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Cover Photo: **Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*)**. This season, Pennsylvania (and indeed much of the northeastern United States and Canada) saw what was by far the largest Snowy Owl invasion in any living birder's memory. At least 200 birds were seen in the Commonwealth, a conservative estimate, and many more surely passed through undetected. Gull Point at Presque Isle, Erie was the epicenter of activity, particularly in December; this bird was photographed on Gull Point 10 December 2013. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)

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If we build it, will they come?

Habitat restoration for the federally endangered Great Lakes Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) at Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, Pennsylvania

Catherine D. Haffner, Sarah Sargent, and Ephraim Zimmerman

One of the rarest birds in the Great Lakes region and absent as a breeding bird from Pennsylvania shores for decades, the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) is endemic to North America and occurs in three geographically distinct populations: Atlantic Coast, Great Lakes, and Northern Great Plains (McWilliams and Brauning 2000, Elliott-Smith and Haig 2004, USFWS 2009). Recently, mitochondrial DNA analysis suggested division of two subspecies, *Charadrius melodus melodus* (Atlantic Coast population) and *C. m. circumcinctus* (Great Lakes and Northern Great Plains) (Miller et al. 2010). A nesting population of Piping Plovers in Pennsylvania would be considered part of the Great Lakes population within *C. m. circumcinctus*. The only suitable nesting habitat in Pennsylvania is found at Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, a 3200 acre recurved sand spit in Lake Erie owned and managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [PA DCNR]. Until the mid- to late 1950s, approximately 15 pairs nested annually along these beaches, primarily at the distal end in what is today the Gull Point Natural Area (Todd 1940, Stull et al. 1985, McWilliams and Brauning 2000). The mid-20th century loss of this species in Pennsylvania mirrors documented declines from throughout its breeding range, with increasing recreational beach use and shoreline development, predation and contaminants identified as contributing factors in the post-war era (USFWS 1985).

Once considered common, but never abundant, within suitable breeding habitat on Great Lakes shorelines in the early 1900s (Russell 1983), the Great Lakes population reached its nadir in the late 1980s when only 17 breeding pairs were recorded, confined to the shoreline of Michigan (USFWS 2003). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protected this precariously low population as endangered in 1986, under provisions of the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Around this time, the Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations were federally protected as threatened. Federal listing of the plover fueled research into Great Lakes Piping Plover breeding ecology, the

limiting factors to reproductive success, and the potential for captive rearing. This led to development and refinement of recovery strategies and designation of critical habitat for this species, including Gull Point at Presque Isle State Park (Figure 1). In 2013, the Great Lakes Piping Plover Recovery Program celebrated the second highest breeding season totals since federal listing, with 66 nesting pairs and 124 chicks fledged (USFWS, personal communication).

This expanding Great Lakes population is welcome news for states like Pennsylvania seeking to re-establish breeding populations within their borders, as young birds will seek potential nest sites, often on historical nesting beaches (Price 2002). Wemmer (2000) found that certain landscape features are preferential to territorial Piping Plovers on their breeding grounds, primarily percent sand and cobble, the presence of woody debris, and a wide distance from the water to the treeline. In addition, plover pairs on beaches with low human disturbance have smaller home ranges, which could also be beneficial (Haffner et al. 2009). A 2007 assessment of Piping Plover habitat at Presque Isle State Park found Gull Point Natural Area to have the best combination of these elements (Haffner 2007). However, vegetation encroachment was highlighted as a major impediment to Piping Plover colonization (and to the available foraging habitat for migratory shorebirds) in this area. Haffner (2007) recommended targeted removal of non-native herbaceous and native woody vegetation from the Gull Point Natural Area to improve nesting and foraging conditions for Piping Plovers, an immediate concern species in Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan (PGC-PFBC 2005), and to enhance the area known to be an important migratory stopover site for shorebirds.

Working collaboratively, Audubon Pennsylvania, PA DCNR, PA Game Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service State College Field Office, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy [WPC] undertook a program of vegetation control and monitored the response of the bird community within an approximately 33-acre area within the Gull Point Natural Area at the easternmost tip of the Presque Isle peninsula from 2011-2013 (Figure 2). We documented the extent and composition of pre-existing vegetation in order to assess the success of control methods, and measured beach width and substrate suitability for Piping Plovers to compare the change in available nesting habitat with data from the Haffner (2007) assessment. We also monitored shorebird use of the Gull Point Natural Area during spring migration.

Methods

Shorebird surveys. Shorebirds surveys were conducted in good weather conditions five times per week between 15 April and 31 May, and twice per week in June, from 2010 to 2013. Surveys were conducted in the morning by one official observer, accompanied by up to two volunteers, and lasted 2.5-4 hours. The entire designated critical habitat area (Figure 1) including all exterior beach areas of Gull Point was walked during each survey, and additional

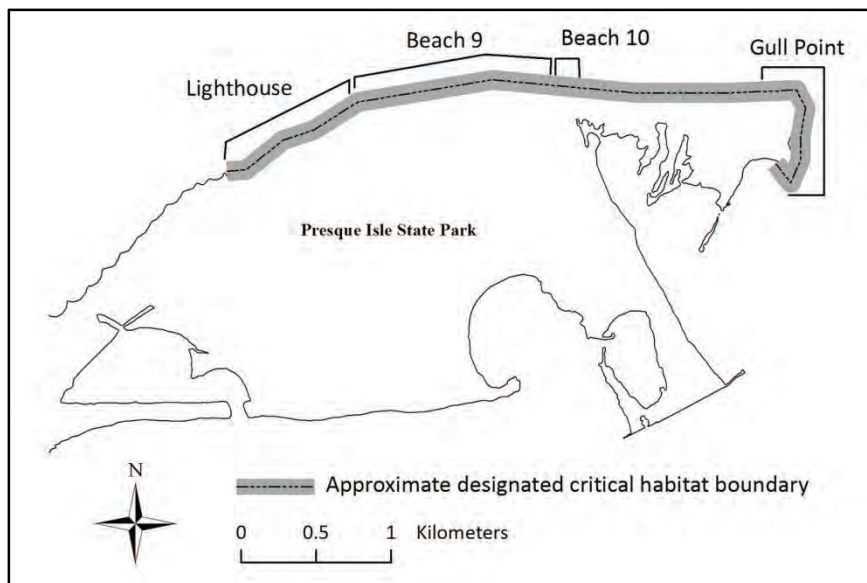


Figure 1. Approximate designated critical habitat boundary (extending 500 m inland) and study sites from the lighthouse on the north side of Peninsula Drive to the southern terminus with the hiking trail on the southeast side of Gull Point Natural Area at Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., Pennsylvania (see USFWS 2001).

interior transects were included to locate birds around interior ponds at Gull Point. The observation tower in the Gull Point Natural area was visited during each survey. All shorebird and tern species were recorded, and notes were made on the presence of potential predators of plover nests (e.g., coyote tracks, raptors), following USFWS approved methods (USFWS, personal communication). Our observers received special permission from DCNR to enter into the closed portion of Gull Point to conduct this research. Access to this area is restricted annually from 1 April through 30 November to minimize disturbance to migrating and potentially breeding birds.

Vegetation survey and removal. WPC and Audubon performed an initial vegetation survey within the 33-acre restricted area in 2011 to document rare plants and ascertain the extent of the target vegetation to be removed. Target species included both invasive non-native and aggressive native plant species: common reed (*Phragmites australis*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), native willows (*Salix* spp.), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), and black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). Control treatments began in 2011 with mowing of the woody plants followed by several rounds of herbicide treatments in 2012 using wetland-approved herbicides. Prior to herbicide treatment in 2012, WPC and Audubon Pennsylvania established 16 transects at 50 meter intervals through the treatment area to map plant community composition and provide a baseline for monitoring. The area was mowed again in the late fall 2012; transects were resampled in June 2013 to assess the effectiveness of the control measures. Follow up herbicide treatments, based on assessments, continued during the growing season in 2013 to control re-sprouts or individuals released from the seed bank.

Plover habitat measurements. Methods for evaluating suitable Piping Plover habitat reflect those used by Haffner (2007). The 16 transects established for vegetation surveys were also used to sample characteristics of Piping Plover habitat in June 2012, such as distance from the water's edge to several physical demarcations (e.g., treeline), percent cobble (1–10 cm. diameter stone), percent woody debris, percent live vegetation, and percent dead vegetation. The 2012 shoreline and substrate cover data were compared to Haffner (2007).

Results

Shorebird surveys.

Following the vegetation control activities in 2012, the quantity of shorebirds recorded during surveys nearly tripled, though the number of species observed remained consistent (Table 1). Additionally, there was a slight increase in the number of Piping Plovers observed during routine surveys; however, the species is still quite rare. Dunlin, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Killdeer, and Ruddy Turnstones were observed most frequently in 2013 (Table 2).

Additional Piping Plovers have been reported at Presque Isle State Park outside of the routine surveys (Table 3). Because routine surveys are conducted only in the spring, we relied exclusively on casual observations to detect fall migrants. Both juveniles and adults are present in fall, so the likelihood of seeing a Piping Plover is actually higher during fall migration.

A unique aspect of the Great Lakes population is the high proportion of color-banded birds, making it possible to identify individuals. At least nine unique Piping Plovers have been observed at Presque Isle State Park since 2010, and possibly as many as 13. Several observations were of unbanded individuals, or a bird with an incomplete set of leg bands (juveniles), and subsequent sightings in following days may have been of different individuals, although that is less likely. Although one bird was seen at Sunset Point (on the park's lakeshore about a mile west of Gull Point), it was almost immediately disturbed and was not relocated. We have yet to observe the same individual returning to the site between seasons. All Piping Plover sightings were shared with the Great Lakes Piping Plover Recovery Team, coordinated by the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Vegetation. Initial surveys identified the following plant communities within the treatment area along with the open water of the Great Lakes beach ponds: Mixed Emergent Marsh, Palustrine Sand Plain, Dry Sand Plain, and Great Lakes Beach and Sand Dunes communities (described in Fike 1999, Zimmerman et al. 2012; Figure 2). We also delineated a seepage fed wet meadow on the north end of the largest beach pool in the treatment area. Eighty-one species of vascular plants were documented within the treatment area. Eight of the 25 species (32%) of special concern plants known to occur within the Palustrine Sand Community at Presque Isle (Bissell et al. 2007) were documented within the Palustrine Sand Plain community within the treatment area of this study: bush cinquefoil, (*Potentilla paradoxa*), green sedge (*Carex viridula*), umbrella flatsedge (*Cyperus diandrus*), variegated horse tail (*Equisetum variegatum*), silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), larger Canada St.

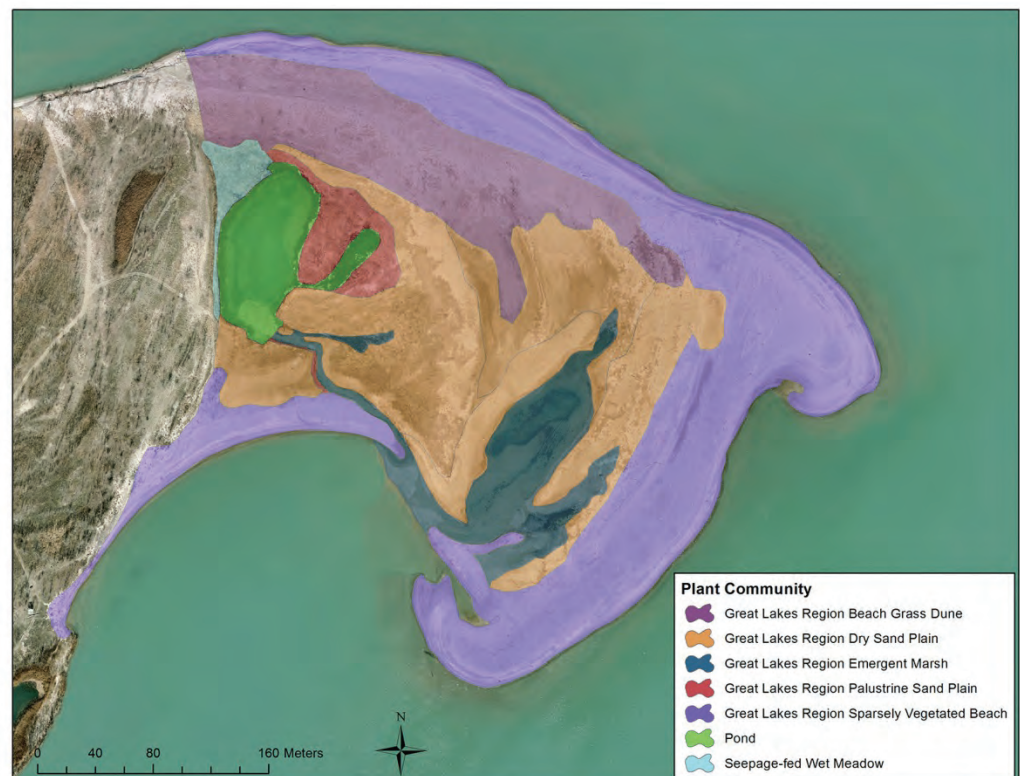


Figure 2. Plant communities delineated in the Gull Point Natural Area, Presque Isle State Park, Erie County.

John's-wort (*Hypericum majus*), Baltic rush (*Juncus arcticus*) and Elk sedge (*Carex garberi*). An additional 5 species: beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), seaside sandmat (*Chamaesyce polygonifolia*), beach wormwood (*Artemisia campestris* ssp. *caudata*), beach pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*), and beach bluegrass (*Schizachyrium scoparium* var. *littoralis*) were recorded in the Dry sand Plain and Great Lakes Beach and Sand Dunes communities. Other rare species, were noted from the Gull Point Natural Area, but not found in the treatment area. This does not include all species within the Gull Point Natural Area (see Bissell et al. 2007). Only a small portion of the rare species documented by Bissell et al. 2007 and in meander surveys as part of this study was found in the quadrats.

Table 1. Summary of effort, total shorebirds and Piping Plovers recorded during routine surveys by year.

Year	# Surveys	# Species	Total indiv.	Total PIPL
2010	49	17	615	0
2011	48	16	815	1
2012	47	16	960	0
2013	44	19	1842	3

Table 2. Shorebirds observed during scheduled surveys in the Gull Point Natural Area, April -June 2013. Total Observed was calculated by adding across all surveys for the year. Note: Because the birds were unmarked, we could not identify individuals. The longer a bird stayed, the more likely it was to be counted multiple times, and this was most pronounced for resident breeding species such as Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Total obs.
Dunlin	<i>Calidris aplina</i>	452
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	410
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	241
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>	240
Ruddy Duck	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	162
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	89
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	74
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	32
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	30
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	28
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	26
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	18
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	7
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	3
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	2
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	2
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	1
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	1
Unidentified		24

Table 3. Additional Piping Plovers anecdotally reported by birders at Presque Isle State Park since 2010.

Date	Age	Color-banded?	Location
8/13/2011	Juvenile	Yes	Gull Point
7/13/2012	Adult	Yes	Sunset Point
8/12/2012	Juvenile	Yes	Gull Point
8/17/2012	Juvenile	Yes (same bird as 8/12)	Gull Point
6/8/2013	Adult	Yes	Gull Point
6/9/2013	Adult	Unknown (flying)	Gull Point
7/26-28/2013	Adult	No	Gull Point

Table 4. Mean beach width (m), mean distance to treeline/unsuitable habitat (m), and ranges of values for Gull Point Natural Area at Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., Pennsylvania. Beach width was defined as the distance from the edge of the water to toe of primary dune or solid line of trees if no dune was present. Distance to treeline was defined as the distance from the toe of the primary dune to the solid line of trees. When no dune was present distance to treeline equaled zero.

Year	n	Avg. beach width	Range	Avg. distance to treeline	Range	Sum
2007	7	53.8	12-124	12.7	0-57.6	66.5
2012*	13	31.4	20-50	32.2	0-118	63.6

*The three westernmost transects were removed for better comparison with 2007.

Comparison of pre-treatment and post-treatment frequency data from quadrats surveyed along the transects showed a significant reduction in common reed, eastern cottonwood, and willows. Other species were not significantly impacted by the treatment activities or were not found within the transect plots (e.g., narrow leaf cattail).

Although data from the survey indicated a significant reduction in observation frequency of several of the target species, there were several sites within the treatment area where problematic native and exotic species were still prevalent. Regrowth of vegetation on much of the point occurred rapidly in the summer of 2013, including, unfortunately, an increase in several undesirable species that had previously been kept in check by the extensive stands of *Phragmites*. These specific occurrences were relatively small, but dense. Also, the dense willows came back strongly in places where they had been well established. Additional vegetation control efforts in 2013 were focused in these areas.

Plover habitat survey. Comparison of 2012 measurements of the lake shoreline with Haffner (2007) suggests that the Gull Point Natural Area changed significantly between 2007 and 2012 (Table 4; Figure 3). Shoreline drift has extended the point by >150 m. to the east while removing much of the existing beach to the west of the restricted area. In addition, the area has also grown significantly to the south, as wind and waves redistributed beach sands and created small, enclosed, "cat-eye" shaped beach pools that were once shallow bays of the Presque Isle lagoon. This development has increased the amount of Piping Plover habitat available within the Gull Point Natural Area. The average beach width has decreased, but this may be due to differences in how the toe of the lake-facing dune was determined in 2012 and 2007. The total width of open area (beach + distance to unsuitable habitat) was quite similar between years, especially when comparing the same general area, by not including the three westernmost 2012 transects.

The amount of material other than sand on the beaches differed significantly between 2007 and 2012. Cobble was significantly less abundant in 2012 (7.2%) than in 2007 (33%) and vegetation was less common in 2012 (5.2%) than in 2007 (12%), while there was more woody debris in 2012 (3.7%) than in 2007 (1%). Less vegetation and more woody debris on the shoreline are beneficial for potential Piping Plover colonization.

Discussion

Shorebirds are attracted to mudflats and open areas during migration. Following vegetation removal in the Gull Point Natural Area, we observed a remarkable increase in the number of shorebirds using the habitat during spring migration. Better visibility, due to vegetation removal or from the relocation of the observation tower, may have contributed to the greater number of birds recorded, but we believe it is unlikely that the entire increase could be explained by improved visibility. DCNR moved the observation tower closer to the water line in the Gull Point Natural Area in November of 2012, making all of the outer beaches much more visible from the tower in the 2013 season.

The distance from the water's edge to the nearest woody vegetation was greatly increased and likely was a key factor in making the entire point much more attractive to migrant shorebirds. The area of Gull Point where most migrants were observed was the area to the southeast of the new tower location, which consists of the most recent deposits of sand and is the most free of vegetation. As of this writing, we have only a single spring season of data collection following vegetation removal. Thus, although we recorded a dramatic increase in shorebirds in 2013, we cannot necessarily attribute the increase entirely to the vegetation treatment alone. Other factors that vary between years (weather conditions, lake levels, etc.) could

also have played a role. Although the intent was to improve potential nesting habitat for Piping Plovers, and perhaps Common Terns, (see McWilliams 2012), migrant shorebirds seemed to have benefited as well. We will continue to monitor shorebird abundance over the next few years.

The growth of woody vegetation within the protected area had increased since 2007. Haffner noted the presence of *Phragmites*, *Salix*, and *Prunus* (most likely *Populus deltoides*, eastern cottonwood), and suggested they be removed in order to maintain the open habitat favored by shorebirds and ground-nesting species. Since that time, there had been significant establishment and growth of *Salix* and *Populus* within the restricted area. Of note is that this recruitment is spatially and temporally limited. Both *Salix* and *Populus* set seed in the early summer and need moist soil on which to germinate. As a result, the recruitment on Gull Point occurs in bands that correlate with the existing shoreline from one year to the next. There is little evidence that open areas are invaded by these species away from the lakeshore, as evidenced by the presence of sand barrens farther inland. It may be possible to maintain the open habitat that Piping Plovers and terns require simply by controlling these tree species soon after germination.

Because of the rapid establishment and regrowth of the unwanted vegetation, control efforts must be continued in the future. For this reason, a ten year management plan was developed to guide follow-up efforts.

The Future

Routine monitoring of shorebirds during spring migration will continue for the foreseeable future, following a similar protocol. Piping Plover observations will continue to be provided to the regional Piping Plover recovery team to assist with efforts to track color-marked individuals and assess regional population status. In addition, every five years we will participate in an international Piping Plover census conducted to evaluate the global population of these globally rare birds (see Elliot-Smith et al. 2009).

Continuing control activities for invasive plant species in the treatment area of the Gull Point Natural Area will maintain the restored Palustrine Sand Plain and Dry Sand Plain communities and improve the habitat quality for Piping Plover, Common Tern, and migrant shorebird species. These activities should lead to ecosystem-wide improvements. Most of the plant species associated with this habitat are disturbance tolerant and are expected to respond quickly and positively to the changes. Additionally, continuation of vegetation management activities in and around the large beach pool on Gull Point will continue to maintain the open, moist substrate, which is critical foraging habitat for Piping Plovers and other shorebirds and exposed sand/cobble habitat needed for Piping Plover and Common Tern nesting. Lastly, continued control activities will improve

conditions for the 25 Plants of Special Concern identified as occurring in Palustrine Sand Plain Communities on Gull Point.

We now have a Piping Plover management and monitoring team ready to maintain suitable habitat, document observations of the rare shorebird, and act in the event Piping Plovers return as nesting birds to Pennsylvania's shores. Through these partnerships, we have built it, and they have started to come!

Acknowledgements

A team of collaborators helped bring this work to fruition over the past five years and offered helpful edits to improve this manuscript. This story and its accomplishments are shared mutually with the other members of the Presque Isle Piping

Figure 3. Before (A) and after (B) vegetation control treatments in Gull Point Natural Area, Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, Pennsylvania.



(Figure 3A, photo by Ephraim Zimmerman)



(Figure 3B, photo by Sarah Sargent)

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The 2013-2014 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania

Nick Bolgiano

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held for the 114th time from 14 December 2013 to 5 January 2014. (For the purpose of this report, the year is the one in which Christmas occurred; the 114th count is referred to as occurring in 2013.)

Temperatures were colder than normal from mid-November to mid-December, but warmed before the count period. Snow fell 14 December, postponing some counts. Heavy rain fell in western Pennsylvania on a warm 22 December and in eastern Pennsylvania on 29 December.

Seventy-six sites reported, with two new sites: Duck Harbor Pond in Wayne County (Rick Wiltraut compiler) and South Butler in Butler County (Chris Kubiak compiler).

The 5298 party-hours were about average. The statewide count-day species total was 155, which is below average. There were also 3 count-week species.

The 2013 count was notable for the irruption of **Snowy Owls**.

Species Numbers

Southern Lancaster County led all counts with 102 species reported, Western Chester County was second with 98, and Southern Bucks County was third with 97. The below table shows the top 10 list and Figure 1 shows a map of species totals by site.

Top 10 Sites by Species Counted

1	Southern Lancaster County	102
2	Western Chester County	98
3	Southern Bucks County	97
4	Harrisburg	95
5	Bethlehem-Easton	92
6	Audubon	91
6	Elverson	91
8	Delaware County	90
9	Upper Bucks County	89
10	Lititz	86

Hits and Misses

A "hit" is an unlikely species found in 2013 (recorded in less than 40% of previous 30 years), and a "miss" is an expected species not found (recorded in more than 60% of previous 30 years). There were nine hits and five misses.

Hits

Trumpeter Swan
Green Heron
Least Sandpiper
Thayer's Gull
Snowy Owl
Rufous Hummingbird
Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Black-and-white Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler

Misses

Northern Bobwhite
Red-throated Loon
Black-crowned Night-Heron
American Woodcock
Evening Grosbeak

Count Highlights

Count-week species were **Harlequin Duck** and **Red-throated Loon** at Erie and **Black-throated Green Warbler** at West Chester.

Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from Bethlehem-Easton and Upper Bucks County. **Snow Goose** has been annually reported since 1966, with statewide totals first exceeding 1000 in 1993. In 2013, the snow goose count at Bethlehem-Easton was 210,000, which is three times higher than any previous individual site count. Figure 2 shows that Snow Geese were largely restricted to the eastern half of the state, which is their typical distribution. **Ross's Goose** was reported from Bethlehem-Easton (4) and Wyncote (one). The 27 **Cackling Geese** were reported from 8 southeastern sites, plus Dallas Area, Johnstown, State College, and Tamaqua. **Trumpeter Swan** was at Warren.

Gadwalls were plentiful for the third consecutive year. All three **scoters** were reported from Erie, where they are commonly found; **Surf Scoter** was also present at Warren and **White-winged Scoter** was at Dallas Area.

The 242 **Ring-necked Pheasants** were the most since 2003. The 51 **Ruffed Grouse** set a new low during its ongoing decline of nearly two decades. They were found mainly at sites of higher elevation with more extensive forests (Figure 2).

Double-crested Cormorants were locally common, with 68 at Erie, 61 at Delaware County, and 26 at Pittsburgh. **Great Cormorants** were observed at the usual locations: Delaware County, Pennypack Valley, and Southern Bucks County. **Green Heron** was at Lehigh Valley.

Osprey was at Buffalo Creek Valley. The 464 **Bald Eagles** set a new statewide high, with 53 at Southern Lancaster County, 36 at Western Chester County, 32 at Southern Bucks County, and 23 at Linesville. **Northern Goshawk** has become increasingly scarce; just three were recorded in 2013. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were again fairly common, with 141 statewide, including 12 at Gettysburg and 10 at Huntingdon. The 33 **Rough-legged**

Hawks was an average number.

Virginia Rail was at West Chester. All of the 68 **Sandhill Cranes** were at Linesville, as was the **Least Sandpiper**. **American Woodcock** was missed for the first time since 1982.

Southeastern sites continued to report concentrations of gulls, led by the Southern Bucks County reports of nearly 80,000 **Herring Gulls**, a **Thayer's Gull**, 26 **Iceland Gulls**, 162 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, and 2814 **Great Black-backed Gulls**. Two **Iceland Gulls** were also reported from Bethlehem-Easton, and **Glaucous Gulls** were also at Elverson and Erie. There were also 149 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at Upper Bucks County, 57 at Central Bucks County, 31 at Bethlehem-Easton, and 1-5 at eight other sites.

Seven **Snowy Owls** were reported on count day: at Bethlehem-Easton, Erie (2), Lititz, Pleasantville, Southern Lancaster County, and Thompson. Count week birds were reported from five other sites: Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lewisburg, State College, and Western Chester County. Observations were thus in the southeast, the central Susquehanna Valley, the northwest, and northeast (Figure 2). The previous high count day number seen during the Pennsylvania CBC was 3, achieved in 1949, 1960, and 1967. Interestingly, there was no coincident pulse in the numbers of Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes.

Five **Barn Owls** were reported, with 3 at Lewisburg and singles at Lewistown and Lititz. Observers at Upper Bucks County reported 111 **Eastern Screech-Owls** and the most owls of any Pennsylvania site (see table). The decline in **Great Horned Owls** noted in the atlas appears to be continuing. The 10 **Long-eared Owls** and 11 **Short-eared Owls** were relatively low numbers. The 18 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were also relatively low, but this was in line with the low numbers at fall banding stations.

Rufous Hummingbird was reported from Harrisburg, Lehigh Valley, Reading, State College, and Western Schuylkill County. This was the third consecutive year with 4-5 of this species; singles were reported in seven previous years, beginning in 1996, while two were reported in 2003.

The 47 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** included 8 each at Elverson and York Springs. The 689 **American Kestrels** were lower than the totals from the previous three years (750-868), but more than the 553 tallied in the cold and stormy 2009 count period. The 35 **Merlins** and the 27 **Peregrines**

Top 10 Owling Sites

	Barn	EScr	GH	Sno	Barr	LE	SE	NSW	Total
1. Upper Bucks Co.	0	111	12	0	0	0	0	1	124
2. Western Chester Co.	0	55	13	0	1	0	0	0	69
3. West Chester	0	46	14	0	2	0	0	0	62
4. Lewistown	1	36	14	0	1	0	0	0	52
5. Hamburg	0	34	15	0	0	0	0	0	49
6. Central Chester Co.	0	21	20	0	0	0	0	1	42
7. New Bloomfield	0	21	15	0	0	0	0	2	38
8. Pittsburgh	0	22	10	0	4	0	0	0	36
8. So. Lancaster Co.	0	20	9	1	3	1	0	2	36
10. Delaware Co.	0	28	7	0	0	0	0	0	35

County, and **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Curtin.

Two **Brewer's Blackbirds** were reported from Johnstown. **Baltimore Oriole** was at Audubon.

Winter finches were scarce after the previous year's irruptions. Five **Common Redpolls** were at Johnstown, and a total of 61 **Pine Siskins** were reported from 11 sites. These numbers are consistent with other non-irruption years.

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Falcons were consistent with recent years. The **Prairie Falcon** that had previously wintered at Newville returned during November, but it was not located on count day (Bill Franz, pers. com.). The 7 **Northern Shrikes** was an average number; 4 of the shrikes were at Clarion. Pennypack Valley reported 75 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**.

The total of 125 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was typical of a non-irruption year. **House Wren** was at Chambersburg and Pittsburgh South Hills, and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Pennypack Valley. Uncommon wintering warblers were **Black-and-white Warbler** at Bernville and **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Western Chester County, the latter the fourth

Pennsylvania CBC record.

The 580 **Eastern Towhees** set a new statewide high and included 122 at Delaware County, 57 at Western Chester County, and 50 at Lititz. The 135 **Chipping Sparrows** and 219 **Savannah Sparrows** were higher than normal numbers for the second consecutive year. The distributions of these three sparrows are shown in Figure 2. Towhees were found at lower elevation sites of southern Pennsylvania. Chipping Sparrows were concentrated in a few sites, with scattered records elsewhere; the 72 Chipping Sparrows at Pennypack Valley was a Pennsylvania record for a single site. Savannah Sparrows were almost exclusively in the southeast. **Vesper Sparrow** was at Delaware

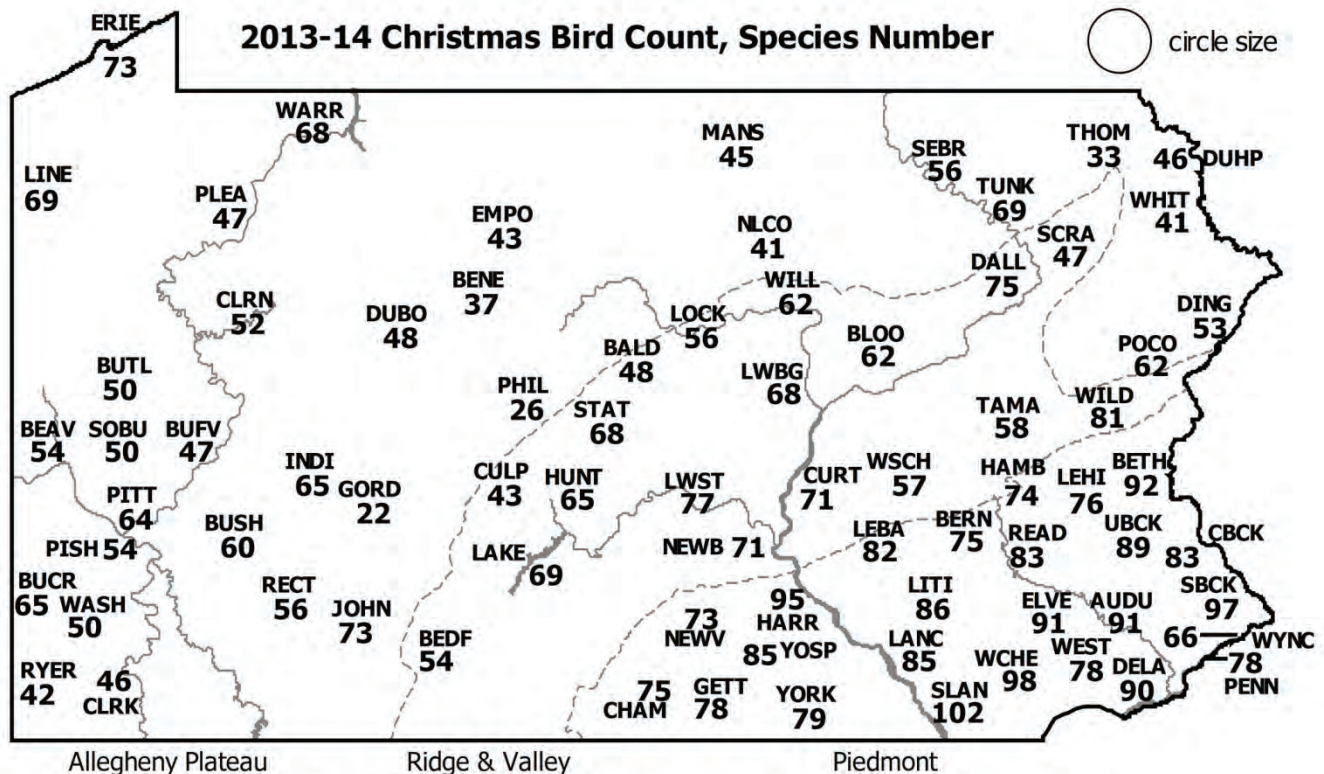
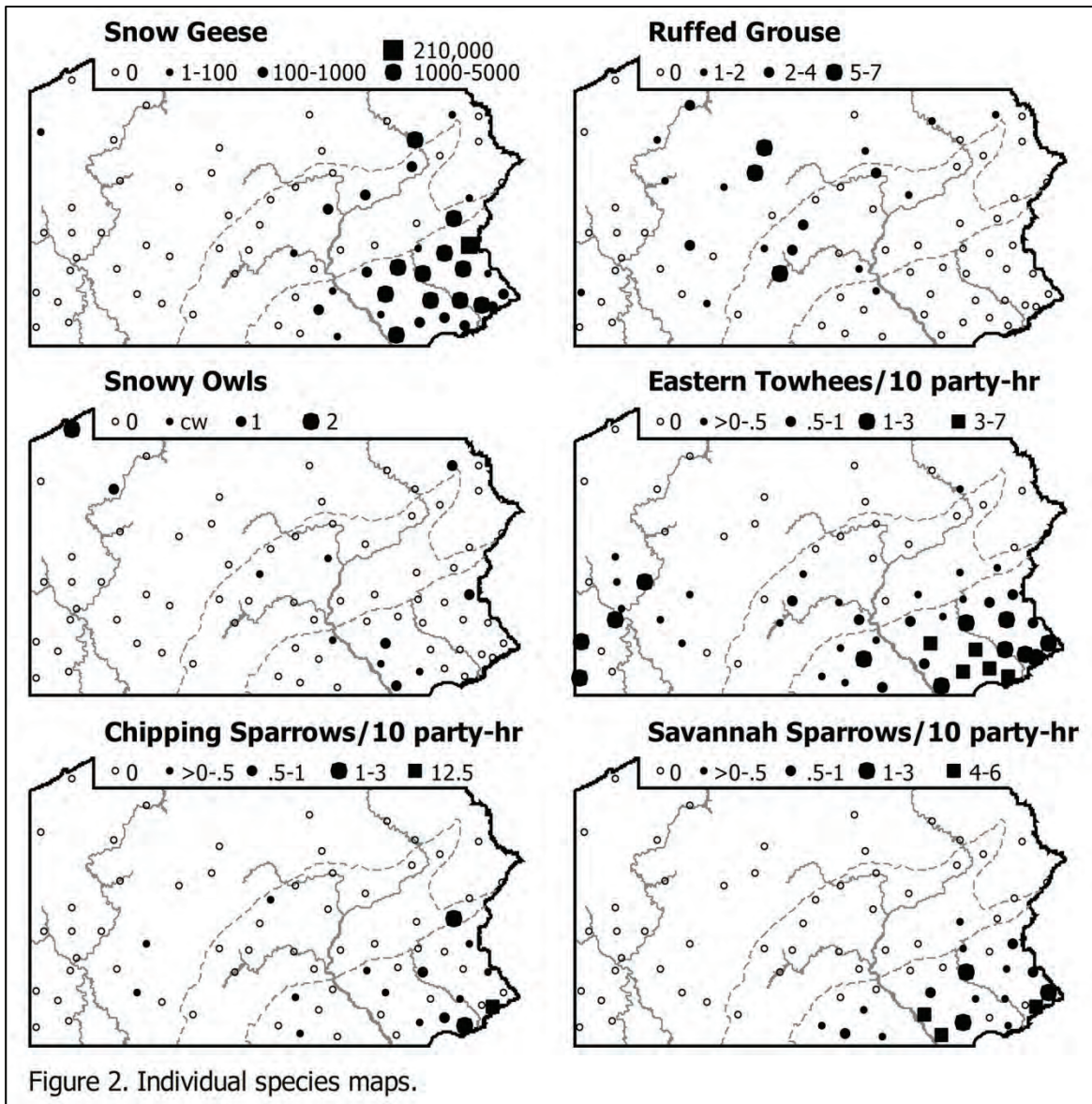


Figure 1. Pennsylvania CBC sites and species numbers.



Site Abbreviations

AUDU	Audubon	DELA	Delaware County	LWST	Lewistown	SLAN	Southern Lancaster Co.
BALD	Bald Eagle S.P.	DING	Dingman's Ferry	LINE	Linesville	SEBR	Se. Bradford Co.
BEAV	Beaver	DUBO	Dubois	LITI	Lititz	SBUT	South Butler
BEDF	Bedford County	DUHP	Duck Harbor Pomd	LOCK	Lock Haven-Jersey Shore	STAT	State College
BENE	Benezette	ELVE	Elverson	MANS	Mansfield-Wellsboro	TAMA	Tamaqua
BERN	Bernville	EMPO	Emporium	NEWB	New Bloomfield	THOM	Thompson
BETH	Bethlehem-Easton	ERIE	Erie	NEWV	Newville	TUNK	Tunkhannock
BLOO	Bloomsburg	GETT	Gettysburg	NLCO	Northern Lycoming Co.	UBCK	Upper Bucks County
BUCR	Buffalo Creek	GORD	Gordon Glen	PENN	Pennypack Valley	WARR	Warren
BUFV	Buffalo Creek Valley	HAMB	Hamburg	PHIL	Philipsburg	WASH	Washington
BUSH	Bushy Run S.P.	HARR	Harrisburg	PISH	Pittsburgh South Hills	WCHE	Western Chester Co.
BUTL	Butler County	HUNT	Huntingdon	PITT	Pittsburgh	WEST	West Chester
CBCK	Central Bucks Co.	INDI	Indiana	PLEA	Pleasantville	WHIT	White Mills
CHAM	Chambersburg	JOHN	Johnstown	POCO	Pocono Mountain	WILD	Wild Creek-Little Gap
CLRN	Clarion	LAKE	Lake Raystown	READ	Reading	WILL	Williamsport
CLRK	Clarksville	LANC	Lancaster	RECT	Rector	WSCH	Western Schuylkill Co.
CULP	Culp	LEBA	Lebanon County	RYER	Ryerson	WYNC	Wyncote
CURT	Curtin	LEHI	Lehigh Valley	SCRA	Scranton	YORK	York
DALL	Dallas Area	LWBG	Lewisburg	SBCK	Southern Bucks Co.	YOSP	York Springs

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BENE	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Gr. White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	1812	-	-	-	-	1282	210200	212	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	182
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1
Canada Goose	9808	39	185	290	-	2734	6863	1395	178	212	746	36	11146	908	143	325	29	79	480
Mute Swan	4	-	-	-	-	10	7	-	3	-	6	-	15	-	-	-	-	11	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	6	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	10	-	6	1	-	-	-	5	-
Wood Duck	2	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gadwall	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	1	4	-	-	2	4
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	15	43	5	-	-	36	179	17	-	-	-	-	31	5	14	-	23	21	
Mallard	414	6	153	162	-	412	866	60	91	45	88	4	483	797	43	120	45	139	195
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Green-winged Teal	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	2	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked Duck	7	-	-	-	-	-	61	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	60
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	99	-	10	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	8
Common Goldeneye	-	-	3	-	-	-	31	2	-	-	-	-	34	-	-	-	-	3	CW
Hooded Merganser	20	8	7	4	-	-	10	-	4	-	34	-	8	2	2	-	-	-	90
Common Merganser	143	153	6	-	-	19	122	34	3	43	45	-	545	-	-	-	-	7	24
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	10	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	1	-	-	-	-	-	38	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	3	-	1	1	10	4	-	4	1	-	-	2	1	4	26	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Wild Turkey	-	491	129	28	19	-	44	-	79	32	41	120	75	30	72	22	25	3	83
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	5	-	5	-	-	-	2	1	-	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	CW
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	38	4	3	5	-	15	22	8	-	-	4	2	18	18	-	2	1	5	1
Green Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	148	-	-	2	-	65	48	-	-	-	-	-	113	-	-	-	-	22	-
Turkey Vulture	130	-	-	-	-	98	104	-	7	-	-	-	151	-	-	-	-	3	-
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	9	8	1	1	-	2	10	8	1	1	6	3	1	1	1	-	-	3	3
Northern Harrier	3	-	-	9	-	2	8	10	2	1	2	1	-	-	4	-	-	3	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	3	1	1	-	4	10	6	1	-	1	4	2	12	1	2	-	4	1
Cooper's Hawk	17	1	1	2	-	9	12	2	5	1	1	6	5	15	4	2	-	5	5
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	-	CW	2	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	2	-	-	1	-
Red-tailed Hawk	93	9	5	32	3	86	78	61	48	9	25	17	34	67	56	19	8	70	13

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BENE	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	2	-	2	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	90
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	26	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	9	-	7	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	1
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	316	3	11	-	-	5356	1450	15	75	-	75	34	558	1	-	-	-	-	24
Herring Gull	6	-	2	-	-	327	61	15	2	-	-	-	69	4	-	-	-	-	CW
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	-	-	-	-	1	31	-	-	-	-	-	57	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	339	222	621	287	-	541	629	253	218	82	75	241	429	1278	205	218	345	550	295
Mourning Dove	697	19	271	147	55	670	530	1108	390	109	263	267	148	1863	357	236	50	421	264
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	21	12	-	1	3	7	4	7	5	6	2	3	21	9	10	-	-	7	16
Great Horned Owl	5	6	-	1	1	6	5	6	1	1	-	-	20	13	1	-	-	1	4
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3
Long-eared Owl	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	24	3	6	5	2	11	31	9	11	2	1	4	14	14	1	2	5	7	-
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	261	12	15	34	5	86	123	28	91	27	36	36	98	81	10	19	19	46	13
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	29	-	-	1	-	12	39	2	3	-	-	-	11	2	-	2	-	2	1
Downy Woodpecker	222	17	35	43	12	54	152	46	112	28	33	51	85	120	40	11	40	57	29
Hairy Woodpecker	38	8	8	9	6	4	24	9	21	2	9	20	10	15	13	4	6	7	12
Yellow-shafted Flicker	127	4	7	4	-	28	69	9	21	9	3	3	51	29	1	5	3	22	3
Pileated Woodpecker	10	4	2	14	2	3	11	14	10	5	7	8	9	14	12	9	1	6	3
American Kestrel	5	5	8	19	-	15	-	37	17	-	10	8	2	23	8	9	10	33	1
Merlin	1	-	1	-	-	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Peregrine Falcon	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	634	32	104	37	161	190	247	120	172	50	69	203	321	204	216	71	35	99	60
American Crow	811	178	115	302	71	306	7618	376	533	96	255	249	155	263	1255	133	125	779	269
Fish Crow	14	-	-	-	-	-	77	4	-	-	-	-	77	1	-	-	-	-	1
Common Raven	2	3	-	3	13	-	3	1	7	-	2	-	8	8	-	2	6	8	4
Horned Lark	7	-	-	5	-	147	10	325	19	-	-	-	42	835	-	-	-	427	8
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	583	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	388	1	13	-	151	-	-	-	-	1	-
Black-capped Chickadee	1	59	36	132	186	24	306	88	49	11	178	1	1	-	215	-	55	105	130
chickadee sp.	-	-	124	-	-	77	-	-	32	102	-	-	23	171	-	76	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	338	43	79	81	48	61	245	112	205	32	52	122	166	180	103	36	49	139	51
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	-	6	2	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	1	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	206	32	27	47	56	59	155	62	144	25	50	56	64	81	47	28	29	67	41
Brown Creeper	45	1	-	7	6	11	19	3	15	3	3	1	12	12	3	6	6	9	4
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BENE	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Winter Wren	18	2	-	1	-	6	8	-	2	2	-	-	6	14	-	-	2	3	2
Carolina Wren	314	11	29	34	6	83	168	44	102	29	23	20	111	132	8	21	25	70	28
Golden-crowned Kinglet	73	1	12	28	10	10	28	7	119	21	28	30	18	48	17	8	35	15	13
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	-	-	-	-	4	7	1	-	-	5	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	175	19	44	140	4	164	181	79	84	15	40	60	65	94	32	36	32	127	25
Hermit Thrush	2	-	-	1	-	3	6	-	4	-	2	-	3	3	-	-	1	1	-
American Robin	1058	-	23	2	13	26	1300	55	14	26	4	1384	4468	51	14	5	-	1	5
Gray Catbird	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-
Northern Mockingbird	55	4	11	8	-	44	36	36	9	2	7	6	36	61	8	12	3	55	4
Brown Thrasher	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	1988	765	710	1711	52	3029	3318	1695	1714	171	493	1389	3295	7588	600	379	600	1992	632
American Pipit	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	68	-	-	-	-	6
Cedar Waxwing	13	4	3	27	21	42	25	-	30	-	-	113	50	-	23	-	-	9	30
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	26	-	-	-	-	-	150	-	-	2	2
Black-and-white Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Palm Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	80	-	-	-	-	4	59	-	8	2	14	9	55	18	-	1	-	2	2
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	26	-	-	-	-	3	8	-	21	3	2	1	9	3	-	-	-	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	9	59	20	24	46	14	69	78	105	35	35	54	16	5	51	7	39	18	100
Chipping Sparrow	6	1	-	-	-	4	4	-	7	-	-	2	1	CW	-	-	-	1	-
Field Sparrow	8	-	-	-	6	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	-	-	-	1	-
Vesper Sparrow	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	6	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	1	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	550	7	82	20	5	147	216	50	280	36	58	25	161	140	4	8	25	71	69
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	2	-	-	-	-	8	4	8	7	2	2	3	12	-	-	-	-	3	-
White-throated Sparrow	925	29	15	21	1	320	629	81	97	47	53	6	581	399	5	4	30	89	17
White-crowned Sparrow	5	4	4	16	-	36	14	-	45	1	13	2	16	105	-	1	-	37	-
Slate-colored Junco	856	246	104	195	311	334	939	992	679	127	436	215	559	1251	463	85	161	522	399
Northern Cardinal	368	59	138	54	46	96	265	116	303	84	143	167	163	594	81	47	63	164	85
Red-winged Blackbird	221	-	CW	-	-	3	11	-	11	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	68
Eastern Meadowlark	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	9	-	17	-	-	1	7	-	14	-	-	-	1110	10	1	-	-	650	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	15	-	CW	1	-	86	22	10	5	-	1	-	7	786	1	-	1	10	5
Baltimore Oriole	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	-	6	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	3	43	2	3	2	17	-
House Finch	219	16	62	26	1	72	319	32	60	9	55	57	138	403	58	33	98	57	102
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	229	91	95	80	31	62	147	43	185	60	49	110	98	364	132	24	60	50	77
House Sparrow	247	69	223	299	56	157	225	232	391	5	157	192	146	943	196	343	187	167	60
Individuals	25097	2816	3613	4420	1270	18071	238746	8062	7219	1588	3739	5531	26529	20253	4686	2398	2265	7350	4252
Species	92	48	54	54	37	75	92	62	65	47	60	50	83	75	52	46	43	71	75
Party-hours	160	30	34.24	53	50	86	127	63.5	105	15.75	47	61.5	95.5	120	57.05	30	36.5	71.75	36.75

	DELA	DING	DUBO	DUHP	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	GORD	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	
Gr. White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	222	-	-	-	1204	-	-	-	-	28	55	-	-	-	-	2	150	3843	200	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	8659	60	26	21	3830	23	959	1960	2	1965	1820	131	1575	935	94	7764	1959	14317	2121	-
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	9	-	4	-	1	-	1	-	4	1	4	-	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	172	-	CW	-	1	-	105	-	-	CW	1	-	99	CW	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	2
Gadwall	3	-	-	-	1	-	9	4	-	28	56	-	1	4	10	34	-	3	-	-
American Wigeon	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	CW	-	-	2	-	-
American Black Duck	174	7	1	-	148	-	14	22	-	21	22	4	10	2	22	110	26	52	7	-
Mallard	435	23	364	1	249	-	656	154	9	507	790	82	109	207	172	532	144	535	427	-
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	8	-	CW	-	1	-	19	7	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	11	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	9	25	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	137	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	1	-	CW	-	2	-	196	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	49	-	2	17	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	2	5	82	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	1	-	-	129	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	16	-	-	-	-	-	166	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	333	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	-	17	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	3	-	CW	-	8	-	69	-	-	-	76	5	CW	-	51	6	-	-	2	-
Common Goldeneye	-	-	CW	-	-	-	62	-	-	-	6	6	CW	7	9	17	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	95	-	25	-	89	-	25	2	-	3	68	14	-	48	75	1	-	-	-	-
Common Merganser	83	12	CW	3	89	-	216	-	-	27	39	-	10	9	262	48	3	25	115	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	CW	-	-	-	1320	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	5	-	CW	-	47	-	5	6	-	-	-	-	3	30	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	3	-	CW	1	-	-	2	3	12	-	1	4	4	2	-	1	2	1	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	1	6	-	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	22	6	114	41	-	42	22	41	-	286	8	119	100	50	75	2	15	61	18	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	5	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	2	-	26	-	-	-	2	-	CW	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	61	-	CW	-	2	-	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	26	-	CW	-	10	-	10	6	-	15	28	2	1	1	5	19	4	24	15	-
Green Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Black Vulture	54	-	-	-	182	-	-	37	-	67	43	50	-	-	CW	23	27	18	22	-
Turkey Vulture	139	-	-	-	198	-	-	64	-	31	114	1	-	-	-	12	24	83	1	-
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	13	3	2	2	7	4	4	8	-	3	10	3	4	2	6	13	1	-	14	-
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	4	-	-	2	2	1	5	CW	2	6	1	9	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	14	2	1	-	3	CW	3	1	-	5	3	2	4	3	-	1	4	6	7	-
Cooper's Hawk	22	4	3	3	7	CW	2	3	-	9	13	2	5	9	1	6	9	10	11	-
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	7	3	-	2	4	1	-	12	-	7	3	10	1	-	4	2	-	-	2	-
Red-tailed Hawk	83	15	5	13	42	9	10	58	5	86	58	40	43	22	26	32	67	72	123	-

	DELA	DING	DUBO	DUHP	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	GORD	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG
Winter Wren	23	2	-	1	6	1	-	2	-	1	24	2	1	1	5	16	9	13	2
Carolina Wren	217	15	8	CW	181	30	1	71	-	127	159	44	34	7	100	130	79	129	80
Golden-crowned Kinglet	70	18	3	6	16	20	2	14	-	22	74	78	56	16	64	57	18	13	20
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	3	1	-	4	-	-	1	-	1	13	-	-	-	1	9	1	4	-
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	65	55	2	15	206	18	CW	56	-	115	138	91	45	4	105	53	87	106	117
Hermit Thrush	13	12	-	2	23	-	2	2	-	5	5	15	-	-	4	5	7	10	2
American Robin	9014	413	3	2	408	6	235	9	2	32	608	3	9	15	23	42	17	122	1
Gray Catbird	2	-	-	-	3	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2
Northern Mockingbird	61	1	-	-	37	-	-	59	-	53	33	13	12	CW	13	35	26	60	37
Brown Thrasher	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
European Starling	2249	5	351	113	1972	76	915	1277	77	4426	2342	601	1343	1059	1772	884	1684	4136	2531
American Pipit	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	11	47	-	56	23	16	4	17	-	21	54	89	53	10	151	24	-	79	-
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	CW	-	-	3	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	75	-	-	CW	-	-	1	-	-	1	CW	-	-	10	-	CW
Black-and-white Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	12	19	-	-	10	-	54	23	-	26	4	-	2	4	-	4	4	21	-
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	122	1	-	-	43	-	-	2	-	2	2	3	2	-	1	6	3	9	-
American Tree Sparrow	23	86	26	23	19	21	148	65	-	60	26	100	106	68	248	10	135	56	87
Chipping Sparrow	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-
Field Sparrow	12	-	-	-	21	12	-	12	-	16	2	3	-	-	-	3	15	3	-
Vesper Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	37	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	23	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
Song Sparrow	922	60	2	10	247	23	5	118	-	223	226	75	92	29	51	216	157	374	167
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	35	-	4	1	14	-	-	37	-	1	11	8	2	1	3	7	5	11	-
White-throated Sparrow	2109	281	4	2	537	25	5	285	-	594	519	138	81	38	102	788	438	1884	266
White-crowned Sparrow	1	2	-	CW	-	-	-	50	-	15	12	1	-	2	-	9	31	42	19
Slate-colored Junco	1519	925	312	152	601	352	45	1209	60	1672	915	718	1055	458	346	634	1227	3302	1214
Northern Cardinal	501	29	77	28	174	69	68	241	12	220	607	129	332	99	96	335	117	419	315
Red-winged Blackbird	308	-	-	-	100	1	-	1	-	3	2	-	3	18	1	1	15	80	-
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	4	-	-	-	308	2	-	2	-	2	6	-	-	-	1	26	1	70	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	2	181	CW	-	3	-	83	2	-	-	13	4	2	2	12	1
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	1	30	6	9	1	CW	-	3	-	-	2	-	12	5	-	1	1	13	10
House Finch	215	1	80	2	107	20	84	101	1	139	225	58	234	76	20	151	180	236	116
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	31	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	348	51	229	17	126	130	11	90	21	182	201	110	114	141	83	201	84	170	65
House Sparrow	218	18	136	56	107	120	79	137	26	445	246	338	379	353	231	195	125	345	538
Individuals	33835	2698	2952	1023	15745	2059	18471	7868	356	15473	15594	5881	8825	5806	6105	31900	9920	35477	13997
Species	90	53	48	46	91	43	73	78	22	74	95	65	65	74	69	85	82	76	68
Party-hours	184.25	35.25	48.25	9.75	87	57	46.25	73	9	100.6	72	49.5	116.8	54.25	55.5	90.25	58.25	102	95.2

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

	LWST	LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK
Gr. White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	12	2	3653	-	-	-	-	-	250	-	-	-	-	81	3000	-	-	-	247
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Canada Goose	589	6198	8347	60	23	478	852	-	961	3	363	1159	237	706	3610	793	123	85	11862
Mute Swan	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	7	37	2	-	2	44
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	34	1100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	39	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	-	-	-	250
American Wigeon	-	-	10	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
American Black Duck	27	61	994	8	-	12	2	-	4	-	-	4	19	5	217	3	-	12	159
Mallard	422	328	682	251	58	179	420	2	216	28	185	720	39	242	458	76	24	81	541
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	27	117	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53
Northern Pintail	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	1	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	16
Canvasback	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	1	-	3	-	4	-	-	-	21
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Lesser Scaup	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	1	48	-	-	-	10	-	-	15	-	-	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	45
Common Goldeneye	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	2	3
Hooded Merganser	5	37	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	4	12	-	-	4	107
Common Merganser	225	-	13	145	200	149	-	-	11	-	-	3	83	2	67	-	-	36	593
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	38	-	-	-	41
Ring-necked Pheasant	9	-	23	1	1	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	28	3	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	27	3	29	20	50	40	-	72	15	28	247	110	37	139	-	19	138	73	-
Common Loon	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Pied-billed Grebe	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Great Blue Heron	19	7	20	3	3	17	33	-	3	-	2	32	3	2	14	3	1	1	37
Green Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	35	-	22	9	-	6	88	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	124	6	-	-	7
Turkey Vulture	1	-	59	-	-	7	116	-	1	-	-	15	-	-	124	47	1	-	14
Osprey	8	23	5	CW	11	6	3	1	5	-	-	4	13	5	4	-	-	-	32
Northern Harrier	3	3	7	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	9	-	-	1	1	2	-	5	1	1	10	-	2	7	5	-	1	11
Cooper's Hawk	12	9	4	2	-	7	14	3	7	1	4	28	-	2	4	8	3	2	9
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	2	3	1	-	4	4	-	2	-	-	6	-	-	1	6	-	1	3
Red-tailed Hawk	76	31	39	22	14	27	77	19	19	-	30	99	8	20	63	52	22	14	53

