi Hughes, Fred Kachmarik, Jay Kaydane, Margie Kern, Dave Kerr, Scott Kinzey, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Jeff McDonald, Pat McShea, Bob Machesney, Claudia Maiorana (CMA), Jay Mansmann (JMA), Oscar Miller, Nancy Moeller, Tom Moeller, Bob Mulvihill (BMU), Dick Nugent, Philip O'brien (POB), Rob Protz, Theo Rickert, Judy Schryer (JSh), Tony Schryer, Brian Shema (BSh), Sam Sinderson (SSN), Becky Smith, Grace Smith, Steve Thomas (STh), Sue Thomas (SUT), Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Jim Valimont, Bob VanNewkirk (BVN), Mark Vass, Dan Weeks (DWe), Dave Wilton, Steve Valasek (SVa), Susanne Varley, Dan Yagusic.

Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek (CC), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Rosston (RT), Worthington (WT), Yatesboro (YB).

Two **Tundra Swans** at KR 3/1 (MH, RH) were the only ones noted this season. March 18 was the arrival date for the first 2 **Wood Ducks** at RT (TR) and the first **Gadwall** near WT (ST). Top **Mallard** count was 17 at Manorville 3/7 (JV). Four **Blue-winged Teal** 4/7 (MVT) at KR, a **Northern Shoveler** 5/31 (NB, KB), also at KR, and one **Redhead** 3/10 (RM) at CC were the only reports for these species. Top **Ring-necked Duck** count was 43 at KR 3/1 (MH, RH). A **Greater Scaup** 3/10 (RM) at CC was the lone report. CC yielded 9 **Lesser Scaup** 3/13 (MVT) and one on 3/30 (MH, JV). A **Long-tailed Duck** at RT 4/8 (TR) was a nice find. The peak number of 43 **Buffleheads** was counted at CC 3/30 (MH, JV). KR produced the season's lone **Common Goldeneye** 3/1 (MH, RH). Six **Hooded Mergansers** arrived 3/3 (MH, RH) at KR, which harbored 10 **Common Mergansers** 3/1, 3 (MH, RH); a hen Common Merganser was nesting in the metal structure above the dam at Mahoning 5/31 (BF, MH). Sixteen **Red-breasted Mergansers** were tallied at KR 4/1 (MH, RH) while 5 remained there 5/31 (NB, KB). RT produced a **Ruddy Duck** 4/14 (TR).

The only **Ruffed Grouse** noted were singletons at KR 4/7 (MVT) and at CC 5/17 (DV, JV). Reports of **Wild Turkeys**, which appear to be in low numbers, included 7 near WT 3/18 (MM), 5 at YB 5/2 (ED, CH, SL), and 8 near SGL 247 on 5/20 (TR). The arrival of **Common Loons** occurred 4/1, one at RT (TR) and 3 at KR (MH, RH); 5 was the high loon tally at KR 5/17 (NB, KB). A **Pied-billed Grebe** at KR 4/1 (MH, RH) was the only one reported. A **Horned Grebe** at CC 3/30 (MH, JV, MVT) was first; 20 was the high 4/1 (MH, RH) at KR where one lingered through 4/27 (MH). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared at KR 4/7 (MVT) while CC's first were 3 on 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV); 7 also visited KR 5/31 (NB, KB). **Green Herons** were unreported except for one at KR 5/31 (NB, KB).

After a late Feb arrival, 6 **Turkey Vultures** were sighted at Apollo 3/9 (CL, GL); 6 was also the high count at YB 5/30 (ED). **Osprey** moved through CC between 3/30 (MH, JV) and 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV). One highlight of the season, and a first county record as well, was a **Mississippi Kite** spotted along Browns Hill Road near CC 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV) as it worked the tops of the trees. The bird disappeared from sight for about 20 minutes then reappeared as it flew directly over the observers' heads heading toward CC, but it could not be relocated. The KR **Bald Eagles** were on nest 3/3, 4/1 (MH, RH); last year's bird was also seen at KR 4/1 (MH, RH) and 4/27 (MH). Two adults were present at CC 3/3, 5/12 (MVT) while another was seen at the Iron Bridge, Kittanning, 3/15 (MVT). **Northern Harrier** reports included single birds near WT 3/16 (SC) and at SGL 247 on 4/28 (TR). Twelve was the top **American Coot** tally at CC 3/10 (RM); last spotted was one at RT 4/14 (TR).

First **Killdeer** were single birds along Dutch Run and at Woods' Pond near Elderton 3/3 (MH, RH). Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were listed at KR 5/31 (NB, KB). First **Bonaparte's Gulls** arrived at CC 3/18 (TR). Top counts were 35 on 4/1 (MH, RH) and 19 on 4/7 (MVT), both tallies at KR; last seen were 4 on 4/27 (MH), also at KR. CC harbored the first 3 **Ring-billed Gulls** 3/2 (JV) and a **Herring Gull** visited the same location 3/18 (TR).

First **Black-billed Cuckoos** were sighted 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV) near CC and at CC. Another major highlight was MM's finding of a **Snowy Owl** near WT 3/14. The bird was last noted 3/23 (MH, RH, JV).

The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, as well as the first **Eastern**

Wood-Pewee, was spotted 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV) at CC. First **Acadian Flycatchers** surfaced 5/12 (MVT) at CC. **Willow Flycatcher** reports included 2 on 5/27 (MH, RH) on the **Armstrong** section of the Shelocta BBS and one at KR 5/31 (BF, MH). March 4 (TR) marked the return of **Eastern Phoebe** at CC. CC yielded a **Great Crested Flycatcher** 5/12 (MVT) and 5/17 (DV, JV).

Both **Yellow-throated Vireos** and **Red-eyed Vireos** had returned to CC by 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV). SG found the first **Blue-headed Vireo** 5/9 near Parker. **Common Ravens** nested once again at CC (m.ob.); a single raven was sighted over Apollo 4/21 (MH, RH). The WT area yielded 2 **Horned Larks** 3/18 (ST) and 3 on 3/21 (RM). One to 2 **Purple Martins** returned to CC (MS, MVT) where they nested last year. Although the martin box had been raised and the gourds had been put in place early, the gourds were then removed allegedly for the installation of a new box which never occurred. None nested this year. First sightings of **Tree Swallows** occurred 3/30 (MH, JV) at CC; of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, 4/27 (MH) at KR. Four **Bank Swallows** were listed near Parker 5/9 (SG). Eight **Cliff Swallows** was a nice count at KR for this not-so-common in the county species. More than 100 **Barn Swallows** were feeding over KR 4/27 (MH).

First **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** appeared 4/25 (MVT) at CC. Two **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were noted at CC 5/4 (MVT). The only **Veery** sighting occurred at CC 5/12 (MVT). A **Hermit Thrush** was found at SGL 247 on 3/24 (TR); singletons visited CC 4/16, 5/12 (MVT) then again 5/17 (DV, JV). Seven **Wood Thrushes** and 8 **Gray Catbirds** had returned to the CC area by 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV). CC yielded the first 2 **Brown Thrashers** 4/16 (MVT).

Ovenbirds were first heard singing near CC 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV). **Louisiana Waterthrush** reports included individuals near CC 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV), on the Shelocta BBS 5/27 (MH, RH), and one at Milton Loop 5/31 (BF, MH). A late **Northern Waterthrush** was also singing on the Shelocta BBS 5/27 (MH, RH). Three **Blue-winged Warblers** were present in the CC area 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV). A **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, and **Hooded Warbler** at CC 5/2 (MVT) were first. **American Redstart** was first recorded near CC 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were singing at CC 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV). **Northern Parula** reports include one at CC 5/2 (MVT) and one on the Shelocta BBS 5/27 (MH, RH). A **Magnolia Warbler** at CC 5/2 (MVT) comprised the entire report for this species; first **Yellow Warblers** were also listed at CC 5/2 (MVT); the following day (BF, CG, MH, JV) a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was noted at the same location. The only **Blackpoll Warbler** and **Palm Warbler** noted were individuals respectively at Cochran's Mill 5/26 (MVT) and at CC 5/12 (MVT). One to 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were listed 3/1 (MH, RH) at KR; 3/23, 30 (MH, MVT) at CC; and 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV) near CC; high count was 5 at Polka Hollow 5/4 (MVT). **Yellow-throated Warbler** reports included 2 at Polka Hollow 5/12 (MVT) and a pair at Cochran's Mill 5/27 (MH, RH). A **Prairie Warbler** at Parker 5/9 (SG) and one near Mahoning Dam 5/31 (BF, MH) were the only two noted. Two **Black-throated Green Warblers** were spotted near CC 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV).

First **Eastern Towhee** appeared at Cochran's Mill 3/15 (MVT). The first **Chipping Sparrow** was at CC 3/23 (MH, JV). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found near Parker 5/9 (SG). Two **Fox Sparrows** near SGL 247 on 3/10 (TR) were the only ones detected this season. A single **White-throated Sparrow** lingered at YB through 5/12 (ED). CC yielded the only **White-crowned Sparrow** reports 5/2 (MVT), 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV), and 5/12 (MVT).

Twelve **Scarlet Tanagers**, 2 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, and 4 **Indigo Buntings** were in evidence in the CC area 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV). Four **Red-winged Blackbirds** were sighted near Elderton 3/1 (MH, RH). Four **Bobolinks** were counted in a field north of Templeton 4/26 (MM). Kittanning's Iron Bridge was the location of the season's first **Eastern Meadowlark** 3/15 (MVT) while another was found south of WT the following day (CGu, MH). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were flipping leaves along a trail at CC 3/23 (MH, JV), but only one was noted 3/30 (MH, JV); 8 were counted at RT 4/8 (TR). First **Common Grackle** arrived near Ford Cliff 3/1 (JV) while 16 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** near WT 3/18 (ST) were first. Four **Baltimore Orioles** graced the CC area with their songs 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV). A **Purple Finch** visited a YB feeder 3/22 and 3/28 (ED), and 2 were at CC 3/30 (MH, JV).

Observers: Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@windstream.net; Norman Bond, Ken Byerly, Shawn Collins, Erma Dovenspike, Betsy Fetterman, Carolyn Glendening, Steve Gosser, Carol Guba (CGu), Carol Hall, Roger Higbee, Sally Labino, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Mark McConaughy, Ryan McDermott, Theo Rickert, Melissa Salsgiver, Shannon Thompson, David Valasek, Josie Valasek, Marge Van Tassel.

Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Dashields Dam area (Allegheny/Beaver line) (DASH), Economy Borough (ECON), Hereford Manor Lake (HML), Independence Marsh (IND), Monaca (MON), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

Six **Wood Ducks** were back at IND 3/2 (MV). Two **American Black Ducks** were present there 3/4-11 (MV), and 3 were at Brady's Run Park 5/27 (TJ). A male **Blue-winged Teal** continued from the winter season at RCH to 3/9 (MV), but the species was not reported again until 2 were noted migrating past DASH 4/14 (GM). One was at New Brighton 5/4 (MV). Six **Northern Shovelers** at MON 3/28 were a good find (MV). The only report of **Northern Pintail** was of 3 at IND 3/4 (MV). **Green-winged Teal** were frequently reported at IND and RCH through the season, including an apparently injured female at RCH which continued from the winter season to at least 5/2 (m.ob.). A female **Canvasback** at RCH 5/13 was exceptionally late, and also represented the only report of this species (MV). **Ring-necked Ducks** were widespread in Mar as usual; peak count was 49 at IND 3/11 (MV); last were 2 there 4/7 (MV). **Greater Scaup** were at IND 3/18 and 3/31, and at RCH 4/1 (all MV). **Lesser Scaup** were more widely reported 3/4-4/23 (m.ob.); top count of 21 at RCH 3/24 was part of a nice fallout of waterbirds that day. Seven **Long-tailed Ducks** were also with the Lesser Scaup flock at RCH 3/24 (MV). **Bufflehead** had an above average flight, reported from six locations 3/16-4/17; top count of 17 also was 3/24 at RCH (MV). The first **Hooded Mergansers** were noted at IND 3/31 (MV). **Red-breasted Mergansers** put in a remarkable showing at DASH in mid-Apr, including a total of 87 migrating along the Ohio R. 4/10, with smaller numbers also seen migrating there 4/7-14 (GM, et al.). All of these April migrants were females. Unusual was a male **Red-breasted Merganser** that stayed at IND 4/5-12 (MV, et al.), providing just the second record for IND (3/23/1997 was the first). **Ruddy Duck** also had an above average season, reported from four different locations beginning 3/25 but never in double digits. One very late bird was at RCH 5/31-6/5 (MV).

SGL 285 continues to support a stable population of **Ruffed Grouse**; 2 were there 4/29 (GM) and one was entered into eBird from that location 5/26. **Common Loons** passed through in small numbers in Apr. Most reports were from the Ohio R. at DASH and MON, but the first of the season was at AR 4/3 (BS) and the last a somewhat late bird at RCSP 5/4-5 (GM). A remarkable 25 **Horned Grebes** were at RCH 3/24 (MV) during the fallout that day, but the only other report was of 3 at AR 4/3 (BS). First **Double-crested Cormorants** were a flock of 7 at MON 3/11. Most reports were of migrating flocks along the Ohio R. in early Apr; top counts were 135 at MON 4/3 (MV), and 60 on 4/9 and 76 on 4/11 at DASH (GM). One **Great Egret** was at AR 4/22-23 (BS, GM). First **Osprey** was at New Brighton 3/18 (SG). Away from the rivers where nesting pairs returned by early Apr, Ospreys were also seen at RCSP 4/21 (RT, et al.) and Brady's Run Park 5/27 (TJ). The only report of **Bald Eagle** was one at Beaver Falls 4/1 (TJ). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, an uncommon breeder in the county, was at SGL 285 on 4/29 (GM). A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** in Center Twp. continued from the winter season and was reported building a nest in a yard there 3/11 (CA). One was also seen at RCSP 4/6 (JS, SS). First **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Brady's Run Park 4/13 (TJ); presumed breeders were noted at RCSP 5/5 and 5/12 (GM). An **American Kestrel** was near SGL 285 on 4/29 (GM). The **Peregrine Falcon** nest in MON held four eggs 4/12 (fide AM), and both adults were seen off nest 4/14 (SG), suggesting that hatching had recently occurred. An **American Coot** was still at RCH 5/2 (MV).

Shorebirds were quite sparse, as is often the case in spring, however the bird of the season was in fact a shorebird: an **Upland Sandpiper**, Beaver's first, was found in a field off Hookstown Grade Road in Independence Twp. 4/23 (GM). It was not relocated the next day. Interestingly, these same fields held an American Golden-Plover in Sep 2009. Most other shorebird reports came from Hereford Manor Lake. These included **Lesser Yellowlegs** 3/31 and both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/6 and 4/21, **Solitary Sandpiper** 4/21, and **Wilson's Snipe** 3/30 (all MV). Two snipe were also seen at IND 4/8 (GM). The only report of **American Woodcock** was of one flushed from a trail at SGL 285 on 4/29 (GM). The first large movement of **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 29 at MON 3/21 (MV), was a bit early. Top counts at DASH included 148 on 4/1 and 137 on 4/7 (GM). Top counts of migrating **Ring-billed Gulls** were off this season, with the best total at DASH only 89 on 4/14 (GM). An adult **Herring Gull** was seen in MON 5/1 (MV); Beaver is still inexplicably without a known Herring Gull nest. **Caspian Terns** were reported only migrating past DASH (GM, et al.) and at MON (MV) from 4/9-15. A very early **Forster's Tern** flew past DASH 3/31 (GM). Otherwise they were only reported passing DASH 4/13 and 4/14, with 5 on each day (GM).

Barred Owl was reported at AR 4/3 (BS) and Brady's Run Park 5/27 (TJ). **Common Nighthawks** were found in Beaver Falls 5/11 (TJ) and

Beaver 5/19 (MV). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were back at SGL 285 by 5/3 (GM), when 4 were heard singing. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in a yard in ECON 5/15 (BA, BS). The only report of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was of one at RCSP 4/6 (JS, SS).

The only **Least Flycatcher** found this season was at RCSP 5/12 (GM). An **Eastern Phoebe** was a little early at IND 3/11 (BS, KS, SM). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were in evidence at RCSP all May (GM) but were not reported elsewhere. **Blue-headed Vireos** were at 4/16 (RT), SGL 285 on 4/29 (GM), and unexpectedly at MON 5/1 (MV). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** at RCSP 4/21 (RT, et al.) was a bit early; the other three regular breeding species (**White-eyed**, **Warbling**, and **Red-eyed**) were more or less on time. A **Common Raven** showed up at yet another new location, SGL 285 on 4/29 (GM). Reports of swallows were unremarkable aside from a large fallout following an afternoon of rain at AR 4/23, when the following counts were made: 50 **Tre Swallows**, 100 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, 2 **Bank Swallows**, 2 **Cliff Swallows**, and an estimated 500 **Barn Swallows** (GM). Reports of **Carolina Wrens** were widespread.

Last **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were both at AR 4/3 (BS). **Veery** were reported at RCSP 5/12 (GM) and SGL 285 on 5/13 (eBird). The only **Hermit Thrush** was one at SGL 285 on 4/29 (GM). A great total of 25 **Gray Catbirds** at RCSP 5/5 (GM) was part of a magnificent day for passerines at the park (see below).

Warblers were well reported this spring, primarily on the strength of several reports from RCSP. The best day by far was 5/5 when 131 individual warblers of 22 species were counted in the park in five hours (GM). Highlights on this day included 10 **Ovenbird**, 8 **Black-and-white Warbler**, 10 **Tennessee Warbler**, one **Nashville Warbler**, one **Kentucky Warbler**, 15 **Common Yellowthroat**, 15 **Hooded Warbler**, 10 **American Redstart**, one **Cape May Warbler** (the only one for the season), 9 **Cerulean Warbler**, one **Magnolia Warbler**, 4 **Blackburnian Warbler**, 20 **Yellow Warbler**, one **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, one **Blackpoll Warbler**, and one **Black-throated Blue Warbler**. The cacophony of the dawn chorus on the Lake Trail was deafening! Aside from this amazing morning, there were many other high points to note among the warblers. Two **Northern Waterthrushes** were located: one near SGL 285 on Sportsman Club Road 4/29 (GM), and one at RCSP 5/12 (GM). **Black-and-white Warblers** were frequently reported, including at SGL 285 on 4/29 in an area where they are known to breed (GM). **Tennessee Warblers** appeared in force beginning 5/4 at RCSP (GM) and were conspicuous through 5/20 (m.ob.). RCSP's population of **Cerulean Warblers** appeared to be doing well, with several males on territory in traditional locations by mid-May (GM). **Northern Parula** was not reported at RCSP until 5/5 (GM), likely owing to relatively sparse coverage of the park in Apr. **Magnolia Warblers** were common in RCSP in May and one was also in ECON 5/14 (KD). The only **Bay-breasted Warbler** was one in ECON 5/14 (KD). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were oft reported, including an eBird entry of one at SGL 285 on 5/12. It is not known if this bird was seen in the same area where they have bred in the past, but the species likely continues at the gamelands as a breeder nonetheless. The **Blackpoll Warbler** at RCSP 5/5 was matched by another in Hanover Twp. that same day (GM); both were slightly early. A **Pine Warbler** visited the same yard in ECON 4/7 (BA, BS) that the Red-headed Woodpecker visited in May. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were in evidence at AR by 4/3 (BS), probably the first migrants, rather than winterers. **Yellow-throated Warbler** reappeared at RCSP by 4/6 (JS, SS). **Prairie Warblers** were back in place at SGL 285 on 4/29 (GM), the county's only (but very stable) population. A **Wilson's Warbler** was at IND 5/12 (ST), and a **Canada Warbler** was at RCSP the same day (GM), both representing the only reports for the season. **Yellow-breasted Chat** was on territory near Little Blue Lake in Greene Twp. 5/5 (GM). Overall, 28 warblers were found.

Eleven **Scarlet Tanagers** were at RCSP on the big passerine morning of 5/5 (GM), but the big story that morning, even more so than the warblers, were the **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**. The conservative total was 40, but there were likely many more (GM). The Lake Trail alone held 14, including three pairs competing with each other for territory. Grosbeaks were seen in Green and Hanover Twp.s. that morning as well (GM).

"Field" sparrows (**Field**, **Savannah**, **Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's**) were all present at SGL 285 on 4/29 (GM). The first **Chipping Sparrow** was in ECON 3/18 (KD). A **Vesper Sparrow** was in ECON 4/7 (BA, BS). The only reports of **Fox Sparrows** were in ECON 3/19 and 3/31 (KD). The only **Swamp Sparrow** reported was at IND 4/14 (SC, KD, KS, TM, NM).

A hay field in Hanover Twp. held **Grasshopper Sparrow**, **Bobolink**, and **Eastern Meadowlark** 5/5 (GM). This same location held the latter two species during the second PBBA as well but unfortunately is usually subjected to early mowing. Both **Orchard** and **Baltimore Orioles** were well reported. The only finch species of note were one or two **Purple Finches** that attended feeders in ECON 5/4 (KD) and elsewhere in ECON through at least 5/19 (BA, BS, GM, MV).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh**, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net, Cheryl Abel, Bruce Anderson, Shawn Collins, Karyn Delaney, Mike Fialkovich, Scott Gregg, Susan Jagerski, Timothy Johnson, Art McMorris, Nancy Moeller, Tom Moeller, Shirley Mutz, Kathy Saunders, Becky Smith, Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

Bedford County

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF), Dunning's Creek Wetlands (DCW), White-tail Wetlands (WTW), Shawnee State Park (SSP), PAMC (Pennsylvania Migration Count on May 12).

Unless noted otherwise, the observations are those of the author. The weather for this period was unseasonably warm and wet with heavy rains that in some instances forced migrants down. Water was generally partially or completely open. In general we had a few record lows and many record highs. It was a very interesting quarter!

Snow Geese bypassed the county by day, but were heard at night 3/1 crossing the AF. Six **Brant** were observed by CH 2/28 at WTW. **Canada Geese** peaked at 1104 on the early date of 2/28. Six **Trumpeter Swans** settled into a pool at DCW 3/24 and lingered for 3 days. This is a yearly event for Trumpeters. **Tundra Swans** peaked at a low 310 on 2/29 at DCW.

The peak days for ducks were as follows: 40 **Wood Ducks** (DCW) 3/6, 47 **Gadwall** (SSP) 3/24, 172 **American Wigeon** (SSP) 3/24, 180 **American Black Duck** (DCW) 2/28, 458 **Mallard** (DCW) 2/28, 20 **Blue-winged Teal** (DCW) 3/31, 28 **Northern Shoveler** (DCW) 3/15, 320 **Northern Pintail** (DCW) 3/3, 88 **Green-winged Teal** (DCW) 3/6, 50 **Canvasbacks** (SSP) 3/24, 10 **Redheads** (SSP) 3/24, 110 **Ring-necked Ducks** (SSP) 3/31, 480 **Greater Scaup** (SSP) 3/31, 220 **Lesser Scaup** (SSP) 3/31, 48 **Long-tailed Ducks** (SSP) 3/24, 720 **Bufflehead** (SSP) 3/24, 6 **Common Goldeneye** (DCW) 4/14, 51 **Hooded Merganser** (SSP) 3/6, 60 **Common Merganser** (SSP) 2/28, 45 **Red-breasted Merganser** (SSP) 3/24, and 360 **Ruddy Duck** (SSP) 3/24.

The Gallinaceous birds did well this winter with early nesting success. **Ruffed Grouse** nesting was observed as early as 4/5. **Ring-necked Pheasants** successfully over-wintered at DCW; 5 were observed in mid-Apr. **Northern Bobwhites** were heard calling on the slopes of the AFHW for 3 weeks in April. **Common Loons** in small groups were seen migrating through March and April at the AFHW. Six **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen 3/24 at DCW where they occasionally nest. The high for **Horned Grebe** was 64 at SSP 3/21. The surprise of the season was the **Eared Grebes** at DCW following a strong storm with heavy rain and hail. DK found them at DCW's Bittern Pool with a group of Horned Grebes. Unfortunately, they did not linger long as the weather improved. The only **Double-crested Cormorants** were flying migrants between 3/23 and 4/5, when almost 600 were counted over several days at the AFHW. Two **American Bitterns** were observed at DCW 3/27 and 2 **Least Bitterns** appeared 5/20. Four **Great Egrets** (5/1), one **Snowy Egret** (5/12), 5 **Green Herons** (4/12) and one **Black-crowned Night-Heron** (5/20) were observed at DCW (DK).

The short spring AFHW results were as follows: 11 **Black Vultures**, 292 **Turkey Vultures**, 121 **Osprey**, 14 **Bald Eagles**, 22 **Northern Harriers**, 177 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 108 **Cooper's Hawk**, 12 **Northern Goshawk**, 54 **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 220 **Broad-winged Hawk**, 347 **Red-tailed Hawk**, 2 **Rough-legged Hawk**, 72 **Golden Eagle**, 15 **American Kestrel**, one **Merlin**, 3 **Peregrine Falcon** and 56 unidentified for a total of 1527. Low spring counts are usually the result of lack of east winds, fog and abundant precipitation.

A **Virginia Rail** was flushed 4/7 at DCW (JP). **Soras**, although present, appear to be spottily distributed, even though habitat is stable. A **Common Gallinule** was seen at DCW 5/6 (DK). **American Coot** peaked at 78 on 3/31 (DCW). **Sandhill Cranes** continued to visit the wetlands in small numbers including 4 on 4/10, but showed no hint of nesting.

Water levels in Bittern Pool were slowly drawn down to manage incoming shorebirds. The following were seen: 5 **Black-bellied Plover** 5/20, 6 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/22, 18 **Killdeer** 5/10, 17 **Greater Yellowlegs** 5/1, 10 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/10, 10 **Solitary Sandpipers** 5/7, 7 **Willet**s 5/1, 5 **Spotted Sandpipers** 5/23, one **Upland Sandpiper** (Rt. 30 Buffalo Farm), 3 **Ruddy Turnstones** 5/20, 4 **Sanderlings** 5/20, 15 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/12, 3 **Western Sandpipers** 5/20, 4 **Least Sandpipers** 5/22, 3 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 5/22, 4 **Baird's Sandpipers** 5/24, 10 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 5/1, 5 **Dunlin** 5/1, two **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/21, 22 **Wilson's Snipe** 4/29, and 4 **American Woodcock** 5/1. Retrospectively, there were many days for Western Sandpipers and Sanderlings which are occasional migrants to DCW. Willets are becoming regular visitants.

The only gulls seen were as follows: Eight **Bonaparte's Gulls** at DCW 4/8, and at the AFHW: 71 **Ring-billed Gulls** 3/4 and 14 **Herring Gulls** 4/30.

At DCW, the following terns were observed: 2 **Caspian Terns** 4/15, 2 **Common Terns** 4/15, 7 **Forster's Terns** 5/20, and 6 **Black Terns** 5/20.

The **Barn Owls** at DCW/WTW had 4 fledglings. One fledgling, however, was killed and devoured by a **Great Horned Owl**. **Barred Owls** were heard vocalizing 3/2 at the AF. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard from early March to early June on Lambert Mt. Road near the AFHW. Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen at the end of Hoover Road, a new location of the many in Bedford 5/15 (SD). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** working on a sugar maple was spotted on Rt. 96 on 5/19.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was heard at DCW 5/20 in the same location as the PSO sighting last year on 5/20. The following flycatchers with some exceptions were seen/or heard at DCW by the author: **Eastern Wood-Pewee** 5/18, **Acadian Flycatcher** 5/23 (at the AF), **Alder Flycatcher** 5/20, **Willow Flycatcher** 5/22, **Least Flycatcher** 5/20, **Eastern Phoebe** 5/10, and **Eastern Kingbird** 4/20. With one exception the following vireos were counted on PAMC: 3 **White-eyed Vireo**, 2 **Blue-headed Vireo** (at DCW), one **Warbling Vireo**, 3 **Philadelphia Vireo**, and 12 **Red-eyed Vireo**. The following swallows were from the PAMC: 20 **Purple Martin**, 25 **Tree Swallow**, 11 **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, 11 **Bank Swallow**, 12 **Cliff Swallow** and 52 **Barn Swallow**. Two **Carolina Chickadees** were heard at DCW and 8 **Black-capped Chickadees** were at a feeder at WTW 5/15 (TMD). Two **Brown Creepers** and 5 **Carolina Wrens** were seen at on the PAMC. The Carolina Wrens have been increasing yearly. A pair of **Marsh Wrens** likely to nest at DCW were seen 5/25. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** arrived at DCW around mid-May and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen at WTW 5/10. Twelve **Hermit Thrushes** and 4 **Wood Thrushes** were seen on the PAMC. **Gray Catbirds**, **Northern Mockingbirds** and **Brown Thrashers** were frequently seen.

Two **Blue-winged Warblers** were seen on the PAMC. **Golden-winged Warblers**, a species of special concern, does reasonably well in Bedford in a number of locations. They are nesters at DCW/WTW, and Shawnee State Park and also at a swampy area off Hoover Rd. along Rt. 96. **Blue-winged Warblers** also co-exist with Golden-winged at DCW/WTW. No hybrids have been seen yet. **Tennessee Warblers** were found on the PAMC. Three **Nashville Warblers** were found on the PAMC, 2 **Northern Parula** were at SSP 5/15, and **Yellow Warblers** were abundant. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** are one of the most obvious on the AF and AFHW for both migration and nesting. Four **Cape May Warblers** were counted 5/5 on the AF near the AFHW. Eight **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen at SSP 5/2-3, 3 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** and 2 **Black-throated Green Warblers** were heard on Lambert Mt. Road near the AFHW. **Prairie Warblers** were seen at SSP 5/22 in an area where they usually nest. Two **Palm Warblers** were seen on Shaffer Mt. near a bog 5/5. **Cerulean Warblers**, another watch list bird, is a relatively common warbler to the Allegheny Front and especially Blue Knob. Kim Van Fleet, in her field studies, has done a great job in establishing **Bedford** as an important county for this species. **Black-and-white Warblers** were first seen 5/1 at SSP where a good number nest. **American Redstarts** were seen 5/10 in nesting habitat near the bogs on Shaffer Mt. **Northern Waterthrush** is another bird that nests on the Allegheny Front and was seen along Lambert Mt. Rd. 5/10. **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were seen throughout May at Dunnings Creek adjacent to DCW. **Kentucky Warblers** were first seen in a forested ravine of the AF 5/19. One **Mourning Warbler**, 23 **Common Yellowthroats** and 2 **Hooded Warblers** were counted on the PAMC. **Yellow-breasted Chats** were heard 5/22 at DCW in the same location as they nested last year.

Scarlet Tanagers were seen 5/27 in the mature deciduous forests of the Allegheny Front. Seven **Eastern Towhees** were heard along Lambert Mt. Road 5/18. **American Tree Sparrows** were last seen 5/4 at the AF. **Chipping Sparrows**, **Field Sparrows**, **Savannah Sparrows**, **Grasshopper Sparrows** and **Fox Sparrows** were all seen at DCW 5/15. **Song Sparrows** occurred throughout May, **Lincoln's Sparrows** were seen at a ground feeder on Shaffer Mountain 6/1, 21 **Swamp Sparrows** were counted at DCW 6/15, **White-throated Sparrows** over wintered at DCW and **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen 5/15 at DCW. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were commonly seen at feeders throughout the season. Four **Indigo Buntings** were seen at DCW 5/20.

Bobolinks were found in hayfields below the AF on Lambert Rd. Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were found on the PAMC (DB). Three **Orchard Orioles** and 2 **Baltimore Orioles** were at DCW 5/15. Lastly, **Purple Finches** were present throughout winter and nest locally on the Allegheny Front.

Observers: Tom Dick, 123 Hummer Lane, Cairnbrook, PA 15924, (814) 754-5727, thomasd102@gmail.com, Tim Anderson, Deb Bodenschatz, Sally Dick, Tom Dick, Kim Van Fleet, Kevin Georg, Ed Gowarty, Bob Gorsuch, Connie Hunt, Dawn Kleinflescher, Rosemary McGlynn, Jeff Payne, Jim Steward.

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands # 106 & 110 (SGL).

March was very warm and dry, with precipitation less than a quarter of normal. The warm, dry trend continued into April, but May weather was in keeping with the long-term average.

Migration of geese, swans and early migrating ducks peaked in late Feb or early Mar. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** paired with a Canada Goose and their three hybrid young were at LO 3/6 (RK). This family was first reported and photographed at Middle Creek WMA 1/31 (SD, TJ) and was seen there again 3/3 (AG). Another **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Big Spring Farm, Robesonia 4/16 (KLU) until 4/19 (KL, PM). This period's high count of **Snow Geese** was 13,000 (33 Blue) at LO 3/1 (RK). Two **Cackling Geese** were at LO 3/3 (BH) and single birds were there 3/4 (KK) and 3/7 (RK). At least 18 **Mute Swans** were at LO all period, and a brood of six cygnets was seen there 5/14 (RK). The high count of **Tundra Swans** was 45 at LO 3/1 (RK). Peak spring counts of 240 **Gadwall** and 400 **American Wigeon** were made at LO 3/12 (RK).

Spring high counts of 325 **American Black Ducks**, 310 **Mallards**, 435 **Northern Pintails**, 175 **Ring-necked Ducks** and 500 **Common Mergansers** were made at LO 3/7 (RK). A female **Common Merganser**, probably in search of a nest cavity, was extracted alive from a fireplace chimney near Hamburg 5/24 (EP). A presumed hybrid drake **American x Eurasian Green-winged Teal** was at LO 3/12 (RK). The bird had both white marks on its left side, but only the horizontal white bar on its right side. A **Green-winged Teal** drake with an injured wing was lingering at LO 5/27 (RK). A flock of 28 **Redheads**, uncommon here, was at LO 3/2 (FH). Light rain and fog 3/31 followed by strong north winds 4/2 grounded many ducks, loons and grebes at LO and BML. Counts of some ducks reported at LO, BML or both during this three-day period follow: 138 **scaup sp.** LO 4/1 (KK); 60 **Lesser Scaup** LO 3/31 (KL); a **Surf Scoter** LO 4/1 (MA); two **White-winged Scoters** BML 4/1 (PM); a **Black Scoter** LO 3/31 (RK, KL, MS); 6 **Long-tailed Ducks** LO/BML 3/31 (RK, JS); 1233 **Buffleheads** LO/BML 3/31 (RK, JS); 25 **Red-breasted Mergansers** LO/BML 3/31 (RK, JS); and 382 **Ruddy Ducks** LO/BML 4/2 (RK, JS). The loon/grebe fallout included three **Red-throated Loons** LO 3/31-4/2 (RF, RK, KK); 38 **Common Loons** LO 4/1 (CH); 16 **Pied-billed Grebes** LO 3/31 (RK); 54 **Horned Grebes** LO/BML 4/2 (RK, KK); and a **Red-necked Grebe** LO 3/31 (KL).

A migrating **American Bittern** flushed from a yard in Bethel Twp. 3/31 (CC) spent part of its day perched high in an ornamental conifer. Migrating **Great Egrets** peaked at five at LO 5/1 (RK). The overwintering juv. **White Ibis** at Kaercher Creek Park, Hamburg was last reported and photographed 3/19 (CH). A **Mississippi Kite** was seen passing HMS 4/16 (MW, et al.), and a subadult bird was drifting low over LO 5/24 (RK). Northbound **Golden Eagles**, rare off the Kittatinny Ridge, were reported at BML 3/8 (JD) and 4/8 (PM). An overwintering **Merlin** was last reported at BML 3/16 (PM). Two healthy male and one female **Peregrine Falcon** chicks were banded in Reading 5/25 (fide BU).

A migrating **Virginia Rail** was heard along Lowland Rd., Hamburg 4/8 (KG). A **Sora** heard at LO 5/5-6/3 (PM) raised the possibility of breeding. **American Coots** lingered at LO for months, with 118 there 4/2 (RK). Minuscule mudflats at LO, empty Gotwals pond, Oley and a few other ponds attracted a dozen species of mostly expected shorebirds in average spring numbers. The oddball of the group was a bright female **Red-necked Phalarope** briefly at Gotwals 5/21 (RK). The 37 **Wilson's Snipe** at Gotwals 4/1 (KL) were grounded by the same weather that caused the waterfowl fallout at LO and BML. Also part of that fallout were 29 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at LO/BML 3/31 (RK, KL, JS). A **Common Tern** at BML 5/8 (PM), a **Black Tern** at LO 5/1 (KL) and two there 5/2 (KK) were the only terns reported.

A previously overlooked pair or pairs of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were found by birders in Shartlesville when one dove was heard calling 4/15 (EG). Copulation was observed 4/16 (MW), and subsequent conversations with local residents revealed that these doves may have been present for about three years (fide MW). So far, no nest or young have been seen by birders. Few cuckoos were heard this spring. Only five **Common Nighthawks** were reported migrating, all in mid-May. Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at SGL 110 5/12 and 5/30 (KG), probably present due to recent logging on the Kittatinny Ridge.

Berks' first active **Common Raven** nests were reported this spring. One was conspicuously placed on a communication tower off Rt. 501 near the Appalachian Trail on the Kittatinny Ridge, first reported with photos 4/10 (MP). The other, in a long abandoned mine in eastern Berks, contained three or four chicks when discovered 4/15 (fide PS). As usual in recent years, there were multiple reports of ravens elsewhere in the county, including a pair apparently performing courtship rites over Neversink Mt., Reading 3/14 (BU). The LO ravens, present for years, have still not been

confirmed breeding. Hundreds of **Tree Swallows** were foraging low over LO 3/31 (RK) during the rain that had precipitated hundreds of ducks onto the water below them. Five pairs of **Bank Swallows** were visiting their nest burrows at the Haines & Kibblehouse quarry at Hay Creek 5/28 (KL). This remains the only known nesting site in Berks. Over 100 **Cliff Swallows** were swirling around their LO colonies in early May (RK). **Winter Wrens**, both kinglet species and **Hermit Thrushes** moved through at their usual times, but apparently in smaller numbers than usual, perhaps reflecting the light movement south last fall. The only reported **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was near Morgantown 5/14 (HH), while **Swainson's Thrushes** were reported in small numbers during most of May. The seasonal **American Pipit** high count was 50 at Blue Mt. Academy 5/2 (KG).

Among the 33 reported warbler species was a **Golden-winged Warbler** at SGL 106 5/11 (TC), a place where both 'winged warblers' and Brewster's hybrid have been seen in recent years. On 5/2 while sitting on his deck in Hamburg, KG kept a running tally of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** moving from the Schuylkill R. northeast along the Kittatinny Ridge. By the time the flight had ended, he had counted a remarkable 860 birds. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen near the head of LO 5/11 (MS), the eighth consecutive year that one has been found there, but as last year, there were no subsequent reports. **Northern Waterthrushes** were briefly common, with seven at Kernsville Dam 5/4 (KG), 12 at LO 5/3 (RK) and 8 at LO 5/14 (RK). A **Kentucky Warbler** was back on its breeding territory at SGL 106 5/6 (DK). A **Mourning Warbler** at SGL 110 5/9 (PM) was a bit early, while birds there 5/22 (KG) and another at LO 5/27 (RK) were more timely.

Visiting birders from New York City were the last to report BML's wintering **Green-tailed Towhee** and Old Philly Pike's wintering **Harris' Sparrow**, both on 4/2 at their respective seed scatterings (JR, et al.). The only reported **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Hamburg 5/5 (KG). An orange variant **Scarlet Tanager** was at SGL 110, Rt. 183 5/31 (MS). A flock of 12 **Bobolinks** in Douglass Twp. 5/12 (RK) and another of 18 at Monument Rd., Hamburg 5/18 (KG) had settled in to start their annual race against the mowing machine. **Eastern Meadowlarks** occupied the same grass fields. A **Rusty Blackbird** was at Kernsville Dam 3/23 (KG) and a flock of 12 was there 4/26 (JJ). Single **Purple Finches** were at SGL 110 on 3/19 (KG) and at a Reading feeder 3/31 (MS). A **Pine Siskin** was at LO 3/31 (PM), the sole report of the species.

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512, (610) 845-7310, rckeller@dejazzd.com**, Mary Ache, Tom Clouser, Chuck Cravotta, Steve Dale, Amy Davis, Jonathan DeBalko, Catherine Elwell, Ryan Fick, Steve Fordyce, Laurie Goodrich & HMS volunteers/staff, Ellen Grim, Kerry Grim, Al Guarante, Ken Haas, Holly Hartshorne, Brian Henderson, Charles Hickey, Walt Honsinger, Chris Hugosson, Johannes Jansen, Tom Johnson, Katrina Knight, Dave Kruel, Edith Leaman, Ken Lebo, Tim Kita, Kevin Lutz (KLU), Peter Montgomery, Ed Parent, Mark Priebe, Tom Randall, Jeffrey Ritter, Peter Saenger, Joan Silagy, Lee Simpson, Mike Slater, Matt Spence, W. V. Thanhauser, Jaime Thomas, Bill Urich, Nelson Weber, Mark Weiss, Stephen Werner, Peter Wolfe, Matt Wlasniewski.

Blair County

No report.

NEW COMPILER BEGINNING SUMMER 2012: **Nancy Butkovich, 550 Toftrees Ave. #248, State College, PA 16803, (814) 234-6086, njbutkovich@verizon.net**.

Bradford County

Locations: Armenia Mt. (AMT), Big Pond (BIG), Canton Area (CAN), Carbon Run Rd. (CRR), Echo Beach Road (EBR), Falls Creek Rd. (FCR), Leroy Mt. Rd. (LMR), Mt. Pisgah State Park (MPSP), Peck Hill, (PEH), Schrader Creek Rd. (SCR), State Game Lands (SGL), Sunfish Pond (SUN), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Taylor Rd. Marsh (TRM), Troy area (TRO), Woods Rd. (WOR).

Spring seems to be the time of year that most attracts birders to the great outdoors here; this is the largest report I've submitted since the days of the second PBBA.

There were over 100 **Snow Geese** at MPSP 4/1 (KG). A **Blue-winged Teal** was found 4/19 at BIG (RYo). On 3/21 a **Green-winged Teal** was found at both BIG (RYo) and Tuscarora Twp. (EW). A **Ring-necked Duck** was at Lake Nephawin, Canton 3/30 and at MPSP 4/4 (both RY). A **Bufflehead** was at MPSP 3/30 (LH); and at MPSP 4/2 and 4/4 (RYo). There were a number of sightings of **Hooded Merganser**: EBR 2/21 (DN), a pair

at PEH 3/10 (AV, GV), 3 at MPSP 3/16 (LH), MPSP 3/19 (RYo), 4 on the SUR at Sayre (MBo), 3 on beaver pond at TNE 5/30 (DN, MP), and at Canton swamp 5/29 (LF).

A **Common Loon** was observed 4/2 and 5/12 at MPSP (RYo). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was present 3/19 at MPSP and 3/21 at BIG (both RY). At MPSP a **Horned Grebe** was found 3/30, a flock of 24 on 4/4 and one 4/28 (all RY). The presence of **Double-crested Cormorants** is growing in the county: sightings this spring include one 4/2 and a flock of 37 on 4/24 at MPSP (RYo), 18 on a lake near BIG 4/24 (BH); 12 at MPSP 4/29 (LH), 2 during the PAMC 5/12 at TRO and southern SUR, 2 on 6/3 at Windfall (SF), and one on the SUR at Towanda 4/9 (TG). A most unusual sighting was an **American Bittern** 5/12 during the PAMC on a pond in SGL 239 sw. of Athens (CaH, ChH). Equally exciting was a **Least Bittern** 5/26 at TRM (DH). A **Great Egret** was observed 4/5 at MPSP (KG). A number of **Green Herons** were found: one 5/6 at a small pond near Campton (TG), one 5/12 during the PAMC at CAN (LF, NoF); one 5/13 at a pond on Parker Rd. near New Era (CP), one 5/17 at the Guthrie Ponds, Sayre (DL), 4 on 5/19 at Tozer's Landing, Athens Twp. (IW), one 5/26 at TRM (DH), and 3 on 5/29 at a Canton swamp (LF).

Turkey Vultures arrived in the county quite early 2/19 in Sayre (CM, GM) and 2/22 in Canton (RYo) and TNE (TG). **Ospreys** were very much present: one 3/9 flying over SUR, Towanda (CM, GM), one 4/23 at a pond on WOR (CM, GM), one 4/27 SUR in N. Athens (BH), 4 on 4/2 at MPSP (LH), one 4/24 and 5/12 at MPSP (RYo), one 5/12 on the SUR during the PAMC (MBu, JC, ED, RH, MH), and one 5/13 at a pond on Parker Rd. near New Era (CP). The **Bald Eagle** population is growing as evidenced by the following sightings: 2 imms. 3/12 at the Wyalusing Rocks (CM, GM), an adult over a yard at WOR 4/4 (CM, GM), an imm. at EBR 4/28 (TD); a nest with at least one chick near Ulster 4/30 (AW, BW); an imm. being dived at by a Common Raven above TNE 5/9 (TG), 13 throughout the county during the PAMC 5/12, and during May there were multiple sightings of 2 at Ridgebury Lake (BB). Infrequently seen, a **Northern Harrier** was present 3/7 at Woodside Rd. (SR); one 4/11 at PEH (AV, GV); and one 5/12 at CAN during the PAMC (LF, NoF). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen 3/2 at AMT (RYo) and one was at Mud Pond, Barclay Mt. during the PAMC 5/12 (TG, CoH). There were two **Broad-winged Hawks** 4/24 in Sayre (BH); one 5/3 at MPSP (RYo); 4 throughout the county 5/12 during the PAMC, and one 5/26 on CRR (DH). The sole **Golden Eagle** seen was 5/9 at Tamarack Lake on AMT (RYo). A **Merlin** pair engaging in courtship behavior was at a cemetery in Athens 4/25 (BH).

A **Virginia Rail** was at the Beers Nature Center, Wysox 5/2 (SR), one was at CAN during the PAMC 5/12 (LF, NOF), and 2 were at TMR 5/26 (DH). The first **Sandhill Crane** sighting of the year was 4 at Oak Hill 3/8 (JW, RW), followed by 2 at Overton 3/23 (SW). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was observed 5/9 at Canton (LF), and 3 were at CAN during the PAMC 5/12 (LF, NoF). Seldom seen here, a **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at Dunnings Pond 4/28 (RoY). Most unusual was a **Sanderling** 5/12 in the Edinger Hill area (EW, PR). Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at MPSP 4/4 (RYo).

Probably due to lower numbers of caterpillars, there were few cuckoo sightings this spring. One **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at TRO 5/27 (RYo), and one was at CRR 5/26 (DH). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen at TRM and one was at SUN, both 5/26 (DH). A **Northern Saw Whet Owl** at PEH was first heard tooting 2/8 and continued until about 3/22 (AV, GV). Sadly now missing from the county, the longed-for song of an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard in the early morning 4/15 on Barclay Mt. near Franklindale (DN).

Again this year, an **Acadian Flycatcher** sang frequently at TNE from 5/16 until at least 5/30 (TG). Four **Willow Flycatchers** were at TRM 5/26 (DH); and one was at PEH 5/27 (AV, GV). Two **Yellow-throated Vireos** were in Wyalusing Area 5/12 during the PAMC (TG, CH, CP). A pair of **Fish Crows** was nest building 4/25 in the Tioga Point Cemetery, Athens (BH). Four **Horned Larks** were on LMR 5/26 (DH). At a traditional spot, a number of nesting **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were seen along the Sugar Creek east of Troy 4/14 (RYo). **Bank Swallow** included about 20 pairs (less than normal) at TRO 4/27 (RYo); one was in N. Athens 4/27 (BH), and 27 were at TRO during the PAMC (RYo, LH). Eight **Cliff Swallows** were at the SUR in N. Athens 4/27 (BH), and 8 were on LMR 5/26 (DH). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen 5/26 at SUN (DH). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Falsey Hill Rd. 5/5 (SR), one was found 5/12 at WOR during the PAMC (CM, EM), and 2 two at LMR 5/26 (DH). A **Northern Mockingbird** was at Vanfleet Rd. west of East Canton 5/1 (LF), 3 were found 5/12 during the PAMC at TRO and CAN, and one was at LMR 5/26 (DH).