	LWST	LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK
Rough-legged Hawk	-	2	-	4	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	758	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	493
Sandhill Crane	-	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	10	-	2	-	-	-	10	-	9	-	-	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	3
Least Sandpiper	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	4	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-billed Gull	1	385	57	3	13	45	911	-	708	-	-	372	-	11	731	-	-	1285	5150
Herring Gull	-	7	-	-	1	7	31	-	24	-	-	129	-	7	8	-	-	250	79577
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	162
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2841
Rock Pigeon	1654	17	439	421	278	291	873	-	122	80	33	876	86	27	1350	30	-	584	208
Mourning Dove	937	97	337	288	237	194	687	133	282	17	410	659	77	80	751	313	156	232	230
Barn Owl	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	36	-	18	6	-	21	4	CW	10	-	11	22	10	-	-	7	CW	6	10
Great Horned Owl	14	-	10	6	1	15	6	1	7	-	-	10	2	2	-	1	-	-	5
Snowy Owl	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	1	-	1	CW	-	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	25	-	9	-	-	11	16	-	10	-	9	11	6	10	7	-	5	1	12
Red-headed Woodpecker	5	-	3	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	197	27	56	15	9	116	129	6	73	1	72	198	10	29	90	67	31	8	124
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	1	2	1	-	17	15	1	6	-	1	5	-	3	14	6	-	-	9
Downy Woodpecker	204	45	68	45	30	129	104	8	85	3	69	233	31	51	58	60	30	47	115
Hairy Woodpecker	31	12	19	5	13	20	22	2	20	-	27	67	1	12	9	25	8	12	23
Yellow-shafted Flicker	44	20	39	6	-	41	47	1	40	-	13	23	-	6	24	5	7	-	74
Pileated Woodpecker	38	9	6	2	4	22	12	3	8	2	15	21	2	6	2	16	9	5	3
American Kestrel	42	3	11	2	1	15	38	1	5	-	3	2	-	1	6	3	2	2	1
Merlin	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	CW	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Eastern Phoebe	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	374	71	132	69	145	285	138	94	90	10	167	302	133	130	191	136	89	152	531
American Crow	415	65	277	523	356	609	228	334	39	21	353	32913	45	206	462	378	83	1373	624
Fish Crow	3	-	12	-	-	2	4	-	CW	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	5	701
Common Raven	2	-	1	7	8	4	5	21	CW	-	2	3	3	-	2	7	3	4	1
Horned Lark	414	28	49	15	-	126	421	89	CW	-	-	-	-	-	492	-	-	-	91
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	3	-	69	-	-	42	100	-	115	-	190	176	-	-	42	5	-	-	199
Black-capped Chickadee	102	158	23	165	253	123	23	106	-	10	2	117	259	142	-	381	-	276	1
chickadee sp.	-	-	115	-	-	75	121	-	-	-	233	361	-	-	120	20	99	-	11
Tufted Titmouse	472	47	118	114	51	315	168	20	73	6	174	443	569	146	139	180	60	73	121
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	2	3	-	3	-	8	-	-	2	-	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	194	52	49	57	45	117	112	24	64	4	70	219	72	45	71	117	41	46	89
Brown Creeper	30	3	8	4	1	21	30	1	12	-	8	32	3	1	9	8	2	-	14
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

LWST	LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK
16	1	7	-	-	11	10	-	15	-	3	12	-	-	1	-	-	-	19
290	1	65	25	4	229	176	6	94	2	161	314	11	23	64	27	15	15	127
56	38	27	13	3	35	57	13	12	1	65	90	31	-	11	50	9	7	41
-	-	1	-	-	4	10	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
238	34	73	38	19	184	244	27	24	-	44	120	-	94	111	58	45	23	27
8	-	4	2	-	14	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	4	-	-	1	4
146	18	39	-	1	68	61	1	307	-	261	686	20	2	207	1	38	18	2457
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
58	-	24	6	1	68	104	3	24	-	13	75	1	12	32	4	1	17	21
-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
3112	202	2585	1239	500	1458	4789	1328	1055	165	1275	2391	221	186	4031	448	195	1070	3615
-	-	-	-	-	8	3	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	12
54	18	75	1	4	4	39	-	-	-	183	30	-	186	-	-	-	-	159
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	33	2	-	-	3	47	-	6	-	1	14	-	7	3	2	4	-	19
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	50	-	-	5	5	-	14	1	9	4	-	-	8	1	6	-	21
91	200	123	39	89	41	97	35	28	10	46	31	39	26	5	109	-	13	22
-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	72	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-
9	-	11	-	-	10	4	-	22	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	16	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	32
2	-	3	3	-	2	4	-	5	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47
316	20	305	60	4	187	160	7	220	-	284	459	3	52	180	80	37	25	281
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	9	-	-	4	10	-	32	-	8	3	-	3	2	4	2	-	11
344	7	501	47	44	4526	636	14	387	-	188	154	8	131	600	15	10	14	1352
83	-	5	1	-	6	93	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	35	-	-	-	2
558	225	455	622	292	617	724	227	382	6	346	576	204	1042	974	571	48	227	695
452	116	220	165	83	383	350	38	124	6	377	629	68	137	146	238	104	100	269
1	8	-	-	1	-	16	-	80	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	9	-	1053
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	1	80	2	1	-	9	-	9	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	162
1	-	8	-	-	1	-	3	CW	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	2	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	3	1	4	4	7	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	2
252	20	64	80	56	218	193	54	106	8	156	335	1	36	162	28	20	44	101
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
232	70	64	168	141	148	188	81	79	11	200	476	96	32	98	97	36	72	63
494	135	263	191	121	199	503	59	381	18	242	685	118	69	452	203	141	704	228
13607	9997	22298	4999	3178	12069	14465	2848	6997	445	6584	46567	2583	4193	19600	4771	1664	7027	116691
77	69	86	56	45	71	73	41	78	26	54	64	47	62	83	56	42	47	97
82	45.5	100.65	53.5	56	69	102	19.5	58	6	87	319.5	39.75	46.55	80	62.75	32.5	58.75	115.25

	SLAN	SEBR	SBUT	STAT	TAMA	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK	YOSP
Gr. White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	1011	-	-	-	-	85	1985	4769	-	-	819	115	-	2098	-	-	1756	1	200
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cackling Goose	4	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW
Canada Goose	4474	1303	149	716	549	190	7689	12776	944	470	12573	6829	38	1871	492	143	2954	4073	3172
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	9	2	-	2	2	-	4	-	-	4	4	1
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Wood Duck	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	1
Gadwall	6	-	-	2	-	-	3	72	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	20
American Wigeon	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	76
American Black Duck	66	8	2	20	40	-	29	50	11	4	190	8	3	15	1	-	-	6	2
Mallard	162	36	239	342	197	-	217	248	500	114	448	173	322	582	264	87	165	239	598
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Northern Pintail	2	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Green-winged Teal	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Redhead	CW	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW
Ring-necked Duck	8	-	-	1	-	-	9	18	1	2	65	-	-	9	-	-	2	25	6
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	1	1
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	CW	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	31	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	107	-	2	6	-	12	4	-	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	3	-	-	4	3	-	-	1	-
Hooded Merganser	43	17	-	-	-	-	4	24	101	-	4	4	3	69	CW	-	11	32	4
Common Merganser	674	18	-	CW	3	-	47	197	173	-	106	27	21	2	202	-	57	29	1163
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	3	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	7	-	3	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Ring-necked Pheasant	13	7	-	-	4	-	-	12	4	-	2	-	-	5	25	2	-	2	1
Ruffed Grouse	-	2	-	3	CW	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	37	70	57	23	76	43	55	-	18	63	1	1	20	44	89	1	-	50	13
Common Loon	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	9	-
Horned Grebe	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	29	-	1	11	1	-	2	15	2	-	25	15	-	3	3	1	13	21	14
Green Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	212	-	-	3	8	-	-	162	-	-	261	51	-	5	9	-	21	55	92
Turkey Vulture	207	-	1	2	-	-	-	264	-	-	372	110	-	7	3	-	27	114	162
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	53	9	-	3	2	-	6	4	15	-	36	7	-	5	7	6	3	12	19
Northern Harrier	8	3	-	2	3	-	9	3	-	2	2	-	-	6	1	1	1	-	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	3	-	4	3	2	4	7	7	1	9	10	-	2	-	-	7	-	6
Cooper's Hawk	10	2	8	10	5	1	7	9	7	2	10	6	1	11	3	3	6	3	8
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	6	3	1	-	-	1	1	8	3
Red-tailed Hawk	57	66	48	65	35	6	43	70	17	5	87	67	9	49	30	28	23	55	98

	SLAN	SEBR	SBUT	STAT	TAMA	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK	YOSP
Winter Wren	16	-	3	4	2	-	1	13	-	2	15	9	-	1	2	3	8	1	13
Carolina Wren	149	30	46	73	57	2	27	195	18	24	127	150	3	39	28	60	109	62	153
Golden-crowned Kinglet	59	14	22	29	41	-	5	38	34	16	41	30	-	16	20	17	15	22	54
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	11	-	-	-	-	-	5	4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	199	112	30	45	72	4	41	242	11	11	194	184	32	116	110	61	48	140	169
Hermit Thrush	20	-	15	15	7	-	1	19	-	-	6	12	-	8	3	3	4	1	5
American Robin	199	167	83	91	2	-	10	2468	9	61	286	2328	5	1	5	2	1201	8	30
Gray Catbird	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	1	1	-	6	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
Northern Mockingbird	79	1	18	33	31	-	2	65	-	2	87	50	-	20	14	32	16	55	79
Brown Thrasher	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
European Starling	2479	1705	89	1685	1521	10	755	6946	2880	72	4703	2675	217	723	985	1146	964	1427	6510
American Pipit	191	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	18	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	57	116	40	30	CW	-	12	259	-	72	30	43	29	27	49	-	-	8	224
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	6	-	-	-	-	-
Black-and-white Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	128	-	-	10	15	-	1	5	5	-	56	16
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	33	-	2	2	1	-	1	15	-	-	57	39	-	1	-	1	9	5	17
American Tree Sparrow	12	83	38	105	59	29	319	44	40	-	18	8	9	100	61	101	4	14	40
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	5	1	6	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	27	13	-	15	-	-	3	2	5
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	40	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	16	-	-	CW	-	-	-	1	1
Fox Sparrow	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	12	-	1	-	-	1	-	4
Song Sparrow	447	45	106	67	128	-	14	307	7	32	383	274	6	136	82	114	155	102	169
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	67	2	2	14	3	-	2	35	-	-	34	14	-	12	-	6	8	2	2
White-throated Sparrow	1369	41	20	405	161	-	62	860	17	10	622	688	12	202	224	116	459	367	702
White-crowned Sparrow	36	4	-	14	-	-	1	13	-	-	26	5	-	5	1	4	-	23	36
Slate-colored Junco	1243	227	264	661	1153	77	776	928	652	67	789	888	243	1484	566	359	447	234	1159
Northern Cardinal	425	43	167	229	159	5	79	261	184	52	218	267	34	117	178	82	166	259	329
Red-winged Blackbird	150	-	-	-	4	1	76	488	1	-	28885	127	-	1	-	4	143	-	78
Eastern Meadowlark	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Rusty Blackbird	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	-	-	17	1	-	5	-	3	46	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	106	1	-	-	-	-	-	1027	1	-	25321	41	-	7	-	-	10	11	73
Brown-headed Cowbird	126	35	-	-	-	-	152	136	1	1	955	18	-	3	CW	-	-	5	2
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	14	-	-	-	4	-	8	1	11	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	7	-
House Finch	81	39	44	205	71	3	32	199	68	45	241	112	17	114	112	24	87	94	235
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Goldfinch	176	153	94	191	47	18	70	92	164	45	142	122	28	90	117	72	84	79	115
House Sparrow	327	145	72	238	264	14	127	162	219	67	454	76	80	49	180	162	275	54	276
Individuals	23877	6382	2661	9737	6810	818	14669	40357	8517	1763	86983	18144	1561	10435	5972	3833	10957	10147	20425
Species	102	56	50	68	58	33	69	89	68	50	98	78	41	81	62	57	66	79	86
Party-hours	123.5	58	47.5	92.02	60.13	8	45	123	109	16	124.25	92	16.5	34	36.25	33	65.5	67.75	88

SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT
Gr. White-fronted Goose	2	2	1	BETH,UBCK
Snow Goose	239493	31	210200	BETH
Ross's Goose	5	2	4	BETH
Cackling Goose	27	12	4	**1**
Canada Goose	181671	74	14317	LEHI
Mute Swan	224	31	44	SBCK
Trumpeter Swan	1	1	1	WARR
Tundra Swan	1627	17	1100	LITI
Wood Duck	63	17	17	BETH
Gadwall	643	30	250	SBCK
American Wigeon	169	15	76	YOSP
American Black Duck	3112	57	994	LITI
Mallard	19404	73	866	BETH
Blue-winged Teal	1	1	1	LEHI
Northern Shoveler	224	13	117	LITI
Northern Pintail	95	16	31	HARR
Green-winged Teal	126	18	25	HARR
Canvasback	143	5	137	ERIE
Redhead	251	10	196	ERIE
Ring-necked Duck	482	28	82	LEHI
Greater Scaup	140	8	129	ERIE
Lesser Scaup	214	9	166	ERIE
scaup sp.	354	3	333	ERIE
Surf Scoter	6	2	4	WARR
White-winged Scoter	13	2	12	ERIE
Black Scoter	3	1	3	ERIE
Long-tailed Duck	67	4	31	ERIE
Bluffhead	655	29	107	WARR
Common Goldeneye	216	23	62	ERIE
Hooded Merganser	1134	43	107	SBCK
Common Merganser	6331	52	1163	YOSP
Red-breasted Merganser	1341	8	1320	ERIE
Ruddy Duck	358	22	50	PENN
Ring-necked Pheasant	242	43	28	RECT
Ruffed Grouse	51	20	7	EMPO
Wild Turkey	4023	66	491	BALD
Common Loon	11	7	3	SLAN
Pied-billed Grebe	81	23	10	SBCK
Horned Grebe	37	8	26	ERIE
Red-necked Grebe	2	2	1	JOHN,LAKE
Double-cr. Cormorant	209	11	68	ERIE
Great Cormorant	26	3	18	SBCK
Great Blue Heron	668	61	38	AUDU
Green Heron	1	1	1	LEHI
Black Vulture	2102	38	261	WCHE
Turkey Vulture	2814	37	372	WCHE
Osprey	1	1	1	LEHI
Bald Eagle	464	60	53	SLAN
Northern Harrier	149	41	10	BLOO
Sharp-shinned Hawk	243	58	14	DELA
Cooper's Hawk	443	70	28	PITT
Northern Goshawk	3	3	1	**2**
Red-shouldered Hawk	141	46	12	GETT
Red-tailed Hawk	3085	75	123	LWBG

High Count notations: **1** BETH,CBCK,SLAN **2** JOHN,POCO,READ **3** HARR,LEHI,READ,STAT,WSCH **4** BUCR,INDI,LEBA

SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT
Rough-legged Hawk	33	18	5	NLCO,STAT
Golden Eagle	6	5	2	LEBA
Virginia Rail	1	1	1	WEST
American Coot	2248	24	758	LINE
Sandhill Crane	68	1	68	LINE
Killdeer	215	30	26	AUDU
Least Sandpiper	1	1	1	LINE
Wilson's Snipe	62	17	13	LWBG
Bonaparte's Gull	3260	6	3241	ERIE
Ring-billed Gull	45419	50	7188	ERIE
Herring Gull	81979	39	79577	SBCK
Thayer's Gull	1	1	1	SBCK
Iceland Gull	28	2	26	SBCK
Lesser Black-backed Gull	414	12	162	SBCK
Glaucous Gull	12	3	10	SBCK
Great Black-backed Gull	3161	16	2841	SBCK
Rock Pigeon	27998	72	1654	LWST
Mourning Dove	29664	76	1863	CHAM
Barn Owl	5	3	3	LWBG
Eastern Screech-Owl	761	57	111	UBCK
Great Horned Owl	335	59	20	CBCK
Snowy Owl	7	6	2	ERIE
Barred Owl	52	32	4	PITT
Long-eared Owl	10	5	4	HUNT
Short-eared Owl	11	6	4	BETH
Northern Saw-whet Owl	18	13	3	WSCH
Rufous Hummingbird	5	5	1	**3**
Belted Kingfisher	546	64	31	BETH
Red-headed Woodpecker	47	14	8	ELVE,YOSP
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4705	75	261	AUDU
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	448	55	39	BETH
Downy Woodpecker	5281	76	233	PITT
Hairy Woodpecker	1157	75	67	PITT
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1962	65	141	UBCK
Pileated Woodpecker	678	75	38	LWST
American Kestrel	689	64	61	LWBG
Merlin	35	21	4	BETH,READ
Peregrine Falcon	27	13	4	PITT
Eastern Phoebe	22	13	4	LWST
Northern Shrike	7	4	4	CLRN
Blue Jay	12938	76	696	UBCK
American Crow	83769	76	32913	PITT
Fish Crow	1542	25	701	SBCK
Common Raven	314	58	22	WILL
Horned Lark	9326	41	1721	SLAN
N. Rough-winged Swallow	50	1	50	PENN
Carolina Chickadee	4376	33	583	AUDU
Black-capped Chickadee	7431	59	474	WARR
Chickadee sp.	2765	30	361	PITT
Tufted Titmouse	10154	76	569	PLEA
Red-breasted Nuthatch	125	43	13	DUBO
White-breasted Nuthatch	5494	76	219	PITT
Brown Creeper	717	70	45	AUDU
House Wren	2	2	1	CHAM,PISH

High Count notations: **3** HARR,LEHI,READ,STAT,WSCH **4** BUCR,INDI,LEBA

SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT
Winter Wren	363	53	24	HARR
Carolina Wren	5671	74	314	AUDU,PITT
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2120	72	119	BUCR
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	133	30	13	HARR
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	1	1	PENN
Eastern Bluebird	5918	72	244	NEWV
Hermit Thrush	283	48	23	ELVE
American Robin	30700	71	9014	DELA
Gray Catbird	50	30	6	WEST
Northern Mockingbird	1885	64	104	NEWV
Brown Thrasher	19	17	2	DELA,SBCK
European Starling	127291	76	7588	CHAM
American Pipit	365	17	191	SLAN
Cedar Waxwing	2794	53	259	UBCK
Lapland Longspur	10	4	3	**4**
Snow Bunting	401	20	150	CLRN
Black-and-white Warbler	1	1	1	BERN
Common Yellowthroat	1	1	1	DALL
Palm Warbler	5	4	2	SLAN
Pine Warbler	3	3	1	**5**
Myrtle Warbler	873	46	128	UBCK
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	1	1	WCHE
Eastern Towhee	580	46	122	DELA
American Tree Sparrow	4219	73	319	TUNK
Chipping Sparrow	135	16	72	PENN
Field Sparrow	310	37	27	WCHE
Vesper Sparrow	1	1	1	DELA
Savannah Sparrow	219	19	40	SLAN
Fox Sparrow	142	21	47	SBCK
Song Sparrow	10205	73	922	DELA
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1	1	CURT
Swamp Sparrow	488	51	67	SLAN
White-throated Sparrow	26760	73	4526	NEWB
White-crowned Sparrow	879	45	105	CHAM
Slate-colored Junco	46598	76	3302	LEHI
Northern Cardinal	14163	76	629	PITT
Red-winged Blackbird	31984	39	28885	WCHE
Eastern Meadowlark	42	9	21	SLAN
Rusty Blackbird	102	15	46	WYNC
Brewer's Blackbird	2	1	2	JOHN
Common Grackle	29108	40	25321	WCHE
Brown-headed Cowbird	2711	42	955	WCHE
Baltimore Oriole	1	1	1	AUDU
Purple Finch	258	40	43	CHAM
House Finch	7620	76	403	CHAM
Common Redpoll	5	1	5	JOHN
Pine Siskin	61	11	31	HARR
American Goldfinch	8612	76	476	PITT
House Sparrow	16834	76	943	CHAM

High Count notations: **5** AUDU,BEAV,WCHE

Number Individuals	Number Species	Party Hours
1206523	155	5298
238746	102	319.5

The 2014 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania

Greg Grove

The 14th Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) was conducted from 10 January through 23 February 2014 with at least one route in each of the state's 67 counties. WRS is a roadside survey with simple but specific guidelines. All raptors and vultures are recorded and data are also collected on sex/age/color form. Cumulative results were summarized previously (Grove 2010, Grove and Bolgiano 2012).

Effort and Weather

A total of 216 routes were run, comprising 804.5 hours and 12,259 miles, the highest level of effort ever. *Lancaster* and *Montgomery* observers each logged 30 hours to lead the state (Table 2). A map showing details of most routes is at the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology website (PSO website).

In 2014, there was no question that we were doing a *winter* raptor survey. This was undoubtedly one of the two most severe winters in Pennsylvania since the WRS began in 2001, ranking with 2004. In the days leading up to the beginning of surveys 10 January, a short but intense cold spell hit the state, with sub-zero temperatures on at least one night in most areas, even in places where the thermometer rarely drops to zero. Conditions then became relatively benign for a week or so; in fact, the first weekend of the survey period (11-12 Jan) was plagued by fog, leading to postponements of some surveys. Intense cold returned around 20 January. Overall, January and February temperatures averaged about six degrees below normal. Most surveys reported snow cover.

2014 Results

Numbers of Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, Northern Harriers, and both vulture species were well below levels of recent years (Fig 1), presumably

due in part to the harsh weather. The difference compared to most years is also clearly seen by comparing the 2014 distribution map (Fig 2) with the same maps from previous years (Grove and Bolgiano 2012).

Many surveyors bemoaned the poor raptor numbers. My impression was that those who did routes early fared somewhat better, though still below average, and that numbers relative to average for a given route declined as the wintry weather persisted, with no substantial break in the conditions.

Despite the conditions, record high counts were made for four species: Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon (Table 1). Results for individual counties are in the Appendix.

Red-tailed Hawk. The count of 2597 Red-tailed Hawks was well below the counts of the previous two winters. The hourly rate of 3.23 was well below the usual value of about 4.5 and was the second lowest ever, topping only the 3.02 of 2003 (Fig 1). This low count was presumably related to weather, with birds either moving south or succumbing to the conditions.

Though in reduced numbers everywhere, the distribution of Red-tails was otherwise normal, with highest densities in the southeast and the Susquehanna River valley—areas with open land and interspersed with small or medium-sized woodlots (Fig 2). *Lancaster* led with 161, followed by *Adams* at 100 and *Berks* at 96 (Table 2). Among counties with at least seven hours of coverage, *Adams*, *Juniata*, *Lebanon*, and *Union* had over six per hour. Of 1949 Red-tails aged, 165 (8.5%) were immature, slightly lower than any previous year (range: 9-16%).

American Kestrel. The total of 471 American Kestrels was only two-thirds of the 2012 and 2013 totals, despite

increased hours. The hourly rate of 0.58 was the second lowest ever, topping only the 0.52 in 2004 (Fig 1). It is likely no coincidence that 2004 and 2014 were the two worst winters of the WRS era.

Table 1. Pennsylvania WRS Species Counts for 2014 and High Counts from 2001-2011.

Species	2013	High Count
Bald Eagle	234	234 (2014)
Northern Harrier	65	133 (2008)
Sh-shinned Hawk	45	55 (2009)
Cooper's Hawk	122	122 (2014)
N. Goshawk	1	5 (2004)
Red-sh. Hawk	101	101 (2014)
Red-tailed Hawk	2597	3366 (2013)
Rough-leg. Hawk	94	341 (2004)
Golden Eagle	2	7 (2013)
American Kestrel	471	689 (2013)
Merlin	5	9 ('12, '13)
Peregrine Falcon	17	17 (2014)
Black Vulture	786	1279 (2013)
Turkey Vulture	1670	2804 (2012)
Northern Shrike	2	10 (2012)
Hours	804.5	804.5 (2014)
Miles	12259	12259 (2014)

There are three possible weather-related explanations, some combination of which presumably contributed to the low count this year. Most obvious is that many kestrels moved south, seeking milder conditions. It is also possible that some did not survive the harsh conditions, thus lowering the number observed. Lastly, because of high banks of plowed snow along roads under utility wires, which are favored hunting perches, kestrels may have been forced to hunt away from roads where there was less snow cover to shield rodents, but also in areas where the birds were less readily detected by observers.

As usual, most Kestrels were in the central and lower Susquehanna and Juniata River valleys (Fig 2). Fairly good numbers were also found in the southwest. *Lancaster* led with 32, followed by *Snyder* with 29 and *Mifflin* with 27 (Table 2). In counties with at least seven hours of effort, only *Juniata* and *Snyder* had over two per hour, and *Adams*, *Columbia*, *Mifflin*, *Montour*, *Union*, and *Washington* had at least 1.25 per hour.

I have been tracking separately the declining kestrel counts in six southeastern counties (*Bucks*, *Chester*, *Delaware*, *Lehigh*, *Montgomery*, and *Northampton*). After an encouraging increase last year, the hourly rate fell to an all-time low this year, with only half as many seen despite more hours logged (Table 3).

Of 398 Kestrels sexed, 246 (62%) were males, consistent with previous results (range: 59-66%).

Table 2. Top three counties for effort and selected species.

Rank	1	2	3
Hours	Lancaster (30)	Montgomery (30)	Chester (27)
Bald Eagle	Lancaster (67)	York (23)	Pike (12)
N. Harrier	N'umberland (10)	Lawrence (4)	Columbia, Perry (4)
Sharp-sh. Hawk	Berks (4)	-	-
Cooper's Hawk	Montgomery (9)	Cumberland (8)	-
Northern Goshawk	Northampton (1)	-	-
Red-sh. Hawk	Adams (12)	Crawford (9)	Huntingdon (9)
Red-tailed Hawk	Lancaster (161)	Adams (100)	Berks (96)
Rough-lg. Hawk	Crawford (12)	Tioga (11)	Centre (9)
Golden Eagle	Blair (1)	Wayne (1)	-
Am. Kestrel	Lancaster (32)	Snyder (29)	Mifflin (27)
Merlin	five with (1)	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	Bucks (4)	Berks (2)	Lackawanna (2)
Turkey Vulture	Lancaster (490)	Chester (274)	Adams (168)
Black Vulture	Lancaster (182)	Chester (128)	Adams (82)

Table 3. American Kestrel counts and hourly rates in southeastern Pennsylvania (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton).

Year	Hrs.	Kestrels	Kestrels/hr.
2001	23	28	1.24
2002	23	30	1.33
2003	44	35	0.80
2004	49	11	0.23
2005	45	18	0.40
2006	63	18	0.29
2007	63	18	0.29
2008	77	22	0.29
2009	74	25	0.34
2010	63	16	0.25
2011	64	12	0.19
2012	88	19	0.22
2013	100	35	0.36
2014	106	18	0.17

Rough-legged Hawk. The count of 94 Rough-legged Hawks was up slightly from the previous two years, with essentially no change in the hourly rate, just over 0.1 per hour over last year (Fig 1). The most recent peak year for Rough-legs was 2011, when 195 were at a rate of 0.34, triple this year's rate. Most were in northern tier and central counties, as usual (Fig 2). Twelve were found in *Crawford* and 11 in *Tioga*. Other good totals included nine in *Centre*, six in *Mifflin*, and five each in *Lycoming* and *Northumberland*. Among counties with at least seven hours of coverage, only *Crawford* and *Tioga* had more than 0.5 per hour (Table 2). All 94 Rough-legs were identified by color morph; 58 (62%) were light (2001-13 range = 60-78%).

Northern Harrier. Of all species, Northern Harriers saw the biggest drop-off from 2013—approximately one-half as many harriers were found in 2014. The count of 65 was the lowest since the

initial WRS years of 2001-2003, when coverage was relatively low. The detection rate of 0.08 per hour was the second lowest ever; only the 0.07 in 2003 was lower (Fig 1).

As usual, the middle Susquehanna Valley was the best overall region for harriers. *Northumberland's* 10 harriers far outdid other counties; *Columbia*, *Lawrence*, and *Perry* had 4 each (Fig 2).

Vultures. Many vultures apparently sought warmer places, as their numbers were far below levels of the past two years (Table 1). The hourly rates for both were the lowest since 2005, each only about two-thirds of 2013 rates (Fig 1). Turkey Vultures were recorded in 26 counties, down from the record high of 31 in both 2012 and 2013. Black Vultures were in 24 counties, just one less than last year's high of 25. As always, most vultures were in the southeast; *Lancaster*, *Chester*, and *Adams* were the top three in that order for both species (Fig 2). A few were found beyond the normal range, most notably the three Turkey Vultures in *Clarion* and one in *Tioga*, and four Black Vultures in *Pike*.

Other raptors. Totals for other raptors are in Table 1. Again this year, the Bald Eagle count reached a new high, 234. *Lancaster* led, as usual, with 67. New high counts were also established for Cooper's Hawks (122) and Peregrine Falcons (17). Golden Eagles were found in *Blair* and *Wayne*. The only Northern Goshawk was in *Northampton*.

Red-shouldered Hawks have been increasing on WRS routes and Christmas Bird Counts in recent years (Grove and Bolgiano, 2014). For the fourth consecutive year, a record high WRS

count was recorded. The 101 in 2014 easily topped last year's 73. Twelve were found in *Adams* and nine each in *Crawford* and *Huntingdon*; in the latter there were eight on a single route in Stone Valley, a hot spot for the species.

On average, four Northern Shrikes have been recorded in past years, but there were only two this year, in *Cambria* and *Pike*.

Acknowledgements

I thank Nick Bolgiano for creation of Fig 1 and 2. Thanks to Frank Haas for generating the map showing WRS routes in each county (PSO website). And of course, thanks go to the well over 100 birders and companions who gathered the data across the state.

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Hawkcount site: < www.hawkcount.org>

PSO website: <www.pabirds.org>

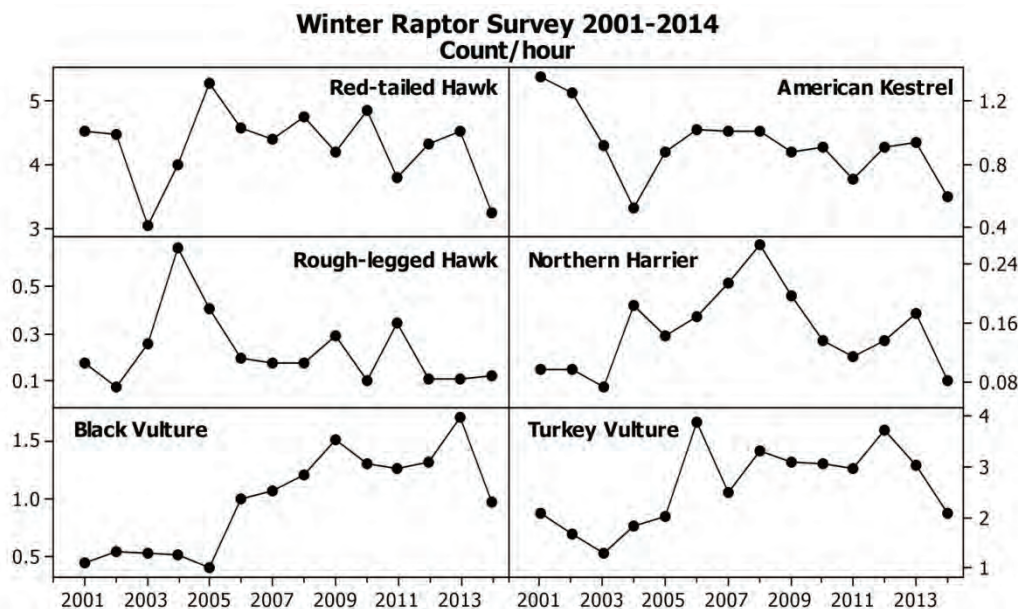
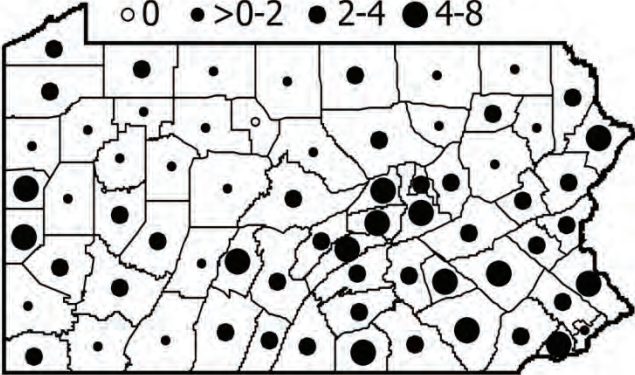


Figure 1. Pennsylvania WRS trends, 2001–2014. Results are expressed in birds/hour.

Winter Raptor Survey 2014

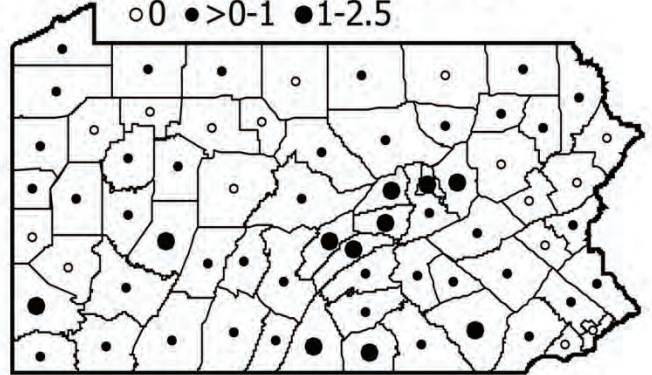
Red-tailed Hawks/hr

○ 0 ● >0-2 ● 2-4 ● 4-8



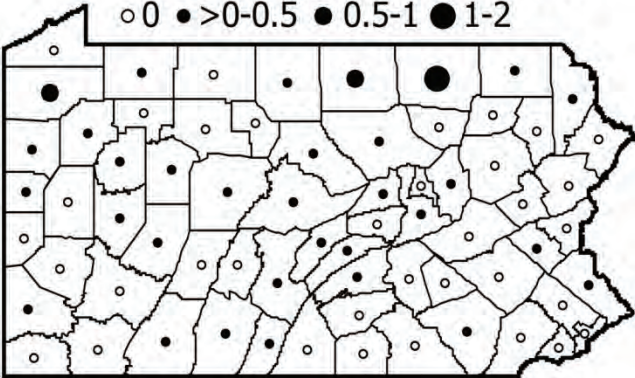
American Kestrels/hr

○ 0 ● >0-1 ● 1-2.5



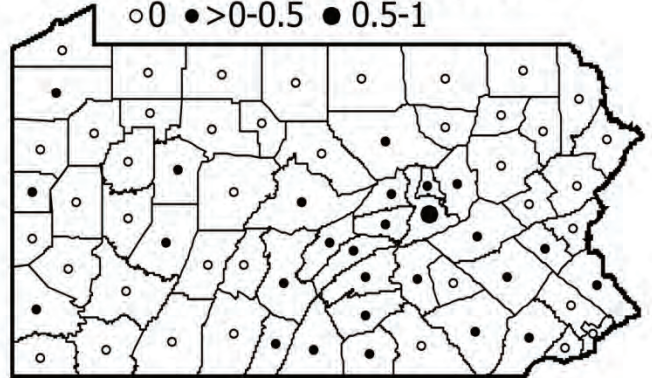
Rough-legged Hawks/hr

○ 0 ● >0-0.5 ● 0.5-1 ● 1-2



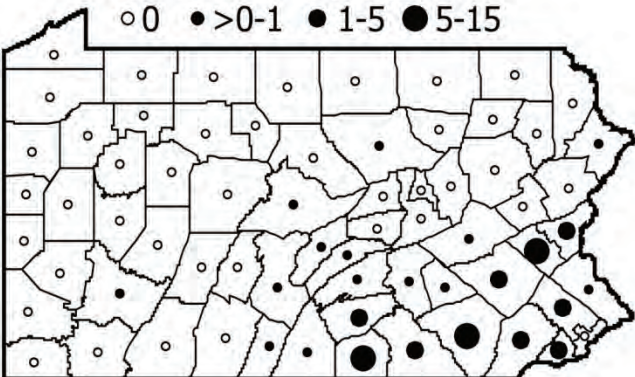
Northern Harriers/hr

○ 0 ● >0-0.5 ● 0.5-1



Black Vultures/hr

○ 0 ● >0-1 ● 1-5 ● 5-15



Turkey Vultures/hr

○ 0 ● >0-1 ● 1-5 ● 5-15 ■ 15-30

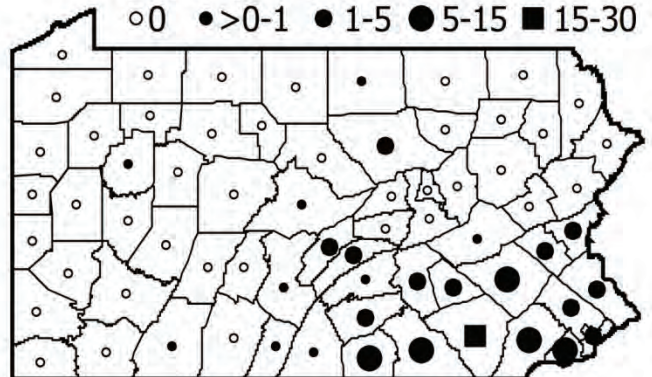


Figure 2. Pennsylvania 2014 WRS results by county. Count and effort data from all routes in a given county were combined, and results are expressed as birds/hour.

Appendix: 2014 Winter Raptor Survey Results

County	Hours	Miles	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TV	BV	NShr
Adams	14.25	219	1	3	2	5	-	12	100	-	-	18	-	1	168	82	-
Allegheny	2.25	61	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Armstrong	9.75	160	-	-	-	1	-	1	24	2	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
Beaver	1.75	21	1	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bedford	10.25	265	-	-	-	1	-	-	21	1	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
Berks	23.25	354	7	1	4	6	-	4	96	-	-	14	1	2	165	54	-
Blair	6.75	104	3	-	-	-	-	-	41	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Bradford	2.5	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bucks	11.75	105	9	2	2	3	-	1	65	1	-	4	-	4	19	2	-
Butler	3.5	47	1	-	1	1	-	-	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cambria	6.5	108	-	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Cameron	2	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carbon	12	200	-	-	1	1	-	2	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Centre	27.25	342	1	2	1	2	-	-	58	9	-	7	-	-	2	17	-
Chester	27.25	467	4	1	1	3	-	4	84	-	-	5	-	-	274	128	-
Clarion	17.25	305	2	-	-	-	-	-	33	2	-	3	-	-	3	-	-
Clearfield	8.5	183	-	-	-	2	-	1	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clinton	6.75	126	-	-	-	1	-	-	13	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Columbia	10.75	133	1	4	-	2	-	1	25	2	-	16	-	-	-	-	-
Crawford	18.25	286	10	3	2	2	-	9	65	12	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Cumberland	28	315	1	3	1	8	-	1	80	-	-	25	-	-	88	56	-
Dauphin	12	235	8	1	-	1	-	4	41	-	-	11	-	-	22	8	-
Delaware	10.5	163	-	-	1	2	-	5	42	-	-	-	-	1	57	32	-
Elk	3.75	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erie	9	161	3	-	-	1	-	5	29	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Fayette	11.75	207	2	-	-	1	-	3	19	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Forest	3.25	65	2	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Franklin	18.5	289	7	2	2	1	-	1	64	-	-	21	1	-	6	1	-
Fulton	11.5	89	3	3	-	-	-	5	31	1	-	5	-	-	6	5	-
Greene	12.5	228	-	-	-	2	-	-	42	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
Huntingdon	26	442	5	2	1	4	-	9	88	3	-	20	-	-	4	11	-
Indiana	20.75	310	-	3	1	4	-	-	80	1	-	24	-	-	-	-	-
Jefferson	16.5	238	-	1	1	2	-	1	15	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Juniata	9.25	145	9	1	1	5	-	1	68	1	-	20	-	-	18	3	-
Lackawana	5	102	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
Lancaster	30	427	67	1	2	7	-	2	161	1	-	32	-	1	490	182	-
Lawrence	17	246	4	4	1	7	-	6	89	2	-	9	1	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	8.5	150	-	-	-	1	-	1	55	-	-	7	-	-	34	2	-
Lehigh	10	142	-	1	2	-	-	-	33	1	-	-	-	-	19	59	-
Luzerne	1.5	32	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lycoming	12.75	201	-	2	-	1	-	-	47	5	-	4	-	-	13	7	-
McKean	10.5	170	1	-	1	-	-	-	18	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Mercer	5.5	78	1	-	-	1	-	-	9	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Mifflin	19.75	231	4	1	1	-	-	2	77	6	-	27	1	-	39	15	-
Monroe	8.25	127	3	-	1	2	-	2	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Montgomery	29.75	327	-	-	2	9	-	-	68	-	-	4	-	1	68	33	-
Montour	6.25	124	-	2	-	1	-	-	15	-	-	11	-	1	-	-	-
Northampton	17.25	271	2	-	2	1	1	1	59	-	-	5	-	-	44	27	-
Northumberland	18	226	4	10	-	2	-	-	77	5	-	17	1	1	-	-	-
Perry	21.5	267	6	4	-	2	-	7	70	2	-	13	-	-	5	13	-
Philadelphia	5.25	58	1	-	1	1	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Pike	6	23	12	-	1	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1
Potter	13.75	252	1	-	1	2	-	-	16	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Schuylkill	14.25	233	2	3	2	3	-	3	49	-	-	9	-	1	1	1	-
Snyder	12.75	181	2	1	1	2	-	-	62	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-
Somerset	21.25	346	-	-	-	3	-	-	41	3	-	6	-	-	1	-	-
Sullivan	4.25	57	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Susquehanna	9.75	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Tioga	14.75	221	3	-	-	-	-	-	48	11	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Union	7.5	114	1	2	-	1	-	-	45	2	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Venango	6.5	147	1	-	-	1	-	3	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warren	7.25	112	4	-	1	2	-	-	23	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Washington	6.75	134	-	2	1	1	-	-	11	1	-	11	-	-	-	-	-
Wayne	6.75	90	3	-	-	-	-	1	23	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Westmoreland	12.75	222	4	-	-	3	-	1	40	-	-	8	-	-	-	2	-
Wyoming	5.5	100	3	-	1	1	-	-	16	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
York	12.25	251	23	-	2	3	-	2	44	-	-	9	-	1	117	42	-
TOTAL	804.5	12259	234	65	45	122	1	101	2597	94	2	471	5	17	1670	786	2

RARE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

by Steve N. G. Howell, Ian Lewington, and Will Russell, 275 color plates by Ian Lewington, 2 line illustrations, 9 tables, 17 maps, 262 rare species accounts, 3 appendices, literature cited, and index, 7 x 9.5 in., 448 pp., Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2014, cloth, \$35.00.

It is highly unusual when a local daily newspaper (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*) recommends a bird book for general readership unless the tome is truly exceptional. Only the *Sibley Guide to Birds of Eastern North America* (2002) and the *Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America* (2009) achieved such notoriety. Now we can add *Rare Birds of North America* (USA and Canada) to that short list, by authors Steve N. G. Howell of PRBO Conservation Science and author of *Petrels, Albatrosses, and Storm-Petrels of North America* (Princeton), Ian Lewington, one of the world's finest bird illustrators including his book *Rare Birds of Britain and Europe*, and Will Russell, cofounder and managing director of WINGS, an international bird tour company. Together, the three authors have decades of expertise in field ornithology.

All birders, from the neophyte to the seasoned expert, always look forward to that special occasion when a rare or out of range bird is found in their area. Nowadays, with the aid of modern technology, birders can rush to the site of discovery, sometimes quite far removed from home, desperate to record the rarity on camera and life checklist. One of the best examples of bird vagrancy to date in Pennsylvania is the recent and extraordinary appearance of an adult male Bahama Woodstar at a feeder in Denver, Lancaster County 20-24 April 2013, a species endemic to the Bahamas. Of course it represented the first record ever for the state, and was just the fourth record for the mainland of North America and the first outside Florida (see Weidensaul and Lockerman, *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 27, No. 2, pp. 78-79). Such a discovery immediately arouses ornithological curiosity and questions: Where exactly did this bird originate? How did it get here? Did it hitch a ride on a ship? Why eastern Pennsylvania? Can it return to its home without difficulty? How much energy will it need to succeed?

Rare Birds of North America will help the reader with some, but not all, of the answers to these questions. That hummingbird, with a brain the size of a grain of rice, had at its disposal a system of navigation methods and cues: celestial,

geomagnetic, barometric, polarized light, ultrasound, and perhaps even the scent of flowers, all of which it may have followed on its journey to Pennsylvania. Many readers can attest that a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird will return to his exact breeding site of the previous year and often on the identical date. Certainly inclement weather suppresses migration, but one conclusion in the book is that migrants can fly much farther on a particular fuel load than formerly thought.

But why should the general naturalist or outdoors enthusiast be interested in this book? For starters, anyone, anytime, anywhere has a chance of discovering a vagrant bird, perhaps at a backyard birdfeeder, or while hiking on a trail through Penn's woods, or by scanning the open sea from a beach site, or by finding an exhausted vagrant carried by strong winds hundreds of miles from home. One spring day, many years ago, a Greater Roadrunner appeared in my urban St. Louis, Missouri backyard. Apparently the vagrant was carried by record-breaking, dry, southwestern winds that blew furiously for more than a week. The closest area where the species bred was in Oklahoma south of Stilwell, at least 350 air miles from Saint Louis, Missouri. The bird appeared uninjured, at least externally, but exhausted. I quickly placed a cloth over a large open cardboard box to get the bird out of the wind. After sitting down and resting for three hours and noting that the winds had subsided somewhat, the bird stood up and flew again with the winds in a northeast direction. That incident hooked me on learning as much as I could about avian migration and vagrancy. So, if you already are inquisitive about birds (and apparently 85 million people are in the United States alone), you should be prepared as much as possible for that once in a lifetime experience. Having a copy of this book, with its concise and graphic species accounts, and clear explanations of these natural phenomena, will appeal even to beginning birdwatchers of any age (pp. 1-41).

Second, no comparable synthesis has existed on this side of the Atlantic until now for vagrant birds in North America. As the authors stress: "Our goal has been to summarize patterns of occurrences for avian species that are rare in North America as a whole ... Inevitably, defining a 'rare bird' proved to be a challenge ... for what's rare today may be common tomorrow. Thus no such definition will ever be perfect—nature

does not fit into boxes of human construct—but we feel our definition works for our purposes. Therefore, 'rare' as used in this book includes species for which, on average, have been found five or fewer times individually on an annual basis in North America from 1950 to 2012." The book tracks 262 rare species of which 209 were first recorded during the period under review, and 20% of which found prior to 1950. The biogeographical origins of these rarities are the Old World (51%), New World (33%), and Pelagic (16%), as outlines in Table 1 and Fig. 4, p. 3.

Vagrancy is an important aspect of migration and can be simply defined as birds appearing where they normally do not occur. Although both migration and vagrancy are still little understood, ornithologists do know that young birds of the year are inherently more susceptible to vagrancy than adults, and furthermore some aspects of migration are innate while others are learned. While undertaking field research at Point Barrow, Alaska, I learned that numerous phalaropes migrated not only by sex but also by age. Female Red Phalaropes laid on average four eggs on the tundra then left the incubation, hatching, and raising the young to the male, who in turn left the fledglings as soon as they could fend for themselves. Finally, the juveniles vacated their breeding sites en masse upon gaining enough body fat for migration. One theory suggests that such young birds have a built-in clock and compass that tell them in what direction to travel and for how long, and even possibly have programmed course changes after a certain number of flying hours. With only this system, though, birds are thought unable to determine their exact position and may not correct their flight direction in case of error, thereby allowing young birds to fly off course. Thus most birds probably possess a bicoordinate system of navigation that senses at least two global coordinates that can determine geographical position and correct for flight problems. This sort of "GPS system" is used mostly by older, more experienced migrants that have completed at least one successful migration, and suggests why vagrants include so few adults.

Though population, size, distance, and direction of migration are ultimate factors that determine vagrancy rate in a species, it is of course the actual detection of vagrants by birders that most strongly colors our knowledge about the phenomenon. The authors cite a reference which estimates that from 11% to 60% of all rare birds in certain parts of Britain, a land so well-covered by

“twitchers”, go undetected due to factors such as observer coverage, type of species, and habitat. Think about birding hot spots in the United States and why so many birders travel to them. The three authors conclude that it’s safe to say that most vagrants, especially the less conspicuous, are routinely overlooked in a large area like the United States and Canada. Inevitably, our data are heavily biased by the “when and where” of observer coverage. Once patterns are elucidated, birders often use that information to detect and record rare birds faster than ever. The authors list six intrinsic and extrinsic processes that result in avian vagrancy: drift, misorientation, overshooting, dispersal, association, and disorientation. Each factor is defined, discussed thoroughly, and accompanied by illustrations of the world and paths of flight taken by vagrant species (Fig. 5-18, pp. 8-16).

The origins of vagrants to North America are informing: there are 138-139 Old World species of which 72% originate in East Asia, only 15% in Western Eurasia, and 13% are birds of wide distribution reaching the continent from both directions (Tables 3-5). East Asia vagrants have a tendency to fan across North America from west to east and are the source of many records along the eastern Atlantic Coast (i.e., not coming across the pond from Europe). A count of 86-87 New World Species (Tables 6-8) had their origin in Mexico and new world tropics (81%), and the other 19% from the Caribbean and Bahamas. A list of 37 Pelagic Species (Table 9) had origins mainly in mid-latitude and subarctic Southern Hemisphere waters.

The Introduction ends with comments on Bird Topography, Molt, and Plumages (pp. 32-41), accompanied by handsome color illustrations (Fig. 20-24) with coverage given to waterfowl, pelagic seabirds, gulls and terns, shorebirds, wading birds, larger land birds, aerial land birds, and songbirds. They detail four molt strategies to help determine the age of vagrants: the *Simple Basic Strategy* (SBS)—petrels, larger hawks, and some swifts; *Complex Basic Strategy* (CBS)—all passerines; *Simple Alternate Strategy* (SAS)—rare but demonstrated by large gulls; and *Complex Alternate Strategy* (CAS)—the most complex molting displayed by most ducks and shorebirds, small gulls, terns, and all songbirds that have alternate plumages (see pp. 35-41 for details).

The bulk of the remaining book is composed of species accounts accompanied by beautiful color illustrations by Ian Lewington (pp. 44-401), each covering common and scientific names, size, summary, taxonomy, distribution and status, and comments. The discussion of field

identification includes similar species, age/sex/season, adults, juveniles, habitat and behavior. Three appendices follow and provide lists of new vagrants to North America from the fall 2011 to the summer 2012, hypothetical occurrences, and a list of birds new to the continent from 1950- 2011.

In conclusion, this guide is a masterpiece not only because of its ornithological synthesis and stunning art but also for its design, layout, and appeal to folk who enjoy birds. The book is especially helpful for the hopeful birder who seeks to discover a vagrant. Add this volume to the list of best avian field guides in your personal library, and be patient. The time will come.

THE WORLD’S RAREST BIRDS by Erik Hirschfeld, Andy Swash, and Robert Still, 103 color illustrations with 76 by Tomasz Cofta, 977 color photos, 610 color maps, two appendices, seven regional directories, index, 8.5 x 11 in., 360 pp., Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, cloth, \$45.00.

The persistence of life on earth is a chancy proposition. At least five different times in the geologic past, extraordinary natural catastrophes have razed the planet and contributed to the obliteration of many life forms. Yet, something different is occurring now: a single biological species, *Homo sapiens*, has gained control of earth processes as a primary geomorphological agent, is ecological dominant, and a major decision maker over all life and death. Although humans have caused extinctions for thousands of years, only since the genesis of the industrial revolution 300 years or so ago has humankind destroyed what evolution took millions of years to establish, jeopardizing natural life forms like wild birds, and even its own existence.

This beautifully illustrated book vividly depicts 197 Critically Endangered, 389 Endangered, and 4 avian species already “Extinct” in the wild. Another 60 species are so poorly known that they are classified as Data Deficient. The challenge in producing this book, therefore, was to obtain photographs of as many of these 650 species as possible. To accomplish this goal, a clever international photo competition was organized and run with an attractive range of prizes through the generous sponsorship of Minox, the publishers Lynx Edicions, WILDGuides and Princeton University Press, BirdLife International, and World Migratory Bird Day. The response was astonishing with over 3500 photographs submitted by over

300 photographers around the world. The winning images all appear in this book, along with nearly 800 others. This is the first time that images of many of these rare birds have been published. The book also showcases meticulously accurate illustrations by acclaimed Polish artist Tomasz Cofta for 76 species of which no photographs are known to exist.

Much praise is directed to the daring and dedicated three authors of this tremendous ornithological contribution. Erik Hirschfeld works in air traffic control management and is a freelance writer, guide, and consultant in ornithology. Andy Swash is managing director of WILDGuides and a professional wildlife photographer, naturalist, author, and guide. Robert Still is an ecologist, widely traveled naturalist, and graphic artist who designs books that encourage people to take a greater interest in the natural world.

Introduction to the World’s Birds (pp. 8-10) stresses some important data. As of May 2012, when BirdLife International’s (BLI) four-year status update of the world’s birds was released for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, there were 10,064 avian species classified (9934 extant and 130 extinct since 1500). However, these species are not distributed evenly across the world: 3370 species are concentrated in the American tropics compared to just 973 in the largest of the world’s ecozones: Eurasia north of the Himalayas, North Africa, and the Middle East. Six of the seven countries with the most avian species are in Neotropical South America, led by Columbia with 1810 species. Indonesia, the only non-Neotropical country among the top seven, comes in fifth place with 1559 species. Yet by comparison, the Afrotropical realm holds 21% of the world’s avian species. Birds dwell in all major habitats of the world but by far the most significant habitat is forest (subantarctic woodland to equatorial rainforest), which supports 75% of all species. Most species are widespread and have large ranges. Yet about one-quarter are restricted to an area of less than 50,000 square kilometers, within which they are endemic.

BLI has identified regions of the world that include the entire global distribution of two or more of these restricted-range species and refers to them as Endemic Bird Areas (EBAs). There are 218 EBAs worldwide covering just 4.9% or 7.3 million square kilometers of the earth’s land surface (map, p. 9) with 77% located in the tropics and subtropics. Forest (83%) is the habitat in most EBAs. The number of restricted-range landbirds in EBAs varies from 2 to over 50 that encompass 93% of the world’s restricted-range species. Half of

these species are globally threatened or near threatened and the other half are vulnerable to the loss or degradation of habitat due to the small size of their ranges. EBAs are, therefore, the highest priority for habitat-based conservation. Finally, BLI operates the global Important Bird Area (IBA) Programme which aims to identify, protect, and manage a network of sites that will ensure the survival and long-term viability of species for which a site-based approach to conservation is appropriate. To date, over 11,000 IBAs have been identified and these are shown on a map (p. 9). The IBA network may be considered the minimum suite of sites required to ensure the survival of avian species across their ranges.

Birds and humans (p. 10) deserves special reader attention: 45% of the world's avian species have been used by humans for food, sport (hunting in all its forms), pets, singing and fighting skills, decoration or bedding (feathers), tanning for leather, and even fueling lamps with melted-down fat. But when exploitation becomes unsustainable it can lead to extinction, as in the case of the Passenger Pigeon, which was once possibly the most numerous bird species in the world at the start of the 19th century but became extinct just a century later. Unsustainable hunting, trapping for the cagebird market, and egg collecting for food are currently serious threats for 194 globally threatened species. Other useful roles services provide humans are pollinators (hummingbirds were not listed), pest controllers, carrion eaters, symbols of art, music, and dance, or simply being the object of birdwatchers' attention (one in 5 people in the United States, one in 3 in the United Kingdom). They are excellent indicators of environmental changes, and thus act as a proxy for all natural biodiversity.

As the designated Red List authority for all birds, BLI is responsible for providing the assessments to IUCN for that list. BLI achieves this responsibility by collating relevant data on each species and applies them to the Red List criteria in order to assign each species to a category of extinction risk. The criteria have quantitative thresholds for each category and are based on combinations of range, population size, trend, and structure as demarcated by a table (p. 13). The categories are Species Not Evaluated (NE) and Species Evaluated but Data Deficient (DD), Extinct (EX), Extinct in the Wild (EW), the three Threatened Categories: Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), and Vulnerable (VU), and lastly Near Threatened (NT) and Least Concern (LC). The IUCN Red List is updated annually with a comprehensive review every four years, most recently in 2012.

Five species are now Extinct in the Wild but survive in captivity: Hawaiian Crow, Guam Rail, Alazoas Curassow, Socorro Dove, and Spix's Macaw. One third of the fifteen Possibly Extinct species have not been recorded for more than 50 years and may be Extinct. The 20 countries with the highest percentage of globally threatened avian species and the 20 countries with the largest number of globally threatened species are in tables and on a world map (p. 23). Many leading universally severe threats challenge all globally threatened birds: agriculture and aquaculture, logging, invasive plants and animals, hunting, trapping, caging, and residential-commercial development, followed by another dozen common threats (see pp. 28-47 for details).