A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was singing on a creek near Hollenback 4/15 (NB, TG), one was at PEH 5/26 (AV, GV), one was at CRR 5/26 (DH), and one on SCR 5/30 (NaF). Reports of **Northern Waterthrush** were at Mill Creek, MPSP 5/12 (RYo), at CRR 5/26 (DH), and two at FCR on AMT 5/30 (NaF). Now seen very infrequently, a pair of **Golden-winged Warblers** was at PEH 5/8 (AV, GV), and 2 were at LMR 5/26 (DH). A **Black-and-white**

Warbler was at WOR 5/4 (CM, GM), one 5/5 at Oak Hill Rd., TRO (RYo), 4 on 5/12 during the PAMC in the Wilmot area, CAN, and WOR (TG, DP, LF, NoF, CM, EM), one 5/26 at TRM (DH), one 5/30 on SCR (NaF). **Nashville Warbler** sightings included one 5/7 at SGL12 near Canton (LF), 4 on 5/12 at CAN during the PAMC (LF, NoF), one 5/26 on CRR (DH), and 2 on FCR 5/30 (NaF). One **Mourning Warbler** was at TRM, and one was on CRR 5/26 (both DH). A **Hooded Warbler** was at SUN 5/26 (DH). One **Northern Parula** was at SUN and one was on CRR 5/26 (DH). Two **Magnolia Warblers** were found on Barclay Mt. and CAN 5/12 during the PAMC (LF, NoF, TG, CH); also 2 were at SUN 5/26 (DH) and one was at SCR 5/30 (NaF). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was in Canton Twp. 5/1 (LF); others were one at WOR 5/12 during the PAMC (CM, EM) and 2 at SUN 5/26 (DH). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was on LMR 5/26 (DH). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at SGL12 near Canton 5/7 (LF); one on Armenia Mt. 5/9 (RoY); 4 during the PAMC 5/12, 4 at TNE, Wyalusing area, Barclay Mt. (TG, CP, CH); 2 at SUN and one at CRR 5/26 (DH). A single **Palm Warbler** was reported 5/5 at Oak Hill Rd., Troy 5/5 (RYo), 3 during the PAMC at TRO and Edinger Hill 5/12 (m.ob.), and 2 on LMR 5/26 (DH). Three **Canada Warblers** were at TNE, Barclay Mt., and CAN 5/12 during the PAMC (TG, CH, LF, NoF); also one was at CRR 5/26 (DH) and one was at FCR on AMT 5/30 (NaF).

Two **Vesper Sparrows** were at LMR 5/26 (DH). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at LMR 5/26 (DH). On 5/3 there were two reports of a **White-crowned Sparrow**: at WOR (CM, GM) and at PEH (AV, GV); during the PAMC 5/12 there were 9 countywide. A most unusual sighting was a pair of **Summer Tanagers** 5/18 on Barclay Mt. near Franklindale (DN). A **Rusty Blackbird** was seen 3/2 at TNE (TG); and 2 were found 5/12 during the PAMC at New Era (FS). Another unusual sighting was an **Orchard Oriole** 5/12 at WOR during the PAMC (CM, EM). **Pine Siskins** remained in the county into May. Sightings included: one at TNE 3/2 (TG), 2 at PEH 3/6 (AV, GV); one at a feeder at WOR 3/24 (CM, GM); one in Canton Twp. 4/8 (LF); 8 on 4/10 and 12 on 5/1 at WOR (CM, GM); and 2 during the PAMC at WOR 5/12 (CM, EM).

Observers: **Trudy Gerlach, 6907 Wyallusing New Albany Rd., Wyallusing, PA 18853, (570) 746-9270, tgwoods@epix.net**, Nan Allyn, Nancy Baker, Marty Borko (MBo), Bruce Boselli, David Buck, Melody Buck (MBu), Joan Cashin, Erin Dean-Swank, Terry Duvall, Sharon Ferguson, Lewis Frederick, Norwood Frederick (NoF), Nate Fronk (NaF), Frank Georgescu, Michelle Georgescu, Trudy Gerlach, Ken Gwinn, Cookie Haines (CoH), Carolyn Harris (CaH), Chet Harris (ChH), Liz Hart, Rick Hiduk, Deuane Hoffman, Mike Houser, Bill Howe, Dana LaVanture, Danilo Mejia, Charlene Miller, Evan Miller, George Miller, Dan Natt, Karen Natt, Carol Parker, Marisabel Paulino, Sharon Richards, Phyllis Rosencrance, Franz Schmitt, Daniel Smith, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Jenny Walker, Randy Walker, Inga Wells, Sam Wells, Anita Whipple, Bob Whipple, Ellen Whipple, Ron Yanney (RYa), Ron Young (RYo).

Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Maple Knoll Farms (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), State Game Land #157 (SGL#157), US Steel-Falls Twp. (USS).

Average temperatures were 11.1°F above normal for March, 4.2°F above for April, and 5.9°F above for May. This certainly contributed to this being the warmest January to May and March to May period for the United States overall, going back to 1895 per NOAA records. It was also dry. March was very dry, with rainfall at 3 inches below normal. April was better but still about one inch below and May was about 0.7 inches above. The lack of ice allowed waterfowl to pass through early, even before this three month period. This probably resulted in below-normal high counts, although numbers were probably down due to some species not moving this far south to begin with. A few rain events did cause fallouts. Shorebird conditions at hot spots in the southern part of the county were not favorable, and thus reports were reduced this year. After the good winter for gull viewing at inland lakes, the large numbers cleared out by early March due to the mild weather. As expected, long distance migrant passerines were not influenced much by the mild conditions and arrived only slightly early or on time. Late birds were very few, however. No really exciting fallouts occurred but there were a few decent days.

The total of 223 species was the lowest in five years for the three-month period. As last year, eleven species were recorded earlier than any previous spring, but this year none established new late dates. The PAMC 5/12 had 59 participants, who provided 22 area reports totaling 149 species, compared to the previous 10 year average of 158 species and all time high of 172. The PAMC total of 1257 individuals of 27 warbler species was below

the previous 10 year average of 1368. **Yellow Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, and **Common Yellowthroat**, all common local breeders, provided 576 of those individuals. Compared to a poor showing for **Yellow-rumped Warbler** of only 24 last year, they added 172 to this year's count. So, four species accounted for 60% of the warbler total. Historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson (1998) and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Diane Allison compiled and submitted highlights for the PAMC data. Weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, NJ (NOAA). Note that per the NOAA website, the normal period used for averages is the previous three decades, 1981 through 2010. Bird observations entered in eBird have been reviewed for this report.

Six **Snow Geese** at NSP 4/22 (BE) were probably the last migrants reported. The only significant counts were 614 at MKF 3/8 (RS) and approximately 350 at PVP 4/14 (AM, JMi, et al.). In addition to the two injured birds at PVP through the period, a third bird was present with them occasionally into late May (m.ob.). This third bird may have been seen at a Buckingham Twp. sewage pond 5/12 (RH). Three continued from winter through Mar at Silver Lake near Newtown (MG, BK), with 2 still there to the end of May (DW, MG). Another lingered for weeks in Hilltown Twp. into late May (CR, HE). A **Snow x Canada Goose** was at PVP for a few weeks until at least 3/4 (AM, JBo). The single site high count for **Mute Swan** was 25 at PWT 3/1 (MG). A pair had 8 juv. at Buckingham sewage pond 5/12 (RH). Considering the complete absence of **Tundra Swan** reports during the winter and spring and the late date, a report of 4 flying over at Tinicum Twp. 5/12 (MG, PC, JMi) was unexpected to say the least.

The Buckingham sewage pond apparently provides a good source of food and maybe protection from snapping turtles, if the abundance of juv. **Wood Duck** is any indication. On 5/12 there were three family groups totaling 49 juv. (RH), but by 5/22 there were seven family groups with 70 juv. (AM). **Blue-winged Teal** are generally scarce here. Only three sites were reported having any, and the high counts were only 5 each at BRD 4/13-14 (BK, LGL) and the former USS 4/15 (DFa). A **Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)** was at Upper Makefield Twp. firehouse 3/7 (MG) and Silver Lake Park 4/19 (DFi, no doc.). The former is undoubtedly one of the birds reported through Feb. at the same site, but the new location and six weeks separation for the latter may indicate a new migrant. After being missed for the winter season, Canvasback went unreported again. Good local counts of **Redhead** were 17 at NSP 3/9 (DFa) and 16 the same day at PVP (AM), with one remaining at PVP 3/10 (AM). Considering their scarcity here, these may have been the same birds at both sites. A **Surf Scoter** was at NSP 3/31 and 4/4 providing a new early arrival date (DFa). Three **White-winged Scotters** stopped at Churchville Park 3/10 (MCo), and 3 were at NSP 4/1 (PC). **Long-tailed Ducks** appeared in small numbers at three sites on five days between 3/29 and 4/21(KA, PC, DFa, MG, AM). High counts were 4 at NSP 3/31(DFa, PC) and 4/1 (PC), with 6 there 4/3 (PC). At PVP, high counts were 4 on 3/29 and 4/1 (KA, MG). PWT had one 4/21 (DFa). **Common Merganser** left early, as indicated by a low single site high count of 212 at PVP 3/6 (AM). Unlike last year, there were no double digit counts of **Red-breasted Merganser**. However, 6 were still at NSP 5/3 (CR, AM), with one remaining 5/7 (CR). The highest single site counts were 7 each at PVP 4/4 and NSP 4/5 (AM). The last **Ruddy Duck** reports were earlier with lower counts than last year, with one at PVP 5/8-10 (KA, AM) and one at Buckingham Twp. sewage pond 5/12-5/15 (RH, AM).

Northern Bobwhite and **Ruffed Grouse** were not reported. Flocks of 46 **Wild Turkeys** at Richland Twp. 3/3 (PC) and 23 at Tyler State Park 3/20 (MCo) were noteworthy, since their numbers have been low the last few years. However, all other reports except a couple in the low teens were in the low single digits. Two **Red-throated Loons** were at NSP 3/31-4/2 (DFa, PC) and one remained 4/3 (PC). There were no really large **Common Loon** fallouts. One at NSP 3/9 (BK) probably was the first reported migrant and provided a new spring early date. The only double digit counts were during the rainy period between 5/2 and 5/6. All other reports were in the low to middle single digits. The highest reports were 27 at PVP 5/2 (CR), 45 at NSP 5/3 (CR, AM), 19 at PVP 5/3 (AM, KA), 20 at PVP 5/4 (AM, JMi), and 29 at PVP 5/6 (CR). Stragglers continued through the end of the period. At least one **Pied-billed Grebe** was again at our only reported breeding site at the former USS 5/12 (DFa). No migrants were reported after 4/17 when one was at Giving Pond (EN). **Horned Grebe** did not repeat last year's extraordinary numbers here. The highest counts were 15 at PWT and 11 at Falls Township Park, both 3/31 (DFa). All other counts were mostly in the low single digits (m.ob.). With no reports after 4/18 for three weeks, late individuals were at PVP 5/10 (KA, BK), Buckingham Twp. sewage pond 5/12-15 (RH, AM), and PVP 5/16-17 (HD, RP). A **Red-necked Grebe** stopped at NSP 4/1-4 (PC, DA) for the only report. **Double-crested Cormorant** counts were relatively modest, with highs being 125 at PVP 4/14 (AM) and 130 at Churchville Park 4/21 (SF). The Delaware River at southern Bucks County is a well-known hot spot for **Great Cormorant**, but they are rare away from there. So, one immature bird at PVP 4/17-21 (AM,

ph.) was noteworthy. There was only one eBird entry for the season at Bristol on the river, where 8 were noted 3/13 (MG).

One **American Bittern** flew by at Upper Makefield firehouse swamp 4/6 (ABr). Only 4 migrants were noted leaving Quakertown Swamp on two nights 4/15 and 5/4 (DFa). Although the low count was believed to reflect real lower numbers, coverage was not as continuous as in recent years. We now have at least 10 **Great Blue Heron** nest sites, but nest count estimates were only provided for eight. A new site in Tinicum Twp. had two nests in late May (JG, HE, DP). A colony on Prahl's Island had decreased to one nest as of 3/31, but one nest was detected for the first time on adjacent Walls Island the same day (both DFa). The Quakertown Swamp colony that is always reported as the largest in southeastern Pennsylvania has generally been matched or exceeded by other colonies in recent years. This year only 19 nests were counted (DFa). A total of 102 nests were estimated at the eight reported sites (DFa, BK, JG, JSi), and if the two other colonies not counted were stable, the total nest count would be about 145 nests. **Great Egret** was reported from at least 12 sites on 19 days 3/22-5/30 (m.ob.), with one bird per report being the norm. The exceptions were 4 at Churchville Park 3/24 (HD), 6 there 4/21 (SF), and 2 at Giving Pond 5/4 (PC). A **Snowy Egret** was at LaSalle College, Newtown 4/30 (BK) and PVP 5/4 (CCr), with 2 at Washington Crossing State Park 5/4 (JV). An adult **Little Blue Heron** at PVP 4/19-22 (AM, ph., m.ob.) provided a good show and the only report this year. A **Cattle Egret** was at PWT 5/2-4 (HE, ph.), and 2 were grounded in heavy rain 5/15 at Blooming Glen (HRo, AM). Churchville Park is usually a reliable site for **Black-crowned Night-Heron** reports, but only one was noted 5/19 (HD). Two were at PVP 4/30 (AM), with one there 5/12 (AM) and 5/16 (DFa). Two were at Silver Lake Park 5/12 (DFa), and one stopped at Warminster Community Park 5/24 (GJ). Six **Glossy Ibis** were at the PWT 3/31 (DFa), establishing a new spring early date.

New Hope continues to be a major hang out for **Black Vulture**, which got single site high count honors for 43 on 4/10 (AM, JMi). **Osprey** was first noted at the nest at Riegelsville 3/15 (EB, EN). The one nest near Mud Island was also active again this year, and a new nest was within a mile of that nest, providing only our third known nest (DFa). An eBird entry of a **Mississippi Kite** seen without binoculars at New Hope 5/5 (VK) was described well enough to be convincing. One 5/15 at Warrington Twp. seen briefly from a moving car (AM), and one high over the Nockamixon Cliffs 5/31 (AM, JMi) will be considered as possible only. Both were believed to be correctly identified but could not be documented adequately. **Virginia Rail** was reported at QTS 5/16 (PC) for the only report. A **Sandhill Crane** found BRD hospitable 4/13-24 (GJ, m.ob.). A fly-by at Upper Makefield Twp. firehouse 4/13 (ABr) made it an "invasion" of this species that day. These provided our eleventh and twelfth county reports since 1991. A total of only 12 shorebird species was reported and numbers were modest. A **Spotted Sandpiper** at PVP 4/6 (AM, ph.) provided a new spring early arrival date. BRD usually provides the high report for **Solitary Sandpiper**. So, 34 there 5/4 (DFa) and 21 still there 5/12 (AM) were not surprising, but still noteworthy. A high count of 14 at PVP 5/4 was unusual there (AM). Two **Semipalmented Sandpipers** were at Core Creek Park 5/12 (PAMC), one was at BRD 5/14 (AM) and 5 were at PWT 5/15 (DFa) for the only reports. The only high counts for **Least Sandpiper** were approximately 100 at PWT 5/15 (DFa), and 86 at BRD 5/12 (AM). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at PVP 4/6 (CCr) was the only report. Two rather early **Dunlin** stopped at PVP 4/14 (AM), one was at BRD 5/2-4 (GJ, DFa), and one stopped at NSP 5/17 (DFa). BRD was good for **Wilson's Snipe** as usual, and a count of 73 4/13 was exceptional (DFa).

Not surprising after the early extremely high temperatures, gulls cleared out early this year. There were few **Bonaparte's Gulls**, with most counts in the low single digits. Surprisingly, the last date reported also was the date for the highest count, when 29 were at NSP 5/12 (CR, AM). They were believed to be all immature birds. **Laughing Gull** was first reported 3/24 at PWT (DFa). The PAMC total 5/12 was 550, all from the southern part of the county. **Iceland Gull** was reported from five sites and departed early. The last report on an inland lake was at PVP on 3/11(SP). Also, early last reports near the river were of 2 at PWT and 3 at Falls Twp. Community Park 3/31 (DFa), with one 4/2 still at the latter site (MM). The only significant high reports of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were 316 at NSP (AM) and 145 at PVP (JBo), both on 3/4. Six were reported 5/12 from PWT (PAMC) where a small number spend the summer. The only **Glaucous Gull** report came from Morrisville 4/19 (ND, ph.). Tems were under-reported. A **Black Tern** at PVP 5/8 (AM, JMi, MHo) provided the only report. Two **Common Terns** were also at PVP 5/8 (AM, JMi, MHo) for the only report.

Tent caterpillars were scarce this spring either due to being a normal off year or something to do with the early warm weather. The result was few cuckoo reports. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported from six sites, with at least 9 birds (m.ob.). There were 4 **Black-billed Cuckoos** at four sites (MG, PC, EB, HD, PAMC). A **Barn Owl** was seen in Bedminster Twp. 3/17-18 for the only report (DFa). A nest at PWT built by **Bald Eagles** a year or more

ago but abandoned was used by **Great Horned Owls** this year (DFa). **Barred Owl** may be increasing, although increased reporting in eBird may be misleading. Reports came from six sites, with a total of at least 12 birds (m.ob.). **Long-eared Owl** at PVP again vanished earlier than the normal Apr departure date, last reported 3/8 (BHi). Two were still at NSP 3/6 (JHu). **Common Nighthawk** was reported in the low single digits from only five sites (CCr, DFa, MG, GJ, LK). Again none were reported for the PAMC. A bird reported as singing similar to but not exactly like **Eastern Whip-poor-will** 5/25 at Springfield Twp. was believed to be a **Chuck-will's-widow** once the observer was directed to a recording (MCh fide DA). This is only the tenth report for the county. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was singing at Bedminster Twp. 5/3 (JHu) for a rare county report. The 2 wintering **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued at Upper Makefield Twp. firehouse until 3/2 (MG), with at least one remaining until 4/6 (GJ). One was near Quakertown 4/18 (DFa), one was at PVP 4/21 (MGr, JN), and one was at SGL 157 on 5/10 (BK, GJ), providing a well above average number of reports. Our only known breeding site in Tinicum Twp. had one back 4/28 and both noted back 5/13 (KF). Despite the early spring, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** lingered and was reported at 14 sites (m.ob.) compared to only two last year, with the last report on 4/30 at SGL 157 (CR, AM).

The only reported **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SGL 157 on 5/8 (JMi, CR, AM). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at SGL 157 on 5/8 (CR, JMi, AM) and PVP 5/17 (RP). **Acadian Flycatcher** was reported from only four sites (m.ob.), which may indicate it is declining as a local breeder. The only report of **Alder Flycatcher** came from PVP 5/13 (AM). One of only three reports, a **Least Flycatcher** at SGL 157 on 4/29 (CR) provided a new spring early date. The **Say's Phoebe** found 12/13 last year continued to 4/24 at MKF and adjacent Crooke Farm (RS, VS). The Smiths spent many hours helping hundreds of birders see this long staying rarity. Extremely rare here, a **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen briefly at Van Sant Airport 5/27 (MG doc., ph.) and added to only a handful of historical reports. A **Northern Shrike** was near Richlandtown 3/11 for the second report this year. A **Blue-headed Vireo** at PVP 4/14 (AM, JMi) provided a new spring early arrival date by one day. A **Warbling Vireo** was early by four days 4/16 at PVP (CCr). The continuing expansion of **Common Raven** was well documented this year. The Nockamixon Twp. quarry nest site known since 2008 had 4 nestlings in Apr and all 4 fledglings were out of the nest 5/1 (DFa). On 5/31, a family of 6 including begging young was seen flying at the Nockamixon Cliffs where they are presumed to have nested (AM, JMi). Since that report, it was learned one or 2 were at the same site in spring 2011 and had been seen multiple times during spring 2012 (EB). All other confirmed nesting or presumed nesting has been at quarries. So, this is the first known presumed nesting at a natural site in the county. A pair at USS 4/15 may indicate possible nesting there (DFa). Multiple sightings in East Rockhill Twp. (HRU) support the presumed nesting in a nearby quarry since 2009. That year, a juv. was found sick in that area 5/31/2009 and died. Other reports were PVP 3/11 (SP), MKF 4/17 (RFi), Hilltown Twp. 5/15 (AM), and Milford Twp. 5/31 (NP). Again, MKF was the only site reporting significant numbers of **Horned Lark**, with the high count of 70-76 birds 3/5-6 (RS). Last spring I indicated there was hope of nesting due to an adult there 5/5 after no documented breeding reports since the mid-1970s. Later on 6/12/11 an adult was seen in Milford Twp. only once providing more hope of breeding. This year a fledged juv. was seen 5/31 at MKF, presumably confirming that breeding took place somewhere nearby (RS). A **Barn Swallow** at NSP 3/25 (DFa) beat the previous early arrival date by one day. Following a winter with only two reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, none were reported this season. An unusual count of 9 **Brown Creepers** was tallied at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 3/17 (SF). As usual **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and **Swainson's Thrush** were reported from few sites and in small numbers. About 6 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported from four sites between 5/12 and 5/25 (DFa, DFi, CCr, PC, AL). A bird heard and seen at Chalfont 5/21, was believed to be a **Bicknell's Thrush** (CCr, EC, No Doc.), adding to the handful of historical reports here. **Swainson's Thrush** reports came from 12 sites on 13 dates and totaled about 30 birds (m.ob.). There are always a few **Brown Thrashers** reported in winter, but one at BRD 3/3 (GJ) was assumed to be a migrant providing a new early date. **American Pipit** was noteworthy for their apparent near absence and early departure. There were only two sites reported totaling only 11 birds (MG, RS), and the last date was an early 3/13 at MKF (RS).

A total of 34 warbler species was reported. No observers reported any large fallout, but there were a few days with enjoyable numbers. The following includes some that are our most consistently scarce. A **Golden-winged Warbler** at PVP 4/24 (AM) and one at SGL 157 on 4/30 (CR, AM) were the only reports. A pair of **Prothonotary Warblers** was again at PVP this year, with the male first noted 5/5 (AM). A male was along the Delaware River at Riegelsville 5/31 (JMi, AM). **Mourning Warbler** was reported from SGL 157 on 5/8 (CR, JMi, AM), 5/10 (GJ, BK), and 5/20 (PC), with one at PVP 5/30 (JC). **Kentucky Warbler** was reported more often this spring.

One each was at PVP 4/28 (JT), MKF 5/4 (RS), and USS 5/12 (DFa). Two were at SGL 157 on 5/8 (CR, JMI, AM), and one was there 5/10 (BK, GJ). A **Common Yellowthroat** at Robin Run Dam 4/6 (JHa, JSt) provided a new early date. **Hooded Warbler** was reported from five sites (m.ob.), with SGL 157 being the most regularly reported site providing the high count of 6 on 5/8 (CR, AM). Unfortunately, one of their reliable nesting sites for many years at SGL 157 was part of a 90 acre clear-cut this year. A **Cerulean Warbler** at SGL 157 on 5/3 (CR, AM) was the only report for this former breeder. The wintering **Palm Warbler (Western)** at MKF was last reported 3/6 (RS, AM). A **Palm Warbler** at Warwick Twp. 3/22 (JT) provided a new spring early arrival date by one day. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at New Hope 5/4 (BHo) and Tyler State Park 5/9 (JHa, PSt) for the only reports. Three **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at USS 5/12 (DFa) for the only report. As usual, the other warblers barely noted were **Tennessee Warbler** (4), **Cape May Warbler** (4), **Bay-breasted Warbler** (2), and **Wilson's Warbler** (8) (m.ob.).

A **Vesper Sparrow** at MKF 4/6 and 4/16 (RS) were the only reports. Tinicum Twp. hayfields are the only sites reported regularly for **Grasshopper Sparrow**. At least 8 in total were reported at two sites (m.ob.). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was only reported at PVP 5/6 (CR) and 5/12 (MH). A late **White-throated Sparrow** was in Bedminster Twp. 5/27-28 (LD) after no reports for two weeks. Since it is unlikely that a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** would return from its normal wintering areas outside the country by 3/1, one at NSP (BK) must have been wintering somewhere in the United States and driven north by the mild weather. Otherwise, the normal arrivals started appearing 4/17. **Blue Grosbeak** was first reported 5/12 at PWT (DFa). **Bobolink** at Bedminster Twp. 4/26 (DFa) was early by one day. The single site high count of 140 at MKF 5/12 (RS) far surpassed all other sites. **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported at eleven sites mostly in single digits, with the high counts being 23 3/11 at Falls Twp. Community Park (PJ) and 22 at Silver Lake Park 3/22 (MG). After the near absence in winter, 2 **Purple Finch** at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 4/7 (RB) were the only ones noted.

EXOTICS: **Egyptian Goose** is reported occasionally and has bred in the county. Two were at Bedminster Twp. in late May (EC, ph.).

CORRIGENDUM: In Volume 26, No 1, Steve Kacir was credited as SKa, but his Red-throated Loon at PVP 12/3 had only SK for the credit.

Observers: **August Mirabella, 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales, PA, 19454, (215) 368-0594, augustmirabella@aol.com**, Kris Ahlquist, Diane Allison, Alana Balogh (ABA), Erich Boenzli, Justin Bosler (JBo), Alan Brady (ABr), Robert Buchsbaum, Jean Burch (JBu), John Cariola, Sally Conyne, Paul Cooper, Marlin Corn (MCo), Catalina Castells (CCa), Eileen Chalmers, Mark Chilten (MCh), Chuck Crunkleton (CCr), Elaine Crunkleton, Amy Davis, Vince DeAntoniis, Henry D'Alessandro, Nick Delo, Lisa V. Dziuban, Carol Easter, Howard Eskin, Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik (DFa), Ryan Fick (RFi), Doug Filler (DFi), Kathleen Fitzgibbon, George Franchois, Ron French (RFr), Sharon Furlong, Mark Gallagher, Frank Gill, Lori Gladulich (LGi), Mary Anne Graham (MGr), Jim Greenwood (JG), Lynn Gulla (LGU), Judy Hayman (JHa), Brian Henderson (BHe), Ray Hendrick, Shawn Hicks, Barbara Hiebsch (BHi), Bill Hoehne (BHo), Mike Homel (MHo), Jessica Huff (JHu), Karin Isett, Phil Jeffrey, Gail Johnson, Bill Keim, Larry King, Ken Kitson, Vincent Koczurik, Avi Lewis, Mike Line, Vicky Mahmoud, Many Observers (m.ob.), Wendy Margolis, Joe Marino (JMr), Michael Mayer, John Miller (JMI), Judy Mirabella (JMi), Barbara Nevin, Julie Nevin, Ed Norman, Amy Onarato, Don Parlee, Sam Perloff, Ruth Pfeffer, Barry Pratt, Nick Pulcinella, Henry Rosenberger (HRo), Hart Rufe (HRu), Margie Rutbell, Larry Sassaman, Patrick Schmitt (PSc), Bob Shaffer, Judy Siegfried (JSi), Richard Smith, Steve Smith, Vicky Smith, Phillip Stollsteiner (PSt), Jason Stromberg (JSt), John Tramontano, Paul Teese, Katherine Throckmorton, Jeff Vinosky, Lesley Weissman-Cook, Dave Wilbur, Mike Wilson, Walt Young.

Butler County

No compiler.

Cambria County

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

Waterfowl migration was very good at PG with a large variety and numbers. An early flock of 26 **Northern Pintail** was seen 2/28. The best day was 3/31, when a fall out of thousands of waterfowl was observed at PG. Highlights included **Canvasback**, hundreds of **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup**, **White-winged Scoter**, and **Long-Tailed Duck** (DG, JS). An **Eared Grebe** in breeding plumage first seen at PG 4/25 (MD) stayed one more day and

was seen and photographed by others. The first **Broad-Winged Hawk** was at PA 4/8 (DG). First **Killdeer** was early 2/26 (DG). Shorebirds were scarce due to high water levels at PG. **American Woodcock** was at least a week to 10 days early at PG 2/23 (DG). An **Eastern Kingbird** at PG 4/6 (JS) was our earliest record ever. **Purple Martins** returned to PG 4/2 (DG); 10 days earlier than last year. Warbler migration was early with the most birds seen 5/3-10. On 4/30 up to a foot of snow fell in the Patton area and many of the grassland sparrows were seen along the roads that day. Three **Orchard Orioles** were seen at PG 5/3 (DG, JS).

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

Cameron County

No compiler.

Carbon County

No report.

Compiler: **Dustin Welch, 7122 Arrowhead Road, Bath, PA 18014, (484) 538-7486, DWelch5951@aol.com**.

Centre County

Locations: PSU Arboretum (ARBOR), Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor (B2BE), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP), Colyer Lake. (COL), Governor Tom Ridge Wetland Preserve (GTRWP), PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian (JUL), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), Tofrees pond and gamelands (TOF).

Although there was a major waterfowl fallout in the Bald Eagle Valley 3/31, the flooded fields that produced 2011's bountiful shorebird numbers were dry and cultivated this year. Warbler reports also seemed off, possibly due to the trees leafing early. It was warm; State College highs were above average half to three-quarters of the days in each month, with many 10° or more above average. 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 (B&G, 2010). Weather data are from Accuweather <<http://www.accuweather.com>>.

Four **Snow Geese** were reported, two each 3/13 at Duck Pond (DW) and 4/6 at Curtin (JV). However, a fallout 3/31 resulted in flocks of 67 at BESP (AS, DW) and 72 at JUL (MD). Two **Cackling Geese** were in a large flock of Canada Geese that flew over the PSU-Rockview fields 3/1 (AL, et al.) The most notable concentrations of ducks/geese occurred during two fallouts at BESP/Howard (JV, et al.) The 3/24 fallout produced small numbers of **Canada Geese**, **Wood Duck**, **American Wigeon**, **Mallard**, **Canvasback**, **Redhead**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Merganser**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, and **Ruddy Duck** (JV, et al.). Exactly seven days later, the same area had an even bigger fallout, with AL, et al. reporting a total of 6246 individual ducks representing 19 species. The only species reported 3/24 that were not seen 3/31 were Redhead and Common Merganser. Additional species reported 3/31 included the aforementioned Snow Geese, **Gadwall**, **American Black Duck**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Surf Scoter**, **White-winged Scoter**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, and **Ruddy Duck**. Notable numbers during the 3/31 fallout included 8-70 **Gadwall**, 50 **American Wigeon**, 41 **Northern Shovelers**, 35-65 **Green-winged Teal**, 20-28 **Canvasbacks**, 4-54 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 5-15 **Greater Scaup**, 950-1367 **Lesser Scaup**, 3-7 **Surf Scoters**, 7-26 **White-winged Scoters**, 400-751 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 2000-3500 **Bufflehead**, 15 **Common Goldeneye**, 15-20 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, and 500-1400 **Ruddy Ducks** (JV, et al.). About 100 Bufflehead continued to 4/1 (BS).

Aside from these events, many waterfowl species were reported regularly and widely throughout Centre during their peak migration times (DR, et al.). **Northern Pintail** were reported twice: 5 on 3/1 at Old Gatesburg Rd. (AL, JoL) and 2 at COL 3/2-4 (JV, MaH, DL, MD). Other observations for **Surf Scoter**, which are casual migrants, included one at BESP 3/3 (JD), and 2 lingering there 4/1 (MD). **White-winged Scoters** are regularly observed with LR noting 10 at BESP 3/25. In addition to the BESP/Howard fallout 3/31, 2-3 birds were at both BMSP and Buffalo Run Rd. ponds (MD). The season's first **Common Goldeneye** was observed 3/17 BESP (JoL, AL). Three were noted 3/22 at TOF (AL, JoL, GL) and one

at Duck Pond 3/24 (JoL, AL, GL, MD, DR). One was found 3/31 at JUL (MD), and the last report was of one at TOF 4/2 (MD, AL, Nab, JoL).

Northern Bobwhites are extirpated in this region; however, a few probable escapes were noted. DR had two reports from TOF: one calling 4/18 and 2 observed 4/21 at two different locations. One was heard at JUL 5/12 (CE). A few **Ring-necked Pheasants** (an uncommon introduced species) were also noted, including one or 2 at SCO 3/15-24 (DR, DE), one at Duck Pond 4/18 (StW), and one off I-99 near the Harrison Rd. exit 4/20 (JL). One or two rare **Red-throated Loons** were spotted at BESP, first arriving with the 3/24 fallout and continuing to 5/5 (DW, et al.). **Horned Grebes** were widely and regularly reported throughout the county 3/1-4/17 (KE, CE, et al.). About 280 were reported at BESP 3/24 (NaB, et al.), and up to 210 were counted in the 3/31 BESP fallout (AL, et al.). They continued at BESP through 5/12 (IG, et al.). An unusual number of 105 **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported 4/27 at BESP (BS).

Above average numbers of **American Bitterns** were reported, including at least one bittern spotted at TOF 4/9-4/29 (JV, CE). One was photographed at Duck Pond 4/14 (DW, et al.), and one or 2 were also photographed at SCO 4/21-5/19 (DR, et al.). Single birds were noted 5/4 at MMNC (JW), Central Mountain High School wetlands 5/5 (AL), 5/12 at JUL (MaR), and 5/19 at SCO (CE). **Great Egret** sightings were also above average. DW, et al. located one or 2 at Curtin 3/31, and one was at SCO 4/6 (MD, AL, JoL). Another was reported 4/21-30 at JUL (NB, et al.); a 4/23 sighting at GTRWP (StW) was probably the same bird. Two were "perched on snag along [Rte.] 150" 4/30 (AL, DW, StB). Two were also reported 5/1 at MMNC (DE, NaB). Other single birds were reported at TOF 5/1 (CG), 5/2-5 at Curtin wetlands (JL, StW, KW, BS), 5/3 at Yeasger Hollow Farm ponds (MD), 5/4 at BESP (CE), 5/9 at Muddy Paws Marsh (MD), 5/11 at TOF (NaB) and 5/16 at Bear Meadows (CB). Beginning 4/14 at TOF, **Green Herons** were reported regularly and widely in appropriate habitat through the rest of the season (JV, et al.). A **White Ibis** was reported 5/4 at ARBOR (NEK fide AL). Three "were seen in flight together...[and] were described as fairly large, mostly white birds with black wing tips and a black trailing edge to the wing, and had some brown-ish coloration to the upperparts and neck area... they had long, slender necks, and long legs" (AL). Documentation has been requested; if confirmed this would be a first Centre record and the third in the six county central Pennsylvania region.

The occurrence of **Black Vultures** continues to be interesting, with 5-6 reports each month during spring migration. However, all observations except one were to the south and east of the Allegheny Front (DO, et al.), with the Bald Eagle Valley seeming to mark the range limit. The one exception was 6 birds spotted 3/24 on Bi Rd. on the Allegheny Front (AL, StB, JoL). CE spotted the season's first **Osprey** (and the only March report) flying over State College 3/16. They were reported in small numbers throughout the county in April and May (DW, et al.). **Bald Eagles** are also uncommon but regularly observed (AL, et al.). The BESP pair hatched "at least one chick" (BS, 4/29) on their new nest. The Fisherman's Paradise pair had three eaglets, which were photographed with an adult 5/11 (CrM, JM). There were several sightings of **Northern Harriers**, an uncommon migrant. The first was 3/3 near Howard of a single bird (JD). Single birds were also reported in six other locations 3/9-5/17 (DW, et al.), including the PSU-Rockview property. Formerly part of the Rockview State Penitentiary, this property was off-limits until recently when Penn State acquired it. Two harriers were observed there 4/1 (CK, et al.) and one 4/29 (AL, JoL, DR) during bird surveys. NF also spotted one 5/17.

Two rare **Northern Goshawks** were noted. One was seen over State College 3/23 (KE), and one was reported 3/24 at Curtin (JV). The **Red-shouldered Hawk** migration normally peaks in March and April but was delayed this year. Only three were reported in March and April: 3/12 at TOF (JoL, AL), 3/22 at SCO (NaB, DE), and one 4/14 at Unionville (CE). There were a dozen reports scattered across the county in May (NiB, et al.), all but one of single birds. A **Golden Eagle** was spotted 3/1 at Circlelawn Farms (IG). Another was noted 3/2 at Mt. Nittany (AC). There were four single **Merlins**: one 3/23 at ARBOR (DW), 4/11 (DW) and 4/15 (AL, DW) on the PSU campus that may have been the same bird, and one 5/4 at SCO (ST).

Rails are rare in Centre, but two are regularly reported. JUL was the hotspot for **Virginia Rails** with up to 10 reported on one day. First noted 4/1, they were present through the end of May (JV, et al.). One or two birds were also noted at MMNC 4/9-22 (AL, et al.), with single reports from Curtin 4/21 (AL, NaB, DL) and Muddy Paws Marsh 5/9 (MD). **Soras** also found JUL to their liking, with one or 2 birds heard and recorded 4/3-5/5 (MD, et al.); they were noted on three occasions 4/14-5/2 at SCO (MD, JV, MeT), and NB heard one 5/12 at MMNC. More unusual, **Common Gallinule** was spotted 4/23-26 at JUL (AL, et al.), and a **Sandhill Crane** was found and photographed 4/14-18 at Curtin wetlands (AL, et al.).

Shorebirds were not as common as last year. A rarely-reported **Black-bellied Plover** 5/16-17 was at Tadpole Rd (CB, et al.), and one was observed at Fairbrook 5/17 (JV). There were very few **Semipalmated**

Plovers. Up to 6 were at Old Gatesburg Rd. 5/12-21 (CE, MD, DW, NB), one was at Fairbrook 5/23 (JV), one was at Tadpole Rd. 5/29 (IG). **Spotted Sandpipers** and **Solitary Sandpipers** were two of the most widely reported shorebirds this season. The first **Spotted Sandpiper** was observed 4/3 Nittany Farm ponds (AL, StB, JoL), and the first **Solitary Sandpiper** appeared 4/26 at JUL (NK). Both species were reported widely well into May (MD, et al.). **Greater Yellowlegs** were first reported 3/31 at JUL and Old Gatesburg Rd. (both JV). **Lesser Yellowlegs** arrived 4/21 at SCO (MaR). Both were widely distributed, and CB made the last report for both species 5/16 at Tadpole Rd. Only three uncommon **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were observed: 5/13-14 at Old Gatesburg Rd. (IG, CE), 5/15 at BESP (DW, NF), and 5/22-24 at Fairbrook wetlands (JV). Two **Least Sandpipers** were spotted 5/4 at COL (DW), and up to 13 were present at Old Gatesburg Rd. 5/3-13 (NaB, et al.). One was reported at BMSP 5/5-12 (MM, AH, ST, NiB), and JV found 4 at TOF 5/15. Tadpole Rd./Fairbrook wetlands bookended the **Pectoral Sandpiper** sightings, with one or 2 noted 3/9-15 (JV, JoL, AL) and one or 2 noted 5/16-17 (CB, MD). One lingered at Old Gatesburg Rd. 4/9-30 (AL, et al.). A rare **Dunlin** was at BMSP 5/17 (DW, JW, NF, StB, MB). **Wilson's Snipe** appeared beginning 3/7 and continued through the spring (NK, et al.). The seventh county report of **Red-necked Phalarope** occurred 5/22 when one was identified in Howard (NT), and 2 were at BESP (DW). It is possible that the Howard bird was also one of the two reported BESP. This species was last reported 5/18-19/2010 at JUL (B&G, 2010).

First **Bonaparte's Gulls** were 3/20 at BESP (JV) and were regularly reported in Centre through 5/5 (AL, et al.). A high of 210-215 were observed at Howard 5/14 (AL, et al.). All **Herring Gull** observations were from either BESP or Howard 3/1-5/22 (KE, CE, et al.). Centre's first **Little Gull**, an immature, was observed 4/14 at BESP (AL, et al.), followed shortly by an adult 4/18, also at BESP (AL, NaB, StB, JoL). Both were photographed. Up to 13 **Caspian Terns** were spotted 4/14-17 at BESP (CE, et al.); area birders also noted a single bird 5/2-5 (IG, et al.). Five **Common Terns** were photographed at BESP 5/4 (NB, et al.). A few **Forster's Terns** were present at BESP, with one reported 3/31-4/1 (JV, AS, NG), and two 4/14 (StB, et al.) and 5/3 (MD). A single bird was also spotted 4/15 at TOF (AL, JoL).

After the species' first Centre appearance in 2011, **Eurasian Collared-Dove** made an encore appearance this year with a single bird being reported in State College 4/2-3 (LaR, JV, AL, StB, JoL). JV made a recording of its song. **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported 5/6-24 in scattered locations (AL, et al.). **Barred Owls** were reported at several locations 3/1-5/13 (JoL, et al.). Most reports of this uncommon owl were from SCO, where as many as 4 were reported. JV heard "a duet between a male and a female owl 4/19 at SCO. A rarely encountered **Long-eared Owl** was reported 3/3-4 near University Park Airport (JV), and a second was heard 3/11-15 at SCO (DW, StB, AL, JoL, MD). **Short-eared Owls** are also rare. One of the two at the University Park Airport during the winter continued 3/10-13 (DiB, JV). Single **Common Nighthawks** were spotted 5/15 at BESP (CE), 5/20 at SCO (BA), and 5/22 at COL (IG, KW). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported more frequently, with most reports coming from SCO, where as many as 18 were noted 4/18-5/28 (JV, et al.). Single birds were heard 5/2 along Curtin Hollow Rd. (NB, RF, SB, JL), BESP 5/3-4 (JL, NB, RF, SB), and 5/30 near Stormstown (MD). Although considered to be uncommon, **Belted Kingfishers** were regularly and widely reported (KE, et al.). There were a few **Red-headed Woodpeckers** reported, with most in the Williams Rd/Airport Rd./Tusseyville Rd. area 5/5-22; the most reported was 2 birds (AL, et al.). One was noted 5/13 at BESP (BESP eTT Data) and another 5/20 at GTRWP (JoF). One or two birds were seen 5/20-22 near Pine Grove Mills (RK, et al.). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were widely and regularly reported 3/12-5/12 (AL, et al.).

A rare **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen 5/14 at BMSP (TB), another was found 5/15 at BESP (DW, StB), and one was at PSU-Rockview property 5/17 (NF). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** are uncommon; one 5/26 at Underwood Rd. was the only one reported this spring (DW). **Alder Flycatchers** were reported in several locations, most notably BMSP 5/5-20 (ST, et al.) where up to 5 were observed 5/12-29. A high of 3 were also reported from Bear Meadows 5/13-21 (NiB, MD, CB). Single birds were noted at 5 locations 5/6-26 (ST, NaB, AnM, ML, JV). **Willow Flycatchers** were widely reported 5/9-31 (MaR, et al.). **Least Flycatchers** were first noted 4/21 at SCO (MD) and were widespread through the end of May (DW, et al.). MB reported the first **Great Crested Flycatcher** 4/20 near Stormstown. The first **Eastern Kingbird** was reported 4/29 at BESP (IG, KW). BESP's **Northern Shrike** continued into March, when it was reported twice: 3/1 (CE, KE) and 3/9 (Bald Eagle SP eTT Data). Our first **White-eyed Vireo** was observed 4/21-22 at BESP (BS, NM). DW located one near Port Matilda on East Mtn. Rd. 5/27, and one was at ARBOR 5/2 (NaB, DW, StB). One was reported 5/12-24 at BESP (MD, et al.) and one was seen 5/13-20 at SCO (JV, ML). From 4/26-5/21, **Yellow-throated Vireos** were reported at ten locations in the county (AL, et al.), and **Warbling Vireos** were spotted at least 13 times at nine locations 4/30-5/26 (DW, et al.). ST found the only

Philadelphia Vireo reported this spring 5/4 at SCO for a rare spring report.

Although **Fish Crows** are common around State College, significant numbers were reported elsewhere in Centre, particularly in the Bald Eagle Valley, suggesting that they may be expanding their range. There were regular reports throughout the spring at BESP (JD, et al.), with additional sightings at Howard 3/11 (JD) and 4/17-18 (AL, et al.), Curtin wetlands 4/14 (BS, et al.), and JUL 4/3-22 (AL, JoL, DW). Small numbers were also noted at six other locations outside State College (AL, et al.). **Common Ravens** were reported regularly and widely (AC, et al.). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was first reported 3/31 at BESP (AL, et al.). **Purple Martins** were observed 3/31 at BESP and were regular there and in nearby Howard, where there are nesting colonies, throughout the rest of the season (DW, et al.). Reports of up to 3 birds also came from JUL 4/3 (JV, AL, JoL), SCO 4/25 (DE), and Ambleside Park 5/19 (BA). **Bank Swallows** started to arrive late April, with most reports coming from JUL 4/22-5/15 (AL, et al.), including a high of 4. NB observed 3 at B2BE 5/4. Additional reports of one or 2 birds came from five locations throughout the rest of the season (JoL, et al.). **Cliff Swallows** were regularly noted at BESP 3/31-5/28 (RF, et al.) with over 100 observed there 5/13 (MD). They were also spotted 4/21-5/29 at JUL in small numbers (NB, et al.) and at seven other locations during May (BS, et al.) including at least three active nests at ARBOR 5/25 (CrM, JM).

There were a few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** found. Two were spotted in State College: one 3/2 (CE) and the other 3/26 (NK). NK also found 3 at TOF 4/13. Two reports of single birds came from Bear Meadows 5/13 (NiB) and 5/21 (MD). On the other hand **Brown Creepers** were widely and regularly noted in March and April (CE, et al.). The only May observations were of 2 at Bear Meadows 5/2 (CE) and 1-2 birds 5/5-20 at BMSP (ST, NiB, IG). A single **Marsh Wren** was spotted 5/1 at ARBOR (DW, et al.). This is a rare migrant not recorded annually (B&G, 2010). **Veerys** were widely noted throughout May in small numbers. Most reports came from SCO 5/3 (AL, StB, MM) and 5/21-26 (MD, JV), Bear Meadows 5/5-28 where a high of 20 were noted (AL, et al.), and BMSP 5/5-20 (AL, et al.). Four were at Detweiler Run 5/26 (DG, GG) and one or two birds were noted at seven other locations throughout the month (JV, et al.). A few **Swainson's Thrushes** were recorded: up to 4 at SCO 5/15 (AL, et al.), and single birds 5/13 Lederer Park (StB), 5/16 Bear Meadows (CB), and 5/23 TOF (DW).

Northern Mockingbirds are common except on the Allegheny Plateau, where there were three reports. Single birds were located 3/11 at BMSP (JD), one 5/17 along Steele Hollow Rd. (MiD), and 5/19 at Ambleside Park (BA). **American Pipits** occurred regularly though infrequently through March and April (DW, et al.). DW observed "hundreds" in the fields on Williams Rd. 3/25. The last reports were in early May when 80 were at Wagner Rd. 5/3 (AL, StB, MM), and up to 20 were spotted 5/5 at Nixon Rd. (RF, et al.).