The bulk of the book is divided into seven regional sections (pp. 54-331): Europe–Middle East, Asia, Australasia, Africa–Madagascar, Oceanic Islands, North America–Central America–Caribbean, and South America. A map is included at the beginning of each regional section that delineates the area covered in the book, the combined EN and CR species within the region, all IBAs there, list of BLI partners, and a summarization of the conservation issues. Individual species accounts include the 2012 IUCN Red List coding category, species and scientific names, five icons representing population trend, threat summary, threat codes, a 100-word text on habitat preferences and behavior, photo or illustration of each species (if available), distribution map, and QR code that can be downloaded as an app for smart phones or tablet computers. A short Glossary of Terms concludes this part of the book (p. 56).

Ecology and therefore conservation starts at home. For most readers of *Pennsylvania Birds*, that's right here in the United States of America. It just so happens that our fiftieth state, Hawaii, is known as "the extinction capitol of the World". The islands once supported over 100 endemic bird taxa, but beginning with the arrival of the Polynesians, more than half of these are now extinct, thanks to over-hunting, habitat loss, introduced invasive plants and animals, and diseases. Current human residents and tourists on the islands continue the pressures that force the surviving endemic avian species into refuges of native vegetation that are themselves of declining size and quality. It is shocking that eight of the last 20 species to go extinct in the world were endemic to Hawaii, or that of the 16 known endemic species of Big Island (Hawai'i), at least 9 are now extinct and one other only exists in captivity. The Ou, not seen since 1987, is listed as Critically Endangered (CR) and may be extinct. The Palila, found in

forests above 2,000 feet, has been challenged by drought, habitat destruction, and invasive plants and animals which caused its fragile population to tumble from 5337 in 2005 to 1200 in 2010. It was listed as CR in 2008 (pp. 190-191 for details).

Without serious changes to environmental policy, increased conservation efforts, and greater awareness of the increasing threats that birds face, hundreds of species are likely to become extinct even faster in the near future. Please contact the American Bird Conservancy (<abcbirds.org>) to help with its Endangered Hawai'i Program.

In the meantime, this amazing book deserves to be placed in your bird reference library right next to *Rare Birds of North America*.

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Summary of the Season: Winter 2013-14

Greg Grove

For birders, there were two memorable aspects to the winter of 2013-14. It was cold, extremely so by standards of recent decades, if not necessarily those of a half-century ago. Second, and far more likely to linger in the memories of Pennsylvania's birders, was the invasion of Snowy Owls on a scale unlike anything living birders have ever seen in the state.

It was indeed a harsh winter, but it started with December weather that was unremarkable. A modest snowstorm caused postponement of some counts in the center of the state on the first weekend of the CBC season, but overall, December temperatures were slightly above average and gave no hint at what was to come, all the way through March. January and February temperatures averaged six degrees (F) below the long-term average (Table 1). There was no January thaw worth mentioning.

Thanks to the persistent cold, most precipitation consisted of snow rather than rain, but there were no "monster" snowstorms. Yet relative to normal, the southeast was hit hardest by snow. Delaware received 60 inches of snow, the third highest amount ever. A near-record 110 inches was recorded in Erie. By contrast, snow totals in the center of the state were closer to normal. Philadelphia had four snowstorms of eight or more inches, with a high of 13 inches on 21 January. The biggest snowstorm occurred 13 February when Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and State College all topped eight inches. Other widespread storms occurred 14 December and 3-5 February.

The Snowy Owl invasion dominated the birding headlines, but there were notable incursions by other species due to the almost complete freezing of the Great Lakes, notably White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-necked Grebe, the last not peaking until March. Again this year there were reports of Rufous Hummingbirds, although fewer than last winter. Other highlights include Barrow's Goldeneye, Marbled Godwit, Parasitic Jaeger, McGillivray's Warbler (continuing from the fall), Le Conte's Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, and returning Prairie Falcon and Bullock's Oriole.

Reports of Greater White-fronted Goose came from ten counties, slightly

above average and, as usual, mostly from the southeast. Most occurred in December and January and were of one or two birds; however, in Berks a flock grew gradually to 10 over a few days in early January. The two western reports were from Mercer and Washington, occurring on the first and last days of the period respectively. All Ross's Geese were in eight southeastern counties. During the Bethlehem-Easton CBC, four observers tallied 200,000 Snow Geese in overhead passage, the highest count in the state for the season and providing the highest Pennsylvania CBC count ever. Snow Geese pass almost entirely through the eastern third of the state, so a flock of 40 in Fayette was a nice find in the southwest. A Canada Goose banded as a juvenile in August 2005 on the east side of Hudson Bay visited Bucks and one tagged in 2009 in West Greenland was seen in Berks, having spent the previous winter on Long Island, New York. An impressive 56 Brant were on the Susquehanna R. at Peach Bottom, Lancaster 1/13; the only other report was of 7 in McKean 12/12.

Trumpeter Swans were widely scattered around the state, in Bucks, Chester, Montour, and Warren. Notable were 3 immature birds in Bucks for much of February and a single in Chester that had been tagged in Ontario in March 2013. The count of Mute Swans from the Berks CBCs was a record 51.

With the prevalence of frozen water across the state, one might assume it was a poor winter for duck watching. However, even a quick skimming of the county summaries reveals an abundance of waterfowl with several normally scarce species widespread this year. Most of the activity, especially after December, was in counties with major rivers, where ducks sought refuge from frozen lakes, including Lake Erie. The movements to rivers probably concentrated ducks, making them easier to find in numbers where rivers are accessible.

Wood Ducks have an increasing winter presence, this year noted in 16 counties; highest counts were of 13 in Bucks and 11 in Mifflin. As revealed in eBird data, a few woodies were around all winter, but there was a strong spike in the last half of February as winter loosened its grip just enough to spur a few north. Good numbers of American Black Ducks (500) and Mallards (1900) were recorded in Dec at Lake Ontelaunee in Berks. Otherwise, the surface feeders were not

as far above the norm as was the case with the diving waterfowl. There were two Eurasian Wigeons, one in Chester and one in Philadelphia, both in December. A Common Teal (Eurasian Green-winged Teal) was in Chester. Quite unusual in Philadelphia was a Brewer's Duck, a Gadwall x Mallard hybrid, present at Heinz N.W.R. 12/1-24.

Among the diving ducks, few county reports failed to mention Redheads and Canvasbacks including some large assemblages. Both are usually hard to find during winter. The high Redhead report was of 75 on the Allegheny R. in Armstrong, and counts of about 200 Canvasbacks were made on the Delaware River from vantages in Delaware and Philadelphia.

White-winged Scoters are normally reported from about half dozen counties, but this year they were found in at least 22 counties. On the other hand, Surf Scoters and Black Scoters were each reported in only four counties, which is fairly typical. Why the difference? White-winged Scoters appear to have a greater tendency to winter on the Great Lakes, while the other two scoters are mostly coastal and therefore were relatively unaffected by the freezing of the Great Lakes. The frequency of White-wings climbed steeply beginning in early January, which coincided with the onset of the long period of deep cold. Long-tailed Ducks, another species that winters in part on the Great Lakes, were found in at least 23 counties, and also mostly from mid-January on. The single biggest count of Long-tails, however, was the 1125 tallied during the 12/6 waterfowl count at Presque Isle, Erie. The only Harlequin Duck was in Erie through most of December. Much more rare in the state, a Barrow's Goldeneye was in Northampton for five days in mid-February, and 2 were reported in Bucks.

For sheer numbers, nothing could match the 46,600 Red-breasted Mergansers recorded by Jerry McWilliams on the water bird count at Presque Isle SP 12/6 (the same day as the 1125 Long-tailed Ducks), a record one-day count for this survey. There were some good reports Common Merganser just before the onset of intense cold. On the Susquehanna River in Lancaster, 1250 were counted. In Bucks, 2000 were at the Penn-Warner Tract 12/28 and 2930 at Peace Valley Park 1/2. In a location where high numbers of mergansers do not often occur, there were 1200 on Lake Meade, Adams 12/30.

Red-throated Loons reports were normal, at least 9 birds in seven counties,

Table 1. Deviation from average temperatures (°F) during winter 2013-14. Statistics from Accu-Weather.

Location	Dec	Jan	Feb	Overall
Philadelphia	+2	-5	-4	-2
Harrisburg	+1	-7	-5	-4
State College	0	-7	-7	-5
Pittsburgh	+2	-6	-5	-3
Bradford	+1	-5	-7	-4

distributed well around the state: 4 in the southeast, 4 in the west (3 in *Allegheny*), and one in north-central *Lycoming*.

It has become clear that a Great Lakes freeze-up on the scale that occurred this year sends **Red-necked Grebes** off their normal wintering haunts to seek open water, with some probably going to the coast. The extent of the Great Lakes freeze-up was over 90%, which occurs only once every decade or two. Grebes that stop in Pennsylvania during such season find unfrozen water mainly on rivers. It takes a long time to freeze the Great Lakes, thus these large-scale grebe incursions into Pennsylvania occur relatively late in winter as areas of open water on the Great Lakes shrink. Many do not arrive until March, as was the case this year.

As usual, there were a few Red-necks found in December, birds on the way south or southeast (not all Red-necks winter on the Great Lakes). The real incursion started in late January and continued through February, making it clear this was to be a big year for the big grebes. For the winter season, which ended 2/28, there were reports (from summaries and eBird) from 22 counties. The number reported by 2/28 was at least 122, a highly conservative estimate; half of that number was from the Delaware River at *Philadelphia*. The grebes continued to pour into Pennsylvania through March. Once here, they have little choice (aside from going further southeast) but to hang out on rivers, some moving to lakes when the thaw eventually begins. A final accounting of the Red-necked Grebe invasion of 2014 must await the spring issue.

The last big Red-necked Grebe year was 2003, another very cold season. The official tally for that year (winter and spring season reports) was 1048 grebes, recorded in at least 59 counties (Hoffman 2003). High counts occurred in early March. Prior to that, there appears to reliable documentation of only two other large invasions. In 1994, at the end of another brutal winter, grebes arrived in late February and March, with a total count of about 300 (Haas and Haas 1994). In 1959, many grebes invaded, with high counts occurring in March, but of course we have no estimate of how many there may have been.

Great Cormorants were noted in the usual locations in the southeast. Every winter, a few long-legged waders linger into the cold season. This year saw one or two **American Bitterns** staying until 2/8 and a **Great Egret** until 12/10, both at Heinz N.W.R. in *Philadelphia*. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were in *Bucks* and *Lancaster* as late as early January. Optimistic **Great Blue Herons** were already refurbishing nests in *York* by 2/17.

Ruffed Grouse continue to dwindle. The total of 51 from 20 CBCs was the lowest ever; highest count was of 7 at Emporium. Grouse were mentioned in only five county summaries; however, sedentary grouse are a “given” in a number of counties (but for how long?) so some compilers may not mention them. See Figure 2 in Nick Bolgiano’s CBC summary on page 9 of this issue for more on grouse distribution in the state.

A summary of Winter Raptor Surveys is on page 23 of this issue. Perhaps due to the weather, numbers for several common species were down by 30-50% from totals of recent years, notably **Black** and **Turkey Vultures**, **Northern Harrier**, **Red-tailed Hawk**, and **American Kestrel**. On the other hand, **Bald Eagles** reached another record high on the WRS routes and the same was true for **Red-shouldered Hawks**, continuing an upward trend in both WRS and CBC numbers (Grove and Bolgiano 2014).

During most winters, one or two **Ospreys** are found, sometimes lingering into late December. The only report this year was of an undocumented bird from a CBC in the western part of the state. Thirteen **Northern Goshawks** were reported away from hawk watches. A **western type Red-tailed Hawk** returned to a site in *Lehigh* for a second year. The CBC total of 33 **Rough-legged Hawks** was about average, but many Rough-legs do not arrive in Pennsylvania until after the CBC season. On WRS routes, which began 10 January, there was a modest increase in number compared to last year and more reports than usual from the southeast. There were as many 19 **Golden Eagles** away from hawk watches; it is now clear from “camera-trapping” that many more winter in Pennsylvania than previously believed.

Sandhill Cranes were in seven counties, about average for recent years. Beyond the expected reports from the northwest, singles were in *Dauphin* 1/4 and *Delaware* 12/30; in *Centre*, where no longer quite so unexpected (though still rare), 5 settled in at a site west of State College 1/2 and stayed the season. In the northwest, 65 were tallied in *Crawford* during the Linesville CBC 12/15. On 12/30, 70-80 were counted in flight over Sharon in *Mercer*. The highest count was of 85 in flight over *Lawrence*. That group was deemed likely to be migrants rather birds from the resident Plain Grove Twp. flocks; top count for that flock was 44 on 1/23. **Virginia Rails**, not found every winter, were noted in *Bucks* and *Chester*. An impressive count of 3500 **American Coots** was made at Conneaut Lake in *Crawford*.

The outstanding shorebird for the season was the **Marbled Godwit** found

in *Allegheny* 12/20-21. This was the first record for the county and represented the first Pennsylvania winter season record. A **Greater Yellowlegs** in Lancaster 1/6 was probably lingering from the fall migration, but a **Lesser Yellowlegs** in *Delaware* 2/24 was presumably a very early migrant. One or both of the two species have turned up in six of the past eight winters, most often lingering fall birds. For the second winter in a row and third time in the last five years, a wintering **Least Sandpiper** was found at Pymatuning in *Crawford*, this year 1/4-19. **Dunlins** were found in *Chester* and *Erie* during December. Despite a November report, no Purple Sandpipers were found in *Erie* during the winter.

American Woodcocks were in nine counties; the latest bird from the fall was in *Montgomery* 1/4, but woodcocks were missed entirely on Pennsylvania CBCs for the first time since 1982. Despite the cold, a few arrived back in late February, most northerly was one in *Columbia* 2/28. **Wilson’s Snipe** were widespread, mostly in counties in the southern half of the state.

Ten species of gulls were reported, down from the previous two years when 13 and 12 were found. As with other water birds, the Great Lakes freeze sent gulls into western Pennsylvania in numbers not often seen. Thousands of **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls** congregated on the open waters of the Ohio and Allegheny Rivers in Pittsburgh, roosting at night at the Point. Mixed among them were five additional gull species. See the *Allegheny* summary for extensive details.

Elsewhere, *Philadelphia* hosted the only **Laughing Gulls** (5) and one **Black-headed Gull**, the latter found in mid-January. A total of 8 **Thayer’s Gulls** were found, including 3 in the *Allegheny* flocks, 2 in *Bucks*, and 3 in *Erie*. **Glaucous** and **Iceland Gulls** were found in 11 and 12 counties, respectively, a bit above the norm. A tally of minimum numbers statewide is about 35 Glaucous and 70 Iceland Gulls. As usual, the three CBCs based mainly in *Bucks* posted huge numbers of Herring Gulls, over 79,000, plus Ring-billed and **Great Black-backed Gulls** numbering 7618 and 2887, respectively, in addition to five more species—see the *Bucks* report. A **Parasitic Jaeger** was observed a chasing and eventually stealing a gull’s food at Presque Isle, *Erie* 12/2.

One of the biggest statewide avian events ever seen was the **Snowy Owl** invasion of 2013-14. It started 11/22 when one flew by the Little Gap Hawk Watch in *Northampton*, the first of a dozen reported by the end of November. As the calendar turned to December, the floodgates opened and dozens were seen over the course of the next few weeks;

reports continued from new locations all through the season and into March. I attempted, with the help of county compilers, to make an actual count of Snowy Owls reported during the three-month winter season, a task impossible, of course, to do accurately. Staying somewhat conservative, I tallied 209 Snowy Owls. There were reports of at least one in 49 counties. The total does not include November birds not re-located again beginning 12/1; and, more importantly, does not include new birds still arriving in March, including some from the south (*vide* Scott Weidensaul). It also seems likely that some owls were not widely publicized or officially reported, in an attempt to protect them from possible harassment. In other words, a total of 300 is not an unreasonable guess.

The count from *Erie* alone was about 50 owls; primarily birds on the lakeshore and on lake ice itself. The one-day high count from Presque Isle was 14 on 12/19. At least 5 owls in *Erie* were hit by vehicles. As seen in Fig. 1, the opposite corner of the state was the other hot area for snowies. Sixteen were in *Berks* and 15 in *Lancaster*; and four other counties in the southeast had at least 6. Owls were concentrated around the Philadelphia airport; unfortunately that meant some casualties; there were about 5-6 known air strikes.

We have attempted to assess the distribution around the state. As seen in

the accompanying map, it appears owls were far from evenly distributed. With the exception a cluster in the middle Susquehanna Valley, most counties between the northwest and southeast corners saw few if any owls, though almost certainly not for lack of searching. Excepting *Erie*, few were seen in northern counties, not surprising in light of the lack of open spaces in the northern forests, not to mention the relative lack of birders (and people in general) who might spot owls. The reasons for few owls through south-central and southwestern counties are not quite so apparent. There are certainly more people, so if owls were present in number, many should have been found. But they weren't, and the simplest explanation is that those counties are still relatively forested, whereas the white owls prefer the substantially more open spaces of the southeast farmland and the Lake Erie environment.

There has been at least one prior big snowy owl invasion in the state. During the winter of 1926-27, as many as 204 Snowy Owls were shot and another 39 reported in Pennsylvania (McWilliams and Brauning 2000), suggesting an incursion similar in size to this year. In that year, owls appeared earlier, starting in late October, increasing sharply in number through mid-November, but then gradually decreasing through the rest of the season, perhaps because they

were being shot by farmers worried about their chickens. As described by Todd (1940), many owls killed that winter were examined by G.M. Sutton, state ornithologist at that time for PGC. He examined 127 stomachs, of which 63 were empty; in the others he found a wide variety of animals remains, including poultry, game birds, rabbits, squirrels, smaller rodents, skunks, small birds (a Blue Jay and possibly sparrows), and fish scales and bones. If there were other invasions of such size, there is no documentation. Prior to the felling of Pennsylvania's forests in the 1800s, it seems unlikely that Snowy Owls would have chosen to stop here, but indeed they did appear as the forests were cleared. Warren (1890) wrote "...this species is most frequently observed during excessively severe winters. Usually solitary birds are observed, but sometimes parties of six, eight or even a dozen are seen together". Todd listed nine invasions occurring between 1876 and 1927, but no estimates of numbers are given.

The Snowy Owl invasion prompted a concerted effort to learn something about their movements here in the south. Pver a dozen birds in Pennsylvania and other states were captured fitted with transmitters. The fascinating and surprising results of PROJECT SNOWSTORM can be seen online at <www.projectsnowstorm.org>. Also check out the county summaries—many county

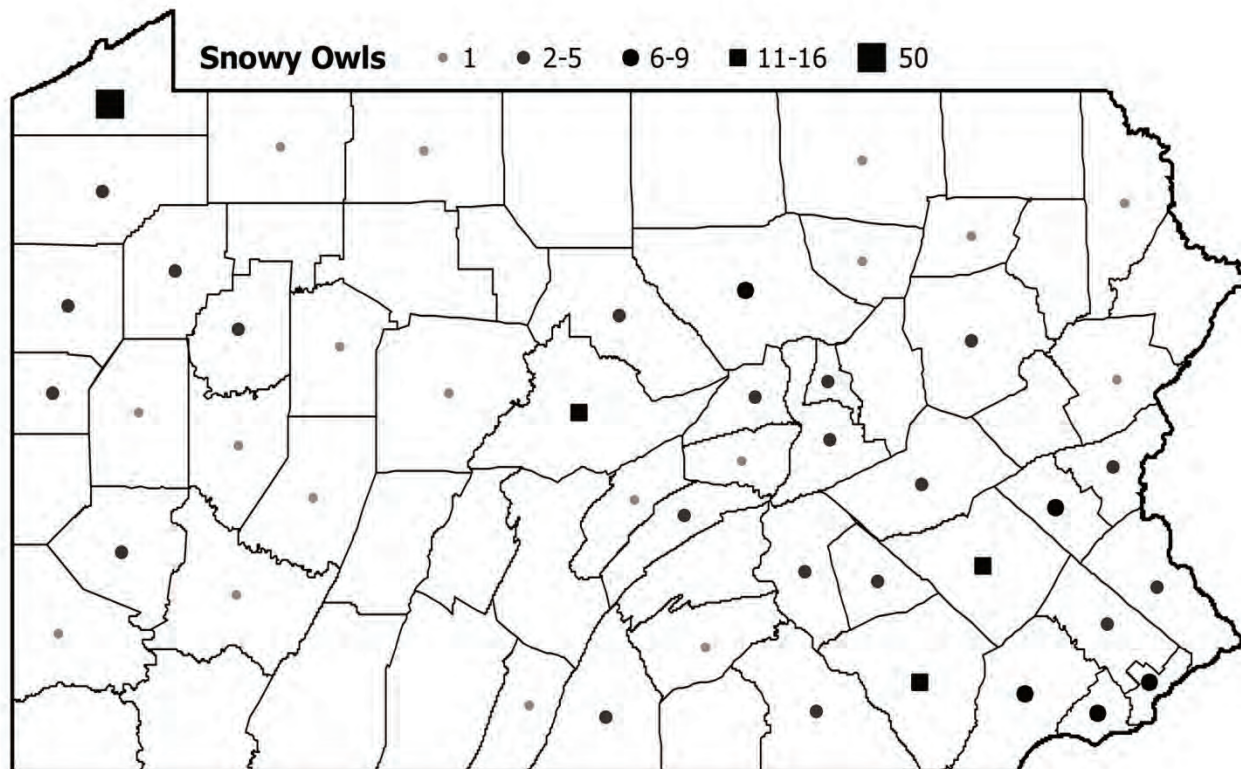


Figure 1. Distribution of Snowy Owl records in Pennsylvania, December 2013 through February 2014. Map created by Nick Bolgiano.

compilers related interesting tales of the owls in their counties.

There were a few other owls in the state this winter. **Barn Owls** were reported from eight counties, about a dozen birds in total, numbers similar to previous years. Given the weather conditions, it may not be surprising that there were fewer **Short-eared Owls** than in recent years, reported from 18 counties; the high total was only 5, in *Adams*. Most were in relatively warmer counties, but they were also reported from the Allegheny Plateau in *Cambria* and *Clearfield*. **Long-eared Owls** were in 11 counties, a typical number. A roost of 10 was found on private property in *Chester*. On a negative note from *Bucks* compiler August Mirabella: “As reported last year, after early disappearance of Long-eared Owls at the [Peace Valley Park] roost site possibly due to the unacceptable numbers of birders and photographers, restricted area signs were posted at the recommendation of the Game Commission. However, some skilled birders ignored the signs, but no owls were reported...I can't remember a year in decades without owls present there.”

The remarkable story of the **Rufous Hummingbird** continued. There were fewer this year. In the fall of 2012, 90 were in the state and at least 26 were found after 12/1 (Weidensaul 2013). The corresponding numbers this winter were 21 in the fall of 2013 (Malosh 2014) and 15 after 12/1. Considering the brutal temperatures, it is astounding to think of any hummingbirds surviving the conditions, even with human assistance, and that's not to say they necessarily need our help. Most were in the southeast of course; but they were also in colder places: *Erie* until 12/16, *Mercer* until 12/10, and *Centre* all the way to 1/7. Several were last seen around mid-December. At least 9 stayed into January, but all known hummers were gone by 1/8, coincident with the arrival of the worst of winter's cold, in some cases after being observed tanking up. In Lemont, *Centre*, a Rufous hummer was seen into the first days of 2014, then disappeared for a couple days during bad weather, only to reappear late on 1/5, feed until 1/7, and then depart, hopefully on a long journey to a warmer place. That bird survived an overnight low temperature of -9°F and wind chill of -30. A hummer in *Cumberland* returned for the third year to the same location, last seen this year 1/7. The only known mortality was another returning bird found dead in *Montgomery* 12/12, having been banded the previous March. It will be interesting to see what happens with the numbers of wintering Rufous Hummers in the next few years in Pennsylvania, as we presumably return

to more normal or even mild conditions, and as more people leave feeders up into November.

Red-headed Woodpecker reports came from 19 counties, compared to 14 and 10 the past two years. Several of those reports were extracted from eBird and were not included in the county summaries, which may explain the increase in number of counties, as eBird users grow in number. As usual, *Adams* provided the most reports and in general most reports were from the southeast. But there were birds in *Allegheny*, *Beaver*, and *Fayette*, and the northernmost in *Clinton*. Most reports were of one to three individuals.

Cumberland's famed **Prairie Falcon** was back for an eighth season, but was not as cooperative as in past years, arriving in November but then not seen again until February. **Merlins** and **Peregrine Falcons** were found in 25 and 21 counties respectively, typical of the past few years. **American Kestrels** had a tough winter, as evidenced by a big drop on the WRS routes. The drop on CBCs was not so large, but those counts were completed before the real cold set in. The total of 10 kestrels on the three combined CBCs in *Bucks* was only 10% of the long-term average.

No rare flycatchers were found this year. **Eastern Phoebes** made a strong post-CBC showing with at least 13 reports, following a good CBC total of 22. Many reports were in January or early February, suggesting birds that had wintered successfully, to that point at least. All 13 late reports were in southeastern counties, except one in *Huntingdon* 2/15, a date which could represent an early migrant, although that seems unlikely given the still entrenched harsh weather at that time.

The **Northern Shrike** count for the season was 28, an average number for recent years. They were widespread across the state, though *Erie* was favored with 8 and *Wayne* with 3. Only two made it to the far southeast, with one each in *Chester* and *Delaware*. A large crow roost in the city of Lebanon was comprised of 720 **Fish Crows** and 1000 silent crows 1/1. **Common Ravens** can truly be said to have reached all corners of the state, reported this winter from *Erie*, *Wayne*, *Greene*, *Philadelphia*, and *Delaware*, and was also found for the first time ever on the Southern *Bucks* CBC.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows wintered again (or tried to) at the Northeast Wastewater Treatment Plant in *Philadelphia*, with a peak count of 100 on 12/7, but either most eventually went south, or succumbed, as numbers dwindled gradually until only 5 were found 2/8. A single **Tree Swallow** was also there through the season until at least 2/8. As the winter weather

moderated a bit in late February, Tree Swallows quickly moved back into the state beginning 2/22, reported in seven southeastern counties through 2/28. Flocks of 20 and 22 were seen 2/23 in *Chester* and *Montgomery*, respectively.

Following a big invasion last winter, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce this winter. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** and two **House Wrens** were in *Philadelphia* in early December and a House Wren was found on the Chambersburg CBC. There were no reports of Varied Thrush or Marsh Wren, two species that have occurred in more than 50% of recent winters. Very unexpected, two **Wood Thrushes** were found on the Curtin CBC in *Dauphin*, one each by two different parties.

Gray Catbirds and **Brown Thrashers** are typical half-hardy birds; some always attempt to winter in Pennsylvania, but we wonder how many survive. In a cold winter like the one just past, we would guess fewer would try, but in fact there were many reports of both species, and many after the end of the CBC season, what might be considered mid-winter birds. Most were in the southeast. Brown Thrashers numbered at least 15 over the course of the season in *Montgomery* and over 20 in *Bucks*. Outside of the southeast, a thrasher was seen in *Venango* several times, last on 1/26. There were a few dozen catbirds reported; at least 15 were post-CBC, including 4 in *Centre*, 2 in *Huntingdon*, and one in *Erie*, the last seen 1/10. **Cedar Waxwings** were scattered in modest numbers, with a flock of 150 in *Lebanon* 1/16 top count.

Lapland Longspurs and **Snow Buntings** were seen in many counties throughout the state, excepting of course in the forested north and in the most highly developed areas of the far southeast. Highest longspur counts were in the west—45 in *Allegheny/Beaver* 12/26-28, and 20 in *Lawrence* 1/5. High Snow Bunting counts included 300 in *Lawrence* 1/30 and “hundreds” at a *Bradford* site 2/4. A curious sight in *Sullivan* was a flock of 75 Snow Buntings flying from perches in a tree. Charts on eBird show an interesting contrast in timing of these two species over the course of the winter. Snow Buntings greatly outnumber the longspurs in general, but relatively speaking, longspurs numbers were highest in December while Snow Bunting numbers were highest in February.

Ten species of warblers were found, down from 14 and 15 of the two previous years, but just about average for the past eight years, during which a total of 23 warbler species have been found at least one time. The rarest, of course, was the continuing **McGillivray's Warbler** at Highspire Reservoir in *Dauphin* 11/22,

providing only the second state record. It was last reported 12/9. Following two individuals last year, another **Black-and-White Warbler** visited the state this winter (12/28 in *Berks*), the fifth winter record in Pennsylvania. Another rare winter warbler, but also appearing for the second straight year, was a **Black-throated Green Warbler**, photographed at Longwood Gardens in *Chester* 12/11 and probably only the third winter appearance in Pennsylvania; last year's bird was in *Philadelphia* also in early December.

At least one **Ovenbird** is found most years; this year it was in *Delaware* 1/7. Three **Orange-crowned Warblers**, all in the southeast, represented an average winter total. One was in *Montgomery* as late as 2/16. The remaining four warblers are all expected yearly. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** are the only warbler that might be considered something close to common in winter, at least in the southeast. Over 800 of the eastern subspecies, the **Myrtle Warbler**, were counted on 46 CBCs, but for the second year in a row, an **Audubon's Warbler** was also recorded, this year in *Chester*. Five **Common Yellowthroats** were found, none seen later than 1/12, and all in the southeast except one in *Luzerne* 12/14 during the Dallas CBC. **Pine** and **Palm Warblers** were found typical numbers. Nine Pine Warblers were found, most in December and early January, but individuals spent the season at feeders in *Bucks* and *Schuylkill*. All 7 Palm Warblers were southeasterly; only two were post-CBC, one in *Chester* 1/21 and one in *Philadelphia* 2/8. See the *Bucks* report for a note about a Pine Warbler that may have been wintering in the same backyard since 2008 or before.

Defying the harsh weather, **Eastern Towhees** stayed in the state this winter in what may have been record numbers. An all-time high of 580 was tallied on 46 CBCs, mostly in the southeast, but many also in the southwest, as well as *Juniata*, *Huntingdon*, and *Centre*. In *Chester*, a "staggering" count of 30 was made at the Crow's Nest Preserve 12/20, and 28 were found during the Elverson CBC 12/22.

The top sparrow was the **Le Conte's Sparrow** in *Cumberland* 1/24-2/8, the fourth record in Pennsylvania in the past six winters. Other uncommon winter sparrows included 3 **Clay-colored Sparrows**, 6 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, and 4 **Vesper Sparrows**, all of these numbers within areas of reports of recent winters. **Chipping Sparrows** continue to be strongly reported; they were above average on CBCs, including 72 at Pennypack Valley in *Montgomery* 12/14. **Swamp Sparrows** numbered 42 at John Heinz N.W.R. 1/5.

Quite remarkable was a **Scarlet**

Tanager in *Bucks* at a feeder from Christmas until 1/16. There are two other winter records in Pennsylvania, both in December—*Union* in 1955 and *Northampton* in 2004. There are no previous January records in the state and only three records in eBird for the entire U.S., all in far southern areas. Almost as remarkable in winter is **Indigo Bunting**. Two were reported: one photographed in *Allegheny* 12/21, and one photographed in *Bradford* 2/24. There appear to be about six previous winter records in the state, based on references in McWilliams and Brauning (2000) and eBird. Two **Dickcissels** were reported, an average winter number, one each in *Lebanon* and *Philadelphia*.

Eastern Meadowlarks were found in 17 counties, mostly in the south, but some in the colder north, including *Crawford*, *Mercer*, *Lawrence*, and *Clarion* in the northwest, and a January bird in *Bradford*. The highest counts were of 20 in *Adams* 12/20 and 16 in *York* 1/20. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were reported from the Kirkwood area of *Lancaster*. All **Brewer's Blackbird** reports were from December, with one each in *Lancaster* and *Montgomery* and a pair carefully studied in *Somerset* during the Johnstown CBC. **Rusty Blackbirds** were mentioned in 15 county summaries; highest numbers came from *Bucks*, where 43 were tallied 12/7 and 60 on 1/19. Also in *Bucks*, 1100 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were counted 1/9.

Returning for a fourth winter, the Gilbertsville, *Montgomery* **Bullock's Oriole** arrived 12/5 and stayed through the remainder of the season. The total count of 4 **Baltimore Orioles** was down a bit from recent years. One in *Allegheny* continued from fall into February. The other 3 were in *Bucks*. Arriving two days apart around Christmas, a male and a female spent the season at the same location as did a female last year. By the end of the season, the two had consumed almost 130 ounces of strawberry preserves and large amounts of "finch" birdseed, but passed on the marmalade, grapes, and raisins offered. Another female Baltimore was in New Hope from before Christmas to at least 1/20.

After an excellent winter finch season the preceding winter, there were few this year. No crossbills or Evening Grosbeaks were reported, a fact somewhat mollified by the Snowy Owl invasion. There were two reports of **Common Redpolls**: 2 were at Presque Isle, *Erie* 1/7 and 5 were reported on the Johnstown CBC 12/15. **Pine Siskins** were very scattered in tiny numbers, the statewide CBC total was only 61; in good years, that total is reached on some individual CBCs. **Purple Finches** were also scarce, reported from most counties but in small numbers, a trend

demonstrated by the species making 40 CBC lists, but totaling only 258 birds.

Thanks as always to the county compilers for their faithful and conscientious efforts in producing the county summaries. The compilers deserve the appreciation of the Pennsylvania birding community; their reports provide the majority of the information in this summary. Additional reports are from the PABIRDS email list, eBird, and Christmas Bird Count (CBC) results, the latter summarized elsewhere in this issue. Thanks also to Nick Bolgiano for creating Figure 1, the map of Snowy Owl distribution that appears with this summary.

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Birds of Note – December 2013 through February 2014

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, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lehigh, Mercer, Montgomery, Northampton, Washington.*

Ross's Goose – *Chester, Cumberland, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia.*

Brant – *Lancaster*: 56 on the Susquehanna River at Peach Bottom 1/13 (Bob Schutsky).

Trumpeter Swan – *Bucks*: one juv. at Nockamixon State Park 12/15 provided a first county record (ph. Devich Farbotnik), and 3 imm. birds at the Penn-Warner Tract 2/1-16 (ph. Devich Farbotnik, Steve Smith, m.ob.); *Chester*: a wing-tagged bird originally marked in March 2013 in Ontario was found at Warwick 1/1 (Mike Coulter), then was relocated at Chadd's Ford 1/21 (Derek Stoner), staying well into Feb; *Montour*: one at Fairview Rd. 2/2-10 (David Brown, Paul Dennehy, Lauren Shaffer); *Warren*: one on Warren CBC 12/14.

Eurasian Wigeon – *Chester*: 2 at Chambers Lake 12/12 and at Coatesville Res. 12/13 (Rick Robinson, Brian Raichich); *Philadelphia*: a male at John Heinz N.W.R. 12/1-4 (Frank Windfelder, Matt Sharp, George Armistead) and again 12/27 (Mike Rosengarten).

Eurasian Green-winged Teal (Common Teal)* – *Chester*: one drake at Upper Uwchlan Twp. 12/25 (Scott Stollery, Nikki Flood, *no doc*).

Harlequin Duck* – *Erie*: one female at Presque Isle State Park 12/4-20 (Sam Stull, Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*).

Surf Scoter – *Erie*: two or 3 at Presque Isle State Park 1/14 through Feb (Roger Donn, m.ob.); *Fayette*: one at Greenlick Run Lake 1/2 (Tim Anderson, Laura Hahn); *Warren*: 4 reported on Warren CBC 12/14.

Black Scoter – *Allegheny*: one each at Dashields Dam and Wood's Run through 12/2 (Mark Vass, m.ob.); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 12/14-15 (Jim Dunn, Bryant Atanasio); *Dauphin*: one female shot by a waterfowl hunter near Clark's Ferry in early Dec (*vide* Mike Epler); *Erie*: one or 2 at Presque Isle State Park through Jan (Jerry McWilliams, Jim Flynn, Jeff McDonald); *Fayette*: 3 at Greenlick Run Lake 12/7 (Tim Anderson, Laura Hahn, Shannon Thompson).

Barrow's Goldeneye* – *Bucks*: one female at Morrisville 1/1 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*) and another female at Uhlerstown 2/8-16 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*) provided the sixth and seventh records for the county; *Northampton*: one female on the Delaware River near Portland 2/16-21 (Rick Wiltraut, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Red-throated Loon – *Allegheny, Bucks, Erie, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lycoming, Philadelphia.*

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: high count was 35 on Southern Bucks CBC 12/14; *Delaware*: present on the Delaware River 12/8-1/18 (m.ob.), with a high count of 2 on 12/14 (Al

Guarente); *Philadelphia*: present all season, with high count of 3 on a mid-winter census 1/12.

American Bittern – *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 12/2-2/8 (m.ob.).

Green Heron – *Lehigh*: one on the Lehigh CBC 12/14.

Great Egret – *Philadelphia*: one at Heinz NWR through 12/10 (m.ob.).

Black-crowned Night Heron – *Bucks*: one at Silver Lake Park 1/1 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: one at Alcoa Marsh 12/9 and 1/11 (Brent Musser).

Red-tailed Hawk (Western) – *Lehigh*: one near Alburtis 1/8 to at least 2/12 (Barbara Malt, Linda Freedman) was present for the second consecutive winter.

Sandhill Crane – *Centre, Crawford, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Laurence, Mercer.*

Virginia Rail – *Bucks*: 2 at Quakertown Swamp 12/7 (Cameron Rutt, Libby Errickson); *Chester*: one at Downingtown 12/13-14 was first ever for West Chester CBC (Barry Blust, Holly Merker).

Greater Yellowlegs – *Lancaster*: one at Peach Bottom 1/6 (Bob Schutsky).

Lesser Yellowlegs – *Delaware*: one at the Philadelphia International Airport 2/24 (Brian Byrnes).

Marbled Godwit – *Allegheny*: one at Duck Hollow 12/20-21 represented a first county record and set a new late fall date for Pennsylvania (Jack and Sue Solomon).

Dunlin – *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 12/12 (Al Guarente, David Eberly, W. Brian Henderson, George D. Tallman, Rick Robinson); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 12/4 (Jeff McDonald) and one during the Erie CBC 12/15.

Least Sandpiper – *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Fish Hatchery 1/4-19 (Isaac Field, Ronald F. Leberman).

Black-headed Gull* – *Philadelphia*: one first cycle bird at the Columbus Trash Transfer Station 1/17 (Todd Fellenbaum, Martin Dellwo, George Armistead, *doc submitted*).

Black-headed x Ring-billed Gull – *Philadelphia*: one at the Delaware River Trail 1/12 for the second year in a row (ph. George Armistead).

Laughing Gull – *Philadelphia*: 5 at Delaware River Trail 12/7 (Anthony McDonnell).

Thayer's Gull* – *Allegheny*: up to two adults, the first 1/11 (Geoff Malosh) and the second 2/8-11 (Ben Coulter), and a first winter bird 1/10-2/6 (m.ob.), all at the Pittsburgh Point, providing the third, fourth, and fifth county records (*no doc for any*); *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract during the Southern Bucks CBC 12/14 (Rick Mellon, *no doc*) and one in the same area 2/2 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*); *Erie*: 3 reported from the Lake View Landfill 1/29-2/11 (Jerry McWilliams, Jim Flynn, *no doc*).

Parasitic Jaeger* – *Erie*: one imm. at Gull Point 12/2 (Sam Stull, *doc submitted*).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Franklin*: 3 at the established location at Shady Grove (Deuane Hoffman, eBird).

Barn Owl – *Bucks, Centre, Cumberland, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Union*.

Prairie Falcon* – *Cumberland*: present for eighth consecutive winter at Mud Level Road, first seen in mid-Nov (Andrew Markel) but not seen again until 2/2-22 (m.ob., *doc previously accepted*).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 12/1 (Adrian Binns, Debbie Beer), and the usual flock attempted to winter again at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant with high count of 100 on 12/7, dwindling to only 5 by 2/8 (m.ob.).

Tree Swallow – *Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery, Philadelphia, and York*, all after 2/21 except one at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant in *Philadelphia* from fall through 2/8 (m.ob.), probably the first record of a long-staying, overwintering Tree Swallow in Pennsylvania history.

House Wren – *Franklin*: one on the Chambersburg CBC; *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 12/3 (Frank Windfelder), and one at Houston Meadow 12/5 (Ken Januski).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 12/14 (Frank Windfelder, Ann Reeves).

Wood Thrush – *Dauphin*: 2 on the Curtin CBC 12/27, one each by two different teams (Aden Troyer *vide* Scott Bills).

Ovenbird – *Delaware*: one at a feeder in Media for approximately two weeks prior to being photographed 1/7 (Steve Kapski).

Black-and-White Warbler – *Berks*: one found during Bernville CBC 12/28 (Paul Michaly).

Orange-crowned Warbler – *Montgomery*: one at the Schuylkill River Trail at Oaks 1/4-2/16 (W. Brian Henderson, Stephen Kacir); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 12/5 (Frank Windfelder), and one at Mt. Moriah Cemetery 1/12 (Kate Atkins, Tony Croasdale, David Allen, Steve Kacir).

MacGillivray's Warbler* – *Dauphin*: one from the fall continued through 12/9 at Highspire Reservoir (Sue Hannon, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Common Yellowthroat – *Cumberland*: one at the Big Spring 1/1 (Vern Gauthier); *Dauphin*: one at Highspire Reservoir 12/28 (Patricia and Richard Williams); *Luzerne*: one on the Dallas CBC 12/14; *Philadelphia*: one at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant through 1/12 (Todd Fellenbaum, Matt Sharp); *York*: one at Lake Redmond 12/13 (Chuck Kling).

Palm Warbler – *Chester*: one in West Marlborough 1/21 (Joe Sabastiani, John McNamara) and one at Struble Lake 1/1 (West Chester Bird Club); *Lancaster*: one at the Circle M Resort during the Lancaster CBC 1/5 (Mike Epler); *Montgomery*: one on the Audubon CBC 12/21; *Philadelphia*: one at Pod factory area 12/7 (Martin Dellwo), and one at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant 1/2-2/8 (Frank Windfelder, George Armistead); *York*: one found during York Springs CBC 12/30.

Pine Warbler – *Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Montgomery, Schuylkill*.

Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warbler* – *Montgomery*: one at Limerick 2/28 (Steve Grunwald, *no doc*).

Yellow-throated Warbler – *Chester*: one from the fall stayed until 12/28 in West Marlborough Twp. (Judy Ford, Kevin Fryberger).

Black-throated Green Warbler – *Chester*: one at Longwood Gardens 12/11 (ph. Kristen Gardner).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Berks*: one at Hamburg 1/18 through end of period (Matt Wlasniewski); *Chester*: one at East Coventry Twp. 1/19 (Ken Rieker); *Franklin*: one at a feeder on McDowell Rd. during Jan and Feb (Robert and Marion

Carmack); *Montgomery*: one at SGL 234 from 1/17-2/8 (Ken Rieker).

Vesper Sparrow – *Bucks*: one at Maple Knoll Farms 2/4 through the season (Richard Smith); *Delaware*: one at Ridley Creek State Park 12/14 (*vide* David Eberly); *Montgomery*: one at Norristown Riverfront Park 12/3-18 (Paul Bernhardt).

Fox Sparrow (Slate-colored)* – *Allegheny*: one at a feeder in Natrona Heights 1/6 and 1/9 (Paul Hess, *doc submitted*).

Le Conte's Sparrow* – *Cumberland*: one at Newville 1/24-2/8 (Vern Gauthier, m.ob. *doc submitted*), a first county record.

Lincoln's Sparrow – *Blair*: one on the Culp CBC 12/21; *Bucks*: one in Warwick Twp. 1/22 (John Tramontano); *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 12/27 (ph. Rick Robinson), and one in Honeybrook 1/1 (John McNamara, West Chester Bird Club, ph.); *Dauphin*: one during the Curtin CBC 12/27 (Aden Troyer, *vide* Scott Bills); *Washington*: one on the Washington CBC 12/14.

Scarlet Tanager – *Bucks*: one male at feeder in New Hope from before Christmas through 1/16 (ph. Renee Van Wyck).

Indigo Bunting – *Allegheny*: one photographed at a feeder in Penn Hills 12/21 (Barb Chapman); *Bradford*: one reported at feeder in Sayre 2/24 (Marsha Zwierlein).

Dickcissel – *Lebanon*: a female at a feeder in Cornwall Manor 2/5-8 (Gerry Boltz); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 12/1 (Martin Dellwo, Todd Fellenbaum, George Armistead, Frank Windfelder).

Yellow-headed Blackbird – *Lancaster*: one male at Kirkwood 12/31 (David McNaughton) and 1/1 (Mike Epler), and 3 there 1/18 (Justin Bosler, Michael David).

Brewer's Blackbird* – *Lancaster*: one at a feeder near Quarryville during Southern Lancaster CBC 12/15 (Amy Davis, Bob Schutsky, *no doc*); *Montgomery*: one at Palm 12/9 (Jason Horn, *no doc*); *Somerset*: a male and female near Shanksville during Johnstown CBC allowed careful study 12/15 (Chris Payne, Jim and Meg Moses, *no doc*).

Bullock's Oriole* – *Montgomery*: a male returned to Gilbertsville for the fourth consecutive winter 12/5 and stayed through end of season (Mary Ache, et al., *doc previously accepted*).

Baltimore Oriole – *Allegheny*: one from the fall at a feeder in Aspinwall continued into Feb (Cecelia Hard); *Bucks*: a male beginning 12/23 and a female beginning 12/25 at same feeder in Middletown Twp. (David Pentland), and a female in New Hope from before Christmas through 1/20 (ph. Dave Belford).

Common Redpoll – *Cambria/Somerset*: 5 reported on Johnstown CBC 12/15; *Erie*: 2 at Presque Isle State Park 1/7 (Susan Smith).

Photographic Highlights



Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). Washington's fourth record of this species was provided by this injured bird at and near the AMD pond on Hahn Road in North Strabane Twp., appearing here on the last day of the season, 28 February 2014. It was the second of its kind to appear at the pond in in four months. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*). The freezing of the Great Lakes in 2013-14 will be remembered more for the invasion of White-winged Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks it triggered, but it also offered observers the opportunity for close study of a number of other species, among them Greater Scaup. This confiding female was photographed at Riverfront Park, *Allegheny* 19 January 2014. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Apparent Mallard x Gadwall (Brewer's Duck). Certainly out of the ordinary, this rare hybrid was present at John Heinz N.W.R., *Philadelphia* 1 to (here) 4 December 2014 and was seen again 27 December. (*George Armistead*)



Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*). This male was also photographed on the Monongahela River at Riverfront Park, *Allegheny*, on 24 January 2014. For many birds forced off the frozen Great Lakes, the rivers of Pennsylvania served as their only available refuge. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*). The excellent season statewide for waterfowl of all sorts was typified by birds like this female shoveler, one of a pair that wintered at Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny* (here 28 January 2014); shovelers are casual winter visitors to the land of the Three Rivers. (*Jeff McDonald*)



Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*). Long-tailed Ducks were found in a remarkable 23 Pennsylvania counties this season, sometimes even in small to large flocks. These 8 birds were photographed on the Ohio River near downtown Pittsburgh 12 February 2014. (*Jeff McDonald*)



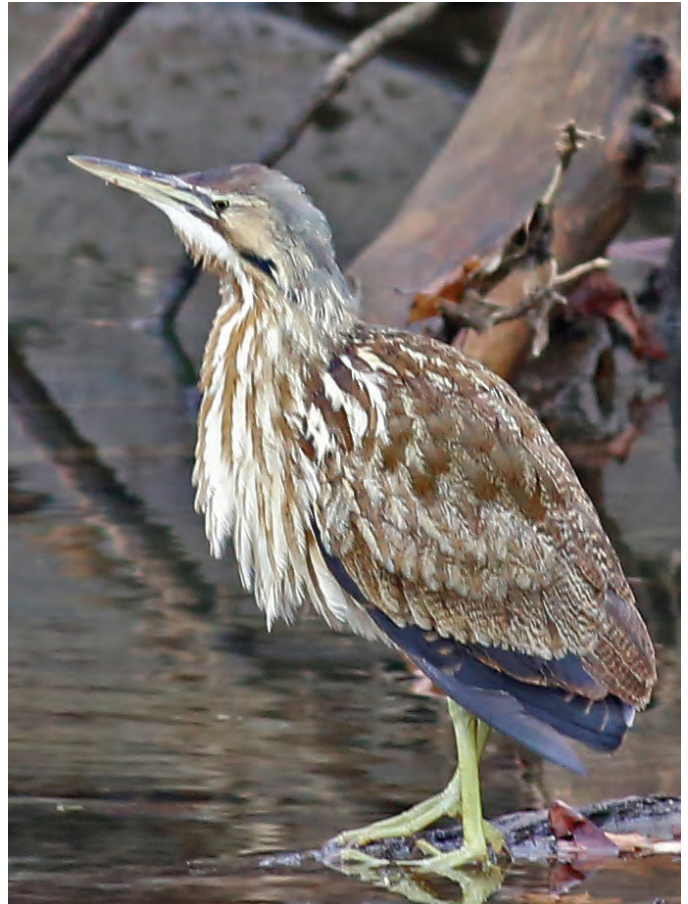
White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). Certainly the stars of the waterfowl show in Pennsylvania this winter, White-winged Scoters were found in at least 22 counties, compared to an average of about five or six. This female spent time with the Greater Scaup at Riverfront Park, *Allegheny* 16 to (here) 24 January 2014. (*Geoff Malosh*)



White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). Long-staying and often ice-bound (and thus confiding) scoters in many areas of the state provided Pennsylvania birders a rare opportunity for close study not far from home. This male was one of about 7 or 8 that spent a few weeks on the Ohio River in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh. This male stretching its neck was photographed 8 February 2014. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). Quite surprising was this Red-throated Loon, one of two on the *Allegheny* River in downtown Pittsburgh 12 February 2014, representing just the seventh record for *Allegheny* and an extremely unusual mid-winter record for southwestern Pennsylvania. (*Jeff McDonald*)



American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Despite the brutal cold and ice, this American Bittern made a go of it deep into the winter at John Heinz N.W.R., *Philadelphia*, shown here on the last known day of its stay, 8 February 2014. (*Bill Keim*)



Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). The elusive Northern Goshawk is not often photographed well in Pennsylvania. This fine image was made at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Berks/Schuylkill* 12 December 2014. (*Holly Merker*)



Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). Red-shouldered Hawks are an increasing winter resident in Pennsylvania, evidenced by their upward trends in both Winter Raptor Survey routes and Christmas Bird Counts. This bird was photographed in residential Moon Township, *Allegheny* 19 February 2014, where it had been seen occasionally for much of the winter. (Geoff Malosh)



Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Another fine image from Hawk Mountain, this adult Golden passed over the lookout on the same day as the Northern Goshawk shown on the previous page, 12 December 2013. (Holly Merker)



Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). This western-type Red-tail returned to the area near Alburdis, *Lehigh* for the second consecutive winter, photographed here 12 February 2014. Birds of this population are very rare on the east coast and even more rarely are they well photographed. (Dustin Welch)



Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*). Dunlin can sometimes be seen in close proximity to Snowy Owls on their high-Arctic breeding grounds, but seeing the two together in Pennsylvania is rare indeed. This somewhat late bird was at Gull Point, *Erie* 4 December 2013, which was also the epicenter of the Snowy Owl invasion early that month. (Jeff McDonald)



Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). Despite the invasion of Snowy Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, another high-Arctic breeder, did not appear in Pennsylvania in unusual numbers. This image of a light morph bird was made at Limestoneville, *Montour* 17 February 2014. (Wayne Laubscher)



Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*). Philadelphia's first Black-headed Gull, at long last, came in the form of this first cycle bird at the Columbus Trash Transfer Station on the morning of 17 January 2014. (George Armistead)



Ring-billed x Black-headed Gull. This distinctive bird appeared for the second year in a row on the Delaware River Trail, *Philadelphia* 12 January 2014, by a remarkable coincidence on the exact same date and hour when it was seen in 2013. As in 2013, it was not seen again after this initial encounter. (George Armistead)



Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). Prior to this winter, *Allegheny* had just four Glaucous Gulls to its credit, all from 2007; this season that number was at least tripled. This bird was one of perhaps four total subadults found in February, here 17 February 2014. (Jeff McDonald)



Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). The show of gulls in Pittsburgh was historic, exceeding even the amazing winter of 2007. Rarest among 7 species recorded during the season was Thayer's Gull; this first cycle bird was one of at least 3 Thayer's seen on Pittsburgh's rivers in January and February. This bird was at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela River 11 January 2014. (Tom Moeller)



Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). This crisp adult on the Allegheny River in downtown Pittsburgh 15 February 2014 was one of at least four adults in the Pittsburgh area in February. Prior to this winter, *Allegheny* had just one record of an adult Glaucous Gull. (Geoff Malosh)



Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*). Iceland Gulls were present at Pittsburgh, *Allegheny* for most of seven weeks. A minimum season count based on age groups observed was at least six birds, though there were probably several more than that present at some point in the season. Scenes like this—a first cycle Iceland tucked into a pack of Ring-billed and Herring—were a common sight in the downtown area each evening. (Geoff Malosh)



Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). Though far from noteworthy in eastern Pennsylvania, Lesser Black-backs are still a rare bird in southwestern Pennsylvania. This bird at Pittsburgh 17 February 2014 was one of at least six (and probably several more) for the season in *Allegheny*. (Jeff McDonald)



Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*). This bird delighted observers at John Heinz N.W.R., *Philadelphia* 2 to 10 (here 7) February 2014 before it moved on. (George Armistead)



Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). Though a far cry from the historic Rufous invasion of 2012-13, there were still some 35 found in the state this fall and winter, with 15 of those first found (or publicized) after 1 December. This adult female had been present since September at Hatfield, *Montgomery*, and was banded 12 December 2013. (Howard Eskin)



Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). This beautiful male was photographed 27 December 2013 at Watsontown, *Northumberland*, where it was present from 15 August 2013 to 2 January 2014. (Wayne Laubscher)



Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*). Several Tree Swallows moved back into Pennsylvania in the last week of February, recorded in seven southeastern counties over that time. This bird was photographed on the Schuylkill River on the *Chester/Montgomery* border 23 February 2014. More notable was a single Tree Swallow that attempted to overwinter in *Philadelphia*; see the report for that county on page 71. (Holly Merker)



Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*). An unusual find during a very frigid CBC in *Clinton* 4 January 2014 were two Hermit Thrushes at Lockport, one of which is shown here. (Wayne Laubscher)



Vesper Sparrow (*Poecetes gramineus*). Vesper Sparrow is unusual in winter in Pennsylvania; this bird was one of four in the state this season, shown here at Maple Knoll Farm, Bucks 17 February 2014. (Howard Eskin)



Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). Always an exciting find at any season, this handsome Dickcissel obliged the photographer at John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia 2 December 2013. (George Armistead)



Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). This remarkable late-season Indigo Bunting was photographed in Penn Hills, Allegheny 21 December 2013. (Barb Charman)



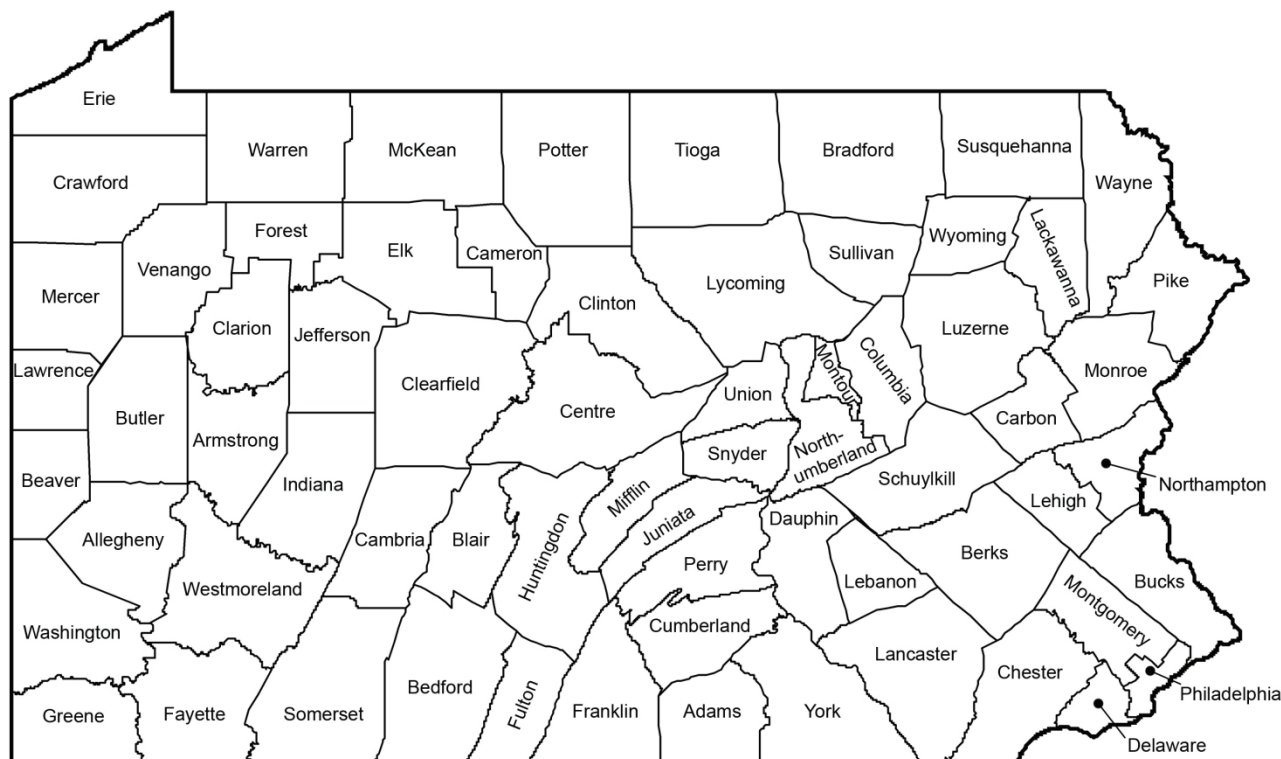
Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). This interesting image of a Rusty Blackbird on ice was made at Buckingham Springs, Bucks 5 February 2014. (Bill Keim)



Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). Even more remarkable was this Indigo Bunting at Sayre, Bradford on the other end of the season: 24 February 2014. (Marsha Zwierlein)



Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*). Making its fourth appearance in these pages, this beautiful male Bullock's Oriole returned to a yard in Gilbertsville, Montgomery for the fourth consecutive year, following its initial appearance there in first winter plumage in late 2010. The bird is shown here 24 December 2013. (Howard Eskin)



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).	juvenal [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.	River	W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
L.	Lake	R.A.	Recreational Area	WRS	Winter Raptor Survey

eBird Usage: Data for these reports and throughout this journal include observations collected from the eBird database <<http://www.ebird.org>>. Citation: eBird. 2012. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: 31 March 2014)

Adams County

Locations: Butler Township (BUTL), Cumberland Township (CUMB), Franklin Township (FRAN), Freedom Township (FREE), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg College (GBC), Gettysburg Christmas Bird Count (GCBC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Huntington Township (HUNT), Lake Heritage (LH), Lake Meade (LM), Michaux State Forest (MICH), Mountain Rd (MTN), Oxford Township (OX), Possum Hollow Rd (POSS), Straban Township (STRAB), York Springs Christmas Bird Count (YSCBC).