Thirty-three warbler species and one hybrid were reported this spring. Observations seemed more widespread this year, with SCO seeming to have lower numbers than usual. Common to abundant migrants included **Ovenbird**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **American Redstart**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler**. Several uncommon warblers were widespread in appropriate habitats. These included **Worm-eating Warblers** 5/1-5/28 (AL, et al.), **Louisiana Waterthrush** 3/30-5/21 (DO, et al.), and **Northern Waterthrush** 5/28-5/24 (JohH, et al.). **Black-and-white Warblers** were first sighted 4/16 at TOF (DW). **Hooded Warblers** arrived 4/29 at MMNC (BrS), **Northern Parulas** arrived 4/21, and "a gorgeous male" **Blackburnian Warbler** 4/21 at SCO (MaR) heralded the return of that species to the area. All of these species were widely reported through May. **Pine Warblers** were widely reported 3/15-5/21 (StB, et al.). Many other uncommon warblers had more limited numbers of reports. Most **Blue-winged Warblers** were from SCO; up to 3 were observed 5/1-26 (MD, et al.). Up to 3 were also spotted 5/1 at Lederer Park (AL, et al.) and up to 5 at BESP 5/2-27 (IG, et al.). Single birds were noted 5/1-2 at ARBOR (StB, et al.), 5/3 at Musser Gap (DW), 5/5 at COL (RF, JL, SB, NB), and off Neff Rd. 5/18 (AnM). A **Brewster's Warbler** was identified 5/29 at BESP (MaO). Most **Golden-winged Warbler** observations were from SCO 5/3-26 where up to 7 were noted (AL, et al.), and BESP 5/4-29 with as many as 5 being reported (NB, et al.). AnM also identified the species 5/18 off Neff Rd. **Tennessee Warblers** were reported in seven locations over a two week period. One was heard on Purdue Mtn. Rd. 5/5 (RF, JL, SB, NB); and up to three were reported 5/5-12 at BESP (AL, et al.). Single birds were spotted 5/7-18 at SCO (NF, DW, MB, StB, MAR), 5/12 at ARBOR (MD, NaB, LP), 5/15 at Upper Orviston Rd. (DW, NF, StB, MB), and 5/17 at East Mtn. Rd. (DW, JW, NF, StB). Up to 2 **Cape May Warblers** were noted at SCO 5/6-16 (JV, IG, KW), and single birds were reported 5/15 at BESP (DW, NF, StB) and 5/20 at BMSP (VG). AnM reported the species off Neff Rd. 5/18. Small numbers of **Cerulean Warblers** migrated through during the first three

weeks of May. Multiple reports came from SCO 5/2-12 (MeT, CE) and Beaver Rd. 5/3-6 and 5/20 (AL, StB, MM, AH, ST, IG). Seven other locations had single-day reports (JV, et al.). **Bay-breasted Warblers** moved through the region in May with the first observation 5/5 in the fog on Purdue Mtn. Rd. (JL, RF, NB, SB). A scattering of other reports, mostly of single birds, followed (CE, et al.) with the last 5/20 at Strawband-Beaver Rd. (JV). **Palm Warblers** followed their usual pattern, first arriving 3/29 at SCO (JV). Reports peaked in the last half of April with most reports from TOF (StB, et al.) and SCO (MD, et al.). **Prairie Warbler** was observed 5/2-27 at eight locations scattered around the county (IG, et al.). All were of single birds except 2 at Strawband-Beaver Rd. 5/20 (JV), 5 at Bear Meadows 5/21 (MD), and 2 at BESP 5/24 (DW, IG). SCO 5/1-3 and 18 (DE, et al.) and Bear Meadows 5/2 and 12-28 (CE, NaB, NiB) had multiple observations of **Canada Warblers**, with NiB reporting a county-high 33 birds 5/13 at Bear Meadows. ST reported 17 at a spot off Casanova Rd. that she dubbed "Canada Warbler Heaven." The species was also noted at 5 other locations during May (AL, et al.). The hotspots for **Wilson's Warblers** were ARBOR 5/2-9 (NaB, et al.) and SCO 5/3-5 (KW, IG, AL, DW, NF), with single reports from four other locations (StW, MD, NiB, CB, AnM). Three **Yellow-breasted Chats** were noted this spring, two more than were reported in eBird in any of the past three springs. This year's birds were spotted 5/18 at BESP (JF), 5/18 off Neff Rd. (AnM), and 5/22 at TOF (NeG). Three rare migrating warbler species were reported. **Mourning Warblers** were most frequently observed, beginning with one at SCO 5/4 (ST). NaB located another 5/11 at TOF. All other reports were over a four-day period, with at least one being reported 5/18 off Neff Rd. (AnM), and one each 5/18 at BESP (JF), 5/20 at Marengo Rd. (ML), 5/20 at TOF (SL), 5/20-22 at SCO (JV, et al.) and 5/22 at TOF (NeG). ML located a single **Kentucky Warbler** on PA Rt. 504, and single **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found 4/29 Unionville (JV) and 5/13 Lederer Park (DeG).

Several uncommon sparrow species were present. **Vesper Sparrows** were first reported 3/25 Tusseyville Rd./Williams Rd. and were widely reported through the end of May (DW, et al.). The same applies to **Savannah Sparrow**, which was first noted 3/18 at B2BE (JV, et al.). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were less frequently observed. SeG noted one on Nixon Rd. 4/17, and up to 12 were reported 5/2-6 at Musser Gap (JV, et al.). Eight were noted 5/15 at Panther grasslands (DW, NF, StB), 1-3 on the PSU Rockview property 5/16-28 (NF, MB), and 3-4 on Tusseyville Rd./Williams Rd. 5/22-26 (IG, KW, StB, MTo). **Fox Sparrows** were regularly reported 3/11-4/7, with the last 4/28 at ARBOR (AL, JoL). Observers reported one or 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows** 4/25 (AL, et al.) and 5/5 at ARBOR (DE, StW). Single birds were noted 4/27 near SCO (MD), 5/2 at BESP (IG), and 5/16 at Bear Meadows (CB). **Swamp Sparrows** were widely reported 3/8-5/20 (DW, et al.) **White-crowned Sparrows** began returning in mid-March, with observations throughout Centre 3/17-5/12 (MD, et al.). Centre's second **Harris's Sparrow** appeared in Howard 4/17 and became an instant sensation. This adult male regularly visited a feeder station in the company of White-throated Sparrows through 4/21 before disappearing for about a week. It returned 4/28, this time accompanied by White-crowned Sparrows and stayed through 5/2. The bird was observed and photographed by many area birders (BS, et al.). This species is accidental in this region; the only other in Centre was a bird in State College 11/27/1983 (B&G, 2010).

Migrating **Bobolink** were observed 4/26-5/26 (StB, et al.), and **Eastern Meadowlarks** were widely reported throughout the spring (AL, et al.). **Rusty Blackbirds** were widely reported, usually in small numbers, in March and April (IG, et al.). TOF appears to have been a "Rusty magnet" with 240 mixed with other blackbird species noted 3/25 and 360 reported 4/1 (both JV). **Orchard Orioles** arrived 4/22 (DW, et al.) and were reported through May at many locations; most reports were of up to 2 (IG, et al.).

Two uncommon finches round out the report. **Purple Finch** were distributed widely 3/24-5/30 (DW, et al.). **Pine Siskins** are irruptive and so normally uncommon. Two were spotted 3/13 at ARBOR (NaB), and also 3/17 at State College (SB). Up to 3 were noted at BMSP 3/24-4/3 (DW, JV, NF), and one at TOF 4/2-15 (MD, AL). PB posted the last report of one 4/19 in Boalsburg.

Observers: N.J. Butkovich, 550 TOF Ave. #248, State College, PA 16803, (814) 234-6086, njbutkovich@verizon.net, Jennifer Anders (JAn), Jeremy Arvelo (JeA), Bryant Atanasio, Kate Atkins, Bald Eagle SP eTT Data, Nadia Barkawi (NaB), Tim Becker, Diane Bierly (DiB), Chris Blazo, Nick Bolgiano (NiB), Hillel Brandes, Susan Braun, Steve Brenner (StB), Paul Brigman, Margaret Brittingham, Alyssia Church, Jan Collins (JaC), David Cormann, Ron Crandall, Mike David (MiD), Amy Davis, Paul Dennehy, Mike Dreibelbis, Jim Dunn, Darlene Emers, Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom, John Fedak, Nate Fronk, Ro Fuller, John Fulton (JoF), Ian Gardner, Mark Garner, Vernon Gauthier, Neil Gilbert (NeG), Sean Graham (SeG), Debra Grim, (DGr), Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, Nicole Grow, Al Guarante, Delia Guzman (DeG), Molly Heath, Mark Henry (MaH), Jason Hill, Jordan Hillsley

(JoH), Alexis Hinchley, Todd Homan, Sarah Hurteau, Chad Kauffman, Andy Keister (AnK), Nick Kerlin, Nancy Ellen Kiernan (NEK), Eric Knoll, Ramsay Koury, Alex Lamoreaux, Mike Lanzone, Gretchen Lasser, Wayne Laubscher, Jen Lee, Josh Lefever (JoL), Dan Lehman, Scott Lewis, Becky Marvil, Annette Mathes (AnM), Mark McConaughy (MaM), Nate McKelvie, Craig Miller (CrM), Jean Miller, Alan Minasi (AlM), Mark Mizak, Matt O'Donnell (MoO), Christine Ombalski, Dan Ombalski, Cathy Pierce, Jim Pierce (JiP), Lyn Pipenberg, Joshua Potter, PSU Ornithology Lab, Larry Ragan (LaR), Larry Ramsey, Mary Ramsey, Matt Rockmore (MaR), Dave Ryan, Matt Schenck (MSc), Paul Schwiderske, Brian Sedgwick (BrS), Adam Sell, Nora Serotkin, Barbara Snyder (BaS), Bob Snyder, George-Ron-Tracy Snyder (GRTS), Joseph Swift (Jos), Shirley Sword (ShS), Megan Taylor (MeT), Nick Thomas, Shannon Thompson, Melanie Torres (MTo), Justin Valentine, Joe Verica, Kathleen Webber, Drew Weber, Justine Weber, Doug Wentzel (DoW), Stephen Werner (StW), Martin Wilson.

Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), Cheslen Preserve (CP), Kurtz's Fish Hatchery (KFH), Exton Park at Church Farm School (EP), Longwood Gardens (LWG), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Struble Lake (SL), Waterloo Mills Preserve (WMP).

The mild winter was followed by southerly weather trends for the month of March and into early spring, bringing unseasonably warm temperatures and probably some early migrants. Early dates were noted for several breeding songbirds. Migrant shorebirds made few appearances on ground due to minimal habitat, but a sky watch for shorebird flocks on the move tallied good numbers passing over as they headed north.

Concentrations of waterfowl were noted around the county into Mar, and a few strong storms precipitated a few fallout events on local lakes. A lingering **Snow Goose**, possibly injured, was reported from SL through 4/16 (m.ob.). The **Brant** found earlier in winter at Somerset Lake among throngs of Canada Geese continued through at least 3/7 (JS, et al.). A **Cackling Goose** was picked out of thousands of migrating **Canada Geese** 3/7 at MCSP (AG, m.ob.). A surprising discovery, and very good find at CL, was an untagged imm. **Trumpeter Swan** first identified 5/2 (AD). Probably present since mid- to late Apr, this individual continued through the reporting period, and maintained close company with a **Mute Swan**. This represents the first documented untagged Trumpeter Swan for Chester in recent history.

March 7 marked a significant movement of migrating waterfowl. During a birdwalk on that day, 143 **Tundra Swan** were counted flying north over MCSP (m.ob.). **American Wigeon** numbers were higher than average years, and peaked 3/7 at SL with 252 tallied (WBH, m.ob.). **Blue-winged Teal** were reported through mid-May with a lingering bird found 5/14 in Kennett Square (JF). Single **Redheads** were found at Black Rock Sanctuary 3/8 and 3/17 (MR), Coatesville Res. 3/10 (JB, AW), and KFH 4/13-16 (HM, BQ, JW, BR). The lake at MCSP hosted **Greater Scaup** 3/7-12 (m.ob.). A high count was 3 noted there 3/9 (KF, HM). **Lesser Scaup** made more appearances with a high count of 6 reported from MCSP 3/9 (KF). A heavy rainstorm 3/31 forced a very high count of 185 **Bufflehead** onto the lake at MCSP (AD, JD, HM). A pair of **Common Goldeneye** spent time on the lake at MCSP 3/9 (KF, HM). **Hooded Merganser** numbers peaked at 15 at the Honey Brook WTP 3/7 (m.ob.). Notable was a female Hooded Merganser found along the Buck Run during the PAMC 5/12 (KF).

A flyover **Red-throated Loon** was exciting for participants on a birdwalk at BCP 4/16 (LL, et al.). A storm-induced fallout of **Common Loons** produced a high count of 66 at MCSP 5/2 (NP). A lingering **Pied-billed Grebe** was recorded 5/29 at CL (GT). **Horned Grebe** numbers peaked at 30 at MCSP 3/31 (HM). An irregular spring migrant, a solo **Red-necked Grebe** was found 3/9 on the lake at MCSP (HM, KF).

Twenty-six **Double-crested Cormorants** made a nice high count of birds in flight 4/15 at BCP (JS). **American Bitterns** were located in appropriate habitat during migration, and reports came from EP, CP, and some wetlands. Up to 4 were found at CP 4/11 (JF, CM). An unexpected find during a shopping excursion was a single **Glossy Ibis** feeding in a Walmart retention pond in Parkesburg 4/13 (EC, CC). This ibis was very obliging to local birders before departing the area just before sundown that same evening. Another **Glossy Ibis** was seen flying over BCP 5/19 (LL, et.al.), and a pair was seen in the Landenberg area on the same day (LL).

Always thrilling to see in Pennsylvania, a sub-adult **Mississippi Kite** was spotted again this year flying over BCP during the Kite and Shorebird Watch 5/19 (LL, et al.). A few days later, 5/23, 2 sub-adults were seen together in flight from the same spot (CC, BN, HM). A nesting pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** in the Downingtown area took advantage of the mild spring weather and started incubation 3/13, which was ten days earlier than last year's early record (HM). This species is a low-density breeder in

county, and this is one of few known nests.

Spring migration held a few reports of single **Merlins**: one at BCP 3/15 during an evening walk (JS, et al.), one at Westtown School 4/29 (TS), and surprising was a flyover 5/13 at BCP which was counted in the annual Birding Blitz event (LL). A **Peregrine Falcon** seen over WMP 4/20 (KF) was a good find of this uncommon spring migrant.

Multiple **Virginia Rails** were discovered in wetlands throughout the county in spring. An early high count was 5 found 4/4 at CP (HM). An additional high count was of 7 during a marsh bird survey on private property 4/16 (KF, HM). Multiple reports of these rails came from EP in May (m.ob.). A very early **Sora** was a good find at EP 3/18 (BQ). This species was not noted there in April, but was consistently reported there through May, with a high count of 2 reported by several observers on multiple occasions. Two **Soras** were detected at LWG 4/29 (CM, RM). A single **Sora** was found at CP 5/16 (HM). The first documented report in the county since summer 2010, two **Sandhill Cranes** were found and photographed foraging along a small private pond near Kirkwood Preserve 5/11. Shortly after the discovery, the birds took off and were not relocated (JT fide DM).

The second annual Great Bucktoe Kite and Shorebird Watch was conducted again this year at BCP 5/17-6/3. This evening sky watch was designed to record shorebirds migrating over the piedmont as they depart northward from the Delaware Bayshore and Atlantic coast. Due to distance and waning light, positive identifications were difficult to make. Approximately 2671 shorebirds were counted during this project. Though most went unidentified, some were recognized through spotting scopes, and others through the aid of digital photography with some assistance of birders statewide. Highlights of those identified included the following: a total of 371 **Black-bellied Plovers** with 237 recorded 5/25 (HM, JW, KS, HD, PF) and 134 recorded 5/26 (HM, RS, KS, m.ob.); a total of 169 documented **Whimbrel** including ~100 on 5/18 (LL), and at least 69 on 5/23 (HM, CC, BN); 25 **Dunlin** identified among mixed flocks 5/23 (HM, CC, BN); and 18 **Short-billed Dowitchers** detected 5/23 (HM, CC, BN). Outside of the shorebird watch, it was a slow year for shorebird observations throughout the county, seemingly due to lack of prime habitat. **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen in multiple locations, and 7 was a high count and noted at CL 4/30 (RR). Seen only in small numbers, **Greater Yellowlegs** were found in multiple locations 4/15-5/6. Three was a high count 4/30 at Brandywine Drive (HM). The highest count of **Lesser Yellowlegs** was 7 at Wilson Road 5/2 (KF). A single **Pectoral Sandpiper** was seen along a wet area of Wilson Road 4/15-16 (LL, JW, KF), and another was there 4/29 (HM). **Bonaparte's Gulls** made only brief appearances 4/12-14, with a high count of 6 at SL 4/12 (KF, HM). Noticeably absent during spring migration were any tern sp.

It was a slow spring for **Common Nighthawks**. The only reports came from BCP, with 6 the high count 5/22 (DMcN, TB). The Serpentine and Chrome Barrens regions of southern Chester continue as the last strong hold for **Eastern Whip-poor-wills**, and this year the first singing birds were noted 4/25 at Chrome Barrens (LL, JW, et al.). Another was heard singing 4/29 in Nottingham County Park (AD, JD). The imm. female **Rufous Hummingbird** that wintered in Paoli was last seen 3/9 (BG). This bird was banded 3/4 (SL), and marked the first documented wintering Rufous for Chester. Other wintering birds that lingered into spring were two imm. **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, both continuing into May. Noted to be sporting full adult plumage by May, the continuing bird at BCP was last seen 5/13 (JS, et al.). One that wintered in Laurels Preserve was last observed 5/3 (KF).

A fortuitous find was an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** that made a brief appearance for a group of students visiting WMP 5/9 (KF, WS). This year proved to be a good one for **Alder Flycatchers**, an irregular spring migrant. One was detected at CP 5/13-5/15 (CC), and another was discovered at MCSP 5/19 (AD), and continued through the reporting period. **Least Flycatchers** were reported in several locations, with an early date of 4/29 at BCP (HM, et al.). Separate individuals were also found 5/13 during the PAMC: one at Laurels Preserve (HM, KF) and another at Springfield Manor CP (AD). The warm weather early in spring seemed to bring some early migrants, and the vireos were well represented in this category. An early **White-eyed Vireo** was found 4/11 at Nottingham CP (HM). **Blue-headed Vireo** was first reported 4/14 at Warwick CP (RM). **Warbling Vireos** were earlier than usual with a first report from EP 4/15 (CK). An early report of a **Red-eyed Vireo** came from Westtown 4/20 (BR). A first record for BCP, a flyover **Common Raven** was an unexpected surprise during a birdwalk 3/12 (LL, HD, et al.). Phone calls were made, and this (presumed same) raven was seen a few minutes later flying over Ashland Nature Center in northern Delaware (JS). A **Common Raven** continued to make irregular appearances at EP; it was reported there 4/7, 4/21 (CCA), and 4/26 (CCA, GT). An early **Barn Swallow** was found 3/25 in Exton (AD). A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported from LP 4/16 (KF), and was the only record of this species for spring. The lack of reports this season was not surprising given the low numbers of wintering birds. Uncommon spring migrants, **Marsh Wrens** were found in two locations. One at WMP 4/17

(KF) was a one-day-wonder, and another 4/23 at EP (BQ, et al.) continued through the reporting period.

There were 33 warbler sp. reported. **Louisiana Waterthrush** arrived very early, and was found 3/21 at Hibernia Park (RR). Good showings of **Northern Waterthrush** came from throughout the county, first reported 4/19, with 7 as a single day high count at White Clay Creek Preserve 5/9 (WBH). Former breeders, **Prothonotary Warblers** are now irregularly reported in spring. One found at WMP during the PAMC was a very good find 5/13 (BB). **Tennessee Warblers** were found in multiple locations, but only single birds were reported. The **Orange-crowned Warbler** that took up winter residence in West Chester borough was seen through 4/19 (MAK). **Cape May Warblers** were reported on five occasions, all single birds excepting 2 at LWG 5/5 (LL, KP). Others were found at: WMP 5/4 (KF), MCSP 5/6 (AD), E. Bradford Twp 5/9 (HM), and BCP 5/13 (m.ob.). An uncommon migrant, **Bay-breasted Warblers** were found at LWG 5/6 (LL), Hibernia Park 5/12 (JM), Ashbridge Preserve 5/16 (BR, BQ), and Cassatt Preserve 5/16 (BQ). Springlawn Trail hosted the first report of the season **Yellow-throated Warbler** 3/30 (BC), and another returned to Kerr Park, a presumed breeding site, and was found 4/15 (LL, m.ob.). A warbler walk at White Clay Creek Preserve yielded 2 **Wilson's Warblers** 5/6 (LL, KP). At other sites around the county, only single birds were reported.

Reports of **Vesper Sparrow**, which are hard to find in spring, included one at a private farm in Downingtown 3/28 (KF), and another from CP 4/10 (WBH). An overwintering **Lincoln's Sparrow** in Exton was last seen 4/28 (KCA). Another was seen at WMP 5/4 (KF). Rushton Farm's Banding Station captured a single Lincoln's Sparrow in their nets during the week of 5/18 (DM). **Blue Grosbeaks** returned to BCP 4/23 (m.ob.). Other reports of this species were from Welkinweir 5/12 (m.ob.), 2 at Okehocking Preserve 5/13 (BR), and one in the Doe Run area 5/23 (KF).

Scarcely seen these days due to their overall population decline, **Rusty Blackbird** reports were expectedly low. Individuals were seen at Hibernia Park 4/12-13 (RR), Westtown School 4/20 (BR) and 4/28 (TS), Warwick CP 4/28 (RM). A flock of 8 were seen heading north at dusk during a marsh bird survey 4/16 in the northern part of the county (KF).

Reports of **Purple Finch** were light and sporadic, with a high count of 18 in Chadds Ford 3/12 (HD). After a winter with few reports around the state, a single **Pine Siskin** was a surprise feeder visitor 3/23 in Downingtown (HM).

Observers: Holly Merker, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335, (610) 518-1703, HCybelle@aol.com, Kelly Colgan Azar, Tim Becker, Justin Bosler, Brian Byrnes, Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfant, Elaine Chalfant, Josh Clapper, Amy Davis, Jeff Davis, Hank Davis, Niki Flood, Judy Ford, Kevin Fryberger, Bruce Garrard, W. Brian Henderson (WBH), Mary Alice Knox (MAK), Carol Kuniholm, Larry Lewis, Carol Majors, Ron Majors, Doris McGovern, John McNamara, David McNaughton, Robert Megraw, John Mercer (JM), Brian Novak, Kathleen Pileggi, Nick Pulcinella, Brian Quindlen, Brian Raicich, Michael Rosengarten, Win Schaefer, Joe Sebastiani, Richard Smith, Kim Steininger, George Tallman, Justin Thompson, Andrew Weber.

Clarion County

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

The spring season for 2012 brought a nice mix of birds with some unusual species for the county. A mix of early high temperatures and plenty of rain marked the season, and while some speculated on changes in migration dates, evidence was mixed. Some groups were a little earlier this year but many others have arrived in their usual timeframes for at least the past five years.

Large numbers of **Tundra Swans**, around 1300, put down on KL (shared with Venango) 3/1 (RS, JS). In one of the most unusual sightings for Clarion, not one but 2 **Trumpeter Swans** were reported. The first was in New Bethlehem on Redbank Creek, a first year bird wing-tagged J53. This bird appeared 3/13 and continued in the area through at least 5/20 (RM, GE, DW, AL, CW, CD, MD, et al.). This bird was often in the company of an adult **Mute Swan** that is regular in the area. On reporting the banding information to the USGS, it was learned that this individual was a male hatched in Cambridge, Ontario and banded there 11/3/2011. It had been injured in a likely dog attack later in November, and although it was returned to its family after several weeks of rehab, it was not with them when they arrived at their wintering site in Burlington later that fall. Its winter home remains a mystery as there were no reports of it until it arrived in Clarion. The second trumpeter was found at KL 4/2 and was an unmarked adult bird that did not linger (GE). Two notable sightings of **Wood Ducks** included a pair at a beaver

dam area at MZ 4/13, possibly utilizing a new nest box there (RM), and a pair near Limestone 4/16 checking out tree cavities (FW). The Allegheny River near FB once again provided a nice selection of migrating ducks starting with **Lesser Scaup**, **Ring-necked Duck**, and **Gadwall** 2/25, followed by **Northern Pintail**, **Redhead**, **Greater Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, and **Common Goldeneye** 3/1 (KC). Also noted there this season were **American Wigeon** 4/21, **Blue-winged Teal** 4/15, as well as **Northern Shoveler**, **Canvasback**, **Red-breasted Merganser** and **Ruddy Duck** (KC). The other area in the county with regular waterfowl numbers is KL, which held good numbers of birds 3/24, including 500+ **Lesser Scaup**, 5 **Northern Shovelers**, 50 **Bufflehead**, 14 **Long-tailed Ducks**, and 50 **Horned Grebes** (JS). **Hooded Mergansers** were seen in pairs in two areas with possible nesting sites. One was 3/5 near Millcreek and also a pair at SGL 63 ponds 3/27 (RM).

A single **Great Egret** was seen at Beaver Creek Wetlands area 4/4, and a single bird was at KL 5/12 (CW). **Great Blue Herons** continued at their successful colony on an island in the Allegheny River near FB, with 21 active nests in early May (KC). A single nest was also found at a new site near Gravel Lick, with chicks in the nest 4/28 (RM, PC, DB). The first **Osprey** of the season was seen 3/1 along the river at FB (KC) and one was also hunting at the pond at CV strips area 4/25, a first for that location (CW). **Bald Eagles** continue to be regular, with an adult seen at East Brady 3/28 (PW), and the nest along the Clarion R. near Sligo active again this year. Two adults were present there 4/29 with one young bird being fed in the nest (CW). An adult **Northern Harrier** was reported at MZ 4/13, which is a regular nesting site (RM). The best raptor was once again **Northern Goshawk**, which was found attempting nesting again in the northern part of the county. On 4/27 an active nest was found but appeared abandoned within several weeks, possibly due to poor location near an active roadway (DB). A pair was later reported near the area 5/26, but no further breeding evidence was found (RS).

Upland Sandpipers once again returned to their regular areas on MA, first seen 5/2 with at least 4 birds and possibly up to 7 (CW). The birds were observed calling and doing flight displays. Two birds continued to be seen in this area, both 5/5 (SS, NT) and again 5/18 (SS, BD). **Wilson's Snipe** were heard at the CV strips area at dusk 4/1 winnowing from some of the lower lying marshy areas that have developed with land use changes at this site. **American Woodcock** were one of the species with earlier arrivals this year, first heard back at MZ at dusk 3/3, an early date by 5 days (CW). Four were also heard near CV 3/7 (CW) and one near Clarion 3/8 (DF). These birds are commonly heard and seen in spring in the southern part of the county where they take advantage of large areas of suitable overgrown field habitat. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were first reported back along the Allegheny near FB with 30 there 3/30 (KC), and were last sighted at KL 5/12 (CW). A single **Black Tern** was seen at KL 5/26 (MV), and a **Caspian Tern** was present along the Allegheny at FB 4/21 (KC).

A report from the Clarion Co. Food and Cover Crew of the PGC for SGL 330 (MZ) of a **Short-eared Owl** near the main parking area prompted some visits, and resulted in the sighting of 2 birds seen at dusk 3/3 (CW), and 3-4 birds the next evening (RM). On 3/8 a single bird was seen near CV at a regular site (CW), and the last sighting of spring came from MA 4/5 (CW). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were first heard calling 5/1 near East Brady where they are fairly regular in spring (PW). Further north along the Allegheny, they were also reported near FB 5/3 (KC).

Two flycatchers showed up slightly ahead of their usual schedule: both **Acadian Flycatcher** and **Eastern Wood-Pewee** were back at SF 5/4 where they are regular summer breeders (CW). Near CV, **Least Flycatchers** were once again present throughout the spring starting 5/1 in an area of overgrown field, streamside with patches of nearby woods. Two pairs were present, and nest building was observed in close proximity to each other, but both nests ending up destroyed by predators (CW). Nest materials included lichens and spiderwebs, as well as dandelion seeds. Both nests were placed in the exposed tops of dead apple trees, approximately 20 ft. up.

Horned Larks were singing on a hilltop in a cut corn field at dusk 3/7 near CV, where they have been regular for the last several years (CW). **Tree Swallows** showed up early in larger than usual numbers this year, with 35 observed along the river near FB 3/18 (KC). Cold weather and rain led to a unique swallow event along the Allegheny River near FB where large numbers of **Barn**, **Tree**, and **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were observed 4/21, feeding in large flocks of 50-100 immediately above the water (KC). Another early sighting for the season was that of a single **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** seen near SF 4/2, along with a singing **Winter Wren** (CW). **Winter Wren** had already been reported back for the season 3/20 in their stronghold at CF (CD).

Thrushes appeared on time with **Wood Thrush** back 4/28, and 3 **Swainson's Thrush** seen near CV 5/8 along with 2 **Veery**, also first of season (CW). **Brown Thrasher** was another species just a little ahead of

schedule with one heard singing 4/3 near CV (CW). A bird not regularly reported for the county was **American Pipit**, so a flock of 50+ near KL at a farm field was a welcome addition for the season (ML, GE, PC, JH).

A singing male **Brewster's Warbler** was present near CV 5/10 and through at least the next week, singing a Blue-winged Warbler song repeatedly as well as responding to playback of that species (CW). On 4/25 in the same location an early male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was present and singing (CW). Two singing **Pine Warblers** were seen at MZ 4/13 in the large number of pine plantings there, and continued at the same site through the end of May, but without further breeding evidence found (RM, CW). The first singing **Worm-eating Warbler** was heard back 5/4 in their now regular site on the wooded hillsides at SF, as well as a **Cerulean Warbler** (CW). Also in this same location, **Louisiana Waterthrush** were heard singing in two separate areas along the stream there 4/4, first of the season for these birds (CW). **Kentucky Warblers**, which were not reported for the county last year, were found in their past breeding area along Rider Rd. near SF during the PAMC count 5/12 (CW), with a single singing male found. Along this same area of roadside a male **Mourning Warbler** was found 5/20 (SC). Along the Clarion R. near Gravel Lick, in areas of deep pine and hemlock with thick understory, a the first **Canada Warbler** of the season was found during the PAMC 5/12, and was found again on territory in the same area 5/30 (CW, RM).

Clay-colored Sparrows were heard back on territory at CV strips a little earlier this year, with a singing male there 5/3 (CW) and 4 birds seen the next day (ST, DW). **Field Sparrows** were evident singing in the numerous overgrown field areas in southern *Clarion* by 3/17 (CW), but **Savannah Sparrow**, normally the early arriver, was not reported until early May. **Grasshopper Sparrows** are typically a few weeks behind **Henslow's Sparrow**, but this year 3 singing birds were found along Rankin Rd. near CV 4/19, as well as 14+ singing **Henslow's Sparrows**, just a few days behind the record early arrival of the Henslow's Sparrows at MZ 4/14 (RM). Numbers for both these species appeared average or above through May. The first **Fox Sparrow** was seen back near CV 3/16 and heard singing as well (CW). Modest numbers were also reported at SGL 63 on 3/27 as well as 50+ **White-throated Sparrows** (RM, GE). A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported for spring, this 5/2 near CV in an area where they are typically found more commonly in fall (CW). The best spring sighting for grassland species was likely the first **Dickcissel** report for the county in some time, seen at the CV strips site, a single male 5/31 (SC, KD). This area has become more overgrown, with one large field now planted with wildflowers and switchgrass which provides more appealing habitat.

Pine Siskins were in ST for some time this spring, staying late into the season, but no breeding evidence was found for certain. Large pine and spruce plantings provide habitat for these birds as well as feeders. Five birds were regular at feeders through March and April. The birds were singing in April but had stopped by late in the month and became less visible by mid-April. The last male was seen at this site 5/15 and the last female 5/26 (RM). **Purple Finches** made their first spring appearance near CV 3/13 and were singing regularly by 3/16. They continued at this yard with large Norway and blue spruce plantings through the end of May, with a pair present and a male singing daily (CW).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggy Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjaln@windstream.net**, Dave Brinker, Paulette Colantonio, Shawn Collins, Pat Conway, Kurt Crosbie, Karyn Delaney, Corey DeStein, Michael Dreibelbis, Bill Drolsbaugh, Gary Edwards, John Fedak, Deb Freed, Janice Horn, Alex Lamoreaux, Mike Leahy, Deborah McCanna, Ron Montgomery, Mark Moore, Dan Ombalski, Michael Rosengarten, Steve Sanford, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Randy Stringer, Shannon Thompson, Neil Troyer, Mark Vass, Drew Weber, Fran Williams, Dave Wilton, Alan Winslow, Paul Winslow.

Clearfield County

No report.

Compiler: **Dave Gobert, 287 Beech Road, Patton, PA, 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net**.

Clinton County

Locations: Mill Hall Wetlands (MHW).

A **Common Gallinule** was heard calling at the MHW on a PSO field trip 5/20 (m.ob.). The local pair of **Peregrine Falcons** nested again at McElhattan during the period and produced 5 young, the largest brood since the nesting pair was discovered in 2007. The young were banded on 5/25

by the PGC with assistance from PennDOT (m.ob.).

From 5/8-9 a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen at a pond in Rote (MA). Another (or the same) was found at the MHW 5/19-20 during PSO outings (m.ob.). An **American Bittern** was seen at the MHW 4/15 (JD). A surprise at the MHW on the PSO field trip 5/19 was a **Least Bittern**, possibly a first county record (m.ob.). The early arrival of spring resulted in an early return for **American Woodcocks** at Swissdale 2/22 (WL). On 5/20, a pair of **Sandhill Cranes** was observed in a field east of Lock Haven (LK).

A rather unusual discovery for **Clinton** was a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Rote on another PSO field trip 5/19 (NF, m.ob.). A pair was later observed there nesting (m.ob.). On 5/20 a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at East Branch Swamp Natural Area (NB). On Jews Run Road near Renovo 2/9, an adult **Northern Shrike** was seen (GG). A **Sedge Wren** was found 4/15 at the MHW, but was not relocated (JD). During the month of May, a pair of **Pine Siskins** was observed exhibiting probable nesting behavior at a location in the Eastville area (AT).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA 17745-8153, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnet.org**, Mervin Allgyer, Nick Bolgiano, Jim Dunn, Nate Fronk, Greg Grove, Lester Kleckner, and Aden Troyer.

Columbia County

No report.

Compiler: **Doug Gross, 144 Winters Road, Orangeville, PA, 17859, (570) 458-4568, dougross@sunlink.net**.

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Custards (CUS), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva Marsh (GM), McMichael Rd (McM), Meadville (MEAD), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Shellito's Pond (SP), Springboro (SPR), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

The spring season 2012 in **Crawford** was warmer than normal. The last snow was 3/4 with 1.5 inches at Meadville. High temperatures reached 74°F by 3/14. April and May were also dry and warm.

A pair of **Snow Geese** were found at PGMA 3/7 (GG) and were last seen there 4/21 (m.ob.). The northward flight of **Tundra Swans** was rather uneventful with just 7 at ENWR providing the high count 3/14 (RFL). Most were lone birds; last was one 5/5 at ENWR (RE). A top count of **Gadwall** was 183 at C (RFL). MV had the top **Green-winged Teal** at PGMA, 57 on 3/15. The first **Blue-winged Teal** was one at PGMA 3/7 (SC). Thirty-two **Northern Shovelers** was the top count at PGMA 3/16 (TCN). **Northern Pintail** were well represented with 214 at CM the best total 3/10 (RFL). The top total of **Redhead** was 170 on CL 3/10 (RFL) with 86 **Canvasbacks** also at CL 3/10 (RFL). Both **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup** were well reported at all area lakes and marshes (m.ob.). A total of 527 **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen 3/21 at CM (RFL). Eighty **Common Goldeneyes** were found at C 3/14 (RFL). **Buffleheads** were well reported, and 4 remained at PS to 5/26 (BG, JG, RFL). A **Long-tailed Duck** was seen at CL 3/10 and 4 were at WL 4/7 (RFL). Single **Surf Scoters** were found near MEAD 4/10 (TCN) and a nice male was at CL 4/15 (MV). All three **mergansers** were found at several locations (m.ob.). On 4/7, 2550 **Ruddy Ducks** were on CL and 825 were at PS (RFL). Ruddy Ducks remained in the area into June (m.ob.).

Wild Turkeys were very few this spring; 55 was the highest total at SPR 3/6 (TCN). The first reported **Common Loon** was one at ENWR 3/27 (SC). Eight at CL 4/10 (SK) and 8 there 4/15 (MV) were top counts. A **Red-throated Loon** was located north of Meadville 4/6 and 4/14 (TCN) and at CL 4/12 (RFL). Single **Red-necked Grebes** were found at Jamestown close to the Pymatuning Lake dam 3/31, and at CL 4/3 (RFL). **Horned Grebes** were noted 3/10-5/18 at several locations but in smaller than usual numbers. Eight was the best total in CL (MV). **Pied-billed Grebes** were well documented most of the period. An unusual number of 40 **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen on SL 4/9 (RE). Single **American Bitterns** were noted at GM 3/31 and SP 4/18 (RFL). A **Great Egret** was present at SP 4/21 (RFL). **Green Heron** were found at ENWR 4/30 (SC) and 5/30 (RFL), at SL 5/29 (RE) at SP 5/15 and Wayland 5/13 (RFL).

Single **Northern Harriers** were noted 3/3 at PGMA (MV), 3/7 at PGMA (SC), and McM 4/6. Lone **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found ENWR 3/27 (SC), PGMA 4/3 (RFL), WL 4/14 (RFL), and McM 4/18 (RFL). Two were at PGMA 4/21 (RFL). The last **Rough-legged Hawk** was sighted at PGMA 3/18 (SC). A rather late **Golden Eagle** was seen close-up at

PGMA 4/7 (RFL) about two weeks later than usual. A **Peregrine Falcon** was found in MEAD chasing a **Rock Dove** along French Creek 4/18 (RFL). **Osprey** nested at WL and one nest at PGMA noted all period (m.ob.).

A **Virginia Rail** was seen at ENWR 4/15 and 4/30 (SC) and one to 2 were at McM 4/8-5/26 (TCN, MF, RFL, IF, SC). **Soras** were found at CM 4/18-5/26 (TCN, MF, RFL). Two **Common Gallinules** were located at ENWR 4/15-16 (SC), and one to two were at CM (m.ob.). A group of 3 **Sandhill Cranes** were seen at close range at GM 3/3 (RFL), 7 were at PGMA 3/7 (GG), one was at McM 4/6 and 4/8 (TCN) and 2 adults and young were near Cambridge Springs 5/9 (RS).

Black-bellied Plovers found at ENWR included one 4/30 (SC), two 5/9 (TCN) and one 5/30 (RFL). A total of 21 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at Miller Ponds 5/26 (MF, JV). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** reported at PGMA 3/14 (SC). The top count was 58 through 4/15 (MV). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen regularly at TL and PYM 3/18-5/28 (m.ob.). Four early **Solitary Sandpipers** made a showing at TL 4/14 (RFL) and singles were reported at PYM and CM (TCN, RE, MV, RST). Single **Upland Sandpipers** were noted at PGMA 5/12 (TCN) and 5/30 (RFL). Wilson Rd., an area where Uppies are usually found, was barricaded for most of the spring and was in bad shape. The high total for **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was 27 at PGMA 5/18 (MV). Three **Pectoral Sandpipers** were found at PGMA 5/6 (RST), 6 were at Wayland 5/10 (RFL) and 4 were at PGMA 4/15 (MV). One **White-rumped Sandpiper** was studied at PGMA 5/19 (RFL). **Least Sandpipers** were found 4/18-5/30 at PYM and TL, with 36 at PGMA 5/18 (MV) the best total. **Dunlin** were noted 4/15-5/19 at PYM and ENWR (m.ob.). Three **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at TL 5/3, 15 at PGMA 5/10 (RFL), 5 at TL 5/12 (TCN), 18 at PGMA 5/5 (SS), and 28 at PGMA 5/11 (MV). An **American Woodcock** was found at TL 4/14 (RFL). **Wilson's Snipe** were recorded at PGMA, ENWR, TL and CM with up to 12 birds listed (m.ob.).

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** recorded at PS 4/5 (DW, ST) was a good find. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were first seen 4/6, when 40 were at CL (TCN) and 50 were at Jamestown 4/7 (RFL); top count was 500 at CL 4/10 (TCN). A pair of **Caspian Terns** was found at PS 4/7 (RFL); last was one at PS 5/11 (MV).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen at SP 5/15 (RFL) and at McM 5/26 (MF). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen at FH 5/5, one was near SL 5/8 (RE) and one at ENWR 5/9 (TCN). **Barred Owls** were heard 6 times (different days) east of MEAD (RFL) and 2 were calling at ENWR 5/30 (RFL). One was reported at PYM 5/6 (RST). Single **Common Nighthawks** were seen and heard 5/6 at SL (RE). This was a good spring for **Red-headed Woodpeckers** with a total of 19 birds recorded from CM, PYM, HM and WL (TCN, RFL, RCL, CH).

The first **Eastern Kingbird** was seen near SL (3 birds) 5/1 (RE). Two **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were seen 5/23 at McM (RFL). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was seen near SL (RE). Lone **Northern Shrikes** were seen 3/5 at SPR (TCN), 3/10 at FI (SS, ST, BD, NT) and 3/31 were at PC (RFL). Four **Warbling Vireos** were recorded 4/30 at SP (TCN) and 15 were noted there 5/15 (RFL). Single **Yellow-throated Vireos** were found PGMA 5/6 (RST), McM 5/12 (RFL), WL 5/19 (RFL) and 5/26 PGMA (MF). **Blue-headed Vireos** were noted 4/15 at ENWR (SC) and 5/30 (RFL). **White-eyed Vireo** was noted 5/9 at McM 5/11 and 5/19 at SPR (TCN). The only reported **Philadelphia Vireo** was one noted at Marsh Road at eastern end of CM 5/19 (RFL). On 4/7, 15 **Purple Martins** were at PA (RFL) and at least 82 at were at CL and PA 5/3. Numbers of nesting **Cliff Swallows** at FH were the lowest in many years. Many of the old nests fell off or were removed and several left were taken over by **House Sparrows**. The best total was 60 birds 5/30 (RFL). The earliest **Barn Swallow** was found at SL 4/7 (RE). The first reported **Tree Swallows** were 6 found at PGMA 3/23 (MV).

Two **Carolina Wrens** were at ENWR 3/20 (SC). First **House Wren** was at SL 4/17 (RE). Lone **Winter Wrens** were seen 3/17 at FI (RFL); two were at PGMA 3/18, and one was at ENWR 3/20 (SC). One was noted at McM 5/19 (RFL), 3 were there 5/19 (TCN) and 2 there 5/26 (MF). Several **Brown Creepers** were seen at ENWR 3/30 (SC). A nesting pair was at McM 5/19 (TCN). Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen at ENWR 3/20 (SC). Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found at FH 3/10 (SC) and 15 were at ENWR 3/20 (SC). Three **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen 5/15 (SC) and one was at TL 5/19 (RFL). Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were noted at ENWR 4/30 (SC) and one was at McM 5/4 (TCN).

One **Swainson's Thrush** was found at SP trail 5/15 (RFL). Single **Hermit Thrushes** were seen 3/27 and 4/16 at ENWR (SC) and one was at PGMA Teakettle Road 4/30 (RFL). **Eastern Bluebirds** were found in very good numbers at several locations (m.ob.). A **Northern Mockingbird** was seen 5/11 near SPR (TCN). A **Gray Catbird** seen 4/7 at PGMA (RFL) may have been a wintering bird or an arrival about two weeks early. A **Brown Thrasher** was seen near SPR 4/4 (TCN). A **Veery** was seen 5/12 at McM and 4 were at ENWR 5/30 (RFL). Six **American Pipits** were at WL 3/10 and 6 were at McM 3/17 (RFL).

Two **Prothonotary Warbler** were seen and well photographed 4/30-

5/30 (m.ob.) at McM. **Blue-winged Warbler** were seen 5/1 near SL (RF), 5/2 at ENWR (SC), 5/19 at Towpath (RFL), 5/19 at SPR (TCN), and 5/30 at ENWR (RFL). A **Brewster's Warbler** was a good find 5/7 at Toby's Road (SR). **Tennessee Warblers** were recorded at ENWR 5/2 (SC), one was at WL 5/5 (RF), 10 at FI (SS), and one at Towpath 5/12 (RFL). A **Northern Parula** found near SL 5/1 (RE) was the only report received. A **Cape May Warbler** was at FI 5/5 (SS). **Yellow Warblers** returned at SL 4/18 (RE) and were found in good numbers through the period. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was the lone report at ENWR (SC, TCN) 5/16. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** ranged from one at WL 3/10 to 40+ at FI 5/5 (SS). The first **Magnolia Warblers** were one near SL (RE) and one at ENWR (SC), both 5/2. **Cerulean Warblers** were found 5/2-26 at SL (RE), McM 5/19 (RFL), SPR 5/19 and 3 at CUS 5/26 (MF). Single **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were seen at SL 5/1 (RE), 5/2 at ENWR (SC), and TL 5/15 (RFL). **Blackpoll Warblers** included one at SL 5/6 (RE), 3 at SP and 3 at FI 5/12 (TCN) and one at McM 5/19 (RFL). **Blackburnian Warbler** appeared near SL 5/2 (RE) and ENWR 5/16 (SC, TCN). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** were seen at SL 4/19 (RE) and 4 were at ENWR 5/15 (SC, TCN). A single **Pine Warbler** was noted at ENWR 4/15 (SC). A **Palm Warbler** was recorded 4/7 at SP (RFL), two were at ENWR 4/18 (RE), 6+ were at Towpath (SR), and 3 were at SP 5/9 (TCN). **Ovenbirds** included one at SL 4/25 (RE) and 2 at ENWR 5/16 (SC, TCN). A **Northern Waterthrush** was present at McM 4/30 (RFL) and one was at ENWR 5/2 (SC). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found near SL 4/24 (RE). A **Mourning Warbler** was recorded 5/31 near SL (RE). The first reported **Common Yellowthroat** was found 4/30 at ENWR (SC). **Hooded Warblers** were very common recorded at CM, SPR, SL, ENWR, Meadville and CM (m.ob.). **American Restarts** included one 5/12 at PC (RFL), 3 at SP 5/12 (TCN), and one was at McM 5/19 (TCN).

A **Scarlet Tanager** was seen 5/5 near SL (RE) and two were seen along Towpath Road, CM 5/5 (RFL). **Savannah Sparrows** were noted regularly at PGMA, CM, and ENWR 3/1 to end of the period (m.ob.). A fine total of 5 **Fox Sparrows** were found at ENWR 3/20 (SC). Three **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were recorded 5/1 near SPR 5/1 (TCN). A pair of **Indigo Buntings** was first noted 5/3 at McM (RFL). A first of many **Dickcissel** sightings was one found at PGMA's Miller Pond Swamp Road 5/30 (RFL). A pair of **Bobolinks** had arrived at PGMA 4/28 (MV). A pair of **Orchard Orioles** was seen at WL 5/5 (RE). The first **Baltimore Oriole** was located near SL 5/3 (RE) and a total of 31 were recorded in western Crawford 5/10 (RFL). Five **Rusty Blackbirds** were recorded at C 3/14 (RFL) and a good total of 35 were noted at CM 4/18 (TCN).

A **Common Redpoll** was watched 3/11 at a MEAD feeder (SC). A lone **Pine Siskin** was noted near SL 4/25 (RE). Six **Snow Buntings** lingered to 3/7 at PC (RFL).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Road, Meadville, PA 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Shawn Collins, Richard Eakin, Mike Fialkovich, GiGi Gerben, Karen Gregg, Scott Gregg, Bonnie Ginader, Janice Grindel, Charles Harrold, Craig Holt, Scott Kinzey, Tim Johnson, Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Thomas Clare Nicolls, Richard Nugent, Ed Richards, Steven Rotkovecz, Steve Sanford, Robert Scribner, Randy Stringer (RST), Shannon Thompson, Jim Valimont, Marge VanTassel, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton.

Cumberland County

Locations: Michaux State Forest (MSF), Tichy Park Ponds Mount Holly (TPPMH), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF).

It was dry in March and April, and the second half of March was unseasonably warm. While the rains did come in May, most of the fields that normally flood were already plowed and covered with crops. This situation led to a poor showing for waterfowl and shorebirds in **Cumberland**, which is dependent on flooded fields for both. Though there were a few good days for warblers, it seems fall has become the time to find these colorful little migrants in much greater numbers. Field birds were a bright spot; Bobolinks were found in more fields of western **Cumberland** than usual, and three "hiccupping" sparrows were present in May.

Though it was not a good period for waterfowl, there were some still some good sightings. A flock of 57 **Tundra Swans** were overhead on Creekview Road 3/1 (VG) and another 3 were at Zion Road Mount Holly 3/8 (PB). There were 2 **Canvasbacks** at the Boiling Springs Children's Pond 3/14 (MS), 5 **Redhead** at TPPMH 3/11 (PB, VG), and 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Colonel Denning SP 3/22 (VG), with 3 more at the same location 3/31 (VG), and 4 more at SGL169 on 3/31 (VG). Reports of **Greater Scaup** included 2 at TPPMH 3/25 (PB, VG), and 2 at Kuhn's Pond 4/2 (VG). Reports of **Lesser Scaup** included 2 at Zion Road 3/1 (PB), and one was at TPPMH 3/25 (PB, VG). There were three different reports of **Ruddy Duck**

3/31, with one at Colonel Denning SP (VG), 20 at TPPMH (PB), and 12 at Zion Road (PB). The only 2 **Northern Shovelers** reported were a male/female pair on a small pond on Burkett Road Shippensburg 3/31 (VG). **Horned Grebes** while perhaps not plentiful as the previous spring, did show up at several locations 3/11-31 (PB, VG). One **Pied-Billed Grebe** first discovered by BF remained present from the fall of 2011 through the end of the period.