A true winter brought a reduction in species count of 91 compared to recent winter periods. However, there were more reports of birds that are typically considered “uncommon” or “infrequent” in January than in that month in recent milder winters. The 1/4 GCBC, led by Mike O’Brien, listed 78 species, and the 12/30 tri-county YSCBC, led by Vern Gauthier, saw 69 species were in the Adams portion.

This winter’s extended ice coverage reduced the number waterfowl but there were still some highlights. Up to 200 **Snow Geese** along with a great

count of about 1200 **Common Mergansers** were at LM 12/30 (RF). Unusual were sightings of **Tundra Swans** in all three months; 6 at Germany Rd. 12/7 (PK), 2 at LH 1/9 (JWa), and 35 at Germany Rd. 2/23 (PK). Ten **Ruddy Ducks** were found on the YSCBC.

Sightings of **Ring-necked Pheasants** were limited to MTN in Dec (RDS). Double-digit **Wild Turkey** counts included 38 from BUTL 12/8 (NZ), 36 from FRAN 1/4 (NZ), and 30 from FRAN 1/3 (RDS). Raptor sightings were frequent. In recent years, the county has hosted a **Bald Eagle** winter roost and a count of 16 from that site 12/30 was comprised of birds of all ages. **Rough-legged Hawks** were not found on any WRS route but there were 4 reports spanning 1/9-2/20. GNMP held one 2/14-20 (BP, AW), with one of those sightings involving aerial interaction with a **Common Raven**. The other sightings were of a single at FREE 1/16 (JF) and one at MTN 1/9 (RDS). A **Merlin** was seen in STRAB 1/8 (JH). The three sightings of **Peregrine Falcon** each captured aspects that inspire birders. A 12/17 (AW) sighting at GNMP involved air space infringement with a **Short-eared Owl**; the 1/28 (AW) sighting at FREE involved a perched bird being harassed by a bold **American Kestrel**, while the barnyard **Rock Pigeons** and

European Starlings were more than uneasy; and a 2/9 (PK, RP) sighting in OX provided an opportunity to witness its fast and direct flight.

Despite the harsh winter, eight reports of **Killdeer** spanned the period. **Wilson's Snipe** were found on three occasions, 12/15 and 2/22 at POSS (PK) and at FREE 1/16 (JF). One might expect in the "Year of the Snowy Owl" that it would be one of the five owl species reported in the county, but it wasn't to be. The highlight was a **Long-eared Owl** 1/16-26 (JF, PM). Always appreciated and reliable in this period, **Short-eared Owls** were reported four times with observations at GNMP 12/13-21 (RGTS, SK, AW) and FREE 1/16 (JF). High count was 5 birds at GNMP 12/13 (AW). It was unusual to have no Feb sightings for this species.

There were many reports of all seven woodpecker species throughout the period. One wonders if the major tree damage from the 10/29/2011 snowstorm while leaves were still on trees is partially responsible for what appears to be an upward trend with this group. There were eight reports of **Horned Larks** with high counts of 44 from FREE 1/4 (NZ) and 58 at POSS 1/26 (PK).

Although **Black-capped Chickadee** reports from this region add fodder to the hybrid debate, all eight reports came from the higher elevation Ridge and Valley section of the county, present in early Dec and then absent until mid-Jan. Consistent with their cyclical appearance, there were only two reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. One was found in MICH 12/14 (BF) and the other 2/17 (JP) at GBG. Nine **Brown Creeper** reports were very high for the period but Jan sightings were limited. Four reports of **Winter Wren** were made 12/1-1/4. A nice high count of 5 came from HUNT 12/30 (VG). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was well reported thru 1/31, but there were only two reports of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: 2 at HUNT 12/30 (VG) and one at FRAN 1/4 (VG, NZ).

There were three reports of **Hermit Thrush** 12/30-1/4, and the 1/24 (JS) sighting of 2 birds at GNMP gave testament to this species' winter hardiness. Very uncommon in Jan, a **Gray Catbird** was at FRAN 1/4 (VG, NZ). Sightings of **American Pipits** were limited to singles: 12/17 at GNMP and 2/4-7 at GBC (both AW).

Eastern Towhee was found until 12/30, was undetected in Jan, and was reported frequently after 2/13. Sparrows were above average. Thirteen reports of **American Tree Sparrows** were paced by an outstanding count of about 100 birds in warm season grasses at HUNT 1/4 (RDS). Also on that date, an unexpected sighting of a **Chipping Sparrow** was made at FRAN (VG, NZ). Frequency of **Savannah Sparrow** sightings was very high with nine reports. The high count of 6 came from Taneytown Rd. 1/4 (AM, SS). The only reports of **Fox Sparrow** came during the 2/14-17 Great Backyard Bird Count. Four reports of **Swamp Sparrow** spanned 12/7-1/4 with 4 the high count from Flohr's Church Rd. 12/7 (VG). **White-crowned Sparrows** were widespread and reported throughout the period. Rare for *Adams*, up to 3 **Lapland Longspurs** were along Bullfrog Rd 12/12-13 (AW).

A good winter count of 40 **Red-winged Blackbirds** came from Rte. 15/Emmsburg Rd. 1/30 (AW). Local birders enjoyed the beauty of the **Eastern Meadowlark** yellow underside against a backdrop of new fallen snow a number of times throughout the period. High counts of 20 came from GNMP (SK) and 10 at FREE (JW), both 12/20. **Common Grackles** pretty well vacated for the month of Jan while **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were found in all months. Winter finches were nearly absent. Only **Purple Finches** were reported with up to 2 birds at CUMB 2/14-16 (MA, SJ).

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Allegheny County

Locations: Imperial (IMP), Wingfield Pines (WP).

It was quite a remarkable season in *Allegheny*. The first county record **Marbled Godwit** was an astounding visitor in December. Winter weather was certainly in place by mid-January with frigid temperatures and a series of clipper systems dropping fresh snow regularly. The harsh conditions resulted in waterfowl and gull diversity rarely seen here, as well as a rare visit by two **Red-throated Loons**.

Four **Mute Swans** were at The Point in Pittsburgh 2/14 (GM). An immature was at Dashields Dam on the Ohio R. 2/23 (GM). A few **Tundra Swans** moved through late in the fall. A flock of 150 were spotted flying over

Upper St. Clair 12/7 (FK), a flock of 40 flew over Harmar Twp. 12/17 (JV) and 75 flew over Moon Twp. 12/18 (GM).

Waterfowl variety was exceptional this season. Due to the freezing of the Great Lakes, rare species such as White-winged Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks were present in numbers not normally seen on Pittsburgh's rivers. A female **White-winged Scoter** was on the Ohio R. at Wood's Run 1/10 (PB). The bird moved downriver to Emsworth Dam where it was seen 1/12 (GM) and then to Riverfront Park on the Southside 1/16 (JHa, FM, CM) where it remained up to 1/23 (m.ob.). A flock of 10 **White-winged Scoters** were discovered on the Allegheny River at Blawnox 1/26 (MF, AH, PM) with scattered reports of various numbers along the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers during the remainder of the season (m.ob.). Apparently the birds were moving around and may have been joined by others as the winter wore on. Two **Black Scoters** continued from last season at Dashields Dam and Wood's Run. Both were last seen 12/2 (MV, m. ob.). A female **Long-tailed Duck** at the Point in Pittsburgh 1/22 (GM) was the first reported. This species was reported through the end of the season along the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers in unprecedented numbers. High counts included at least 35 at Fox Chapel 2/11 (VM), 36 at Lock and Dam #4, Natrona Heights (AL, CK, DY, RHo), 43 at that same location 2/17 (DY), 23 at Blawnox 2/18 (MHo) and 25 at Lock and Dam #3, Hamar Twp. 2/23 (DY), all on the Allegheny River. A **Gadwall** was at WP 12/17-1/3 (ST, et al.). Single birds were at Duck Hollow 1/8 (TM, NM) and at Pittsburgh 1/26 (GM). Two were at Fox Chapel 2/21 (AH, PM). Small numbers of **American Wigeon** began to appear in late Feb. A flock of 12 **American Black Ducks** were at IMP 2/7 (MV) represented the high count for the season. Along with the Gadwall at WP, two **Northern Shovelers** and a **Northern Pintail** were present 12/17-1/4 (ST, et al.). Two pintails were there 1/3 (MV). Two **Green-winged Teal** were reported at opposite ends of the season. One was at WP 12/17 (ST) and one was at Dashields Dam 2/23 (GM). **Canvasback** was present from late Dec. through the season. A high count of 22 were on the Allegheny River at Natrona Heights 2/17 (DY) and the species was seen all along the Ohio and Allegheny Rivers the entire time; a good showing of this species here. Similarly, **Redhead** was present the same time in the same areas with a max. count of 21 on 2/22 at Natrona Heights (AH, PM). Small numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** were present in Jan and Feb. **Greater Scaup** were reported beginning 1/4 and continued through the season. The max. count was 40 on the Allegheny R. at Oakmont 2/17 (DY). **Lesser Scaup** were present during the same time in smaller numbers. Twelve at Blawnox 2/16 (STh, SuT) was the max. count for the season. **Buffleheads** were here all season in small numbers. The high count of **Common Goldeneye** was 24 at Emsworth Dam on the Ohio R. 2/24 (PB). All three mergansers were reported. A good count of 64 **Common Mergansers** were at Blawnox 2/17 (DY) and 30 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Pittsburgh 2/12 (JM) was the high count. Three **Ruddy Ducks** were at Duck Hollow 12/7 (TM, NM). Single birds were at the ponds on Moody Road in Findlay Twp. 12/19 (MV), Duck Hollow 1/4 (MD) and at Dashields Dam 1/5 (MV).

A female **Ring-necked Pheasant** was in Franklin Park 12/30 (OM). Two **Red-throated Loons** appeared at The Point in Pittsburgh 2/12 (JM, MD, DY, GM, m.ob.). One was photographed at Duck Hollow 2/18 (BB) which may have been one of the individuals from Pittsburgh. This was the seventh record for the county. Small numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Horned Grebes** were present the entire season. A **Red-necked Grebe** was at The Point in Pittsburgh 2/4-15 (GM, ST, m.ob.).

A **Black Vulture** was recorded in Franklin Park during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/28 (fide BSH). A few **Turkey Vulture** reports came in during the season (m.ob.). A white **Red-tailed Hawk** with a red and black tail was in Findlay Twp. 12/28 (DW, ST) and 1/4 (MF). A nearly all white bird was seen in the same area a few years ago. An intermediate morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was in Findlay Twp. 1/15-2/18 (GM). A dark morph was at IMP 1/22 (JHa) and a light morph was in another part of Findlay Twp. 1/31 and 2/12 (KJ). A dark morph was in Findlay Twp. 2/21 (GM), perhaps the same bird that was at IMP. Single **Merlins** were at Schenley Park (MF) and Duck Hollow (MK) 12/28. One was in Tarentum 2/16 (AL, CK, DYe, RHo) and one was seen near the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh 2/25 (GM).

A **Killdeer** was at WP 1/3 (MV). Two at IMP 2/21 (GM) and one in Plum Borough 2/22 (PM) were likely arriving migrants. A **Marbled Godwit** at Duck Hollow 12/20 (JS, SS) was an exceptional find, to say the least. It was feeding at the mouth of Nine Mile Run where the stream empties into the Monongahela River, forming a mud flat. It remained through the morning of 12/21 and was enjoyed by many observers. It would leave the site at times, sometimes relocating just downriver and at other times could not be relocated. Around midday on 12/21, the bird flew upriver and never returned. This represented the first county record and the latest fall record in Pennsylvania history, exceeding the previous late date by over a month.

Not part of the gull invasion, two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Duck Hollow 1/3 (JHa, TM). Occasionally a few turn up in winter but this is a rare visitor at this time of year.

S.A.

For the first time since 2007, *Allegheny* hosted a great diversity of gulls due to the harsh winter weather that resulted in greater than 90% ice cover on the Great Lakes, forcing birds south in search of open water. The conditions also produced some of the best waterfowl diversity we've seen with ducks appearing on the rivers such as **White-winged Scoters** and **Long-tailed Ducks** pushed south by a frozen Lake Ontario (see above). The Point in Pittsburgh was the center of activity at dusk as vast numbers of gulls congregated at the head of the Ohio River to roost for the night. Their presence attracted the rare gulls that included **Great Black-backed** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, **Glaucous Gulls**, **Thayer's Gulls** and **Iceland Gulls**. The activity resulted in the local news visiting the area and interviewing some of the birders. Totals for the rare gull species were the maximum recorded in the county thus far. A summary follows.

Ring-billed Gull and Herring Gull – numbers of Ring-bills maxed at an estimated 7000 and Herring Gull at an estimated 1000.

Thayer's Gull – Up to two adults and a first winter (GM, BC, et al.). A first winter bird was observed 1/10-2/6 (fourth county record) and an adult 1/11, then 2/8-11. A different adult was present 2/25. Observers were careful with identification and the birds observed showed the characters that looked good for Thayer's Gull. The adults were the second and third adults ever recorded in Allegheny.

Iceland Gull – Present 1/3-2/21 including four first winter birds, one second winter, and at least one adult. The first bird represented the tenth county record.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – It was quite a showing of Lesser Black-backed Gulls with up to 4 adults and at least one first winter and one second winter. All four adults were seen 2/11 and five birds were present 2/15 that included 3 adults, a first winter and second winter. A single first winter bird at Duck Hollow 12/10—nearly a month prior to the gull invasion—represented the tenth county record.

Glaucous Gull – Totals for Glaucous Gulls were unprecedented. A first winter bird was found 2/6 (GM), the fifth county record, followed by an adult 2/8; the latter was second adult recorded in the county. Various birds were seen almost daily to 2/19. Four adults were present 2/12 and a second winter and third winter (with an adult) were there 2/10 and 2/14. At least seven birds were tallied during the invasion.

Great Black-backed Gull – An adult and first and third winter birds were present. Four birds of various ages was the high count 2/15. Not nearly as rare as the other species; there are just over 20 records in the county.

There were a few reports of **Snowy Owl** during their exceptional invasion this winter. A second hand report was received from the border of Shaler Twp. and Indiana Twp. 12/15 (*vide* JH). One was reported on the PA Birds Facebook page near a restaurant in the North Hills 12/27 (*vide* SK) but not relocated. A bird was reported and photographed at the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport 1/9 (SJ). It was captured and relocated 1/29 (*vide* BMu). Three **Barred Owls** were recorded for the Pittsburgh CBC; single birds in Franklin Park, Ohara Twp. and Fox Chapel (*vide* BSh). A **Short-eared Owl** was found at the traditional location at IMP 1/17 and three were seen 2/8 (MV).

The adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** continued from last season in Carnegie and was present up to 1/3 (SK).

A flock of 23 **Fish Crows** at Duck Hollow 12/21 (MD) and 20 nearby at Frick Park 12/28 (CBC) are the largest numbers ever reported in the county. Only two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found during the season, both during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/28. One was in Harmar Twp. and one in Fox Chapel. **Winter Wrens** were reported through December from seven locations. A **Hermit Thrush** was found in North Park 12/13 (BVN, SD). An out of season **Gray Catbird** was at WP 12/22 (ST). An **American Pipit** was on a lawn near downtown Pittsburgh 1/4 (MD), an odd location.

A large flock of 35 **Lapland Longspurs** were found in Findlay Twp. 12/26 (MV, GM) at a site that has been reliable for them, but never in such great numbers. A total of 45 were counted 12/28 (GM, DW, ST). Smaller numbers were seen through 2/8 (m.ob.). **Snow Buntings** were also in the same place and have been seen at this location in large numbers in previous years. Three were found 12/26 (MV), but by 1/5 the number grew to 63 (GM, MD). Small numbers were reported through 2/8 (m.ob.). A flock

of 18 were at IMP 1/21 (CB) and 2 were at Bald Knob pond at IMP 2/9 (AP). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** reports included 2 at Harrison Hills Park 12/14 (SG), three at McKees Rocks 12/28 (JG, OM), 11 at Long Vue Country Club in Penn Hills 12/28 (EH) and three at Dashiels Dam 1/12 (GM).

Eastern Towhee is rare in winter. One was at Harrison Hills Park 12/1 (PH, JS, SS) followed by 3 there 12/14 (SG). Two were found during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/28, one in Franklin Park and one in Fox Chapel (*vide* BSh). One was found at Barking Slopes in Plum Borough 1/20 (AH, PM). A **Chipping Sparrow** visited the feeders at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve 1/3-2/5 (BSh) another unusual winter visitor. Yet another rare winter sparrow, a **Fox Sparrow** visited a feeder in Ross Twp. 12/12 and probably the same bird was seen again 2/14 (BVN). One visited a feeder in Moon Twp. 2/15 and 2/21 (GM), one was in South Park 2/16 (JF). A **Slate-colored Fox Sparrow** (western subspecies *Schistacea*) visited a feeder briefly in Natrona Heights 1/6 and 1/9 (PH), a very rare subspecies in the east. A **Swamp Sparrow** was at Harrison Hills Park 12/1 and 12/14 (PH, JS, SS). One was at WP 12/17 (ST) and 3 were at their traditional location in Fox Chapel 12/28 (BSh). This species probably winters in small numbers in the county. An **Indigo Bunting** was photographed at a feeder in Penn Hills at the extremely late date of 12/21 (BCh).

Late **Red-winged Blackbirds** included 15 at WP 12/17 (ST), one in Natrona Heights 12/20 (PH) and one in Ross Twp. 1/5 (BVN). The first spring migrants turned up in February. A flock of 500 were in Findlay Twp. 2/23 (GM) and one was in Ohara Twp. 2/25 (PB). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were with the flock of Red-winged Blackbirds mentioned above in Findlay Twp. 2/23 (GM). Late **Common Grackles** included a bird at a feeder in Pine Twp. 12/2 (PL, SL), one in Natrona Heights 12/12 (PH) and one in Findlay Twp. 12/14 (MV). Single birds in Hampton Twp. 2/6 (DN) and Ohara Twp. 2/24 (PB) were probably early spring migrants. A **Brown-headed Cowbird** was at a feeder in Pine Twp. 12/2 (PL, SL). A male **Baltimore Oriole** from last season continued to visit a feeder in Aspinwall through February (CH).

CORRIGENDA: The two Yellow-throated Warblers reported in Natrona Heights last season were incorrectly reported; they were **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** listed at North Park 10/10 should have AH and PM as observers instead of PL and SL.

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Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Freeport (FP), Kittanning (KT), Rosston (RT).

With the severe winter, most lakes and ponds and much of the Allegheny River were frozen this period. Open water remained at the Freeport, Clinton, KT, and Mosgrove dams, so waterfowl were well reported on the Allegheny River.

An unusual flock of 15 **Mute Swans** was photographed on the Kiskiminetas River near Leechburg 2/15 (MVT) while a singleton was spotted at FP 2/17 (EF, MF). Four **American Wigeons** appeared at KT 2/21 (MH, RH). CC's last **American Black Ducks** were sighted 12/1 (MVT); by 2/10 (MM) 11 had returned to the CC dam outflow. At the KT dam, of the 4 Black Ducks that appeared 1/30 (MH, RH), 3 were still present 2/28 (MH, RH). Top **Mallard** counts were 57 at Manorville 2/7 (MH, RH) and 43 at KT 2/17 (TR). **Canvasback** reports were 2 at the Blanco treatment pond 1/30 (MH, RH, GL, DL), 2 at the CC outflow 2/10 (MM), and up to 18 at KT 2/21 (MH, RH). **Redheads** peaked at 75 at KT 2/21 (TH). A drake **Ring-necked Duck** was feeding in Cowanshannock Creek 2/17 (ML); by 2/28 (MH, RH) 8 Ring-necked Ducks had arrived at KT. The Blanco treatment pond on 1/30 (MH, RH, GL, DL) hosted one **Greater Scaup**; single birds were also spotted at Clinton 2/7 (MH, RH) and at FP 2/17 (EF, MF). KT's first 21

appeared 1/28 (MH, RH) where the high count of 29 was achieved 2/24 (TR). A **Lesser Scaup** appeared in a WT yard 2/7 (MW) "looking exhausted". First **White-winged Scoter** was found at KT 1/30 (MH, RH); by 2/21 (TH) 5 were present; Mosgrove also yielded a single White-winged Scoter 2/17 (MH, RH). On 1/28 (MH, RH) a **Long-tailed Duck** had joined the KT flock, and numbers built to the high of 30 on 2/21 (TH); FP also harbored 3 Long-tails on 2/17 (EF, MF) where one remained 2/21 (EF, MF). The open water near the KT bridge harbored 3 **Buffleheads** 1/23 (MH, RH); by 2/17 (MH, RH) 17 was the tally. Two **Common Goldeneyes** were at KT 1/28 (MH, RH); FP produced 7 on 2/17 and 2/21 (EF, MF); KT's high count was 37 on 2/28 (MH, RH). Two **Hooded Mergansers** lingered at CC 12/7 (TR); first 3 returnees appeared at KT 2/17 (TR) where they remained through 2/28 (MH, RH); 2 had also returned to the CC dam outflow by 2/27 (MVT). CC harbored 140 **Common Mergansers** 12/7 (TR); by 1/1 (TR) the flock had reduced to 34; 4 appeared at RT 1/12 (TR); 38 were at KT 1/30 (MH, RH); FP produced 3 on both 2/17 and 2/21 (EF, MF). Five **Red-breasted Mergansers** had returned to CC by 2/27 (MVT).

Last **Pied-billed Grebes** were one at CC 12/9 (MVT) and 3 at RT 12/14 (TR). Seven **Turkey Vultures** at Mahoning Lake 2/15 (AD) were the only ones reported this season. Top **Bald Eagle** reports mentioned 5 at CC 12/30 (MVT), 2 at KT 2/17 (MH, RH), and 4 at Mosgrove 2/17 (MH, RH); the Mosgrove birds included 2 adults and 2 juveniles. **Northern Harriers** withdrew from our county this season with the last report of 2 near WT 12/1 (MVT); by 2/21 (MH, RH) one had returned to the same area. The lone **Sharp-shinned Hawk** sighted was near Leechburg 12/3 (MVT); **Cooper's Hawks** were found at 9 locations (m.ob.). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was listed near Goheenville 1/30 (MH, RH, GL, DL) on a WRS while a light morph was found on another WRS in s. *Armstrong* 2/1 (MMc).

The first and only **American Coot** was spotted 2/21 at KT (TH). **Ring-billed Gull** maxima included an estimated 100 at CC 2/23 (JB), 22 at KT 2/23 (TR) and 22 also at RT 2/28 (MH, RH). Four **Herring Gulls** lingered at CC through 12/4 (MVT) and 2 were at RT 2/28 (MH, RH).

A **Snowy Owl** near Kellersburg 12/28 (EH) was a great find. Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were noted 2/16, one near KT (AB) and the other east of KT (ML). A **Merlin** was spotted near WT 12/1 (MVT). A **Peregrine Falcon** chasing a Rock Pigeon was noted at KT 2/17 (MH, RH).

The farm fields near WT yielded 120 **Horned Larks** 1/22 (MH, RH); by 1/28 (MH, RH) only 80 could be located, and numbers decreased thereafter with three flocks totaling 62 individuals 2/10 (MH, RH). A subsequent trip on 2/17 (MH, RH) produced only 8 larks. Single **Winter Wrens** were listed 12/1 (TR) along the Butler-Freeport Trail and 2/1 (SG) near FP. CC produced 4 very late **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** 12/1 (MVT); 2 were still present there 12/4 (MVT). One **Lapland Longspur** accompanied a flock of 17 Horned Larks near WT 2/10 (MH, RH); 6 was a good count near the same location 2/17 (MH, RH). Six **Snow Buntings** were in a flock of 80 larks near WT 1/28 (MH, RH) but were not reported later. Six **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at CC 1/1 (SG) with last report of one at the same spot 1/19 (TR); another single bird was at RT 2/23 (TR). Two **Eastern Towhees** were found near SGL 105 on 2/1 (DM). A **Fox Sparrow** was noted at CC 12/4 (MVT), the lone report. Four **Common Grackles** were found on a WRS in s. *Armstrong* 2/1 (MM); next 8 returnees occurred 2/14 (SB) w. of McVillie. Nineteen was the high **Brown-headed Cowbird** count 2/15 (TR).

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Beaver County

Locations: Independence Marsh (IND), New Brighton (NB), Rochester (RCH).

As is often the case in *Beaver* in the winter season, birders concentrated nearly all their winter birding effort on the Ohio and Beaver Rivers searching for waterfowl. It was with good reason this year, especially from mid-Jan through the end of the season, when the statewide deep-freeze locked up even the mighty Ohio, leaving precious little open water in the county mostly at the mouth of the Beaver River at RCH, where waterfowl gathered in good numbers. A **Cackling Goose** was at IND 12/6-7 (MV). The top count of **Canada Goose** was made early in the season—130 at IND 12/6 (MV). The peak mid-winter count was perhaps a bit low, 124 at NB 1/24 (MV). Five **Tundra Swans** were at IND 12/6-7 (MV), and 21 were on the Ohio at Industry 12/8 (DR). One or two **Gadwall** were at RCH from 1/30

(MV) through the middle of Feb. **American Wigeon** did not appear until the end of Feb when the ice had at last begun to loosen; 13 were at Industry 2/23 (DR, GR) and 3 were at NB 2/28 (MV). The harsh weather brought many sightings of **American Black Duck** at RCH and along the Beaver River. The top count was just 15 at RCH 2/1 (MV), but sightings of groups up to that number were made all season, especially after the first week of Jan when the first major ice appeared on the rivers. The ice peaked at the very end of Jan, and the gathering of **Mallards** at RCH peaked at the same time; high counts there included 262 on 1/24, 286 on 1/25, and 330 on 2/1 (all MV). A male **Northern Shoveler** was at NB 2/8 (MV). Southbound **Northern Pintails** were still at IND 12/6 (MV) and RCH 12/13 (MV). Two were out on the ice at RCH 1/24-25 (MV), and perhaps the same or different birds were seen on a few dates there until 2/8 (m.ob.). Two late **Green-winged Teal** were at IND 12/7 (DR, GR).

Canvasback began staging at RCH 1/24 when the first bird was spotted (MV). Counts of up to 11 were made for much of Feb, peaking at 24 on 2/21 (m.ob.), a nice total but far short of the record at RCH, which was perhaps a bit surprising considering the extent of the ice in Feb. **Redhead** followed a similar pattern, appearing a bit earlier 1/5 (ER) and peaking at 54 also on 2/21 (MV). The only report of **Ring-necked Duck** was of 18 at Industry 2/23 (DR, GR). Up to 9 **Greater Scaup** were at RCH 1/24-2/23 (MV, et al.). **Lesser Scaup** was seen just twice at the height of the ice 2/7-8 (MV), but 17 appeared at RCH 2/21 (MV), the same day of the largest flocks of **Canvasback** and **Redhead**. It was hard to say how many **White-winged Scoters** were present at and near RCH 1/11-2/16 (m.ob.). It may have been as few as 2 birds that were seen periodically between RCH and NB, but it may have been more. Five were at RCH 2/24 (GR). Up to 5 **Long-tailed Ducks** were also seen occasionally at RCH 1/30-2/23 (MV, GM, TJ, KG). **Bufflehead** and **Common Goldeneye** were present in small numbers at RCH from early Jan through the third week of Feb as well (m.ob.). One or two **Hooded Mergansers** were at NB in mid-Feb, somewhat unexpected in a harsh winter like this. **Common Merganser** was seen mostly at NB in Feb, with a peak count of 18 at the Townsend Dam 2/16 (MV). The only report of **Ruddy Duck** was one at RCH 2/21 (MV).

Pied-billed Grebe wintered in small numbers on the Beaver River between RCH and NB (m.ob.). Often in winters such as this one, this species moves out completely. A single **Horned Grebe** was at RCH 1/11-12 (MV). The **Red-necked Grebe** invasion reached *Beaver*; one was at RCH and NB 2/8-10 (MV), one was at Industry 2/26 (GR), and one was back at NB 2/28 (MV).

First **Turkey Vulture** was over Elwood City 2/14 (DK). One or two adult and an immature **Bald Eagle** were found on the Ohio periodically through the winter, especially around the mouth of Raccoon Creek in Potter Township (MV, ER, SG, KG, TJ). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was over Center Twp. 2/23 (KG, TJ). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen near Little Blue Lake in Greene Twp. 2/11-13 (KG). This species is not often detected in *Beaver* though it likely winters here in years of good movement south. Up to 3 **American Coots** were at RCH and NB from 1/11-2/8 (m.ob.). A **Killdeer** and a **Wilson's Snipe** were seen at a farm seep in Independence Twp. through 1/5 (MV), and two Killdeer were there 1/10 (MV). Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** at RCH 12/15 (MV) were the only ones reported. Considering the massive showing of gulls in downtown Pittsburgh in Jan and Feb, the top count of just 140 **Ring-billed Gulls** at RCH over that time was disappointing. **Herring Gull** peaked at just 20 on 2/8 (MV). An **American Kestrel** was at Independence Twp. 12/28 (ST) and another was seen in northern *Beaver* from the Pennsylvania Turnpike 12/21 (AG). A **Merlin** was spotted at Beaver Falls 1/26 (TJ). The Merlin that periodically wintered in the city of *Beaver* in recent years was not reported. **Peregrine Falcons** were seen occasionally beginning 1/5 (ER). They were often seen on or around the P&LE rail bridge, and a pair was even seen copulating atop the P&LE 2/23 (TJ), but eventually this pair nested again on the underside of the East Rochester Bridge in Monaca. It was found to be a different pair of adults than the original Monaca birds. Further details will be provided in the spring report.

A flock of 80 **Horned Larks** and 45 **Lapland Longspurs** at Janoski's Farm in *Allegheny* was seen spilling over onto the *Beaver* side of the county line 12/28 during the Imperial CBC (GM, ST, DW). A **Brown Creeper** wintered at Economy Borough (KD). Despite the extremely harsh weather, reports to eBird seemed to indicate that **Carolina Wren** managed well enough in the county this winter in at least six different locations. An **American Pipit** was at the farm seep in Independence Twp. 12/15 (MV). That same location had the last 12 **Red-winged Blackbirds** of the season 12/8 (MV), and a major early-season northward push of 500 Red-winged Blackbirds, along with 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** and a **Common Grackle**, 2/23 (GM). These birds were seen on both sides of the *Allegheny/Beaver* line. Ten **Rusty Blackbirds** were also spotted elsewhere in Independence Twp. 12/8 (MV). Two mid-winter **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were at the seep 1/10 (MV).

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Bedford County

No report.

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Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), E. J. Breneman Quarry (BQ), L. Ontelaunee (LO), Christmas Bird Counts: Reading (RCBC 12/15), Bernville (BCBC 12/28), Hamburg (HCBC 12/29).

This very cold and long winter broke no records for temperature or snowfall, but it was among the top ten in cumulative snowfall and was notable for the many days on which the temperature dropped below 10°F. BML and LO were continuously frozen in late Jan and Feb, with ice depth of at least 14 inches at LO.

One, then 7, and finally 10 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were counted at BQ 1/8-13 (m.ob.). **Snow Goose** migration continued into Jan, when flocks from the enormous Lehigh Valley population foraged westward into Berks. Most of these geese moved south when snow accumulated and their roosting sites froze. A **Cackling Goose** was at LO 1/1 (MSI) and one or 2 were occasionally seen at BQ among **Canada Geese** 1/8-20 (m.ob.). A **Canada Goose** wearing a yellow neck collar marked with the code GN6 was with other **Canada Geese** mostly of the interior race at LO 12/25 (RK). This bird was a female banded at an unnamed lake in West Greenland in 2009 and was not reported again until it wintered on Long Island, New York in 2012-13. The LO report was the first for the winter of 2013-14. Interior race **Canada Geese** are fairly recent colonizers of Greenland and researchers are marking birds to learn more about their movements, according to banding coordinator Tony Fox (tfo@dmu.dk). The 51 **Mute Swans** recorded on the CBCs indicate the population size of this exotic in Berks. A few **Tundra Swans** were seen in Dec and Jan, such as 11 in the Oley Valley 1/17 (RK), but there was an increase in late Feb (30 at BQ 2/27 by PM) when migration started.

Seasonal high counts of most of the 20 duck species reported this winter were made in Dec before BML and LO froze. Lingering waterfowl then moved to open water in quarries, limestone springs and fast flowing streams. The best place to see them was BQ, a quarry never more than half frozen that is easily accessible to birders. Early arriving **Wood Duck** pairs were already being reported in mid-Feb (RK, EK, PM, MW). **Gadwalls** wintered at their Moselem Springs Golf Club stronghold, where the seasonal high count was a low 62 on 12/25 (RK). The peak count of **American Black Ducks** was 550 at LO 12/21 (RK) and that of **Mallards** was 1900 at LO 12/1 (RK). The 5 male **Mallard x American Black Duck** hybrids at LO 12/25 spanned the range of plumage variation from a bird that most resembled a **Mallard** to one that most resembled an **American Black Duck** (RK). A **Mallard x Northern Pintail** hybrid drake seen at BQ 1/19 (SH) was well described. There are at least two previous Berks records of this hybrid: a drake seen at LO 4/3/1953 and another that wintered at Reading Public Museum park 10/14/1964 to 4/17/1965. Up to 10 **Northern Shovelers** were among the most colorful ducks wintering at BQ 1/6-2/28 (m.ob.). All 5 native **Aythya species** contributed to the long running waterfowl show at BQ. **Redheads** were prominent, with up to 20, mostly drakes, seen on some days during the period. One to 3 **Long-tailed Ducks**, **Buffleheads**, and **Common Goldeneyes** also made appearances at BQ at various times. Nine **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at the Peters Creek inlet at LO 2/19 (RK). **Ruddy Ducks** wintering at BQ sometimes numbered 100 (SH), but most counts were in the 20s and 30s.

The last **Common Loon** of the season was at BML 1/6-7 (RK, JS). One or 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** wintered at BQ, and 4 **Horned Grebes** were seen there 1/10 (KH, KL). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at the Peters Creek inlet at LO 2/16-22 (m.ob.). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** at LO 12/8 (RK) were the last of the fall season.

Dozens of **Black Vultures** and hundreds of **Turkey Vultures** were still using roosts in mid-Jan, but numbers dropped during the snowy deep-freeze in Feb. **Bald Eagles** seemed largely to stay put. The resident pair at LO ate ducks and geese on the ice. Twelve (4 adults and 8 immatures) scavenged dead chickens at a farm east of Shartlesville 1/19 (MW). Two **Northern Harriers** were found on each of the 3 CBCs and a few birds

lingered until mid-Jan in good grassland habitat at BML and Pheasant Valley Farm near Robesononia, but only one was reported in Feb. Two adult **Northern Goshawks** migrated past North Lookout, Hawk Mt. Sanctuary 12/30 (LG). Two other goshawks checked bird feeders, a juv. in Reading 12/5 (MS) and an adult in Bern Twp. 1/25 (JS). Nine **Red-shouldered Hawks**, an unusually large winter number, were reported from widely separated locations in Jan and Feb (m.ob.). There were 6 reports of **Rough-legged Hawks** 12/20-2/16 (RF, KG, RK, KL, MSI, LS), but the only bird reported more than once was a light morph male at Yellow House 2/12-16. A **Golden Eagle** displayed all its field marks as it soared among **Turkey Vultures** in Albany Twp. 2/14 (BB). A cumulative total of 8 **Merlins**, a high number, appeared on the 3 CBCs, and the seasonal high count of birds wintering at BML was 4 on 2/20 (JS). There were 5 reports of **Peregrine Falcons** hunting in farmland 1/17-2/16 (KG, RK, PM, MW).

The wintering **American Coot** flock at BQ numbered 10-50 Dec-Feb (m.ob.). The few wintering **Killdeer** and **Wilson's Snipe**, forced into the few unfrozen seeps and springs, were somewhat easier to find than in more open winters. Six snipe in the Oley Valley (RK) and 6 near Five Locks (MW) 2/23 may have been early migrants. Because BML froze early, gulls did not stage there in the usual winter numbers. One or 2 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at BML, BQ, and LO 12/7-1/12 (RK, KL, MSI). A first winter **Iceland Gull** was at BML 1/6 and 1/12 (KL, MSI, PJW). A **Glaucous Gull** was at BML 1/20 (MW). One to 4 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, the normal winter number, were seen at BML and LO 12/1-1/20 (m.ob.). Only 2 **Great Black-backed Gulls** were seen a few times at BML 1/2-25, and one was at BQ 2/25 (PM).

A **Short-eared Owl** was seen near Virginville 12/20 (RF) and one to 3 were seen in the rough grassland habitat at Pheasant Valley Farm near Robesononia 1/6-12 (m.ob.). The historic **Snowy Owl** irruption that hit Berks in late Nov reached its peak in number of birds in Dec and Jan. Reports gleaned from various sources indicate that 16 owls may have been seen Nov-Mar, most during the peak movement in Dec and Jan, but there is a high probability of duplicate sightings. As elsewhere in the state, the majority of birds were heavily barred immatures, with whiter birds in the minority. Four owls that had apparently settled into winter hunting territories continued to be seen intermittently in Feb and Mar. The longest observed bird, an imm female first seen by local residents perched on houses near Lyons about late Nov, was trapped, banded, and released 12/22, when it was found to be in healthy condition (LF, SF, TK). It was fairly regularly seen in the area until late Mar, when it was unfortunately struck and killed by a car. The specimen was retrieved (*vide* SW). This was the largest recorded **Snowy Owl** irruption in Berks since 1945, and may have been the largest ever recorded.

Both female **Rufous Hummingbirds** banded last fall stayed into Jan. The Stony Creek bird left 1/4 with a full fat load. The Shillington bird left 1/8 after having survived night temperatures near 0°F with a -24°F wind chill (*vide* SW). Three resident groups of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported. The Bastian Rd. site near Bowers held 3 birds 1/12 (MW) and at least one through Feb (mob.). Two birds first seen during the BCBC were still on Bordner Rd., Bethel Twp. 2/2, feeding on stored pin oak acorns and hickory nuts (RK). Another Bethel Twp. site had one or 2 birds visiting a feeder in Feb (CC). An **Eastern Phoebe** was briefly seen fluttering at a window in Bern Twp. 1/24 (JS), probably seeking moribund insects. It was not seen before or after that day.

Common Ravens were seen or heard at several places, including 9 at Kernsville Dam, Hamburg 1/14 (KG) and 3 scavenging dead chickens at a farm near Shartlesville 1/17 (MW). **Horned Larks** by the hundreds were already here in mid-Dec and remained abundant through Feb. In this off year for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, one visited a feeder near Bechtelsville 1/13 through the period (JK) and another was in Hamburg 2/27 (KG). **Winter Wrens** were more widely reported than usual, at least 7 of them still present in late Feb (mob.). **Kinglets** virtually disappeared after Jan, but **Hermit Thrushes** were widespread, several of them seen through Feb (RF, SF, RK, PO, MW). A **Gray Catbird** was found on the RCBC and 2 were found on the BCBC. One of the latter was subsequently seen in its berry-laden thicket 1/8 and 1/15 (RH). The BCBC recorded its first **Brown Thrasher**. Another was in Hamburg 1/5 (KG) and one reported near Pikeville 2/17 (WH) may have wintered at a feeder. A few small flocks of **American Pipits** were found in farmland during the winter, the largest (17 birds) in Marion Twp. 2/2 (RK). About 18 **Lapland Longspurs** were reported during the period, one to 4 at a time in **Horned Lark** flocks on maturated fields, mostly in Dec and Jan when birders most actively sought them. **Snow Buntings** were well distributed 12/15-2/19, but flocks were small, the seasonal high count being only 35 birds in the Oley Valley 2/16 (RK).

A **Black-and-white Warbler** whose color and foraging behavior were accurately described (PMi) provided a new species for the BCBC. A **Pine Warbler** was photographed at a feeder in Ruscombmanor Twp. 12/8-9 and 12/26 (P&JW). Most **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported in Dec and

Jan, but a few were seen in Feb (KG, SF, MSI). It became clear from numerous CBC reports that this was to be one of those inexplicably "good years" for **Eastern Towhees**. As these birds found their way to feeders, reports became too numerous for individual citation. One feeder sometimes attracted 4 (P&JW) and many others had at least one or 2. Four **Chipping Sparrows** were found in a roadside sparrow flock on the snowy RCBC (RK, JK). An adult Chippy was seen near Henningsville 12/5 (PS) and another in Windsor Twp. 12/19 (KG). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** that appeared at a Hamburg feeder 1/18 (MW) was much photographed as it continued to visit through the period. **Savannah Sparrows** winter every year but are seldom reported because they skulk in fields. This winter, snow cover forced them to feed on cleared roadsides, where groups of 2 or 3 were regularly seen in open farmland. A few **Fox Sparrows** probably wintered, but a small uptick in numbers in mid- to late Feb may indicate early migration.

Eastern Meadowlark was once almost too common to mention. This winter only 2 were reported, one near Windsor Castle 12/19 (RF) and the other in the Oley Valley 1/19 (KL). A **Rusty Blackbird** foraged in a spring in the Oley Valley 12/15-18 (RK), 3 were on a farm near Bally 12/20 (BD) and one visited a feeder in Ruscombmanor Twp. 2/13 (P&JW). One to 3 **Purple Finches** intermittently visited each of a few feeders during the period. The only reported **Pine Siskin** fed with **American Goldfinches** at a feeder in Mt. Penn 2/16 (CR).

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Blair County

Information for this report were obtained primarily from eBird with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (*B&G, 2010*). Two CBCs were held in Blair: the Culp CBC 12/21 and the Lake Raystown CBC (Area 1 only) 12/22. The following uncommon winter species were recorded at five or more locations and will not be discussed further in this report: **Cooper's Hawk, Common Raven, American Robin, and Song Sparrow.**

The only uncommon winter duck observed was **American Black Duck**. Two were spotted 12/22 in Area 1 of the Lake Raystown CBC (DG, NB), and 3 were noted 1/12 at the Monastery Rd. impoundment (MD). Two **Great Blue Herons** were also spotted at the Monastery Rd. impoundment 1/12 (MD). One was seen 1/30 on a WRS in Sinking Valley (MD, MB). Five or 6 **Black Vultures** were observed 2/25 in a flock of approximately 50 **Turkey Vultures** in Tyrone (SB).

Three rare winter **Golden Eagles** were spotted, one each 12/3 on Loop Mtn. (AC), a flyover on 1/26 at Plummer's Hollow (MB), and another flyover 1/30 on a WRS in Sinking Valley (MD, MB). There were also three **Sharp-shinned Hawks** reported. One was spotted 12/27 and again 1/8 at Plummer's Hollow (MB), and another in Altoona 2/14 (DS). A different location in Altoona also hosted one 2/15 (MS); the observer noted that the hawk was a regular visitor to their bird feeders. A pair of adult **Bald Eagles** were noted 1/30 while running a Sinking Valley WRS (MD, MB). Another was spotted 2/9 on the Clover Cr. WRS (GG, DeG). Both **Rough-legged Hawks** reported were present along I-99. One was observed 1/4 northeast of Tyrone (PH), and the other was at exit 52 on 1/26 (AL, JW, RF).

Single **Killdeer** were seen 12/21 on Hoover's Ln. (DG, SuB) and 2/9 on Mill Hill Rd. The only wintering shorebird reported was a trio of **Wilson's Snipe** 2/9 on the Clover Cr. WRS (all GG, DeG). A single **Barred Owl** was heard 1/25 at Plummer's Hollow (MB). A **Belted Kingfisher** was observed 1/9 in Duncansville (LW). Single **Northern Flickers** were spotted 1/4 at Ft. Roberdeau Co. Pk. (MD), 1/16 in Duncansville (LW), and 2/17 in Altoona (LC). Two were reported in a different Altoona location 2/17 (LC). A rare **Northern Shrike** was identified 1/8 in Duncansville (BH).

A few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were spotted in Blair. One was reported 1/16 in Duncansville (LW), and two were noted 2/14 in Altoona (DS). A different location in Altoona had one or two show up 2/14-17 (LC). A

single **Brown Creeper** was spotted intermittently 12/21-1/5 in Plummer's Hollow (CE, MB), where a rare **Winter Wren** was also noted 12/8 (MB). A single rare winter **Hermit Thrush** was also observed there 12/21 and 1/2 (CE, MB). An uncommon winter **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was discovered 2/15 at the bridge over Mary Ann's Cr. (RH).

Three **Red-winged Blackbirds** were noted 1/30 in Sinking Valley. Two **Common Grackles** were identified in the same general area on the same date (both MD). A single bird was spotted 2/16 in Newry (BS). "Multiple large flocks" of **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were spotted 1/30 during a WRS in Sinking Valley (MD, MB). The estimated number of birds was 250. **Purple Finch** was the only reportable winter finch this year. Five were observed 1/16 in Duncansville (LW). A trio of locations in Altoona produced a flurry of Feb. sightings, with 2 noted 2/14 (DS), one on 2/16-17 (LC), and 2 on 2/17 (SM).

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Bradford County

Locations: SE Bradford County Christmas Bird Count: the count area is a circle with a 7.5 mile radius from its center, which is Wyalusing (CBC), Echo Beach Rd. on the south side of the Susquehanna River downriver from Wysox (EBR), Peck Hill (PEH), PA State Gamelands (SGL), Susquehanna River (SUR), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS)

Winter, this year in its traditional form from the "old days", was very cold, snowy, and long. The large numbers of Common Redpolls of last winter were totally absent this season. Although found in much of Pennsylvania, there was only one **Snowy Owl** reported in this county, and that bird seen just once.

There were 8 **American Black Ducks** seen on 12/28 on the CBC in the Wysox vicinity (MB, JoP, JuP, MP), and 15 on 2/4 on the Towanda Creek at the E. Canton Cross Rd. Bridge (LF). On 2/1 a **Redhead** was on the SUR at Towanda (SR). On 2/9 a male **Bufflehead** was on the SUR at Echo Beach (DN). Seventeen **Hooded Mergansers** were seen on 12/28 on the CBC: 7 in the Wysox vicinity (MB, JoP, JuP, MP) and 10 on EBR (DN, KN). Seven **Ring-necked Pheasants** were reported on 12/28 in the CBC count circle (DA, TG, CD, JD, LH FS, AT, RYo).

In keeping with the growing population of **Bald Eagles**, there were numerous reports of this species: on 12/9 there were 2 adults and 2 immatures flying in a group along the SUR at Quick's Bend (DB, MB); 9 adults were seen on 12/28 in the CBC count circle (MBo, MBu, DBu, SG, JH, FH, JoP, JuP, MP, RL, DN, KN, BW, RY); on 1/11 9 adults, 2 immatures and one subadult were observed on the Bald Eagle Mid-Winter Survey along the SUR from Hornbrook to the Terrytown Boat Launch (DA, CB, EB, TC, MD, RG, TiL, ToL, WL, JP); on 1/21 an immature was circling over Rt. 153 outside Canton (LF); from 1/16-23 four were exhibiting aerial courtship interaction at EBR (DN); on 1/25 one was at the SUR at Towanda (SR); on 1/28 an adult was flying upstream on the south side of the SUR by the Wysox bridge (TG); on 1/30 two adults feeding (probably on fish discarded by ice fishermen) on the frozen ice shelf on the SUR upriver from the Wyalusing river bridge (DC); on 1/30 an immature was circling high over the intersection of Rt. 6 and Wyalusing New Albany Rd (TG); on 2/1 three were at the SUR at Towanda (SR); and on 2/4 three immatures were feeding on the ice shelf on the west side of the SUR just n. of the Wyalusing bridge (TG).

On 12/10, 2 **Northern Harriers** landed in a field in Macedonia (s. of Wysox) (TG). A total of 3 were observed on 12/28 on the CBC: one along River Rd (Standing Stone vicinity), one in the northern section of Tamarack Pond, and one on Red Rock Rd. overlooking the SUR (MB, JoP, JuP, MP). On 1/25 one was seen on Woodside Rd. (SR). Welcome reports were a juvenile **Northern Goshawk** 1/6 and an adult 1/25, both at Peck Hill (Av, GV). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen on the CBC: one on Fisk Rd close to Crane Swamp (DG); and one near the intersection of Phil McGovern and Johns Rds (ne of Rummerfield (MB, JoP, JuP, MP); three (2 light, one dark morph) were observed 2/11 on WRS in northwestern Bradford (BL); on 2/13 a dark morph was near E. Smithfield (LH); and 2/25 one was at the Chemung River, Sayre (DP). The most exciting bird of the season, and of the CBC, was a second year **Golden Eagle** 12/28 at Jackson Rd, near Laceyville (JD, AT). Seven **American Kestrels** were seen on 12/28 in the CBC (DA, MBo, DB, MBu, TG, SG, DG, LH, JH, FH,

RL, JoP, JuP, MP, BW, RYo); and two 1/17 in fields north of Towanda (JR). Another delightful sighting was a **Peregrine Falcon** 2/11 catching a Mourning Dove at a bird feeder on Church St. Athens (IW).

A **Ring-billed Gull** was seen 1/13 at Burlington (RY). Twelve (a good number) **Eastern Screech-Owls** were observed in the CBC circle 12/28 (SG, DG, JH, RL, BW). Keeping up with rest of the state, a **Snowy Owl** was reported (but not confirmed by other observers) 1/19 open fields near the Fellowship Bible Church on Mud Creek Rd, south of Troy (SH).

Right up there with the Golden Eagle sighting, a **Northern Shrike** was seen on the CBC 12/28 near the SGL 172 maintenance buildings (DG). Hundreds of **Horned Larks** (with growing numbers of **Snow Buntings** mixed in) were on Seeley Rd from 11/23-2/4 (LF); on 2/18, 50 (mixed with Snow Buntings) were at Peck Hill (AV, GV). On 2/15 a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at Ferguson Circle, east of Canton (SM). A **Northern Mockingbird** was seen 12/28 in the southern section of the CBC circle (DG), and one was at Jacob St., Sayre 2/5 (KJ). Quite unusual were six **American Pipits** 3/1 at McFadden Rd. near Canton (LF). A lone **Field Sparrow** was observed 12/28 in the northeast section of the CBC circle (RL). A few **Snow Buntings** were mixed in with hundreds of Horned Larks on Seeley Rd from 11/23-1/21, by 2/4 the Snow Bunting numbers were also in the hundreds on Seeley Rd, near E. Canton (LF); on 2/6 30 were flying low over large fields at Macedonia, a little south of Wysox (TG). A basic plumaged male **Indigo Bunting** was seen at a feeder with goldfinches 2/24 on Wilawanna Rd, Sayre (MZ). Another bird hardly ever seen during the winter was an **Eastern Meadowlark** 1/7 in Troy (RYo). Also unusual during the winter was a **Common Grackle** during the CBC 12/28 at EBR (DN, KN). Thirty-five **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were seen 12/28 in the north section of the CBC circle (MB, JoP, JuP, MP). Fourteen **Purple Finches** were observed 12/28 throughout the CBC circle (DG, DN, KN), one was seen 1/28 at Jacob St. Sayre (KJ), and a pair 2/14 and a single male 2/15-17 were at Peck Hill (AV, GV).

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Bucks County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Central Bucks CBC (C-CBC), Southern Bucks CBC (S-CBC), Upper Bucks-Montgomery CBC (U-CBC), Bedminster Twp. (BET), Biles Island (BIS), Churchville Park (CVP), Core Creek Park (CCP), Delaware River (Del. R.), Maple Knoll Farms-Buckingham Twp. (MKF), New Hope (NHP), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT).

December was 0.4°F above normal and both Jan and Feb 5°F below. Precipitation was above normal by about three inches, with two of those in Feb. Significant snow cover and frozen ponds and lakes persisted for much of the period. A very cold and snowy winter brought many surprises for what was anticipated to be a dull season due to the lack of irruptive winter finches. The unprecedented Snowy Owl irruption was surprise enough, although none were reported staying here. The numbers of half-hardy species present in general and detected at feeders due to the snow were believed to be very exceptional for such an extreme winter. The freeze drove unusual numbers of some waterfowl not normally present here in winter to the Delaware R., where the only significant open water could be found. Add a few other surprises and it was not a dull winter. The county tally of 139 species for the season was two above the five-year average.

The Christmas Bird Counts were hampered by weather to one degree or another. The 67th S-CBC 12/14 had a cold cloudy day and a forecast of snow that reduced birder participation compared to last year. There were some snow showers, but the end result was a good 97 species and 114,277 individuals. The 46th U-CBC 12/22 had fewer participants as well due to being postponed from the original date by bad weather. The count day was mild with wind at night that hampered owl detection and some light showers during the day. Small lakes were frozen. The count was 40,370 individuals of 89 species. The 48th C-CBC 12/29 had rain for a good part of the day resulting in less participation but managed 26,534 birds of 83 species. It

should be noted that all three CBCs have part of their count circles outside of Bucks.

As usual, historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson (1998) and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. NOAA weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, New Jersey based on the three-decade climate normal data from 1981 to 2010. Christmas Bird Count details and summaries were supplied by Bob Mercer for the S-CBC, Diane Allison for the C-CBC, and Bill Etter for the U-CBC. A review of eBird entries contributed to this report.

The **Greater White-fronted Goose** at PVP continued from fall until at least 12/14 (AM, KR, KS). Two were at CCP 12/18 (MG), and one was at Hulmville Borough 12/30 (JMI). **Snow Goose** was reported more than usual in all three months, often in unusually high numbers (m.ob.). The first high report was of 2200 at PVP 12/16 (AG). On 1/12, eight sites reported a surge totaling an estimated 8728 birds surprisingly going north (m.ob.). On 2/22-23, again from eight sites, an estimated 4783 mostly going north were tallied (m.ob.). The injured PVP bird was found dead 1/31 (SG) after being here for about three years. It had no wounds and probably succumbed to the bitter cold and lack of food due to snow cover. **Cackling Goose** was reported from multiple sites (m.ob.), with 13 at NSP 12/2 (DFa) and 11 at PVP 12/12 (AM) being high. I suspect the PVP birds were part of the same group at NSP. These high counts are exceptional but not unprecedented. A female **Canada Goose** at PVP noted 1/12-1/16 (AM) was banded as a flightless juv. on the Hudson Strait east of Hudson Bay 8/10/2005 at Baie Brochant, 30 km south of Kangirsuk, Quebec, Canada.