One **American Bittern** was reported at Cabin Road SGL169 4/6 (VG), and one at the Bridgewater Road Propagation Ponds of SGL169 4/13 (HW, VG). One **Sandhill Crane** was reported flying near Spring Road Carlisle 3/19 (PL). **Black-crowned Night Herons** first made their appearance in the county with 2 at Cabin Road SGL169 on 3/22 (VG). Up to 20 were reported at that location during the period. There were also reports of up to 5 at once at Huntsdale Hidden Pond. As in previous years, there was no sign of breeding activity in either area. There was also a report of another 10 flying over in a West Pennsboro yard 5/15 (BF). The only four reports for **Ruffed Grouse** came from along Meadows Road, TSF (VG).

There was one report of a **Northern Goshawk** at 427 Bernheisel Road, Carlisle on 3/18 (FG). One **Peregrine Falcon** was in Camp Hill 3/7 (BF), one **Merlin** was at Colonel Denning SP TSF 5/12 (BF, LF) and one late light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was on I-81 near Rich Valley Road 3/10 (VG). The only shorebird of note was a single **White-rumped Sandpiper** on Mudlevel Road 5/31 (DS, HW, KW). One **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was seen on Fish Hatchery Road Middle Spring 3/13 (VG).

S.A.

The very warm weather in March perhaps had something to do with the first **Blue-headed Vireo** of the season being reported at Colonel Denning SP 3/22 (VG). There were no previous March records for this species in *Cumberland* in eBird, and in fact there were only two previous March records for this species anywhere in Pennsylvania on eBird. As elsewhere Pennsylvania, *Cumberland* saw an early return of **Louisiana Waterthrush**, with the first one reported at Colonel Denning SP 3/22 (VG). There were no previous March records for this species in *Cumberland* in eBird either. Some other earlier migrant species with their 2012 date of arrival followed by the earliest previous arrival date for *Cumberland* as listed on e-Bird were follows: **Broad-winged Hawk** 4/6 vs. 4/14, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** 3/25 vs. 3/31, **Barn Swallow** 3/31 vs. 4/2, **Purple Martin** 3/24 vs. 4/4, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 4/7 vs. 4/8, **Brown Thrasher** 3/24 vs. 3/28, **Gray Catbird** 4/1 vs. 3/26 (only March Record), **Palm Warbler** 4/7 vs. 4/4.

Continuing the theme of a poor spring for passersines, no Least Flycatchers or Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported in *Cumberland*, and only one **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported at the clear cut on Ridge Road MSF 5/15 (VG). The only **Swainson's Thrushes** and **Gray-checked Thrushes** reported were detected by their flight calls (AM, PL).

The over wintering **Townsend's Warbler** was last seen 3/22 (AG). Among potential breeding warblers, only one **Kentucky Warbler** was reported, and that was at Camp Michaux MSF four times 5/4-5/18 (TB, VG, RK, PB). Although Thompson Hollow and the TSF trails off of Meadows Road were checked, no singing birds were found. It is unknown whether Three Square Hollow was checked. Once again the only spot where **Golden-winged Warblers** were found were the TSF trails off of Meadows Road. There were reports of one or 2 between 4/30-5/12 (VG, DL, AM, KK, SS). Among transient migrants, no Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler or Bay-breasted Warblers were reported in *Cumberland* this period. Only one **Mourning Warbler** was reported at SGL 230 on 5/6 (PL, m. ob.). There were few reports for **Cape May Warbler** and **Tennessee Warbler**.

The birds of the period in *Cumberland* were the 3 **Henslow's Sparrows** found north of Newville just near the intersection of Hunter's and Chestnut Roads 5/26 (VG, m. ob.). Though the birds were not seen, one of them was recorded singing (TJ). This was the fourth record of this species for the county in the past 25 years. In a document written by Cameron Rutt and Ramsey Koury it is noted that Don and Robyn Henise found one on Hunters Road 7/13-15/1988, and Deaune Hoffman had one at SGL 169 on 10/15/2004. Andy Markel had one at SGL 169 in the spring of 2011.

Reports of **Rusty Blackbirds** were scarce, with the only large flock (73) at Huntsdale Hidden Pond 3/15 (RK). **Purple Finches** also were also hard to find. Two reports were of feeder birds north of Carlisle, 3 reported 3/14-15 (SS), and another one 3/23-24 (PL). One bird was at Britton Park in Shippensburg 4/1 (RS). The only **Common Redpoll** was at a feeder in a Mechanicsburg yard 3/4 (JL).

Observers: Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com, Paul Banks, Tim Becker,

Bill Franz, Linda Franz, Frank Galaskewicz, Andy Green, Tom Johnson, Ramsay Koury, Kathy Kuchwara, Dan Lehman, Jeff Lorow, Peter Lusardi, Andy Markel, Annette Mathes (AnM), Rachel Shapiro, Dan Snell, Sue Strassner, Herb Weigl, Kathy Weigl, Martin Wilson.

Dauphin County

Locations: Boyds Big Tree Preserve (BBT), Blue Mountain (BMT), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Haldeman Island SGL 290 (HI), Hershey Important Bird Area #45 (HIBA), Hummelstown (HUM), Middletown (MID), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR at Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR from Harrisburg (SRHB), SR from Marysville (SRMV), SR from Royalton (SRRT), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Three Mile Island (TMI), Wildwood Lake (WL).

A **Trumpeter Swan** was reported among the islands from SRWF 3/4 (JDu, CK). On 3/1, 25 **Tundra Swans** were counted at SRWF (PB) and a flight of 42 Tundras was observed 3/14 over SHT (P&RW). The highest **Snow Goose** count this quarter was 1500 in HER 3/2 (AS). A **Ross's Goose** was reported along Rt. 734 south of Valley Rd. just before the Lancaster line 3/16 (TB), and a **Cackling Goose** was among the species reported by the PSU Ornithological Field Trip to HI 3/18 (MB, AL, et al.).

Northern Pintail observations occurred throughout March with the high count of 75 coming from the P.S.U. Ornithological Field Trip to HI 3/18 (MB, et al.). Somewhat late was the report of 3 pintails flying up river at SRWF 5/4 (TB). The dabblers that spent the winter at WL, including **Northern Shoveler**, **Gadwall**, and **Green-winged Teal** continued to be reported through mid-Apr (m.ob.). **Blue-winged Teal** was first noted 3/21 at SRWF (PB, MM) and observations continued from there, as well as from WL, through 5/12 (m.ob.). Ten **Redheads** were reported 3/4 from SRWF (VG), and single **Canvasbacks** were observed 3/25 with one at SRRT (P&RW) and another at SRWF (RK, AM). Another **Canvasback** was at City Island near the Walnut St. Bridge 4/13 (MF). The high count for **Long-tailed Ducks** this spring was 83 at SRHB 3/20 (RK). A male **Surf Scoter** was observed 3/23 at SRMV (TB, LC); it remained through 5/28 (m.ob.). Two **Black Scoters** were observed 4/1 at SRMV (RK) and a single male **Black Scoter** was reported 4/2 at SRHB (CC). A pair of **Black Scoters** was also noted at SRWF 5/3-7 (RK). Five **White-winged Scoters** were observed at SRFT 4/23 (TB). Some of the wintering waterfowl continued to be reported well into the spring, including **Common Goldeneye** to 4/1 and **Bufflehead** still present into the first week of June (m.ob.). Although there were a few reports in Jan, **Red-breasted Mergansers** essentially arrived on the SR the second week of March when three were viewed 3/11 at SRWF (RK). Reports of this species continued through 5/22 from various locations along the SR (m.ob.).

First **Horned Grebe** of the season was noted 3/5 at SRWF (TB), and 77 were counted at SRHG 3/20 (RK). A **Red-necked Grebe** was among the waterfowl reported 3/11 at SRHB (CK) and two **Red-necked Grebes** and a **Red-throated Loon** were observed 3/25 at SRWF (RK, AM). **Common Loon** was observed from various locations along the SR from late March to early May (m. obs.), with an unprecedented fallout 5/7 when 146 were counted at SRWF and an additional 30 were at SRMV (RK). **Horned Grebe** continued on the SR to at least 5/22 (RK), and **Pied-billed Grebe** was still being reported 5/31 when one was at WL (EB).

Double-crested Cormorant was first noted 3/10 on the SR near Duncannon (VG). See nesting information below. An **American Bittern** was found perched in a weeping crabapple tree in a development south of HUM 4/14 (J&DW, TB), certainly an unusual choice for a roost site. "I was very amused to find an American Bittern perched in the top of a weeping crabapple in their yard, holding its head up in the typical bittern posture. This tactic for camouflage was not very effective in the masses of pink blossoms where it had decided to roost for the day" (TB). Other reports of **American Bittern** came from EHT, first 4/27 and again 5/12 for the PAMC (S&RZ).

A new early date was established for **Great Egret** when one was observed near Marysville 3/5 (KB). The annual PGC Wade Island Nest Survey was conducted 5/2. The results show that **Great Egrets** are holding their own with 185 nests, well above the ten year average of 160. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** continue a downward trend with 67 nests tallied, below the ten year average of 88. The peak of the **Black-crowned Night-Herons** colony was in the early 1990s when nests numbered in excess of 200 from 1989 to 1996. The biggest gain, as expected, was with the **Double-crested Cormorants**. This year's tally of 188 was more than 60 above the 2010 and 2011 totals. Cormorant nests have shown an increase every year since a single nest was recorded in 1996 and 1997. As always, thanks to Dan Brauning for supplying the annual survey results. Two **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were observed in the Bellevue community

in HBG 5/5 (DH), but it seems the nesting colony may have moved to a section of Green St. in HBG, where as many as 11 were noted at two locations 5/29, with 8 nests between the two locations (DH, et al.). As pointed out by a few observers, this move may not be in the best interest of the Night-Herons. The Bellevue community was very supportive of the colony the past few years ... this sense of "community" may not exist in the Green St. neighborhoods. A **Plegadis sp.** (most likely a Glossy Ibis) was observed flying over the George Wade Bridge in HBG 5/2 (DH).

A **Mississippi Kite** was reported in Susquehanna Twp. near Linglestown Rd. the morning of 3/26 (EC), the bird was relocated a few hours later north of WL (RB). Another **Mississippi Kite** was in the same area just north of WL 4/13 (MF). A good count of eight **Bald Eagles** was made during the PSU Ornithological Field Trip to HI 3/18 (MB et al.). There were two observations of an adult **Bald Eagle** carrying nest material (hay or straw) in the vicinity of the HER Cemetery, the first 4/12 (GK) and the second 4/16 (S&RZ). This confirms a nearby nest site, along the Swatara Creek within the HIBA just below the cemetery, where one has been suspected for the past few years. **Bald Eagles** also returned to a previous nest site on the south end of TMI (MS), and another nest site was reported 3/16 on an island just south of the Sheetz on Rts. 11/15 (*fide* CK). There were two reports of immature **Golden Eagles**, the first was over the Hotel Hershey 3/14 (GK) and the second 4/7 at SGL 246 near MID (P&RW).

A **Merlin** was sighted in a Susquehanna Twp. neighborhood 3/15 (EB). The Rachel Carson Building **Peregrine Falcon** female laid four eggs from 3/8-15; two hatched by 4/17. The banding of the two young males took place 5/9, and the first attempts at flight were made by the young falcons the last week of May. After a few street rescues by volunteers, the two fledged successfully. On a sad note the adult female succumbed to an injury or illness, and was not seen since 5/22, placing an additional burden on the adult male Peregrine. The TMI peregrines fledged three this spring (MS).

American Coot was also present throughout the spring with reports from HI, various locations along the SR, and WL. The highest count was 85 on 3/25 at SRWF (RK). A **Sora** was observed at WL 5/10 (EB). An early **Lesser Yellowlegs** and 40 **Wilson's Snipe** were found on HI during the PSU Ornithological Class field trip 3/18 (MB, AL, et al.). The shallow waters at WL this spring exposed mud flats and provided opportunities for viewing **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary**, **Spotted**, and **Least Sandpiper** (m.ob.). The first report of **American Woodcock** came from EHT 3/20 (S&RZ). Ten **American Woodcock** were counted on a survey route on FIG land the evening 5/3 (DM, JDr), and one was found during the PAMC 5/12 in northern **Dauphin** (AZ).

A small flight of 12 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, the first of the season, were observed flying north 3/11 at SRHB (R&PW). Observations of Bonaparte's Gulls continued through 5/3, sometimes numbering a few dozen rather than the hundreds that have been reported in past years (m.ob.). Numbers of **Ring-billed Gull** dropped off earlier than usual. In Feb. and early March many observers reported hundreds or thousands, but by mid-March these numbers dropped dramatically. In past years the counts remained high into early April. This is the first year since 2002 that there were no reports of Little Gull along the SR. The first **Caspian Tern** was at SRWF 4/11 (TB). Two **Caspian Terns** were observed 4/12 at SRMV (BO). Others included one at SRHB 5/9 (DH) and another at SRFT 5/15 (EB). A single **Common Tern** was noted at SRMV 5/8 (RK). **Forster's Tern** was reported 4/2 at SRHB (CC), yet another new early date. **Forster's Tern** continued through 5/8 from various points along the SR (m.ob.).

Two **Barn Owls** were observed in southern **Dauphin** at an undisclosed location 3/16 (KK), and one was found while surveying nest boxes in Conewago Twp. 4/10 (TB, et al.). Our winter resident **Eastern Screech-Owl** in SHT departed 3/9, hopefully for a successful nesting season (P&RW). **Barred Owls** were noted to be quite active during evening surveys in late Apr and early May in FIG (DM, JDr). **Common Nighthawk** was first reported 4/30 from Susquehanna Twp. (EB). An impressive count of 32 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** was tallied during a survey through FIG the evening of 5/3 (DM, JDr). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found near the Hotel Hershey 5/3 (SR), and two were reported 5/21 at FIG nesting in a hole in an old telephone pole (DM, JDr).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported in Paxtang 5/10 (DH). A very early **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was observed atop BMT 4/13 (M&RB). A **Least Flycatcher** was reported in SHT 5/1 (JG) and on a walk at BBT 5/17 a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** and two **Least Flycatchers** were among the species found (EB). An **Alder Flycatcher** was observed 5/29 at FIG (DM, JDr). There were three reports of **Purple Martin** this spring; the first was of one at SRWF 4/27 (RK) and two were observed on the same date at SRMV (TB). The third report was of only one at SRHB 5/9 (DH). Both **Bank** and **Cliff Swallow** were also first noted at SRWF 4/27 and were among the more than 500 swallows, representing all six species found in this area, that were counted on that date (RK). **Cliff Swallow** returned to their nest site on the Clark's Ferry Bridge and were reported there 5/26 (CB). A **Red-**

breasted Nuthatch was reported 5/1 at Dauphin County Agri. Nat. Res. Center along Peter's Mt. Rd. (NM).

A singing male **Golden-winged Warbler** was observed on three occasions, 5/3, 5/21 and 5/23 at FIG (DM, JD, TB). A **Brewster's Warbler** was reported from the Hahn Rd. site in SCV 5/12 (DA), and another was observed at FIG 5/23 (DM, JD). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was found at the lower pond in the Bellevue neighborhood of HBG 5/5 (DH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** and four **Palm Warblers** were among the species reported at WL 4/3 (JB). The first report of **Cerulean Warbler** was from Dauphin County Agri. Nat. Res. Center along Peter's Mt. Rd. 5/1 (NM).

Two **Vesper Sparrows** were reported from fields along Rt. 743 south of HER 3/24 (KA). **Fox Sparrow** was noted in the compiler's yard in SHT 3/1, and up to 3 were seen or heard singing every day through 4/2 (P&RW). **White-crowned Sparrows** were on the move the first two weeks of May and were reported from feeders in SHT, WL, and other locations (EB, JG, P&RW et al.). **Blue Grosbeaks** returned to two locations in May. First was along Canal Rd. where a single male was observed 5/6 (TB) and again 5/13 (P&RW) and two were noted 5/24 (NM). The other was on FIG property, where a singing male was reported 5/7 and again 5/11 (DM, JDr). **Rusty Blackbird** was first reported at WL 3/14 and continued off and on through 4/28 (EB, et al.). A **Rusty Blackbird** was also observed near Steelton 3/23 (LC) and two were found at SRFH 3/28 (P&RW).

A very early **Indigo Bunting** was reported coming to feeders in SHT 4/7 (JG). There was an early sighting of a male **Baltimore Oriole** near the intersections of Interstates 81 and 83 in HBG 3/11 (J&BH). This bird may have wintered in the vicinity. One **Purple Finch** was reported near HUM 3/20 (PF), and two female **Purple Finches** visited feeders in SHT 4/7-15 (JG). **Purple Finch** was also reported atop BMT 4/10 (M&RB).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWpuffin@aol.com**, Kyle Aldinger, David Arrow, Paul Banks, Kathy Becker, Tim Becker, Ed Bernot, Chuck Berthoud, Scott Bills, Dan Brauning, Justin Bosler, Mary & Randy Brenner, Margaret Brittingham, Lou Carpenter, Chuck Chalfant, Ed Chubb, Dick Cleary, Jerrod Derr (JDr), Gordon Dimmig, Jim Dunn (JDu), Marc Faubel, Vern Gauthier, Jan Getgood, Don Gilbert, Deuane Hoffman, Jenni & Barry Horton, Chad Kauffman, Gary Kinkley, Ramsay Koury, Karl Kugle, Alex Lamoreaux, Evan Mann, Annette Mathes, Nate McKelvie, Dave McNaughton, Chris Markiewicz, Mark Markiewicz, Bill Oyler, Steve Rannels, Art Schiavo, Mark Sweigart, Patricia Williams, Martin Wilson, Judy & Dick Wright, Sally & Rich Zaino, Amos Zook.

Delaware County

Locations: Brandywine Conservancy-Chadds Ford (BC), Crum Reservoir (CR), Darby Creek watershed (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Earle's Lake (EL), 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), Thornbury Trail (TT), Tyler Arboretum (TY), Waterloo Mills-DelCo portion (WM).

After a few quiet years, the spring migration this year provided a better variety of migrants and—thanks to the warm weather early on—a few interesting early arrivals.

The first reported **Snow Geese** were 42 individuals at TT 3/2 (JM); high count was a flock of 200 over Swarthmore 3/17 (DE). Perhaps becoming more numerous in Delaware, up to 6 **Mute Swans** were on the DR 5/15 (AG). Additionally a single **Mute Swan** was found on a small lake in Lester 4/26 (AG). In an expected location were 7 **Ring-necked Ducks** at EL 3/2 and 3/14 (WS). Unusual was a first ever reported pair of **Ring-necked Ducks** on Ridley Park Lake 3/16 (NC). Very unusual was a male **Long-tailed Duck** on a small retention pond in Media 4/9-10 (SJ, m.ob.). Interestingly the presence of both of these species was accurately predicted in their respective weekly eBird migration reports, which advised they were both to be looked for in unexpected spots like small bodies of water. Other ducks of interest were **Lesser Scaup**, one on the DR 4/9 (AG) and 3 there 4/16 (AG), and single **Surf Scoters** on the DR 4/17 and 4/22 (AG).

Great Cormorant, a rare but regular visitor, was located on the DR 4/7 (AG). Increasingly hard to find, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Marcus Hook on the DR 5/12 (AG).

Just a few years ago the first **Delaware Osprey** nest in recent times was located at Harrah's Casino. Nick Pulcinella's *Birds of Delaware County* includes a record of an unsuccessful nesting attempt in Essington in 1935. This spring, 5 active nests were located along the DR, 4 in *Delaware* and one on the New Jersey side of the river visible from PHL (AG, DE). **Red-**

shouldered Hawks nested again at HF (DM). **Broad-winged Hawks** moved through as expected from the second week in April into the first week of May. There was no formal hawk watch so numbers were low. High counts were 8 at TT 4/27 (JM) and 11 at RCSP 4/28 (AG). A late outlier was at RCSP 5/30 (NP), a location where the species has been known to nest sporadically. A species of interest in southeastern Pennsylvania is **American Kestrel**; there were two reports of single birds at PHL 4/26 (AG, DE) and TY 4/14 (TR). After watching a **Bald Eagle** catch and devour a striped bass, AG looked up and saw 3 **Sandhill Cranes** circling high overhead on DR near PHL 5/7.

Shorebird reports were few. One **Semipalmated Plover** at TI 5/24 (DE) and one **Dunlin** along the DR 4/19 (AG) were the only species of any interest. There was one eBird report of **American Woodcock** from TI 4/9. After four consecutive years of success finding displaying **American Woodcock** at DT, none were found this season despite several attempts (DE). Found in high numbers and with unusual frequency were **Bonaparte's Gulls**. The earliest report was one bird at TI 4/12 (eBird) and then regularly on the DR 4/16-5/15 (AG). High count was 59 individuals at the DR 4/19 (AG). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found on the DR just before the arrival of a nor'easter 4/22 (AG). Not common in spring, a **Caspian Tern** was found on the DR 4/24 (AG).

There was a smattering of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** reported at SC 5/12 (TMCP) and RCSP 5/12, and 5/17 (AG). There is usually no more than one report of **Black-billed Cuckoo**; this year it was RCSP 5/12 (AG, BB). **Barred Owls** have been present at the same location on the Bridle Path in RCSP now for three consecutive springs. There has never been more than one individual reported at a time, or any other sign of nesting. The warm spring appeared to bring some first migrants in early. The first reported **Chimney Swifts** came from Swarthmore 4/15 (DE) and a flood of reports followed that date. The earliest record from the past five years was 4/14, and most first dates in this time period are 4/20 or later. First reported **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** in Swarthmore 4/24 (DE) was an average arrival.

Only one uncommon **Least Flycatcher** was found at RCSP 5/20 (DE, CL). There were no reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher this season. A pair of **Common Ravens** at DT 4/22, 4/26 (AG) and 4/29 (eBird) was the third sighting of this species at this location in the past two years and the first pair reported. The **Cliff Swallows** returned on time to the stables where they nest at RCSP 4/30 (AG). Rare this winter, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at RCSP 4/25 (AG). A **House Wren** at Glen Providence Park in Media 4/8 (AG) was about a week earlier than expected.

The count of warbler species tied the previous five-year high of 30 species. Highlights were **Worm-eating Warbler** at RCSP 5/13 (eBird), **Prothonotary Warbler** at Hoy's Pond at TI 5/25 (fide DM), several reports of **Tennessee Warbler** (DE, AG, eBird), only two reports of **Nashville Warbler** at RCSP 5/3 (AG, DE), 5/8 (AG), and single reports of **Mourning Warbler** from RCSP 5/12 (AG) and **Bay-breasted Warbler** at HC 5/6 (SJ). It was a good year for **Wilson's Warbler** with 2 individuals found 5/8, 2 on 5/12, and one 5/14 at RCSP (AG). Warm weather was presumably the cause of a very early **Louisiana Waterthrush** heard singing at DT 3/18 and 3/25 (DE). This 3/18 arrival was the earliest recorded on eBird in the state this year; this species usually does not arrive in *Delaware* until around 4/1.

Observers: **Dave Eberly, 112 S. Princeton Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081, (610) 543-3499, david.eberly@gmail.com**, Gary Becker, Brian Byrnes, Skip Conant, Nick Crocetto, Kevin Fryberger, Al Guarante, John Hand, Sheryl Johnson, Chris Langman, Doris McGovern, Tom McParland, Mariana Pesthy, Chris Pugliese, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Alice Sevareid, Win Shafer.

Elk County

A **Common Loon** was noted at the East Branch Clarion River Lake in Elk State Park 5/22 (AG). Two **Arctic Terns** were also found at the same location that day (AG). The birds were first seen at 17:00 and were observed for 30 minutes. The terns were noted to have stiff wing beats and the very uniform gray color on the upper wings. In profile the thin black trailing edge on the under wing primaries were noted. The birds had very dark, red bills and were bull-necked in flight; that is, the neck was short but thick. The breast also looked to be gray and not white as in Forster's Tern.

No Compiler. Report submitted by Al Guarante, owlguarante@yahoo.com.

Erie County

The unseasonably mild winter continued into March with record setting temperatures, which brought out foliage about a month earlier than normal.

In April, the weather cooled significantly, slowing the plant growth so that vegetation growth was about two weeks ahead of normal overall. This warm weather moved waterfowl and gulls out of the region very early; most birds had moved north before the spring reporting season even began. Some passerines arrived early, even some of the neo-tropical migrants, especially Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers. With trees fully leafed-out by the first week of May, it made it difficult for birders when migrants did arrive. It seemed the bulk of the passerine migration occurred during the first few weeks of May. Surprisingly, no rails were reported from the marshes of Presque Isle State Park. The number of vocalizing rails over the past few years has fallen unexpectedly low. Red-headed Woodpeckers that formally nested profusely on PISP, for some unknown reason, have apparently stopped nesting on the park over the past several years. This is despite the fact that they still nest at a few places not far from the park along the Lake Erie shore. This season included some exceptional rarities, such as Mississippi Kite (the first for the Presque Isle Hawk Watch) and a silent Kirtland's Warbler, which was seen by many and provided perhaps only the second photographically documented record for the state. The last few days of May brought very warm temperatures and strong southerly winds, which dumped a duo of rare waders side-by-side, a Snowy Egret and a Tricolored Heron. Ironically this same event occurred at the same location on May 29, 2006! The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PISP) unless noted otherwise.

A flock of 85 **Snow Goose**, including one blue, passed over the Fairview Business Park 3/3 (JM, EK, MW). Two **Cackling Geese** were among a large flock of Canada Geese at the Fairview Business Park from 3/3-10 (MV et al.). Very rare in spring was an **eider sp.**, believed to be a King or Common, that flew past Gull Point 3/7 (MW). A few **Surf Scoters** made an appearance from 3/1-31 with a total for that period around ten individuals (JM). On 5/2 there was a **Surf Scoter** off Niagara boat launch (WW). Up to seven **White-winged Scoters** were counted from 3/1-14 (JM). Up to four **Black Scoters** were visible off Beach 11 from 3/7-4/1 (MW, JM). Continuing from the winter season was the hybrid **Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser** in Marina Bay from 3/1-12 (JM).

The **Eared Grebe** spotted off Niagara boat launch 3/31 was quite exciting (MW). The season's total of 8 **American Bitterns** 4/15-5/15, mostly flying out of Niagara Pond, was a bit below what is expected in spring (m.ob.). Only two **Least Bitterns** were reported this season and both were from Dead Pond Trail (JM, RK). A total of a dozen **Great Egrets** were tallied this spring from 3/14 through May (CD, DS). A duo of rare herons, **Snowy Egret** and **Tricolored Heron**, were discovered standing side by side at times at Gull Point 5/27 (ST, DW). The **Snowy Egret** remained there until 5/30 while the **Tricolored Heron** stayed through to at least 5/31. Quite remarkable was the **Cattle Egret** that flew over the El Patio Motel near the head of PISP as RK was leaving his room 5/28. So, RK actually got to see all three rare herons on the same day! There were at least seven **Black-crowned Night-Herons** reported for the season at various sites on PISP from 5/2-28 (DS, DW).

It was a real thrill, and a splendid way to end the Presque Isle Hawk Watch season with a bang, when a **Mississippi Kite** passed high overhead 5/24 (JM, RD). Always rare in *Erie* were the three different **Golden Eagles** spotted flying over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 4/16, 4/26 and 5/12 (JM).

A record early **Virginia Rail** was heard in a swamp near Waterford 3/25 (JH). **Sandhill Cranes**, hardly noteworthy anymore, were fairly regular, especially over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 3/11-5/20 (m.ob.).

A single **Willet** was reported from Gull Point 5/4 (fide SS). An **Upland Sandpiper** flying over Fry's Landing 5/6 (MW) was an unusual place to find one. A single adult **Laughing Gull** made an appearance at Gull Point 5/28 (SC). Only two **Little Gulls** were seen this spring, one in Presque Isle Bay 3/29 and another 4/17 (JM). A first cycle **Thayer's Gull** showed well as it flew around Marina Bay 3/3 (EK). One **Iceland Gull** was present 3/10 (DW, ST). The only report of a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** this spring was one in Presque Isle Bay from 3/4-10 (JM). There were five **Glaucous Gulls** tallied between 3/3 and 5/27 in the surrounding waters of PISP (JM). Quite odd was an apparent leucistic first cycle **Great Black-backed Gull** from 5/28 to at least 5/31 (JM et al.). It had mostly white primaries, secondaries, and tail, with patches of white on the rest of the bird. Becoming harder and harder to find these days, two **Black Terns** were at Gull Point 5/7 (RSw).

Three **Long-eared Owls** were in the pines 3/14, 3/31, and 4/8 (MW, JM). Just one **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found and that was 3/15 (CD).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were earlier than expected this year with as many as four 5/6-28 (WW, et al.) A single **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was singing at Erie Bluffs S.P. 5/28 (WW). The **Northern Shrike** from the winter season at the Fairview Business Park continued through 4/7 (MW, MV). **Common Ravens** have become regular, but still quite rare in the county with a single bird seen near Wattsburg 5/16 (JH) and another in Venango Twp. 5/19 (WW).

A female **Golden-winged Warbler** was along Pine Tree Trail 5/9 (JM)

and a single bird was along French Creek near Wattsburg (JH). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was banded by WW 5/2 and another was seen 5/16 (JM). Probably the bird of the season was the male **Kirtland's Warbler** that showed well, though never sang a note, 5/22 at the sw. end of the channel along the railroad tracks in Erie (MW, et al.). It was seen and photographed by many, though only on the day it was found. The very rare **Worm-eating Warbler** was banded at Fry's landing 5/4 (WW) and another was found 5/16 also at Fry's Landing (RSt).

An immature male **Summer Tanager** in nearly complete molt was well seen and photographed by more than 100 birders on the day of "The Festival of the Birds" event 5/13 (SC, et al.). **Clay-colored Sparrows** made their annual spring appearance with a total of three birds found for the season from 5/8-15 (DS, DW, CR). A single singing **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at SGL 314 on 5/31 (JF). A male **Oregon Dark-eyed Junco** was photographed in Beach 11 parking lot 3/25 (MF).

Quite a surprise was the female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** flying with a Common Grackle that passed the Presque Isle Hawk Watch within a hundred feet or so 3/20 (JM, RS). The **Common Redpoll** at a feeder in Waterford 3/15 was the only one reported this spring (CG). **Pine Siskins** were still being reported at feeders in Erie until late May.

Observers: Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd. Erie, PA, 16508-2129, (814) 868-3059, jerrymcw@aol.com, Shawn Collins, Cory DeStein, Roger Donn, Jim Flynn, Michele Franz, Chuck Gehringer, James Hill III, Ramsay Koury, Ed Kwatek, Cameron Rutt, Don Snyder, Russ States, Randy Stringer (RSt), Sam Stull, Ruth Swaney (RSw), Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass, Walter Wehtje, Mike Weible, Dave Wilton.

Fayette County

A trip to Greenlick Run Lake 3/31 resulted in the following: 25 **Gadwall**, 8 **American Wigeon**, 2 **Green-winged Teal**, a **Redhead**, 2 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 8 **Lesser Scaup**, 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 18 **Bufflehead**, a **Red-breasted Merganser**, 35 **Ruddy Ducks**, 5 **Pied-billed Grebes** and 5 **Horned Grebes** (ST). Six **Common Mergansers** were near Confluence 5/12 (ML).

An impressive total of 60 **Wild Turkeys** was made in eastern Fayette along Clay Run Road 3/12 (SK). A **Common Loon** was at Lake Courage near Wharton 4/9 (LD). Four were at Greenlick Run Lake during a late winter snowstorm 4/23 (MF) and one was there 5/12 (DM). A **Great Egret** was at Jacob's Creek Environmental Center 5/9 (JL). An **Osprey** was at Greenlick Run Lake 3/31 (ST) and one flew over SGL 51 on 5/1 (CD). Four **American Woodcock** were found at SGL 51 on 3/10 (ST). Six **Bonaparte's Gulls** and a **Forster's Tern** were at Greenlick Run 3/31 (ST).

Although owls are resident, few reports are received. Single **Eastern Screech-Owl** and **Great Horned Owls** were found during the PAMC 5/12 in the Confluence area (ML). Another **Eastern Screech-Owl** was at SGL 51 that day (AC). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was near Hopwood 5/23 (ER via ebird). Four **Common Nighthawks** were seen in Connellsville 5/12 (AC). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at Lemont Furnace 5/7 (KD via ebird). **Purple Martins** were at Farmington 4/21 (LD). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at SGL 51 on 5/3 (CD) and one was in the Confluence area 5/12 (ML). Two **Hermit Thrushes** were at SGL 51 on 5/1 (CD).

Warblers seen at SGL 51 on 5/1 included **Golden-winged Warbler** (seen here last year), **Yellow Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, **Kentucky Warbler** and **Hooded Warbler** (CD). A **Pine Warbler** and a **Palm Warbler** were in Farmington 4/21 (LD). During the migration count 5/12 the following warblers were seen in the Confluence area: a **Black-and-white Warbler**, 2 **Tennessee Warblers**, a **Nashville Warbler**, 4 **Magnolia Warblers**, a **Hooded Warbler**, an **American Redstart** and a **Mourning Warbler** (ML). It has been some years since a report of Mourning Warbler was made in the county, if at all. Four **Kentucky Warblers** were tallied at SGL 51 on 5/12 (AC) and a **Cerulean Warbler** was seen at Laurel Ridge State Park (DN). A **Northern Waterthrush** was at Ohiopyle State Park 5/12 (AC).

A **White-crowned Sparrow** and two **Bobolinks** were found near Confluence 5/12 (ML).

Observers: Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net, Mark Bowers, Annie Crary, Cory DeStein, Kathy Detweiler, Larry Durgin, Steve Gosser, Paul Hess, Scott Kinzey, Mike Lanzone, Joey Loucks, Donna Mohney, Dick Nugent, EJ Regula, Shannon Thompson.

Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Beaver Meadows (BM), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Neilltown (NE), Red Brush (RB), Tionesta Creek (TC), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake (TL).

There is an unusual abundance of species in this report, particularly waterfowl and warblers. This is most likely not because of more birds, but more birders. Thanks to all the folks who banded in Forest and reported their sightings on eBird.

Sixty **Tundra Swans** were seen 3/1 overhead near TI (FM, JM). Four **Wood Duck** were 4/1 at TC, and a single **Gadwall** was found 5/12 at BS (FM, JM). There were 4 **American Wigeon** 3/11 at BS (TR). **American Black Duck** were seen from 2/7 at TI (FM, JM) through 3/11 at BS (TR). **Ring-necked Duck** were observed at BS from 3/11 (TR) through 5/12 (FM, JM), 11 **Greater Scaup** and 3 **Bufflehead** were spotted 4/4 at TL (SC), 4 **Hooded Mergansers** were seen 3/11 at BS (TR), and 10 were found 4/5 at TI (FM, JM), and a single **Ruddy Duck** was observed 4/4 at TI (SC).

Common Loons were reported at TI from 3/26 (DM) through 5/12 (FM, JM) and a single **Pied-billed Grebe** was present 5/12 at BS (FM, JM). Four **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted 5/12 at BS (FM, JM). An **American Bittern** sighting was a nice addition to the PAMC 5/12 at BM (JM, FM). Several **Great Blue Herons** were reported, the first arrival 4/4 at TL (SC). The first **Turkey Vulture** was 3/13 near TI (FM, JM). Two **Ospreys** were present 5/12 at BS (FM, JM). There were several **Bald Eagle** sightings. The first **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen 3/18 at BM and the first **Broad-winged Hawk** 4/20 near Marienville (FM, JM).

Four **American Coots** were noted 5/5 at TL (DG) and one 5/12 at BS (FM, JM). Three **American Woodcock** were found 3/15 near NE (WD). A single **Common Tern** was circling 5/12 above the Allegheny River near TI (FM, JM).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported 5/11 at RB, and **Black-billed Cuckoo** 5/12 at TC (FM, JM). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard 5/12 at RB, the first **Chimney Swifts** were noted 5/12 at TI, and the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** 5/6 near TI (FM, JM). Earliest report of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was 4/1 at TC (FM, JM); an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was noted 5/25 at German Hill (T&JK); first report of **Acadian Flycatcher** was 5/12 at Nebraska (FM, JM). **Alder Flycatchers** were present 5/22 at BS (AG) and 5/25 at Nebraska (T&JK). Early date for **Eastern Phoebe** was 3/17 near NE, where a **Great Crested Flycatcher** was observed 5/12 (WD). A **White-eyed Vireo** was a good find 5/22 at BS (AG). First **Blue-headed Vireo** was noted 5/3 on Jughandle Road (FM, JM). A **Warbling Vireo** was spotted 5/12 at TI (FM, JM). First date for **Red-eyed Vireo** was 5/5 near NE (WD). **Tree Swallows** were first noted 4/4 at TL (SC); **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, 4/29 at TL; **Cliff Swallows**, 5/3 at Kellettsville; **Barn Swallows** 5/11 at RB (FM, JM). The early date for **House Wren** was 5/12 at Nebraska (FM, JM). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were first reported 4/25 at TL (FM, JM). **Veery** was first found 5/12 at TC (FM, JM); **Wood Thrush**, 5/5 at NE (WD). **Gray Catbirds** returned 4/18 to TI (FM, JM). Two **Brown Thrashers** were noted 5/20 at NE (JL).

Ovenbird was reported 5/5, and **Louisiana Waterthrush** 5/10 near NE (WD). **Northern Waterthrush** was first spotted 5/12 at RB (FM, JM). Three **Blue-winged Warblers** were noted 5/5 near NE (WD). Four **Black-and-white Warblers** were found 5/12 at RB, as well as a single **Nashville Warbler** near Marienville, and two **Mourning Warblers** at RB (FM, JM). **Common Yellowthroat** was first observed 5/3 at TL; **Hooded Warbler** 5/6 at ANF (FM, JM). The earliest report of **American Redstart** was 5/5 near NE (WD). The first **Northern Parula** was 4/29 at TI; first **Magnolia Warbler** 5/3 in a back yard near TI (FM, JM). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was a nice find 5/10 near NE (WD). **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Yellow Warbler**, and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were first noted 5/3 at TL (FM, JM). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was reported 5/6 near NE (WD). A **Pine Warbler** was seen 4/25 at the Tionesta Lake Outflow (FM, JM). Three **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were present 4/4 near Guitonville (SC). Early date for **Black-throated Green Warbler** was 5/3, on Jughandle Road; for **Canada Warbler**, 5/11 at RB (FM, JM).

The first **Eastern Towhee** was noted 3/23 near TI (FM, JM). Late date for **American Tree Sparrows** was 3/11, when 4 were seen at BS (TR). The first **Chipping Sparrow** was spotted 3/23 near TI, the first **Field Sparrow** 4/4 near TI, and the first **Savannah Sparrow** 5/12 at RB (FM, JM). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found 5/20 near NE (JL). **Fox Sparrows** were observed from 3/23 near TI (FM, JM) through 4/6 at Cook Forest (ST). The first **Song Sparrow** was noted 3/11 at BS (TR). A **Swamp Sparrow** was reported 5/12 at BS (FM, JM). **White-throated Sparrows** were seen from 4/4 near Guitonville Road (SC) through 4/29 near TI (FM, JM). Last date for **White-crowned Sparrow** was 5/10 near TI (FM, JM).

Scarlet Tanager was first reported 5/5 at TL (DG). The earliest **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was spotted 4/29 near TI, and the first **Indigo Bunting**

5/5 near TI (FM, JM). Three **Bobolinks** were seen 5/5 near NE (WD). **Red-winged Blackbirds** were first noted 2/22 near TI (FM, JM). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was present 4/4 along Rt. 36 south of TI (SC). A **Common Grackle** was found 3/3 near TI (FM, JM). Three **Baltimore Orioles** were observed 5/3 at TL (FM, JM).

Observers: Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net, Shawn Collins, William DelGrande, Al Guarente, Delia Guzman, Rob Hodgson, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Josh Lefever, Dan Lehman, Jim McGuire, Dan Molitoris, Richard Nugent, Theo Rickert, Shannon Thompson, David Yeany II.

Franklin County

Locations: Bender's Pond (BP), Caledonia Area (CA), Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Kriner's Holding Pond (KP), Long Lane Road (LL), Menno Haven Creekside Trail (MH), Mont Alto Area (MA), Shady Grove Area (SG) and Stillhouse Hollow Road (SH).

A number of **Tundra Swans** were present at GR and BP in early May. Ducks arrived in rather small numbers, but most species made a brief stopover in the county. No loon species were reported this spring. **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes** were at BP and KP with one **Horned Grebe** staying at KP until 5/19 (CG). A **Least Bittern** was briefly seen 5/19 at BP and an **American Bittern** 3/31 (BO).

A second **Bald Eagle** nest was confirmed in the county near Pleasant Hall, where one bird fledged. The eagle nest near Greencastle (which was the first confirmed site in the county in 2011) fledged two eaglets this year. A third pair of **Bald Eagles** built a nest near Fayetteville but did not have a successful year.

Many shorebirds were observed from Apr until mid-May, particularly at KP, LL, and GR. Some noteworthy sightings were **Black-bellied** and **American Golden Plovers**, **Western Sandpipers**, and **Dunlin**.

The **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were reported at several locations around SG, where nesting sites were confirmed as well. They have been in SG since 1998. Several **Barn Owls** were also successful nesters this spring near St. Thomas and south of SG in farm buildings. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard singing 4/14 in SH and later near Edenville.

Five species of swallows (all except Cave Swallow) were observed at GR sitting on a power line in April (CG). Most of the vireos, thrushes and warblers reported were thanks to the relentless birding of BO at various locations, particularly at MH and CA. Some birds of note were **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Swainson's Thrush**, **Golden-winged Warblers**, a **Lawrence's Warbler** (seen by several birders in lower Horse Valley), and **Northern Waterthrush**.

Good numbers of **Blue Grosbeaks**, **Dickcissels**, and **Bobolinks** were reported northwest of Chambersburg and near Edenville. A **Lesser Goldfinch** was observed by seven birders near Shady Grove at a feeder 4/9. It was first observed and photographed by 13:30 (DG) and later observed by several others (CG, BK, BO, R&MC, EM). It was present until 19:00. Unfortunately it was not seen after 4/9, to the disappointment of many birders who had come early on 4/10 and 4/11 to see it.

Observers: Dale L. Gearhart, 1872 Burkholder Rd., P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA, 17256, (717) 860-5799, dgearhart01@comcast.net, Valerie Barnes, Robert and Marion Carmack, Carl Garner, Donna Hocker, Bob Keener, Ed Martin, Bill Oyler, Dan Snell.

Fulton County

A total of 109 species plus one hybrid were noted 5/15, including one **Common Merganser** at Redbud, a **Great Egret** at Forbes Trail Road Pond, a **Brewster's Warbler** at the Knobsville Tract, a **Blue Grosbeak** along Beatty Rd., and 3 **Dickcissels** and 2 **Henslow's Sparrows** on Mountain Road (DS).

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

Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Enlow Fork SGL 302 (EF), Franklin Township (FT), Garards Fort Wetlands (GF), Hunting Hills (HH), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Sycamore (SY).

Wood Ducks made their appearance at EV 3/10 (MH). A pair of **Northern Shovelers** was located 4/20 at GF (KK, MH). **Lesser Scaup** were found at Lake Wilma 4/6 (MH) and **Hooded Merganser** was seen 3/12 at pond in FT (JH). Three **Common Mergansers** and a **Common Loon** were found at Lake Wilma 5/12 (LA, MH). The early morning **Wild Turkey** parade continued daily at LCR (MLP). On 4/3, two **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted at a pond in FT (JH). **Double-crested Cormorant** appeared at Claylick 5/4 (R&LA). **Great Egret** was reported 4/8 on Hoover Run in Wayne Twp. (TC) and again 4/11 at GF (AC).

An **Osprey** was observed at the annual Wildflower Walk at EF 4/29 (MH). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at RBF 5/19 (RKB) and the first **Broad-winged Hawk** was noted at EF 4/29 (MH). **American Kestrel** arrived 3/11 at RBF where they annually nest and where banding of the young is always a highlight on the annual May farm walk, but this year nesting was early and the young were already too old to band in May (RKB).

An interesting sighting 3/31 from SY was reported by JC: "While getting ready to go away an **American Coot** flew into the driveway and under my son's car. My other son arrived and shot it (with his camera) before it walked across the yard to some brush. It looked lost." One **Spotted Sandpiper** was found at HH 5/5 (SS) and a **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at EF 4/29. A real treat was a **Wilson's Snipe** at SY 3/30 (JC).

The earliest **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was noted 4/25 at SY (JC) and **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found 5/12. The first **Chimney Swifts** arrived 4/16 at RBF (RKB). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted at RBF 4/19 (RKB). A pair of **Belted Kingfishers** was noted chasing each other in creek at EV 3/16 (MH). A nice surprise at a feeder in Waynesburg 4/23 was a **Red-headed Woodpecker** (BW).

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was heard 5/6 in FT (KK). The earliest reported **Acadian Flycatcher** was on 5/6. At HH three **Alder Flycatcher** were noted 5/5 (SS). The first **Willow Flycatcher** was noted on the PAMC. On 3/3 at RY the first **Eastern Phoebe** was noted (MD). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was first observed at RBF 5/3 (RKB). The first sighting of **Eastern Kingbird** was 4/16 at LCR (MLP). A **White-eyed Vireo** was first noted at LCR 4/25 (MLP). The annual EF wildflower/bird walk on 4/29 yielded the first **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Warbling Vireo**, but **Blue-headed Vireo** was not seen until the PAMC. **Red-eyed Vireo** was first sighted in Morgan Twp. 4/20 (KK & MH). On 3/17, **Purple Martins** returned to FT (CH), arriving this year earlier than **Tree Swallows**, which were first reported 4/6 (MH). The **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** turned up 4/6 at Lake Wilma (MH), and **Barn Swallows** showed up 4/1 (KK).

The last reported **Brown Creeper** was noted 4/7 at EF (KSJ). **House Wrens** showed up at SY 5/2 (JC). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was first reported 4/20 (KK). A **Wood Thrush** returned 3/31 in Jackson Twp. (JB). **Gray Catbirds** were found 4/29 at EF (MH). The earliest **Brown Thrasher** was noted 4/1 at SY (JC). **Cedar Waxwings** were first reported 5/12 (JC).

Ovenbird was first found in FT 4/26 (KK). At EF on 4/29 **Blue Winged Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, **American Redstart**, and **Cerulean Warbler** were all first noted. The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** was heard along Big Shannon Run in Perry Twp. 3/25 (MLP). A **Brewster's Warbler** was found in Washington Twp. 5/12 (JC). **Tennessee Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, and **Blackpoll Warbler** were all first noted during the PAMC. The first **Kentucky Warbler** was found in FT 5/1 (KK). **Common Yellowthroat** was observed 4/22 and **Northern Parula** was heard 4/20 (KK). In Jackson Twp. the first of the season **Magnolia Warbler** was found 5/12 (MM). **Blackburnian Warbler** was first noted 5/12 and one remained at SY making daily visits to the pine tree until 5/31 (JC). **Yellow Warbler** showed up at EV 4/19 (MH) and **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found 4/1 (KK). **Yellow-breasted Chat** arrived 5/7 on Whites Ridge (MH).

Chipping Sparrows came to LCR 3/19 (MLP). The first **Field Sparrow** was reported on Whites Ridge 3/18 (MH). **Savannah Sparrow** was first heard on Goslin Rd 4/20 (MH, KK). During the morning of the PAMC in FT a **Grasshopper Sparrow** was heard singing (MH). **Swamp Sparrow** was spotted 3/3 at Ryerson SP (MD). The last **White-throated Sparrow** was noted 5/12 in Jackson Twp. (MM), and the last **White-crowned Sparrow** was noted the same day in Morris Twp. (AS). The **Dark-eyed Juncos** were last noted at EV 4/11 (MH).

Scarlet Tanager arrived 4/26 at FT (KK). In Morgan Twp. a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** showed up 4/20 (MH, KK). On 4/30 an **Indigo Bunting** was first noted at SY (JC). **Bobolinks** were first heard 4/19 at RBF (CDB). **Brown-headed Cowbird** was noted at feeder in EV 3/29 (MH). An **Orchard Oriole** was first observed 4/28 at SY (JC) and the first **Baltimore Oriole** was at EF 4/29 (MH). **Purple Finches** were last seen in Jackson Twp. 5/12 (BC).

Observers: Marjorie Howard 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 852-3155, birdwatcher108@comcast.net, Ron & Lyn Argent

(R&LA), C. David Bell (CDB), Ralph K. Bell (RKB), Jane Bonner (JB), Roberta Boyd, Judy Cholak, Al Churney (AC), Jan Churney (JC), Diane Clark, Terry Cole (TC), Bobbi Cressey (BC), Michael David (MD), Terry Dayton (TD), Al Deynzer (AD), Myra Gibson, John & Natalie Greenlee, Chris Haines (CH), Jerry Howard (JH), Pat Hutcheson, Kathy Kern, Mary LaPlante (MLP), Mick McVay, Marjorie Moffatt (MM), Jean Scott, Atilia Shumaker (AS), Sally Sisler (SS), Kate St. John (KSJ), Bill Wentzel (BW), Jerry Wolfe.

Huntingdon County

Locations: Aitch Access (AA), Ennisville (ENN), Lake Perez (LP), Lake Raystown (LR), Lower Trail at Alexandria (LT), Marklesburg waterfowl area (MAR), Masseyburg (MAS), McAlevys Fort (McF), Old Crow wetland (OC), Petersburg (PT), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch (TMHW), Whipple Dam SP (WD).

The spring of 2012 was warm—extremely so in March, almost average in April, and well above average in May. Dry conditions prevailed through March and most of April, but typical wet spring weather dominated in May.

Waterfowl were below average, with many geese and ducks probably pushing north quickly given the mild conditions. Some **Long-tailed Ducks** put down on LR 3/31 with reports of 22 (DW) and 26 (DK) at separate locations. The only scoter was a single **White-winged Scoter** at LR 3/31 (GG, DK, TK). A nice count of 30 **Hooded Mergansers** was made at LR 4/15 (CE). JC saw one male, two female, and 17 young **Common Mergansers** on Stone Creek near ENN 5/12, a known breeding location. Forty **Ruddy Ducks** were tallied at AA 3/31 (DK).

A **Red-throated Loon** was at LR 3/25 (JK) and 64 **Common Loons** put down there during a storm 5/8 (DK). Sixty **Horned Grebes** provided an excellent count at MAR 3/24 (JK).

American Bitterns, rare but annual, were found at AA 4/15 (JK) and 5/5 (DW) and also at OC 5/3 (DW). Not recorded annually, a **Least Bittern** was at OC for the second consecutive year, found 5/8 (DK). The **Great Blue Heron** colony in the *Huntingdon* portion of Kishacaquillls (aka Big) Valley was active with at least 13 nests apparently occupied. There were several reports of **Great Egret**, with a high of 3 at OC 4/27 (GG, JK, IG). Two **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were at LP 4/3 (AS) and one 5/4 (JK). A **Virginia Rail** was at AA 5/5 (DW). The most notable bird of the spring was a **White-faced Ibis** found and photographed at OC 5/3 (DK, TK). The photographs are convincing; pending acceptance by P.O.R.C., this would provide the second record for the state. Unfortunately, attempts to relocate the bird later the same day and the next were unsuccessful.

The spring on Tussey Mt. was exciting again this year. Many thanks to this season's enthusiastic counter, Adam Sell. The **Golden Eagle** total was 212, the second highest count since the watch became full time in 2001. Highest counts were 32 on 3/1, 19 on 3/2, and 21 on 3/7. From the start of the count in late Feb through 3/22, at least one Golden Eagle passed the watch each day. A **Swainson's Hawk** flew over 4/14, the third ever there (NB, CW). The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** tally was 245, a good number for the spring at Tussey. Other good counts included 506 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 750 **Broad-winged Hawks**, of which 480 passed 4/15-16.

The most notable shorebird of the season was a **Black-bellied Plover** at Pennsylvania Furnace 5/15 (JK, GG). **Pectoral Sandpipers** are not reported annually, but several were found this spring, including singles at OC 4/20 (DK) and at LP 4/15 and 5/5 (GG, JK).

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at OC 4/23 provided the third record for the county (GG). The peak count of **Bonaparte's Gulls** was 40 at LR 4/7 (DK). Single **Caspian Terns** were at LR 4/15 (CE) and OC 4/23 (GG). The only **Forster's Terns** were at WD 3/31 (AS), an unusually early date, and one at LP 5/10 (GG, JK).

A **Barn Owl** was seen at SCEC 4/13 (JK). A **Long-eared Owl** was heard at ENN 5/12, near a known winter roost (DW). **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were found in several locations, including 5 during one outing in Rothrock SF near WD 5/15 (DB, NBu). The only **Common Nighthawk** was seen over Colerain Rd. 5/12 (JK). **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, always hard to find, were reported near McF 5/4 (DW) and PT 5/12 (JK). A **Marsh Wren** was at OC 4/28 (IG, et al.).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found at MAS 5/5 (DW). A **Mourning Warbler** was on Bunn Mt. Rd. 5/26 (JK). **Kentucky Warblers** are rare breeders in the county; one was found near PT 5/6 (DK) and another in Rocky Ridge Natural Area 5/13 (JK). During an afternoon bike ride on the LT (partly in Blair), NB tallied 25 singing **Cerulean Warblers** 5/5 (NB). Unusual away from the Juniata R., a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at SCEC 5/23, but apparently did not stay.

Another first for the county was a **Clay-colored Sparrow**, also at OC 5/1 (DK). It stayed a few more days. The female **Bullock's Oriole** that came

to the Hamilton's feeders in Feb was last reported 3/7 (m.ob.). The highest count of **Bobolinks** was 35 at OC 5/8 (DK). Six **Rusty Blackbirds** were at AA 3/2 (DK). A flock of about 16 **Common Redpolls** were seen at TMHW 3/1 (AS).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, gwg2@psu.edu**, Diane Biery, Nick Bolgiano, Nan Butkovich (NBu), John Clickner, Carl Engstrom, Ian Gardner, Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Adam Sell, Doug Wentzel, Chuck Widmann.

Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Lewisville (LV), Margus Lake (ML), Rochester Mills (RM), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TL), Yellow Creek (YC).

By 3/20 (LC, MH, GL, ML) **Canada Geese** were already on nest at YC. At least 100 geese were feeding in the fields along Rt. 422 near SH 4/1 (MH, RH). A **Mute Swan** was found at TL 3/13 (SK, ShK); another, or possibly the same bird, was at YC 3/27 (LC, TG, MH, GL) through 5/3 (LC). A late **Tundra Swan** at YC 4/17 (LC, TG, MH, KT) was the only one noted this season. March 2 was the arrival date for the first 2 **Wood Ducks** at YC (LC, MH). The top count of 27 **Gadwalls** occurred at ML 3/13 (SK, ShK). Ten **American Wigeons** arrived at YC 3/3 (LC) where the peak count of 66 was reached three days later (LC, MH); last seen were 16 on 4/17 (LC, TG, MH, KT). **Mallard** maxima included 72 at YC 3/3 (LC) and 85 near LV 3/15 (MC); first 5 **Mallard** ducklings were noted 5/22 (CA, LC, TG, MH, GL, JM, MS) during a pontoon ride at YC. First **Blue-winged Teal** were 2 on ML 3/17 (ST); the high YC tally was 14 on 4/15 (LC); last noted was a singleton at YC 5/8 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT). After a late February passage, one to 5 **Northern Shovelers** stopped at YC between 3/2 (MM) and 4/24 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT). Thirty-eight **Northern Pintails** were tallied 3/3 (LC) at YC where 4 lingered through 3/6 (LC, MH). Top count of 17 **Green-winged Teal** was achieved 3/13 (LC, MH) at YC; a singleton remained there through 5/1 (MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY). Ten **Canvasbacks** were still present at YC 3/3 (LC), and last noted was a singleton 4/26 (LC). Four **Redheads** arrived 3/10 (RM) at YC; 8 were listed on ML 3/17 (ST); YC's last was sighted 4/24 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT). Top **Ring-necked Duck** count was 341 at YC 3/3 (LC); one near Tide 4/26 (LC) was the last reported. First **Greater Scaup** were 8 on 3/6 (LC, MH) at YC where the last were found 4/26 (LC). Best **Lesser Scaup** tally of 168 was obtained 3/24 (LC, TG, MH, RH, SS, JT); one individual lingered at YC through 5/15 (LC, TG, MH, RN, JT). An immature drake **Surf Scoter**, a nice find at YC on the joint 3RBC-TBC outing 4/7, remained on the lake through 4/17 (LC, TG, MH, KT). Five **Long-tailed Ducks** arrived at YC 3/24 (LC, TG, MH, RH, SS, JT), and 2 were sighted 3/31 (FOP, TBC). An amazing 761 **Buffleheads** were counted at YC 3/24 (LC, TG, MH, RH, SS, JT); last noted were 4 at YC and 3 near Tide, both 4/26 (LC). **Hooded Merganser** counts included 18 at YC and 12 at TL on 3/3 (LC). Unusual were 13 **Common Mergansers** still on YC Lake 4/29 (NB, KB); a drake **Common Merganser** was spotted at North Point 5/12 (MM, NS, PS). Eight **Red-breasted Mergansers** first appeared at YC 3/6 (LC, MH); YC maxima included 79 on 4/11 (EF, MF, MH, et al.) and 113 on 4/15 (LC); last individual was spotted at YC 5/22 (CA, LC, TG, MH, GL, JM, MS). Five **Ruddy Ducks** were first arrivals at YC 3/13 (LC, MH); peak number of 180 occurred 4/17 (LC, TG, MH, KT). Five **Ruddies** were spotted at Hemlock Lake 5/12 (MH, RH, DL) and another drake remained at YC through the end of the period.

Ruffed Grouse were noted at ten locations this period (m.ob.). A **Red-throated Loon** was a nice surprise on the 3/27 (LC, TG, MH, GL) outing at YC, which on 4/9 (EF, TF, TG) yielded another. March 24 (LC, TG, MH, RH, SS, JT) marked the arrival of the first **Common Loon** at YC. A **Common Loon** first spotted on Dragonfly Pond 5/12 (GL, GS) had many of us worried that the pond is not large enough for take-off as it remained there through the end of May. High counts of both **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Horned Grebes** (69 and 47 respectively) occurred 3/24 (LC, TG, MH, RH, SS, JT); last respective sightings occurred on 5/8 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT) at YC and 5/12 (MH, RH, DL) at Hemlock Lake. Four **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared 3/20 (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML) at YC where numbers peaked at 46 on 4/10 (TG, MH, RN, KT) and 41 on 5/8 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT). Two **Great Egrets** visited ML 4/28 (CL, GL). A **Green Heron** returned to YC 4/17 (LC, TG, MH, KT).

After a late February arrival, 12 **Turkey Vultures** were sighted 3/7 (GL, GS) near TL, where they have frequently congregated in the past, and an equal number soared over Nolo 3/15 (GL). **Osprey** moved through Indiana between 3/28 (MM) and 5/12 (MH, RH, DL). **Bald Eagles** were listed at YC sporadically throughout the season with reports of a pair plus a year-old bird (m.ob.). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were listed at seven locations during the

period (m.ob.) and **Cooper's Hawks**, at 10. An early **Broad-winged Hawk** was noted at Iselin 4/7 (JK, TK). A **Merlin** near Covode 3/31 (KD) was the only one noted this spring.

Numbers of **American Coot** started to build in early March; by 3/17 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL) 149 were counted. One month later on 4/17 (LC, TG, MH, KT) 264 were tallied. On 5/12 (GL, GS) only one remained on the lake.

Mud in Little Yellow Cove at YC waxed and waned depending upon the amount of rainfall received during the week. First **Semipalmented Plover** arrived 5/26 (KT) at YC and was still present the following day (KT); 3 were spotted there 5/29 (LC, DC, SD, TG, MH, EH, KT). The first **Killdeer** young were spotted 5/25 (MH) near SH. **Spotted Sandpipers** arrived first on 4/21 (LC) at YC, and 4/23 (RH) at the Uriling mine drainage treatment pond near SH; the PAMC yielded a total of 18 (m.ob.) in the county. First **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen at YC 4/12 (MVT); 2 were found on the Cheese Run Pond 4/20 (GL), 2 on IUP's South Campus 5/1 (JT), 2 on the Waterworks Conservation Wetland 5/12 (SD). Last noted was one at YC 5/26 (KT). **Greater Yellowlegs** passed through YC between 4/3 (LC, SD, TG, MH, GL, MVT) and 5/9 (LC, TG, MH, GL) with counts up to 4; 2 visited the Uriling mine drainage treatment pond near SH 4/23 (RH). With reports on six dates, observers noted up to 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** between 4/17 (LC, TG, MH, KT) and 5/29 (LC, DC, SD, TG, MH, EH, KT). One **Semipalmented Sandpiper** 5/29 (LC, DC, SD, TG, MH, EH, KT) was the only one noted. **Least Sandpipers**, recorded only at YC, migrated through between 4/7 (3RBC, TBC) and 5/27 (KT); high count was a mere 6 on 4/21 (LC). Three **Pectoral Sandpiper** reports were received, all at YC: 3 on 4/9 (GL), 2 on 4/21 (LC), and 4 on 4/24 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT). YC harbored **Dunlin** on five dates between 4/3 (LC, SD, TG, MH, GL, MVT) and 4/24 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT) with high tally of 8 on 4/17 (LC, TG, MH, KT). **Wilson's Snipe** were detected at YC on ten dates between 3/20 (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML) and 5/1 (MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY); best tallies include 13 on 3/24 (LC, TG, MH, RH, SS, JT) and 10 on 4/7 (3RBC, TBC). IUP's South Campus yielded 2 on 4/19 (JT) and 3 on 5/1 (JT). Best **American Woodcock** counts include 5 at YC 3/17 (ST) and 3 at West Lebanon 5/12 (EF, MF).

Large flocks of **Bonaparte's Gulls** visited YC this spring with reports on 17 dates. Maxima included 93 on 3/20 (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML), 184 on 3/24 (LC, TG, MH, RH, SS, JT), and 88 on 4/18 (ED, SD, CH, MH, SL); 5/8 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT) marked the passage of the last migrant. Top counts of **Ring-billed Gulls** included 118 on 3/24 (LC, TG, MH, RH, SS, JT) and 63 on 4/3 (LC, SD, TG, MH, GL, MVT). Single **Herring Gulls** were noted on two dates at YC: 3/17 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL) and 4/11 (EF, MF, MH et al.). A well-studied immature **Great Black-backed Gull** on 5/15 (LC, TG, MH, RN, JT) provided a first county record. Four **Caspian Terns** stopped at YC 4/11 (EF, MF, MH et al.); 2 were found 4/21 (LC), and last noted was one 5/1 (MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY). **Forster's Terns** were listed at YC on ten dates between 3/31 (FOP, TBC) and 5/11 (MH, DL, KT); highs included 85 on 5/1 (MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY) and 25 on 5/8 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT).

First **Black-billed Cuckoos** were sighted 5/4 (MH) at BS and 5/5 (MH, RH) near SH while the first **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** surfaced 5/12 both on Reservoir Hill (PJ) and near Plumville (MMo). **Great Horned Owls** were reported from four locations; **Barred Owls**, from five (m.ob.). A **Common Nighthawk** flew over a pond near SH 5/12 (EDo); 5/22 produced two nighthawk reports: one on the 04:00 pontoon ride (CA, LC, TG, GL, JM, MS) and the other near LV (MC) that evening. Three **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at West Lebanon 5/12 (EF, MF). Three **Chimney Swifts** returned to White Twp. 4/16 (MH). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were sighted 5/1 (MC) near LV, 5/3 (MA) near Creekside, and 5/5 (AB, DB) at the higher elevation of Nolo. Sometimes it pays to be poky... after most of the outing's participants had left YC 4/24, two of us were treated to the sight of a striking adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** that we observed for more than 20 minutes. Single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** stopped at YC on three dates: 4/7 (3RBC, TBC), 4/10 (TG, MH, RN, KT), and 5/18 (SC, CG, MH, RH, ML, LW).

The first **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, was spotted 5/6 (GL) at Cameron's Bottom. First 2 **Acadian Flycatchers** surfaced 5/5 at BS (m.ob.). The PAMC yielded 2 **Alder Flycatchers** 5/12 (LC, GL, GS); one was listed at YC 5/15 (LC, TG, MH, RN, JT) and another in a different YC location 5/22 (CA, LC, TG, MH, GL, JM, MS). First **Willow Flycatcher** was found near SH 5/8 (MH). May 5 (LC, DC, et al.) marked the return of **Least Flycatcher** at BS. First **Eastern Phoebe**s were noted 3/12 (MC) near LV and 3/13 (LC, MH) at YC. A yard near SH yielded the first **Great Crested Flycatcher** 5/4 (MH) while the first **Eastern Kingbird** appeared at YC 5/1 (m.ob.).

Vireo dates of return included: 4/17 (LC, TG, MH, KT) for **White-eyed Vireo** at YC; 5/4 (MH) for **Yellow-throated Vireo** at BS; 4/15 (MH) near SH for **Blue-headed Vireo**; 5/1 (MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY) for **Warbling Vireo** at YC; and 4/26 (TS) for **Red-eyed Vireo** near RM. **Fish Crows** continue to be recorded regularly in Indiana borough with reports of 5 individuals on 5/12 (m.ob.); one flying over YC calling 5/29 (LC, DC, SD,

TG, MH, EH, KT) was a second park record. **Common Ravens** were noted at eight locations during the spring season. Six **Horned Larks** were near YC 4/24 (MH); one was spotted at the same location 5/11 (MH, DL). Swallow dates of return include 3/17 for **Tree Swallows**, both at ML (ST) and at YC (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL); 4/4 (EF, MF) for **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at Conemaugh Dam; 4/14 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DL, KT) for **Bank Swallow** at YC; 4/24 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT) for **Cliff Swallow** at YC; and 4/9 (EGF, TF, TG) for **Barn Swallows** at YC.

First **House Wrens** appeared 4/14 (SG) at YC and 4/16 (MH, RH) near SH. One **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** and 2 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** noted at YC 4/10 (TG, MH, RN, KT) were first arrivals. A **Swainson's Thrush** was discovered in Young Twp. for the PAMC 5/12 (DC, MC). Six **Hermit Thrushes** were singing at SGL 262 and in the surrounding forest 5/12 (MH, RH, DL). First **Wood Thrush** was listed near SH 4/27 (MH, RH). YC produced the first **Gray Catbird** 4/12 (MVT) and the LV area, the first **Brown Thrasher** 3/31 (MC). Three **American Pipits** fed on the mudflat at YC 4/24 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT).

Ovenbirds were first heard singing at YC 4/24 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT). Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were sighted in a ravine in Armstrong Twp. 5/12 (RS). YC yielded the first **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/3 (LC, SD, TG, MH, GL, MVT); the PAMC 5/12 (DC, MC, SD) produced only 3, down from a high of 14 in 2005. **Northern Waterthrushes** moved through our area between 5/9 (LC, TG, MH, GL) and 5/22 (CA, LC, TG, MH, GL, JM, MS). A yard near LV harbored the first **Blue-winged Warbler** 4/21 (MC). A **Black-and-white Warbler** at BS 4/25 (MH) was first. **Tennessee Warblers** stopped in our county on their migrations between 5/5 (MH, RH) and 5/18 (MH, RH, ML). First 2 **Nashville Warblers** appeared at YC 5/1 (MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY), and last noted was one in Dark Hollow 5/13 (MH, RH). First **Kentucky Warbler**, heard singing near YC 5/9 (MH), was an apparent migrant; the PAMC (m.ob.) yielded only 5 of this now hard-to-find breeder. The first **Common Yellowthroat** appeared near RM 4/26 (TS). **Common Yellowthroats**, **Hooded Warblers**, and **American Redstarts** had returned to YC by 5/1 (m.ob.), but the first **Hooded Warbler** was listed 4/21 (MC), 11 days earlier, near LV. **Cape May Warblers** did not make a major appearance this spring with only two sightings reported, both at YC: one 5/11 (MH, DL, KT) and 2 on 5/15 (LC, TG, MH, RN, JT). Nine **Cerulean Warblers** were found on the PAMC (m.ob.), but these were the only reports. First **Northern Parula** was noted on the north shore of YC 5/1 (LC, TG, MH, GL, RN), and within the next few weeks it became apparent that a pair was nesting in the large spruce there. May 1 yielded the first **Magnolia Warbler** at YC (m.ob.). One **Bay-breasted Warbler** was observed near Hemlock Lake 5/12 (MH, RH, DL) and another at YC 5/15 (LC, TG, MH, RN, JT), the only two reports for this species. BS yielded the first beautiful **Blackburnian Warbler** 5/5 (LC, DC, et al.). First 2 **Yellow Warblers** had arrived at YC by 4/17 (LC, TG, MH, KT) and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** first appeared 5/1 (LC, TG, MH, GL, RN). **Blackpoll Warblers** moved through Indiana between 5/8 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT) and 5/25 (MH) with the top count of 13 at YC 5/15 (LC, TG, MH, RN, JT), the day they seemed to be singing everywhere. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at YC 5/1 (MM) and one on Reservoir Hill 5/12 (PJ) comprised the entire report for this species. The spring's lone **Palm Warbler** was spotted at YC 4/24 (LC). **Pine Warblers** returned 3/20 (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML) to YC and to a yard near SH the following day (MH, RH). High count of 9 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** occurred 5/9 (LC, TG, MH, GL) at YC with the last sighting there 5/18 (SC, CG, MH, RH, ML, LW). **Yellow-throated Warbler** reports included the first on 4/4 (EF, MF) at Conemaugh Dam, where one was sighted again 5/12 (EF, MF); 2 were also noted near Blairsville 5/12 (MC). First **Prairie Warbler** was heard singing near RM 4/26 (TS). Two **Black-throated Green Warblers** were first spotted 4/25 (MH) at BS with the next report at Nolo 4/30 (GL). A **Canada Warbler** at Smicksburg 5/12 (NS) and a **Wilson's Warbler** at TL 5/12 (MH, RH, DL) were good finds. The PAMC (m.ob.) yielded 6 **Yellow-breasted Chats** while the Parkwood BBS 5/28 (MH, RH) produced 4.

The wintering female **Eastern Towhee** continued near SH (MH, RH), but the first YC returnee was found 3/13 (LC, MH). **Chipping Sparrows** returned 3/24 both near LV (MC) and at YC (LC, TG, MH, RH, SS, JT). The only **Vesper Sparrow** listed was observed near Plumville 5/12 (MMo). The PAMC (m.ob.) yielded a very low count of only 4 **Savannah Sparrows**. **Grasshopper Sparrow** reports noted only 2 near Urey 5/12 (MH, RH, DL) and one at West Lebanon 5/12 (EF, MF). An estimated 15 **Henslow's Sparrows** were singing at West Lebanon around 01:00 on 5/12 (DC, MC). One to 3 **Fox Sparrows** visited a yard near LV 3/9-23 (MC), the only ones reported. **Swamp Sparrows** had returned to YC by 3/17 (LC, TG, MH, GL). An amazing 27 **White-throated Sparrows** lingered at six locations for the 5/12 (m.ob.) PAMC. **White-crowned Sparrows** moved through the county between 5/1 (JT) and 5/15 (LC, TG, MH, RN, JT). A **Dark-eyed Junco** was seen gathering and carrying nesting material 5/12 (MH, RH, DL) near Wilgus in Montgomery Twp. Single **Scarlet Tanagers** were first listed 5/1

(MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY) at YC and 5/2 (GL) at Nolo. First **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** returned 4/21 (MC) near LV and 4/28 (CL, GL) at Nolo. May 5 (LC, DC, et al.) at BS and 5/7 (GL) at Nolo marked the return of **Indigo Buntings** to the county.

Three **Bobolinks** flew over YC "pinking" 5/1 (MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY); others were found in fields near Urey (MH, RH, DL), near Mencle (GL, GS), and near Cameron's Bottom (GL, GS), all 5/12. The season's first **Eastern Meadowlark** was seen 3/13 (LC, MH) at YC. Eleven was the best count of **Rusty Blackbirds** at YC on 3/17 (ST); 2-7 were seen in the park on five other days through 4/18 (ED, SD, CH, MH, SL). Two **Orchard Orioles** put in their appearance at YC 5/9 (LC, TG, MH, GL), but **Baltimore Orioles** had returned to YC by 5/1 (MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY) and almost immediately were nest building.

Purple Finches were widespread with numerous reports from various areas of the county. **Pine Siskin** reports included 12 near LV 3/2 (MC), 3 near Home 3/3 (JT), 6 near SH 3/19 (MH, RH), and one near Creekside 4/19 (MH); last noted was one near LV 5/23 (MC).

Observers: Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@windstream.net, Cindy Allen, Moose Anderson, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Maria Bodenschatz, Norman Bond, Ken Byerly, Lee Carnahan, Derek Clawson, Susan Comfort, Dan Cunkelman, Sue Dickson, Kathy Dinsmore, Ed Donley (EDo), Erma Dovenspike, Sonny Dovenspike, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Elyse Fuller (EGF), Tom Fuller, Tom Glover, Steve Gosser, Carol Hall, Roger Higbee, Emily Hughes, Pat Johner, Scott Kinzey, Sherry Kinzey, Jan Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Sally Labino, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Laufer, Melissa Little, Jamie McCombie, Mark McConaughy, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire (JMc), Marilyn Moore (MMo), Hayat Messekher, Donna Meyer, Nancy Murphy, Ron Murphy, Richard Nugent, Theo Rickett, Tim Schreckengost, Mike Shaffer, Scott Simms, Nancy Smeltzer, Rodger Stormer, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Shannon Thompson, Ken Truitt, Marge Van Tassel (MVT), Linda Wagner, Daniel Winstead, Ray Winstead, Natalie Yaquenian, Friends of the Park (FOP), Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC), Todd Bird Club (TBC).

Jefferson County

Locations: Clear Creek State Park (CC), Coal Glen (CG), Clarion River (CR), Corsica (CS), DuBois Regional Airport (DA), Falls Creek (FC), Fordham Lake (FL), Fuller Road (FR), Kyle Lake (KL), Kramer Road (KR), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Punxsutawney (PX), Reynoldsville (RV).

Fifty-one **Tundra Swans** migrated through at KL 3/10 (KM). Two **Wood Ducks** were on the MS by 3/27 (TG). A lone **Redhead** was observed 3/17 at FL (TG). On 3/31, 40 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 40 **Lesser Scaup**, 2 **White-winged Scoters**, along with 2 **Common Mergansers** and 70 **Ruddy Ducks** were found at KL (KM). One **Red-breasted Merganser** was on KL 5/8 (KM). Two late **Common Loons** were on KL 5/22 (KM). Three **Pied-billed Grebes** were on KL 4/11 (JM) and 2 **Horned Grebes** were there 3/31 (KM). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was found 4/24 on the MS (KD). The first **Green Heron** was noted 4/20 at FL (TG).

The first **Turkey Vulture** was observed 4/8 on the MS (EF, TF, TG). On a Todd Bird Club outing on the MS 4/28, 2 **Ospreys** were found (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM), and an **Osprey** was also seen on the MS 5/12 (KD). A **Bald Eagle** was on the MS 3/1 (KD), and the resident **Bald Eagles** at MS were on the nest 3/17 (TG). One chick was first seen in the nest 4/20 (TG). Two immature **Bald Eagles** were circling high over PX 5/31 (TG). A lone **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen on the MS 5/12 (KD). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen on the MS 4/16 (KD) and another was seen on Rattlesnake Rd. 4/29 (NF). A lone **American Kestrel** was observed 4/26 on Kramer Road (TS).

DR came across two **Virginia Rails** near FC 3/22. Two **American Coots** were seen on KL 3/31 (KM). The first **Killdeer** were found on the MS 4/9 (KD). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen on the CR 5/12 (LR). Two late **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen on KL 5/8 (KM).

The first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found on the MS 5/12 (KD), and the first **Black-billed Cuckoo** was discovered at CS 5/8 (AL). PX produced an **Eastern Screech-Owl** 5/12 (KD) and a **Great Horned Owl** 3/1 (KD). Reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were of 2 on the MS 4/9 (KD), one near RV 5/7 (DR). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found in CC 5/12 (SC).

First **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was in PX 5/10 (KD), and first **Least Flycatcher** was on the MS 4/24 (KD). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was on the MS 5/12 (KD, TG). On 5/12 **Eastern Kingbirds** were found in two different locations: 2 in CC (SC) and one on the MS (TG). A **White-eyed Vireo** was on the MS 5/12 (TG), and on 5/8 the first 6 **Red-eyed Vireos** were noted at KL (KM). The first **Blue-headed Vireo** was found at MS 4/9

(KD). They were reported through 5/22. A total of 4 **Common Ravens** were seen on the MS 3/27 (TG), and one was over PX 5/31. There 30 **Horned Larks** on KR 4/26 (TS). The first **Tree Swallows** (30) were on KL 3/31 (KM), and the first **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were seen 5/12 (m.ob.). Two **Bank Swallows** and a total of 50 **Cliff Swallows** were found on the CR 5/12 (LR). The first 4 **Barn Swallows** were seen on KL 3/31 (KM).

A **House Wren** was seen on the MS 4/20 (KD). The season's first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was found on the MS 4/16 (KD) along with **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**. The first **Veery** was found on the MS 4/30 (KD). A **Swainson's Thrush** was observed near RV 5/14 (TB), and one **Hermit Thrush** was seen in CC 5/14 (SG).

There were 24 species of warbler reported this period. The first **Ovenbirds** were observed on the MS 4/20 (KD). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was on the MS 5/12 (KD). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** turned up in CC 3/20 (CD). The first **Black-and-white Warbler** was on the MS 4/24 (KD). A few **Tennessee Warblers** were seen at both SG and CS 5/12 (JS, SG). **American Redstarts** were observed by four different observers at different locations on 5/12. A **Cape May Warbler** was in PX 5/11 (KD). **Northern Parulas** were found 5/12 at CC (JL, SG). KD came up with the first of the seasons **Bay-breasted Warbler** on the MS 5/12 and the first **Blackburnian Warbler** in PX 5/10. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were seen at a few locations 5/12 (m.ob.). Single **Blackpoll Warblers** were found 5/12 at CS (JS) and MS (KD). Several **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were found 5/12 (KD, SG). Two early migrants, **Pine Warbler** and **Palm Warbler**, were scored on the MS 4/16 (KD). First **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was on the MS 4/12 (KD). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was on the MS 4/24 (KD), and a **Prairie Warbler** also on the MS 5/12. KD kept up a string of firsts with a **Black-throated Green Warbler** 4/24 at MS. The first **Canada Warbler** was seen in CS 5/12 (JS).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** and a **Henslow's Sparrow** were noted in CG 5/11 (DR). The first **Field Sparrow** was found 4/5 at MS (KD). There were 3 **Savannah Sparrow** 4/26 at KR (TS). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found in CC 5/12 (SG). First **Fox Sparrow** was in PX 3/1 (KD). First **Swamp Sparrow** was found in CC 3/11 (TR) and the first **White-crowned Sparrow** was found on the MS (KD). **Dark-eyed Junco** was last noted in PX 5/22 (AG). First **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was in PX 5/2 (KD). **Indigo Buntings** were widely found 5/12 (KD, JS, SG, TG). **Bobolinks** found 5/12 were 13 in CS (JS) and 2 at CC (SG). First **Eastern Meadowlark** was on the MS 4/5 (KD). The only **Rusty Blackbird** reported in Jefferson was on the MS 4/7 (EF). Two **Orchard Orioles** on the MS 5/12 (KD) were the only reported, and the first **Baltimore Oriole** was in PX 5/2 (KD).

Observers: Thomas Glover, 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767, tomnglover@comcast.net, Timothy Becker, Lee Carnahan, Cory DeStein, Kathy Dinsmore, Nate Fronk, Elyse Fuller, Tom Fuller, Steve Gosser, Al Guarente, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Alex Lamoreaux, John Legge, Jackson Martini, Kyle Meley, Donna Meyer, Lee Ann Reiners, Dan Richard, Theo Richert, Timothy Schreckengost, Jocelyn Smrekar.

Juniata County

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

The PAMC was held 5/12 and we had another great day, with 11,550 individuals of 136 species found by 34 birders. Highlights were 10 species of waterfowl, 2 waders, 8 raptors, 5 shorebirds, 4 owls, all the woodpeckers, 6 flycatchers, 6 vireos, 5 swallows, 5 thrushes, 28 species of warbler (including a **Brewster's Warbler**), and 9 sparrows.

A single **Tundra Swan** hung out in a field near the Port Royal river bridge for almost two weeks in mid-March (CK, JS, AT). A **Golden Eagle** was seen over Lost Creek Ridge in Mifflintown 2/10 (EP). On 3/15 a lone **Short Eared Owl** was seen flying and hunting near Metz Road off CSR.

A **Northern Shrike** first found in Dec of 2011 during the CBC was last reported 3/20 (CK, AT, et al.). The first **Purple Martins** of the year were spotted near Muskrat Springs 3/13 (TJP, EP). The best bird of the PAMC 5/12 was found near the eagles nest at the Lockhouse in Mifflintown, a lone singing **Yellow-throated Warbler**. It was only seen that morning (AT, et al.). A total of 20 **Pine Siskins** were reported in the county 2/2 (EP). At least 6 were heard and seen doing a flyover in Mifflintown (CK).

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

Lackawanna County

No report.

Compiler: Jeff Greco, 3116 Township Woods Road, East Greenville, PA 18041, (484) 941-2667, jef20@grecofamily.org.

Lancaster County

Locations: Conewago Trail Wetlands (CTW), Susquehanna River (SR), Middlecreek WMA (MC), Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River, Long Level (SRLL), Octoraro Lake (OL), Susquehanna River, Peach Bottom (SRPB), Rock Springs Nature Preserve (RSNP), Wood's Edge Park (WE).

A single **Greater White-fronted Goose** was seen at MC 3/3 (AT, m ob.) **Snow Geese** peaked this year at MC 3/2 with a count of approximately 70,000 (MC staff count). On 3/1, a **Ross's Goose** was seen at MC (GD). Season high at MC was 4 (ME). A **Cackling Goose** was seen at MC 3/2 (GS). An odd looking Cackling Goose was reported 3/8 at MC (RK). It was suggested (JBo) that it could have been a **Taverner's Cackling Goose**, citing a report by Steve Kacir. A **Mute Swan** was seen at WE 3/11 (ML). Two were seen at MC 3/14 (CC, et al.). **Tundra Swans** peaked 3/2 at MC with a high count of 2400 (MC staff count).

On 4/10 it was reported that a **Wood Duck** hen was rescued from a wood stove, after flying down a chimney (LG). There were some amazing numbers of some waterfowl this season, including 173 **American Wigeon** and 267 **Northern Pintail** 3/4 at MC (EB). Most waterfowl stuck around until about the middle of April, with a few exceptions. **Green-winged Teal** was seen 4/21 at OL (CC). There was only one report each of **Canvasback** and **Redhead**; the former at SRPB 3/31 (BS, TA) and the latter at MC 3/4 (EB). An amazing 85+ **Long-tailed Ducks** were found 3/20 on the SR (JBo). Over 600 **Bufflehead** were recorded on the SR 4/1 (JH, CC, m. ob.). The only **Common Goldeneye** reported was 4/1 on the SR at "the rocks" (CC). The showings of **Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted Mergansers** was nominal at best. **Ruddy Duck** was also rather poor, with a high of only 50 at MC 3/14 (CC, Wed Bird Grp).

I received a single report of **Northern Bobwhite** at RSNP 4/21 (CC); the bird may have been released or escaped. An amazing count of 62 **Red-throated Loons** was recorded 4/1 along the SRLL (JH, CC, m. ob.) **Common Loons** hung around until 5/9 at CTW. A high count of 90 was had 3/31 on the SR (BS, TA). There was a probable **Eared Grebe** seen on the SR 3/20 (JBo). A total of 150 **Horned Grebes** were seen 4/1 along the SR (JH, CC, m. ob.).

One 3/1, 10 **Great Blue Herons** were seen at the Safe Harbor Rookery (ML), and many were on nests at MC 5/30 (CC, Wed Bird Grp). Not many **Great Egrets** were reported this year. The first was 3/12 at WE (BB). A remarkable find was an adult **Little Blue Heron** 4/10 at the SRCF (BS). Most records are of juveniles found during post breeding dispersal. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** made their appearance 3/20 at the rookery at the Ephrata Community Hospital (JW, PW). There were two reports of **Glossy Ibis**, the first 5/5 at the CTW (ME) and the second 5/12, when 4 were reported as flyovers at Pumping Station Road (GS).

One **Mississippi Kite** was seen at Speedwell Forge 4/22 (BC, JF). Very unexpected was a dark morph (western) **Red-tailed Hawk** observed multiple times at MC 3/2 (JBo) to 3/4 (CK, JD). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen periodically at MC 3/8-14, (RK, EL, CC, et al.). Among the best birds of the season were the immature **Golden Eagles** at MC 3/1-2. Most often only one was seen (GD, JT, GS), but there was a single report of two individuals (JBo). The only **Merlin** was at Safe Harbor Park 3/21 (CC, et al.). Lancaster is well known for its breeding **Peregrine Falcons**, but they are occasionally seen on migration as well, for example one at MC 3/3 (AT, m. ob.). Once again, downtown Lancaster was host to a few of these magnificent birds. Unfortunately, it seems they don't care to settle down and call it home. The pair known to breed on the Rte. 462 bridge were there again, and the more frequent appearances of the female beginning 5/21 seemed to indicate that eggs may have hatched (ML, CA).

A **King Rail** was reported at WE 3/9 (RS). **Virginia Rail** was also reported at WE 3/7 (JBo), 3/8 (BC, JS, RS, CC, EC), and 3/14 (RS, JBo).

Two **Black-bellied Plovers** and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** were seen in the Speedwell Forge vicinity 5/25 (BC). A **Black-necked Stilt** was reported 5/22 at CTW (ME, CC, GD, ML). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** made a brief appearance 5/3 at Speedwell Forge (SS). Three **Wilson's Snipe** were observed along with 5 **Dunlin** at SRCF 4/16 (BS). BS reported an interesting interaction between the snipe and Dunlin that day: he noticed one of the snipe was displaying to the Dunlins on several occasions. The snipe cocked its tail upward, and strutted in a very upright posture while following the feeding Dunlins. However the Dunlin showed no interest in the

snipe's advances.

As usual, **Bonaparte's Gulls** made a strong showing. A high count of 400 was made 4/1 on the SR at "the rocks" (CC). But there were only two reports of **Little Gull**, both singles, on the SR at "the rocks" 3/12 (CC) and at the Rte. 462 bridge 4/8 (ML, JY). **Caspian Terns** appeared 4/8 at the SRCF with 2 recorded (JBo, BS), and a high count of 18 were at Safe Harbor Park 4/18 (Wed Bird Grp). The only report of **Forster's Terns** was 4/15 on the SRCF (BS, DH, EW, BC).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were not very numerous this year; there was only a single report of 2 at Lancaster County Central Park (CC, Wed Bird Grp). **Short-eared Owls** were cooperative as usual; last was Pinch Road 3/23 (RM). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were scarce this year, with only two reports, one at OL 3/20 (CC) and the other 3/30 at Noel Dorwart Park (BC).

Amazingly, there was one record of **Alder Flycatcher**. This was 5/25 in the Speedwell Forge vicinity (BC). There was also one report of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** in Lancaster, 3/23 in Manheim (JG). Lancaster birders were fortunate to have a **Northern Shrike** pay a visit for a few days. It seemed to spend its time in the vicinity of stop #4 at MC, where it was seen 3/3-4 (ME, DK, EB, SC, m. ob.). May 2 was a day to remember, for it was then that a probable **Bewick's Wren** was seen on the Canal Path Trail. It had most of the field marks for this species, and was seen near a **Carolina Wren** for comparison (ME). It was spotted again the next day. Recorded calls of a Bewick's Wren were played, to which the bird reacted strongly, while it ignored the calls of a **Carolina Wren** (CC).

Swainson's Thrushes were very scarce this year. One was seen 5/3 on Pumping Station Road (BB), and another was seen 5/25 in the Speedwell vicinity (BC). A **Brown Thrasher** present since 12/15 was still present 3/9 at a home near Strasburg (WD). **American Pipits** were not reported very often this year either, however a flock of over 200 was seen on Habecker Church Road 3/19 (SS).

Quite amazing was a **Swainson's Warbler** at OL 5/11 (TR). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** present since November 2011 spent the winter at WE, and was seen by several observers 3/7-22 (JBo, JS, RSm, CC, EC, BC, BH). Only one report of a **Cape May Warbler** was received, 4/8 in Manheim (BC).

An immature **Gambles White-crowned Sparrow** was among a flock of white-crowns at WE 3/7 (JBo). A singing **Blue Grosbeak** was found 4/21, early for this species, at the Turkey Hill Trail (ME). Once again, Lancaster played host to **Dickcissels**, with one seen 5/3 on William's Road (CC) and 2 on Church Road near Weavertown Mennonite Church 5/20 (SS). A sizable flock of 24 **Rusty Blackbirds** was on Prescott Road 4/14 (GD). An overwintering **Baltimore Oriole**, present since 12/18, was still at Peach Bottom 3/23 (BS). **Purple Finches** were scarce this year; 2 were in Lampeter 3/28 (MR-F), and last was 2 in Denver 4/4 (LG). One **Pine Siskin** was heard on Pinch Road 3/23 (RM).

Observers: Pamela Fisher, 761 Willow Lane, Gap, PA 17527, (717) 442-9497, goldeagle_60@yahoo.com, Charley Albin, Tom Amico, Barry Bell, Ed Bernot, Justin Bosler (JBo), Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfant, Elaine Chalfant, Shawn Collins, Gordon Dimmig, Jim Dunn, Walt Durling, Mike Epler, Jim Fiorentino, Loretta Gehman, Jay George, Frank Haas, Dan Heathcote, Jonathan Heller, Barbara Hunsberger, Rudolph Keller, Chad Kauffman, Dave Kerr, Edith Leaman, Meredith Lombard, Randy Miller, Tom Raub, Michelle Rundquist-Franz (MR-F), Bob Schutsky, Glenn Shaffer, Jim Smith, Rita Smith (RSm), Roger Stoner, Stan Stahl, Aden Troyer, John Traynor, Eric Witmer, Jan Witmer, Pat Witmer, Joe Yoder.

Lawrence County

No report.

Compiler: Cory DeStein, 419 Edison Street, West Mifflin, PA 15122, (412) 953-2667, cdestein@gmail.com.

Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand (CS), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Kreider Farm Pond on Mount Pleasant Rd (KP), Marquette Lake (ML), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Pine Road Wetlands (PR), Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands Preserve (QEWP), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), Reistville and Prescott Road Ponds (RPP), Shuey Lake (SL), SGL 80, SGL 145, SGL 211.

The PAMC 5/12 produced a total of 139 species, including 27 species of warblers and one new species for the event, a **Little Blue Heron**.

A **Ross's Goose** was at MC 3/5 (RCM) and 3/10 (RA, KG). Both a **Ross's Goose** and a **Cackling Goose** were observed flying over the

Mount Gretna area during a birding walk 3/2 (SH, RCM). A **Cackling Goose** was also found at MLSP 3/1 (DM). A **Mute Swan** was at Lions Lake 3/1 (TB). There was an excellent fallout of 22 **Long-tailed Ducks** at MLSP 3/20 (JD, DM). A total of 68 **Buffleheads** and 7 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were a part of the same fallout at MLSP 3/20 (TB, JD, DM). A pair of **Common Mergansers** was found at CS Pond 5/28 (JH).

GK found a **Ruffed Grouse** on SGL 80 during the PAMC 5/12. TB flushed a **Ruffed Grouse** while walking the road to 2Mtn 5/16. Two **Northern Bobwhites** were calling along E. Strack Drive during a BBS 5/28 (VG). Two different **Red-throated Loons** made overnight stays at MLSP, 3/25-26 (KB, TB, CC, m.ob.) and 3/31-4/1 (TB, JD, DM, RCM). **Common Loons** made multiple appearances at MLSP, with 25 seen there 4/1 (JR). A total of 24 **Common Loons** were seen migrating over 2Mtn 4/14 (MC, JD). Twenty **Horned Grebes** were counted at MLSP 3/20 (JD, DM). A **Horned Grebe** in breeding plumage was observed in various small ponds on Lebanon Landfill property 5/21-28, providing a new late date (DM).

A good count of 117 **Double-crested Cormorants** was made at 2Mtn 4/14 (MC, JD). A fairly early **American Bittern** was found in the cattails at SL 3/20 (JD, DM). A swamp at the corner of Cold Springs and Tomstown Roads at FIG produced an **American Bittern** 4/4 (MC, JD, DM). A potential heron rookery was discovered over the winter by EC, who called TB with the location of a number of stick nests that were observed near Conewago Creek, in the southwest corner of the county. Visits to the location 3/16 (TB), and 3/29 (RCM) confirmed the presence of 16 **Great Blue Heron** nests distributed between three large trees. Adult **Great Blue Herons** were on six of the nests. This is a new rookery for the county. Two **Great Egrets** were at QEW 5/21 (TB). A **Little Blue Heron** was at CS during the PAMC 5/12 (SW), a new species for the count. It was a good spring for **Cattle Egrets**. One was located at RPP 4/30-5/1 (RCM, TB). Another **Cattle Egret** was at FIG 5/2 (JD, DM). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were seen at wetlands on the Lebanon Landfill 4/30 (DM). Single **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at SL 5/9 (TB) and QEW 5/27 (DB).

A **Turkey Vulture** was defending a nest in SGL 145. Two **Northern Harriers**, a **Northern Goshawk**, and 10 **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen in the Mount Gretna area 4/27 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). A male **Northern Harrier** was sighted near Grantville 5/6 (TB). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was found at MC 3/14 (CC, PF, RCM) and 3/26 (CC). A **Golden Eagle** was also observed within the Lebanon county portion of MC 3/1 (JT), and again 3/7 (AH). Two **Merlins** passed the Hawkwatch at 2Mtn 4/15 (MC, JD), and a single **Merlin** was sighted there 4/16 (MC).

It was a good spring for rails at FIG, which were difficult to find in the county during the soggy 2011 season. A **Virginia Rail** 3/20 established a new early date (JD, DM). A **Virginia Rail** was also observed at SL 4/7-12 (KB, TB, RCM). Both a **Virginia Rail** and a **Sora** were at SL 4/23 (TB, JD, DM). The rather bold **Sora** was video recorded by JD, which represented just the second April record of **Sora** for the county. It remained through at least 5/2 (CC). An impressive count of 120 **American Coots** was made at MLSP 4/9 (GK). A **Sandhill Crane** continued from the winter at MC through 4/15, to the delight of many visiting birders (LG, m.ob.). Four **Sandhill Cranes** were located in a field near KP 5/11, but did not remain (RCM).

Two **Black-bellied Plovers**, with one in breeding plumage, were found at KP 5/18 (RCM). One remained 5/19 (DH). Five were there on the evening of 5/28 (PM). A breeding plumage **Ruddy Turnstone** dropped into KP, providing a seventh county record 5/21 (TB, DM, JD, RCM). Three **Dunlin** found at RPP 4/14 provided a new county early date (TB). Four were at KP 4/16 (TB). Three **American Woodcock** were 'peenting' at SGL 145 on 3/19 (RCM). A group from the Quittipahilla Audubon Society was treated to 6 displaying **American Woodcock** at MLSP 3/25 (GK, DM, m.ob.). A male **Wilson's Phalarope** stopped at KP 5/30 (RW, PW, RCM, CB, SS, ME, JF). It joined a female **Red-necked Phalarope** which had been present since 5/26 (TB, JD, RCM, CC, CB). Both phalaropes were gone from KP on the morning of 5/31.

A **Common Tern**, photographed at MLSP, provided a seventh county record 5/15 (DM, JD). It was the only species of tern reported from the county this spring.