The S-CBC **Mute Swan** count of 44 was consistent with the recent 10-year average. A juv. **Trumpeter Swan** at NSP 12/15 provided the first confirmed occurrence for the county (DFa ph.). This was followed by 3 imm. birds at PWT 2/1-16 (DFa, SS, m.ob., ph.). These were very likely the same birds that had been reported for a few weeks through at least 1/20 at Assunpink WMA in New Jersey 15 miles away. **Tundra Swans** were found more frequently this year. Eight stopped at PVP 12/10 (DFa), and 5 were at BET 12/16 (CR). The C-CBC had 6 on 12/29 at Tincum Twp. One stopped at PVP 12/31-1/1 (ZM ph., HD, JF), 2 were reported in Richland Twp. 1/11 (TJr ph.), one was at CVP 2/1 (HB, FV), and 2 were at PWT 2/23 (DFa).

Dabbling ducks were driven out of most areas by the freeze. The highest counts were in the southern part of the county, as usual, before the worst of the ice occurred. Low compared to recent winters, 3 **Wood Ducks** at CVP 12/1 (FP), 2 at PVP 12/26 (PS), and 3 on the C-CBC 12/29 were the only reports before a likely returning bird was at CVP 2/22 (VD). **Gadwall** had a very good tally of 250 on the S-CBC, almost eight times the long term average.

Frozen lakes to the north brought better numbers of diving ducks that are normally scarce or not here at all in winter. Three **Canvasbacks** were at PVP 1/8 (KS), followed by the highest counts of 18 on 1/12 and 8 on 1/15 (AM). At least 14 more were reported from five sites along the southern Delaware R. between 1/8 and the end of the period (DFa, MG, AM, FW, SW). **Redhead** was noted at about 11 sites starting 12/12, with almost daily reports from multiple sites along the Delaware R. after 1/5 (m.ob.). Most counts were in the low single digits. Higher counts were 10 at PVP 12/12(AM), 8 at PVP 12/14 (KR), and 19 at Warner Lake at PWT 1/26 through the end of the period (DFa). Only 21 **Ring-necked Ducks** were on the S-CBC 12/14, but many gathered at an open spot in the ice at Warner Lake later, with 85 there 2/12 (AM). **Greater Scaup** outnumbered **Lesser Scaup**, which is unusual here. **Greater Scaup** was reported most of the period from at least 13 sites, but reports decreased after 2/10 (m.ob.). Higher counts were 10-15 from 2/1-2/8 at Uhlerstown (PC, DFa), 14-17 from 2/8-10 at Washington Crossing (MG, DFa), 12 south of Washington Crossing 2/9 (MG), and 15 south of BIS 2/8-10 (SW). Two on the C-CBC at PVP (SG) provided only the second occurrence.

A **White-winged Scoter** was at PWT 12/7 (DFa) during its normal migration window. Not normal were numbers arriving in late Jan into Feb due to the freeze to the north. They lingered on the Delaware R.. Five were north of Washington Crossing at the end of Jan (JMr), one was near Tullytown 2/8 (DFa), and one was at Morrisville 2/25-27 (RF, MH, ML). South of BIS, two were first reported 2/8 (SW) followed by 5 on 2/10 (SW) and 7 during 2/16-23 (DFa). **Long-tailed Duck** made a very good showing, with a total of at least 47 birds being reported on 13 dates at six sites (m.ob.). Only 4 were reported in Jan and 3 in Feb. The best count was an unusually high 18 at PVP 12/12 (AM). **Bufflehead** was common at favored feeding sites along the Delaware R., with some high site counts being 45 on the S-CBC 12/14, 75 on 2/8 at Uhlerstown (DFa), 85 at Mud Island 2/12 (AM), and 34 at NHP 2/22 (AM). **Common Goldeneye** also appeared in good numbers on the Delaware R., with high counts being 44 at Morrisville 12/28 (AB), ~60 at Uhlerstown 2/8 (DFa), 22 below Washington Crossing 2/9 (MG), ~30 at BIS 2/23 (DFa), and 75 at NHP 2/28 (BH). Ten provided an unusual high count away from the Delaware R. at PVP 12/17 (AM). The county's sixth occurrence of **Barrow's Goldeneye** was provided by a

female at Morrisville 1/1, and another female at Uhlertown 2/8-16 added the seventh (both DFa, no doc.).

Common Merganser numbers varied as the ice cover changed, but high counts were an estimated 2000 at PWT 12/28 (IG) and 2930 at PVP 1/2 (CR, KG). A total of 26 **Red-breasted Mergansers** was reported on eight dates 12/4-2/23 at nine sites (m.ob.). Seventeen were in Dec, one in Jan, and 8 in Feb. The high counts were 8 at PVP 12/4 (KR) and 5 at CCP 12/24 (DMc). **Ruddy Duck** was in lower numbers than usual. Although the S-CBC had 41, which was about equal to the long-term average, there were only reports on six dates in Jan-Feb of mostly 2 to 4 birds each (DFa, MG, KG, SS, AU). The exception was 10 on 2/13 below BIS that may have been spring scouts (DFa).

Wild Turkey was found only on the C-CBC 12/29, when 75 were tallied, which was more than two times the recent 10-year average. A **Red-throated Loon** was at Lake Towhee Park 12/6 (PT). Possibly the same bird moved to nearby NSP 12/7-11 (DFa, PC, KR, SG). One or 2 **Common Loons** lingered at NSP 12/11-1/1 (SG, PC, m.ob.). Two were found on the S-CBC 12/14, and one was at PWT 1/1 (DFa). **Pied-billed Grebe** numbers were low, with the highest report of 10 on the S-CBC 12/14. Other reports were of one to 3 birds at four sites up until 12/16 (m.ob.). One was at Falls Twp. Community Park 1/19 (DH). **Horned Grebes** were only at two sites in Dec, and most reports were of one bird, with the high counts being 9 at NSP 12/14 (PC) and 3 at PVP 12/17 (AM). The only later reports were one at PVP 12/29 (SG) and one at Morrisville 2/27 (MH, ML). The ice up north drove **Red-necked Grebe** to the Delaware R. in Feb in the high numbers only recorded in rare winters like this. One was at NHP 2/1 (AM, JMI), and 2/12 (BH). One was south of BIS 2/8 (SW), with 2 there 2/23 (DFa). Two stopped at Lumberville 2/9 (SC, FG), one was at Bristol 2/10 (BK), and 6 were at Mud Island 2/10 (FW), with one there 2/12 (AM).

After one at NSP 12/14 (PC), all **Double-crested Cormorant** reports were from the southern part of the county. There were 18 on the S-CBC 12/14, which was about average. Low single digit counts continued until 1/11 (m.ob.). None were reported again until one was noted at Mud Island 2/8 (DFa) for the only Feb report. **Great Cormorant** has increased here in winter, with the S-CBC long-term average about 5 and the recent 10-year average now 23. This year's count was 35. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Silver Lake Park 1/1 (DFa) was the only report.

The vulture roost in Haycock Twp. had about 60 **Turkey Vultures** and 20 **Black Vultures** 1/19 (PT). A **Golden Eagle** at NSP 12/22 provided the first ever for the U-CBC (JG, HE ph.). Possibly the same bird was reported there 1/2 (MH, ML). A CBC total of 3 **Northern Harriers** was well below average but singles were reported through the season from at least six sites (m.ob.). The highest report was 3 in BET 12/31 (DFa). The Mid-Winter **Bald Eagle** Survey resulted in 3 between Riegelsville and Erwinna 1/9 (AR, BV), 29 over a 15 mile route at the PWT 1/10 (AJ), and 3 at PVP 1/11 (AM). The total included 5 adults, 29 immature, and one not determined. The S-CBC shattered the record high, with 56 including 24 imm. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported from at least 16 sites continuing the increasing trend of wintering birds (m.ob.). The total CBC count was lower than last year with 7, but still above the average of about 4. There was a very good number of **Rough-legged Hawk** reports. One was at Solebury Twp. 12/13 (MR), and one was tallied in the CVP area for the S-CBC 12/14. The last report for that count was in 2003. Jan produced reports from four more sites, with birds continuing at two sites into Feb (PC, DFa, JH, CR, AM, JMI). The high single day report from three of those sites 1/11 was 5 birds (DFa).

Two **Virginia Rails** were at Quakertown Swamp 12/7 for the only report (CR, LE). The **American Coot** count on the S-CBC was 393, about 1.7 times the long-term average. After that the two highest counts in the small area of open water at PWT were 101 and 103 from 2/7-12 (AM, SS).

The CBC total for **Killdeer** was only 6 compared to 77 last year. However, despite the freeze and snow, they were reported from at least nine sites on 20 days throughout the period. Most were single birds, but 4 were at Bradford Dam 12/2 (GJ) and 4 were at CCP 2/24 (BK). **Wilson's Snipe** was missed on the CBCs, but one to 4 were detected at Bradford Dam 12/24-1/12 (GJ). A displaying **American Woodcock** was anticipating spring 2/23 at Pennsbury Manor (DFa) for the only report.

Bonaparte's Gull made a good showing, reported on eight days between 12/8 and 1/9 from four sites (m.ob.). The high counts were approximately 74 at PVP 12/13 (AM), and about 53 at NSP the same day (DFa). There was a conservative count of 25 at PVP 12/16 (KG, AU). A **Thayer's Gull** 12/14 was tallied for the S-CBC (RM, no doc.), and one was noted in the same area at PWT 2/2 (DFa, no doc.). Except for reports of probably at least 5 different birds 12/12-1/19 at PVP on seven days (AM, KP, KS), many **Iceland Gull** sightings came from various sites on the lower Delaware R. (m.ob.). The high count away from the river was 3 at PVP 1/16 (AM). A count of 342 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** 12/23 at PVP was the single site high count for the season (DFa). Three **Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull** were reported on the S-CBC 12/14 (TJo, GA). A **Glaucous**

Gull at CCP 12/24 (DMc) was the only one away from the normal Falls Twp. hotspots close to the Delaware R. Three **Herring x Glaucous Gull (Nelson's Gull)** were reported on the S-CBC 12/14 (TJo, GA).

CBC Gull Counts

Species	U-CBC	C-CBC	S-CBC	TOTAL
Bonaparte's Gull	0	0	1	1
Ring-billed Gull	1910	558	5150	7618
Herring Gull	185	69	79577	79831
Thayer's Gull	0	0	1	1
Iceland Gull	0	0	26	26
Ls. Bl.-backed Gull	149	57	162	368
Glaucous Gull	0	0	10	10
Gr. Bl.-backed Gull	6	40	2841	2887
Gull sp.	0	0	100	100
TOTAL	2250	724*	87868	90842

*C-CBC: No evening roost count this year, so numbers are low.

A **Barn Owl** was spotted in Lower Makefield Twp. 12/21 for a now rare winter report (SW). The only confirmed **Snowy Owl** was one that landed on the observers' car roof at Falls Twp. Community Park 12/22 (SB, LK ph.) and spent the rest of the day on the bleachers there observing the parade of birders and non-birders. A third hand report of one sitting on a marina lamppost at NSP sometime during the week of 1/5 was likely correct (*vide* DFa). One was also on a lamppost there in Oct 1983. A bird flying away at New Britain Twp. 2/9 was cautiously reported (TP) but probably correct. There were no **Barred Owls** reported on the three CBCs, but one was in Tinicum Twp. 2/11 (PC). One was found dead with a broken wing in Chalfont 2/26, where detected most years for at least two decades (MS). As reported last year, after early disappearance of **Long-eared Owls** at the PVP roost site possibly due to the unacceptable numbers of birders/photographers, restricted area signs were posted at the recommendation of the Game Commission. However, some skilled birders ignored the signs, but no owls were reported. Although numbers have varied from year to year, I can't remember a year in decades without owls present there. Only one or two were reported elsewhere in the park starting in mid-Dec (DB, AR). One was at Richland Twp. 1/1, and one was at BET 2/16 (both DFa). A **Short-eared Owl** was at Bedminster Twp. 12/16 (CR), and one or 2 were seen there on multiple dates through at least 2/16 (DFa). One **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was tallied on each of the U-CBC 12/22 and C-CBC 12/29. One was at Richland Twp. 1/1 (DFa), one was at Tinicum Twp. 12/3 (PC), and one was at Nockamixon Twp. 2/1 (PC).

The **Belted Kingfisher** total on the CBCs was 58, about 1.5 times the long-term average. With the freeze, some hardy birds remained, with the number of birds reported in eBird only 11 in Jan and 6 in Feb (m.ob.). Another surprise this winter, acorn supplies were good at sites that attracted unusual wintering **Red-headed Woodpeckers**. The adult at PVP continued from the fall, but the juv. with it vanished in late Nov (m.ob.). However, a young bird in significantly more advanced molt was found about a mile away at PVP 11/29 (SST, ph.) and assumed to be a different bird. Both birds remained through the period (AR). Two were recorded at Hilltown Twp. 12/22 (MR) for the U-CBC, for only the second count occurrence in 12 years. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** made a better showing on the CBCs this year, with 48 compared to 19 last year, about 1.4 times the 10-year average.

The now very low **American Kestrel** CBC counts of recent years may have been even worse due to the weather, with 10 only 10% of the long-term average. There were about 8 **Merlin** reported (m.ob.). A **Peregrine Falcon** was tallied at BET 1/17 for the first occurrence in the 14 year history of the Winter Raptor Survey route centered south of NSP (JMI, AM).

One **Eastern Phoebe** at Kemper Park 1/13 was the only report (GJ). The monthly high counts for **Horned Lark** at MKF were 72 on 12/25, 103 on 1/4, and 86 on 2/15-16 (RS, VS). Other nice high counts were 140 on 12/15 at Nockamixon Twp. (DFa), 56 at Milford Twp. 12/22 (BE), ~250 at Hilltown Twp. 1/4 (DFa), and 54 at Shady Brook Farm 1/26 (MG). The 10-year average for **Fish Crow** on the S-CBC is 1790, with a count of 701 this year. The first **Common Raven** ever reported in the long history of the S-CBC was a welcome addition 12/14 (DFa). One or 2 were reported in the Falls Twp. area on multiple dates (JH). These reports further support the assumption that there is a resident pair there. In all, reports came from seven townships (m.ob.). Two sites are known breeding sites.

A two-day break in the cold weather brought the first **Tree Swallows** to NHP 2/24 (BH). The lack of an irruption of **Black-capped Chickadee** into our area this winter did not deter reports, although probably the lowest ever. There were 15 on the U-CBC 12/22, and one each on the C-CBC and S-CBC. One at Revere was detected in mid-Jan and was noted on several dates thereafter (DFa). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was all but absent this winter, with only the U-CBC having 2. After that one was at NSP 2/2 (KP)

and 2/16 (DFa), and 2 were at CVP 2/22 (PS). The total CBC counts for **Brown Creeper** of 43 and **Winter Wren** at 38 were again above average but not at the high levels of last year. There were many eBird entries throughout the period. The **Golden-crowned Kinglet** CBC count was 97, again above average but not near last year's number. Contrary to the trend of above average counts in this bitter winter, only 12 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were tallied on the CBCs, and by Feb, only one was entered in eBird.

Also below average, the 334 CBC total for **Eastern Bluebird** was 60% of the recent 10-year average, and the 26 **Hermit Thrushes** were about 85% of the 10-year average. **American Robin** was very visible all winter as supported by 9393 on the CBCs, or about 160% of the 10-year average. As last year, **Gray Catbird** was scarce, with only 6 tallied on the CBCs, although 5 of those were on the U-CBC and well above average there. Only 9 others were reported (m.ob.). After no reports last year, 3 **Brown Thrashers** were found on the CBCs, and a surprising 18 more were reported spread out through the season (m.ob.). Looking at year-to-year numbers, there may be a downward trend in **Northern Mockingbird** in recent years. The CBC tally of 122 was only 37% of the long-term average.

American Pipit is found on CBCs infrequently. The sum of 44 on the S-CBC and C-CBC was not significant except for the fact that there were only three other reports all season, with one at PVP 12/16-24 (KG, KS, AU), one in BET 1/16 (DFa), and one at MKF (RS). After being near absent last winter, the 468 **Cedar Waxwings** on the CBCs were about 120% of the long-term average. However, as the season progressed, they vanished by mid-Jan and only one bird was reported in Feb at Doylestown (DS). **Snow Bunting** is infrequently found on the CBCs; the 32 on the S-CBC 12/14 was only the fourth time in the last 10 years for that count, with the other three times being only one bird (GA, TJo). Three were at Shady Brook Farm 1/4 (MG), 7 were at MKF 1/4 followed by one there 2/9 and 3 there 2/8-20 (all RS). A **Lapland Longspur** on the C-CBC provided the second occurrence for the count (JT) and only report for the season.

A male **Pine Warbler** that stayed all season was first noted 11/19 in Lower Makefield Twp. benefiting from a homemade suet mix (CF ph.). The observer says she first reported it to the Great Backyard Bird Count seven years ago in 2008, but believes it may have been present two to three years before that! The CBC total of 202 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was more than twice last year's count and about 120% of the long-term average. Small numbers remained through the season (m.ob.).

In general, after the snow cover became permanent, large numbers of sparrows gathered at feeders. **Eastern Towhee** CBC numbers were not record breaking, but the total of 45 was 320% of the long term average. Others reported at feeders and in general were exceptional, partially due to the Great Backyard Bird Count 2/14-2/17. The whopping total was at least 97 individuals (m.ob.). **American Tree Sparrow** was not as numerous as last year, with only 82 on the CBCs, or 20% of the long-term average. The downward trend over recent years is not likely to change. **Chipping Sparrow** apparently didn't tolerate the colder winter, with only one on the CBCs. There were reports from only five sites mostly of one to 3 birds, with the high count 10 at Bowman's Hill 12/12 (MG). One reported at MKF 2/5-2/22 (RS, m.ob.) and another at Nockamixon Twp. 2/16 (DFa) provided the only Feb reports.

A **Vesper Sparrow** at MKF 2/4 through the month was a rare winter report (RS). The **Savannah Sparrow** S-CBC total was 32, many times the average. Other than CBCs, they were only reported at three sites, with 12 at PVP 1/25 (AM) and 19 at MKF 2/15 (RS) being the monthly highs. **Fox Sparrow** again seemed to be concentrated in the lower county based on the CBCs, with 47 of the 49 on the S-CBC. The total was almost four times the long-term average for all three CBCs and eight times the average for the S-CBC. Other than the CBCs, thirteen sites reported them in low single digit numbers (m.ob.). A rare winter **Lincoln's Sparrow** was in Warwick Twp. 1/22 (JT, no doc). A count of 35 **Swamp Sparrows** on the U-CBC 12/22 matched the previous high count and contributed to a total CBC count of 58, about twice the long-term average.

Probably the rarest species reported in the county this season was a male **Scarlet Tanager** in NHP feeding on food put out on a third floor windowsill! It arrived just before Christmas and vanished after 1/16 (RV ph.). This is rare anywhere in the United States in Jan. Other Jan historical eBird entries total only 3, all at the southern border of the U.S. Other Pennsylvania winter records include one at feeders for two weeks until 12/28/1955 near Lewisburg per *Birds of Pennsylvania* (McWilliams and Brauning, 2000) and another photographed at feeders in Nazareth Twp, Northampton County 12/10/2004 per *Pennsylvania Birds* Vol. 19, No. 1. It certainly was not a good winter for a bird that winters in a warm climate to be in *Bucks*. Last year a female **Baltimore Oriole** wintered at feeders in Middletown Twp. An adult male arrived at the same feeders this year 12/23 and probably the same female as last year was first spotted 12/25 (DP). By the end of the season, they had consumed almost 130 ounces of Smucker's strawberry

preserves. Marmalade, grapes, and raisins were also offered but not used. By season's end, large amounts of "finch" bird seed was also a favorite. Another female arrived at feeders in NHP before Christmas and survived until 1/20 (DB ph.). Once fairly common on CBCs, **Eastern Meadowlark** was missed again this year. One was in BET 12/7 (DFa) and one was at Tyler State Park 2/4 (BK). A Nockamixon Twp. site had 4 on 12/1, with one remaining until 2/9 (PC, DFa). Some good counts for **Rusty Blackbird** were reported. There were 43 at Quakertown Swamp 12/7, a regular spot for them (CR, LE). About 60 were at Oxford Valley Park 1/19 (DPv, vt., vr.). There were reports from nine other sites reporting one to 7 birds each (m.ob.). MKF had the high count for **Common Grackle**, with 3500 on 1/12 (RS). A good food source in BET resulted in large numbers of wintering blackbirds. On 1/9, 1100 was believed to be a close estimate of the number of **Brown-headed Cowbirds** there (CR, AM).

Purple Finch was very scarce, with a total of only 13 on the CBCs. There were also reports from 11 other sites with a grand total of only 23 birds (m.ob.). After only one report of **Pine Siskin** in the fall season, there was one report in Upper Makefield Twp. 12/10 (JMa). The **American Goldfinch** CBC total of 253 was even lower than last year's low, and only about 40% of the 10-year average.

EXOTICS: Two **Egyptian Geese** were at PVP 2/1 (AM).

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Butler County
No compiler.

Cambria County

Locations: Chest Springs (CP), Patton (PA), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG).

All waterfowl sightings were from PG during Dec before the ice arrived. **Tundra Swans, Mallards, Gadwalls, Long-tailed Ducks, Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Ducks, Buffleheads, and Hooded and Red-Breasted Mergansers** were all present (DG, JS). **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes** were seen. A male **Northern Harrier** was at CP in Dec (DG). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at PG throughout the period (DG). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** was seen in Johnstown and the photo appeared in a local newspaper. A lone **Short-eared Owl** at CP 1/24 was the only sighting this period (DG). A **Northern Shrike** was at PG 2/4 (DG, JS). **Horned Larks** were seen in good numbers at CP (DG, JS). A flock of 40 **Snow Buntings** was at PA 1/26 (DG).

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Cameron County
No compiler.

Carbon County
No compiler.

Centre County

Locations: PSU Arboretum (ARBOR), Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Colyer L. (COL), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), Toftrees pond and game lands (TOF).

Information for this report was obtained primarily from the State College Bird Club listserv and eBird <<http://ebird.org>> with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010, Stone Mountain Publishing, State College, Pennsylvania (B&G, 2010). Two official and one unofficial CBCs were held; Bald Eagle State Park 12/29 and State College 1/5, which had been rescheduled due to bad weather. The as yet unofficial Penn's Valley CBC was held 12/19; this was its second consecutive year of reporting.

The following uncommon or rare winter species were reported at five or more locations and will not be discussed further in this report: **Snow Goose** (rare), **Gadwall**, **American Black Duck**, **Greater Scaup** (rare), **Great Blue Heron**, **Black Vulture**, **Turkey Vulture**, **Golden Eagle**, **Northern Harrier**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **Cooper's Hawk**, **Bald Eagle**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Rough-legged Hawk**, **American Coot**, **Killdeer**, **Wilson's Snipe**, **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, **Belted Kingfisher**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Northern Flicker**, **Merlin** (rare), **Common Raven**, **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren**, **Hermit Thrush**, **American Robin**, **Gray Catbird** (rare), **Snow Bunting** (rare), **Song Sparrow**, **Swamp Sparrow** (rare), **White-crowned Sparrow**, **Red-winged Blackbird** (rare), **Common Grackle**, **Brown-headed Cowbird**, and **Purple Finch**.

A rare **Cackling Goose** showed up in a flock of **Canada Geese** at the Duck Pond 1/4-2/23 (SB, et al.). A single bird, possibly the same bird, was also noted 1/5 in Linden Hall (JD, DB), and at the Axemann Rd. pond 1/17-2/4 (AL, et al.). **Tundra Swans** made rare appearances, with 30 noted 12/21 in Milesburg (BoS), and 12/26 on the Allegheny Front Trail and Shingle Mill Trail (NiB). Three were spotted 12/28 at BESP (MB), and half a dozen were observed 1/26 on Benner Pike (BA).

Many rare or uncommon duck species were noted this winter. Two rare winter **Wood Ducks** flew over the Axemann Rd. pond 1/10 (AF). A few rare winter **Northern Shovelers** were present 12/6-1/7 at the Duck Pond (AL, et al.). The Duck Pond continued to be a haven for rare winter ducks with up to 3 **Northern Pintails** noted 12/11-2/22 (AL, et al.). Two pintails were also observed 1/11 in Cedar Creek along Linden Hall Rd. (AL, AF), and a single bird was noted 2/22 on Rte. 45 near Pine Grove Mills (AL, AF, VG). Another rare winter duck, **Green-winged Teal** were spotted at two locations: 4 were seen 12/5 at MMNC (JV) and 2-3 were observed 12/28-2/16 at the Duck Pond (AC, AL, RF).

And the rare winter ducks continued... A male **Canvasback** was photographed 1/25-2/13 at Talleyrand Park (AL, et al.), and 13 were spotted 2/2 at BESP (BoS). A single male was seen 2/22 at the Duck Pond (AP, CE, KE). **Redheads** were also present, with reports 1/1-2/13 from Talleyrand Park (CE, et al.), and 1/4-2/28 from the Duck Pond (JD, et al.). Seven were spotted 2/16 at BESP (JaM), and 13 were observed 2/26 at the Axemann Rd. pond (AL, AF). Up to 4 **Ring-necked Ducks** were admired 12/3-2/24 at the Duck Pond (JV, et al.), and one or 2 were spotted 12/4-12/15 at BESP (MaS). A single male was noted 2/26 at Axemann Rd. pond (AL, AF). As many as 6 **Lesser Scaup** were reported 12/4-15 at BESP (BS, BA), and up to 10 were noted 12/17-26 at the Duck Pond (MB, FM).

Twenty-one **White-winged Scoters** flew over BESP 1/7 (AL, NF, IG, AS), and one was photographed 2/10 at the Duck Pond (TC). It's been at least 37 years since that species was spotted at the Duck Pond (AL). A single male **Black Scoter** was spotted 12/14-15 at BESP (JD, BA). As many as 23 uncommon **Long-tailed Ducks** were photographed 12/7-15 at BESP (JV, et al.). A few uncommon **Buffleheads** were present most of the winter, with up to 13 reported 12/4-2/25 at BESP (BS, et al.). Two were also spotted 2/3 on the Curtin Rd. bridge over Bald Eagle Cr. (AL), and as many as 10 were observed 1/4-2/28 at the Duck Pond (SB, et al.). **Common Goldeneyes** were present throughout the winter, with sightings of 2-7 birds at BESP 12/4-1/11 (JV, et al.) and of 10-11 at the Curtin Rd. bridge over Bald Eagle Cr. 1/25-2/3 (AL, AF). Single birds were observed 2/17 at the Duck Pond (MS) and in Spring Cr. Canyon 2/28 (TA).

Up to 20 **Hooded Mergansers** wintered at BESP 12/4-2/25 (TS, et al.) and a single bird was observed 1/14-2/12 at the Duck Pond (BV, DeG). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were also present with up to 16 noted 12/7-2/23 BESP (JD, et al.). One was spotted 1/11-2/24 at the Duck Pond (AC, et al.) and another at the Axemann Rd. pond 2/22-26 (AL, AF, CK, VG). As many as 4 **Ruddy Ducks** were noted at BESP 12/7-27 (JV, et al.), and one was observed 2/11-12 at the Duck Pond (CE, et al.).

A single late migrating **Common Loon** was at BESP 12/4 (MaS), and one or 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** were present at the same location 12/4-13 (BS, et al.). **Horned Grebes** were also spotted, with up to 5 observed 12/4-1/15 at BESP (BS, et al.), and one or 2 photographed 1/27-29 at the Duck

Pond (IG, et al.). A few very rare winter **Red-necked Grebes** were also spotted. One or two were at BESP 12/4-16 (JM, et al.), and a single bird was photographed 1/24-26 at the Axemann Rd. pond (AL, et al.). Another single bird was observed 2/3 at the Curtin Rd. bridge over Bald Eagle Cr. (AL).

Five **Sandhill Cranes** spent much of the winter along Tadpole Rd. in the vicinity of the Whitehall Rd. intersection. They were photographed and admired by many birders 1/2-2/28. These were probably the same birds reported nearby in Pine Grove Mills 1/18 (NEK). Reports of **American Woodcock** were of one each at the German Settlement Grasslands (SGL 100) 12/16 (AL) and Walnut Springs Park 1/12 (MR). Although up to 25 rare winter **Bonaparte's Gulls** were present at BESP 12/6-1/7 (MiD, et al.), a high of 100 was noted 12/15 (AL). As many as 30 **Herring Gulls** were photographed at the same location 12/4-1/2 (BS, et al.).

A rare **Barn Owl** was found on the Penns Valley CBC 12/18. A few **Barred Owls** were present with most being observed at SCO; one was noted there 12/7 (CE), and four were heard 1/17 (JD). A single bird was counted 12/29 on Bullit Run during the Bald Eagle SP CBC (DB, NB). Other single birds were noted 1/17 at Rock Springs (JD) and 2/18 near SkyTop (IG). The female **Rufous Hummingbird** continued into the bitterly cold winter weather, reported 12/9-1/7 in Lemont (AF, et al.). The property owner kept the two feeders warm with a heat lamp and a heated water bowl apparatus (WL).

How many Snowy Owls were present in Centre this winter? Excluding the one spotted the end of November, at least 11, and very possibly more. "The Rockview Prison/University Park Airport/199/Nittany Mall region seemed to be the main hunting areas for the owls that spent the winter in the State College area, with numerous sightings ranging from one to 3 birds simultaneously, including one that was captured [at the University Park Airport] and removed to Perry County by Scott Weidensaul" (AL). However, they were spotted all over, with one being reported at Woodward Gap 1/4 (Penns Valley Conservation Assn.), and another photographed at the Rusnak Hill reclaimed strip-mine 12/7 (AL, AS, IG). Unfortunately, one was struck by a car on I-99 near the Penn State University Park campus 1/29. Although the area wildlife rehabilitator was notified and the bird immediately taken to a vet, the owl ultimately died from its injuries the following day (RG).

A rare winter **Peregrine Falcon** was at COL 2/24 (JV). A **Northern Shrike** was at BESP 1/12 (CE, KE), and a second bird was observed 2/2 at the Mid-State Airport (JV). **Fish Crows** are common around State College, but a single bird was spotted 12/29 in Zion (JD).

One or 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were noted 12/1-14 at COL (JWe), and a single bird was recorded 1/5 at BESP (DH). Rare winter **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were reported in four locations: Curtin Wetland 12/4 (BS), BESP 12/6 (MaS), off Lower Brush Valley Rd. 12/11 (JH), and the PSU University Park central campus 2/10 (MB).

There were a couple sightings of **American Pipits**: a dozen were on S. Nixon Rd. 12/3 (AL, AF), and 2 were at BESP 2/3 (AL). Likewise a few rare **Lapland Longspurs** were also noted. A single bird was photographed 1/31 at Whitehall Farms (AL, TS, AF), and one or 2 were observed 2/16 at Fairbrook wetlands (JV). On the same date, 2 were filmed in a flock of Horned Larks on Pine Grove Rd. (CE), and 2 more were located at the PSU Ag Progress Days fields (JV). A couple **Yellow-rumped Warblers** lingered into the winter season. One was identified 12/15 at BESP (MaS), and another was found 12/18 at Windermere Farm (AL, BC).

A couple **Eastern Towhees**, rare during the winter, were observed; one was photographed 12/14-1/31 at TOF (CG), and another was identified 1/5 in Spring Cr. Canyon (NiB, NEK). Two rare winter **Chipping Sparrows** were spotted at MMNC 2/28 (EG, JBe). A few **Field Sparrows** were located during the winter, including one at the Haugh Family Preserve 12/3 (JV), and another at Yeager Hollow Rd. 2/1 (JD). Two were spotted 12/13 at BESP, and one remained there 1/15 (AL). The species was also present in State College 2/15-16 (TMc). **Savannah Sparrows** are rare in the winter, but area birders found a few. One was at COL 12/11 (AL, JW), and one or 2 were present at Whitehall farms 1/10-20 (AL, IG, JV). Another bird was identified 2/14 near Aaronsburg (CVP). Single **Fox Sparrows** were reported 1/2 at ARBOR (RD) and 2/10 at BESP (AK). Five were present 2/16 in Houserville (KaW). Eight to 10 **Pine Siskins** were present from approx. 1/9-16 on Brush Valley Rd. (*vide* JL).

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Chester County

Locations: Atwater Quarry (AQ), Chambers Lake (CL), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Crow's Nest Preserve (CNP), Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), South-Eastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA), Struble Lake (SL).

A season to remember for the extreme cold and layers of snow, the winter of 2013-14 will not soon be forgotten. Record setting sub-zero temperatures, with even lower wind-chill factors, were brought about by a meteorological phenomenon termed the "Polar Vortex" by national forecasters as it swept through the eastern part of the nation numerous times through the season. The Polar Vortex rushed into *Chester*, equipped with atypical and unwelcomed frigid temperatures, resulting in harsh survival conditions. Soon after the New Year, county lakes and other bodies of water sealed up in a tight freeze that lasted the duration of the reporting period. Only the agitated water sources in area sewage lagoons, and one exceptionally deep quarry, remained ice-free. Additionally, lotic water was not always spared of the icing that spread through the region, as some of the smaller runs and creeks were topped in a layer of ice.

A significant ice storm followed a heavy snowfall 2/4 which caused widespread tree damage and power outages, hitting *Chester* particularly hard. Raptors such as **Red-tailed Hawks** and **Bald Eagles** were noticeably near absent during Winter Raptor Surveys run shortly after this event. Within a few weeks, however, all seemed to return to normal and populations were noted to be typical. The lack of ice-free water meant water birds were confined to what was little was available. **Red-necked Grebes** made an excellent showing in the region once the Great Lakes froze over, and they took refuge in open water south of their typical range. **Redheads** were in notably good supply this winter, wherever water was available for them. It goes without saying that the avian stars of this winter were **Snowy Owls**, making an historic irruption into the region, and on many occasions chose *Chester* as a stopover point during their journeys. Other winter highlights included a pair of **Eurasian Wigeons** that appeared on Chambers Lake, a wintering **Virginia Rail**, and remarkably, a very late **Black-throated Green Warbler** photographed at Longwood Gardens in mid-Dec.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** mixed into the gathering of **Canada Geese** at West Vincent Twp. 12/10 was a good find in dwindling light (BQ). Scanning through the geese amassed on the water at Somerset Lake paid off when another White-fronted was picked out of the mix 1/3, remaining through 1/4 (KN, m.ob.). **Ross's Geese** were found on several occasions, including a flyover noticed among **Snow Geese** over Struble Lake 1/12 (AG, TB). Another Ross's was a surprise find among a group Canadas at W. Vincent Twp. 1/18 (BQ, BR, GT, NS, MD). A single Ross's Goose stood out among the throngs of Canada Geese that roost on the lake 1/24 at AQ (BR). It remained there through 1/26 (m.ob.).

A wing-tagged **Trumpeter Swan** was discovered on the first day of the New Year, as it swam in a small pond with some **Mute Swans** near Warwick in northern *Chester* (MC). Interestingly, the same individual, identified as such by the "K46" tagged on its wing, was relocated in the extreme southern part of the county in Chadds Ford 1/21 (DS). The swan retreated from this location once the water froze, but returned as soon as the ice melted, and continued here through the reporting period (m.ob.). Return information from the Bird Banding Lab stated that this swan, determined to be female, was banded and tagged in March 2013 in Ontario, Canada.

The duck highlight of the season was a pair of **Eurasian Wigeons** at CL 12/12 (RR). The pair continued for the day, offering good looks to many that sought after them. The following day, the pair could be seen at nearby Coatesville Res., but were not found thereafter (BR, RR). A drake **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** was found among the ducks on the sewage lagoon at Upper Uwchlan Twp. 12/25 (SS, NF). This same location hosted another male of this sp. the previous winter.

The sleek **Canvasback** is rare in the county most winters, but this year was found in multiple locations where open water was available (m.ob.). **Redheads** stole "best in show" in the duck category due to their widespread appearances and striking plumage. Redheads could be found in most open water from late Dec through the end of the period (m.ob.). A high count was of 11 at Upper Uwchlan Twp. 1/12 (BQ, NS). A great find was a group of 3 drake **White-winged Scoters** at AQ 1/23 (BQ). The following day, the group had grown to 5, but was not reported after 1/24 (WBH, BR). A single drake White-winged Scoter that spent time along the Schuylkill R. in late Feb was seen swimming in *Chester* water 2/20 (AG) and 2/23 (HM). A solo **Long-tailed Duck** was spotted at Struble Lake 1/1 and reported by many birders who visited the lake that day. Another was seen floating on the lake at MCSP 1/3 (BQ, MM, m.ob.). **Common Goldeneyes** collected at AQ, peaking at 20 there 2/3 (BQ). Another "salt water duck" appearing on our area lakes were **Red-breasted Mergansers**, which showed up at CL 12/3 (RR), MCSP 12/29 (BQ), and AQ 2/9 (AL, BQ).

Strongholds of **Wild Turkey** continued from Camp Tweedale along the Octorara Res. in the southern region of the county (m.ob.) and also in the Pottstown area (SG). High counts from both of these locations were of 25 turkeys.

Single **Common Loons** were found at MCSP 12/1 (m.ob.), 12/2 (MG), and along the Schuylkill R. at Cromby 1/10 (LM). Two were at MCSP 12/6 (HM). All three eastern grebe species were attracted to the open water at AQ, and could readily be found there for much of the reporting period. **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen consistently in this location beginning 1/3 (m.ob.). **Horned Grebes**, not readily found in *Chester* in Jan, appeared there 1/12, and continued through the end of Feb (m.ob.). A high count was of 3 Horned Grebes was noted 1/12 (AL). The grebe that made headlines this winter was certainly the **Red-necked Grebe**, which made quite an explosion into southeastern Pennsylvania waters. Reports were made of multiple Red-necked Grebes at AQ beginning 1/30, and continuing through the winter period (m.ob.). A high count of 6 was reported from there 2/2 (MC, NS).

A pair of **Bald Eagles** that nested in Guthriesville in 2013, but whose single eaglet was found dead several weeks after hatching that year, were noticed "housekeeping" at their nest through the fall and winter. The pair delighted loyal nest monitors when they were noted to be in incubating posture 2/11 (GDT, DH), giving promise to new hatchlings soon to come. A buteo of the Arctic tundra, the **Rough-legged Hawk** is a rare winter visitor, but this year was reported on four occasions, two on the same day: One light morph was spotted and photographed over the Bucktoe Creek Preserve 2/9 (JS) and another seen gliding over the preserve that same day was a dark-morph (LL). A good find was a Rough-legged hunting over open farmland in Cochranville 2/27 (MG, HD), and another was reported on that same day from Sugartown Preserve (AC).

A **Virginia Rail** in a Downingtown wetlands responded to play-back during a scouting trip for the West Chester CBC 12/13 (HM, BB), and was detected the following day, 12/14, marking the first ever report of this species for the West Chester CBC (BB). This location was known to host this species from spring through fall of 2013, when breeding was presumed to have taken place (HM).

Killdeer were reported in many locations around the county during winter, but typically just single birds were noted (m.ob.). High counts of 6 Killdeer came from Doe Run 2/21-22 (MW) and Oxford 2/23 (PM). A nice find was a single **Dunlin** foraging along the shorelines of CL 12/12 (AG, DE, WBH, GT, RR). Despite the frozen ground, **Wilson's Snipe** were detected in wet areas on several occasions: Upper Uwchlan Twp. 12/22 (HM), Laurels Preserve 1/4 (BB, LG), Exton Park 1/19 (CK), Honeybrook 2/2 (NP), and Cochranville 2/11 (MG).

Bonaparte's Gulls, less uncommon in winter, were seen on a few occasions from CL and MCSP; reports were of a single bird for each sighting. One was at CL 12/2 (RR), another was spotted there 12/13 (NF, SS). A report came from MCSP 12/29 (BQ), and another was seen on the lake there 1/8 (HM). A nice variety of gulls was seen throughout the county by diligent larophiles willing to take the time to comb through for something unusual. SECCRA, the largest landfill in *Chester*, was the place for the most success in this quest, since it typically offers a variety of species, and often some of the less commonly encountered gull species will collect there to scavenge among the rubbish. **Iceland Gulls** were a standout at this location, and at least two were found and photographed 1/31 (NP), then later that day, a different individual was detected and photographed in the same location (BQ). Two more were found and photographed there 2/8 (BR,

AS). Now easily found with some effort in winter, **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported from around the county (m.ob.). Six was a high count noted at SECCRA 1/31 (NP). A first-cycle **Glaucous Gull** was an excellent find 1/31 as it foraged with the gull party at SECCRA (NP). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were also tallied from multiple locations around the county, and not surprisingly, SECCRA held the highest count of 12, on 1/13 (NP).

It goes without saying that the bird of the season was the **Snowy Owl**, which made appearances several times in *Chester* throughout the winter. The first Snowy reported was 12/4, in the Newtown Square area, seen by multiple delighted observers as they watched it fly from *Delaware* crossing the county line for a *Chester* debut (WS, m.ob.). Another was seen in Westtown 12/15 (WC), and a Snowy found sitting on a field at Rushton Farm 12/18 was a shock to the observers (LK *vide* DM). A fantastic Christmas gift for many local birders was a Snowy Owl found at sundown 12/24 at the Chester County Airport (LG). Throughout Christmas Day, this owl roosted at the end of a runway, offering terrific views for many that were able to get there. The owl was only briefly seen 12/26 by a few lucky observers, and was not detected at this spot thereafter (m.ob.).

Project SNOWstorm, spearheaded by some of *Pennsylvania's* best avian researchers, revealed mapping data on two owls that spent time in the county, including the owl dubbed "Philly" which stopped here 1/11-12 on his return flight to the Philadelphia International Airport. An excerpt from Project SNOWstorm's blog described Philly's 1/11 visit in detail: "By midnight he was flying along the Pennsylvania Turnpike, resting briefly on an office building, and later on the E.N. Pierce Middle School in West Chester. By daybreak Sunday he was sitting on a huge townhouse complex on Carriage Drive, just northeast of West Chester, where he spent the day. Sunday night, though, Philly was on the wing again, and his last recorded position, when the transmitter made its upload at 7:30 p.m. that evening, was on top of a store at the Lawrence Park Shopping Center in Media, *Delaware*—just 8.5 miles from the airport where we caught him." (SW). A birder reported spotting a Snowy while driving through the Horseshoe Trail area 1/22, but this owl was not seen again (EV). A single report of a high-flying Snowy came in through the GBBC 2/16 from the Sugartown area. The Project SNOWstorm owl named "Hungerford", which was banded and affixed with a transmitter on Assateague Island, Maryland 2/17, made brief stops in the county 2/20-21 on her trip westward into *Lancaster*.

A communal-roost of 10 **Long-eared Owls** was reported on private property in the northern part of the county 2/9 (MC). **Short-eared Owls** were found on two occasions: 12/3 at Valley Creek Park (MC, GT) and 1/4 in Nottingham (KGr). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was discovered in West Whiteland Twp. 12/3 (MC, GT), and continued there through at least 1/19 (m.ob.). This was the only report of this species during the season, which was not surprising given the low numbers recorded at banding sites in the eastern part of the county the previous fall.

A wintering colony of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** discovered in fall at CNP, continued through the winter period (m.ob.). Another small group of Red-heads in the Chrome Barrens area 2/9 was a terrific find (KS, SH). Both groups of these uncommon woodpeckers continued at these locations through the end of the winter period (m.ob.).

Found in lower numbers than expected, but seen by many observers, **American Kestrels** were sporadically reported. **Merlins** were located in a few spots through the winter, and were reported consistently (m.ob.). One found during the West Chester CBC, at West Chester University (HM), marked the second consecutive record for this species, and only the fifth time this species has been counted in over a century's worth of data collecting (BB). **Peregrine Falcons** were noted by area birders in several locations, including: Okehocking Preserve 12/7 (EW, KW), Chesterbrook area 12/21 (EP, MR), Gumtree area 12/28 (AD), SL 1/3 (BQ, MM), and consistently from the Cromby Trailhead along the Schuylkill R. 1/10- 2/4. At Cromby, 2 Peregrines were noted on a few occasions (LM). Additionally, persons working inside the Chester County Courthouse in West Chester, noted the presence of at least one adult Peregrine Falcon stalking the pigeon population, and using the building ledges as a table for their kill (m.ob.).

The half-hardy **Eastern Phoebe** was found 12/11 in Phoenixville (RK), and another withstood harsh winter temperatures and was seen twice at Somerset Lake: 1/20 (KN) and 2/5 (JS). A **Northern Shrike** was photographed atop a tree at the Kirkwood Preserve 12/24, surprising the observer when he zoomed in on the photo and discovered a shrike (GB)! Subsequent visits to the location did not yield additional sightings.

The past few years have seen multiple sightings around the county of the once undetected **Common Raven**. This winter, a more intriguing discovery was of 2 found within a private quarry in Downingtown during the West Chester CBC 12/14 (BB). This sighting marked the first ever report of this species in the hundred plus years of this CBC. It is now wondered if the pair might be nesting in this location. Other reports of ravens came from Exton, were 2 were noted 1/3 (CCA), and of single birds reported from

Coatesville 1/31 (LL), Pocopson 1/31 (KN), and Exton 2/1 (MC).

A swirl of 20 **Tree Swallows** were spotted moving up the Schuylkill R. near Phoenixville 2/23, which trends on the early side for first of the year sighting for this species in the county (HM). This observation was made as a warm front swept up from the south. **Black-capped Chickadees** did not have an irruption year, but there were a few reports noted in this species nevertheless: one 2/14-16 in a Cochran yard (MG), 2 in Easttown 2/17 (AC), and another at MCSP 2/23 (BR). As with Black-capped Chickadees, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** also did not irrupt into the region. However, a few were still noted this season: one at Octorara 12/15 (MG, PM), another in Nottingham C.P. 1/12 (JS), and one that showed up at a feeder 2/28 (BE).

Gray Catbirds will typically linger in small numbers through winter; this season there were 7 catbirds detected in multiple locations (m.ob.). Another mimid that can sometimes be found in small numbers in winter is the **Brown Thrasher**. This winter, there were 8 reports of this uncommon winter resident (m.ob.). **American Pipits** were more abundant in early winter, before the freeze, with a high count of 20 on 12/7 from Honey Brook Twp. (GT, MD, AS, BQ). Numbers dropped off after 1/24, coinciding with the influx of sub-zero temperatures and extensive snowfall in the region. Some winters, **Cedar Waxwings** are in short supply, but this winter the birds were readily found, and at times in decent numbers. A high count of 48 was made in Berwyn 1/15 (TD).

There were just two reports of **Palm Warbler**, a species that will occasionally linger into late Dec. One was found at a private residence in West Marlborough 1/21 (JS, JMcN), and another was discovered by members of the West Chester Bird Club at SL 1/1. **Pine Warblers** were few in number this winter, with two seen at Coatesville Res. 12/13 (RR), and another at Longwood Gardens 1/12 (LL, et al.). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported in many locations around the county, with a high count of 10 tallied at Black Rock Sanctuary 2/22 (RK, WS). A "stand out" warbler that spent several weeks in the county this winter was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** that paid visits to a suet feeder in West Marlborough Twp. This warbler was first noted in late fall, and was last reported at this spot 12/28 (KF). The most fascinating find among passerines for the season had to be the **Black-throated Green Warbler** that was photographed 12/11 at Longwood Gardens (KG). The photo was posted on Facebook, allowing birders to quickly rule out the similar-looking Townsend's Warbler, which although a rarity in the eastern United States, would actually be more likely for this date. The photo posted was undoubtedly supportive of a Black-throated Green, and the timing of this sighting made it into the West Chester CBC "Count Week" for a first-ever species on this count (BB).

Eastern Towhees again this year persisted into the winter months in numbers far higher than in recent years. A staggering high count of 30 came from CNP 12/20 (NF, SS), with 28 reported on the Elverson CBC 12/22 (RK), and decent numbers reported by many visitors to this site into Jan (m.ob.). Numbers seemed to drop in mid-Jan and into Feb. Towhees were also widely reported during the GBBC, most noted to be attending feeding stations (m.ob.). Another sparrow that made a nice showing this winter was the **American Tree Sparrow**. This species also appeared in area backyards during the GBBC, which coincided with a snowfall in the region (m.ob.). In recent years, **Chipping Sparrows** have lingered through Dec in small numbers. This year, this uncommon winter resident was found throughout the county, and lingered through the end of the reporting period (m.ob.). A high count was 7 was made at Longwood Gardens 1/26 (KN).

A terrific find was a small sparrow along a roadside in East Coventry Twp. 1/19, spotted among a flock of **European Starlings** and identified to be the rarely encountered **Clay-colored Sparrow** (KR). **Fox Sparrows** remained in the region through winter, and were reported repeatedly at feeding stations during the GBBC 2/13-17 (m.ob.). Amazingly, there were two reports of **Lincoln's Sparrows**. Typically rare in winter, this species has made appearances in the county for the past three winters. This winter, one was found at CL 12/27 (RR), and another was seen in Honeybrook 1/1 (JMcN, West Chester Bird Club). Both were well photographed, but neither could be located after the initial sightings.

Rusty Blackbirds, a species in a steep population decline, were noted on a few locations from around the county, in numbers of 3 or below (m.ob.) except a count of 11 in the Nottingham area (KGr). In a non-irruptive year for winter finches, **Purple Finch** reports were slim. A report was filed of 2 heard and seen 1/18 at CNP (BR, NS). Another 2 were noted visiting feeders 2/12-13 in Easttown (AC). Absent were reports of all other "winter finch" species, including Pine Siskin.

Observers: **Holly Merker, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335, (610) 733-4392, HCYbelle@aol.com**, Anne Bekker, Geoff Bentley, Barry Blust, Rob Blye, Tom Bush, Josh Clapper, Kelly Colgan-Azar, Mike Coulter, Alan Crawford, Walter Cressler, Amy Davis, Hank Davis, Mike Defina, Tyler DiAndrea, David Eberly, Barb Elliot, Pamela Fisher, Nikki Flood, Kevin Fryberger, Laura Gathercole, Kristen Gardner, Michael Gardner, Sandi Gill,

Kevin Graff (KGr), Al Guarente, Barbara Haas, Frank Haas, Denise Hardtmann, Sharon Helmerich, W. Brian Henderson, Bill Keim, Rick Keyser, Lisa Kizuik, Carol Kuniholm, Andrew Leidig, Larry Lewis, Doris McGovern, John McNamara, Lisa Miller, Kelley Nunn, Nick Pulcinella, Brian Quindlen, Marian Quinn, Brian Raicich, Ken Reiker, Rick Robinson, Joe Sebastiani, Win Schaefer, Nathaniel Sharp, Vince Smith, Kim Steininger, Arthur Steinberger, Scott Stollery, Derek Stoner, Wendy Sykora, George D. Tallman, Sharon Taylor, Ed Vermillion, Jeff Wahl, Margaret Walton, Scott Weidensaul, Eric Weislogel, Kellie Weislogel.

Clarion County

No report.

Compiler: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Road, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net.**

Clearfield County

Locations: Clearfield (CL), Dubois (DB), Houtzdale (HD), La Jose (LJ), Luthersburg (LB), Troy Hill Rd. (TRD).

The only reports of waterfowl were from CL 2/8 where **American Black Ducks**, **Buffleheads**, and **Common Mergansers** were seen (AL, AF). **Northern Harriers** were seen through the period at LJ (DG). The only reports of **Red-shouldered** and **Rough-legged Hawks** were at HD 2/8 (AL, AF). A single **Merlin** was at DB 1/27 (DR). A **Snowy Owl** was at Shawville 12/15 (DR). Two **Short-eared Owls** were seen at LJ all season (DG). Sixteen **Snow Buntings** were at LB 1/27 (DR).

Observers: **Dave Gobert, 287 Beech Rd., Patton, PA 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net**, Dan Richards, Ann Fazoli, Alex Lamoreaux.

Clinton County

Locations: Lock Haven (LH), Loganton (LT), Rauchtown (RT), South Avis (SA), and Swisssdale (SW).

During the local CBC 1/4, 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** were observed in SW (DSR), one was found near Avis (BZ, VS), and another was near RT (DK, DR). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen near LH 2/6 (WL). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed near Woolrich 1/4 (DSR) and another seen 1/6 in SW (WL). A total of 9 **Black Vultures** were observed near RT 1/4 (DK, DR). A **Peregrine Falcon** was reported in the Mill Hall area 1/4 (LF). A **Merlin** was seen along River Rd. east of LH 1/3 (CCH).

Clinton was not left out of the massive **Snowy Owl** irruption that occurred this winter in the state; however, the few that were reported here proved to be very elusive and did not stay at any one location for more than short periods of time. On 12/20, a **Snowy Owl** was reported at the east end of LT (JF), possibly the same one seen in that area on 11/28. A **Snowy Owl**, reported several times in the McElhatton area first around 12/15 and also 12/27, was probably the same one seen directly across the Susquehanna River on River Rd. 2/10 (LF) and later there through early Mar to at least 3/7. One was reported at the I-80 and Rte. 64 interchange near Lamar 3/23 (SD). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard in the LT area during the CBC 1/4 (JD).

An unusual find on the very cold 1/4 CBC was 2 **Hermit Thrushes** in Lockport (WL, RH). At SA 12/16, several **Snow Buntings** were among a flock of **Horned Larks** (DR). One Snow Bunting was seen there 1/4 (BZ, VS) and 4 were observed also at SA 1/6 with Horned Larks (WL).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, (570) 748-7511, wnlaubscher@comcast.net**, Susan Dolan, Jim Dunn, Jamie Fox, Linda Frye, Carol and Charles Hildebrand, David Krempasky, Roberta Horner, Dave and Sam Rockey, David Rothrock, Vesta Schach, Jessica Welshans, and Beth Zbegner.

Columbia County

No compiler.

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Linesville Christmas Count (LCC), Pymatuning Causeway

(PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Springboro (SPR), Sugar Lake (SL),

The weather for the Linesville Christmas Count was extremely cold and windy, with up to six inches of snow. The area lakes (Pymatuning and Conneaut) were partly open. There were 16 counters out and they found 19 species. The better species were 2 **Snow Geese**, a **Least Sandpiper**, a record 68 **Sandhill Cranes**, and 23 **Bald Eagles**.

The causeway and spillway had about the only open water and even in these areas were open water was very limited through March. Local small lakes and marshes were about 99% frozen all winter. A pair of **Snow Geese** were noted at PGMA on the LCC 12/15 (m.ob.). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were noted at CL 2/1 (RFL) and one or 2 remained to 2/23 (m.ob.). A **White-winged Scoter** was present at CL 1/31-2/2 (MV, SC, RFL, IF).

Two **Common Loons** were found at CL 12/1 and a single loon was there 12/15 (m.ob.). One **Red-necked Grebe** was at CL 12/9 (RFL). Three **Horned Grebes** were at PC 1/31 (MV). Up to 3 **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted at CL all period (m.ob.).

A **Turkey Vulture** was noted near SPR 1/4 (SR). Up to 4 **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen through the end of the period (m.ob.). An estimated 3500 **American Coots** were found at CL 12/1 (RFL, IF). A **Least Sandpiper** was at FH 1/4-19 (RFL, IF), and was counted on the LCC. A **Killdeer** was reported near SL 2/22 (RE). A **Glaucous Gull** was found at PC 2/22 (RFL). A **Snowy Owl** showed up in *Crawford* 12/2-1/14 at several locations (TCN, SC, RE, RFL, IF, AJ).

Two **Common Ravens** were found near SL 1/20 (RE). Thirty **Snow Buntings** were found at PC 12/25 (SC) and were often seen there in small groups. The flocks at Conneautville and north of Springboro numbered better than 400 and 700 on several days in Feb. Three **Lapland Longspurs** were seen at PC 12/25 (SC) and up to 4 were noted on five dates in Jan and Feb at PYM, SPR, and Conneautville (RFL, TCN, AJ, SC, et.al.).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Shawn Collins, Richard Eakin, Isaac Field, Allen Janis, Ronald F. Leberman, Robert F. Leberman, Clare Nicolls, Steve Rotkovecz, Andy Troyer, Mark Vass.

Cumberland County

Locations: Boiling Springs Children's Pond (BSCP), Laughlin Mill Pond (LMP), Mud Level Road (MLR), State Gamelands 169 (SGL 169).

Extreme cold, plenty of snow, and lots of ice describe the weather for this period. The cold however did not deter a particular hummingbird from making its second consecutive appearance or a small orange sparrow from making its debut in *Cumberland*.

The long stretch of bitter cold did result in the freezing of many lakes and ponds. Fortunately, the spring fed creeks and ponds did not freeze, leading to the congregation of waterfowl at those sites, and a waterfowl bonanza for *Cumberland* birders. The waterfowl of most interest in this period included a hybrid **White-fronted x Canada Goose** seen on the Big Spring at the LMP 1/7-1/10 (VG), and 2 **Northern Shovelers** at BSCP 1/22 (MW).

There was one **Redhead** at Willow Mill Park Silver Springs 1/8 and up to 8 at BSCP from 1/25 through the end of the period (RK, m.ob.). There were also 2 Redheads on the Green Spring 1/31 (AnM, KK, VG) and 2 on the LMP on the same date (VG, BF, LF). One was reported on the Letort in Carlisle 2/7 (DK) and 4 at the same location 2/12 (HW). There were an amazing 50-69 individuals reported at Willow Mill Park over a three day period 2/24-26 (VG, PB). Up to 9 **Canvasbacks** showed up at BSCP 1/29 through the end of the period (PB, m.ob.). Three were reported from the Green Spring 1/31 (AnM, KK, VG) and 3 others at the LMP (VG, BF, LF). There were an additional 3 more in Shippensburg at Dykeman's Park 2/16-2/28 (VG, PB). There was one **Lesser Scaup** at the BSCP 12/30-2/22 (RK, m.ob.), 3 at on the Conodoguinet at Orr's Bridge Road, Camp Hill 2/22 (KK), and one at Dykeman's Park 2/28 (VG). There were up to 8 **Greater Scaup** reported at the BSCP 2/1-2/28 (VG, m.ob.). There was one reported on the Letort 2/11 and 2/17 (DK) and 2 others at the same location 2/28 (HW). There was also one or two on the LMP 2/9-28 (VG, BF, LF).

An excellent find was one **White-winged Scoter** that showed up at the LMP 2/4-28 (VG, HW, KW, BF, LF, BO, PB). Another great find was 2 **Common Goldeneyes** at Willow Mill Park 1/24 (PB) and 4 others at the same location 2/7 (VG). Scoters and Goldeneyes, while found on the Susquehanna R. in *Dauphin*, are rarely seen in *Cumberland*. Finally, there was one **Red-breasted Merganser** reported at the BSCP 2/14-22 (DK, BH) and one in the mouth of the Conodoguinet at West Fairview 2/22 (VG).

There were 2 **Horned Grebes** at Willow Mill Park 1/11(VG). The

Pied-billed Grebe that has been on the Big Spring since 11/4/12 was seen numerous times through the period (VG). The only **Ruffed Grouse** of the period was reported from Kings Gap 1/25 (DH).

Perhaps because of the weather, it was not a particularly good period for raptors. The only 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** reported were together on MLR 2/27 (CE).

One first cycle and one second cycle **Iceland Gull** were reported from Booz Road at the Cumberland County Landfill 1/20 (AM, VG) and another first cycle at the same location 2/6 (AM). To my knowledge this was a first for *Cumberland*.

One **Barn Owl** was reported on the Merit Farm just west of the intersection of Mountain and Oakville Roads at SGL 169 on 2/2 (TM) and one **Long-eared Owl** at Conifer Road north of Newville 2/28 (VG). Surprisingly, *Cumberland* did not fare well in the **Snowy Owl** invasion, with the only report north of Carlisle on Rte. 34 where it intersects the Conodoguinet 1/26 (DG, KG).

Over wintering **Red-headed Woodpeckers** included 2 at SGL 169 on 12/28 (DH) and 3 birds at the Butts' Farm located at the confluence of the Big Spring and the Conodoguinet Creeks 12/28 (BF, LF), along with two reports of 2 individuals at the always reliable Wagoner's Lane east of Newville 1/25 and 1/30 (DH, VG).

The vagrant adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** located in Upper Allen Twp. off Rte. 114 between Bowmansdale and Lisburn for the past two winters was last reported 1/7 (SM). This was during a period of extreme cold. Hopefully the bird left to seek warmer climes rather than succumbing to the bitter cold.

One **Merlin** was seen near the Weis Market at Lowther and Norman Streets, New Cumberland 12/1 (BH) and another at MLR 2/2 (AM) and again at the same location 2/22 (KM, MC, MB). The only **Peregrine Falcon** of the period was reported at MLR 2/22 (BH). In what can only be describe as a mystery, *Cumberland's* wintering **Prairie Falcon** was reported once in mid-November MLR (AM) but was then not seen again until 2/2 when it was reported at MLR (AM). The bird was then reported through 2/22 (m.ob.). Whether it drastically changed its habits most of the winter or spent a few months somewhere else can only be guessed.

With the exception of the Conifer Plantation at King's Gap, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were hard to find. There were up to 7 reported at that location 12/28 (RK). Outside of King's Gap there were only four other reports, with one bird at the Big Spring High School 12/28 (BF), one in the Newville CBC Area One 1/28 (RF), another in Hampden Township 2/15 (TS), and still another in Shippensburg 12/17.

The only warblers of note during the period were a **Common Yellowthroat** at the Big Spring 1/1 (VG) and a **Pine Warbler** at a suet feeder at Green Ridge Village 1/5 (CC).

Eastern Towhees were quite plentiful as there were nine reports scattered throughout the county, each comprised of one bird. **Fox Sparrows** on the other hand were just about absent except for the 2 to 4 that were present on Creek Lane (ML, HL, m.ob.). Other reports of Fox Sparrows included one at King's Gap 1/26 (DH), one at SGL 169 1/26 (JD), one at a Carlisle Residence 2/23 and 2/28 (SS), and one at Walnut Bottom 2/21 (LC). There were reports of up to 5 **Savannah Sparrows** on MLR throughout the period (VG, m.ob.). The only other report was of one bird near Boiling Springs (AnM, SS, KK). One **Le Conte's Sparrow** was found on the Lehman property on Creek Lane, Newville 1/24-2/8 (VG, m.ob.). Unfortunately the weather and expansive habitat at the location made it difficult to relocate the bird after the first few days. This represented a first record for *Cumberland*.

The only **Rusty Blackbirds** of the period were one at Wagner's Lane 1/28 (BF, LF), 14 at Huntsdale 2/1 (VG) and 4 more at the same location 2/16 (PB), with 13 on the Big Spring 2/14 (VG) and 3 at the same location 2/23 (RK, AMa). Reflecting the lack of "winter finches" this period, the only **Purple Finches** reported were one in Carlisle 2/5 (HW), one on the Big Spring 12/23 (VG), and two reports in the Mount Holly area with 2 birds 12/25 (PG) and one 2/17 (TP). No other winter finches were reported during the period.

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Paul Banks, Valerie Barnes, Michael Britt, Carol Cash, Marc Chelemer, Lianne Cook, Dwayne Del Grande, Jim Dunn, Carl Engstrom, Bill Franz, Linda Franz, Ron Freed, Bill Hintze, Donna Hocker, Peter Gdula, Deb Gingrich, Keith Gingrich, Brian Henderson, Deuane Hoffman, Dave Kerr, Ramsay Koury, Kathy Kuchwara, Tim Maret, Harold Lehman, Margaret Lehman, Andrew Markel, Annette Matthes (AnM), Karmela Moneta, Susan Miller, Bob Peda, Tom Pope, Thomas Schwartz, Sue Strassner, Herb Weigl, Kathy Weigl, Martin Wilson.

Dauphin County

Locations: Blue Mountain (BMT), Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG), Great Backyard Bird Count 2/14-17 (GBBC), Hershey (HER), Hershey Important Bird Area # 45 (HIBA), Harrisburg (HGB), Highspire Reservoir/Lisa Lake (HRL), Hummelstown (HUM), Milton S. Hershey School campus (MSH), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR at Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR from Marysville (SVRM), SR at Middletown/Royalton (SRMR), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

This winter season will be remembered as one of the coldest and longest in recent memory. From mid-Jan through Feb, the SR, creeks, lakes, and ponds were predominantly frozen. This winter will also be remembered for two significant irruptions, the **Snowy Owls** in Dec and Jan and the **Red-necked Grebes** (similar to 2003) beginning in mid-Feb.

The New Year was off to a good start with 2 **Greater White-fronted Geese** observed at WL 1/1 (RK). The following day a **Cackling Goose** was observed near the east end of HUM (P&RW), and two weeks later 3 **Cackling Geese** were observed 1/14 with a large flock of **Canada Geese** just south of HUM along Waltonville Rd. (EB). A **Ross's Goose** was found with a large flock of **Canada Geese** in a field along Waltonville Rd. south of HUM 12/5 (DHB). About 100 **Snow Geese** were reported in HER 1/5 (TB) and 4 were observed near Grantville along Rte. 81 on 1/6 (KB). About 200 **Snow Geese** were seen along Rt. 322 near HER 2/26 (AMg). Sixteen **Tundra Swans** were observed flying over HRL 12/5 (SH). The only other reports came from WL where 2 were observed 1/16, and from Dauphin Borough where one was observed 2/8 and 30 were counted 2/9 (DR). The frozen conditions probably kept most **Snow Geese** and **Tundra Swans** further south in the Chesapeake Bay area. Two **Mute Swans** were found in a stream along Beagle Rd. just off Deodate Rd. near the southern edge of the county 2/24 (KK). They could have been the two from SRMR.

A number of dabbler species remained at WL until mid-Jan when the hard freeze began. **Wood Duck**, **Gadwall**, **Northern Shoveler**, and **Northern Pintail** were all reported through 1/17 (RK, AMa, et al.). Most of these dabblers were not reported again until the third week of Feb when a female **Gadwall** was observed at Swatara Creek Park 2/18 and a male **Wood Duck** appeared at the Kokomo boat launch in HUM 2/20 (P&RW). This was another good winter for **Redheads** and **Canvasbacks**. Eleven Redheads were observed SRWF 12/27 (IG), one was present at this location 1/1 (RK), and 80 were counted 1/10 along with two Canvasbacks (VG). The number of Redheads jumped to 128 at SRWF on 1/20 (AMk). Redhead reports from the SRMR included two 2/16 (CK) and reached a high count of 35 on 2/20 (P&RW). Three Canvasbacks were at SRMR 2/9 (AL, AF, CM, MM). On 2/22 twelve Canvasbacks were counted on the SR along the Wormleysburg waterfront (RK) and 9 were present there 2/23 (CBt) along with about a dozen Redheads at the same location 2/23 (CBt, JM). A large raft of about 90 **Ring-necked Ducks** was reported 12/1 HRL and some remained through to 12/22 (m.ob.). Ring-necked Duck, **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup** were reported throughout the season, especially SRWF and SRMR areas (m.ob.). A female **Black Scoter** was shot by a waterfowl hunter near Clark's Ferry in early Dec (ph. *vide* ME). Two **White-winged Scoters** were observed at SRFH 1/17 (RK, AMa) and, one was found there 1/19 (RK). Three White-winged Scoters and a **Long-tailed Duck** were observed on the SR at Millersburg 2/6 (CD). A single White-winged Scoter was reported 2/9 (AF, AL) and again 2/10 (EBt) on the SR near the PennDOT building. One continued at this location to the end of the quarter (m.ob.). Another White-winged was reported on SR at Wormleysburg 2/22 (RK). A **Long-tailed Duck** was observed SRWF 12/6 (DM); one was reported SRMR 1/13 (SSt). Single Long-tailed Ducks were also noted at Millersburg 2/6 (CD), SRMV 2/7 (VG) and SR near the PennDOT building 2/10 (EBt). Two were observed at this latter location 2/9 (AF, AL). **Common Goldeneye**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded** and **Common Merganser** were reported from various locations along the SR throughout the season (m.ob.). The first report of **Red-breasted Merganser** came from SRMV near the Rockville Bridge 12/10 (DM). One was observed 1/25 at SRWF (TB) and five were found on the SR near the PennDot building 2/12 (LB). The only sighting away from the SR was 2/12 when one was observed at the Kokomo boat launch, HUM (CM). There were numerous reports from SRMR from mid to the end of Feb (m.ob.).

A single **Common Loon** was observed at SRWF 1/6 (DHF). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was found along the edge of City Island 12/14 for the HBG CBC (RW, et al.) and one was observed at HRL 12/22 (P&RW). The first Pied-billed of the spring arrived 2/22 at SRMV (RK). A **Horned Grebe** was observed 12/18 at SRWF (RW) and 2 were noted at SRFH 12/24 (RSt). Horned Grebes were also reported SRWF from 1/10-17 (VG, RK, AMa) and, one was found at SRMR 1/13 (SSt).

Reports of **Red-necked Grebe** began 2/10 when one was observed at

SRHB near the PennDOT building (EB). One was observed on the Swatara Creek at the Kokomo boat launch in HUM 2/16 (CK), and 2 were found near the mouth of the Swatara Creek at SRMR 2/18 (P&RW). Up to three Red-necked Grebes remained at the latter location and were reported almost daily through the end of Feb (m.ob.). This may be similar to the 2003 irruption when numbers and locations increased well into the spring season.

An interesting tally on the Curtin CBC 12/27 was 26 **Ring-necked Pheasants** (SB, et al.). It is unusual for Ring-necked Pheasants to outnumber **Wild Turkey** in this CBC in northern part of the county. **Great Blue Herons** began returning to and repairing nests at the E. Canal Rd. colony on MSH school property in SHT the last week of Feb (CK, P&RW).

An unusually high count of 22 **Black Vultures** was tallied for the Curtin CBC 12/27 (SB, et al.) This species continued to be reported from various locations, especially south of BMT, throughout the season (m.ob.). **Golden Eagle** sightings included one 12/15 at FIG (CB, JD, DM), another 1/22 along Linglestown Rd. (P&RP), and a third, an imm. 2/7 at HUM (PF). The HIBA was the best location for **Northern Harrier** this season. There were two reports in mid-Dec, 12/14 (CK) and 12/18 (NM), and 2 on 2/7 (P&RW) and 2/9 (LU). In Dec **Northern Harrier** was also reported in FIG (JD, DM). One was also observed along Paxton Church Rd. 2/7 (EBt). A WRS along Rtes. 443 and 325 in central *Dauphin* 1/20 yielded four **Red-shouldered Hawks** (DM, et al.). The first **Rough-legged Hawk** report of the season was 12/18 HIBA (DHB, NM, SR). Another **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed just south of Peter's Mt. 1/4 (SB). There were many **Bald Eagle** reports from all along the SR from TMI north to Millersburg as well as from along the Swatara Cr. throughout the season (m.ob.).

A **Sandhill Crane** was reported in Powell's Valley about a mile west of Carsonville 1/4 (CR). Two **American Coots** were reported on the SRWF 2/23 (CBt, VG). At least one **Killdeer** spent the winter in the HIBA and was reported each month; by mid-Feb their numbers began to increase (m.ob.). The first **Wilson's Snipe** of the season was along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA 2/25 (P&RW).

A nice flight of 26 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was observed at SRWF 12/6 (DM), and four were found 12/14 for the HGB CBC (RK, AM, SS). Two were observed at this location 1/6 (DHF). Up to five **Bonaparte's Gulls** were observed at SRMR 2/23 (JF, CBt, et al.). One **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported 1/20 with **Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls** at SRWF (AMk).

A **Snowy Owl** was observed along Elmerton Ave. near the Fish and Boat Commission and the State Police Headquarters 12/8-9 (ph., DVH, JB, *fide* SL). A second **Snowy Owl** was found 1/12 from SRMR where one was observed atop the accumulating ice on the SR and departed after being harassed by two **Bald Eagles** (SH). A **Short-eared Owl** was observed along Paxton Church Rd. 1/28 (EBt). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported 2/16 along Snavelly Rd. just outside of SGL 246 for the GBBC (DHg).

There were a number of sightings of **Peregrine Falcon** in and around HBG this winter including the Rachel Carson nesting pair as well as interlopers (SH). Follow their nesting progress at <<https://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon/>>. A possible pair of **Peregrine Falcons** was noted at Clark's Ferry bridge 2/20 (EC). This was the site of another successful nesting last year. There were also a number of **Merlin** reports this season: 12/10 along Rt. 322 HER (TJ), 12/18 SRWF (RW), 12/22 HIBA (CK), 1/19 HIBA (S&RZ), 1/28 along Rte. 743 at Pine Hill Rd. (TB), among others.

An **Eastern Phoebe** was a surprise find on a walk at WL 12/28 (CM, MM). **Fish Crow** is rather common along both the lower SR and the Swatara Creek to the HUM and HER area. Many reports came in throughout the season. A **Common Raven** was observed along Front St. HBG 1/12 (RK), and two were reported atop Bmt 2/8 (M&RB).

The only report of a **Northern Shrike** was of one observed 12/23 at FIG (JD, DM). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was among the species reported at WL 1/13 (EB). This was actually an uncommon species this winter with only a few other reports submitted during the GBBC, one 2/14 from Lower Paxton Twp. (JH) and 3 in HER 2/17 (BO).

Possibly the biggest surprise during the Curtin CBC 12/27 was the finding of 2 **Wood Thrushes**, one each by two different teams (AT, *fide* SB). This was a new species for the Curtin count. A **Gray Catbird** was reported 12/22 at HRL and on the same day one was observed at WL (KA). A **Brown Thrasher** was a Christmas day surprise on a walk around WL 12/25 (MM). **Gray Catbird** was reported again 12/27 (SK) and both **Gray Catbird** and **Brown Thrasher** were found at WL 1/17 (RK, AM).

Three **Snow Buntings** were found along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA 12/16 (P&RW) and on the following day, 3 were found in the MSH farm fields along with a single **Lapland Longspur** and about 100 **Horned Larks** (SR). A single **Snow Bunting** was found along Paxton Church Rd. 1/29 (EB) and several were reported along Rte. 25 in the northern part of the county 2/7 (CD). Four were observed 2/8 MSH fields (PD).

The very cooperative **MacGillivray's Warbler**, first reported 11/22

(SH), continued at HRL and was observed daily through 12/9 (m.ob.). A male **Common Yellowthroat** was found 12/28 at HRL (P&RW). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, as would be expected, was the only other warbler species reported this quarter. Observations came from HRL, WL, and the Hummel Nature Trail among other locations (m.ob.).

A **Chipping Sparrow** was among the species recorded 12/15 and 12/19 at FIG (JD, DM) and, one was reported from Linglestown for the GBBC 2/17 (KG). **Field Sparrow** was a more common sighting this season with a number of records in Dec and Jan from FIG (JD & DM) and one 12/16 in HIBA (DHB). There were also at least four reports from the GBBC 2/14-17 (m.ob.). The HIBA continued to be a good location for wintering **Savannah Sparrows**. One was observed 12/15 (P&RW) and as many as six were noted along Swatara Rd. 12/16 (DHB). One was also found in the MSH farm fields 12/17 (NM). On 1/27 seven were found along the road edge near the Vista School campus MSH (CK) and one was observed along Swatara Rd. 2/7 in the HIBA (P&RW). The HIBA is also a good location for wintering **American Tree** and **White-crowned Sparrows** (m.ob.). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was another good find on the Curtin CBC 12/27, another first for the count (AT, *fide* SB).

A single **Rusty Blackbird** was reported at HRL 12/1-12/20 (SH, et al.) and 15 were noted at WL 12/22 (KA). A large flock of **Common Grackles**, numbering about 650, was counted on the Curtin CBC 12/27 (*fide* SB). **Red-winged Blackbirds** were reported through Dec in the HIBA (m.ob.). A first year male **Red-winged Blackbird** visited feeders SHT 1/25 (P&RW). **Red-wings** were also reported at WL throughout Feb (RS, et al.).

To say "winter finches" were scarce this season would be an understatement. The only report of **Purple Finch** before the GBBC of mid-Feb was of one 1/10 in SHT (JG) and the only **Pine Siskin** report was of 6 on 2/16 during the GBBC in Rutherford (WP).

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Delaware County

Locations: Crum Creek Reservoir (CCR) Delaware River (DR), Governor Printz Park (GPP), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Philadelphia Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), St. Peter and Paul Cemetery (SPCC).

The 2013-2014 winter season in *Delaware* was marked by both exceptional sightings and weather. The **Snowy Owl** invasion excited both birders and non-birders alike, and garnered attention from local media outlets such as Philly.com and Philadelphia Metro. The nearly 60 in. of snowfall made this the third snowiest winter in recorded history.

Snow Geese appeared most active in *Delaware* 2/22-23 with multiple reports of flocks greater than 100 birds. The highest count of 1350 came from the DR 2/23 (AG). During a heavy snowstorm, one possibly injured **Mute Swan** was grounded on the corner of Matson Ford and County Line Roads in Radnor Twp. 1/23 (BE). An uncommon winter resident in *Delaware*, **Tundra Swans** appeared along the DR at two locations throughout Dec and Jan, with a combined high total of 165 during the CBC 12/14 (NP).

A large variety of waterfowl appeared throughout *Delaware* this winter. **American Wigeons** were seen at JHNWR this season with one 12/14 during the CBC and one 1/1 (KG, AU). **Northern Shovelers** were present throughout the county with 18 at JHNWR 1/1 (KG, AU), one at SR 2/5 (CS), and two reports at PHL, 6 on 1/15 (JL) and 2 on 1/20 (DM). The highest season total of 22 **Northern Pintail** was seen on the DR 2/23, and in addition to 8 seen 12/14 during the CBC at JHNWR, one pintail was at JHNWR 1/17 (TB). **Green-winged Teal** were present during the CBC 12/14 with 3 at PHL and 8 at JHNWR. Nine **Green-winged Teal** were also observed at PHL 2/24 (JA, BB). An irregular rare winter visitor, one **Redhead** was observed in Crozer Park 12/14 during the CBC (CL).

Canvasbacks, which eluded county birders during the winter of 2012-2013, were seen this year in large numbers 2/7-2/27 with a high of 196 (TB). **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen in small numbers through the county with one on SR 12/4 (AG), 2 on BL 1/17 (BQ), and 2 on CCR 2/23 (NS). **Greater Scaup** is a species of decline in *Delaware*, but 10 were observed at Cheyney University 2/24 (BB) and an impressive 142 at GPP 2/23 (AG). **Lesser Scaup** appeared on the DR 2/6-2/24 with a high count of 42 at GPP 2/21 (BQ). A casual visitor to *Delaware*, **White-winged Scoters** were present, with a high count of 10 between 1/13-16 (AG, BQ). One White-winged Scoter was later seen at GPP 2/6 (BQ). **Common Goldeneyes** were present on DR 2/16-30 with a high count of 30 (m.ob.) Common Goldeneyes were also seen in smaller numbers with one on the DR 12/26 (KR) and one female at PHL 1/15 (AG). **Common Mergansers** are common winter residents in *Delaware*; a high count of 178 was nevertheless impressive at JHNWR 1/17 (TB). One **Red-breasted Merganser** made a late season appearance on the DR 2/28 (NS).

Wild Turkeys were observed twice this season. Six were at JHNWR 1/29 (SM), and one was observed on the corner of Lansdowne Avenue and Marshall Road in the Borough of Lansdowne 12/3 (HD). Lansdowne's densely populated neighborhoods are not ideal for Wild Turkey, but one individual has been observed in this area since 2012. Unfortunately the bird, which was named "Roscoe" by the local community, met an untimely death when it was hit by a car on Lansdowne Avenue 1/9 (CBS Philly).

Two grebe species were present in *Delaware* this winter. **Pied-billed Grebes** were on SR, with one 12/12-12/13 (WS) and 1/17 (NS). There were also single appearances of Pied-billed Grebe at JHNWR 12/3-14 (TB, m.ob.) **Horned Grebes** appeared later in the winter with one at JHNWR 1/17 (TB) and one on the DR 2/28 (NS). **Great Cormorants** were present along DR 12/8-1/18 with the highest total of 2 during the CBC 12/14 (AG).

An irregular rare winter visitor to *Delaware*, one **Rough-legged Hawk** was present 2/16 off Interstate 95 near JHNWR (TF, KN, DO). An accidental bird in *Delaware*, one **Sandhill Crane** was observed in SPPC in Springfield 12/30 (SJ *fide* NK).

A remarkably early sighting, one **Lesser Yellowlegs** was observed on the western end of PHL 2/24 (BB). **Wilson's Snipe** were present at the Firemen's Pond of PHL 12/14-1/16 (AG, BQ). The highest total for the season was at JHNWR with a total of 6 on 12/1 (TB).

Undoubtedly the most exhilarating sightings this season in *Delaware* were the **Snowy Owls** that were present throughout the county. One Snowy Owl was observed perched atop a utility pole on the Episcopal Academy Campus before flying into nearby *Chester* 12/4 (WS). One individual was seen flying over Interstate 95 around the exit for Rte. 420 on 12/21 (HK). On 12/22, one Snowy Owl was seen in the vicinity of Runway 9-27 at PHL 12/22 (GN). Individuals were present at PHL from 12/22-1/26 with the highest total of 2 seen 12/26 (KR, FW). Unfortunately, one of the Snowy Owls at PHL was struck and killed by an airplane 1/29 (Project SNOWstorm). From 2/22-23, another Snowy Owl returned to the end of Runway 9-27 at PHL (m.ob.) One Snowy Owl was seen at Springfield Hospital 2/4 (DM), and another was photographed at Chester Rural Cemetery 2/2 (*fide* SJ). To add additional excitement to the owl section of the *Delaware* checklist, one **Long-eared Owl** flew into *Delaware* after being chased by crows at JHNWR 2/8 (DO).

One **Eastern Phoebe** was present at PHL 12/28 (DM), a late date. Another Phoebe was heard at Newlin Grist Mill 2/23 (TZ). **Northern Shrike** is a casual winter visitor in *Delaware* and was sighted multiple times at JHNWR this winter with one individual occasionally also on the *Philadelphia* side of the impoundment 12/14-1/25 (TB, FD, DE).

Common Raven sightings have increased in frequency since the fall season. All sightings were mostly within a five-mile radius of their confirmed 2013 breeding grounds, the Glen Mills Quarry. Two ravens were observed on the *Delaware* WRS 2/2 (TB, DE, BK, CP), at Glen Mills Quarry 2/1 (DE), at Thorbury Tract 12/26 (JM), and again at the Glen Mills Quarry on the CBC 12/14 (AG). **Horned Larks** were present at PHL with 2 on 1/15 (AG) and 4 on 2/22 (SJ, BQ).

Red-breasted Nuthatch sightings were considerably fewer this winter compared to 2012-13. Observed only on the CBC 12/14, 3 were recorded in the Darlington area and one in the area of Tyler Arboretum (eBird). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen this winter with single bird sightings in three areas during the CBC 12/14 (eBird). Other reports include one at PHL 1/2 (AG) and one in Rose Valley 1/15 (BB).

Single **Gray Catbirds** were observed multiple times at RCSP 12/14-1/14 (m.ob.). Also, one catbird was seen 1/14 at Mineral Hill near Media (TB). Another single was observed as a yard bird in Thornton 2/14-19 (KR) and according to the property owner had been there since January. **American Pipits** were present at PHL with 10 during the CBC 12/14 (AG) and 15 on 1/4 (GS).

A surprising bird in Jan, an **Ovenbird** was photographed at a feeder at Kapski Painting in Media 1/7 (SK). According to the owner, this bird had

been coming to the feeder for approximately two weeks prior to being photographed. Rare winter residents, three **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen on the Delaware County Community College Campus during the CBC 12/14 (SJ, DL).

Chipping Sparrows were observed multiple times on the CBC with one in Aston, one in Swarthmore, and 8 at SPPC 12/14 (eBird, SJ, DL). Three **Savannah Sparrows** were observed in the Darlington area during the CBC 12/14 (eBird). An occasional winter visitor, one **Vesper Sparrow** was observed at the entrance of the Bridle Path in RCSP 12/14 (*fide* DE). One **White-crowned Sparrow** was seen in Aston during the CBC 12/14 (eBird).

Pine Siskin sightings were greatly reduced from their showing in the winter of 2012-13. Only one report of 3 Pine Siskins came from RCSP this winter, during the CBC 12/14 (TB). **Purple Finches** included one at the Willows 12/13 (KG), one during the CBC in Darlington area 12/14 (eBird), and a yard in Springfield 1/2-1/3 (TB).

EXOTICS: One **Common Rosefinch** was observed in Boothwyn 12/21 (AT).

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Elk County

No compiler.

Erie County

The extremely cold winter froze Lake Erie nearly solid with ice cover beginning in late Dec. Total snowfall this season at the Erie International Airport was a near record of about 110 inches. The birding event of the winter was the unprecedented **Snowy Owl** invasion. An estimated 50 or more **Snowy Owls** were recorded, mostly along Lake Erie (see details below). Most movement was recorded during the first half of Dec when birds could actually be seen moving northeast. By Jan, when Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay froze over, the movement subsided but with many birds remaining. Two **Snowy Owls** were captured at the Erie International Airport and radio telemetry devices were placed on their backs so they could be tracked. By the end of the winter season, one tagged bird was near Port Dover, Canada, and the other tagged bird was recorded near Ashtabula, Ohio. A record number of **White-winged Scoters** remained through the season with an amazing 151 counted 1/20 (see below). This was likely due to the freezing of the Upper Great Lakes, where many White-winged Scoters normally winter. It was also a record setting year for **Red-breasted Mergansers** on the Sunset Point waterbird count at Presque Isle State Park. The daily count of 46,600 on 12/6 was a record setting number for *Erie* since the counts began in 1987 (JM). The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PISP) unless noted otherwise.

The rare female **Harlequin Duck** found 12/4 remained to 12/20 around breakwater #58 on PISP (SSt, JM). Two or 3 **Surf Scoters** were present at the channel 1/14 through the period (RD). It was an exceptional winter for **White-winged Scoters** with 151 counted in the channel from 1/20-22 (JM) and up to 48 remaining through the period. The only **Black Scoter** reported was one around the channel and Gull Point through Jan (JM). An impressive movement of **Long-tailed Ducks** occurred 12/6 when 1125 were counted flying past Sunset Point on the waterbird count (JM). At least a dozen remained through the winter, mainly in the channel.

The first Feb record of **Red-throated Loon** in *Erie* was established 2/21 when one was spotted in the channel where it remained to 2/28 (JF). One or two **Red-necked Grebes** were in the channel 2/2 and 2/12 (DH, KA). Two **Sandhill Cranes** were heard calling as they flew overhead in Waterford 12/16 (JH).

A total of three **Thayer's Gulls** were reported from the Lake View Landfill 1/29-2/11 (JM, JF). A season total of 10 **Iceland Gulls** were at the Lake View Landfill and around the channel through the period (JM). Four adult **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** made an appearance periodically 12/8 through the period at the Lake View Landfill and around the channel (JM). As many as 12 **Glaucous Gulls** of various ages were tallied through the period from Lake View Landfill and various places on PISP (MW, JM). A probable first cycle **Herring x Glaucous Gull** was seen briefly at the Lake View Landfill 2/3 (JM). An imm. **Parasitic Jaeger** was a pleasant surprise at

Gull Point 12/2 when it was observed at length chasing a gull and eventually stealing the gull's food (SSt).

An estimate of at least 50 **Snowy Owls**, mostly along the Lake Erie shore, was recorded. Among the total count of 50, at least 15 of those were in various parts of the county through the period with a single day high count of 14 on 12/19 at PISP. At least five **Snowy Owls** were hit by vehicles and two were trapped, banded, and fitted with radio transmitters.

One or 2 **Long-eared Owls** were found in the pines 12/19-2/10 (KP, RD). One road killed Long-eared Owl was picked up 2/10 in Erie (AD). It will be preserved as a study skin at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center Natural History Museum. A **Short-eared Owl** was spotted at Gull Point on several occasions 1/11-1/23 (RD). The only **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found near B-trail 1/7-8 (RD).

The imm. **Rufous Hummingbird** banded last fall in Edinboro was last seen coming to the feeder 12/16 (SW). The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** coming to a feeder near Harborcreek through the winter provided one of the few winter records in the county (A&BN).

A total of at least eight **Northern Shrikes** were in various sites in the county, including PISP, through the period (m.ob.). **Common Ravens**, now regular well south and east of Lake Erie, were spotted at the Lake View Landfill with up to 3 present 1/28-2/12 (JM). This was only the second record of ravens this close to the lake. One or two **Gray Catbirds** managed to survive the winter, where they were spotted from at least three sites on PISP (JFI, et al.). A single **Lapland Longspur** was spotted among **Snow Buntings** 12/1 and again 2/12 at Gull Point (GM, RD, respectively). Another longspur flew past the mouth of Walnut Creek 12/12 (JM). Rare in winter, a **Chipping Sparrow** visited a feeder in Waterford 1/1-7 (JH). The only report of **Common Redpolls** was of 2 feeding on the ground near Beach 11 on 1/7 (SS).

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Fayette County

Location: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL).

Greenlick Run Lake hosted a good variety of waterfowl and most reports came from this location. The harsh winter weather and frigid temperatures resulted in a frozen lake in Jan and Feb.

A flock of 40 **Snow Geese** on the Fayette side of Bridgeport Reservoir 1/17 (LH) was perhaps the largest flock of Snow Geese ever reported in the county. **Tundra Swans** were present at GRL on and off 12/12-31. High counts include 164 on 12/16 (TA), 35 on 12/18 (JO), and 21 on 1/31 (TA). Four **Mute Swans** were at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort 12/7 (TK, JK). The variety of ducks was very good this season prior to the deep freeze. Four **Gadwalls** were at GRL 12/17 (TA) and 2 were at Filbert Lake 1/12 (MMC). The following were at GRL: 6 **American Wigeons** 12/2 (TA), 11 **American Black Ducks** 12/17 (TA) and two 12/18 (JO), and 4 **Northern Pintails** 12/2 (TA). **Canvasbacks** at GRL included 3 on 12/7 (TA, LH), one on 12/9 (TA, LH), 2 on 12/16 (TA), and 4 on 12/17 (TA). **Redheads** included 13 on 12/7 (ST, TA, LH), 5 on 12/16 (TA), 4 on 12/17 (TA), 11 on 1/2 (TA, LH) and 8 on 1/3 (TA, LH). Single **Ring-necked Ducks** were found 12/12 (JO) and 12/16 (TA). **Greater Scaup** reports include 12 on 12/7 (ST, TA, LH), one on 12/9 (TA), 5 on 1/3 (TA, LH), all at GRL; and 6 on 1/12 at Dunlap Creek Lake (MMC). There was just one report of **Lesser Scaup** - 7 on 12/7 (ST, TA, LH) at GRL. **Buffleheads** at the lake included 16 on 12/7 (ST, TA, LH), and one on 1/3 (TA, LH). **Common Goldeneyes** included 3 on 12/2 (TA), 4 on 12/7 (TA, LH), 2 on 12/17 (TA).

A flock of 27 **Long-tailed Ducks** was at GRL 12/7 (TA, LH), with only 2 remaining 12/8 (TA, LH). Two were photographed at the Youghiogheny River Lake 2/17 (ZN) and 3 were there 2/18 (SW). It's a good waterfowl season when all three scoters are reported. A **Surf Scoter** was at GRL 1/2 (TA, LH). Two **White-winged Scoters** (one adult male) were at GRL 12/7 (ST, TA, LH); 5 were there 1/2 (TA, LH). Three **Black Scoters** were at the lake 12/7 (ST, TA, LH). All three mergansers were present in Dec at GRL. Twelve **Hooded Mergansers** were there 12/3 (JO), 2 on 12/7 (TA, LH) and 4 on 12/15 (TA). Five **Common Mergansers** were there 12/8 (TA, LH), 16 on 12/15 (TA) and 28 on 12/16 (TA). Four **Red-breasted Mergansers** were reported 12/8 (TA, LH) and 5 on 12/17 (TA). A raft of 13 was on the Youghiogheny River Lake 12/18 (SW). **Ruddy Ducks** at GRL include 97 on 12/7 (ST, TA, LH), 3 on 12/8 (TA, LH) and 18 on 12/17 (TA).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at GRL 12/31 (TA). A **Northern Harrier** was at GRL 1/4 (TA); the lake is surrounded by open agricultural fields which

provide habitat for this species. **American Coot** reports included 3 at GRL 12/16 (TA) and 3 at Dunlap Creek Lake 1/12 (MMC). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at GRL 12/7 (ST) and a flock of 110 was there 1/2 (TA, LH). A **Ring-billed Gull** was there 12/8 and 9 were present 12/15 (TA). Five **Herring Gulls** were there 12/7 (TA, LH).

A **Winter Wren** was at Bear Run Nature Reserve 1/30. Unusual in winter, a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was there 1/27 (TA, LH). A flock of 7 **American Pipits** were at GRL 12/8 (TA, LH). Two **Lapland Longspurs** were in Saltlick Twp. 2/10 (LH). This species is perhaps regular in the county, but I don't think I have ever received a report of this species before this season. Three **White-crowned Sparrows** were at GRL 1/8 (TA, LH). Three out-of-season **Chipping Sparrows** were near Acme 1/8 (LH). A **Field Sparrow** was at Bear Run Nature Reserve 1/14 (TA, LH), another species uncommon in winter. An **Eastern Meadowlark**, not normally reported in winter, was at GRL 1/14 (TA, LH). Three **Purple Finches** were in Mount Pleasant, on the Fayette side of town 1/1 (TA).

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Forest County

Locations: Tionesta (TI)

Eighteen **American Black Ducks** and three **Ring-necked Ducks** were spotted 12/29 near TI (m.ob.). The Allegheny R. near TI held 2 **Long-tailed Ducks** 2/14-23, as well as one **Bufflehead**, one **Common Goldeneye**, and 8 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 2/14 (FM, JM, RS, GE). A **Red-necked Grebe** was rescued 2/8 after landing in a parking lot in East Hickory, and was relocated to the open water at the Tionesta Outflow by Eric McCleary. Two **Great Blue Herons** were noted 12/29 near TI by participants of the Pleasantville CBC (m.ob.). Ten **Bald Eagles** were found 12/29 near TI (m.ob.). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was near TI 2/24 (FM, JM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, W. Dwayne DelGrande, Brian Devore, Gary Edwards, Jeff Hall, Mike Leahy, Eric McCleary, Vicky McGinnis, Jim McGuire, Doug Phillips, Russ States, Jerry Stanley, Charlie Vevers.

Franklin County

Locations: Chambersburg (CHG), Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Kriner Holding Pond (KHP), Letterkenny Reservoir (LR)

The winter season was cold but interesting at times. There were minimal numbers of waterfowl because lakes and ponds were frozen; however, two spring fed bodies of water were open much of the time. There were 2 **Cackling Geese**, 8 **Tundra Swans**, 14 **Redheads**, 2 **American Wigeons**, **Green-winged Teal**, one **Canvasback**, and 3 **Ring-necked Ducks** 2/26 and 2/27 on GR. There were 4 **Ross's Geese**, **Buffleheads**, and **Wilson Snipe** on or near GR 12/17-21. **Long Tailed Ducks**, **Buffleheads**, **Red-breasted Mergansers** and **Horned Grebes** were on KHP near CHG 2/26. **Gadwalls** were observed near GR. A group 47 **Redheads** was seen on LR 1/26.

Bald Eagles began nesting at four sites in the county starting 2/8. Numerous sightings throughout the county included both adults and imms. A **Northern Goshawk** was near CHG 1/26. A **Merlin** was observed at GR 1/30 and one was at KHP 2/6. An estimated 75-100 **Wild Turkeys** were noted along the Conococheague Creek 12/9 near GR.

As many as five **Snowy Owls** visited the county during the period and some remain as of this writing. Beginning 1/10, they were observed almost daily in the fields close to Hissong Road between Upton and Mercersburg. **Great-Horned Owls** were heard at various locations and a **Barred Owl** near the edge of South Mountain. One each red and grey **Eastern Screech-Owls** were present in a tree bordering the Grindstone Hill Road throughout the period.

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** visited feeders various times during the report period near Zullinger and Shady Grove. A **Rufous Hummingbird** continued to frequent a feeder near the Blue Mountain Interchange of the turnpike until 1/2.

Hermit Thrushes were reported 1/19 in Little Cove and at a feeder in Caledonia 2/2. **American Pipits** were present various times at GR and KHP.

A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, uncommon in the county, visited a feeder at various times in Jan and Feb near McDowell Road (R&MC). Two **Fox Sparrows** were present at the Caledonia feeding station 2/24. **Snow Buntings** and **Lapland Longspurs** were seen at several locations during Jan and Feb near CHG.

Observers: **Dale L. Gearhart, PO Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256, (717) 860-5799, dgearhart01@comcast.net**, Valerie Barnes, Robert and Marion Carmack (R&MC), Dave Cooney, Donna Hocker, Carl Garner, Bob Keener, Eric Martin, Bill Oylar.

Fulton County

No report.

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

Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Franklin Twp. (FT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Morgan Twp. (MT), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Sycamore (SY).

A flock of **Snow Geese**, unusual for *Greene*, flew over at SY 12/7 (JC). Over 400 **Canada Geese** were found in Jefferson Twp. 2/1, and in Cumberland Twp. on the same date 45 **Mallards** were found (AK, KK, MH). On the Clarksville CBC 12/28, 14 **American Black Ducks** were found (KK) and the same day in MT, 2 **Hooded Mergansers** were tallied (TD). With little open water this season, few other sightings of waterfowl were made: at Waynesburg Sportsman Club, 3 **Ring-necked Ducks** were found 2/21 (JH), a **Redhead** rested in a small opening on a farm pond in MT 2/28 (LG, JG, JC, MH), and 2 **Buffleheads** were at the same location 2/25 (LG, JG).

Ring-necked Pheasants roosted in the rafters of a garage in MT all winter (JW). On 2/1 in Jefferson Twp., over 40 **Wild Turkeys** were seen (MH, AK, KK). **Great Blue Herons** were first reported 2/21 flying down the creek at EV (MH). On 2/24 in FT, 20 **Black Vultures** were seen eating road kill, seemingly unmindful of all the traffic headed to Walmart (JH, MH). On 1/15, a lone **Turkey Vulture** was seen munching on a dead opossum in Aleppo Twp. (WD), but none were reported again until 2/22 when around 50 were in Waynesburg (JH). A **Bald Eagle** was in a swampy area in Jefferson Twp. 12/20 (JW) and one was reported in Aleppo Twp. 2/3 (PB). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was found in MT 12/28 (TD). While searching for Snowy Owls in southeastern *Greene*, 9 **American Kestrels** were found enjoying the sunshine 12/20 (RKB, MH).

Killdeer were in a field in MT 12/12 (KB *fide* RKB) but were not seen again until 2/24 in Center Twp. (AD). A lone **Ring-billed Gull** was observed flying around the parking lot at Walmart in FT 1/27 (MH). Over 30 **Mourning Doves** were under the feeders at LCR 1/9 (MLP). A **Great Horned Owl** was heard just outside a bedroom window in EV 12/15 (JH). A **Belted Kingfisher** was spotted on a WRS in Morris Twp. 1/18 (KK, MH). After Christmas, a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen most days at a home in FT (TD). A pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** was seen working on a tree stump in a yard in FT 1/30 (LS).

Two **Common Ravens** flew over RBF 2/21 (RKB). A **Brown Creeper** was seen briefly as it worked its way up a sycamore tree at EV 12/1 (MH). A **Carolina Wren** was heard singing loudly at LCR 2/23 (MLP). During the Clarksville CBC 12/28, a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was found in FT (TD). **Eastern Bluebirds** checked out nest boxes at LCR 2/16 (MLP). A female **Eastern Towhee** was noted at SY 1/4 (JC). On 12/8 at EV, 2 **American Tree Sparrows** were seen under the feeder (MH). **Fox Sparrows** were sighted at a few locations: at EV 12/7 (MH) and not again until 2/5 at SY (JC). A lone **White-crowned Sparrow** was found on the Clarksville CBC 12/28 (RKB). Over 50 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were at LCR 2/14, with the ground was covered with snow (MLP). **Eastern Meadowlark** was first heard 1/25 in MT (CDB) and 4 were seen in Cumberland Twp. 2/1 (AK, KK, MH). At RBF, 3 **Red-winged Blackbirds** visited the feeders 12/17 (LB), but were not reported again until 2/4 when 12 were in EV (MH). In MT, 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen 1/6 (LB). At SY, a **Common Grackle** was found 2/23 and first sighting of **Brown-headed Cowbird** was at that same location 2/8 (JC).

Purple Finches were only reported once during the period, at SY 2/15 (AC). There were 23 **Pine Siskins** at a feeder in Nineveh 2/15, which was the only sighting this season (CA). Over 40 **American Goldfinches** were counted at LCR 2/23 (MLP).

Observers: **Marjorie Howard, 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 852-3155, birdwatcher108@comcast.net**, Chuck & Carol

Andrew, Lyn Argent, Ron Argent, Kim Barbetta, C. David Bell (CDB), Leah Bell, Ralph K. Bell (RKB), Paul Braddock, Judy Cholak (JuC), Al Churney, Jan Churney, Terry Dayton, Al Deynzer, Walt Donnellan, Myra Gibson, Jay Glem, Lynn Glem, Jerry Howard, Aiden Kern, Kathy Kern, Mary LaPlante (MLP), Linda Swan, and Jerry Wolfe.

Huntingdon County

Locations: Ennisville (EN), Juniata River (JR), Lake Raystown (LR), Stone Mountain Hawk Watch (SM).

One **Northern Shoveler** was observed at LR Aitch 12/9 (DK). Ten **Redheads** were reported at LR Seven Points 12/22 (AL, IG, PD) and 6 were there 1/3 (BG). Up to 4 **Redheads** were seen on the JR near Huntingdon, at the Point, the Raystown Branch, Spillway, and Dam 1/25-30 (m.ob.), and 6 were found on Huntingdon Furnace Pond 1/31 (GG, DG). Twenty-five **Greater Scaup** were noted on JR, Raystown Branch 1/28 (GD). One **White-winged Scoter** was reported by numerous observers on JR Raystown Branch, LR Spillway and LR Dam beginning 1/26 intermittently through 2/20, with 2 in the area 2/4 (DP) and 2/6 (GD). One **Long-tailed Duck** put down at LR Seven Points 1/4 (DK), one was at LR Dam 2/14 (JK), and one was at JR Raystown Branch 2/15 (AL, GD). Fourteen **Common Goldeneyes** were counted on JR Huntingdon 1/30 (AS, IG, AL). It was an unusually good season for **Red-breasted Mergansers**, beginning with one on the JR at the Spillway 1/25 (GD), followed by groups of up to 4 on the JR from Huntingdon to the Dam through 2/27. Four **Ruddy Ducks** were found at the LR Spillway 2/26 (DG).

Four **Pied-billed Grebes** were at LR Seven Points and one **Red-necked Grebe** was at the LR Rte. 994 overlook 12/22 (AL, IG, PD). One **Red-necked Grebe** was rescued from the roadside and released into the stream in Spruce Creek 1/28 (JD). One **Horned Grebe** was sighted at JR Huntingdon 2/2 (JK) and 2/4 and 2/6 (GD), at JR Raystown Branch 1/26 and 2/16 (GG) and 2/20 (CY), at LR Seven Points 1/5 (CM), and at Rt. 103 2/17 (SG). Also 5 were reported in JR Huntingdon 12/17 (DK).

Nine **Golden Eagles** were counted at Stone Mountain Hawk Watch 12/7 (NB) and three were counted at Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch to begin the spring count 2/22 (NB). Two **Northern Harriers** were reported on Claar Road 1/18 (JK) and single sightings occurred nearby 1/5 (GG), 1/24 (GD), 1/26 (CE, GG), and 2/16 (JK). One was also reported near Warrior's Mark 12/31 and 1/1 (KN) and 2 were in Stone Valley 1/18 (DK). Eight **Red-shouldered Hawks** were sighted during a WRS in Big Valley 2/8 (GG, DG, JK, RF). One leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was observed at Cassville 1/18 and one was seen on Chilcote Hollow Road 2/8 (GG, DG, TK, DK). One **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Summit School Road 1/8 (GG), 1/24 (GD), and 1/25 (DG), and one was in various fields around Mooresville and Claar Rd 1/5 (DSG), 1/20 and 1/26 (GG), 2/1, 2/11, and 2/12 (JS), and 2/16 (JK). Other sightings included Stone Creek Valley 1/3 (DK), Fording Road 1/12 (GG), Marklesburg 2/1 (DK), and Allison Road 2/22 (EH).

Two **Wilson's Snipe** were discovered during a raptor survey on Germany Valley Road 1/19 (GG). Two **Long-eared Owls** were found in EN 2/2 (JK). Two **Short-eared Owls** were observed on Claar Road 1/17 (GG, JK); single sightings also occurred there 1/18 (DK), 1/24 (GD), and 1/31 (JK). One **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was at Whipple Dam State Park 2/8 (JD).

A **Northern Shrike** was spotted in Trough Creek Valley 12/7 (GG). One **Eastern Phoebe** was observed 2/15 at JR Huntingdon (AL). One **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen in Mapleton 12/22 (GG). One **Gray Catbird** was reported in EN 2/2 (JK, DW) and one was at Juniata College 2/4 (GD). One **Lapland Longspur** was with **Horned Larks** and 3 **Snow Buntings** along Aitch Road 2/15 (AL, GD). Up to 3 **Snow Buntings** were seen on Pennsylvania Furnace Road 1/19 (JK), 2/5 (AL, AF), 2/7 (GG, JK), 2/9 (JD). Only three sightings of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported, all near EN: one 12/22, 5 on 2/2 (DW) and 10 on 2/2 (JK).

An **Eastern Towhee** was seen in Trough Creek Valley 12/16 (DK), 2 were in Cornpropsts Mill 1/5 (DG), and one was on Stone Creek Ridge Road 1/5, 1/25, and 2/3 (GG). One **Field Sparrow** was observed on Murray Run Road 1/5 (GG) and two were reported in SGL 322 Warriors Ridge 1/5 (IG, AS). Two **Savannah Sparrows** were reported in Huntingdon 2/16 (SG). The first 2 **Fox Sparrows** of the year visited a feeder in Huntingdon 2/22 through the end of the month (DK).

A **Red-winged Blackbird** was observed at LR Brumbaugh 12/22 (DW) and 6 were seen near Cottage 1/26 (CE). Four were reported at Juniata College 2/22 (GD) and 15 were near EN the same day (DW). One **Common Grackle** was reported at LR Mitigation Area State Game Lands 420 on 12/22 (IG, AL), 6 were near EN 12/25 (DW), one was near Huntingdon 2/22 (CN), 3 were near EN 2/22 (DW), and 2 were at Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch 2/22 (NB). One **Brown-headed Cowbird** visited a

feeder near Huntingdon 12/4 (DK), one was reported near EN 2/23 (DW), and 6 were seen at Pennsylvania Furnace 2/18 (AL, IG). One **Purple Finch** was seen 1/1 and 1/6 near Warrior's Mark (KN) and 2 were near Huntingdon 2/15 (MM).

Observers: **Debra Grim (DSG), 8844 Boonie Lane, Petersburg, PA 16669, dgrim@intelliqresearch.com**, Nick Bolgiano, Paul Dennehy, Gordon Dimmig, John Donoughe, Michael Dreibelbis, Jim Dunn, Carl Engstrom, Anna Fasoli, Roana Fuller, Ian Gardner, Sandra Gardner, Benjamin Griffith, Greg Grove, Emily Hurley, Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Alex Lamoreaux, MaryAnne Montoro, Crystal McNeal, Keith Nelson, Dale Plumley, Jerod Skebo, April Sperfslage, Doug Wentzel, Chuck Yohn.

Indiana County

Locations: Conemaugh Dam (CD), Lewisville (LV), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TL), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

YC Lake was mostly frozen for the CBC 12/26 but retained a small patch of open water through 1/14. TL, which is deeper, had also completely frozen over by mid-Jan. Last **Gadwall** was found 12/26 (LC, RC) on TL. Two **American Black Ducks** sighted at YC 1/14 (LC, TG, WL, DJM) were the season's last. The maximum **Mallard** tally was 69 at YC 12/1 (LC); 10 were noted on WRS 3 in the southern part of the county 1/16 (MH, RH, DL, GL); by 2/20 (MH, RH) the Ernest treatment ponds were open enough to harbor 19 Mallards. Three **Canvasbacks** and 2 **Redheads** lingered at YC 12/3 (TG). Seven **Ring-necked Ducks** remained at YC 12/26 (GL, GS) with one hanging on until 12/31 (LC, MH, RH). A single **Greater Scaup** was noted at YC 1/14 (MH, RH) and the last 9 **Lesser Scaup** were listed 12/31 (LC, MH, RH) at YC. Four **Buffleheads** departed YC 12/25 (LC), the day before the CBC. Three **Common Goldeneyes** 12/25 (LC) and 3 Hooded Mergansers 12/1 (LC) comprised the lone reports for these species. TL yielded the high **Common Merganser** counts of 26 on 12/23 (MH, RH) and 18 on 12/28 (MH, RH), the last sighting in the county this season. **Ruddy Ducks** dwindled from 19 on 12/3 (TG) to the last 3 sighted 12/26 (LC, GL, GS).

Ruffed Grouse continued in low numbers with the CBC on 12/26 (m.ob.) producing only 3. A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was last found on TL 12/28 (MH, RH). A **Horned Grebe** appeared to be stranded in a puddle on a small run near Creekside 12/27 (MH, RH, DL); a subsequent search for the bird by a wildlife rehabilitator was unsuccessful, but water levels had risen and the run had overflowed its banks, allowing us to believe that the grebe had succeeded in taking off. A **Double-crested Cormorant** lingered at YC 12/1 (LC).

Ten **Northern Harriers** were noted during the winter season (m.ob.). An adult **Bald Eagle** was spotted at TL 12/20-25 (LC); another was spotted on the Ferrence Farm near IN 12/26 (KB, GF, JK, TK). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at ten locations this quarter (m.ob.); **Cooper's Hawks**, at 12 (m.ob.). The only **Red-shouldered Hawks** were noted at YC between 12/2 (DJM) and 1/14 (LC, TG, MH, RH, WL, DJM). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed near Creekside 2/9 (MH, RH); a dark morph was found near the Rt. 422 and Parkwood Road intersection 2/13 (MH, RH). Conemaugh Dam yielded an adult **Golden Eagle**, photographed by the observer 2/8 (RC); this represented the sixth county record.

American Coots dwindled from the estimated 300 seen 12/1 (LC) to the last 34 spotted 12/15 (LC). Last 5 **Killdeer** were found on the CBC 12/26 (m.ob.). First returnees were 2 near LV 2/21 (DC). One **Bonaparte's Gull** was observed at TL 12/23 (MH, RH), the only report for the county. **Ring-billed Gulls** appeared twice at YC with counts of 4 on 12/10 (LC) and 5 on 1/14 (LC, TG, MH, RH, WL, DJM); first returnees occurred 2/22 with tallies of 12 near Blairsville and 6 at Conemaugh Dam (MD).

Eastern Screech-Owl reports detailed 2 at Homer City 12/26 (SP) and one near LV 1/11 (MC). **Great Horned Owls** were heard at 5 locations (m.ob.) this season; **Barred Owl**, only near SH on three dates (MH, RH). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** wintered at three feeders this year, one at Nolo 1/8-2/28 (CL, GL), one near IN along Lions Health Camp 12/26-2/16 (DM), and another in IN 1/24-2/16 (SD). A **Merlin** was a good find at YC 12/26 (GL, GS).

Horned Larks were found in good numbers throughout the county with tallies of 225 on the CBC 12/26 (m.ob.), 120 on Kohlhepp Road, also 12/26 (TS), 63 on Brady Road 12/27 (MH, RH, DL), and 32 near LV 2/17 (DC). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were tough to find this winter with reports only from a feeder near SH between 12/15 (MH, RH) and end of the period; one was also reported in Armstrong Twp. 12/26 (LS, LuS, RS). A single **Winter Wren** was sighted 12/26 (EF, TF, TG) near Chambersville. A late **Gray Catbird** foraged in yews near SH 12/15 (MH). Top **Cedar Waxwing**

tally was 53 at YC 12/26 (ED, MS, JT); 7 first appeared 1/10 (MH, RH) near SH where they roosted thereafter in an American Holly; peak number was 28 on 1/13 (MH, RH), but smaller numbers were seen through the end of Feb. Three **Lapland Longspurs** were found in Center Twp. 12/26 (BM, KM, CW, PW); the same day 2 were spotted on Kohlhepp Road (TS) while the following day (MH, RH, DL), 3 were found near Marion Center. The CBC yielded a single **Snow Bunting** near Brush Valley 12/26 (GL, GS). Single **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found 12/26, both at YC (ED, MS, JT) and on the Ferrence farm (KB, GF, JK, TK). The CBC 12/26 yielded 2 **Eastern Towhees** both visiting feeders, one near Penn Run (IT, ST) and the other in IN (NB). Three **Swamp Sparrows** lingered until 1/14 (LC, TG, MH, RH, WL, DJM) at YC but could not be found on later outings. First returning **Red-winged Blackbirds** included 70 near LV 2/21 (DC) and 25 near SH 2/23 (RH). Two **Pine Siskins** at Camerons Bottom 2/16 (DM) were the only ones noted this season.

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Nathan Birch, Ken Byerly, Rich Carlson, Lee Carnahan, Roger Carnahan, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Michael David, Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Gary Ferrence, Elise Fuller, Tom Fuller, Ian Gardner, Tom Glover, Roger Higbee, Jan Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Wendy Leuenberger, Beth Marshall, Ken Marshall, DJ McNeil, David Morfenski, Sara Pulliam, Tim Schreckengost, Linda Stormer, Luke Stormer (LuS), Rodger Stormer, Mark Strittmatter, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Ila Tuorinsky, Steve Tuorinsky, Cris Williams, Paula Williams.