A pair of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** was discovered in the village of Fontana 3/19 (RCM). Sightings of a single **Eurasian Collared-Dove** were reported through 5/31 (TB, PW, RW, m.ob.), leading to speculation that the other half of the pair was perhaps on a nest somewhere nearby. A **Barn Owl** was seen along PR on the evening of 3/24 (GK). Both an **Eastern Screech-Owl** and a **Barred Owl** were found along Cold Springs Rd in FIG 4/27 (NM, m.ob.). A **Barred Owl** was calling loudly near the Cold Springs parking area of SGL 211 early on 4/10 (TB). Stop #3 at MC is a good spot for observing **Short-eared Owls** in two counties, as it sits nearly on the Lebanon/Lancaster county line. Six were reported for Lebanon from that location 3/10 (WH). A **Short-eared Owl** was also seen flying over the Pinch Road powerline 3/23 (RCM). A migrating **Common Nighthawk** was seen from the dam of MLSP 5/6 (KB, TB). The Cold Springs and Tomstown

Roads areas of FIG provide fabulous habitat for nightjars. A **Chuck-will's-widow** returned to Tomstown Road for the third consecutive year 5/2 (KB, TB), one day later than it was found in 2011. It was also heard on the mornings of 5/19 (ST), 5/25 (DH) and 5/29 (TJ). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** calling along Cold Springs road established a new county early date by two weeks 4/7 (KB, TB). The combined Cold Springs and Tomstown Road portions of FIG accounted for 12 singing **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** 4/20 (KB, TB).

The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** appeared at the home of KB and TB near Grantville 5/6. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** can be challenging to find in the county, but one was located on a telephone pole in the FIG training areas 5/21 (JD, DM, TB). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were not found at either Founderwhite or Pine Road, two locations that have hosted them in the past.

The only **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** of the spring was discovered during the PAMC 5/12 at SGL 145 (RCM). An **Alder Flycatcher** was at CS during the PAMC 5/12 (SW), and another was calling from a regenerating clearcut off Goldmine Rd. in SGL 211 on 5/29 (TB). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was singing at FIG 3/28, providing a new county early date (JD, DM). Over 40 **Purple Martins** were at KP 5/10 (RCM). Two **Tree Swallows** at MC 3/2 provided a new county early date (JB), and a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at MLSP also represented a new early date 3/20 (TB, JD). An estimated 50 **American Pipits** were at KP 4/16 (TB).

A **Lawrence's Warbler** returned to the same location within the restricted access training area of FIG where it was found last year 5/4 (JD, DM). A **Cape May Warbler** was found at MLSP 5/2 (JD) and at Governor Dick Park 5/3 (RCM). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was singing along Cold Springs Road in FIG 5/8 (JD, DM). Two **Cerulean Warblers** at FIG 4/24 provided a new county early date (JD, DM). Early by one day was an **Ovenbird** at Governor Dick Park 4/19 (RCM). Two **Kentucky Warblers** singing in SGL 211 were a great find for RS during the PAMC 5/12. It was a good spring for **Wilson's Warblers**. A **Wilson's Warbler** was found at MLSP 5/3 (RK) and 5/11 (JD, DM). Two were found by DM at MLSP during the PAMC 5/12. A **Wilson's Warbler** was also at SL 5/9 (TB, JD, DM) and 5/11 (TB). Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** highlighted a bird walk on SGL 145 on 5/18 (SH, RCM, m.ob.).

A **Scarlet Tanager** sighting in Mount Gretna 4/21 tied the previous county early date (SH). Twenty-three **Fox Sparrows** were found during a walk of SGL 145, representing a new county high count 3/16 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). Four **White-crowned Sparrows** lingered at SL through 5/2 (JD, DM, TB). A fairly early **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported from PR 4/15 (MJ). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was also found at SL 5/1 (JD, DM) and 5/9 (TB, JD, DM). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was sighted at FIG 4/24, which tied the previous early date (JD, DM). A male **Blue Grosbeak** was singing in the training area of FIG 5/21 (JD, DM, TB). Breeding **Blue Grosbeaks** were confirmed at two locations within FIG last year. A **Dickcissel** was singing near KP 5/21 (DM, JD, RCM). **Bobolinks** were found in several locations, with a rather early report from PR 4/15 (MJ), at least 12 from MLSP 5/11 (JD, DM, TB), and over 50 from an old landfill area near SL 5/9 (JD, DM). Sixty two **Rusty Blackbirds** were along Bindnagles Road north of Palmyra 4/7 (CB). A **Pine Siskin** was calling at the Pinch Road powerline 3/23 (RCM).

Observers: Tim Becker, 10283 Jonestown Road, Grantville, PA, 17028, tjbecker81@aol.com, Rose Anderson, Kath Becker, Chuck Berthoud, David Boltz, Chris Bortz (CBo), Justin Bosler, Bruce Carl, Lou Carpenter, Chuck Chalfant, Ed Chubb, William Clifton, Morris Cox, Mary Croomer (MCr), Michael David, Jarrod Derr, Gordon Dimming, Mike Epler, Robert Essick, Amy Evans, Jim Fiorentino, Pamela Fisher, Vern Gauthier, Loretta Gehman, Janet Getgood, Kevin Graff, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Deuane Hoffman, Walt Honsinger, Sid Hostetter, Anne Hurst, Mike Johnson, Tom Johnson, Stephen Kacir, Dave Kerr, Gary Kinkley, Ramsay Koury, Edith Leaman, Craig Leper, Andrew McGann, Nate McKelvie, David McNaughton, Randy C. Miller, Peter Montgomery, Joan Renninger, Michael Rosengarten, Rosemary Spreha, Stan Stahl, Shannon Thompson, John Traynor, Susan Wheeler, Pat Williams, Richard Williams, David Yeany II.

Lehigh County

Locations: Bake Oven Knob (BOK), Dorney Pond (DP), Fogelsville Quarry (FQ), Leaser Lake (LL), Lehigh Canal Park (LCP), Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC), Trexler Nature Preserve (TNP), Walking Purchase Park (WPP).

Winter 2012 in the Lehigh Valley was nothing if not mild, but early spring temperatures were among the highest for the season in recorded history. National Weather Service data for Allentown

(<http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=phi>) show that the mean temperature for March 2012 was a remarkable 10.7° F above the 30-year norm. This set the stage for what some observers felt was an early migration. Mean temperatures in April and May were also warmer than normal, but to a slightly lesser degree. Despite the mild temperatures early in the period and observer speculation, there were only a few notably early returning migrants this season. Average precipitation was notably higher than normal only in May (+1.49"). A total of 174 species was reported this spring in *Lehigh*.

The max count for **Snow Goose** was 700 over New Tripoli 3/7 (FD); at least two birds remained at this location through the period. The only report for **Tundra Swan** (7) was from the same location and day (FD). There were few reports of ducks this period, with most max counts decidedly low. It seems that many migrant ducks didn't make it this far south this season, at least not in numbers, hence a total of just fourteen species reported. The most interesting waterfowl highlights were part of a fallout 4/1 at FQ (TW, JH). Present that day were 4 **American Wigeon**, one **Surf Scoter**, one **Long-tailed Duck**, 2 **Bufflehead**, and 3 **Horned Grebe**. Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at FQ 4/8 and one was at New Tripoli 4/9 (FD). Among the species not reported were Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, and Ruddy Duck.

Some first arrivals for the county 4/5 were 3 **Common Loon** at Sand Island (DG), 2 **Double-crested Cormorant** at FQ (TW), and **Great Egret** at WPP (ES).

Osprey was first reported 4/6 at WPP (MB). Following two years of successful breeding, there were no conclusive reports that the Osprey nest at North Whitehall was active this year. **Bald Eagle** was noted from six locations: LGNC, TNP, WPP, Sand Island, LL, and North Whitehall (m.ob.); the max count of 3 was at LGNC 4/29 (FD, JB) and again 5/3 at LL (BK, GJ). The Allentown **Peregrine Falcons** remained present throughout the winter; breeding activity was noted by 3/10 in the form of copulation and pair interaction at the 8th Street Bridge nest site (TW). Away from this spot, there was a report from LL 5/3 (BK, GJ), and from Sand Island 4/24 (ES).

Unlike 2011, when flooded fields and wet weather produced many exciting finds, there were no significant shorebird reports in 2012. Only eight species were reported in *Lehigh* this season from just a handful of locations. There were no particularly high counts or highlights.

The usual three gull species were present this quarter. The "late date" of 3/23 for **Ring-billed Gull** was notably early. **Herring Gull** was present through 3/18, and **Lesser Black-backed Gull** remained until 4/9 (ES). The max count for **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was 80 birds present 3/11 at LCP (MB). An **Iceland Gull** was reported here the same day by the same observer. Though now regularly present at this season on the larger bodies of water just south of here in Bucks, Iceland Gull remains fairly unusual for the Lehigh Valley. As in Bucks, occurrences here seem to coincide with the increasing presence of Lesser Black-backed Gulls. If the latter species continues to establish itself in the Lehigh Valley, it will be interesting to see if the occurrence of Iceland Gull also becomes more regular here.

There were very few reports of **Common Nighthawk** in *Lehigh* this spring. **Chimney Swift** set a new early return date by about one week with four birds found at LCP 4/4 (MB).

Olive-sided Flycatcher was at SGL 217 from 5/27 to 5/31 (DA, FD). Alder Flycatcher was not noted this spring, but **Least Flycatcher** was at LL 5/12 (FD). **Philadelphia Vireo** (2) was another nice find near that same location 5/12 (FD, JB). The Slatedale **Purple Martin** colony was active by 4/9 (DA), with at least two dozen pairs present by the end of May (BE). The only somewhat notably early return date among swallows was **Tree Swallow** at WPP 3/25 (ES). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was noted throughout the season, mainly from South Whitehall and west Allentown, where it seems to be a year-round resident. The max count for **American Pipit** was 75 at the fields below BOK 4/5 (RR); at least one pipit remained at North Whitehall as late as 5/10 (BE).

A total of 27 warbler species was tallied. **Tennessee Warbler** was present 5/5 at TNP (JL, CHn,) through 5/14 at LL (JB, FD). **Blackpoll Warbler** passage began as early as 5/5 (ES), and the species was reported almost daily by various observers through 5/26. Single **Cape May Warblers** were at Macungie 5/3 (BM, PM), WPP 5/6 (CHn), and 5/10 at Cementon (ML). **Kentucky Warbler** was found at TNP and LL between 5/2 and 5/19 (m.ob.). **Hooded Warbler** was at various locations along the Blue Mountain beginning 5/2 (MB, m.ob.). Hit or miss in the county each year, a male **Wilson's Warbler** was a very nice find, seen well in Macungie 5/3 (DE). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was missed for the second spring season in a row.

American Tree Sparrow was found 3/11 at Heidelberg (EK) and 4/11 at TNP (FD). **Fox Sparrow** was first noted at WPP 3/3 (ES) and remained through 4/16 at Fogelsville (eBird). The final **White-throated Sparrow** sighting for the season came 5/19 at TNP (CHn). **White-crowned Sparrow** was seen through 5/8 at New Tripoli (FD), and **Dark-eyed Junco** was last seen 4/17 at Fogelsville (CHn). The **Blue Grosbeaks** reported from LL over

the last few years were not noted this spring. There were only two records of **Rusty Blackbird**, both single birds. The first was at New Tripoli 3/12 (FD), the other at WPP 4/28 (ES). A pair of **Purple Finch** was a nice and find on an Earth Day walk at LGNC 4/21 (DG, BH). This was the last of only a handful of sightings this year.

Observers: **Bill Etter** (209 E. South St, Slatington, PA 18080, billetter01@gmail.com), Dan Altif, Mark Boyd, Jason Butterweck, Frank Dickman, Denise Ecker, Dennis Glew, Bob Hoopes, Jeff Hopkins, Chris Hugosson (CHn), Corey Husic, Gail Johnson, Bill Keim, Ed Komito, Jon Levin, Matt Loyko, Barbara Malt (BCM), Bernie and Pauline Morris, Dave Neimeyer, Rich Rehrig, Ed Sinkler, Todd Watkins.

Luzerne County

Locations: Beech Mountain Lake (BML), Dunmore Reservoir (DR), Frances Slocum State Park (FSSP), Harveys Lake (HL), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Northwest Area High School (NWHS), PP&L Riverlands (PP&L RLs), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Susquehanna River (SR), Sweet Valley (SV), White Haven (WH).

Riding the coattails of a mild winter, spring came early for *Luzerne* and abruptly ushered in unexpected summer-like temperatures. Patterns of migration, however, were mostly not in step with the unusual weather, with species arriving somewhat early but mostly within the norm. A few "early birds" showed up in the very beginning of March but the bulk of spring migrants were reported mid-month, save for warblers. Staying close to schedule, steady reports of warblers began in mid-April with peak activity leveling off around mid-to-late May. Remaining in line with last year's total of 147 species, *Luzerne*'s spring migration count for 2012 ended at 141 total species. An outstanding "Big Day" effort from three local birders (RK, JH, SG) alone produced an amazing 135 species on 5/18.

Not frequently reported in *Luzerne*, one **Mute Swan** was seen at BML 3/22 (JD) and one **Tundra Swan** at RGSP 3/17 (JH). **Snow Geese** were sighted 3/17 at RGSP (JH) and again 3/19 when a string of 50 flew over a residence in Shavertown (JH). Waterfowl remained in *Luzerne* throughout March and began their push northwards during early April. A total of 4 **Greater Scaup** were reported near the Sandy Beach boat launch at HL from 3/4-9 (JD, DF, JH). A **Common Goldeneye**, **American Wigeon**, **Northern Shoveler**, and 3 **Gadwall** were all reported 3/9 (JH, DF) at HL. A lone **Canvasback** and **Redhead** was sighted at RGSP 3/17 (JH). A nice find 3/11 was a **Northern Pintail** at RGSP (JH). A group of 15 **Northern Shovelers**, not regular in *Luzerne*, stayed throughout the early part of March near the Huntsville Dam. (One was even recorded on *Luzerne*'s CBC for 2011.) **Green-Winged Teals** turned up in three separate locations: 8 on 3/12 at the SR in Forty Fort (DF), one at the PP&L RLs 3/18 (JH) and one at HL 4/1 (JH). Only a single male **Red-breasted Merganser** was reported, at BML 3/22 (JD). Great finds at HL 3/31 and 4/1 were 7 **White-Winged Scotters** (RM, RMo) and one **Surf Scoter** (JH), respectively. Also at HL 3/31-4/1 were 2 **Red-Throated Loons** (RM, RMo, JH) and a high number of 24 **Long-Tailed Ducks** (RM, RMo, JD, HM, DF).

An early sighting of a **Great Egret** occurred 5/7 in White Haven (EH). A bird becoming a challenge to find in *Luzerne*, and missed on our spring migration count, an **American Bittern** was reported in the meadows of SGL 57 on 5/27 (JH).

Raptors were reported in good numbers with early records of **Black Vultures** sighted near the PP&L RLs 3/3 (JH). Another **Black Vulture** was reported in a new location, BML, on 4/30 (JD). **Red-Shouldered Hawks** appeared 3/18 where one was sighted at the PP&L RLs (JD) and 2 were observed circling over a residence in SV. Many **Bald Eagles** were reported throughout the season at their regular haunts along the SR, HL and RGSP (m.ob.). One **Golden-Eagle** was seen soaring over a property in SV 3/22 (DF). **Broad-Winged Hawks** began appearing around mid-April where one was reported in SV 4/17 (DF) and sightings continued through May in numerous other locations (m.ob.). **Northern Harriers** were seen again at Lee's Swamp in SV from 4/5 (DF) through 5/12 (JH, BW, SGo, BL, BLo). Nesting activity for the **Northern Harriers** was not reported; however, a pair has been observed frequenting this location quite often. An unusually early sighting was made for an **Osprey** seen in SV 3/3 (RM, RMo). Most **Ospreys** arrived at our lakes in mid-April and continued through May. Opening day of trout proved beneficial to at least one **Osprey** at HL where it was sighted taking a good-sized brown trout, perhaps to the dismay of some nearby anglers. Encouragingly, **American Kestrels** were sighted in three different locations this spring, yet numbers remain low.

Though missed on the *Luzerne* spring migration count, **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** were both located in *Luzerne* a week later 5/18 (RK, JH, SG). A group of 4 **Sandhill Cranes** were sighted flying over a residence in

Shavertown 4/14 (JH) and another was reported at a marshy area near the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus from 4/25-5/18 (RK, JH, SG). No breeding/nesting activity went reported.

The shorebird sightings for *Luzerne* were spotty with very few reports. **American Woodcocks** barely waited for the ground to thaw before they began arriving on 3/3 in SV (RM, RMo), and **Killdeer** followed close behind 3/5 in SV (RM, RMo). One **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen at NSP 4/22 (DK) and one **Greater Yellowlegs** was recorded on the *Luzerne* spring migration count 5/12 at RGSP (DF). Stemming from the "Big Day", **Dunlin**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Plover**, and additional **Solitary Sandpipers** were all located in *Luzerne* 5/18 (RK, JH, SG).

Harveys Lake was host to all notable gull activity for the season. An exceptional find on 3/4 near the boat launch was 6 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (JD). Even more exciting, a **Little Gull** in breeding plumage was found and photographed with **Bonaparte's Gulls** 4/22 (JH). The number of **Bonaparte's Gulls** on HL this season was excellent, with one flotilla containing 50+ birds 4/22 (DF, JH).

One **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found 5/18 during the "Big-Day" effort in *Luzerne* (RK, JH, SG). Reported in five separate locations during the season, **Barred Owls** proved very easy to find, being that they are often boisterous (BW, SGo, JH, EH, DF). A pair of **Northern Saw-whet Owls** was heard "tooting" and "whining" near RGSP 4/25 (DG). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** had a good showing with a total of 15 during our spring migration count 5/12. Very uncommon for *Luzerne*, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at a feeder in Drums, and another was recorded on the spring migration count 5/12 (and again on the "Big Day" excursion) in a newly timbered area on SGL 91 (PC, et al.).

Altogether, eight species of flycatchers were reported including **Alder Flycatchers** 5/18 and 5/27 at SGL 57 (JH, et al.) and **Willow Flycatchers** 5/7 and 5/18 at FSSP (JH, et al.). No recent reports of **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** come to mind. **Acadian Flycatchers** were commonly observed along the creeks at RGSP and other SGL's throughout the season. Seen primarily along the SR, 7 **Yellow-throated Vireos** were recorded 5/12 during the spring migration count (JH, SG, BT), and one was at NSP 5/1 (JD). A very unusual find that might be a new late-date record was a **Horned Lark** found during the "Big Day" 5/18 (JH, SG, BT). An excellent find of a recently absent bird in *Luzerne* was a young female **Purple Martin** in Dupont 5/19 (PC). Both **Bank Swallows** (JH, SG, BT) and **Cliff Swallows** (JH, SG, BT, BW, SGo, BL, BLo) were observed on the spring migration count 5/12.

Warbler activity was good again this year with a total of 37 species listed. Warblers of note include 5 **Blue-winged Warblers** along the SR 5/12 (JS, JH, SG, BT), 4 **Cape May Warblers** at RGSP 5/12 (DF, HF), one **Cape May Warbler** at a residence in Shavertown 5/6 (JH), 4 **Bay-breasted Warblers** along the SR 5/12 (JH, SG, BT), one **Bay-breasted Warbler** at SGL 57 on 5/12 (DF, LM), 4 **Blackpoll Warblers** and 4 **Hooded Warblers** along the SR 5/12 (JS, JH, SG, BT), 3 **Cerulean Warblers** along the SR 5/12 (JH, SG, BT), one **Worm-eating Warbler** (JS) and one **Wilson's Warbler** (JH, SG, BT) along the SR 5/12 and 5 **Canada Warblers** found along the SR and SV 5/12 (JH, SG, BT, DF, LM). The season's warbler standout was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Sylvan Lake in SV 5/12 (BW, SGo, BL, BLo). Rare as the bird is to *Luzerne*, this particular male was actually observed carrying possible nesting material.

Much to our delight, **Orchard Orioles** were observed in Loyalville near Lee's Swamp and along the SR during the spring migration count (JH, SG, BT, BW, SGo, BL, BLo). Taking a bit of a concerted effort to find in *Luzerne*, one **Eastern Meadowlark** was also recorded for the spring migration count (BW, SGo, BL, BLo).

Wrapping up a prosperous season for *Luzerne*, a few sparrows of note were reported. **Fox Sparrows** were present throughout March in numerous locations (m.ob.). A fairly late **White-crowned Sparrow** was seen at a residence in Wilkes-Barre 5/9 (JSt) and a very late **White-throated Sparrow** was still lingering at SGL 57 on 5/27 (JH). At the airport in Forty-Fort, 3 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were observed during both the spring migration count and the "Big Day" 5/18 (JH, SG, BT). Also included on the "Big Day" count was one **Savannah Sparrow** and one **Vesper Sparrow**. **Pine Siskins** were still seen on 3/2 at a feeder in SV (DF) and again 3/11 at RGSP (JH).

Observers: **David Fisher, 222 North Mountain Road, Sweet Valley, PA 18656, (570) 477-2846, David.Fisher@prudential.com**, Jonathan DeBalko, Dave Birchler, Peter Carlen, Helen Fisher, Stan Galenty (SG), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Doug Gross, Ellie Harding, Jeff Hartman (JHa), Jim Hoyson (JH), Rick Koval, Bill Loftus (BL), Becky Loftus (BLo) Robert Moase (RM), Ruth Moase (RMo), Lynn Mokwa, Jim Shoemaker (JS), Jeffery Stratford (JSt), Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

Lycoming County

Locations: Cemetery Road, Cogan House Township (CR-CHT), County Conservation District (CCD), Hanson quarry gravel ponds in Montoursville (Hanson ponds), Old Lycoming Township (OLT), State Game Lands 252 (SGL 252), Susquehanna River (SR), Rose Valley (RV).

At the Hanson ponds the following waterfowl were seen 3/3: 12 **Tundra Swans**, 120 **Canada Geese**, 40 **Mallards**, 2 **American Black Ducks**, 6 **Northern Pintail**, 60 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 20 **Lesser Scaup**, one **Common Goldeneye**, 30 **Bufflehead**, 40 **Common Merganser**, and one **American Coot**. A number of **Ring-billed Gulls**, probably at least 150, were also present. The sole **Mute Swan** reported during this period was a fly-by on the SR at Montgomery 3/20 (DB, MG). A flock of **Long-tailed Ducks** spotted on the SR at Montgomery (DB, MG) 3/20 numbered 26 birds, and at least 45 were seen later that day upstream at Canfield Island (JY). Notable numbers of waterfowl dropped into *Lycoming* (and other parts of the state) 3/31, where flocks were noted on several large water bodies. Counts at RV Lake included: 12 **Greater Scaup**, 93 **Lesser Scaup**, 2 **Surf Scoters**, 4 **White-winged Scoters**, 24 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 49 **Bufflehead**, 2 **Common Goldeneye**, 3 **Common Mergansers**, 9 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, 72 **Ruddy Ducks**, and 5 **Pied-billed Grebes** (NF). Also in the morning of 3/31, the following were counted on three Hanson ponds: 30 **Gadwall**, one **American Wigeon**, 10 **Mallard**, 40 **Northern Shovelers**, 35 **Green-wing Teal**, 6 **Canvasbacks**, 5 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 110 **Lesser Scaup**, one **White-winged Scoter**, 90 **Long-tail Ducks**, 55 **Bufflehead**, 5 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, 150 **Ruddy Ducks**, and at least one **Horned Grebe** (DB). Many waterfowl continued at RV on 4/1, including: 6 **White-winged Scoters**, **Bufflehead** numbers grew to 200 there (NF), and **Ruddy Ducks** numbered at least 200 there as well (NF), along with 30 **Horned Grebes** (NFre). Waterfowl lingered in numbers at RV to 4/5, with 10 **Horned Grebes**, 7 **American Coots**, 30 pairs of **Buffleheads**, 6 **Hooded Mergansers**, 4 **Ring-necked Ducks**, as well as a **Common Loon** (LC). At least 50 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at RV on 4/8 (NF). Surprisingly scarce, given the large number of waterfowl observed this quarter, the only report of **Blue-winged Teal** was 4/7 at RV (NF). A **Common Loon** again was found at RV Lake 5/12 (DF, NF).

Now regular in spring and summer, **Black Vulture** was seen 3/2 near Avis (BG) and various other points thereafter, and one was seen flying over Warrensburg during the PAMC 5/12 (GM). Two mature **Bald Eagles** and a single immature were seen during the Audubon field trip 5/12 (LW, m.ob.), and DF "lost count" of eagles along Pine Creek 5/5-6. Four **Broad-winged Hawks** were observed over Old Barber Rd 4/19 (WE). Late in the afternoon 3/3, JY and ML checked out Mill Hill Road, where they found 8 **Northern Harriers**, 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** (one light form and one dark) and multiple flocks of **Red-winged Blackbirds**. March 3 was a great day for **Golden Eagles**. An hour and a half spent on the power line cut on Bald Eagle Ridge above South Williamsport yielded 15 eagles, as well as a female **Northern Harrier** and 4 **Common Ravens** (GM, SL). A single **Merlin** was spotted on the River Walk near the Market Street Bridge ramp on the South Williamsport side 3/3 (JY, ML). **Peregrine Falcons** failed to nest this year at the Montgomery cliff, although one was seen there on-and-off during March and April (DB). An immature **Peregrine Falcon** was seen on the N. White Deer Ridge 3/11, along with 2 migrant **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 8 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 2 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, a likely local **Cooper's Hawk**, and at least 35 **Turkey Vultures** (JY). Picture Rocks is a regular spring stopover for **Osprey**, which first appeared 4/11 this year (WE).

The warm spring may have advanced nesting behavior of **American Woodcock**, but one was displaying in SGL 252 on 4/15 (GM, SL) and also in Old Lycoming Twp (DF). Along with remarkable waterfowl 3/31, 16 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were found at RV, 13 along the SR at Canfield Island along with at least 50 **Ring-billed Gulls** (NF).

Barred Owl was observed at close range at RV 4/22 (JY). First **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported in Muncy 4/30 (DD). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills**, widely overlooked, were observed near Jersey Mills 5/15 (DW, NF).

Eastern Phoebe was found as early as 3/15 (AS). Both **Willow Flycatcher** and **Alder Flycatcher** were noted along Beaver Lake Road 5/22 (NF). After White-eyed, **Yellow-throated Vireo** is the least common vireo in *Lycoming*, so reports on Pine Creek 5/12 (NF) and Lycoming Creek on 5/27 (DH) were welcome. **Warbling Vireo** was heard singing from the big sycamores along Pine Creek 5/6 (DF). A **Fish Crow** was heard along the SR at Montgomery 3/20 (DB).

The first of year, a mature male **Purple Martin** arrived 4/15, and at least 4 were present at the colony's house 4/21 (FS), and at least 8 during the PAMC 5/12 (DB). **Horned Lark** reports came from CR-CHT 5/12 (NF) and from the fields near the CCD 5/18 (DF, NF). The first report of **Northern**

Rough-winged Swallow was made 4/1 at RV (NF). The first of year **House Wren** report came 4/17 in Buchanan Meadows (LW). At least 8 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen near Warrensville 4/14 (JY) and many were seen in Loyalsock Twp 4/15 (DB). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported on the morning of 5/16 in the mountains near Cedar Run (NF, DW). A flock of about 200 **American Pipits** was seen 3/25 along River Road in Nesbit (NF).

Five **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen near Warrensville 4/14 (JY) and they were numerous in the Greenview area of Loyalsock Twp. 4/15 (DB), and Loyalsock State Forest 4/19 (WE), with many still present during the PAMC 5/12 (DB, L&JB, HK). A good count of **Black-throated Green Warblers** was made at Rider Park 4/21 (JY). A **Worm-eating Warbler** and **Tennessee Warbler** were heard in SGL 126 along Jack's Hollow Rd 5/11 (NF). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was on territory along Laurel Run, Wolf Twp. 4/19 (WE). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was found singing along Raccoon Trail 5/20 (JY, ML). **Nashville Warbler** was found on Bodine Mountain Rd 5/10 (NF). The only **Mourning Warbler** report came from a traditional location along the steep road cuts of Rte. 15 north of Trout Run 5/24 (NF). Two **Palm Warbler** reports were made during the PAMC, one at RV (NF) and another, a male 'western' race was seen near the CCD offices also on 5/12 (DB, JB). The Pine Creek Valley continues to be a haven for warblers, where all the resident species present 5/6-7, including **Canada Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Northern Parula**, **Black-throated Green Warblers**, and **Black-throated Blue Warblers**. **Cerulean Warbler** was seen at Field Station Bridge along Lycoming Creek 5/12 (DF) and along the Ramsey Road 5/26 (SB). A **Prairie Warbler** was found at Rider Park 5/19 (ML and JY).

Savannah Sparrow and **Grasshopper Sparrow** were found during the PAMC 5/12 at CR-CHT (NF). A single **Fox Sparrow** was found at RV 3/31 (NF). **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen in OLT on 5/6 (DF), in Montoursville the week of 5/1 (OK), and one was lingering in brush next to the CCD 5/12 (DB, L&JB, HK). **White-throated Sparrows** were noted as common at the Algerine Swamp, where they nest (DF).

Two **Orchard Orioles** were found on Ellis Artley Rd. between Muncy and Hughesville 5/16 (NFe). **Bobolinks** were found during the PMAC 5/12, including 12 at Cemetery Road (NF) and 3 at the CCD offices (DB). **Eastern Meadowlark** arrived 4/19 near Pennsdale (WE). **Purple Finch** was noted at Algerine Swamp 6/16 (NF).

Observers: Dan Brauning, 1920 Inverness Rd, Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 433-0309, dan@thebraunings.com, Jennifer & Laura Boll, Steve Brenner, Dan Doyle, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Norwood Frederick (NFre), Nate Fronk, Bill Gehron III, Mario Giazzon, Deuane Hoffman, Hannah Krizan, Meredith Lombard, Rosemary Lunz, Gary Metzger, Joan Sattler, Alex Savakinsas, Larry Waltz, Drew Weber, Joe Yoder.

McKean County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Bradford Sewage Treatment Ponds (BSTP), Valley Brown Road Swamp (BRS), Clark's Pond (CPO), Colombia Hill (COH), Eldred Swamp (ESW), Hamlin Lake (HL), Kent Hollow (KH), Kinzua Bridge (KBr), Klondike (Klon), Marilla Reservoir (M Res.), Mt. Alton (MA), Marshburg (Mar), Redbridge (RBR), Stateline (SL), Sugar Bay (SUB), Timberdoodle Flats (TF), Willow Bay (WIB), Crossroads (VAC).

The weather in McKean County was almost perfect—little rain and fairly warm—which was highly unusual. Migrants were abundant and the PAMC added much information to this report, as did eBird and the Allegheny Highlands Bird Club.

Waterfowl migration was interesting and had unusual timing. Species numbers were high. **Tundra Swans** moved through the area with 50 birds observed at Chapel Bay in the ANF 3/11 (RH, MH), and the last observed 3/30 (JF). **Wood Ducks** arrived 3/28 with a high of 11 in SUB 4/30 (JF). **Gadwall**, uncommon in the county, were noted 4/4 when 5 were at CPO (JF). Two other uncommon ducks, **American Wigeon** and **American Black Duck**, were observed in small numbers. **Blue-winged Teal** and **Green-winged Teal** arrived in late March and both were last seen 4/4 at ESW (JF). Five **Northern Shovelers** were observed at RBR 3/30. Interestingly, a lone **Canvasback** and a lone **Northern Pintail** were seen 4/10. A lone **Greater Scaup** was observed 4/10 at HL, but **Lesser Scaup** and **Ring-necked Duck** were present most of migration season. Twenty-seven **Lesser Scaup** were reported in one sighting on HL (LC). A lone **Long-tailed Duck** was seen on HL 3/24 (JF). **Bufflehead** were present most of the recording period as well, with 15 in a flock at HL 3/31 (LC). Fifteen **Red-breasted Mergansers** were observed on SUB 4/10 (JF). **Hooded Merganser** and **Common Merganser** both breed in the county; however, a raft of 47 **Common Mergansers** 3/30 at SUB was unusual (JF).

Ruddy Ducks were also recorded in small numbers during the period, with the last report 4/30.

One **Red-throated Loon** was observed 4/10 at SUB (JF) and a count of 5 **Common Loons** was made 4/10 at WIB (JF). Although **Pied-billed Grebes** have bred in **McKean** in the past, both **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Horned Grebes** were last recorded 5/12. Both were first recorded 3/24. A nice count of 15 **Horned Grebes** was recorded on HL (LC). **Double-crested Cormorants** were recorded in the county beginning 4/10, but a high count of 23 birds in a V formation over Bradford 4/15 (JF, LF, DF, BF). **American Bittern** are unusual for the county, but one was first found 4/30 at BRS, and another was found 5/12 at ESW (JF). Two **Great Egrets** were noted over Bradford for the second spring in a row 4/5 (JF). Two more **Great Egrets** were found on the PAMC 5/12 at ESW (LF, DF, BF). **Green Heron** first returned 4/25.

The first **Turkey Vulture** of the season was located on Lindholm Road 3/2 (LG). At least 11 raptor species were observed this season. **Northern Harriers** were last observed 3/3, a species that are few and far between in this mostly forested county. **Ospreys** were back at their nesting platforms in the ANF 3/30. **Golden Eagles** were recorded until 3/4 at SL (JF, DS). **Bald Eagles** are still breeding in the county and were present all this period. **Broad-winged Hawks** made an appearance 4/14. A single **Northern Goshawk** was observed near SUB 4/10 (JF). **Merlins** were reported back in Kane 3/12 (MH, RH). They were first noticed in Bradford 4/1 (JF, LF, DF, BF). **Merlins** have bred in the county since the 2nd PBBA when they were first discovered. **Golden Eagles** at the ANF camera trapping sites were seen until 3/19 (ET, SS).

Virginia Rail and **Sora** were both observed 5/1 at ESW (JF). **American Coot** was at the same location 3/20-4/12. A lone **Common Gallinule** was also present 4/12 (JF). **Killdeer** were observed in Kane 3/5 (LG). **Spotted Sandpiper** arrived the same day as **Solitary Sandpiper**, 4/30. The last **Solitary Sandpiper** seen during the period was 5/12 near SUB (JF). **Lesser Yellowlegs** arrived 5/1 at BSTP with **Greater Yellowlegs** 5/3 at BSTP (JF). One **Least Sandpiper** was seen at BSTP 5/3 as well. **Wilson's Snipe** arrived 3/29.

Ring-billed Gulls continued during migration. **Bonaparte's Gulls** arrived 4/4 at HL, and 41 were last seen at SUB 4/10 (JF). **Herring Gulls** were also observed 4/10 with the last report 4/15. A lone **Caspian Tern** was the only tern reported, 4/30 at SUB (JF).

Both cuckoo species were first noted during the PAMC 5/12. **Great-horned Owl**, **Barred Owl**, **Eastern Screech-Owl**, and **Northern Saw-whet Owls** all breed in the county. The season saw high numbers of **Barred Owls** as well as **Northern Saw-whet Owls**. Fifteen **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were noted on the PAMC 5/12 (JF). Highly unusual was a lone **Long-eared Owl** observed near Smethport, last seen 5/12 (JD). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were observed 5/25 at SGL 62 (JD) and their numbers increased to at least 3 on 5/31 (JD, JF, LF, DF, BF). This is the first time in recent history that they have stayed consistently at the same location during breeding season. **Chimney Swift** and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were noticed in Bradford on the same day, 5/1 (LF, DF, BF, JF). **Belted Kingfisher** arrived a little early, 3/20 in Bradford. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was first noted 3/29. This may be the county's most easily found woodpecker.

The first season **Eastern Phoebe** was observed in KH 3/18 (LG). **Least Flycatcher** was first observed 5/1 in the ANF (JF). **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, **Eastern Kingbird**, **Willow**, **Acadian**, and **Alder Flycatchers** were noted 5/12 throughout the county on the PAMC (LC, JF, LF, JG). Vireo species were surprising during migration. **Blue-headed Vireo** arrived earliest on 4/3 in the ANF (JF). **Warbling Vireo** was first observed 4/30 at BRS (JF). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was located at TF during an AHBC field trip (m.ob.). It was also seen on the PAMC 5/12. Unusual were a **White-eyed Vireo** at KBR 5/12 and a **Philadelphia Vireo** at TF 5/12 (JF). **Tree Swallows** arrived early 3/20, but all other swallows arrived normally during April and 2 **Purple Martins** were even seen 4/30. **Carolina Wren** was reported in Bradford 3/22 and seemed to have survived the mild winter (JF). **Winter Wren** was first observed at Barden Brook 3/20 with **House Wren** returning 4/17 in Bradford (JF). An Eastern Bluebird Trail was constructed behind the 911 Center in Smethport by the AHBC. **Eastern Bluebird** was first noted 3/31 on the COH (LC). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen 4/10-5/12 with a high count of 7 at SUB 4/30 (JF). **Wood Thrush** was first noted at COH 4/18 (LC). **Veery** was noted first 5/12 and seemed somewhat late. **Swainson's Thrush** was first seen 4/30 in the ANF (JF). **Gray Catbirds** started to make an appearance 4/4 in Bradford. Two **Brown Thrashers** were noted at Barden Brook 3/29 (JF, DF). **Cedar Waxwings** were not noted until 4/4.

Warbler migration in the county this spring was outstanding! A total of 29 species of warblers were reported. Despite how warm as it was, migration seemed to be on time or slightly delayed. The first warbler was **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 3/29. **Palm Warbler** was seen at TF 4/16 with the

last one noted 5/3. **Louisiana Waterthrush** arrived on territory 4/17 in the ANF. **Pine Warbler** was also observed 4/17. **Common Yellowthroat** arrived 4/18. **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Northern Parula**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler** were noted 4/27 in the ANF. **Ovenbird**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Hooded Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and **Blackburnian Warbler** were seen 4/30 in the ANF; **Tennessee Warbler** was noted 5/1-12 in Bradford; and **Magnolia Warbler** was also noted 5/1 in the ANF. **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler** were all seen 5/5 at TF (AHBC, m.o.b.). **Bay-breasted** and **Prairie Warblers** were last noted 5/12 during the PAMC. **Cape May Warblers** were observed from 5/6-5/12 (LC, JF). **Mourning Warblers** arrived 5/9 near Songbird Road. Very unusual for the spring season was a **Connecticut Warbler** at KBR 5/12 (JF). **Cerulean Warblers** were first noted on the PAMC 5/12 with 11 recorded 5/21 on Tracy Ridge in the ANF (LeC). **Blackpoll Warbler** and **Wilson Warbler** were both noted 5/12 during the PAMC. The last **Blackpoll** was heard 5/24, and coincidentally, the last **Wilson's** was also seen 5/24.

Eastern Towhee returned to Bradford 3/24, **Field Sparrow** returned 3/29, **Chipping Sparrow** returned 4/6 and **Savannah Sparrow** returned 4/9. **Fox Sparrows** were observed from 3/30 to 5/3 on COH (LC). **Swamp Sparrows** returned 3/20. **White-crowned Sparrows** did not seem to stay around as long and were only observed 4/14-5/12 in Bradford (JF, DF, BF, LF). **Scarlet Tanagers** arrived 5/1 in the ANF. The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** made an appearance at feeders in Bradford 4/24. An early **Indigo Bunting** was seen during Bluebird Trail construction behind the 911 Center in Smethport 4/15 (AHBC).

The migration of Icterids was interesting and short. No tremendously large flocks of birds were reported. **Bobolinks** arrived 5/5 (LC). **Red-winged Blackbirds** arrived 3/2; **Common Grackles** were first noted 3/6. **Brown-headed Cowbirds** arrived 3/18; 35 on 3/29 was the largest flock. **Eastern Meadowlark**, not common in *McKean*, was first noted 3/20. **Rusty Blackbirds** reports included 5 on 3/20, 5 at ESW 4/30, and a male and female 5/12 near SUB (JF). **Baltimore Orioles** returned in good numbers 4/17 in Bradford, and **Orchard Oriole** was first noted at SUB 4/30. The latter is unusual in *McKean*, so a pair found in appropriate breeding habitat behind the 911 Center in Smethport 5/24 was interesting.

Purple Finches seem to increase in numbers as migration continued. **Pine Siskins** were still being observed at the end of the season. **Pine Siskin** is a local breeder in *McKean*.

Observers from the Allegheny Highlands Bird Club have helped and will continue to fill in data gaps in our birding knowledge in *McKean*. Ebird has also started to play a major role. I am asking everyone the uses Ebird to please send me a copy of each of your entries so I can do my job more efficiently. Thanks everyone for your submissions and keep on birding!

Observers: **John Fedak, 26 Race Street, Bradford, PA 16701, (814) 366-2500, jlfedak@atlanticbb.net**, Allegheny Highlands Bird Club (AHBC), Bobby Bower, Laura Carlson (LaC), Lisa Chapman (LC), Lewis Crowell (LeC), Michael David, Ken Dunkerly, Holly Dzemyan, John Dzemyan, Pauline Farmer, Lisa Fedak, Danny Fedak, Bailey Fedak, Chris Grecco, Len Groshek, Jody Groshek, Blaine Groshek, Al Guarrente, Marcy Holland, Rocky Holland, Mark Johnson, Lester Jones, Andrea Lanich, Joe Lanich, Madeline Miles, Scott Newton, Tim Pillar, Donovan Sevrey, Scott Stoleson, Emily Thomas. **eBird Observers** that have not contacted compiler personally: Josh Lefever, Ted Keyel, Andy Jones, Michelle Leighty, Emily Mills, Ed Groshek, Margaret Bowman, Harry Barkley, Kathy Ebeling, Melissa McGuire, Jim McKenyon, and Lisa VanGorden.

Mercer County

Locations: Rattlesnake Swamp (RS), Shenango River Res (SRR), Williamson Rd. (WR), Shenango Wildlife Area Propagation Ponds (SWAPP), Zahnizer Rd. (ZR).

Above normal temperatures in March and April resulted in several arrival dates approximately seven to ten days earlier for most waterfowl and passerine species. A total of 191 species were recorded during this period, including a first record for *Mercer*, but no exceptional rarities were found.

The majority of the waterfowl species were found in early March and by mid-March the numbers had dropped considerably. Most of the species could be found in small numbers up to mid-April. Two **Red-necked Grebes** were at SRR 4/14 (SS). A male **Blue-winged Teal** was found on Pennsy Swamp 5/16 (NT).

A **Northern Goshawk** was observed soaring over WR 4/7 (NT), and a high count of 75+ **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen in flight from ZR 4/1 (JH). **Sandhill Crane** returned to RS 3/5 and continued to be seen and

heard through the rest of the period (NT).

Below normal rainfall created open area at SWAPP where 12 species of shorebirds were found, including 5 **Semipalmated Plover**, 10 **Semipalmated** and 2 **Least Sandpipers** 5/25 (MV), and 3 **Dunlin** 4/15 (SS). There was one **Short-billed Dowitcher** present there 4/17 (SS), and an exceptional high count of 31 on 5/9 (NT). An adult **Lesser Black-billed Gull** in breeding plumage was found at the marina at Lake Wilhelm 4/18. Also present on the same date were 2 **Caspian** and 3 **Forster's Terns** (all JS).

Mercer's first (and long overdue) **Common Raven** was both seen and heard from Skunk Run Road 3/4 (NT, ST). A total of 32 species of warblers were recorded with the majority moving through in late April to early May. The highlights included a **Golden-winged Warbler** singing along ZR 5/1 (NT), one **Cape May Warbler** along Palmer Road 5/17 (NT, ST), one **Pine Warbler** along Poole Road 3/25 (NT, ST) and one at Buhl Park 5/4 to at least 5/26, possibly on territory (SS), 2 **Prairie Warblers** along Nicklin Lane 5/1 (NT) and one **Connecticut Warbler** at RS 5/17 singing from an exposed perch (NT, ST). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** spent a day singing in a yard along Airport Road 5/5 (JT). **Vesper Sparrow** returned to Garrett Road 3/27 (SS) and both **Grasshopper** and **Henslow's Sparrow** were at Spring Road 5/31 (SS).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Rd., Mercer, PA 16137**, Joseph Hochslerler, Marty McKay, Steve Sanford, Jerry Stanley, Jerry Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Mark Vass.

Mifflin County

Locations: Belleville (BE), Big Valley (BV), Reed's Gap SP (RG).

Shorebirds are often not easily found in *Mifflin*; the best reported were **Spotted Sandpipers** 4/28 and **Least Sandpipers** 5/1 in BV (JZ). A **Long-eared Owl** was found near BE 3/10 (JD). After apparently vacating BV during the winter, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** returned to known locations, seen 5/2 and 5/12 (JZ).

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were at RG 5/16 (CB). Not often reported in the county, **Bank Swallows** were seen near BE 4/28 (JZ) and 5/16 (CB). A few scattered **American Pipits** were in BV 5/12 (GG, JZ). A good find for *Mifflin* was a **Swainson's Thrush** at Reed's Gap SP 5/16 (CB). RH hosted 5-10 **Rusty Blackbirds** at his feeder near Lewistown 5/5-13. A **Cerulean Warbler** was found at RG 5/12 (MD). **Bobolinks** were in BV 5/5-12 (JZ).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg PA 16669, gwg2@psu.edu**, Chris Blazo, Mike Dreibelbis, Jim Dunn, Robert Hosler, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware State Forest (DSF), Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), East Stroudsburg University (ESU), Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC).

The spring season experienced above normal temperatures combined with little rainfall in March and April followed by a wetter May. An **American Bittern** found in the Tannersville Bog 4/9 and photographed 4/11 was an excellent find (DS). A large movement of **Snow Geese** occurred 3/7, with multiple flocks seen passing over the Meesing site in DSF and MCEEC (BH, DS, RS). **Hooded Mergansers** nested in the same box for the fifth consecutive spring at MCEEC—the pair was first seen 4/2 (nearly a month later than previous seasons), and the hen was observed incubating 8 eggs 5/3 (DS, BH).

A songbird survey in DWGNRA 5/11 produced a big surprise when a **Swainson's Hawk** was seen soaring overhead with two nearby Red-tailed Hawks (KB, NE, GG, TM). A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** again occupied the cliffs of Mt. Minsi in DWGNRA, but like in the past, failed to nest successfully. Unlike the rock ledges used previously, the pair used an old raven nest located on the cliff face. An adult was seen incubating as late as 5/13, but soon after the nest was abandoned (AA, BH, JT, RW). A single **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen in Cherry Valley on the early date of 4/3 (RW).

The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** report came from MCEEC 4/25 (RM), and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** banded and photographed at MCEEC 5/31 represents a first site record (DS). Led by ESU's Terry Master, a four hour survey covering three miles in DWGNRA 5/11 produced solid results for many species (KB, NE, GG, TM). Sixty-two species were seen or

heard, including 19 warbler species. The most numerous species were **Red-eyed Vireo** (61), **American Redstart** (49), **Ovenbird** (40), and **Hooded Warbler** (29).

The pied-leucistic **Dark-eyed Junco** that spent the winter at MCEEC was last seen there 3/21 (JR). The 15 **Pine Siskins** that visited a Blakeslee feeder since the beginning of February continued into the spring—by 4/11 the flock was down to 6 birds, and the last siskin was seen there 5/19 (BC).

Observers: Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net, Al Ambler, Katie Barnes, Bud Cook, Nick Ernst, Greg George, Terry Master, Rebecca Moll, Jenifer Rituper, Darryl Speicher, Roger Spotts, Jim Thomson, Rick Wiltraut.

Montgomery County

Locations: Deep Creek and Knight Lake Area- Green Lane Park (DCKL), Fort Washington State Park (FWSP), Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Environmental Restoration Trust (PERT), Valley Forge National Park (VFNP).

Average temperatures were about 11°F above normal for March, and 6°F above for May. April was also above by about 1°F. Conditions were dry in March due to the heat and a rainfall deficit of over two inches below normal. By May rainfall improved but the net result was still below average. A total of 196 species was reported for the three-month period. The PAMC 5/12 had 17 participants providing 12 area reports totaling 122 species. Weather statistics are from Allentown, PA (NOAA). Note that per the NOAA website, the normal period used for averages is the previous three decades 1981 through 2010. Almost all data presented here came from eBird. Brian Henderson compiled the PAMC data used in this report.