Jefferson County

Locations: Big Run Rd (BR), Beechton Rd (BT), Camp Rd (CR), Hervey's Run Rd (HR), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Punxsutawney (PX), Ringgold (RG), Richardsville Rd (RR), Sandy Ridge Rd (SR), Weber Rd (WR), Westerville RD (WV).

The highest count of **Canada Geese** for the period was 85 on the MS 1/2 (KD). Three **Lesser Scaup** were also found on the MS 2/6 (KD). An odd find was a lone **White-winged Scoter** on the edge of the PX high school soccer field 2/22 (KD). Two **Common Mergansers** were noted on the MS 1/2 (KD) and 7 more were there 2/6 (KD).

The resident female **Bald Eagle** was observed in a tree near the nest tree on the MS 1/10 (TG) and a third hand report had her on the nest the last week of Feb. A light gray male **Northern Harrier** was scoped out on SR 1/16 (TG). The same **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed on six different occasions hanging around a bird feeder in RG during the months of Jan and Feb (JK). Another **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen flying over PX 2/17 checking out 48 **European Starlings** in the tree tops (TG). A **Cooper's Hawk** was reported on WR 12/27 (TS). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen on WV 1/31 (DR, DRE). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was noted on SR 12/27 (TS) and another dark Rough-legged Hawk was seen on RR 1/18 (JMI). **American Kestrels** were noted at 3 locations for the period (m.ob.).

The only **Snowy Owl** reported for *Jefferson* was observed briefly on a Turkey feeder on CR 2/15 (JMK). An attempt was made to photograph the bird, but it was gone by the time the camera was retrieved.

A **Northern Shrike** was an interesting find on HR 1/16 (DR). **Common Ravens** were observed multiple times at multiple locations over the period. Five **Horned Larks** were discovered on SR 12/14 (TS). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were noted throughout the period at a bird feeder in RG (JK). Of note was the lack of **American Robin** observations for the period. Four were noted on the MS 1/10 (TG) and one was at the feeder in RG 1/18 (JK). A **Northern Mockingbird** was seen on BT 1/31 (DR, DRE). Three **White-throated Sparrows** were found on the MS 1/10 (TG) and one was located on BR 2/15 (GG). A flock of 35 **Red-winged Blackbirds** was the first observation for the period, at the feeder in RG 2/23 (JK), and one **Brown-headed Cowbird** was first noted at the same feeder in RG 2/1 (JK). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were a welcome find at a feeder in PX 12/15 (JMO).

Observers: **Thomas Glover, 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767-2416, tomnglover@comcast.net**, Kathy Dinsmore, Greg Grenier, John Keener, John Macho (JMO), Jackson Martini (JMI), James Masek (JMK), Dan Richards, Dick Reherman (DRE), Tim Schreckengost.

Juniata County

A total of 77 species were reported to eBird during the winter months. Most water was frozen for much of the season. Some 20 **Redheads**, 10 **Canvasbacks** and 5 **scaup sp.** were at Parson's Pond 2/27 (DB, CK).

There were at least 2 **Snowy Owls** found. One was at Varner Hollow 12/7 and possibly the same owl was seen just a few miles away near Bunkertown 12/12 (*vide* AT). Another **Snowy Owl** was seen near Honey Grove 1/29 (AT, DW). Both a dark and a light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** were seen on that same trip.

The eastern *Juniata* WRS was run 1/25 and resulted in 8 species of raptors including both **Turkey** and **Black Vultures**, as well as 41 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 7 **Bald Eagles** (CK, DM, AT). The western *Juniata* WRS was run 2/8; highlights were 27 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, and one dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** (CK, BM, MM, AT). An imm. **Northern Goshawk** provided excitement at a backyard feeder for a few days (AT).

The harsh winter weather didn't cause **American Robins** to become scarce. Approximately 500 were seen along the Juniata River 2/10, chasing each other and being very vocal (CK).

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Lackawanna County

No compiler.

Lancaster County

Locations: Lancaster County Park (LCP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Muddy Run (MR), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Safe Harbor (SH), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River Peach Bottom (SRPB).

This season was absolutely fantastic for birding. Thanks to the freezing of the great lakes, many normally uncommon waterbirds were seen in abundance. The invasion of **Snowy Owls** was enough to make any birder giddy. *Lancaster* hosted at least 5 Snowies and possibly as many as 15, not including two which were captured at Philadelphia Airport, banded, tagged with a satellite transmitter, and released here. Unfortunately, one returned to the airport and was later killed. However the other one stayed in *Lancaster* and was seen by many people. There was also an unusually high number of **Red-necked Grebes** this winter.

A large number of **Snow Geese** were at the lake at MCWMA 12/21 (MC). There were a few thousand at MCWMA 2/11 (DB), and thousands there by 2/22 (PF). A **Ross's Goose** was at the Masonic Village 1/1-20 (GD, AE), and another was at MCWMA 1/17 (ZM). A flock of 56 **Brant** was on the SRPB 1/13 (BS), an unusually high number for our area. A **Cackling Goose** was with a flock of **Canada Geese** at the Masonic Village 1/1 (GD). Another was at MCWMA 1/13 (RM). An uncounted number of **Tundra Swans** were at MCWMA 12/21 (MC). Ten were on the SR 1/9 (AE), and 6 were on the SR 2/14 (ME, ML). A **Mute Swan** was in a field on Amishtown Road 2/1 (RvM).

A **Wood Duck** was on the Octoraro Creek 2/24 (PM). Five **American Wigeons** were on the SR 2/14 (ME, ML) and some were at MR 2/23 (TR). **Gadwalls** were at MCWMA 12/21 (MC). Some **American Black Ducks** were at MCWMA 12/21-2/22 (MC, PF) and 2 were on the SR 2/14 (ME, ML). Two **Green-winged Teal** were on the SR 2/14 (ME, ML). **Northern Pintails** were at MCWMA on 12/21-2/22 (MC, PF). Flocks were flying upriver on the SR 2/23 (TR). On 12/21, **Northern Shovelers** were at MCWMA (MC). Three **Canvasbacks** were on the SR 1/31 (ME) and 60 were counted on the SR 2/22 (JH), the most the observer has ever seen in *Lancaster*. Some were on the SR 2/23 (TR). Three **Redheads** were on the SRPB 12/20 (BS), 14 were counted on the SR 1/13 (ML), and one 2/9 (ML). One **Ring-necked Duck** was on the SR 2/9 (ML). Some were at MCWMA 2/22 (PF). On 1/9, 8 **scaup sp.** were seen on the SR (AE). Both species were seen on the SR 1/12-2/23 (ML, SS, ME, JH, TR). A **Greater Scaup** was at SH 1/26 (ME) and some were on the SR 1/28-2/9 (ML, ME). An unspecified number of **Lesser Scaup** were seen on the SR 1/28-2/9 (ML, ME).

Long-tailed Ducks were 2 on the SRPB 12/20 (BS), 5-6 on the SRPB 1/25 (BS), one at SH 1/26-29 (ME, ML), and 10 on the SR 2/22 (JH). A drake **White-winged Scoter** was on the SR 1/8-2/22 (ML, AE, TJ, JH) and 3 were on the SR 2/23 (TR). From 1/12-2/23, **Common Goldeneyes** were on the SR (ML, SS, ME, JH, TR), and were performing courtship displays 2/5 (AE). The high count was 100 on 2/22 (JH). Fifty **Buffleheads** were spotted on the SRPB 12/20 (BS) and one was at SH 1/26 (ME). Approximately 1250 **Common Mergansers** were on the SRPB 12/20 (BS). Some were seen at MCWMA 12/21 (MC). There were as many as 18 on the SR 1/16-23 (SS, ME, ML TR) and 35 were at SH 1/26 (ME). One female

Red-breasted Merganser was on the SRPB 12/20 (BS). Up to 25 were on the SR 1/9-2/28 (AE, ML, TJ, ME, JH, TR, SS) and a pair was at SH 1/26 (ME). Some **Hooded Mergansers** were seen at MCWMA 12/21 (MC). Six were on the SR 2/22 (JH) and some still there were 2/23 (TR). A female **Ruddy Duck** was seen at the Masonic Village 1/17 (ZM).

A **Red-throated Loon** was on the SR 1/31 (ME). Two **Common Loons** were on the SRPB 12/20 (BS). A **Horned Grebe** was on the SR 2/9-22 (ZM, ML, ME, JH). **Red-necked Grebes** were on the SR 1/31-2/23 (ME, ML, m.ob.). A possible **Western/Clark's Grebe** was reported on the SR 2/2 (KLi).

The number and frequency of **Bald Eagle** sightings was very encouraging. They have become almost commonplace in *Lancaster*. This year, an unusually high number spent part of the winter locally. **Peregrine Falcons** have also become a bit more frequent. The **Golden Eagle** reported on the SOLANCO CBC was highly unusual.

Bald Eagles were on Charlestown Road 12/14 (SS). Five were at MCWMA 12/21 (MC). An adult was flying near Voganville 12/26 (BC). One was sitting in a tree on Cain's Road, near Mt. Vernon Road on 1/12 (JS). A total of 61 was tallied at SH 1/26 (ME). An adult and an immature were on LCP 2/14 (CC) and one was on Amishtown Road 2/18 (PH). A **Golden Eagle** was seen during the SOLANCO CBC 12/5 at Camp Ware Boy Scout Camp (BS, LB, GD). A **Northern Harrier** was seen 12/22 on Bartville Road near RT 896 (PM). A female was seen during the Northern Lancaster County WRS 1/26 (BC), and one was at MCWMA 2/1 (RvM). The escaped **Harris's Hawk** was still in the Akron area as of 12/7 (BC). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen on Amishtown Road in New Holland 12/21-28 (ZM, ML, TS). A light morph Rough-leg was in the area of Amishtown, Voganville, and Wissler Roads 12/23 (EV). On 12/26, one was seen on Voganville Road (BC). One was seen again 12/27 on Voganville Road. It was diving at the **Snowy Owl** (DA *vide* BC). A light morph bird was seen 12/31-2/23 on Voganville Road, where it strafed one of the **Snowy Owls** that were in the area (MS, LW). It was spotted again 1/20 (JBo). A light morph was at LCP 2/14 (CC). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in LCP 2/14 (CC).

An **American Coot** was on the SR 1/9 (AE). On 12/26, six **Killdeer** were seen near a stream on Hess Road, along with 19 **Wilson's Snipe** (BC). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was observed on the SRPB 1/6, an extremely late date.

Some rather nice gulls showed up this winter. Besides the normal **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls**, **Glaucous**, **Iceland**, and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were also tallied. Eight **Bonaparte's Gulls** were on the SRPB 12/20 (BS) and 5 were on the SR 2/22-23 (JH, TR). An immature **Glaucous Gull** was on the SR 2/8-15 (RS, ME, TJ, EW). A first winter **Iceland Gull** was found 1/31 on the SR (ME, ML). Two were on the SR 2/12 (TJ), one first cycle and one adult. One was on the SR 2/15 (EW). Many **Great Black-backed Gulls** were on the SR 1/16-2/14 (SS, ML, ME) including 80 on 1/31 (ME) and 45 on 2/14 (ME, ML). Four **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were on the SR at Lemon Street 2/12 (TJ). They were also on the SR 2/14 (ME, ML), and 2-3 were on the SR 2/15-22 (EW, JH).

Snowy Owls were by far the stars of the season beginning in early Dec and continuing through the period. Two CBCs recorded them this year: the SOLANCO CBC 12/15 had one near Kirkwood, and the Litzitz CBC had one 12/29 near Brunnerville. The one for SOLANCO was a first; and the one for Litzitz may also have been a first. The invasion of the **Snowy Owls** began when one was spotted on Vogansville Road 12/3 (FH). Another was in some corn stubble near 207 Wissler Road, north of New Holland 12/22 through the season (EW, AC, SS, m.ob.). This bird moved around some, but it stayed in the general area. It was noted that this owl had a face-like pattern on the back of its head. Three were in the area north of New Holland 1/1 (RvM). One was on Amishtown Road, and then two birds were on Voganville Road. One was then photographed on a rooftop in Ephrata 12/5 (TB). On 12/9, another one was on the tobacco warehouse at North Prince Streets and West James Street in Lancaster (AC, ML). One was at the intersection of Bartville and Salem Roads 12/15-24 (PF, ME, CC, EC, m.ob.). Two new owls were south of New Holland 12/24- present. One was observed at 310 S. Groffdale Road, and another at Eby and Stumptown Roads (AL, m.ob.). These two birds seemed to moving around a bit but never very far. On 12/26, three were in the area (AP). During the Litzitz CBC 12/29, one was at the intersection of Clay Road and Wissler Road (PF, EF). It was seen again 12/30 between Clay Road, and Brunnerville Road (BC). One was near Ephrata 1/5 (GK). Yet another one was found in Manor Twp. on Charlestown Road 1/9-12 (GS, BH). One was found at Lancaster Airport 1/20 (DKu). Two were reported in the Paradise area between S, Kinzer and Smyrna Roads (ML). One was on the Pennsylvania/Maryland border 1/26 (BS). One flew in front of a car in Lampeter 2/8 (BS, NS). One was at Rapho Park 2/19-22 (BS).

Several **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were recorded for the SOLANCO CBC at OR 12/15 (BS). A **Short-eared Owl** was at Stop 1 in MCWMA 12/29-1/8 (GR, RM), and one was seen 1/10 in the Wissler Road area

(JBo). A single **Long-eared Owl** was heard 12/15 at OR for the SOLANCO CBC (BS). A **Barred Owl** was heard calling in Peach Bottom 2/2 (BS). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at MCWMA 12/7 (EW); a probable immature was there 12/21-1/5 (MC, JF). One was on Long Lane 2/18 (AH). An adult **Merlin** was on Indian Run Road 12/8, (EW). One was in the New Holland area 12/25, (ML) and one was seen on Voganville Road 12/28 (SS). One **Peregrine Falcon** was sitting in a tree near the Columbia/Wrightsville Bridge 12/22 and 2 were at the Marriott in Lancaster on the same day (ML). At least two were on E. Eby Road and Stumptown Road 12/26 (BC, AP). One was seen during the Southeastern Lancaster County WRS 1/19 (BS). Two were at SH 1/26 (ME) and a pair was on the SR 2/7 (ML). A pair was copulating near Musser School Road 2/28 (SH).

An **Eastern Phoebe** was at Circle M Resort 1/5 (PF). A **Common Raven** was seen and heard on Eby Chiques Road 12/29 (SS). Two were in the Lancaster area on Rte. 222 on 2/14 (KL). Five **Tree Swallows** were on the SR 2/25 (ML) and approximately a dozen were there 2/27 (SS). **Horned Larks** were reported on Charlestown Road 12/14 (SS). Some were at the intersection of Bartville Road and Salem Road 12/22 (PM). Five were on Charlestown Road 2/4 (LB), still there 2/7 (SS). Multiple flocks were in the area east of Strasburg 2/8 (TR). A few were on Charlestown Road 2/12 (SS), and a large flock was on Musser School Road 2/17 (PB). A **Winter Wren** was at Wrightsville River Park 1/20 (AE), and one was singing at Peach Bottom 2/2 (BS).

A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at MCWMA 12/21 (MC). A flock of 12 **Eastern Bluebirds** was in a yard in the Welsh Mountains (PH). On 12/14, **American Pipits** were on Charlestown Road (SS). Six were seen during the Northern Lancaster County WRS 1/26 and 14 were on Charlestown Road 2/4 (LB). One **Lapland Longspur** was seen during the Northern Lancaster County WRS, at Hackman and Lincoln Garden Roads 1/26 (BC). A single bird was on Charlestown Road 1/26 (ME). One was on Esbenshade Road 2/8 (TR). An unspecified number of **Snow Buntings** were on Charlestown Road on 12/14 (SS). 37 were on Musser School Road 2/17 (EH). A **Palm Warbler** was recorded for the Lancaster CBC at the Circle M Resort 1/5 (ME). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was in Lancaster 2/23 (PB).

An **American Tree Sparrow** was at MCWMA 12/21 (MC) and 5 were at the feeders 2/25 (RM). A **Field Sparrow** was in a yard in Gap 2/15 (PF). **Savannah Sparrows** were on Charlestown Road 12/14 (SS). A **Fox Sparrow** was near the mouth of Peters Creek 1/13 (BS) and one was in Holtwood 2/9 (JSm). **White-throated Sparrows** were at MCWMA 12/21 (MC), and a **White-crowned Sparrow** and a **Dark-eyed Junco** were there that day as well (MC). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was on Charlestown Road 12/14 (SS). Two were on Charlestown Road 2/7-12 (SS). A flock of about 10,000 blackbirds along Slate Hill Road 12/20 was comprised of **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** (BS). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found 12/31 near Kirkwood (DMcN) and one was in the same area 1/1 (ME). Two second-year birds and an adult were near Kirkwood 1/18 (JBo, MD). On 12/15, during the SOLANCO CBC, a **Brewer's Blackbird** was observed at a feeder a few miles south of Quarryville (AD, BS).

ADDENDUM: A **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** was photographed in Marietta 6/22/2013 (AP).

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Lawrence County

Locations: New Wilmington area (NW), Plain Grove Township (PGT), Volant Strip Mines (VSM).

With little open water for most of the winter, few waterfowl were reported. A pond near NW held **American Wigeon** 2/14 (RN, DK) and a **Northern Pintail** 1/23 (RN, DK). Two **White-winged Scoters**, very rare for Lawrence, were on the Beaver R. near Wampum 2/15 (BD, RW). The same day, one **Common Goldeneye** and 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were

also noted (BD, RW). **Ring-necked Pheasant** was located at VSM 1/23 (RN, DK) and Black Swamp 2/20 (MF).

A Snowy Owl in late Dec brought many birders to the Amish country south and west of NW, and raptors and field birds were frequently reported in that area as a result. **Northern Harrier** was noted there 12/22 (DI) and variously through the season. They were also at VSM and PGT (m.ob.). Up to 3 **Rough-legged Hawks** were near NW 12/22-2/14 (BI, JB, CHo, m.ob.), and one was at VSM 12/31 (RN, DK) and 2/20 (MF).

A flock of 85 **Sandhill Cranes** moving south over the Hell's Hollow area of McConnell's Mill S.P. 12/16 (SD) was a very unusual sighting, as these were certainly migrants and not from the wintering flock that is annual in the PGT area. Regarding the PGT birds, top counts this year were 44 on 1/23 (RN, DK) and 28 on 12/21 (MV). They were present through the season. First **Killdeer** was back at VSM 2/22 (RNo). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were near NW 1/9 (CHo). Gulls certainly move through Lawrence each year but are rarely reported; 4 **Ring-billed Gulls** near SGL 150 on 1/13 (KSJ) comprised the entire gull report this season.

As mentioned a **Snowy Owl** was located on an Amish farm southwest of NW 12/20 (CH, BG) and drew much attention from southwestern Pennsylvania birders. It was present through at least 12/30, and was joined by a second bird 12/21-22 (SS). According to local residents, the original bird had been present for about a week before it was found by birders 12/20 (*vide* SS). Three **Short-eared Owls** were at VSM 12/31 (RN, DK) and were seen there a few more times through the season. A few **American Kestrels** were on most checklists submitted by Snowy Owl searchers at NW 12/12-1/9 (m.ob.); they were likely present there all winter. The owl also led to the discovery of a **Merlin** at NW 12/21 (MV). It was reported again periodically 12/31-1/23 (RW, et al.).

Field birds at NW and elsewhere were big news this winter. Triple-digit counts of **Horned Lark** were tallied at NW 12/12 (RN) and near Volant 1/19 (AH, PM). Flocks of 50+ were also noted at VSM and in different areas around Volant several times through the season (m.ob.). A flock of 20 **Lapland Longspurs** was near Volant 1/5 (DI). Other reports of longspurs were 2 at NW 12/31 (RW) and 9 near Volant 1/19-22 (AH, PM). An amazing count of 300 **Snow Buntings** was made near Volant 1/31 (MH, SB, et al.). Other notable reports of this species were 80 near Volant 1/5 (DI) and 1/19 (AH, PM), and up to 30 near NW on a few dates 12/31-1/9 (m.ob.). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at SGL 150 on 1/13, as were 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** (KSJ). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were also near NW 1/9 (CHo). Up to 4 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were holding on at VSM 12/20-1/4 (DI, CB) but were not reported thereafter as the winter freeze deepened throughout Jan.

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Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority (GLRA), Lebanon Valley Rail Trail (LVRT), Lions Lake (LL), Memorial lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Millardsville Quarry (MVQ), Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands (QEW), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), SGL 145.

The Lebanon CBC was conducted in Lebanon and parts of Dauphin 12/15. Thirty-one field observers in nine parties, and 8 feeder watchers, tallied 9922 individual birds of 82 species. This was one short of the record of 83 species set in 2007 and 2012. There were six species with high counts for the 34-year history of the Lebanon CBC: 2 **Golden Eagles**, 640 **Horned Larks**, 16 **Brown Creepers**, 79 **Carolina Wrens**, 9 **Winter Wrens**, and 1227 **Dark-eyed Juncos**. Snow cover from the previous day helped bring field birds to the roadsides for easier observation.

With the extremely cold and snowy winter, waterfowl were primarily concentrated at the two open water areas in the county, QEW and MVQ. A **Greater White-fronted Goose**, adult Greenland race, was photographed at QEW 1/27 (JD, TB). A **Ross's Goose** was found on a new county early date at MC 1/2 (RCM). There were 10 sightings of **Cackling Geese** at four county locations, including MLSP, LL, MC, and MVQ (m.ob.). Rare in December was a **Mute Swan** found during the CBC 12/15 (m.ob.). Two Mute Swans were feeding with Canada Geese along E. Kercher Ave 12/23 (TB). A thousand **Tundra Swans** were at MC for much of the winter, according to Middle Creek staff.

Rare in winter were up to 7 **Wood Ducks** at MLSP 12/8-12 (TB, DM), and 4 at the Myerstown Quarry Pond 2/21 (TB). Six **Northern Shovelers** found some open water at Stovers Dam Park 2/8 (TB, KB). Three were at QEW 2/11 (TB). Up to 4 **Northern Pintails** were at Farmer Dr. 1/26-28 (TB, KB) and 2 were at MVQ 1/29 (RCM). **Green-winged Teal** were found in several open water areas, including 2 at MC 1/2 (RCM), 2 at Farmer Dr. 1/28 (TB), and 8 at Short Rd. near QEW 2/27 (RCM). Up to 10 Green-winged Teal were at QEW 2/6-16 (CBo, TB, RCM, KB). Rare in Jan were a pair of **Canvasbacks** at MVQ 1/29 (RCM, TB). The male continued through 2/27 (RCM, m.ob.), with up to 2 females present through 2/24 (RCM, TB, m.ob.). Ten **Redheads** were at MVQ 1/8 (TB). The nearly all-male flock remained through the period (m.ob.), with numbers building to a high of 38 on 1/29 (RCM). A good Dec find was a **Ring-necked Duck** at FIG 12/15 (DM). Ring-necked Ducks was found at MVQ 1/8 (TB). Ring-necks continued at MVQ through the period (m.ob.), reaching a count of 45 on 2/21 (TB). Up to 8 **Greater Scaup** were rare winter visitors at MVQ 1/26-2/27 (TB, KB, RCM, m.ob.). A female Greater Scaup was at the Cornwall Iron Mine Lake 2/8 (TB). Rare in Jan was a **Lesser Scaup**, reported at MC 1/17 (DHo). Lesser Scaup were also found at MVQ 2/6-22 (TB, PF, T.J, RCM, m.ob.), with 7 reported 2/9 (JH). Accidental in Jan was a male **White-winged Scoter** at MVQ 1/8 (TB) and again 1/28 (TB, CBo). A male **Long-tailed Duck**, accidental in Feb, was a treat at MVQ 2/6 (TB, CBo), and continued through the period (RCM, KB, JH, m.ob.). **Hooded Mergansers** were found occasional at MVQ in small numbers, beginning with a female 1/27 (TB, JD). Three were at MVQ 2/12 (RCM). Rare in Dec were a male **Common Merganser** at MLSP 12/9 (TB) and a female 12/10-12 (TB). Accidental in Dec was a female **Red-breasted Merganser** at MLSP 12/10-12 (TB). Up to four Red-breasted Mergansers were at MVQ 2/14-26 (TB, KB, CBo, RCM, JH, m.ob.). Up to 3 Red-breasted Mergansers were at QEW 2/14-17 (TB, KB, CBo) and a single male was there 2/26 (TB). Three **Ruddy Ducks** were at MVQ 12/16 (TB) and female was there 2/12-17 (RCM, TB, CBo, T.J, JH).

An adult basic **Red-throated Loon** provided a new early date at MVQ 2/12-23 (RCM, KBr, TB, KB, m.ob.). Providing a first Jan record, a **Horned Grebe** was at MVQ 1/29 (TB). Several remained here through the period (m.ob.), with four reported 2/10 (RCM). A Horned Grebe was also seen at the Cornwall Iron Mine Lake 2/8 (TB). Two **Red-necked Grebes** flew into MVQ on a new county early date 2/22 (RCM, KR, PF). One was relocated there 2/24 (RCM). A juv. **Double-crested Cormorant** was found on a new late date, and also representing a first Dec record, at MVQ 12/16 (TB).

The official counting at 2Mtn wrapped up 12/31. It was a down year across the board, with every species of raptor down from the prior year, and also below average for every species other than Bald Eagles (DS). A **Bald Eagle** was incubating on the nest along Pine Rd 2/28 (TB). Male and female **Northern Harriers** were seen at MC 1/8 (RCM). A male harrier was at FIG 1/10 (TB, DM, JD). The final **Northern Goshawk** of the count season passed through 2Mtn 12/11 (EC, LC). Though not rare, **Red-shouldered Hawks** are always a welcome sight; this season they were found near Colebrook 12/20 (TB) and 1/24 (AHO), at MC 1/9 (RCM, SM), and at FIG 1/10 (TB, JD, DM). Twenty-four **Red-tailed Hawks** were tallied on a county WRS route 1/18 (GB, RL, FH, AS). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen along Eckert Rd 12/20 (TB). One was nicely photographed at FIG 1/8 (JD, DM, NH). A dark morph Rough-leg was found north of Bellegrove 1/3 (TB). A **Golden Eagle** was seen at 2Mtn during the CBC 12/15 (DS). A Golden Eagle was "headed the wrong way" at 2Mtn 12/21 (DS), perhaps an overwintering individual. Three Golden Eagle observations were made at MC, an adult 1/8 (RCM), a juv. 1/13 (RCM, SM), and one of unspecified age 1/17 (DHo).

A small number of **American Coots** overwintered at MVQ (m.ob.), with a high count of 8 on 1/28 (TB). Sixteen **Killdeer** were tallied during the CBC 12/15 (m.ob.). Up to 7 were seen at a marshy area along Quarry Rd, east of Myerstown, 1/4 through the period (TB, JD, CBo). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were in the same wet field near Myerstown 1/27 (JD, TB, CBo) and 2/28 (TB). Two Snipe were also found along Farmer Dr. 2/18 (TB) and 2/26 (RCM). An **American Woodcock** was a nice find near the Iron Valley Golf Course 12/1 (JF).

Twenty-two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at MLSP 12/6 (TJ, DG). A faded first year **Iceland Gull** was at LL 12/24-29 (CBo, KB, TB). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at MLSP 12/6 (TJ, DG) and up to 7 were found at LL, while the open water lasted, 12/15-1/1 (JL, KL, RCM, CK, AT, m.ob.). A juv. Lesser Black-backed Gull was flying over the GLRA 2/11 (TB). A juv. **Glaucous Gull** provided an eighth county record at MLSP 12/6-8 (TB, DM).

A **Barn Owl** was seen during a deer spotlight survey at FIG 12/16 (JD, NH, m.ob.). A Barn Owl was also seen flying across Heilmandale Rd 12/16 (DM). During the Litz CBC a Barn Owl was found in the Lebanon portion of MC 12/29 (ME, JB, et al.). A pair of **Great Horned Owls** were nesting and hooting through most of Dec in the Burd Coleman area (GB).

Lebanon had a share in the **Snowy Owl** invasion; however none

remained long enough to be enjoyed by more than a few observers. Five were photo documented, but could not be relocated by the birding community after the reports surfaced. A Snowy Owl was photographed on the roof of a car in a residential area of Palmyra 12/2 (MP). One was photographed on a telephone pole in Bellegrove at dusk 12/21 (TBa). One was found at the GAF roofing plant in Myerstown 12/23 (ZA). This was the same location where one was photographed a month earlier 11/26/2013 (RF *fide* CH). One was photographed at Briar Lake senior community 1/18-19 (M&HB, m.ob.). Lastly one was photographed along the side of Mt Zion Rd 2/16 (B&LM). These birds represented the 10th through 14th records for Lebanon, respectively.

A **Barred Owl** was heard during an owl survey at FIG 1/30 (JD, JR). A **Short-eared Owl** was photographed at a home along Rte. 419 during the week of 2/10 (D&AM). Another Short-ear was photographed at a farm along Ramona Rd near Myerstown 2/18 (CW). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard along Cold Springs Rd. at FIG 1/13 (TB). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen along Blacks Bridge Rd 12/3 (TB). One was found in a picnic area at FIG 2/1-15, where they were also seen during the past summer (JD, TB, KB). There were five observations of **Merlins**. One stooped at a **Horned Lark** flock along Mt Pleasant Rd 12/11 (DHi). Others were sighted during the CBC 12/15 (m.ob.), at Mt Zion Rd 12/26 (DM), at FIG 1/9 (JD, DM, CBo, TB), and just east of FIG 2/10 (JD). Winter **Peregrine Falcon** sightings seem to be increasing in the county. There were ten reports of Peregrines during the quarter, representing at least 3 different individuals. Some highlights include an adult chasing doves along W. Kercher Ave 12/23 (TB) and an adult flushing doves at nearby Strack's Dam Rd 1/4 (TB, KB). Juv. peregrines were found along Oak St south of Annville 12/16 (TB), along Colebrook Rd 1/8 (TB), and in a tree eating a **European Starling** along Fox Rd 1/9 (RCM, SM). An imm. Peregrine was swooping over the waterfowl at MVQ 2/14 (TB, KB), providing a first Feb record for the county. This may be the same individual that was circling over the ducks at MVQ 1/29 (TB).

An **Eastern Phoebe** was a nice find at MLSP 1/28 (JD). **Northern Shrikes** have become annual in the training areas of FIG, with one seen there 12/23 (JD, DM). A Northern Shrike was found on a new county early date at FIG 1/2, and again 1/10 (JD, DM). The city of Lebanon hosts large numbers of roosting crows. A total of 720 **Fish Crows** and another thousand silent crows were counted there 1/1 (RCM, SM). A **Common Raven** was seen during the Lebanon CBC, flying over the Union Canal Tunnel Park 12/15 (JF, JL, KL, FH, et al.) and 2 were flying together east of Lebanon 2/12 (TB) and 2/28 (EC). **Horned Larks** were plentiful on manure strips and snowy roadsides. Two of the larger flock estimates were 600 near Fontana 2/7 (DHi), and 500 near Millardsville 2/8 (TB, KB). During the Lebanon CBC, 640 were tallied from various locations 12/15 (m.ob.).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported from Mt Gretna 2/13 (KR). During the Lebanon CBC 16 **Brown Creepers** were seen, tying the county high count, 12/15 (m.ob.). Seventy-nine **Carolina Wrens** found during the CBC established a new county high count 12/15 (m.ob.). Singing **Winter Wrens** were reported during the Lebanon CBC 12/15 (CB). These were part of the 9 tallied for the CBC, which tied the county high count (m.ob.). Winter Wrens were also seen at Quittapahilla Park 1/13 (TB) and at SGL 145 on 1/31 (SH, GT, m.ob.). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was singing at MC 1/9 (RCM). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were also found at Cornwall 1/19 (JF), SGL 145 on 1/31 (SH, GT, m.ob.), and Grantville 2/2 (KB).

In Mt. Gretna, 140 **American Robins** were feeding on berries 12/12 (KR). A **Gray Catbird** was a rare find during the Lebanon CBC at Coleman Park 12/15 (JF, JL, KL, FH). Accidental in Dec was a **Brown Thrasher** found during the CBC 12/15 (RS, m.ob.). Twenty-five **American Pipits** were seen along Dairy Lane, north of Palmyra, after a snowfall 12/9 (TB). At least 8 were near the intersection of Millardsville and Reilly Roads 2/8-9 (TB, KB, GR). A flock of 150 **Cedar Waxwings** was found at Cornwall Manor 1/16 (GB).

Lapland Longspurs were found with the **Horned Lark** flocks in multiple areas of the open farmland. Three were tallied during the Lebanon CBC 12/15 (m.ob.). A good count of 3 was made at the junction of Millardsville and Reilly Roads 2/9 (JH). Thirty-five **Snow Buntings** were along Rte 422 west of Annville 1/26 (TB, KB), 42 were near Fontana 2/5 (RCM), and 52 south of Myerstown along Rte 501 on 2/17 (RCM).

Rare on the Lebanon CBC, 3 **Eastern Towhees** were found from two locations 12/15 (m.ob.). Towhee sightings were surprisingly frequent this winter, with 10 additional reports from five different locations (m.ob.). A good count of 150 **American Tree Sparrows** was made at FIG 12/5 (DM). A **Chipping Sparrow** was a rare CBC find 12/15 (m.ob.), while one was at a home feeder east of FIG on a new county early date 1/1 (JD). Up to 3 **Savannah Sparrows** were found along Lindley Murray Rd 2/7-15 (TB, KB). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** tied the county late date at Governor Dick Park 12/20 (SH, EH, MPe, SB). Along the LVRT, 163 **White-throated Sparrows** were counted 12/1 (DM). Three hundred **Dark-eyed Juncos** were found at FIG

12/5 (DM). A new county total high count of 1227 juncos was established during the CBC, from combined locations 12/15 (m.ob.).

A female **Dickcissel** was a surprise feeder visitor at Cornwall Manor, on a new county early date 2/5-8 (GB). Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found during the CBC 12/15 (m.ob.). Nine meadowlarks roosted together in a tree at the GLRA 12/16 (TB). Two were singing on a new county early date at MC 1/13 (RCM). Eighteen **Rusty Blackbirds** represented a nice find along Eckert Road 12/21 (JH). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at MC 2/24 (RCM). A **Purple Finch** was at a feeder in Jonestown 2/16 (CBo), which also hosted a **Pine Siskin** 1/25 (CBo, et al.).

Observers: **Timothy Becker, 10283 Jonestown Rd, Grantville, PA 17028, tjbecker81@aol.com**, Zach Adams, Matthew Anthony, Steve Balard, Tom Barton (TBA), Mike and Helda Bass, Kathy Becker, Chuck Berthoud, Jim Binder, Gerry Boltz, Chris Bortz (CBo), Karen Brubaker (KBr), Greg Burgdorf (GBu), Ed Chubb, Larry Coble, Mike Dale, Jarrod Derr, Gordon Dimming, Jim Dunn (JDu), Mike Epler, Jim Fiorntino, Pamela Fisher, Robert Fisher, Ian Gardner, Doug Gochfield, Christopher Heft, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Daniel Hinnebusch, Deaune Hoffman (DHo), Nick Hoffman, Ann Holtzman (AHO), Evelyn Hostetter, Sid Hostetter, Anne Hurst, Tom Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Andy Keister, Alex Lamoreaux, Jane Light (JLi), Richard Light, Jim Logan, Kitty Logan, Dave McNaughton, Randy Miller (RCM), Shelva Miller, Donald and Anita Mock, Brandon and Lindsay Moyer, Maryann Palonzo, Robert Peda, Mandy Pennypacker (MPe), Steve Rannels, Joan Renninger, Katie Rittenhouse, Gary Robeson, Art Schiavo, Dave Schwenk, Rosemary Spreha, George Tallman, Aden Troyer, Charles Wertz, Dennis Wingle.

Lehigh County

The Lehigh Valley had what can only be described as its first "real winter" in several years, with plenty of snow and plenty of cold. Mean temperatures in January and February were more than 5.2° F below the 30-year norm each month. The total snowfall at Allentown for the three-month reporting period was 66.7 inches (39.4" greater than the 30-year norm) with 36.5 inches in February alone. A storm 2/14 brought about two feet of snow just in time for the start of the annual Great Backyard Bird Count that weekend. Cabin fever probably contributed to greater regional participation than usual in this event. By mid-February, nearly all bodies of water to our north were frozen solid, resulting in some interesting waterfowl here. The Lehigh River remained more or less open, but with large ice floes by February. Some spring fed farm ponds remained open, as did Dorney Pond and Lake Muhlenberg in Allentown, neither of which have frozen in recent memory. Most of the quarries in the county were solid by early February. Weather data for Allentown can be referred to at <<http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=phi>>.

A total of 113 species was reported in *Lehigh* this season, two fewer than last winter. Data for this report were gleaned from many sources, including eBird reports, with supporting details from individual observers for unusual reports. For the 2013 calendar year, a total of 226 species were reported to eBird within *Lehigh*, with the top county eBird list consisting of 212 species (FD). eBird reports certainly contribute greatly toward rounding out this report, so many thanks to all who consistently report their findings!

The goose scene was not quite as exciting as last winter, but the **Greater White-fronted Goose** and **Ross's Goose** from fall 2013 continued to be seen regularly into Jan. A single Greater White-fronted Goose visited Fogelsville Quarry, Dorney Pond, and Lake Muhlenberg through 1/17. The only Lake Muhlenberg record was 1/12 (CH, BW). A group of 4 Greater White-fronted among thousands of **Canada Geese** was at Coplay Quarry 12/2 (BE). The sporadic Ross's Goose first found at Fogelsville Quarry way back in Oct 2013 was last noted there 1/18; a bit further north, a single Ross's was at Coplay Quarry 1/4 (FD, CB), and at Quarry Street in Whitehall 1/19 (FD). The wintering **Snow Goose** population in *Lehigh* was less impressive than in some recent years. The greatest numbers were probably at Coplay Quarry at the end of Dec, with a max report of about 4800 on New Year's Day (BE). A flock of 3000 over New Tripoli was another highlight 12/30 (FD). Predictably, numbers tapered off as the quarries froze. A single **Cackling Goose** was reported regularly from Fogelsville Quarry and Dorney Pond through 2/2 (m.ob.), with an additional report from Lake Muhlenberg 1/13 (DA). The only report of more than one was of two at Dorney Pond 1/1 (FD). At Nestle Way in Macungie 1/12, a dark-chested Cackling Goose with a bright white neck ring appeared to be of one of the subspecies found far to the western part of the species' range, a great find for Pennsylvania (BW). **Mute Swan** isn't mentioned much in this reports, but it's actually a bit uncommon away from a few kept birds and the banded Dorney Pond pair. Single birds were at Germansville 12/7 (CH), Coplay Quarry 12/8 (FD), and Slatedale 1/18 (JH). A small flock of **Tundra Swans**

(5) was seen by many at Fogelsville Quarry 12/1-10; a flock of 15 flew over the same location 1/5 (FD).

The freeze to our north brought some great ducks to the county. The total of at least twenty species was notable. **Wood Ducks** (max 4) wintered at Ontelaunee Park in Lynn Twp. through at least 2/2 (FD). There were six reports of **Gadwall**. A pair of **American Wigeons** wintered once again at Dorney Pond, where they pirated food and generally bothered the many **Mallards**, coots, mergansers, and other diving ducks making an honest living there. **American Black Duck** numbers at Fogelsville Quarry peaked at 50+ the first week of Jan. Three **American Black Duck x Mallard** hybrids were seen daily at Dorney Pond all winter, as usual in recent years. **Northern Shoveler** was a rare find at Dorney Pond 1/18 (FD). **Northern Pintails** were reported three times at various locations.

Some of the more unusual *aythya* duck species were a definite highlight this season, with small numbers of **Canvasback**, **Redhead**, and both scaup species easily viewed on small lakes and ponds, as opposed to the more typical distant views from high above a quarry pit that local birders are used to. Lake Muhlenberg featured five *aythya* species on several occasions, quite unusual for this very small semi-urban lake. Canvasbacks (3) arrived at Lake Muhlenberg 1/7 (KD), then various combinations of three were seen at both Lake Muhlenberg and Dorney Pond daily through Feb. Three Redheads appeared at Dorney Pond 1/14 (BE); one more showed up 2/1, then another 2/16...the five were easily viewed and beautifully photographed at remarkably close range by many observers through the period. A flock of 13 Redheads was found on the Lehigh R. at Walking Purchase Park 2/1 (ES). A **Greater Scaup** was first reported at Lake Muhlenberg 12/17 (TW); sporadic at first, it was seen daily by early Jan, and was joined by up to two others 2/1 (KD). In mid to late Feb, one was seen occasionally at nearby Trexler Pond, but, oddly, not right around the corner at apparently non-scaup-friendly Dorney Pond. One to 4 **Lesser Scaup** (but usually just one) were also found at Lake Muhlenberg 2/1-28. Rounding out the category, small numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** were at Dorney and Muhlenberg daily most of the period. The max count for the county (70) was 12/8 at Coplay Quarry (FD).

A pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** was a very good find on the Lehigh R. at Lehigh Gap Nature Center 2/4 (FD). As the Lehigh R. began to freeze, **Common Goldeneyes** were at LGNC beginning 2/4 (max 7, FD). An even more significant find was two female Common Goldeneyes at Lake Muhlenberg beginning 2/11 (KD). This is the first known record for this site despite many decades of continual observance (SB, PS). By 2/25, the ducks had moved over to Dorney Pond, and stayed there through the period. A dozen **Hooded Mergansers** at Lake Muhlenberg 2/16 was a good count following a major blizzard (SB). **Red-breasted Merganser** was reported three times, all single birds, first at Trexler Park 1/1 (FD), Lake Muhlenberg 2/14-16 (SB) and Walking Purchase Park 2/22 (ES). The only reports of **Ruddy Ducks** were 1/17 and 1/18 at Fogelsville Quarry (DH, FD).

Wintering **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported from several locations, as late as 2/2 at Lehigh Canal Park (JL). **Ring-necked Pheasants** were found almost daily at Haafsville (DN). On the heels of a fall 2013 summary with a staggering zero reports of **Wild Turkey**, there were 15 reports to eBird this period. The highlight was a single flock of 94 at the northeast corner of the county 1/18 (CHc). This is a prime example of how eBird can help track a species of conservation interest that many birders might take for granted as "common". A **Ruffed Grouse** was at Leaser Lake 2/11 (FD).

Black Vultures and **Turkey Vultures** wintered as usual, with a probably coincidental tally of six to seven Black Vultures reported from various parts of the county throughout the first two months of 2014. Various observers reported **Bald Eagle** eight times from Bethlehem, Walking Purchase Park, Fogelsville Quarry and Lehigh Gap. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Ontelaunee Park 1/1 and 2/15 (FD), hopefully a resident. A western-type **Red-tailed Hawk** spent time near Alburts for the second year in a row this winter, seen and photographed by multiple observers. Described 1/8 (BCM, LF) as having a distinctly reddish tail eliminated pure Harlan's subspecies, which winters in the Midwest. Photos of this striking bird obtained 2/12 (DW) include clear shots of the underwing, tail, back, breast and overall plumage, indicating a dark-morph western subspecies Red-tailed Hawk, very rare for the east coast. This bird should be looked for again next winter. Two reports of **Rough-legged Hawk** were a dark-morph bird at Heidelberg Twp 1/12 (BH), and a light-morph at Germansville 2/12 (FD).

Single **American Coots** were present at both Lake Muhlenberg and Dorney Pond daily for much of the period, into Mar. There were no reports of **Killdeer** in the county after 12/1 (CH) or before 1/18 (FD), after which they became fairly regular at suitable habitat, despite adverse to severe weather conditions. **Wilson's Snipe** arrived at Fogelsville 2/25 (BCM). The max count for **Ring-billed Gull** was 305 at Walking Purchase 2/22 (ES). A notable count of 50 **Herring Gulls** came from Lehigh Canal Park 2/2 (JL), where the gull flock that day also included a photographed juvenile **Iceland**

Gull (JL). A similarly aged Iceland Gull was found nearby 2/15 (FD). One or two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** could be found at the west Allentown lakes almost daily throughout the period, but the max count (~50) came from Lehigh Canal Park 2/2 (JL).

The unprecedented irruption of young **Snowy Owls** this winter will not soon be forgotten. *Lehigh* hosted at least six Snowy Owls during this time. At the Queen City Airport, a young Snowy was found and photographed 12/5 (JF). At New Smithville, a Snowy Owl was reported 12/7 on the power lines along Old Route 22 (JG). The next day, participants on a Lehigh Valley Audubon field trip located a young Snowy Owl along Rte. 100 near Trexlertown (CH, JL, et.al.). This bird was seen and photographed by many over the following weeks, through at least 2/2 (FD). Although similar in plumage to the Queen City bird, a comparison of photographs showed this owl to be darker overall. At Lehigh Valley International Airport (LVIA), the first report of a Snowy Owl came 1/11 (SF), but it was not seen by very many birders until about 1/23 when a photograph was obtained. (DL). There are very few safe or legally accessible areas to view the grounds of LVIA, making documentation a challenge. Fortunately, an interested observer who lives very close to the area where the owls were seen was able to learn from airport personnel that there were at least three Snowy Owls on airport property by 1/26 (LT). A Conservation Officer confirmed that there was some attempt to trap and relocate the owls at about that time, but the outcome of that effort is unknown (*fide* LT). Although most reports at LVIA were of a lone, dark, heavily barred young female, two Snowy Owls were reported at LVIA 2/23-25 (MS, DW). The heavily barred Snowy remained through the reporting period, well into March. Prior to this winter, the most recent confirmed Snowy Owl reports from *Lehigh* were in April 2002 at Queen City Airport, and February to April 1992 at Fogelsville (DD). The last known solid reports from LVIA were in 1990 and 1991.

The only **Barred Owl** reports were from New Tripoli 1/2 and 2/17 (FD). The adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** was present in Allentown in early November was enjoyed by many observers, last seen by the host on the evening of 1/3 (BCM). Temperatures that night were down to low single digits, so it can only be hoped that this long-staying bird moved on to a more suitable climate. There were multiple reports of the **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Stine's Corner through the period. **Merlin** was reported nine times 12/26-2/23, which matches the number of **Peregrine Falcon** reports for the period, most of which were from downtown Allentown.

Given the severity of the winter season, **Eastern Phoebe** was a pretty remarkable find 1/10 at Southern Lehigh High School (ES). The only other report was 2/16 at Whitehall (FD). A dawn roost count for the Bethlehem-Easton CBC tallied 4775 **American Crows** near Fountain Hill 12/28 (ES). There were once again multiple reports of **Common Raven** away from the Blue Mountain, including SGL 205 (CH), Walking Purchase Park (ES) and South Mountain (2) near Emmaus (LC). **Horned Larks** were at the usual locations, with the max count only 200+ at Albutis 1/18 (JH).

A probable **House Wren** was reported from Dorney Pond 2/11, but not refound despite several attempts (KD). **Gray Catbird** was noted more than usual despite the cold winter. As in recent years, one wintered at Walking Purchase (ES). Other sightings were 12/8 at Lehigh Parkway (KD, with photo), Whitehall 1/2 (RW) and SGL 205 on 2/17 (CH). A **Brown Thrasher** was on the Allentown CBC 12/14 near Zionville (BE). Another was found at SGL 205 on 2/2 (CH).

American Pipits and **Cedar Waxwings** were fairly scarce all winter. So were **Lapland Longspurs**, but that's to be expected...there were single birds in Heidelberg Twp 12/16 and 2/6 (BE, FD). **Snow Bunting** was present 12/7 to 2/6 in very low numbers; the max count (4) was at New Tripoli 2/1 (FD). A pair of Snow Buntings was a great find in an unusual location near Trexler Park in Allentown 12/22 (KD).

Like the catbirds, **Eastern Towhee** seemed to be more regular than usual this winter, with at least a dozen reports through the period. Several were reported around the Great Backyard Bird Count in mid-Feb, probably driven to feeders by that weekend's heavy snowfall. **American Tree-Sparrows** were also more common than in recent years. Participants of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center's winter bird survey tallied at least 53 in the area 1/18 (CHc, DM). Two were at Whitehall Twp 2/10 where they are locally uncommon (JH). The only **Chipping Sparrow** was at New Tripoli 2/9 (FD). There were 10 records of **Field Sparrow** and 4 of **Savannah Sparrow**, with a max count (4) of the latter at Heidelberg Twp. 12/16 (BE). **Fox Sparrows** were scarce, with one at Zionville on the Allentown CBC 12/14 (m.ob.) and one at New Tripoli 1/19-2/16. Small numbers of **Swamp Sparrows** were on the Allentown and Upper Bucks CBCs within *Lehigh* 12/14 and 12/22, respectively.

The only Dec **Red-winged Blackbird** occurred 12/9 (KD), followed by none in Jan. The max count (just 12) for Feb was at Haafsville 2/2 (DN). **Common Grackle** and **Brown-headed Cowbird** occurrence was very similar, but with no records in Dec or Jan. **Rusty Blackbird** (2) was particularly notable 2/9 in west Allentown at a suet feeder near Lake

Muhlenberg (SB). Another was at New Tripoli 2/2 (FD). Winter finches were even more absent than blackbirds, with one record of **Purple Finch** (4) at New Tripoli (FD) being the extent of our winter finch news this quarter.

ADDENDUM: A **Greater Yellowlegs** was photographed at Emmaus 11/9/13 (JF), significantly beyond the seasonal late date of 10/12 that was reported in the fall 2013 summary. This exceptional find documents a new fall late date for the county by nine days.

Observers: **Bill Etter, 407 S. Cigar Rd, Northampton, PA 18067, billetter01@gmail.com**, Dan Altif, Chris Bortz, Scott Burnet, Linda Campbell, Dave DeReamus, Frank Dickman, Kevin Dougherty, Scott Fackenthal, Linda Freedman, James Funk, Dennis Glew, John Good, Deuane Hoffman, Bob Hoopes, Jeff Hopkins, Jason Horn, Chris Hugosson, Corey Husic (CHc), Stephen Kloiber, Dave Leibert, Jon Levin, Barbara Malt (BCM), Dave McNaughton, Dave Neimeyer, Peter Saenger, Mike Schall, Ed Sinkler, Linda Torlay, Todd Watkins, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut.

Luzerne County

No report.

NEW COMPILER BEGINNING SPRING 2014: Jonathan DeBalko, 235 Buck Ridge Drive, Drums, PA 18222, (570) 956-1849, jonathan.debalko@wilkes.edu.

Lycoming County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Caldwell Road (CR), Indian Park-Montoursville (IPM), Northern Lycoming (NL), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Susquehanna River (SR), Williamsport (WPT).

Single-digit night temperatures in mid-December associated with an Alberta Clipper were a foreshadowing of the winter to come, and the resulting (historically) normal cold winter helped trigger a great season of birding in central Pennsylvania. Two events mobilized area birders: the **Snowy Owl** invasion throughout the region (not temperature-dependent), and a cold-induced concentration of waterfowl on the SRW. Lycoming Audubon's bird listserv reports were supplemented by highlights extracted from eBird, as noted.

A flock of 300 **Snow Geese** flew by WPT at the unusual date of 12/14 followed by one of 500 on 12/15 (NF, eBird). An out-of-place **Mute Swan** was spotted 1/12 on Pine Creek above Camel (DF) and seen again there 1/3 (SLF). Few puddle ducks besides a few **Mallards** were among the hundreds of waterfowl present on the SRW most of the winter. The puddle ducks were able to maintain a small section of open water during even the coldest nights at the Duck Pond at IP, where a **Wood Duck** was seen 1/8 (AK), 115 Mallards were counted 1/18 (AL, IG), and one or 2 **American Black Ducks** stayed through the winter (NF, AK).

Three **Canvasbacks** and 20 **scaup sp.** were reported on the WCBC 12/21, presumably on the SRW, but otherwise just the typical waterfowl were reported on the annual count. It wasn't until the temperatures took a dive in early Jan that most open water froze and waterfowl concentrated below the dam at SRW that the excitement began. The winter sensation began 1/12 when the following were reported (JY, MD, JK): 12 **Canvasbacks**, 13 **Redheads**, one **Ring-necked Duck**, 7 **Lesser Scaup**, 3 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 25 **Buffleheads**, 3 **Common Goldeneyes**, numerous **Common Mergansers**, and over 200 **Canada Geese**. This piqued the interest of the Lycoming Audubon members, who were mobilized to monitor the river from the vantage of the river walkways. Continued cold temperatures throughout the region—including the freeze-up of the Great Lakes—apparently pushed diving ducks into our region, where open water below the dam concentrated a diverse collection through the end of the period. Most of the species above were present continuously, with notable high counts including 16 Canvasbacks 1/18 (m.ob.) and 17 Redheads 1/14 (EH). With the continuous presence of a diverse concentration of waterfowl readily visible, many birders made regular visits to the riverwalks. Birders grew more confident in distinguishing the scaup species, both of which were present and seen well. The first report of **Greater Scaup** was of 2 on 12/19 at SRW (NF), with counts reaching 85 there 2/16 (NF), and 80 **Lesser Scaup** 2/5 (AK).

A notable addition to the menagerie was a male **White-winged Scoter** 1/31 (EH, eBird) that remained through the season. Similarly, **Long-tailed Ducks** reached a high of 14 on 2/17 (DvB), and some remained into March. A typical winter resident here, **Bufflehead** reached a count of 48 on 2/2 (EH). A notable bird for the winter season, **Red-breasted Mergansers** were resident on the river from about 1/30 (NF) onward, totaling 4 on 2/22 (ML)

and remaining into Mar. A regular resident, counts of Common Merganser peaked at 125 on 12/19 (NF), but reports of more than 30 were routine through the season. While numbers fluctuated as birds apparently were coming and going, the consistent presence most of these species sustained birding activity along the river until the ice cleared.

In addition to waterfowl, **Horned Grebes** were of course present along the SRW, and from 2/12 onward one or 2 **Red-necked Grebes** (DvB) were seen fairly consistently (m.ob.). On 1/12, a **Red-throated Loon** was discovered and photographed on a small creek in Williamsport Water Authority above Duboistown (TK); it was later found dead. A hardy **Great Blue Heron** was seen along the SRW 2/1 (JY). The first of year **Turkey Vulture** was seen from the dike at WPT 2/22 (ML) and remarkably hardy 9 **Black Vultures** were counted on the 12/21 WPTCBC.

Rough-legged Hawks appeared along Mill Hill (Cogan House) 12/30 (ML) and from CR 1/18 (AL), but became scarce in Feb. **Bald Eagles** were regularly found through the winter, including 7 on the WPTCBC, and were documented visiting and building nests in two locations as of early Feb, including a new location in South WPT (JY, JD).

An early **Wilson's Snipe** was reported 2/28 at Snyder Farms (NF, eBird) and a high count of 295 **Ring-billed Gulls** 2/22 along the SRW (ML) represent a leading edge of spring migration.

The most notable phenomenon of the winter regionally was the remarkable invasion of **Snowy Owls** across the eastern states, including many counties in Pennsylvania. *Lycoming's* contribution was spotty, although a compilation of reports entered into eBird helped with documentation (AL). The invasion was well underway all around us before a bird photographed in Nisbet 12/30 put *Lycoming* into the mix. From there, sightings were reported every week in Jan, most of which were not documented but many of these were quite plausible given the number of birds in the state and their frequent movements. The best documented county report was one Snowy Owl seen and photographed at the Steam Valley exit of Rte. 15 at Fry's Turkey Ranch 1/14 (WL), with continued reports there until 1/22 (SP). Sightings came during Jan from Little Pine Creek State Park, the Lycoming Mall, Jersey Shore, and repeated undocumented sightings at the Lowes in Montoursville and even downtown WPT. These dwindled to the last report, by a Penn College custodian (*fide* B) of a Snowy Owl perched on one of the campus buildings in WPT at 05:30 on 1/24. Several pellets were collected.

A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** appeared to winter in downtown WPT, seen either under the Market St Bridge or on the Genetti (JY, m.ob.). A flock of 175 **American Crows** concentrated on manure spreads near CR 2/8 (DMB). **Carolina Wren** seemed to have survived despite the cold weather and snow cover, reported through the period.

Several snow events in Dec established consistent, although not particularly deep, snow cover for the rest of the winter. This concentrated open field birds onto roadsides and manure spreads. The NLCBC 12/28 had a good tally of 89 **Horned Larks**. A high single count of 90 larks came 1/27 (AK). One **Snow Bunting** on the dike at WPT 1/18 (IG, SB, AL) and 3 counted on the NLCBC 12/18 served as harbingers of subsequent sightings, including a high count of 125 on 1/27 along CR (AK, eBird) and 60 Snow Buntings were found there later (DMB). Multiple flocks of Snow Buntings and Horned Larks were observed during several occasions on Rose Valley Road (GM, DB). A **Lapland Longspur** was found along CR 1/30 (NF) and subsequently, although the species remained elusive and scarce, including one 2/8 (GM) with a large flock of larks and buntings at Keiss Hill and nearby Elimsport 2/20 (JK), apparently the last report.