Twenty-five waterfowl species were reported in eBird. A fallout 3/31-4/1 produced some of the more unusual species. The high count for **Snow Goose** was a locally good 1700 at GLR 3/1 (KC). There were counts of 100-200 at NFP 3/13 and 3/28 (BHe), at Wynnwood 3/19 (RB), and McKaig Nature Center, Upper Merion 4/14 (MR). The latter was also the latest entry for migrants in eBird for this species. Most other counts were in the low single digits, with just a few in the low double digits (m.ob.). The last big counts of **Canada Goose** were 2500-3000 at GLR 3/3-4 (GAF), after which numbers dropped rapidly. There were 32 **Tundra Swans** at GLR 3/7 (GAF), with 4 noted there 3/11 (SP). Before young were hatched, all entries for **Wood Duck** in eBird were single digit counts except for a good tally of 32 at VFNP 3/16 (BHe). Continuing the good winter showing of **Gadwall**, high counts at GLR per month were 89 on 3/10 (BHe) and 40 on 4/3 (GAF). Numbers tapered off to 4 by 4/19. The next reports were one there 5/2 (KC) and one on the very late date of 5/18 (GAF). **Blue-winged Teal** were noted at GLR 4/8-15, with the high count of 9 on 4/15 (BHe). The GLR high count for **Northern Shoveler** was a noteworthy 15 on 4/13 (KR). The **Northern Pintail** high count was a good 85 on 3/3 (GAF), but nowhere near the highs of decades ago. Always a good find here, a **Canvasback** at GLR 3/31(GAF, KC) was the only report. Another very good find and tally, 9 **Redhead** were at GLR 3/9 (GAF), and 2 remained 3/10 (PH). The high of 93 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/3 (GAF) is interesting for almost matching the 91 on 3/5 last year. The 28 **Lesser Scaup** at GLR 3/31 (GAF) is noteworthy. A **Surf Scoter** stopped at GLR 4/1 (NP). One **Long-tailed Duck** was at GLR 3/31 (KC), followed by 6 there 4/1 (NP). The highest count for **Bufflehead** was 70 on 3/31 at GLR (GAF). Although the migrant flow of **Hooded Merganser** seemed to end 3/22 (MR), a female at White's Mill Preserve 4/30 (KC) may indicate a possible breeding attempt. **Common Merganser** has nested at GLR in recent years, so lingering birds through Apr and into early May with low single digit counts would be expected (m.ob.). A count of 10 on 4/29 stood out but was also felt to be of local birds per the observer (GAF). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at GLR 3/28 (KC) and 3 were tallied there 3/31(KC, GAF), with a late one 5/13 (GAF).

As in winter, the only double digit counts of **Wild Turkey** were at PERT, where the high was 17 on 3/15 (HB). A **Red-throated Loon** stopped at GLR 3/31 (GAF, KC) for the only report. A seven hour hawk watch at an undisclosed site produced 85 **Common Loons** 4/14, and another 24 were tallied the next two days (SM). The only other significant counts were during the 5/2-6 period, with a high of 24 on 5/4 at GLR (GAF) and 21 on 5/6 at Haverford College (SJ). **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported at four sites, with a high count of only 2 at GLR and White's Mill Preserve (GAF). The **Horned Grebe** high count was 10 at GLR 4/4 (GAF), the only site reporting this species. Also there, one **Red-necked Grebe** was described 4/1 (RE). The private hawk watch 4/14 saw a significant flight of **Double-crested Cormorants**, with 619 tallied (SM). Another four hours there 4/16 produced another 112 (SM). The highest count at GLR was 65 on 5/5 (GAF). One

American Bittern was at PERT 4/8 (PD) and another was at Jarrett Nature Center, Horsham Twp. 4/25 (GJ). The only **Great Egret** reports were all of singles at GLR 4/18-21, 5/11, 5/13, and 5/23 (MA, GAF, JG, BHe, BD). One adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Reiff Park, Lower Salford Twp. 4/29 (PM) was the only report.

A total of 45 **Black Vultures** at DCKL 4/29 (GAF) was a noteworthy spring count. The new GLR **Bald Eagle** nest on private property had 2 juv. at the end of May (KC). Up to 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** at Four Mills Nature Preserve through the period probably indicates breeding there (AJ, JS). One each was reported from seven other sites on six dates (m.ob.). The private hawk watch recorded 50 **Broad-winged Hawks** 4/14 (SM). A **Swainson's Hawk** 4/15 at the private hawk watch (SM, ph.) was confirmed by hawk expert Frank Nicoletti from a very poor photo taken through binoculars. No details explaining his conclusion were provided, and no documentation other than the photo was provided by the observer. However, the observer has a few years' experience doing bird surveys in western North America where this species was observed frequently by him. Single **Merlin** were reported from five sites on six dates (m.ob.), with the last being 5/1 (PH). A **Peregrine Falcon** was at McKaig Nature Center 4/4 (MR), and up to 2 were at West Laurel Hill Cemetery area 4/8 and 4/15 (WS, RB). These sightings are likely of the pair nesting across the river in Manayunk, Philadelphia (AMc).

A **Virginia Rail** was at Lower Gwynedd Twp. 5/12 (SP) for the only report. **American Coot** was reported at PERT and GLR, with the unexciting high counts being 8 at the former 3/7 (GJ) and 12 at the latter 4/13 (KR). Only nine shorebird species were reported in small numbers due to limited habitat at GLR. The high count was 12 for **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/5 at Towamencin Twp. (KR). **Greater Yellowlegs** was reported on six dates at GLR between 3/30 and 5/5 (BHe, GAF, KC, BR, RR), with a high count of 2 on 4/28 (GAF). One was at Towamencin Twp. 5/3 (KR). **Lesser Yellowlegs** was reported at GLR on five days 4/21 to 5/3 (KC, GAF, BHe, BD), with two 4/26-28 (KC, GAF) and 3 on 5/2 (KC). **Least Sandpiper** was reported at three sites on seven days between 4/17 and 5/16 (BD, BHe, GAF, KR), with a high count of only 9 at GLR 5/12 (BD). Two **Dunlin** stopped at GLR 4/18-19 (JG, GAF), with one there 4/21 (BD, BHe). **Wilson's Snipe** was reported at seven sites between 3/16 and 4/19 (m.ob.), with the high count being only 7 at GLR 4/17 (GAF). **American Woodcock** were under-reported, with only three entries in eBird, all at NFP 3/12 to 4/2 (BHe, BH).

GLR was the only site with **Bonaparte's Gull** reports on seven days between 3/30 and 5/4 (m.ob.), with a high count of 10 4/13 (KR). Gulls in general cleared out early. The last large count for Ring-billed Gull was 1200 on 3/3 at GLR (GAF). The high count of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was 10 on 3/11 (MD). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported from four sites on only five dates (DB, CA, BH, JT). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported at Fulshaw Craeg (BD) and Fort Washington State Park (SP) on 5/12. A total of 4 based on nocturnal flight calls were recorded at Elkins Park 5/11-12 (PD). A **Barred Owl** was heard at Evansburg State Park 3/11 (JE). One **Common Nighthawk** was reported from each of eight sites (m.ob.) for the usual poor number of reports. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was well reported through 4/21. A count of 7 at NFP 3/31 (BHe) and 8 at PERT 4/8 (PD) were noteworthy highs.

The only report of **Alder Flycatcher** came from GLR 5/31(GAF) in an area they have been reported in the past. **Least Flycatcher** was reported from five sites on three dates between 5/10 and 5/16 (m.ob.). **Blue-headed Vireo** was exceptionally early at Camp Melmar 3/26 (MW). **Warbling Vireo** provided a remarkable tally of 40 (39 singing males) in a four mile stretch of the Perkiomen Trail near Schwenksville 5/12 (SK, JG). **Common Raven** was at Norristown 4/7 (EW), Unami Creek Valley 4/25 (KC) and 5/5 (GAF, JG, KC), and Montgomeryville at a quarry 5/14 (SS). After being very scarce this winter, there were no reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** after 2/29 until Apr. One was at Mason's Mill Park 4/6 (MW), PERT 4/14 (AZ), and GLR 4/27 (GAF). A **Marsh Wren** at Wings Airport 5/12 (BH) provided the only report. **Swainson's Thrush** was reported from about 14 sites on 13 days between 5/3 and 5/28 (m.ob.). Most reports were of single birds with 2 on three reports. There were 24 sites reporting **Brown Thrasher** starting 3/26 (m.ob.), a rather good showing. Two **American Pipits** at the hawk watch site 4/14 (SM) provided the only report.

A total of 33 warbler species was reported. There were a few days with enjoyable numbers of migrants. The 5/3-5 period was felt to be very good at a yard in New Hanover Twp. by a very experienced observer (RG). PERT had 21 species of warblers 5/5-6 (PD). Twenty-four warbler species were tallied for PAMC, with **Common Yellowthroat** (89), **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (69), **Yellow Warbler** (67), **Northern Parula** (37), and **American Redstart** (26) being the highest tallies. **Blackpoll**, **Black-throated Blue**, and **Prairie** all came in at 18. All others were 10 or less. The following includes some that are our most consistently scarce. **Mourning Warbler** was reported from Lorimer Park 5/5 (MW), Crosswicks 5/12 (JG), and NFP (BH). **Kentucky Warbler** 4/28 at FWSP (DB) was the only report. **Hooded**

Warbler was reported from six sites on four days between 5/4 and 5/14 for a good showing (DB, MJ, ZM, SP, WS). A **Cerulean Warbler** at FWST 5/12 (SP), was the only mention of this former county breeder. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at DCKL area 4/19, PERT 5/12 (FV), and NFP 5/14 (BHi) for this annual but rarely reported species. **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Windlestrae Park, Montgomery Twp. (RF) and Wynnwood 5/16 (RB), for the only reports. As usual, the other warblers barely noted were **Tennessee Warbler** (7), **Cape May Warbler** (7), **Bay-breasted Warbler** (2), and **Wilson's Warbler** (9) (m.ob.).

Grasshopper Sparrow was at the hawk watch 4/15-16 (SM). Skippack Twp. near the Graterford Prison was the only other reporting site starting 5/12, with the high count of 8 on that date (SK). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Schwenksville 5/5 (MJ), Windlestrae Park, Montgomery Twp. 5/10 (RF), and 2 were at NFP 5/16 (BHe, BHi). A male **Summer Tanager** was at PERT 5/6 (PD, No doc.) for a rare report. A **Blue Grosbeak** was reported at NFP 5/16-20 (BHi) for another only report. One **Dickcissel** was at FWSP 5/5 (DB) and a nocturnal flight call was recorded at Elkins Park 5/11 (PD). **Bobolink** was only reported in Skippack Twp. starting 5/12 when 17 (also the high count) were found 17 (SK). **Rusty Blackbird** was reported at six sites (m.ob.) in single digit counts, with the last at Haverford College 4/13 (SJ). The **Bullock's Oriole** at Douglass Twp. was last noted 4/7 (MA). This departure was about eleven days later than the homeowner reported last year. **Purple Finch** was likely near absent or completely absent based on no reports from experienced observers.

CORRIGENDUM: In Volume 26, No. 1, Steve Kacir was inadvertently omitted from the list of observers. His observations were credited as SK in the report.

Observers: **August Mirabella, 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales, PA 19454, (215) 368-0594, augustmirabella@aol.com**, Mary Ache, Cindy Ahern, Dave Belford, Rob Bierregaard, Harris Brown, Kevin Crilley, Ben Davies, Martin Dellwo, Paul Driver, Jesse Estlow, Robert Evans, George A. Franschois (GAF), Ron French, Joel Glassman, Ron Grubb, Brian Henderson (BHe), Paul Heveran, Richard Hepner, Barbara Hiebsch (BHi), Amy Johns, Gail Johnson, Mike Johnson, Sheryl Johnson, Steve Kacir, Many Observers (m.ob.), Phoebe Markley, Scott McConnell, Art McMorris (AMC), Anna Mindel, Zack Moyer, Frank Nicoletti, Sam Perloff, Rich and Barbara Rehrig, Ken Rieker, Michael Rosengarten, Steve Saffier, Win Shaffer, Jamie Stewart, Jaime Thomas, Emily Whitfield, Mike Wilson, Alex Zorach.

NEW COMPILER BEGINNING FALL 2012: **W. Brian Henderson, 2408 Swede Rd., Norristown, PA 19401, (610) 505-5571, wbhenderson@gmail.com**.

Montour County

No compiler.

Northampton County

Locations: Bethlehem Boat Club (BBC), East Bangor Dam (EBD), Green Pond (GP), Jacobsburg State Park (JSP), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Nazareth Quarry (NQ).

The dry, warm weather continued into early spring. The normally flooded field (wetland) at GP, usually good for shorebirds, dried up before the May rains could salvage the situation. There were no fallouts of waterfowl but there was some variety, and all three species of scoter made an appearance. Birders located 130 species during the PAMC on what was a perfect sunny day. The wintering **Rufous Hummingbird** in Walnutport was last reported 3/28 (DaW).

At NQ, 200 **Snow Geese** lingered into Apr (BE). On PAMC day, there were still 9 **Snow Geese** at the quarry (MS, CCS). A **Cackling Goose** was in a field in E. Allen Twp 3/3 (DW). **Green-winged Teal** (high of 40) and **Northern Pintail** (high was 30) were common at GP the first half of the period. **Gadwall** reports came from GP (3/15-4/1) and Gremar Rd in L Nazareth Twp (4/15-5/12). There were 2 **Northern Shovelers** at NQ 4/1 (BE). East winds at the end of March provided for some good birding that included 65 **Bufflehead**, 4 **Ruddy Ducks**, **Horned Grebe**, **Long-tailed Duck** and a **Black Scoter** at NQ 3/31 (MS, CCS). NQ had 2 **White-winged Scotters**, 5 **Greater Scaup**, 23 **Horned Grebes** and 36 **Common Mergansers** 4/1 (BE, MS, CCS). There were also 13 **Long-tailed Ducks** reported from Bethlehem Twp 4/1. A male **Red-breasted Merganser** was at NQ 3/15 (MS, CCS). An adult male **Surf Scoter** was on the wash pond at MCEP 5/12-5/22 (MS, CCS, RW). A **Northern Bobwhite** (likely an escapee) was heard calling at NQ on 4/1 (BE).

There was an adult **Great Cormorant** at Martins Creek Quarry 3/16 (MS, CCS). **American Bittern** was observed at Gremar Rd 4/29 and at EBD 5/12 (MS, CCS). The season's first **Osprey** was 3/25 at the Riverton Inn nest site (LS). In Portland, 3 young **Bald Eagles** were looking healthy in their nest as both adults perched nearby on PAMC day (MS, CCS). A **Peregrine Falcon** was soaring high over Nazareth 4/1 (BE). The **Peregrine Falcons** at MCEP are again nesting in 2012. There were 2 **Virginia Rails** at EBD 4/15 (MS, CCS). **American Coot** was regular at NQ during most of the period. A **Sandhill Crane** in a cornfield in E Allen Twp 5/31 was unexpected (DW).

This was a poor spring for shorebirds in the county, mostly due to the fact that suitable habitat at GP had dried up by 4/23. A **Dunlin** made use of the nearly dried GP area 4/16-17 (DA). A few **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at GP in early Apr. An early **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at 3/15 GP (KS). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at GP 4/8 (DD). **American Woodcock** was first seen displaying 3/1 in Plainfield Twp (KS). **American Woodcock** was heard along National Park Dr. during the PAMC (MS, CCS). At a private retention pond in Bath, there were 2 **Red-necked Phalaropes** 5/21 (JK). There were 41 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and a first winter **Glaucous Gull** at NQ 3/17 (MS, CCS). On 4/1, likely the same **Glaucous Gull** was at NQ in the morning (MS, CCS) and in the afternoon, there were 15 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (BE). The only tern seen was a **Black Tern** at the private pond in Bath.

During the PAMC, 17 **Eastern Screech-Owls**, 5 **Great Horned Owls**, 2 **Barred Owls**, and 4 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** (Little Gap, BS) were recorded. On a LVAS field trip to the BBC, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen near the boat launch (DD). At JSP 4/14, there was a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (AS).

A migrant **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Gracedale 5/19 (MS, CCS) and **Alder Flycatcher** was reported in E Allen Twp 5/25 (DW). At Little Gap on 5/20, 4 **Common Ravens** flew over the gap (MS, CCS). Birders like posting early and late dates and fallouts of passineres. The following text lists those first-of-year birds. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at NQ 3/28 (MS, CCS) and **Barn Swallow** was seen in Bath 4/15 (MS, CCS). **Chimney Swifts** seemed to show up in multiple places on 4/24. A **Brown Thrasher** was in Bethlehem Twp 3/25 (DD). **Blue-headed Vireo** was reported from JSP 5/1 (KS) and at Smith Gap 5/3 (MS, CCS). **Yellow-throated Warbler** and **Northern Parula** were at the BBC 4/14 (AS). **Warbling Vireo** was singing at the BBC 4/24 (MS, CCS). **Blue-winged Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, and **Common Yellowthroat**, and **White-eyed Vireo** were found at JSP 4/21 (AS). **Palm Warbler** and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** were at BBC 4/15 (MS, CCS). **Cerulean Warbler** was singing at Kirkridge 5/4 (MS, CCS). The first reports of **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided** and **Black-throated Green Warbler** came on 5/3 at Smith Gap during a small fallout (MS, CCS). A **Cape May Warbler** was singing near the archery range at Bear Swamp 5/16 (MS, CCS). **Blackpoll Warbler** was seen in a few places during the PAMC and was hanging around in E Allen Twp until 5/25 (DW). **Northern Waterthrush** was first reported 5/5 (KS) and **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/14 (AS) each at JSP. **Hooded Warbler** was near the JSP office 4/28 (RW). There was a **Kentucky Warbler** at JSP 5/11 (KS). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was singing on territory on National Park Dr. in Upper Mt Bethel Twp 5/16 (MS, CCS).

There were 16 **American Pipits** in a field along Hill Top Rd. near Bath 5/8 (MS) and 11 were still around for the PAMC. An **Eastern Towhee** was at JSP 4/14 (AS). **Fox Sparrow** observations were from JSP 4/14 (AS) and at Bear Swamp 4/15 (MS, CCS). A **White-crowned Sparrow** lingered to 5/12 in Williams Twp (AK). There were 3 **Vesper Sparrows** at Graver's Hill 4/1 (MS, CCS). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was not reported until 5/4, also at Graver's Hill (MS, CCS). **Dark-eyed Junco** was still around 4/29 at MCEP (MS, CCS). A male **Blue Grosbeak** was at the Koch Farm 5/21-24 (AK). In E Allen Twp, a male **Dickcissel** was visiting a feeder 3/24-4/3 (DW). An early male **Baltimore Oriole** was at the Koch Farm 4/17 singing from a blooming apple tree (AK).

EXOTICS: A **Monk Parakeet** visited feeders at the Koch farm in Williams Twp. 3/22 (AK).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, PA 18014, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Dan Altif, Dave DeReamus, Bill Etter, Jeff Kaboly, Arlene Koch, Corinne Campbell Schall, Lillian Shupe, Kathy Sieminski (KS), Brad Silfies, Adam Smith, Kathy Stagl, Dave Wagner (DaW), Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltrout.

Northumberland County

No compiler.

Perry County

Location: Miller's Gap (MG).

An **Osprey** and 4 **Long-Ducks** were at Little Buffalo State Park 3/22 (JW). One flyover **Common Loon** and an **American Pipit** were found at MG 5/1 (RK). Several less common warbler sightings at Miller's Gap included a **Tennessee Warbler** and a **Bay-breasted Warbler** 5/5 and a **Cape May Warbler** 5/8 (RK). SGL 170 produced a **Yellow-breasted Chat** and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** 5/5 (RK, MM). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was seen by KB 5/6. A drive out Laurel Run Road 5/12 yielded a **Kentucky Warbler** and a **Cerulean Warbler** (VG).

Observers: Ramsay Koury 123 Old Ford Drive Camp Hill, PA 17011, (717) 761-1871, rkoury123@aol.com, Kayle Beale, Vern Gauthier, Mark Markiewicz, John Wheatley.

Philadelphia County

Locations: Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware River (DR), Delaware River Trail (DRT), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Glenn Foerd Mansion (GF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Naval Business Center aka Navy Yard (NBC), Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant (NEWPCP), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

In 2011, many of Philly's birders thought migration began a week early, but the actual arrival dates on the Spring Summary Table did not exactly bear that out. In 2012, however, claims that migration began two weeks ahead of schedule seemed to be correct since there was a burst of activity in early April leading to some reasonably early dates to support the claim. However, activity quickly fizzled, leaving birders in the doldrums until northward movement began in earnest as usual late in April. Fifty-six birders participated in the PAMC 5/12 and found only 122, down from 127 in 2011. No remarkable migrants were found and it was a slow, quiet day.

We had a modest showing of 90 **Snow Goose** 3/8-4/21 only from skies over TI. During a survey at NE Airport, 23 **Tundra Swan** flew over 3/2 (FW). **Blue-winged Teal** continue to be long-staying visitors at TI departing in May along with **Northern Shoveler**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Duck** and **Common Merganser**. **Redhead** was missed completely and had only two records of **Common Goldeneye** in March on the DR and less commonly at TI.

Despite tremendous construction activity and barbed-wire fencing, 2 **Ring-necked Pheasant** were at NBC 4/11-25 (FW, TF). In addition to the TI **Wild Turkey** population which is thriving, three were seen at 34th and Gray's Ferry (TC), Bartram's Garden 4/25 (AZ) and in FP at Lemon Hill 4/11 (LW). **American Bittern** was at POD 3/20 (FW) and at TI 4/17-20. A third bittern was an unexpected surprise at a small preserve next to the Germantown Academy athletic fields in nw. Philly 5/1 (BR). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were present mid-April to mid-May. A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was sitting high in a tree at TI 5/9 (DBr, MD). A dozen **Glossy Ibis** were flying around TI 4/8 (FW, DM) and probably stayed in the area since a dozen were seen again 4/10 (TF). Small numbers of **Glossy Ibis** continued to be seen through 5/3 at TI (TF, GA) and at Woodland Cemetery in West Philadelphia along the SR (AZ).

A **Mississippi Kite** flew over POD 5/22 and was well described (FW). Records indicate this is the first kite since May 1982. Two **Bald Eagle** nests produced four chicks and four successful fledglings. The return of **Broad-winged Hawks** stretched from 4/9-5/6 with 7 the largest group. The male **Red-tailed Hawk** of the pair nesting on the ledge of the Franklin Institute was killed by a car 4/28. Within a week a new male was accepted into the family and began to feed the chicks, all three of which fledged in June. Of the 33 **Peregrine Falcon** nests in the state, six are active in Philadelphia.

A **Virginia Rail** was at TI 4/21 (TF). A **Common Moorhen** made a brief stop at TI 4/30 (AB) one was at the Roxborough Reservoir 5/12 (MS). This was a good season for **Sandhill Crane** in Pennsylvania, and Philly had one fly past Ft. Mifflin going up the DR on 5/7 (AG).

There was no spring "drawdown" of the TI impoundment, but a few shorebirds were found. **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Least Sandpiper** arrived in tiny numbers 4/13-16 at TI and on the tidal flats at POD. **Semipalmated Plover** 5/8 and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/11-14 were the only other reports. FW had a nice showing of **Bonaparte's Gull** 3/31 when he found 150 floating on the DR in the fog. A few were already in alternate plumage. A total of 70 Bonaparte's Gull (part of the group of 150?) were further south on the DR (TF). By 4/23, most

Bonaparte's were seen first-cycle individuals as the younger birds came through later (FW).

Black-billed Cuckoo is not reported every season, but one was at SCEE 5/12 (KJ) and one was at PEC 5/20 (MW). Many birders remarked on the scarcity of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**. It was a down year for both species in passage and breeding. County birders enjoyed a nightjar trifecta. **Common Nighthawk** was photographed in a tree at TI 5/11 (LR, NC, m.ob.). On 5/8 a **Chuck-will's Widow** was calling over the fields of Spring Lane (CH). Finally, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at Awbury Arboretum 4/11-12 (BR, SF), a second record for that location. On 5/3 another **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, also found roosting in a tree (TF), was photographed at TI 5/4 (BM). The five month **Red-headed Woodpecker** sojourn in WC ended 3/8 (KJ), and another was in a slightly different location 5/10 (KJ).

Alder Flycatcher was at TI 5/25 (TF). Four **Least Flycatcher** were seen 4/29-5/13 (TF, FW, MD). The **Northern Shrike** was last seen at TI 3/15 (BB). Spring began with 32 **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** remaining from the overwintering flock at NEWPCP. **Bank Swallow** returned 4/14. Unusual were at least 4 **Cliff Swallow** at TI 4/25-29 (MD, TF, DB). For a change county birders caught at least a glimpse of all the thrushes. An early **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at TI 4/26 (FW) and FDR hosted the last one 5/16 (GA). Our only **Swainson's Thrush** was in center city at Washington Square Park 5/1 (GA).

Birders identified 33 warbler species. Cerulean and Connecticut Warbler were missed. **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Tinicum 4/28-5/1 (m.ob.) and along the WC 5/3-6 and 5/31 (RG, AZ). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a welcome find at TI 5/2 (TF, AB). As in past springs **Prothonotary Warbler** was attracted to nest boxes placed over water in wooded habitat 4/29-5/6 (RM, MD, TF). Either that same warbler or a late straggler was found at TI 5/25 (FW, TF). The **Orange-crowned Warbler** last seen 3/10 at POD was surely the overwintering bird (FW) but the 4/18 sighting at TI was an unexpected spring migrant (AB, TF). **Mourning Warbler** (5/17) and a singing **Kentucky Warbler** were again found in the Pennypack 5/5-12 (BS, FW, MD). Three **Cape May Warbler** at TI on 5/3 (MD, TF) were cause for celebration. A late **Blackpoll Warbler** was at TI 6/2 (MD). Sightings of **Palm Warbler** spanned two months 3/11-5/19. **Yellow-throated Warbler** arrived later than usual to TI 5/1, just when everyone decided it would be a "no show". **Yellow-breasted Chat** which had nested at Spring Lane, not only didn't nest, but not single bird was seen.

Reports of sparrows were not exceptional. All sightings of **Savannah Sparrow** were small groups only along the DR, either at POD or DRT during April, but one late bird was at TI 5/10 (TF). **Lincoln's Sparrow** and **White-crowned Sparrow** had limited sightings 4/25-5/12. **Blue Grosbeak** returned to Lemon Hill in FP 5/4 (LW), DRT 5/11 (MD) and POD 5/22 (FW), but none stayed longer than a day. Their numbers are increasing in Pennsylvania and we're hopeful They will nest in Philly again soon. **Rusty Blackbird** finally headed north 5/1 (FW).

ADDENDUM: Two important sightings from 2011 should be noted here. A **Summer Tanager** seen by Matthias Feuersenger in Fairmount Park 10/27/2011 has been accepted by PORC. A window-killed **Yellow Rail** was found on Temple University's main campus 10/11/2011. The specimen is now at the Academy of Natural Sciences Philadelphia (KR).

Observer: Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063; (610) 565-8484, mcgovern100@comcast.net, George Armistead, Debbie Beer (DBe), Adrian Binnis, Denis Brennan (DBr), Brian Byrnes, Skip Conant, Ned Connally, Tony Croasdale, Martin Dellwo, Steve DuPont, Todd Fellenbaum, Scott Frazer, Rob Goff, Gregg Gorton, Al Guarente, Cliff Hence, Rich Horwitz, Ken Januski, Pete Kurtz, Chuck Lyman, Brian Maher, Rob Megraw, Sam Perloff, Brian Quindlen, Bill Reaume, Tom Reeves, Lynn Roman, Mike Rosengarten, Keith Russell, Matt Sharp, Jerene Shroeder, Brian Schultz, Win Shaefer, Judy Stepenaski, Linda Widdup, Mike Wilson, Frank Windfelder, Alexander Zorach.

Pike County

Locations: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWG), Lake Wallenpaupack (LW), Peck's Pond (PP), Promised Land State Park (PLSP), Whittakers Pond (WP), Woodloch Springs (WS).

On 3/13, 3 **Wood Ducks** were seen on WP (MG). On 4/14, a lone **American Black Duck** was on LW with 2 **Bufflehead** and a **Green-winged Teal** (MCS). Six **American Wigeon** and a single **Pied-billed Grebe** were on PP. The highlight of the period, a drake **Eurasian Wigeon** at PP, was found 4/7 (AD) and was present through 4/14 (MCS). A total of 15 **Common Goldeneye** were seen at PP 3/3 (SS).

Also on LW 4/14 was a pair of **Bald Eagles**. On 4/17, a **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen at WS (CF). A **Sora** was seen on 3/3 at PP (SS).

On 3/3, a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen on Cabin Road (TO). There were 7 **Wilson's Snipe** at PP 4/7 (AD). A single **Wilson's Snipe** was also seen 4/14 at LW along with a **Belted Kingfisher** (MCS). A **Ruffed Grouse** was seen at LW 4/21 (PT).

A single **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was reported at a power line cut off High Line Road 5/4 (SS). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** returned 4/4 when 3 were seen (SS). A **Common Raven** was seen 3/2 at DWG (MG). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen at DWG 5/27. A pair of **Black-billed Cuckoos** was seen 5/12 (PB) also at DWG.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at DWG 5/12 (PB). Other flycatchers at DWG were **Eastern Wood-Pewee** 5/5 (TO), a pair of **Acadian Flycatchers** 5/30 (NF), an **Alder Flycatcher** (PB) 5/23, **Least Flycatcher** 5/3 (SS), **Great Crested Flycatcher** 5/3 (PB), **Eastern Phoebe** 3/17 (MG), and **Eastern Kingbird** 5/3 (SS). **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen at LW 4/14 (MCS) and at DWG 5/3 (PB). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen at DWG 5/3 (PB). Also at DWG, **Warbling Vireo** was seen 5/12 (MG) and **Red-eyed Vireo** was seen 5/3 (SS). Swallows returned to DWG as follows: **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** 5/12 (MG), **Purple Martin** 5/24 (DS), **Tree Swallow** 3/11 (AB) and **Barn Swallow** 5/3 at PP (SS). A pair of **Brown Creepers** and a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen at LW 4/14 (MCS). A **Winter Wren** was seen 3/26 at PEEC (MG). Two **Veeries** were seen 5/4 (SS). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at DWG 5/2 (PB). **Wood Thrush** returned 5/3 (SS).

A total of 27 warbler species were seen, plus a hybrid. The sightings below were at DWG, unless noted. **Ovenbirds** returned 4/2 at LW (PB), three **Worm-eating Warblers** on 5/12 (MG), **Louisiana Waterthrush** on 4/21 (PT), **Northern Waterthrush**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Brewster's Warbler**, **Golden-winged Warbler** and **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and **Yellow-throated Warbler** as well as **American Redstart** and **Common Yellowthroat** on 5/2 (PB). **Tennessee Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, **Canada Warbler** and **Yellow Warbler** along with **Northern Parula** were seen 5/3 (SS). **Kentucky Warbler** was seen 5/30 (TO). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was seen 4/14 at LW (MCS). Two **Blackburnian Warblers** were seen 5/2 at PLSP (GLO). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was seen at DWG 5/10 (PB). There were 4 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** seen 5/3 (PB) and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** was seen 4/20 at LW (PT). A **Palm Warbler** was seen 4/17 at WS (CF) and **Pine Warbler** 3/23 at DWG (RW).

Eastern Towhee returned 5/2 at DWG (PB). Two **Field Sparrows** were seen 3/10 (PG), a **Swamp Sparrow** and a **White-crowned Sparrow** were seen 5/4 (SS). **Scarlet Tanager** returned 4/17 at WS (CF) and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** on 5/3 (SS). **Indigo Bunting** returned 5/12 (MG), all at DWG. A single **Bobolink** was seen 5/14 (MG). There were also 4 **Purple Finches** 5/4 (SS).

Observers: Joe Greco 3116 Township Woods Rd, East Greenville, PA 18041, (717) 571-2933, certhid@gmail.com, Patrick Blake, Alan Boyd, Amy Davis, Chris Fischer, Nikki Flood, Paul Gamer, Mark Garner, Gabriel Lugo-Ortiz (GLO), Tom Ostrand, Michael and Corinne Schall (MCS), Susan Schmoyer, Daniel Smith, Peter Trueblood, Robert Watson.

Potter County

No report.

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

Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Deer Lake (DL), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS), Landingville Dam (LVD), Lebanon Reservoir (LR), Owl Creek Reservoir (OCR), Still Creek Reservoir (SCR), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tuscarora State Park (TSP).

Weather through April and March was unseasonably warm and dry but May was average in rainfall and temperature. The PAMC recorded a total of 147 species that included several high counts noted below. We all thank Mike Ward for his able compilation and organization of the count. There was a major fallout that began the afternoon of 5/2 and continued through 5/3.

The county does not have any large water bodies that attract good numbers of ducks. The lakes we have range from farm ponds to medium-sized municipal reservoirs. Therefore, what waterfowl we do get, aside from **Wood Duck** and **Mallard**, range from rare to uncommon. This spring we had quite a few species of waterfowl reported including some that stayed around into May. Those that stayed late included **Gadwall** at APWS (JoD,

JD); **American Wigeon** at LVD (BJ, DD); **American Black Duck** at APWS (JoD, JD), SCR (DK) and in the northwest part of the county (MW); **Blue-winged Teal** at APWS (JoD, JD), LVD (MW, DR) and SAL (DD); **Green-winged Teal** at APWS (JoD, JD), SSP (TC) and LVD (BJ, MW, TC and DR); **Hooded Merganser** at APWS (JoD, JD) and DL (JD); **Common Merganser** (m.ob.); and **Red-breasted Mergansers** at SCR (DK) and the Acopian Center at HMS (JJ). This was the first year that **Green-winged Teal** stayed late enough to be recorded on the PAMC. Other ducks seen in the county were **Northern Shoveler** at APWS (JoD); **Northern Pintail** at SSP (BR), APWS (JoD), and LVD (BJ, DD); **Redhead** at SAL (CB); **Ring-necked Duck** at several locations (m.ob.); **Lesser Scaup** at TSP (JoD), APWS (JoD) and SCR (DK); **Bufflehead** at APWS (JD) and SCR (DK); and **Ruddy Duck** at TSP (JoD) and SCR (DK). A **Common Merganser** was seen at SSP with eleven young (MaW) which, if confirmed, would be a rare breeding occurrence in the county. **Long-tailed Duck**, a very unusual bird for the county, was reported twice 4/1 at SCR (DK) and in a desilting pond near Tamaqua (DL). Seventeen **Horned Grebes** were at SCR 4/1 (DK).

An **American Bittern** was located in a small pond at SGL-286 (MW). A flock of at least ten **Great Blue Heron** were spotted circling above a ridge in the southern part of the county which might indicate a new rookery in the making (DR). **Great Egret** was reported at SAL (DD) and APWS (JD). A very unusual find in the county was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 4/3 at APWS (JoD).

Eight **Black Vultures** tied a PAMC count high for **Schuylkill** this year while **Bald Eagle** set a new count day high with 6. **Broad-winged Hawk** was once again spotted on the spring count after being missed last year. Rather uncommon in the county, two **Merlins** were seen; the first 4/6 at APWS (JD) and the other 5/3 in the southern part of the county (DR).

Like waterfowl, shorebirds are also very uncommon in **Schuylkill** due to a general lack of mud flats. This spring, however, a number of these birds were reported. **Greater Yellowlegs** were found fairly consistently during April at APWS (JoD, JD) and also at OCR (DK) and LVD (TC). **Lesser Yellowlegs** (TC), **Solitary Sandpiper** (m.ob.), **Spotted Sandpiper** (m.ob.) and **Least Sandpiper** (DK) were all reported this spring.

A small flock of **Bonaparte's Gulls**, usually hard to find here, were seen in **Schuylkill** this spring (MW, DK, JV). **Short-eared Owls** seem to have left the county with none reported so far this year although a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard during the PAMC (JoD, JD). A great count of 49 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** was reported during the PAMC surpassing the previous high of 14 (m.ob.). A good find for the county was a pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** (KG) on the north slope of Blue Mountain. This pair exhibited breeding behavior which was confirmed in the summer.

Olive-sided Flycatcher, elusive in the county, was seen on the PAMC and also in late May (DK, PM). **House Wren** arrived early on 4/7 (MW). **Swainson's Thrush**, a notable species for the county, was seen several times (DK, DM, DR, JoD, JD, TC). There were a total of 32 warbler species found. **Common Yellowthroat** was the earliest with an individual arriving 3/13 (SS) followed by an early arriving **Pine Warbler** 3/16 (BJ). These were followed by **American Redstart** 3/24 (BJ) and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 3/25 (BR). Warblers reported that were notable for the county were **Cape May Warbler** (BJ, DK), **Cerulean Warbler** (BR), **Kentucky Warbler** (KG, PM, DR, DS), **Wilson's Warbler** (DR, DW, JoD, JD, JJ, TB) and **Yellow-breasted Chat** (TC). A rare migrant in **Schuylkill**, the **Prothonotary Warbler**, was reported twice (DD, JoD). There were few sparrow species worthy of mention. **Lincoln's Sparrow** moved through in the first part of May (JoD, JD) and there were few reports of **White-crowned Sparrow** (BJ, JoD, JD).

Observers: Dave Rieger, 401 Stoney Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com, Tim Becker, Chris Bortz, Tom Clouser, Jonathan DeBalko, John DeBalko (JoD), Denise Donmoyer, Jane Fennelly, Vern Gauthier, Laurie Goodrich, Ellen Grim, Kerry Grim, Robert Hoopes, Johannes Jansen, Barb Jucker, Dave Kruel, Nancy Kruel, Dave Levandusky, Anne-Marie Liebner, David McNaughton, Mary Mekosh, Peter Montgomery, Tripp Muth, Claire Rieger, Barb Ritzheimer, Dan Schwartz (DaS), Devin Schwartz, Sandy Schwartz, Bill Sheehan, Justin Valentine, Mike Ward, Scott Weidensaul, Sally Weisacosky (SaW), Mark Weiss (MaW), Doug Wood.

Snyder County

Locations: Isle of Que (IQ), Taylor Lake (FL), Tall Timbers State Park (TT), Snyder County Birding Trail (SBT), Walker Lake (WL) and other various locations.

On 4/1 there was a small fallout of waterfowl on FL following a cold front. Three **Northern Shovelers** were found on the pond adjacent to the

Susquehanna River and IQ 3/3 (JW). Two days later there were 7 on the pond (KC), 14 showed up at FL 4/1 (JW). A dozen **Northern Pintails** showed up outside of Paxtonville 3/2 (JD). A pair of **Canvasbacks** was on FL 4/1 (JW). A probable first for Snyder was a **White-winged Scoter** photographed on FL 4/1 (JW). A large flock 70+ of **Long-tailed Ducks** was on FL 4/1 (JW). A **Common Loon** was found 3/24 on WL (CK) and another **Common Loon** was at FL 4/1 (JW).

Bald Eagles were seen regularly with 6 immatures 3/4 at WL and a single immature 4/1 (JW). On 3/7 one was seen at FL (JD). One was seen at McKees Half Falls 3/22 (KC) and finally one show up again at FL 5/12 (JW). A single **Northern Harrier** was seen just west of FL 3/4 (JW). Fourteen **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at FL 4/1 and 4 were found on WL later that day (JW).

A single **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found at FL 5/12 (JW). A pair of **Barn Owls** nested on the SBT, seen 5/29 (JW). The pair was later confirmed to have 7 owlets. Three singing **Winter Wrens** were in TT 5/12 (JW). A single **Canada Warbler** was also in TT 5/12 (JW). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was found just outside of Selinsgrove 5/12 (JW). A flock of about 32 **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed at FL 3/4 and 8 more were at a private residence outside of Selinsgrove 3/10 (JW). A lone male **Purple Finch** visited a feeder at a home outside of Freeburg 4/5 (JW).

No compiler. Contributors: Kay Cramer, Jim Dunn, Chad Kauffman, Jason Weller.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Garrett Mud Flats (GMF), Kimberly Run Natural Area (KRNA), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills (SM), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

It was a fantastic migration in Somerset with 226 total species including 26 waterfowl, a 33 warblers, and a superlative 21 shorebirds! The warm winter held all water open for the entire period and 2 large waterfowl fallouts of 8000+ birds were at SL 3/24-25 and 3/31-4/1. The partial drawdown of SL due to problems with the dam resulted in excellent, albeit temporary, mud habitat. Nearly daily coverage by ML turned up many nice and a few great finds. An early big day effort by ML, CP and JP turned up an exceptional total of 155 species for the county. Several species vied for bird of the season, including **American White Pelican**, **Little Gull**, **Red Knot**, **Baird's Sandpiper**, the flocks of **White-rumped Sandpipers**, but the hands down choice was the **Ruff** seen and photographed by ML.

Noteworthy waterfowl were many. A flock of 85 **Tundra Swans** passed SM 3/11 (EB). A small, short billed, dark breasted **Cackling Goose** accompanying **Canada Geese** at SL 3/10 (JP, CL) was probably a Richardson's subspecies. Unprecedented numbers of **Gadwall** lingered at SL including 199 4/2 (ML). Eighty-one **Blue-winged Teal** 3/26, 78 **Northern Shoveler** 3/12, 29 **Northern Pintail** 3/2 and 43 **Green-winged Teal** 4/1 at SL (ML) were good counts of puddle ducks. The fallout of 3/24-25 saw shifting numbers of birds and species (CL, CP, JP, ML, DS, et al.). Estimates varied from 6000 to 9000 birds partially due to birds arriving and departing. The flock was over 50% **scapu spp.**, 15% **Bufflehead**, 15% **Ruddy Duck**, and also included along with good counts of 158 **Canvasback** and 9 **Long-tailed Duck**. The next fallout of 3/31 had 8000 to 9000 birds consisting of about 80% **Ruddy Ducks**. A **Black Scoter** and 2 **Surf Scoters** were also present. Good counts were made of 74 **Pied-billed Grebes** 3/8 and 211 **Horned Grebes** 3/31 at SL (ML). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was present there 4/15 (ML).

An **American White Pelican** was seen flying towards the lake at 15:00 (ML) and was seen on the lake at 18:45 (CL, JP). It remained until at least early morning of 3/25. **American Bittern** were at BC 4/17 (JP, CL), High Point Lake 5/5 (ML, CP, JP), and Blackfield Road 5/17 (AW). **Great Egret** was a little scarce with one north of Somerset late April (ML) and 2 at SL 5/2 (JP). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was briefly at SL mid-April (ML).

Osprey returned to their precarious breeding tower at SL 3/34. Sightings of **Bald Eagle** were frequent and widespread, but they are still not known to breed in the county. **Northern Harrier** was nesting at SL and probably at GMF. **Golden Eagles** were seen 3/1 (ML) and in BA 3/7 (JP). A **Merlin** was seen 2/21 south of Somerset (JP), multiple times in Somerset Borough, and strafing shorebirds at SL through May (ML), raising the possibility of nest. A **Peregrine Falcon** was at BC 4/19 (ML). **Virginia Rail** was calling at BC 5/6 (ML, CP, JP) and a **Sora** was calling 5/9 at a small manmade wetland by ML's home. **American Coot** numbers were extraordinary at SL, peaking at 798 on 3/31 (ML) and persisting until late May. A single **Sandhill Crane** returned to BC 4/8 and was joined by a second bird mid-May.

Shorebirds were demonstrating that the idea that if you "create it, they will come" was true, with SL drawn down five feet in April. **Black-bellied Plovers** were present from 5/15-20 with two birds 5/16. **Semipalmated Plovers** were numerous from 5/3-6/7 with a high count of 27 on 5/17. **Greater Yellowlegs** were present from 3/31-6/1. **Lesser Yellowlegs** put in a good showing of up to 36 on 5/5. **Solitary Sandpipers** were getting social with 18 at a flooded spot near New Centerville 5/6 (ML, CP, JP). A nice count of 22 **Spotted Sandpipers** was enjoying SL 5/13 (ML). **Upland Sandpiper** has been very scarce for several years but 4 seen and heard near New Centerville 5/6 (ML, CP, JP) and 2 calling from fence posts in SM 4/17 (EB) was very encouraging. At SL, **Ruddy Turnstone** singles were found 5/23 (JP, CL) and 5/30 (ML). Two **Red Knot** very briefly set down 6/2 (ML) for the first record in decades. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were present in small numbers 5/3-6/1. **Least Sandpipers** were in much larger numbers with 250 on 5/17 being the high count. **White-rumped Sandpipers** put in a fantastic showing from 5/17 to a late 6/13 – astounding was the 21 birds (JP, ML) that built up to 28 (ML) by dark 6/5. A carefully studied **Baird's Sandpiper** was first found 6/4 (ML, JP) and this or another bird was last seen 6/12 (ML, JP, et al.). The identification was confirmed with digiscoped photos but most conclusively with sound recordings on an iPhone (ML). A **Ruff** was well photographed in his striped reddish and white plumage at SL 4/16 (ML). The weather was nice with no storms. The bird stayed only briefly, to the disappointment of all subsequent searchers for this county first and regionally significant bird. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at SL 5/12 (ML) and 5 were at BC 5/23 (JP, CL). The high count for **Wilson's Snipe** was 36 at BC 4/19 (ML).

A first for Somerset was a winter plumaged **Little Gull** with **Bonaparte's Gulls** at SL 4/25 (ML). Only one **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found there 3/9 (ML). **Caspian Terns** were first spotted at SL 4/11, a maximum of 14 were present 4/17 (ML), and 3 extremely late birds touched down amid thunderstorms 6/12 (ML, JP, CL). One **Common Tern** was found among an unprecedented number of 126 **Forster's Terns** at SL 5/8 (ML, JP). Two **Black Terns** eventually joined the mob.

Black-billed Cuckoo seemed more numerous than usual with up to 4 at SL 5/15 (ML). A **Barn Owl** 4/20 was calling at ML's residence. **Long-eared Owl** were at PP 3/13 (JP) and SL 4/8 (ML). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** responded to whistles predawn 5/8 on Mount Davis while an amazing full moon had many birds in full song at 3:00, including up to 9 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills**. The only **Common Nighthawks**, sadly now just migrants, were one at PP 5/20 (CP, JP) and 2 at Indian Lake 5/25 (TH). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at SL 5/12 (ML) was a nice spring record as was the **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 5/14 at ML's property. **Philadelphia Vireo** was found on Chicken Bone Rd. in the southwest part of the county 5/12 (ML). A few migrant **Purple Martins** were at SL including 12 4/21 (ML) and one 5/8 (ML, JP). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was heard at ML's 5/16, as well as 2 **Swainson's Thrushes** 5/13. **American Pipits** put in a good showing with 137 at SL 4/24 (ML), and a few were near New Centerville 5/5 (ML, CP, JP).

It would be simpler to list warblers not found this spring, but a few significant for the county are listed here, including several found on ML's daily rounds at SL. Both 2 **Blue-winged Warblers** and 4 **Golden-winged Warblers** were found in the same overgrown fields near Confluence 5/6 (ML, CP, JP). Also on same date nearby were up to 6 **Tennessee Warblers**. Two **Cape May Warblers** and one **Bay-breasted Warbler** were at SL 5/15 (ML). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** seems to be breeding at PP. This species was not found in county during last PBBA, and now brings the total known breeding warbler species for Somerset to 26. **Yellow-throated Warblers** seemed to be in good numbers near Confluence this year. A **Prairie Warbler** was at KRNA 5/12 (ML, TM). Two **Mourning Warblers** were at SL 5/12 (ML). Up to 6 **Canada Warblers** were found at Mount Davis 5/17 (AW). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were with the winged warblers 5/6 in Confluence.

Vesper Sparrow was at GMF 4/23 and singing mid-day above the Flight 93 Memorial wall 5/31. **Henslow's Sparrows** were on several old strip mines near Reel's Corner and Central City (CP, JP), in grass fields near Brush Creek (CP), and on Blackfield Rd. 5/17 (AW). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** 4/15 (ML) at BC was a nice find. A migrant **Dickcissel** was calling at night at BC (ML, CP). **Bobolink** numbers seemed a bit low but 25 were at a large Rt. 160 old strip mine 5/6 (ML, CP, JP). **Rusty Blackbirds** were present 3/11-5/6 with a high count of 52 at BC 4/19 (ML). Three **Orchard Orioles** were at SL 5/11 (ML) along with 7 **Baltimore Orioles**. The only **Pine Siskins** reported were 4 at SL 4/16 (ML).

Observers: Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718, Scott Bastian, Elmer Brenneman, Tim Hoover, Carolyn LaBute, Mike Lanzone, Chris Payne, Dan Snell, Andy Wilson.

Sullivan County

Locations: Dutch Mtn, Shady Nook, SGL 66, Cherry Township, Colley Township, Loyalsock State Forest, Briskey Mtn, High Knob Overlook, Splashdam Pond, SGL13, Hunter's Lake, Eagles Mere Lake.

Ice often remains on the lakes and ponds of *Sullivan* into the month of April, but this was not the case in 2012. Unseasonably warm weather brought open water and temperatures in the sixties during the weekend of 3/17-18. The open water attracted several species of waterfowl. Local nesters **Wood Duck** and **Hooded Merganser** were both seen on Shady Nook Lake. Two male and one female **Green-winged Teal** and 6 **Ring-necked Ducks** were observed on separate ponds along Rte. 487. A lone **Pied-billed Grebe** was diving in a small pond off Rte. 220 just below the Bradford line. A number of early migrants had arrived from wintering grounds or were passing through the county, including **Turkey Vultures**, **Killdeer** near Dushore, an **Eastern Phoebe** at SGL 66, and a **Tree Swallow** at Splashdam Pond. A total of 7 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were observed, and an immature **Bald Eagle** was at Splashdam Pond. A total of 6 **Sandhill Cranes** were seen. A pair was found at a known nesting location near Dushore and observed at close proximity. A group of four cranes were in a large field near Kinsley's corner. These birds were mostly idle and were not found again when the area was rechecked a few hours later. A flock of 12 **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen from the Shady Nook area. A **Pine Warbler** was found in a small mixed flock near Splashdam Pond. **Fox Sparrows** were numerous at the Old Home Place at Shady Nook. At least ten individuals were counted. At least 7 **Pine Siskins** were found at the edge of Engelman's Woods on both 3/17 and 3/18. The woods are an old growth stand of eastern hemlock at the entrance to Shady Nook Lake.

On 3/31 there were **Wood Duck**, **Ring-necked Duck**, two **Horned Grebe**, three **Great Blue Heron** and **Ring-billed Gull** reported from Hunter's Lake. That same day found **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Long-tailed Duck**, 10 **Common Loon**, **Ring-billed Gull** and **Scaup species** on Eagles Mere Lake. A return trip to Eagles Mere Lake on 4/15 found 4 **Common Loons**, 4 **Broad-winged Hawks**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (all WE).

The weekend of April 7-8 was also warm and sunny. More waterfowl were in the area including no fewer than 49 **Bufflehead** at various locations. **Common Merganser** was seen in the Loyalsock Creek. An immature **Golden Eagle** was found in a marshy area near Mildred. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were returning migrants to the county. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard in the Splashdam Pond area mid-April (DG).

Canada Geese were already on nests by the weekend of 4/21-22. There were 13 **Ring-necked Duck** and 2 **Common Loons** on Splashdam Pond. **Ruffed Grouse** numbers were up as they began to drum and were easier to detect. A pair of **Green Herons** was seen at a marsh near Dushore. Three different observations of **Osprey** were made at Splashdam Pond. This could have been three separate birds or the same bird three times. The birds were carrying a fish on two of those occasions. **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen in the county for the first time on the year. Other first of season returning nesters included **American Woodcock** at McCarron's Corner, several **Blue-headed Vireo**, single individuals of **Warbling Vireo** and **Nashville Warbler** at the Shady Nook Old Home Place, **Hermit Thrush** and **Brown Thrasher**. Returning warblers included a **Northern Parula** at the Dry Run Rd office of the Loyalsock State Forest, 15 **Yellow-rumped**, 6 **Black-throated Green** and 3 **Louisiana Waterthrushes**. Sparrows had returned in good numbers. There were ten **Eastern Towhee** plus 18 **Chipping**, 11 **Field** and 6 each of **Swamp** and **White-throated Sparrow**. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen at Shady Nook Lake on the cold raw morning of the 4/22. Gnatcatchers have nested in the county but are not generally found at the higher elevations. Pass through migrants observed included **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and **Palm Warbler**.

This observer was present in the county every weekend during the month of May and was able to visit many different locations and habitats throughout. Ninety-eight species were recorded on the first weekend of May. The list was mostly returning nesters but did include a few migrants. There were several species with high individual counts, especially in the warbler family. A beautiful **Red-shouldered Hawk** flew low across the Shanerburg Rd in Loyalsock State Forest. Ober's Pond in Dushore held a **Greater Yellowlegs**, 6 **Solitary** and 2 **Spotted Sandpipers**. A pair of **Great Horned Owls** was heard calling while walking out of Shady Nook Lake on the evening of 5/5. Other first of season records for the county included **Least Flycatcher**, **Eastern Kingbird**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, and **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. There were many warbler species with high individual counts including 12 **Yellow**, 43 **Chestnut-sided**, 13 **Yellow-rumped**, 10 **Blackburnian**, 17 **Black-and-white**, 34 **Ovenbird** and 26 **Common**

Yellowthroat. The only species with single individuals were a **Palm Warbler** at McCarron's Corner, a **Hooded Warbler** on Briskey Mountain, and a **Canada Warbler** at Splashdam Pond. The sparrow family was also well represented. **Savannah Sparrow** was the only first of season returning nester. Good numbers of **Song**, **Chipping**, **Field** and **White-throated** were encountered. Excellent finds were separate individual **White-crowned Sparrows** seen in the McCarty Rd area of LSF and at the Shady Nook Old Home Place. Rounding out the first of season sightings were **Scarlet Tanager**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Indigo Bunting**, **Bobolink** and both **Orchard** and **Baltimore Oriole**.

This author was again the lone observer in the county for the PAMC. A total of 731 individuals of 93 species were observed at 16 locations. The only non-breeders were 6 **Solitary Sandpipers** and a lone **Palm Warbler**. **Winter Wren** and **Veery** were the only county first of season records. A **Least Flycatcher** was seen nest building at Shady Nook's Old Home Place. A cut area in the McCarty Road region of the Loyalsock State Forest was checked for Golden-winged Warbler. This area held possible breeders last year but two separate trips did not relocate any individuals.

Gary Becker and Al Guarante joined me on 5/18 for a weekend of birding in the county. Over 105 total species were recorded. AG observed a **Cooper's Hawk** in a remote section of SGL 13. We visited the Splashdam Pond area early one evening to listen for **Eastern Whip-poor-will** and we were not disappointed. Several were heard including two birds sitting on the shoulder next to Rte. 487 near the ghost town of Ricketts. **American Woodcock** were also displaying in the area. First of the season birds included **Alder Flycatcher** in several locations and **Willow Flycatcher** along Rte. 87 at the bottom of Rosenberry Hill. Both **Bank Swallow** and **Cliff Swallow** were observed on Rte. 87 between Dushore and Forksville (AG). The grass strips at the county airport held 4 **Grasshopper Sparrows** and a **Northern Bobwhite** (of questionable provenance) calling in the distance.

On the weekend of 5/26-27, a **Mourning Warbler** was seen in the High Knob area. Among other notable sightings from that weekend was an **Eastern Phoebe** nest with 5 hatchlings. A **Hermit Thrush** was also seen carrying nesting material (all RM).

Observers: Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com, Wes Egli, Rob Megraw, Doug Gross, Gary Becker, Al Guarante.

Susquehanna County

No report.

NEW COMPILER BEGINNING SUMMER 2012: Amy Davis, 129 W. Lancaster Ave. #2, Downingtown, PA 19335, (484) 753-5154, argdavis@gmail.com.

Tioga County

No report.

Compiler: Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA, 16901, (570) 724-5789, gnats3@ptd.net.

Union County

No compiler.

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Barkeyville Strips (BS), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), County Line Road (CLR), Fisherman's Cove Road (FCR), Guckert's Pond (GP), Kahle Lake (KL), Kennerdell Area (KA), Oil City (OC), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP), Polk Wetlands (PW), Two-Mile Run County Park (TMRCP), Van Game Lands (VG).

There were 186 species reported this period. The 2011 total for the same period was 188. Waterfowl numbers were low but most of the expected species made at least brief appearances. A probable **Trumpeter Swan** was reported at KL 3/30-4/2 (GE, RS). There were several reports of **Long-tailed Duck** 3/24-4/5 at KL. A **Hooded Merganser** with young was seen at OCSP 5/12 (GE). **Ruddy Duck** was reported through 5/31 at KL. The highlight of the season was a **Red-throated Loon** at KL 4/4 (SC). A **Common Loon** remained at KL until 5/26 (MV).

The **Great Blue Heron** rookery south of Franklin had at least 35 active nests, about the same as last year. The only **Great Egret** was at KL 5/11

(CW). Reports of **Green Herons** were few and far between.

There were only four reports of **Osprey** between 4/28 (JS, KG) and 5/26 (CH), an unusually low number. One new active **Bald Eagle** nest was found in OCSP. **Broad-winged Hawk** numbers in the county appear down again this year with only five reports from 5/1-27.

Virginia Rail was reported from GP 5/2 (GE) and TMRC 5/12 (GE). Shorebird migration was virtually nil. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at KL 5/15 (ST). **Upland Sandpiper** returned to its regular location along CLR in the BS. The last report was 5/23 (AW). **Least Sandpiper** was sighted twice, 5/12 (PC, JH, ML, GE) at a small farm pond and 5/19 at KL (RS). **Wilson's Snipe** was present at PW 4/3 (RS). Slightly unusual was the absence of **Herring Gull**. Though never common, there are usually a few each spring. **Caspian Terns** passed through KL 5/4 (ST). A **Black Tern** was flying around KL 5/7 along with three **Caspian** and 20 **Forster's Terns** (GE). Another **Black Tern** was at KL 5/26 (MV).

There were numerous reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Black-billed Cuckoo**. **Common Nighthawk** was reported from both OC and Franklin. The earliest report was 5/9 (NB). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were calling in VG 5/1 (GE). The earliest **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at BHNS 4/30 (KG, JS). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** returned to BHNS 4/6 (KG, JS). The only **Alder Flycatcher** for the period was reported at SC 5/31 (SS).

White-eyed Vireos were reported from three locations 5/6-5/24. **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported at BHNS 5/4 (KG, JS) and one was at FCR 5/24 (GE, JH). There were nine reports of **Common Raven**, either an indication that their numbers are increasing locally or that there are more observers in their nesting areas. The **Purple Martin** colony along CLR in the BS is still the only active colony reported in the county. The colony is doing well. **Bank Swallows** were seen only twice, 4/23 (KG, JS) and 4/28 at KL (GE). There was a colony last year along the AR just north of Franklin but the river level this spring was consistently high and appears to have caused in the swallows to abandon the location. NB reported the only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** 5/6. **Brown Creepers** were conspicuous by their relative absence, being reported only on 3/12 at OCSP (RS), 4/11 and 4/14 at BHNS (KG, JS). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was last reported 4/12 (KG, JS) and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was present 4/9-5/5. **Swainson's Thrush** passed through BHNS 5/14-15 (KG, JS). A flock of about 100 **American Pipits** was seen 5/12 at KL (PC, GE, ML).

Warblers of note included **Pine Warbler** at BHNS 4/25 (KG, JS), **Palm Warbler** at KL 5/4 (ST), **Northern Waterthrush** at OCSP 4/30 (RS), **Kentucky Warbler** at FCR 5/24 (GE, JW), and **Yellow-breasted Chat** at BHNS 5/20-23 (GE, KG, JS, RS).

The last **American Tree Sparrow** was reported 3/28 at BHNS and the first **Field Sparrow** of the season was reported there 3/12 (KG, JS). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was located at BS 5/23 (AW). **Henslow's Sparrow** was singing at BS 4/19 (RN). This area is becoming more developed each year; consequently fewer grassland sparrows are being seen. NB reported **Fox Sparrows** at her feeder from 3/9-4/15. **Swamp Sparrows** were reported at GP 5/2 (GE). **White-throated Sparrows** continued through 5/8 and **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported from 4/30 (NB) through 5/7 (KW). The last **Pine Siskin** was reported by NB 5/13.

Observers: Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net; Russ States, 111 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pabirdr@verizon.net, Nancy Baker, Paulette Colantonio, Shawn Collins, Kurt Crosbie, Ray Duffy, John Fedak, Deb Freed, Kathie Goodblood, Delia Guzman, Jeff Hall, Brett Haranin, Craig Holt, Janice Horn, Meg Kolodick, Gretchen Lasser, Michael Leahy, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Kurt Muenz, Kirby Neubert, Richard Nugent, Steve Sanford, Kate St. John, Jerry Stanley, Shannon Thompson, Neil Troyer, Mark Vass, Andy Wilson, Jim Wilson, Kathleen Winger, Carole Winslow.

Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Avella (AV), Bentleyville (BENT), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Peters Township (PET), Robinson Township (RBT), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

The waterfowl flight was very good, particularly in Mar in the BENT area. First northbound **Tundra Swans** made their characteristic late-winter appearance with 3 at Lake Joann 2/29-3/1 and 6 over PET 3/5 (GG). **Gadwall**, often hard to find in Washington, were downright common at a

private pond in BENT, with several reports beginning 3/1 up to a late bird still there 5/4 (AB). Peak count was 23 on 3/24 (ST, DW). Three **Gadwall** also hung around CL 4/5-14 (GG, ST, DW). A total of 72 **American Wigeon** were on BENT-area ponds 3/1 (AB); last were 8 in BENT 4/12 (AB). High count of **Mallard** at BENT was 135 on 3/2 (AB). At CL, Mallards took advantage of the early and warm spring, where 11 ducklings were already out of the nest 4/16 (MV). By the second week of May observers were reporting up to 46 young mallards at the lake (MV, ST). Three **Blue-winged Teal** were early at BENT 3/1 (AB); small numbers of more timely birds were widely reported from six locations 4/5-30 (m.ob.). The only reports of **Northern Pintail** were flocks of 17 and 29 at BENT 3/1 and 3/2, respectively (AB). **Green-winged Teal**, like **Gadwall**, were very common in BENT through the end of April; top count was 42 on 3/10 (ST). One at CL 5/14-16 (ST) was late. The season's only **Canvasback** (one; ST, DW) and **Redhead** (8; AB) were also in BENT on 3/24 and 3/1, respectively. **Ring-necked Ducks** were very common in Mar, as usual; top count of 78 was made at BENT 3/2 (AB). A female Ring-necked Duck first reported at AMD 1/10 was still there at least into July (m.ob.). In the past, this artificially heated pond has been known to hold wintering waterfowl for weeks on end, but this bird's extended stay deep into summer is unusual even by AMD's odd standards. Interestingly, the "AMD American Coot", which has long been a year-round resident at AMD, was not reported this season. **Greater Scaup** consisted of 15 at BENT 3/2 (AB) and 3 at BENT 4/22 (ST). **Lesser Scaup** were considerably easier to come by, with 14 reports from six locations up to 5/4, when 2 were still found to be lingering at BENT (AB). Best among waterfowl was one male **Surf Scoter** at R4 on 4/15 (ST, DW). Single-digit counts of **Bufflehead** were also frequent beginning 3/2 (m.ob.) and ending with a late-ish bird at BENT 4/22 (AB). **Common Mergansers** are decidedly uncommon in Washington, so three reports—6 at BENT 3/2 (AB), one at BENT 5/4 (AB), and up to 5 at AV 3/12-4/14 (JB)—were notable. **Red-breasted Merganser** can also be hard to come by, so four reports represented a good season: one at BENT 3/1 (AB), 2 at BENT 3/10 (ST), one at CL 3/30 (ST), and 8 at R4 on 4/15 (ST, DW). Lastly, **Ruddy Duck** was not left out; daily totals of up to 15 (4/12, AB) began at BENT 3/24 and ended with 3 late birds there 5/13 (AB). They were also reported at R4 a few times in Mar and Apr (ST, DW) and at RBT 4/28 (GM).

Ring-necked Pheasants were reported only from the Buffalo Creek/GCW area (JuB, SC, RN), most certainly referring to released birds. **Common Loon** was thrice reported including twice in May: one at R4 on 3/31 (ST), one at Lake Joann 5/9 (GG), and one at BENT 5/13 (AB). Seventeen was a nice count of **Horned Grebes** 3/24, with 12 at R4 and 5 at BENT (ST, DW). **Double-crested Cormorants** often congregate in large numbers at Boone Res. in Apr but there were no reports of them there this year (probably a coverage problem), however they were noted at CL (MV) and BENT (AB) into early May.

An **American Bittern** was reported at GCW 5/25 (RN) and 5/28 (BM fide MV). This species has nested at GCW in the past. The **Great Blue Heron** rookery on Chartiers Creek in North Strabane Twp. held 57 nests by 4/25 (PB, LC) but only 56 of those were occupied by herons, because the last was held by a **Great Horned Owl** 4/4 (PB). In addition to an adult, 2 owlets were seen there in early Apr, but only one remained by 4/25 and the nest was empty by 5/10 (PB). One can't help but smile at the humorous tableau of two adult owls, in the peace of mid-winter, innocently settling in on an empty heron nest along a quiet creek, thinking everything is going along just swimmingly, only to be inundated by the squawking hordes of herons in March! To their credit, they stuck it out and likely successfully fledged at least one owlet. For the first time since 2002, the "hegret" (putative Great Blue Heron x Great Egret) was not reported at CL or anywhere else this spring. However **Great Egrets** were frequent at CL in Apr (ST, MV) through 5/7, and singles were also at Lake Joann 4/6 and 4/18-24 (GG).

The best bird of the season was Washington's first **Black Vulture**, a well described bird over Claysville near GCW 5/4 (SG). **Ospreys** passed through in Apr: one was at Lake Joann 4/10-11 (GG), one was at R4 on 4/22 (ST), and one was at CL 4/30 (MV). **Red-shouldered Hawks** probably bred at AV again this season, where they were frequently reported all spring (JB). First **Broad-winged Hawk** was an early bird at Claysville 4/7 (KSJ). A **Merlin** in PET 3/5 was an unexpected surprise (GG).

A great count of 5 **Virginia Rails** was made at GCW 4/12 (JuB), but they were not reported there again until 5/28 (BM fide MV). **Sora** was more frequently located at GCW, with five reports of up to 3 birds between 4/12 and 5/25 (JuB, CD, RN, SC). Both species are very probable breeders at these wetlands. In the aforementioned absence of the permanent coot at AMD, reports of **American Coots** were limited to a few on-time birds that were gone by late Apr.

The most common shorebirds were all present, namely **Killdeer**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, and **Wilson's Snipe**. Notable among the many reports of these species were the following: a peak of 7 **Greater Yellowlegs** at BENT 4/22

(ST), peaks of 8 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at RBT 4/28 (GM) and 11 at CL 4/30 (MV), the high count of 12 **Solitary Sandpiper** at CL 4/30 (MV), an interesting aggregation of 26 **Spotted Sandpipers** at BENT 5/4 (AB), and good numbers of **Wilson's Snipe** at GCW in Apr with a peak of 17 on 4/15 (CD). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at BENT 3/24 was notably early (ST, DW). There were also three separate reports of **Dunlin**, which can be rare in spring: 4 at BENT 4/22 (ST), one at CL 4/30 (MV), and one at BENT 5/13 (AB).

Barred Owl was reported through Apr in AV (JB) and in a Washington yard 4/20 (LC). First **Common Nighthawk** was at Washington 5/11 (LC), and they were also reported at CL thereafter (m.ob.). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was back at Coal Center 4/29 (AT). Up to 3 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen in AV 3/7-4/9 (JB) but one in North Strabane Twp. 4/18 (PB) was the only other reported.

An **Alder Flycatcher** at the Buffalo Creek IBA 5/19 was a nice find (SC). First **Great Crested Flycatcher** returned to AV 4/25 (JB). Each of the four commonly breeding vireo species returned pretty much on time. Once again a pair of **Common Ravens** spent the season at AV where they bred last year (JB), but direct evidence of breeding was not reported. **Tree, Barn, and Northern Rough-winged Swallows** all returned by 3/31.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported at Hillman State Park near Bavington in May, including a sighting of a female feeding a juvenile there 5/18 (LC, SG). The only report of **Winter Wren** was one at AV 4/19 (JB). Reports of spot-breasted thrushes (other than **Wood Thrush**) were sparse. **Swainson's Thrush** (in PET 5/12, GG) and **Veery** (at Hillman State Park 5/2, eBird) were each reported only once. **Hermit Thrush** was reported more often, including a possible over-winterer at Bavington 3/5 (JM). Gray-cheeked Thrush was not reported at all. A **Brown Thrasher** took to eating bananas at a PET feeder 4/27-30 (GG).

The total of 15 **Ovenbirds** at GCW and the surrounding area 4/15 was a good total for such an early date (CD). **Louisiana Waterthrush** and **Yellow-throated Warbler** were already back at Mingo Creek County Park 3/31 (ST). **Tennessee Warblers** were found in four locations 5/4-16 (AB, JB, LC). First of only a few reports of **Magnolia Warbler** was 5/1 at PET (LGK). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was seen in a BENT yard 5/13 (AB). First **Yellow Warbler** was 4/14 at CL (ST, DW), a bit on the early side. **Blackpoll Warblers** were at CL 5/7 (MV) and at BENT 5/13 (AB). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was spotted at Washington Park 5/11 (LC). The only report of **Pine Warbler** for the season was on at Bavington 4/16 (RT). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at AMD 4/2 (MV) was early enough to entertain the possibility that it overwintered locally.

Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows were back in place at Bavington this season (LC, SG, et al.). A **Fox Sparrow** in PET 3/18 (GG) was the sole report for **Washington**. **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at GCW 4/12 (JuB) and 4/15 (CD), but were not found elsewhere. Nine **Swamp Sparrows** were counted at GCW 4/12 (JuB) and 2 were still there 5/25 (RN). This species is very uncommon in the southwestern corner of the state in summer, and was not directly confirmed breeding in **Washington** during the PBBA, but it almost certainly does breed at GCW. Away from the Buffalo Creek area, where they sometimes winter and are easy to find in spring, **White-crowned Sparrow** was found only at PET 4/30-5/2 (GG).

Bobolinks are also a fixture at Buffalo Creek, and this year they returned 4/29 (SC) but were not reported elsewhere. A large aggregation of blackbirds, including 100 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 200 **Common Grackles** was at GCW 4/12 (JuB). **Orchard Oriole** at Coal Center 4/30 (AT) was on time, but a **Baltimore Oriole** at BENT 4/17 was about a week early (AB).

EXOTICS: An unbanded and free-flying **Bar-headed Goose** was at AMD 4/2 to at least 4/23 (MV). Interestingly, what may well have been the same bird was seen and photographed about 50 miles north of AMD in Lawrence 6/3 (GM).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Andy Berchin, John Boback, Justin Bosler (JuB), Paul Brown, Shawn Collins, Lauren Conkle, Cory DeStein, Mike Fialkovich, Gigi Gerben, Luke Gerben Kaspar, Sayre Greenfield, Pat Hutchinson, Bob Machesney, Jeff McDonald, Richard Nugent, Kate St. John, Amy Taracido, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, Don Weiss, Dave Wilton.

Wayne County

Locations: Dyberry Township (DT), Keen Lake (KL), Prompton State Park (PSP), intersection of S. Preston & Poyntelle Rds. (SPP), SGL 159 near Alder Marsh Pond (AMP), SGL 159 near Tanners Falls (TF).

Unless otherwise noted, the observations were of the author. Following

the mildest winter in recent memory, this spring was warmer than usual, which brought out flowers and tree leaves earlier than normal. On 3/3, three flocks of **Snow Geese** (about 213 total) were flying north near SPP 3/3 (TG), and another flock of 120 was seen in DT 3/19. Despite the water opening up earlier than usual this year, relatively few reports of waterfowl were received. The only **Green-winged Teal** were found in a pond near the intersection of Cole Rd. and Elk Lake Rd. 4/8. A single female **Red-breasted Merganser** was observed feeding in KL 4/1. Three **Common Goldeneyes** were at KL 4/1, with 2 remaining in the same location 4/8. Other species noted this season include **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Common Merganser**, **Wood Duck**, and **American Black Duck**.

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen near SPP 3/3 (TG), and another in PSP 3/20. A single **Common Loon** was observed during the PAMC 5/12 (KW). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted on Little Keen Lake 4/8, and another was seen flying overhead in DT 4/17.

Two mature **Bald Eagles** were perched in a tree above the creek off Upper Woods Rd., just south of Tanners Falls Rd. 4/28 (JPS). A total of eight were observed during the PAMC 5/12 (JPS, CF, KW, BL, DH). An **Osprey** was observed daily hanging out by the creek near the intersection of Upper Woods Rd. and Tanners Falls Rd. 4/25-29 (JPS). A male **Northern Harrier** was observed in DT 4/3, and another near Lakewood 4/8, 4/28 (TG). Females were also seen in the fields adjacent to the Spojnia pond near Waymart 4/8 and in DT 4/16.

The few species of shorebirds observed included a single **Least Sandpiper** in DT 5/3 and 11 **Spotted Sandpiper** during the PAMC 5/12 (KD, CF, DH, KW), one of which was along the creek at PSP. **American Woodcock** were first seen displaying a little earlier than usual in DT 3/3.

Black-billed Cuckoos were heard in AMP 5/12 and near SPP 5/27 (TG). During the PAMC 5/12, two **Barred Owls** were heard calling back and forth in PSP for more than five minutes at 15:00. A **Red-headed Woodpecker**, rarely seen in Wayne, has been observed regularly off the Cliff Trail in PSP 5/13-28. Only a single individual was observed.

A very early **Eastern Kingbird** was seen in PSP 4/14. Highly unusual for this far north, a **White-eyed Vireo** was observed in PSP 5/3. An early **Tree Swallow** was observed checking out a backyard "tree swallow house" near Honesdale 3/18 (SWP). Six **Bank Swallows** were found during the PAMC 5/12 (KW). **Winter Wrens** were found singing at TF 5/1-9 and at AMP 5/20. Reports of **Brown Thrashers** were higher than usual this spring, with two in DT 4/16, two at the Himalayan Institute 4/25, two near Honesdale 4/30 (SWP), one in DT 5/4, two during the PAMC 5/12 (DB, BL), and one just south of Lakewood 5/21 (TG). Two **American Pipits**, always a treat in Wayne, were observed in the fields off Cavage Rd. 4/1.

Twenty-five species of warblers were reported including **Nashville, Northern Parula, Blackburnian, Magnolia, Cerulean, and Blue-winged**. A **Prairie Warbler** was found along S. Preston Rd between Lakewood and Poyntelle Rd 5/5 (TG). Three **Mourning Warblers** were found off the Cliff Trail in PSP 5/19, and another three were present and singing in the forest management area at AMP 5/20. A singing **Cape May Warbler** was enjoyed in DT 5/4 and a singing **Tennessee Warbler** was also found in DT 5/16. Two singing **Canada Warblers** were observed regularly at TF 5/6-16. Another was at PSP 5/16, and three more were found at AMP 5/26 (TG).

Four late **American Tree Sparrows** were spotted during the PAMC 5/12 (RVL). A small flock of 11 **Fox Sparrows** were seen at TF 4/12. A **Lincoln's Sparrow**, somewhat unusual for the spring, was found in PSP 5/16. A **Rusty Blackbird** was found along Little Keen Rd. 3/4, another in DT 4/6, and two more in PSP 4/14. Two **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder in DT 3/20, and another three were found in SGL 299 on 4/6 (AD). Seven exceptionally late **Common Redpolls** were observed north of Honesdale during the PAMC 5/12 (RVL).

Observers: **Chris Fischer, c/o Bugaj/Fischer, PC, P.O. Box 390, Honesdale, PA 18431, (570) 446-9597, cfischer17@gmail.com**, Diane Bugaj, Amy Davis, Kathy Dodge, Don Hamilton, Trudy Gerlach, Barbara Leo, Roberta Vrona Lichtenstein (RVL), Jim and Pat Sanders (JPS), Sandra Ward Povse (SWP), Keith Williams.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Acme Dam (AD), Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Cedar Creek County Park (CCCP), CR (Conemaugh River), Delmont (DEL), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Lake (EL), Kuehl Property (KP), Keystone State Park (KSP), Latrobe Reservoir (LR), Linn Run State Park (LRSP), Mammoth Park Lake (MPL), Murrysville Wetland (MW), New Stanton (NS), PNR (Powdermill Nature Reserve), Pleasant Valley Park (PVP), TM (Tree's Mill).

On 3/1 at KP, the first day of the reporting period, a **Turkey Vulture**

lifted off from a large black cherry tree next to our driveway. Not hard to think this early sighting was a result of our mild winter of 2011-12. There were other examples. An **Eastern Phoebe** was banded at PNR this year on 3/1 (DV), setting a new record early date for the species that had stood since 3/10/1975. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported in the New Alexandria area 4/7 (LF), a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was singing on territory high in a sycamore tree along the Youghiogheny River 4/1 in CCCP (TK/JK), and a **Field Sparrows** was in Stahlstown 3/8 (DB). However, the vast majority of migrating and breeding wood warblers and flycatchers generally arrived on time.

There were regular reports of waterfowl for the BRR (MM, MVT), DL and LR (DM), and for the CR (KB). Other area reservoirs held birds 3/31 after overnight thunderstorms, however there were no significant fallout that day or any other this season. There were also no significant rarities to report. Notable misses for the season were Gadwall and Common Goldeneye. Of note was a single female **Long-tailed Duck** at DL 3/31 (ST). A flock of 41 **Tundra Swans** were seen over the Tarentum Bridge 3/11 (SG).

A **Northern Harrier** was in the KSP area 5/14 (WBNC). A very vocal **Cooper's Hawk** flew over the house at the KP 3/25 (TK). First **Osprey** was observed at KSP 3/22 (KJ). **Ospreys** returned to the long time nesting site on a platform at DL. **Bald Eagles** were observed on nest at BRR on several dates (MM). There were 6 **Bald Eagles** recorded on the Migration Count day 5/14. A **Bald Eagle** was chased by an **American Crow** at Northmoreland Park 4/13 (MVT). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was photographed at Northmoreland Park 3/11 (MVT) and new to the KP this year, a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen 3/25 (TK), and continued to be heard on a regular basis. A nesting species in prior years, a **Broad-winged Hawk** returned to the KP 4/21 (JK). A male **American Kestrel** was perched on a telephone wire at the MW, a traditional nesting location on 3/23 (TK). A **Merlin** was photographed near Mt. Pleasant 3/31 and another was seen 4/22 at DL (ST). A promising nesting possibility, a **Peregrine Falcon** was seen landing under the Tarentum Bridge 3/11 (SG, RP).

There was a **Virginia Rail** at the private marsh at the end of the Little Sewickley Creek trail 3/11 (MB), and 2 **Great Blue Herons** were at the rookery at that location that day (MB). There were 5 **Great Blue Herons** at the Yukon rookery of 14 nests 4/1 (TK, JK). With limited appropriate habitat, there were no substantial reports of shorebirds. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Laurel Bog 5/14 (TK, JK). Numerous displays of **American Woodcock** were observed in reclaimed strip mine areas near the KP over several weeks beginning 3/14 (TK). **Barred Owl** calls were heard throughout the season at the KP (TK, JK). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was calling at the Derry Rod and Gun on Derry (Chestnut) Ridge in the rifle range area at dusk 5/6 (CK).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported 5/14 on Chestnut Ridge (JJK). **Common Ravens** continued to be reported at lower elevations. A raven being harassed by an American Crow was reported in New Stanton 4/3 (MF) and one was spotted on the WHT near Saltsburg 4/29 (TK, JK). A raven family group was observed near the traditional nest in LRST 5/14 (TK, JK). A **Fish Crow** was heard in Rector along Weaver Mill Road 4/26 (AC), an interesting record as the species is not known to occur regularly in the county. The single report of a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was from the Wolf Rocks trail 5/14 (TB). **Veery**, **Swainson's Thrush**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush** (KB), and **Hermit Thrush** were all reported 5/14. Flocks of more than 40 **American Pipits** were reported in Bell Township on both 3/14 and 4/21 (KD).

A singing male **Swainson's Warbler** was recorded in LRSP near the Fisherman's Trail 5/22 (ML). The bird was seen again 5/28 in the same area (B&JJ fide AH). The county has a history of Swainson's Warblers. Most recently, they were captured at PNR in 2010, and a male sang in that area for several weeks. On 5/14 there 30 warbler species reported, including 2 **Mourning Warblers**. No Golden-winged Warblers reported for the PAMC; however one was reported 5/6 at Hunters Lane (CD), a reliable location in past years. In little-birded Northmoreland Park, a **Prairie Warbler** was heard singing in suitable breeding habitat 5/19 (SG).

Lincolns, **White-throated**, and **White-crowned Sparrows** were recorded 5/14. Also one **Rusty Blackbird** was tallied 5/14 near PNR (DB), and a notable high-count of 14 were at DL 4/22 (ST). Two male **Purple Finches** were at the KP feeders 3/19 (JK).

Finally, in a follow up from past reports, readers will be pleased to know that although less reliable during this mild winter, a pair of **Carolina Wrens** did stuff themselves into the wicker pocket under the side porch at the KP regularly during the spring season.

Thanks to Dick Byers for his compilation of the county's participation in the PAMC. Thirty-five participants reported 152 species and 9285 individuals. New high counts were for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (7 versus 3) and Pileated Woodpecker (29 versus 27).

Observers: **Tom Kuehl**, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724)-325-1918, tjkuehl@comcast.net, Mark Bowers, Terry Bronson, Ken Byerly, Dick Byers, Annie Crary, Karen DeSantis, Cory DeStein, Mike Fialkovich, Larry Frauen, Steve Gosser, Amy Henrici, Karen Jackson, Beth and Jay Jamison, J.J. Kondrich, Janet Kuehl, Chuck Kuchta, Mike Lanzone, Bob Leberman, Mark McConaughy, Alison Mick, Donna Mohney, Rob Protz, Kate St. John, Marjorie Van Tassel, Shannon Thompson, Tim Vechter, Drew Vitz, Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club (WBNC).

Wyoming County

Locations: Beaumont (BM), Davis Crossing (DC), Lake Carey (LC), Lake Winola (LW), Little Rocky Glen (LG), Mulligan's Pond (MP), Oxbow Lake (OL), Russell Hill (RH), Scottsville Road (SR), Vosburg Neck (VN)

A total of 146 species were recorded during the period, up slightly from last year's 142 and also better than the two years before that (2010-138, 2009-133). The PAMC for *Wyoming* recorded 112 species, just one off our average of the past ten years (113), and 2450 individuals, down significantly from last year's all time high of 4370, and down about 14% from the average of the last ten counts. But the reduced count of individuals was consistent with the local impression that there were fewer birds around this late winter and spring. Perhaps the mild winter and warm spring provided enough food that backyard and feeder visits were affected.

Observers noted 23 species of waterfowl in the period, up from last year's total of 19 and includes 18 species that migrated through *Wyoming*: **Tundra Swan**, **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Canvasback**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Ruddy Duck**, **Common Loon**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Horned Grebe**, **Eared Grebe**, and **Double-crested Cormorant**. Only one of these species, a single **Pied-billed Grebe**, was observed during the PAMC 5/12. None of these is particularly unusual for *Wyoming* for the period, as we often see all or most of these species during each spring migration, albeit in similarly small numbers.

Sandhill Cranes were back at Sharpe's Lake again this year. Four were observed 4/5, one 4/7 (JD), 2 birds 4/9 (JD), and 2 birds 4/20 (JB). Although there were additional reports from residents in the area, subsequent visits to the lake resulted in no observations. There were no observations suggesting that any breeding activity took place on the lake this year. Six **American Woodcock** were found on the PAMC 5/12, the first for the count since 2005.

Chimney Swift continues to be observed in small numbers in *Wyoming*. The most was a group of 10 birds over downtown Tunkhannock (JD). Otherwise all reports were from one to three birds. There were reports of either Black-billed Cuckoo or Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the PAMC, the first time in years that neither was recorded. They were not recorded at any other time in the reporting period either. One **Bank Swallow** was found 5/12, only the second appearance for the PAMC since 2005. Eleven **Northern Mockingbirds** provided the highest PAMC count for *Wyoming* in over ten years. There were 22 species of warblers, the highest number for this count in more than ten years. Highlights included the following. A single **Golden-winged Warbler** was at LC (J&RL). Subsequent visits to the site failed to relocate the bird. A **Cape May Warbler** represented only the second record in over ten years of the count. A late **Palm Warbler** may have been a first for the count. A **Worm-eating Warbler** provided only the second record since 2005, as did a **Wilson's Warbler**.

Also on the PAMC, again this year, a **Henslow's Sparrow** was an unused agricultural field along Douglas Hollow Road near Jenningsville (JD). Two **Orchard Orioles** were along Mehoopany Creek, south of the village of Mehoopany. This is a first for the PAMC since 2005 (JD).

EXOTICS: A single **Graylag Goose** was seen on the county line at Keystone College 5/16 (JD).

Observers: **Joe DeMarco**, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, (570) 836-1468, jdemarco@epix.net, Paul Andrade and Nina Kochmer (NK), Jim Borden, Jeanne Chadée, Bob Daniels, Mark Catalano, Jonathan DeBalko (JOD), Chris DeMarco, Sandy Goodwin, Eleanor Harding, Joe and Rebecca Lesko (J&RL), Bill Loftus, Lynn Mowka, Mary Robbins, Mitch and Marie Rowland (M&MR), Alan Thatcher, Jon Thomas.

York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd Landfill (ALT), Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Fairview Township (FRVW), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hanover (HNVR), High Point Scenic Vista and Recreation Area

(HIGH), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Nixon County Park (NIX), Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count (PAMC), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Shepperd-Myers Reservoir (SM), Si Rode Lane Pond (SRLP), Ski Roundtop (SRTP), Spring Grove (SPGR), Spring Valley County Park (SVCP), Springettsbury Township (SpT).

Highlighting this period's 190 species was a **Swallow-tailed Kite**, the first ever spring report for York and only the second record overall. This rarity overshadowed two reports of **Sandhill Crane**, a **Brewster's Warbler**, and a **Mourning Warbler**, all great birds for York as well. The PAMC (co-compiled by AP and RP) totaled 123 species but only 20 warbler species.

Waterfowl were well reported with 28 species found. There was a nice skein of 125 **Snow Goose** over FRVW 3/1 (DN). High count for **Tundra Swan** was 90 at NIX 3/2 (DHo). As with the winter period, **Gadwall** counts were above average. Of the six reports, 41 at SPGR on 3/12 (LC) was the high. Five reports of **Blue-winged Teal** came from LR, LAR, and BI 3/3-5/6 with the 3/3 (RP) sighting at LAR very early. **Redhead** put in an appearance at SRLP 3/12-16 with a high count of five 3/12 (LC). The same location held good numbers of **Ring-necked Duck** with counts of 330 on 3/12 (LC), 250 on 3/16 (CC), and 175 on 3/19 (KH). A pair of **Greater Scaup** was found at CSP 4/15 (LM). Mingling with the Ring-necked Duck at SRLP were **Lesser Scaup**, with counts of 30 on 3/12, 29 on 3/13, and 15 on 3/15 (all LC). A nice count of 10 **Long-tailed Duck** came from Shank's Mare 3/20 (TB). A single **Common Goldeneye** was at LAR 3/10-11(BF, LF). All three merganser species were found but none in notably high numbers. A pair of **Ruddy Duck** were at LR 3/2 (DHo) and a male **Ruddy Duck** remained at LR throughout the period and into June. **Common Loon** were found from 3/3 – 5/12 with a high count of 15 at CSP 3/25 (RP). Largest rafts of **American Coot** were at CSP with 125 on 3/10 (BF) and 85 on 4/5 (HM).

In contrast to a single report of **Ring-necked Pheasant** from Emigsville 3/18 (JM), there were 11 sightings of **Wild Turkey** but no large flocks were noted. **Double-crested Cormorant** numbers reached 200 at CSP 3/30 (HM) and 50 at LW 5/7 (CK). The **Great Blue Heron** colony at SPGR remained intact with 28 nests counted 4/13 (PK). Regular monitoring of the Kiwanis Lake IBA revealed an expanding **Great Egret** colony with 23 birds and 11 nests found 5/18 (PK). The same survey date produced the high count of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** as well with 46 birds and 29 nests.

The dedicated staff and volunteers at CSP were finally rewarded with successful nesting by a pair of **Osprey**. Two nestlings were seen Memorial Day week (KL). BI continued to support Ospreys with two nests noted 4/28 (DC). Later reports into the summer found two nestlings at one nest but the other appeared empty. Not all was good news at CSP as the returning male from last year's **Bald Eagle** breeding pair was found dead, possibly from a territorial dispute with a sub-adult male. As its demise occurred during the incubation period, the female was not able to maintain the nest and it was unsuccessful (KL). The report of **Swallow-tailed Kite** (doc. submitted) was received two days after the 5/3 (JJP) sighting. The observers are known for their long devotion to viewing warblers and were birding at Accomac along the Susquehanna River. The kite provided them with extended views of its graceful, effortless aerial prowess before heading north. This represented the first spring sighting for York; it was preceded only by a 9/22/1996 observation at SRTP by Jeff Pheasant. It is not often that a **Peregrine Falcon** almost seems an afterthought among raptors in this report, but kites will do that. A peregrine was at BI 5/12 (DC).

Virginia Rail was found at the Normandy Drive wetland 5/16 (DC) along with three **Sora**. **Sora** were also spotted earlier, 5/12 (SW), and later, 5/27 (AM), in this area of wetlands including Marsh Run. A **Sandhill Crane** was found at Dillsburg in the vicinity of Haar's Drive-In Theater 4/23 (AJD) and remained into June. A few days after the initial sighting, the bird was found next to a car speaker post on the drive-in grounds. Conjecture suggested the car speaker post was either a case of mistaken identity for a possible mate or it heard calls emanating from *The Big Year* movie. Another **Sandhill Crane** report was an overhead flight observation at Camp Security Park 4/28 (DA). Shorebird reports were on the low side and there were no surprises. There were three reports each of **Wilson's Snipe** and **American Woodcock**.

There were five reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** 4/1-20 with 17 at GPSP 4/5 (WC) the high. **Caspian Terns** were at BI, LR, and LW 4/12-28 with a high count of 5 at LR 4/12 (CK). **Cuckoos** were sparse. Black-billed was not found at all but **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Gut Rd. 5/6 (DHo, AM) and SpT 5/23 (AM). A single **Common Nighthawk** was at SpT 5/23 (AM). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at Dover Twp. 4/29 (IPL). Nine sightings of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** came from 3/2- 4/17.

Some nice reports of flycatchers included 12 **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at GPSP 5/23.(EB) and 7 **Acadian Flycatcher** at Lock 12, also 5/23.(CC). **Willow Flycatcher** was reported at five locations and there were four

reports of **Least Flycatcher** with a 4/29 (RP) sighting at RRCP a bit early. Reports of **White-eyed Vireo** and **Warbling Vireo** numbered 10 and six, respectively. The three reports of **Yellow-throated Vireo** came from Lock 12 on 5/15 (DC), Gut Rd. 5/6 (DHo, AM), and RRCP 5/16 (LC). **Blue-headed Vireo** was found at GPSP with two birds 4/17 (EB) and a single 4/20 (RK), and a single also at SVCP 5/10 (AM). A pair of **Common Raven** was present all period (DH) and into the summer in the area of John Rudy County Park. Territorial behavior was evident and nesting in a nearby quarry is suspected. Green Lane Farm supplied the other reported raven, 2 birds 4/2 (LC).

Horned Larks were limited to singles at ALT 5/6 (RP) and List Rd. on 5/12 (AM). The CSP **Purple Martin** colony produced a nice count of 33 birds 5/10 (HM). First **Tree Swallow** were seen the week of 3/8 and their flocking behavior was evident at LR 4/26 (CK) with an estimate of 100 birds. The **Cliff Swallow** colony remains active at CSP with 18 seen on the PAMC. An early sighting of 4 **Barn Swallows** came from ALT 3/13 (RS). There were five reports of **Veery** with higher counts of three birds coming from Bankard Rd. 5/12 (AM) and four along Kridler's Schoolhouse Rd. 5/11 (AM). The sole report of **Swainson's Thrush** came from RRCP 5/10 (DC). Of the seven reports of **Hermit Thrush**, three birds at FRVW 4/21 (RK) was the high. Six **American Pipits** were found at ALT 5/6 (RP).

As with Adams, the peak of the warbler migration preceded the PAMC. For the period, 33 species were found, and a PAMC count week effort 5/5-12 (RP) produced 26 species and one of the highlights, a **Brewster's Warbler** at RRCP 5/11. Other highlights included **Prothonotary Warbler** nesting at BI, a singing male **Mourning Warbler** at SpT 5/5 (AM), and four reports of single **Wilson's Warbler**: HNVR on 5/7 (PJR), Kridler Schoolhouse Rd. 5/11 (AM), SpT 5/10 (AM) and Long Level Rd. 5/11 (AM).

Sparrows showed reasonably well. An **American Tree Sparrow** was at the Neiman Farm on East Canal Rd 3/11 (TC). Three **Chipping Sparrow** 3/3 (CH) at SRTP were certainly early. In Adams, this same 3/3 early date was noted and each locale was at ~1000 feet elevation, higher points in their respective counties. A **Vesper Sparrow** was at Potosi and Park Rds. 5/12 (AM), and a **Savannah Sparrow** was found at LAR 5/11-12 (AM). Pairs of **Grasshopper Sparrow** were at ALT 5/17 (DC) and LAR 5/12 (AM). There were five reports of **Fox Sparrow** 3/2-4/7. It was a strong period for **Swamp Sparrow** with six reports 3/2-5/27. A **White-throated Sparrow** remained throughout the period and into the summer (DC). The latest **White-crowned Sparrow** was at BI 5/11 (BrS).

Three **Blue Grosbeaks** were at BI 5/2 (DC) and one was found at HIGH 5/21 (AM). A single **Dickcissel** was at SVCP 5/10 (AM) and **Bobolinks** were found at five locations with a high count of 11 from HIGH 5/21 (AM). **Eastern Meadowlark** reports were from four locales throughout the period with a high count of 8 at ALT 3/22 (RS). A surprising five reports of **Rusty Blackbird** came from five locations. High count was 22 at LR 3/2 (DHo). There were some good **Orchard Oriole** and **Baltimore Oriole** counts. BI was the stronghold for **Orchard Orioles** with 6-8 from 5/6-31 (m.o.b.). SVCP held 13 **Baltimore Orioles** 5/10 (AM) and 10 were found at LR 5/6 (TC).

Reports of **Purple Finch** were limited to singles at Sell's Farm 4/1 (BD) and GPSP 4/23 (RK).

Observers: Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com, John Andrews, David Arrow, Paul Banks, Jr., Tim Becker, Ed Bernot, Lou Carpenter, Chuck Chalfant, Dick Cleary, Travis Clemens, William Clifton, Keith Costley, Alex and John Dale (AJD), Bill DelGrande, Amy Evans, Bill Franz, Linda Franz, Dan Heathcote, Kermit Henning, Carolyn Hoffman, Deuane Hoffman (DHo), Dave Kerr, Chuck Kling, Ramsay Koury, Ira & Priscilla Lauer (IPL), Karen Lippy, Mark Markiewicz, Andy McGann, Henry McLin, Jessica Morgan, Dean Newhouse, Ann Pettigrew, Randy Phillips, John & Jean Prescott (JJP), Beth Pugliese, Peter Robinson (PJR), Anna May Shaffer, Deb Sieken, Brian Shade (BrS), Robin Smith, Richard Stevick, Frances Velasquez, Scott Walker, Nathan Zalik.

IN FOCUS



Trumpeter Swan, New Bethlehem, Clarion County. See p. 110.
(Photo by Alex Lamoreaux)



Ruff, Somerset Lake, Somerset County. See p. 131.
(Photo by Mike Lanzone)



Tricolored Heron, Gull Point, Presque Isle S.P., Erie County.
See p. 115. (Photo by Jerry McWilliams)



Snowy Owl, Worthington, Armstrong County. See pp. 86 and 99.
(Photo by Steve Gosser)



Willet, Duck Hollow, Allegheny County. See p. 98.
(Photo by Matthew Zhang)



Kirtland's Warbler, Erie, Erie County. See p. 115.
(Photo by Jerry McWilliams)