Songbird highlights from the WCB 12/28 included 3 **Hermit Thrushes** and one **Gray Catbird**. A high count of 48 **American Tree Sparrows** was made along CR 2/8 (DMB). An adventurous **Red-winged Blackbird** appeared at a feeder in Nisbit 2/20 (JW).

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McKean County

No compiler.

Mercer County

Locations: E Zahnizer Rd (EZR), Shenango R Res (SRR), Williamson Road (WR).

An imm. **Great White-fronted Goose** was seen with a flock of **Canada Geese** at EZR 12/1 (NT) and a **Cackling Goose** was at SRR 2/22 (NT). Five **Tundra Swans** were at SRR 1/4 (NT, ST). Most of the lakes had frozen over by early Jan, but the river channel at the east end of SRR remained open until at least 1/16. Notable waterfowl observed there on that date included 22 **Canvasbacks**, 2 **Greater Scaup**, 3 **Buffleheads**, and 10 **Common Mergansers** (NT). A late **Northern Shoveler** was at a farm pond along EZR until 1/12 (NT, ST) and a single **Redhead** was noted 2/15-22 at SRR (MM, NT).

A lone **Red-necked Grebe** was reported from Sandy Lake 12/4, representing the first winter record for the county (SS). **Great Blue Herons** remained at the Shenango River at Sharpsville through the season and a single bird was at Skunk Run Road 1/1 (NT, SS, ST). The first northbound **Turkey Vulture** was noted 2/22 at Poole Road (JH) and another one was seen 2/24 at WR (NT). Single **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported at N. Forrester Road 12/15 (NT), White Chapel Road 12/19 (SS), Tower Road 1/9 (NT), and Cannery Road 2/3 (FD, SS).

An **American Coot** was at SRR 2/22 (NT) and 70-80 **Sandhill Cranes** were observed flying over downtown Sharon 12/30 (BD). A **Killdeer** was heard 12/19 at EZR (ST) and 2 were seen at the propagation area at SRR 2/22 (NT). A **Wilson's Snipe** was flushed from along a spring fed stream at EZR (NT, ST) and 2 were found at a wet area along Cannery Road 2/3 (FD, SS).

Three **Snowy Owls** were reported, but none stayed in the area more than one day. One was at Lee Road near Grove City 1/16 (RS) and one was seen along Billy Boyd Road 1/18 (ML). One was seen in flight crossing I-80 south of Mercer 2/17 (FD). Single **Short-eared Owls** were found 12/17 at EZR (ST) and 12/21 at White Chapel Road (SS). The **Rufous Hummingbird** present from the last period remained until 12/10, alternating between feeders at WR and Poole Road (JH, NT, ST).

A **Hermit Thrush** was heard calling at Coolspring Church Road 12/14 (HT). **American Robins** remained all period at WR feeding on crabapples and **Cedar Waxwings** were noted 1/1 through the rest of the season at EZR and at Sharon (SS, NT). Three **Lapland Longspurs** were at Mercer-New Castle Road 2/3 (FD, SS). One **Snow Bunting** were seen at WR and EZR 1/1 (NT) and up to 25 were at Anderson Road 1/9-2/3 (m.ob.).

A wintering **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was observed at SRR 2/22 (NT). **White-throated Sparrows** were found along Coolspring Creek 1/1 and **White-crowned Sparrows** were present at WR all season (NT, ST). **Red-winged Blackbirds** were last seen 12/15 at WR (NT) and reappeared 2/21 at Skunk Run Road (HT). Two **Common Grackles** were at SRR 2/22 and several **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were at a feedlot at EZR 12/1 (NT).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA, 16137**. Frank Dolby, Bill Drolsbaugh, Joseph Hochstetler, Mike Lanzone, Marty McKay, Steve Sanford, Randy Stringer, Harvey Troyer, Samuel Troyer.

Mifflin County

Locations: Big Valley (BV), Bunker Hill Pond in Big Valley (BHP), Coffee Run Rd in Big Valley (CR), Juniata River (JR), Kishacaquillas Creek in Big Valley (KC), Lewistown (LT), Reedsville (RV), Reed's Gap State Park (RGSP).

A welcome development in *Mifflin* has been an increase in birding activity with new and very active observers who submit many checklists to eBird, a great help to county compilers.

Despite the harsh winter, there were many waterfowl reports, thanks to the new observers and perhaps also because birds were concentrated in accessible locations with open water. At least 15 duck species were found, most of these on the JR at LT as well as in BV, where open water usually remains thanks to spring-fed streams feeding into KC. **Wood Ducks** are rare in central Pennsylvania in mid-winter so the count of 11 at LT 1/6 was remarkable (RH). Up to 4 **Gadwalls** wintered at BHP in the company of several dozen **Mallards** and one or 2 **American Wigeons** (m.ob.). **Green-winged Teal** were at BHP 1/26 (GG) as was a **Northern Pintail** 1/25 (JZ) and 2/8 (RD). A **Northern Shoveler** was at LT 1/15 (RH).

Rare in BV, a **Canvasback** was in KC 2/22 (RD). Four **Redheads** were at BHP 1/29 (RH) and up to 3 were in the JR at LT 1/16 and 1/18 (RD, RH). A **Long-tailed Duck** was at LT 12/7 (RD) and a dead Long-tail was found and photographed along a road in BV in early Feb (*fide* JZ). **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers** were in the JR as usual (m.ob.). Less common

were a **Common Loon** 1/13 (RD) and a **Horned Grebe** 1/19 (CK) at LT.

Some vultures usually winter here and that was the case this year despite the cold, though fewer than usual were noted. One or two **Black Vultures** were reported from several locations throughout the county and the season (m.ob.). Even with the cold, vultures pushed back into the county by late Feb with 30 **Turkey Vultures** noted at LT 2/21 (RH) and on a WRS 2/23 when 39 Turkey and 9 Black Vultures were tallied (JL). Overall numbers on the WRS routes were better than usual, in contrast to many counties. In 20 hours of observation time, 77 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 6 **Rough-legged Hawks**, and 27 **American Kestrels** were tallied, as was one **Merlin** (BF, RH, JL). Rough-legged Hawks were found throughout the season, mostly in BV (m.ob.), where kestrels were also easily found.

Killdeer and **Wilson's Snipe** were along KC in BV throughout the season (m.ob.); both can usually be found there every winter taking advantage of open water on spring-fed streams. A **Snowy Owl** was reported near LT 12/8 (AH). The next day an injured Snowy, presumably the same individual, was found a few miles removed; it was photographed (WL) and taken to a rehabber, but unfortunately did not survive its injuries. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found at Burnham 2/5 (RH).

The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** report was of one at RGSP 2/1 (RD). A **Winter Wren** was at LT 1/18 (RD). A field along Schoolhouse Rd. in BV held 2 **Lapland Longspurs**, 20 **Snow Buntings**, and about 175 **Horned Larks** 12/16 (GG, DG, LG). A **Fox Sparrow** at CR 2/16 was moving north rather early, considering the severity of the season, although over-wintering probably occurs occasionally here. Several **Swamp Sparrows** were found, with one at BHP 12/1 (JD), 3 at CR 2/8 (RD) and 2 at LT 2/23 (RD). **White-crowned Sparrows** are usually present in winter though the high count this year was only the 2 at CR 2/16 (RD).

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Monroe County

Locations: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), Cherry Valley (CV).

This winter period was extreme in the amount of snowfall and extended periods of cold temperatures. The 34th Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count (PMCBC) was held 12/15, and 63 species were tallied, only the seventh time the count has reached or exceeded 60 species.

Some uncommon county waterfowl were found this period. A single drake **Redhead** and a **White-winged Scoter** were on the same CV pond 1/15 (RW). Two more White-winged Scoters were found on Brodheadville's Weir Lake 1/28 (SK). A mix of **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup** were found on the Delaware River at Shawnee 12/21 (RW). A **Long-tailed Duck** was photographed on the Brodhead Creek in East Stroudsburg 2/2 (NT) and another was found on the Delaware R. in DWGNRA 2/8 (RW).

The 139 **Wild Turkeys** on the PMCBC set an all-time count high. An **Iceland Gull** in CV was a nice find 1/15 (SK) and a first-winter **Glaucous Gull** was well-photographed at Saylor's Lake 12/7 (RW). *Monroe* somehow passed the winter without a confirmed Snowy Owl sighting—a report of one in Dec from the Scotrun area turned out to be a leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** (JL) and a second-hand report from CV 1/7 was never verified (*vide* DS). The **American Kestrel** seen in CV represented only the third record for PMCBC since 1999. From the first count in 1980 through 1999, this species was never missed.

The **Eastern Phoebe** on the PMCBC was a count first. The **Northern Shrike** in CV was among a number of good birds found there 1/15 (DA). The flock of about 50 **Snow Buntings** at Mt. Pocono's airport 1/7 delighted the observer (PF). The only northern finch report received was from Shawnee where a small flock of **Purple Finches** frequented feeders in Dec and early Jan (JW).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Dan Altif, Pat Fellion, Steve Kloiber, John Leiser, Darryl Speicher, Nancy Tully, Rick Wiltraut, Jim Wyckoff.

Montgomery County

Locations: Evansburg State Park (ESP), Fort Washington State Park (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve (GWP),

Norristown Dam (ND), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Norristown Riverfront Park (NRP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Schuylkill River Trail at Oaks (SRTO), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP).

The winter of 2013-14 was one of the harshest in recent memory, with at least one snowstorm per week from 12/8 and the end of the period. It was the second-most snowy winter on record for the Philadelphia region. A persistent polar vortex kept temperatures below the freezing mark for several multiple-day stretches, turning creeks and ponds solid and fallen snow into an impenetrable icy blanket over the land. Nearly all water at GLP froze over by mid-Jan and remained in that state through Mar. Portions of the Schuylkill River froze as well. The sections that remained open wound up attracting some nice waterfowl.

The seemingly-constant snow cover and cold led to an increased presence of some species at area feeders. Winter finches were not among these species, however. They, and most other boreal birds, were almost totally absent. Balancing things out, this winter saw the largest irruption of Snowy Owls in decades occur in the eastern United States. In total, 121 species were observed for the season. The three CBCs covering portions of *Montgomery*, all held during the same balmy weekend of 12/21-22, tallied good numbers of both species and individuals. A record-setting 91 species were reported on the Audubon CBC; eleven more than 1993, the previous title-holder.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was noted at GLP 12/7 (WBH, SK). Another flew over NFP 12/18 (WBH). The season's high count of **Snow Geese** was 1060, flyovers at Upper Perkiomen High School 2/23 (DS). No big numbers were observed on the ground. There were two reports of flyover **Ross's Geese** in Snow Goose flocks: one at Gilbertsville 12/21 (SG, HE), and one at FWSP (BM, JH, LJ). As many as 5 **Cackling Geese** were present at the NFP pond between 12/1 and 1/17 (m.ob.). One or two Cacklers were picked out of the goose flock at GLP on four occasions during the same time period (m.ob.). **Canada Goose** numbers peaked early at GLP, with 6000 observed 12/1 (GF). The only **Tundra Swans** reported were a pair at Upper Schuylkill Valley Park in Royersford 12/21 (MC).

At least one **Wood Duck** overwintered on the Schuylkill at VFNHP (m.ob.). **Gadwalls** were present in good numbers at GLP, including 61 on 12/21 (GF), until the reservoir froze mid-Jan. Singles or pairs of Gadwall were found on or near the Schuylkill several times in Jan and Feb (PD, WBH, KR). Though 87 **American Black Ducks** at GLP 12/2 (GF) was that species' high count for the period, it was not atypical for the location and date. More unusual, 75 Black Ducks were at SRTO 1/31 (WBH) and 2/1 (PD), no doubt due to the deep freeze. Single **American Black Duck x Mallard** hybrids were noted at Alverthorpe Park 1/2 (JS), Haverford College 1/12 (SJ) and GLP 1/20 (AM). **Northern Shoveler** numbers at GLP topped out at 79 on 12/8 (GF). One Shoveler at SRTO 1/4 (WBH) was the only report of that species away from GLP. **Green-winged Teal** was present in single digit quantities only (m.ob.). No Shovelers or Teal were spotted after 1/20, when winter kicked into high gear.

The polar vortex made for a good winter for diving ducks, primarily on the Schuylkill River. Two drake **Canvasbacks** were discovered at SRTO 1/30 and continued there until 2/24 (PB, m.ob.). Two more, possibly the same birds, were seen at VFNHP 2/2 (KR). A single hen Canvasback was found on an ice-free patch of lake at GLP 2/23 (KC). A hen **Redhead** was at GLP 12/8 (PD). A male/female pair at SRTO 1/18 signaled the start of "the duck show" at that location (JP). One to two drakes persisted at SRTO from 1/25 through the end of the period (m.ob.). A **Greater Scaup** at GLP 12/22 was a nice find for the Upper Bucks CBC (RG). Later in winter, the species became almost common on the Schuylkill, and was actually spotted in greater numbers than **Lesser Scaup**, normally the more common of the two scaup in *Montgomery* (m.ob.). Greater Scaup was seen regularly at SRTO from 1/26 onward (m.ob.), with counts of 13 on 2/18 (PD) and 7 on 2/20 (AG). A female Greater Scaup lingered at ND from 1/28-2/6 (WBH), and a male was at Conshohocken 2/1 (AMe). Five more were present at Flat Rock Park 2/28 (PD). The Lesser Scaup high count, only 5, was tallied at SRTO 2/23 (HM). Frozen Great Lakes caused an irruption of **White-winged Scoters** to points south, and one of these showed up at VFNHP 2/5, where it remained through 2/7 (KR, et al.). Another White-winged Scoter, or perhaps the same, was found at SRTO 2/7 (WBH). It stuck to the same short stretch of Schuylkill until at least 2/24 (m.ob.). Fifty-five **Buffleheads** were on the Schuylkill at VFNHP 2/2 (WBH). **Common Goldeneyes** lived up to their name, with many reports up and down the river (m.ob.). A dozen Goldeneyes were counted at SRTO 1/30 (PB) and 2/7 (WBH). SRTO was also the location for the season's high count of **Hooded Mergansers**: 52 on 1/30 (PB). A drake **Red-breasted Merganser** was at GLP 12/23 to 12/27 (SG, KS). Normally tough to find in *Montgomery*, Red-breasted Mergs were all over the place, in small quantities, on the Schuylkill River from mid-February onward (m.ob.), beginning with one at SRTO 2/16 (SK). A high of four was noted at VFNHP 2/25 (PD). Twenty-four **Ruddy Ducks** were

present at GLP 12/9, where they continued through at least 12/13 (both WBH). A single Ruddy Duck at NFP 12/1-3 was the only other report of the species (PB, WBH).

Two **Ring-necked Pheasants** were a surprise guest at a birdfeeder in Collegeville 12/22 (KF). The only other Pheasants noted were 4 at Palm 1/18 (MA, PA). As many as 20 **Wild Turkeys** were recorded from the county's Turkey hotbed, PERT, 12/14 (HB, FV). Two Turkeys at Gilbertsville 12/1 and 12/14 were the only ones noted away from PERT (MA).

The only **Common Loon** of the season was at GLP 12/8-9 (PD). **Red-necked Grebes** that normally winter on the Great Lakes were pushed south by the near-total icing of those lakes. They began to be spotted on the Schuylkill River in Feb, with the first of them at VFNHP 2/2 (WBH). The next was at Pottstown Riverfront Park 2/9 (AMe), another at Flat Rock Park 2/25 to the end of the period (PD) and a third at VFNHP 2/24 (AG) and 2/27 (PB). One or two Red-necked Grebes were present at NRP 2/23 and beyond (AM, KR, et al.).

Three **Northern Harriers** were observed at GWP 12/27 (AM). There were twelve other reports of single Harriers (m.ob.). **Bald Eagles** were a relatively common sight at GLP and at locations along the Schuylkill (m.ob.). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were concentrated around the same areas (m.ob.). There were three reports of **Rough-legged Hawk**, all light morph. One Rough-leg perched nicely for some photos at GLP 2/9 (NB, KC). The other two were Schuylkill flyovers, and may well have been the same bird: SRTO 2/23 (AM, KR) and VFNHP 2/27 (PB).

Thirty-five **American Coots** were noted at GLP 12/7 (WBH, SK). A single Coot spent a few weeks at the NFP pond, from 12/19 (PB) to 1/2 (BHi). Two Coots were also found at Loch Alsh Reservoir 12/21 (BM, JH, LJ).

Although **Killdeer** normally overwinter in small quantities, none were sighted between 12/21 and 2/15. A **Wilson's Snipe** was reported from GWP 2/23 (DB). Single **American Woodcocks** were noted at PERT 12/1 (BV) and Pennsburg 1/4 (GF).

One **Bonaparte's Gull** was at GLP 12/8 (PD) and 12/13 (WBH). The only **Ring-billed Gull** count over 1000 was way over that number: 3600 were reported at GLP 12/24 (GF). A first-winter **Iceland Gull** was at GLP 1/20 (AM). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** numbers faltered in their upward climb at GLP, with a high of just 47 on 1/20 (AM). The species was spotted at many locations away from the reservoir, however, including as many as 4 at ND 2/1 (KR), where they could be found with regularity for most of the period. Two or three **Great Black-backed Gulls** were noted at Flat Rock Park on 1/19 (KJ) and 2/25 (PD), and were seen for the entire season at ND/NRP (m.ob.). A single Great Black-back was noted at GLP 1/1 (SK).

Snowy Owls were the avian celebrities of the season, complete with paparazzi. An unprecedented irruption of these Arctic ghosts into (supposedly) warmer climes dropped at least two into *Montgomery*. The first was found in a farm field at Harleysville, just before an obnoxious snowstorm hit on 12/8 (JT) and was observed there again the following morning (HE). The next Snowy Owl appeared in a housing development in Eagleville, adjacent ESP, 12/14 (SG, m.ob.). Many more birders were able to see this one. A Snowy was spotted in Souderton 12/16 (ZM, MF *vide* SF), just two miles from the location of the first owl. While there's no way to be sure, given their proximity, it may have been a repeat. Single **Long-eared Owls** were detected at PERT 12/14 (PD) and in Collegeville 12/14 (SF). Two were at Norristown 12/19 (PB), and were said to have persisted at that location until at least 1/8 (anon. *vide* WBH). Three Long-eared Owls were also noted in western Montgomery county 1/13 (KC).

Two known **Rufous Hummingbirds** were in the county in Dec: still impressive, but less than were observed during 2012. An adult female captured in Harleysville 11/19 was a returning bird, originally banded there in Mar (SW). Sadly, it did not survive another Pennsylvania winter. It died 12/12 (AM). The other hummer, at a home in Hatfield, fared better. It was banded 12/12 (SW). Two days later, it was observed tanking up on sugar water and departing for warmer weather (SWH). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was discovered at Congo Road Open Space in Gilbertsville 1/20 and remained through the end of the period (MA, PA). **Merlin** was sighted in at least 10 locations, mostly along the Schuylkill River (m.ob.). Though **Peregrine Falcons** were spotted elsewhere, at places like ESP 12/15 (SF) and PERT 1/5 (PD), the bulk of the observations of this species came from ND/NRP, where a pair spent the entire period (m.ob.). In Feb, they were noted to be spending a lot of time under one of the Norristown bridges (WBH, m.ob.).

A late **Eastern Phoebe** was at NFP 12/10 (PB). Solitary and pairs of **Common Ravens** were observed in at least seven widely dispersed locations through the season (m.ob.). **Horned Lark** was found in minuscule quantities only. The highest number tallied was 7 at NFP for the Audubon CBC 12/21 (WBH, CH). Somewhat surprisingly, given the glacial landscape at the time, another one turned up at this location 2/4 (WBH). No Snow Buntings or Lapland Longspurs were detected. A squadron of at least 22

Tree Swallows made a premature return to the county, showing up at SRTO 2/23-24, well before winter had released its icy grip on the area (HM, m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were few and far between this winter. One visited a feeder in Pennsburg throughout the period (GaF). The only other reports, all single birds as well, were more sporadic: NFP 12/3 (BHi), Gilbertsville 1/2-3 (MA) and ESP 1/12 (WBH).

Ruby-crowned Kinglets were not terribly hard to find, even later in the season. Four of them were noted at SRTO 1/11 (PD). Thirty-nine **Eastern Bluebirds** were at ESP 1/12 (WBH). Across *Montgomery*, at least 5 **Hermit Thrushes** persisted into Jan and Feb, after the weather turned from partly-nasty to all-nasty (m.ob.). A **Gray Catbird** showed up at Haverford College 1/25 and continued to visit a suet feeder there through the end of the period (SJ). Another was heard at Elkins Park 1/23 (SP). **Brown Thrashers** were oddly common in mid-winter, perhaps pushed out of their original wintering grounds. Thrashers were observed in at least 15 locations throughout the county (m.ob.). A single **American Pipit** was noted twice at NFP, 12/3 (WBH) and 12/21 (WBH, CH). **Cedar Waxwings** were scarce this season, with just three sightings of more than ten birds, and a small number of single-digit reports (m.ob.). The largest flock of 55 waxwings was at NFP 1/14 (WBH).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was an unexpected find at SRTO 1/4 (WBH). Just as unexpected, it managed to survive there until at least 2/16 (SK). A **Pine Warbler** was found at Peter Wentz Farmstead 12/21 (DB). It seemed to be a good season for **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, particularly at locations along the Schuylkill. As many as 16 Yellow-rumps were at SRTO 1/17 (KR). An **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler** was reported at Limerick 2/28 (SG).

Perhaps because there were few other options for them, **Eastern Towhees** were widely reported at *Montgomery* feeders (m.ob.). There were at least 14 Towhees wintering at assorted homes near GLP, according to an informal but careful survey conducted by KC, who believed that to be without precedent. Likewise, **American Tree Sparrows** also made unusual appearances at some area feeders in Feb (m.ob.). As many as 45 were noted at PERT 1/24 (PD), though numbers dropped quickly thereafter. PERT was the winter **Chipping Sparrow** hotspot of the county again, with an astonishing 72 reported there 12/14 and 40 on 1/5 (both PD). One to three Chipping Sparrows were observed at seven other locations in Jan and Feb (m.ob.). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was a terrific discovery at SGL 234 on 1/17 (KR). It remained there through at least 2/8 (KR). A **Vesper Sparrow** lingered at NFP until at least 12/18 (PB). While it could not be relocated on 12/21 for the Audubon CBC, even as only a count-week bird it was a first for the circle. Thirty-two **Savannah Sparrows** were tallied at PERT 12/14 (PD). Small numbers of Savannahs overwintered at PERT, NFP, SGL 234 and Pennsburg (m.ob.). Unusual for its species, a desperate Savannah Sparrow visited a feeder in Gilbertsville 2/16 (JB). Feeder **Fox Sparrows** were another regularly reported sighting over the winter (m.ob.). **White-crowned Sparrow** numbers seemed down. Nearly all reports of this species were from western *Montgomery* (m.ob.).

There were only three **Eastern Meadowlarks** reported for the period, all solo birds: PERT 12/14 (PD), VFNHP 1/12 (RK) and SRTO 2/23 (AM, KR). The 12/21 Wyncote CBC did extremely well on **Rusty Blackbirds**, with 11 found at Meadowbrook Golf Course (JS) and 35 at GWP (AF, et al.). Rusties were seen at seven other locations, including a few feeders, in single digit quantities (m.ob.). A **Brewer's Blackbird** was reported at Palm 12/9, where it was said to have been in a large blackbird flock (JHo). The dependable male **Bullock's Oriole** returned from the west on 12/5 to spend a remarkable fourth consecutive winter in Gilbertsville (MA, m.ob.).

Very few **Purple Finches** were noted this season. One to three individuals were reliable at a Green Lane feeder through the entire period (PG, AnG), a single female showed up at FWSP 1/2 (KJ) and a pair was spotted at Gilbertsville 1/3-5 (MA). There were no reports whatsoever of Pine Siskin or any of the other winter finches.

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Montour County

No compiler.

Northampton County

Locations: Dutch Springs Quarry (DSQ), Forks of Delaware (FOD), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Martins Creek Quarry (MCQ), Nazareth Quarry (NQ), Portland Pedestrian Bridge (PPB), Seiple's Farm Pond (SFP).

Bitter cold temperatures and high snowfall totals made birding an uncomfortable experience. Snow accumulation for the three months was 66.7 inches at Lehigh Valley Airport. There were extended periods of below average temperatures due to the polar vortex. Yet despite the harsh conditions, it was a good period. Waterfowl were plentiful on the Delaware River and there were multiple reports of **Snowy Owls**.

The **Snow Goose** show in the county was spectacular in late Dec and Jan. A group doing a CBC estimated 200,000 Snow Geese passing over the fields near NQ 12/28 (DD, BW, SK, JH). On NQ, the same birders had 25,000 Snow Geese, a **Greater White-fronted Goose**, 4 **Ross's Geese**, 1400 **Canada Geese**, and 4 **Cackling Geese** early that morning. Another Greater White-fronted Goose was at SFP 2/6 (EV). A Ross's Goose was mixed in a flock of Snow Geese on Kaylor Rd near Riverton 2/1 (RW) and a flyby Ross's Goose was seen in E. Allen Twp 12/3 (DW). By early Feb, the quarries were frozen and many geese moved farther south. The Delaware R. remained open or partially open in the county and birders found waterfowl in good numbers at multiple locations. Uncommon species were found regularly. **Canvasbacks** were found at MCEP, the Riverton/Belvidere Bridge, PPB, and on the Monacacy Creek in Bethlehem. **Redheads** were seen at MCEP, PPB, Tuscarora Inn, NQ, DSQ, and SFP with a high of 21 at DSQ 1/28 (MS). **Greater Scaup**, **Common Goldeneyes**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Buffleheads**, and **Red-breasted Mergansers** were seen in above average numbers on the Delaware R., especially in Feb. A high of 27 Greater Scaup were at MCEP 2/26 (MS, CCS). A **Long-tailed Duck** at the PPB 12/26 (BW) was a good find for the county and the first of many good birds on the Delaware R. Long-tailed Duck continued at PPB through Feb and was also reported at DSQ and the boat launch at MCEP. A female **White-winged Scoter** was at the PPB 2/11-23 (MS, m.ob.). On 2/16, an adult female **Barrow's Goldeneye** was found on the Delaware R. not far from the Driftstone campground south of Portland (RW). It was seen through 2/21 between the campground and the Tuscarora Inn in association with Common Goldeneyes. A high of 38 **Ruddy Ducks** were at NQ 12/29 (DD, BW, SK, JH).

There were 2 male **Ring-necked Pheasants** at the Klein Farm near Stockertown 2/22 (MS, CCS). A **Common Loon** was found on a CBC at MCQ 12/29 (BH, MS, CCS). There were 2 **Horned Grebes** at NQ 1/12 (MS, CCS). It was an irruption year for **Red-necked Grebes** beginning with the first sighting 2/2 at the FOD in Easton (RW). Other Red-necked Grebes were seen at Sands Eddy, MCEP, Riverton/Belvidere Bridge, and PPB. A high of 3 Red-necks were at FOD 2/16 (MS, CCS). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen near Tatamy 12/21 (DF) and a dark morph was seen 2/17-20 in the fields between Stockertown and Stone Church (CE, MS, SK, CCS).

Two **Wilson's Snipe** were found at Gracedale 1/26 (RW). The hotspots for gulls were Grand Central Landfill in Pen Argyl and the FOD in Easton. **Ring-billed**, **Herring**, **Lesser Black-backed**, **Great Black-backed**, and **Iceland Gull** were regular at the landfill. A rare first winter **Glaucous Gull** was seen 12/30-31 at the landfill (BW, MS, CCS). A high of 30 Lesser Black-backs were at the landfill 12/30 (MSa). Ring-billed Gulls were the primary species at the FOD with 1500 or more in mid-Feb. On 2/16, an impressive 4 **Iceland Gulls** were at the FOD (MSa, MS, CCS). Then, on the evening of 2/19, a county record 8 Iceland Gulls were observed at the FOD (RW). A high of 50 Great Black-backs was at the FOD 2/16 (MSa) and 38 were at MCEP 12/29 during the CBC (BH, MS, CCS).

Northampton birders did not miss out on the **Snowy Owl** irruption. The first was seen from the Little Gap hawk banding station 11/22 even before people knew there was an irruption on the way (GL, LC). The next sighting 12/19 was an oddity as an imm. **Snowy Owl** was found perched on a billboard at night along Rt. 33 in Tatamy (MS, CCS). On 12/20, the same bird was relocated along Van Buren Rd (SK) and was seen through 12/30 by many people. Other observations were one day, single person sightings. A Snowy Owl was seen 1/19 along Township Line Rd, Bethlehem (SW). Another Snowy was observed at the Koch property in Williams Twp. 1/23 (AK) and a third was along Gun Club Rd near Bath 2/19 (DH).

A **Short-eared Owl** was seen at MCEP 12/20 (RW) and again 1/16 (MS, CCS). The **Rufous Hummingbird** banded in Nazareth in Nov was seen through at least 12/9 (KP). Both **Peregrine Falcons** at the Sands

Casino, Bethlehem nest site were observed 2/22 (DL). Another Peregrine was chasing gulls at the FOD 2/1 (RW). There was a flyby Peregrine over the fields in E. Allen Twp 12/16 (DW). At Nazareth Boro Park, 2 **Merlins** were seen 1/26-27 (RW). A Merlin has wintered at this location the past three years. Another was seen near DSQ 2/17 (DL).

The boat launch at MCEP was a popular spot for finding good birds. An **Eastern Phoebe** found 1/26 (SB) was seen regularly through Feb. A **Winter Wren** was near the river's edge 1/31 (MS, CCS) and a few **American Pipits** were seen searching for food in mid-Feb. At Church Rd. in Moore Twp., a **Brown Thrasher** and 5 **Rusty Blackbirds** were found during a CBC 12/15 (DD, BW).

There were 2 **Lapland Longspurs** seen at Graver's Hill 1/5-2/2 (MS, m.ob.). Another longspur was seen on Mt Pleasant Rd in Lower Mt. Bethel Twp. 12/16 (MSa, SA). A few **Snow Buntings** were regular at Graver's Hill. An impressive flock of 70 was at Van Buren Rd. 1/2 (DD, MS, CCS).

The only warbler reported was **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, on several CBC's. **Eastern Towhee** showed up at feeders in Bath, Nazareth, Northampton, and Williams Twp. The Eastern Towhee at the Cigar Rd feeder was there 12/14-2/28 (BE). **Fox Sparrows** visited feeders in Williams Twp. 2/21 (AK) and Seemsville 2/12 (BM). A feeder in Lower Mt. Bethel Twp. had a **Chipping Sparrow** 2/13 (LS).

Rusty Blackbird reports were from MCEP 2/14 (MSa), Williams Twp. 2/21 (AK) and by the Tuscarora Inn 2/22 (RW, AB). MCEP had 2 overwintering **Eastern Meadowlarks** (EB, MS, CCS). Another Eastern Meadowlark was seen in Dannersville 2/25 (BE). The only **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder on Cigar Rd. 12/14 (BE). **Purple Finch** was also scarce with a sighting of just 2 birds, in Danielsville 2/25 (RG) and in Easton 2/17 (KZ).

Observers: **Michael Schall**, 126 N. Chestnut St, Bath, PA 18014, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com, Scott Angus, Ed Boyce, Steve Boyce, Alan Boyd, Linda Campbell, Dave DeReamus, Carl Engstrom, Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik, Risk Gaeta, Jason Horn, Dave Husic, Stephen Kloiber, Arlene Koch, Gerald Lahr, Dave Leibert, Betsy Mescavage, Kathleen Pruznick, Matt Sabatine (MSa), Corinne Campbell Schall, Lillian Shupe, Ed Vermillion, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut, Steve Wolfe, Kurt Zimmerman.

Northumberland County

No compiler.

Perry County

Locations: Lewiston Christmas Bird Count / Perry County Section (PALT), New Bloomfield Christmas Bird Count (PANB), State Game Lands 170 (SGL170).

This period was marked by much cold, ice and snow. This was certainly one of the harshest winters in many years. *Perry* continues to be relatively lightly birded and reported on eBird compared to the counties around it.

Waterfowl of interest for the period included 12 **Snow Geese** seen flying along the ridge between *Perry* and *Juniata* during the PALT 12/21 (CK), and one **Tundra Swan** in Millerstown 2/15 (BS). One **Ruffed Grouse** was reported at SGL170 on 12/21 (VG, JR). Four **Red-shouldered Hawks** were noted: one at Kinkora Heights (VG, JR), another at SGL 170 (VG, JR), and 2 at unspecified locations during the PANB 12/21 (*vide* RK). Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were reported on the PANB 12/21 (*vide* RK). One **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at Little Buffalo State Park on the PANB 12/21 (*vide* RK).

One **Eastern Phoebe** was seen and heard at the boat launch in Marysville 2/7 (VG). Four **Common Ravens** and 2 **Fish Crows** were found on the PANB 12/21 (*vide* RK). Eight **American Pipits** were in fields north of Windy Hill Roads 12/21 (VG, RK). It was a big year for **Winter Wrens** as evidenced by the 11 reported on the PANB 12/21 (*vide* RK) but a poor year for Red-breasted Nuthatches as none were found on the PANB (*vide* RK). Four **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were reported on the PANB 12/21 (*vide* RK), along with 3 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, 5 **Eastern Towhees**, and 7 **Purple Finches**, the latter surprising as winter finches were generally quite scarce throughout in south central Pennsylvania this winter.

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier**, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com, Chad Kauffman, Ramsay Koury, Joan Renninger, Becky Shaw.

Philadelphia County

Locations: Bartram's Garden (BG), 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 (TI), Morris Arboretum (MA), Naval Business Center aka Navy Yard (NBC), Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant (NEWPCP), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Southampton Woods (SHW), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Despite the third coldest winter in our history and partly because of the unrelenting cold and snow, this winter saw gulls galore in Philly (including two interesting hybrids), dozens of divers fleeing the deep freeze of the Great Lakes, a **Northern Shrike** returning for the third winter, and, of course, the influx of **Snowy Owls**, all of which made this season unforgettable. **Tree Swallow** shouldn't be found in this wintery report, but one feeding 12/1-2/8 at NEWPCP with the overwintering **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** may have been the first record of a Tree Swallow staying so long through the winter in Pennsylvania history, though there are a few other January records in recent years.

Organized counts were the 92nd Glenolden CBC 12/14, the PEC CBC 12/14, and the 28th Philadelphia Mid-Winter Census 1/12 (PMWC), ably led by KR and yielding 104 species including first count records of **American Bittern**, **Common Raven**, and **Tree Swallow**.

Hundreds of **Snow Geese** migrating throughout Dec were a welcomed increase from the small skeins usually seen. After escaping deep snow by moving south, Snow Goose flocks totaling 6400 returned to their more northern wintering areas following a thaw when many birders were afield for the 1/12 census. Signaling the end of the season, flocks of 7500 soared over NBC 2/22 (GA, TF) including a **Ross's Goose** photographed at NBC (GA, TF).

The TI **Wood Duck** returned to a melting impoundment 12/17 (FW) only to be quickly frozen out again, but 5 were on the flowing creek at PEC 1/12 (LW). The SR has become the dependable location for wintering Wood Duck (CM, GJ, ph.). At Manayunk Canal returning migrants were found 2/22 (KJ). Brewer's Duck, the **Gadwall x Mallard hybrid** rarely reported in Pennsylvania, was at TI 12/1-4 (AM, JP, GA, ph.) and briefly 12/24 (MR, ph.). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** stopped at TI 12/1-4 (FW, MSh, GA, ph.) and was seen again 12/27 (MR). Weeks later a bird, thought to be the same Wigeon, was actually an **American x Eurasian Wigeon** hybrid. Its head stripe was yellow, the flanks were like an American's, but not as rich in color (FW).

Presque Isle and Philly are the state's largest wintering areas for **Canvasback**. At POD, 3 Canvasback arrived 1/8 and increased to 90 by 2/15 (FW). Sixteen miles south the NBC raft increased to 55 by 2/27 (BH). Directly across from NBC in New Jersey waters, 251 Canvasback were reported 2/2 (DAT). These New Jersey Canvasbacks are most likely the feeder group for the NBC raft, which grew into the hundreds by mid-March. A female **Redhead** was photographed at DRT 1/29 (MD) and another was seen at GF 1/8 (FW). **Ring-necked Duck** could be found every day, but never more than 25. For the first time in memory, the high count of 60 **Greater Scaup** at POD 2/19 (FW) outnumbered the high of 42 **Lesser Scaup** at NBC 1/27 (DAI) and that ratio was consistent 1/15-2/22. Of 5 **White-winged Scoters** reported, 3 visited POD 1/29-31 where a drake lingered at the shoreline affording great photos (FW) and 2 additional scoters flew past POD 2/15 (FW). **Long-tailed Duck** was a rare find at TI 12/31 (MD). A conservative count from many reports of Long-tailed Duck was perhaps 8, not including 8 seen as a group at GF 3/1. The hen at DRT 1/26 (TF) stayed until at least 3/6 (DAI, GJ, ph.) and 4 hens were at POD 2/2 (TF) in addition to a bird at GF 2/8 (TF) and Lardner's Point 2/9 (FW). From 1/7, **Common Goldeneye** numbers grew to a record-breaking 72 at POD (GA, FW). Six Common Goldeneye were also on the SR 2/25 (GJ) and 4 at TI 2/9 and 2/22 were uncommon (EP, CH). The SR held a pair of **Red-breasted Mergansers** 2/8-28 and 5 were spotted 2/18 (GJ, CM, MD). These annual but scarce divers were at GF and POD 2/14-28 (FW, MD).

A **Red-throated Loon** was at NBC 2/27 (BH) until 3/5 (m.ob.). Small numbers of **Horned Grebe** were along the DR 1/10-3/23 with some long absences. Fleeing the historic freeze on the Great Lakes, **Red-necked Grebes** arrived at NBC 1/24 (DAI) with more arriving at the Waterworks on the SR 2/22-28 (TF, GA, GJ, CM). These were a small prelude to many dozens of Red-necked Grebe yet to come. **Great Cormorants** were frequently reported but in small numbers, such as the total of 3 on the 1/12 winter census. An easy-to-find **American Bittern**, perhaps one of the late fall bitterns remaining at TI, was last photographed 2/8 (BK, GJ). The bittern survived by moving to flowing Darby Creek when the deep freeze closed the

impoundment. A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported over the Army Corps property 1/4 (MSa) and a dark bird was at POD 2/12 (FW).

It was possible to see a few **Killdeer** at TI 1/4 (DBee) and at POD 12/28 (FW) and 2/23 when 14 Killdeer were present (GA). **Wilson's Snipe** survived at TI at least until 1/25 and **American Woodcocks** returned to NBC and TI 2/23 (FW, GA).

It was quite shocking when a **Black-headed x Ring-billed Gull** hybrid was found on the same date (1/12) and place (DRT) as in 2013, almost certainly a returning bird (ph. GA). A first-cycle **Black-headed Gull** at the difficult-to-access Columbus Ave. Trash Transfer Plant was a first county record on the morning of 1/17 (GA, MD, TF, ph.). That same day 3800 **Ring-billed Gulls** were on the DR (MD, GA). A **Herring x Glaucous Gull** hybrid in first cycle plumage was reported from NBC on the 1/12 census as larger than nearby Herring Gulls, with a first cycle Glaucous-like bill, noticeably paler overall than nearby first year Herring Gulls with brownish primaries (GA, DW). An **Iceland Gull** (Kumlien's) flew south on the DR 1/26 (FW, MD, GA) and 5 other Iceland Gulls were reported 1/12-2/9 along the DR (FW, MD, TC). Among dozens of reports of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** 12/15-3/6 were 9 at POD 1/19 including 5 adults, a second cycle bird, and three first-cycle birds (GA). Other reports included 6 at NBC 1/17 (GA) until 2/26 when 19 were floating on the DR with **Herring Gulls** at GF (FW). Six records of **Glaucous Gull** were outstanding, but from 12/17-1/10 all were single birds from one location, the Trash Transfer Plant at Columbus Ave., while Glaucous Gull records were miles north on the DR at POD 2/1-8 (TF, FW, GA, MD). Among the many more rare gulls were also 3800 **Ring-billed Gull** at NBC 1/17 and 2000 on 2/22 (GA, MD).

A **Long-eared Owl** was seen and heard at Houston Meadow 1/12 (DBel), and at TI one roosted 2/2-10 (KW, DBee, m.ob., ph.). After an absence of two weeks, presumably the same owl was mobbed by crows and chased into *Delaware* 2/23 (DO). A **Short-eared Owl** hunted frequently at POD from 12/7 (MD) until 2 owls were present 2/5-8 (FW, TC, GA) and last reported 2/25. Repeated attempts to find a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at the traditional roosts at TI failed until DBel found one 12/30, exactly where a saw-whet roosted last winter, but this owl was not seen again until 2/22. **Snowy Owl** was first reported 12/2 under the Girard Point Bridge in the vicinity of PHL (JD *vide* LW). Thereafter a Snowy Owl or two (or three) were present. Two owls were tagged by Project SNOWstorm at PHL, 4 owl carcasses (including one with tag) were collected from the city for study, and 3 owls were seen at one time. Airports separated by 19 miles of urban sprawl reported light and dark individuals during the same period. A very conservative estimate would be 8-9 individuals given all that we learned from Project SNOWstorm satellite tracking data about how fast and far these nomads roam.

Our **Northern Shrike** returned to a slightly different location at TI for the third winter 12/14 (MD, m.ob.). **Common Raven** was found on the 1/12 census (*vide* KR) and near the SW Water Treatment Plant 2/8 (TF). Up to 25 **Horned Larks** were at POD 12/15 (MD) and 4 were at NBC 2/22 (GA, TF). A **Tree Swallow** overwintered until 2/8 with the flock of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** that is now famous at the NEWPCP. After dozens of overnight temperatures in single digits, the swallow flock had decreased to 5 birds by 2/8 (GA). No other reports were received. On 12/14 at POD, a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was a delight (FW, AR). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at POD 12/5 where this species overwintered in 2012 (FW). On the 1/12 census, a thorough search of Mt. Moriah Cemetery in West Philly turned up another Orange-crowned Warbler (KA, TC, DAI, SK). **Common Yellowthroat** often winters at NEWPCP, but after 1/12 (TF, MSh) none were reported, although **Palm Warbler** was present 1/2-2/8 (FW, GA) along with the expected **Yellow-rumped Warbler**.

On 12/1, a young **Dickcissel** posed at TI (GA, FW, TF, MD, ph.). Despite the extreme winter conditions, there were numerous reports of **Savannah Sparrow** at POD throughout the season at NBC, at Woodland Cemetery, and Bartram Gardens and TI... they seemed to be everywhere. At the rarely birded Pt. Richmond brown fields, aptly named by GA and MD, 16 Savannah Sparrows were singing, and a photo of 8 in a shrub was made. **Swamp Sparrows** numbered 42 at TI 1/5 (RK, CR).

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern100@comcast.net**, David Allen (DAI), George Armistead, David Atkinson (DAI), Debbie Beer (DBee), Anne Bekker (ABek), David Belford (DBel), Adrian Binns (ABin), Annie Bird (ABir), Skip Conant, Tony Croasdale, Martin Dellwo, Jerry DeWage, Todd Fellenbaum, Gregg Gorton, Al Guarente, Brian Henderson, Cliff Hence, Ken Januski, Gary Jarvis, Gail Johnson, Steve Kacir, Bill Keim, Ramsay Koury, Adrian Melck, Christine Murray, Damon Orsetti, Edie Parnum, Jennifer Prescott, Brian Quindlen, Bill Reaume, Ann Reeves, Lynn Roman, Mike Rosengarten, Cameron Rutt, Keith Russell, Matt Sabatine (MSa), Matt Sharp (MSh), Judy Stepenaskie, Paul Thut, Anthony Uhrich, Karyl Weber, Doug Wexler, Linda Widdop, Frank Windfelder, Jamie Zigarelli.

Pike County

No report.

NEW COMPILER BEGINNING SPRING 2014: Michael Schall, 126 N. Chestnut St, Bath, PA 18014, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com

Potter County

No compiler.

Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary North Lookout (HMS), Landingville (LVD), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tamaqua CBC (TCBC), Western Schuylkill CBC (WSCBC).

Although December was about average, January and February were brutal. Temperatures were well below normal and snowfall was excessive for the area. The area's ponds and lakes were frozen well into March, and snow stayed on the ground with no significant thaws to melt it. Data collection was probably affected by the inability of birders to get out. Some data for this narrative was gleaned from the two CBCs and the three WRS routes that are conducted in the county. The WSCBC took place 12/21 and the TCBC 12/27. Thanks to Dave Krueel and Jonathan DeBalko, respectively, for heading those efforts. Thanks also go to Mike Ward for conducting the WRSs in the county. In addition to species sightings provided directly to me and posted to PABIRDS, a lot of good data were also found on eBird.

With the exception of **Mallards**, waterfowl numbers are always low for the county, so any sightings are considered notable. The number of waterfowl species found on the CBCs was low compared with previous years. Seven species were reported on the TCBC including the first TCBC records for **Cackling Goose** (JoD, JD), **Mute Swan** and **Northern Pintail** (CH). Another TCBC notable was the 40 **American Black Ducks** (JoD, AD), which doubled the previous high count. Also seen on the TCBC were **Mallards** and **Common Mergansers**. Only three species of waterfowl were reported on the WSCBC including a single **Green-winged Teal**; only the second time this found on this count. The other two species were **Canada Goose** and **Mallard** which were both found in very low numbers.

With water freezing this year through Jan and Feb, very few waterfowl were spotted around the county in those months. A single **Tundra Swan** was reported at SSP 1/16 (BR). **American Black Ducks** were at several locations, mostly in Dec: SAL 12/2 (JoD) and 12/7 (DD); TSP 12/14 (JoD); and APWS until 1/21 (JoD, JD). **Common Mergansers** were reported on numerous occasions. In addition to the TCBC, they were also seen 12/2 at SAL (JD), migrating past HMS 12/12 (HM), at TSP 12/14 (JoD), and LVD 1/17, 2/19 and 2/22 (BJ). A late-departing **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at SAL 12/7 (DD).

Turkey and **Black Vultures** usually leave the county for the Great Valley and Piedmont during the winter months. Although both vultures were reported as early as 2/11 in the Tamaqua area (FD, MW), they did not return to their Pottsville roost until 2/21, which is the latest date that could be recalled (MW). **Bald Eagles** were reported on both CBCs although in lower numbers than last year, which was exceptionally high. Additional sightings were reported at SSP (BR), SAL (DD, BR, JD, BJ), LVD (BJ), and Tamaqua High School (FD). They also continued to move past HMS throughout Dec. **Golden Eagles** also continued to migrate past HMS until 12/12. A single **Northern Harrier** was reported on the WSCBC this winter but three were found on the TCBC. Harriers were also seen on one of the WRS routes (MW), in McAdoo (JoD) and near Hidden Valley Golf Course (AL). **Northern Goshawks** were reported 12/12 and 12/30 migrating past HMS. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen at SSP 12/21 and 1/5 (BR), and migrating past HMS 12/12-15. A light-morph **Rough-legged Hawk**, a raptor not reported in the county for a few years, was reported seen over a field along Schwartz Valley Road 12/20 (SW).

Schuylkill joined the list of counties reporting **Snowy Owls** this winter. There was an unsubstantiated report from personnel at Zerby Airport of a Snowy Owl that only stayed for a day or two around 12/1 (*fide* DK). A second (and possibly third) Snowy Owl was seen at Koch's Turkey Farm in Lewistown Valley. Initially reported to Hawk Mountain 1/13 and confirmed (LG), the owl was last seen 2/1 (DK, NK). Four species of owls were reported on the TCBC including **Short-eared Owl**, which has now been seen two years in a row. Four species of owls were reported on the WSCBC including a high count of 3 **Northern Saw-whet Owls**. This was the fourth consecutive year that Saw-whets were recorded on this CBC.

A very notable occurrence this year was the presence of a **Rufous**

Hummingbird that stayed long enough to be recorded on the WSCBC 12/21. **American Kestrels** numbers were down on the three WRS and on both CBCs. A **Merlin** was seen 1/30 in Molino (LG) and a first ever for the county WRS routes was a **Peregrine Falcon** spotted in West Penn Township 1/18 (MW, DK). A second falcon was reported 2/13 in Wayne Township (AW).

Horned Lark numbers were very low this year. Only 7 were reported on the WSCBC after 105 were reported last year. Only 25 were found on the TCBC, a quarter of the average number. No other Horned Larks were reported this winter. A **Winter Wren** was reported at SSP 12/16-1/18 (DK, BR). Also at SSP, a **Brown Thrasher** was seen on Christmas day (BR). A **Lapland Longspur** was reported in the Pine Grove area 12/8 (DK, NK). A large flock of around 50 **Snow Buntings** was seen in the Lewistown Valley 1/31 (BJ) and an individual bunting was seen in the Pine Grove area 2/26 (BJ). Very unusual for the county, a **Pine Warbler** spent the winter coming to a private feeder in the Landingville area (BJ). **Eastern Towhees** were sighted at several locations this winter including SSP 12/21 and 12/25 (BR), SGL 227 on 12/27 (JoD, JD), and at a private feeder until at least 1/21 (AL). Sparrows of note this winter included two **Savannah Sparrows**, one during the TCBC (JoD, JD) and a second along Schwartz Valley Road (AW). Also **Field Sparrows** were seen at SSP 12/11 and 1/6 (BR) and a flock of six was found at SGL 106 2/1 (DR).

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Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL).

Bald Eagles once again returned to nest at FL and were observed sporadically during Feb. Four were found during the Lewisburg CBC 12/15 (NB) and a few were observed sporadically along the river near Shamokin Dam throughout the winter. Four **Northern Harriers** were observed on Breon Road 12/30 (JW) and another harrier was observed on the WRS on 2/2 (JW, CK, RH). A single **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at Faylor Lake 1/14 (JW). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found during the Lewisburg Bird Count in Northwestern Snyder 12/15 (NB). A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed eating a pigeon along Clifford Road 1/28 (JW).

Observers: Jason Weller (JW), Chad Kauffman (CK), Robert Hosler (RH), Nick Block (NB).

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), High Point Lake (HPL), Mallard's Rest, Boswell (MR), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Area (SA), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills (SM), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Youghiogheny River, Confluence (YRC).

It was an exceptional winter with extended subzero cold spells and somewhat above average snowfall for the county (160"), which persisted for long periods with only partial thaws. There was no finch irruption, nor were there any documented Snowy Owls in this tremendous year for them. Above average numbers of **Rough-legged Hawks** and **Snow Buntings** were reported. It is hoped that the protracted cold will set back the hemlock woolly adelgid recently found in the county.

A white morph **Snow Goose** was at HPL 12/20 (AM) and a blue morph was at MR 1/30 (LG). Two **Mute Swans** were at YRC 2/22 (AM). A **Tundra Swan** was unexpected in a small area of unfrozen water at the inlet of SL 1/15 (AM). Ducks were slowly forced out of most frozen lakes by mid-Dec, but QR did not freeze over until early Jan, with **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers**, **Ruddy Ducks**, and **Common Goldeneyes** present (AM, LG, CL, JP). The spillway area of YRC, BC, MR, and mine treatment ponds near Somerset held **Mallards**, **American Black Ducks**, **Gadwalls**, **American Wigeons**, and, interestingly, small groups of **Redheads** through the period (LG, AM, et al.).

Two **Horned Grebes** were found 2/6 near Somerset (AM). Also in the brutal cold of mid-Feb, a **Horned Grebe** was found stranded in a farm field. After being fed meal worms it was tossed into the air and flew away to the

south (*vide* JP). A few hardy **Great Blue Herons** over-wintered in BA and QR (CL, JP).

The first **Turkey Vulture** reported was in SM 2/28 (EB). **Bald Eagles** were seen at QR and on open areas of Stonycreek River through the period (LG). An imm. **Northern Goshawk** was seen near Jenners 12/15 (SB). **Rough-legged Hawks** were widely reported 12/25-2/25 representing at least six birds with two light morphs at SM (EB) and two dark morphs in BA 2/25 (JP), and with other observations in northern areas of the county (SB, LG). At least three **Golden Eagles** were moving on the Allegheny Front 2/1 (BZ). An injured adult bird was found along the railroad in Markleton (apparently hit by train while scavenging carcasses) and taken by the PA Game Commission for rehabilitation.

Killdeer were first reported in SM 2/19 (EB) and next near Friedens 2/27 (SB). A healthy **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was seen scavenging along the road near Fairhope 12/29 (JP, CL). A **Belted Kingfisher** was still at QR 1/1 (JP, CL).

Eastern Bluebirds were present near Somerset 2/23 (JM, MM) and hardy **American Robins** over-wintered, including 40 near Friedens 2/2 (SB). **Snow Buntings** put in a good showing with 3 on 12/14 in SA (ML), 25 in the Jennerstown area 2/14 (SB), 12 near Friedens 12/17 (SC), and a single in BA 2/17 (JP). **Lapland Longspurs** were detected north of Somerset 12/14 (ML). An **Eastern Towhee** apparently over-wintered in Markleton (AM), quite the feat for this half-hardy bird. **American Tree Sparrows** were in good numbers over the period in PP (JP). There were more wintering **White-throated Sparrows** reported than normal with at least three at PP (JP) and also at Markleton (AM).

Two **Brewer's Blackbirds**, a male and female, were carefully studied 12/15 near Shanksville during Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society's CBC (CP, JM, MM). Unfortunately no photos were possible. Over 200 **Red-winged Blackbirds** made an early (or over-wintering?) appearance at MR 2/1 (AM).

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Scott Bastian, Elmer Brennenman, Bill Cline, Sandy Cline, Linda Greble, Carolyn LaBute, Mike Lanzona, Anthony Marich, Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Chris Payne and Bill Zemaitis.

Sullivan County

This author was able to make only a single trip to *Sullivan* during the winter of 2013-14, during President's Day weekend 2/15-17. There were 21 inches of snow on the ground, which precluded any hiking and limited most bird watching to feeders and car rides with occasional stops to check on feeding flocks along the roads.

Two WRS routes were run (RM). The first covered portions of Colley and Cherry Townships and the second was run through portions of Cherry and Forks Townships. These surveys produced 5 **Red-tailed Hawks** (four adults and one not aged), an **American Kestrel** (adult female), and a **Cooper's Hawk** (probably a juvenile female). The two surveys also yielded a single **Ruffed Grouse** and 17 **Mourning Doves** in multiple locations. **Blue Jays** and **American Crows** were plentiful with one murder of crow numbering about 50. A total of four **Common Ravens** were observed over the weekend. **Black-capped Chickadees** were seen in many places; there was always more than one and they were often accompanied by other species such as **Downy Woodpecker**, **Tufted Titmouse**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Tree Sparrow**, and **Dark-eyed Junco**. One small flock of five **Eastern Bluebirds** included only a single female. Lambert Hill Rd. in Forks Twp. held a good sized flock of about 75 **Snow Buntings**. The birds were coming and going in and out of the trees in small groups making them difficult to count accurately.

Feeder and yard birds included **Black-capped Chickadee**, a lone **American Goldfinch**, and singles of **Downy Woodpecker** and **White-breasted Nuthatch**. A **Great Horned Owl** pair was heard calling back and forth on the morning of 2/16.

There were also several eBird reports for the period. The irruption of the **Snowy Owl** so widely reported this season included *Sullivan*, with one bird in the Shunk area 12/13 (JH). Five **Common Ravens** were observed at Splashdam Pond 1/1 (DG). A report from Eagles Mere 2/9 included 2 **Mourning Doves**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, 3 **Blue Jays**, an **American Crow** and 2 **Common Ravens** (AK).

Three other checklists were submitted for the GBBC. A checklist from Cherry Twp. 2/14 included **Hairy** and **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Song Sparrow**, and **Northern Cardinal** (PL). The other two reports came from Lincoln Falls 2/15 and 2/16 (JS, FF). A total of eleven species spanned those two reports, the highlight of which was an **American Tree Sparrow** 2/16 (FF).

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Florence Frey, Doug Gross, Josh Hilbert, Andy Keister, Patty Lane, Jane Swift.

Susquehanna County

No report.

Compiler: **Amy Davis, 129 W. Lancaster Ave. #2, Downingtown, PA 19335, (484) 753-5154, argdavis@gmail.com**.

Tioga County

No compiler.

Union County

No compiler.

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP).

Two years ago, KL had ice cover for probably fewer than 10 days during the period. This year, as of the end of March, the ice fishermen were still fishing from their tents in the middle of the lake. Despite no activity on ponds or lakes, waterfowl numbers were exceptionally high on the AR between Franklin and Oil City, presumably the result of the Great Lakes freezing to a greater extent than normal. Twenty birders posted sightings on eBird. The 82 species counted during the period included one that was last confirmed in 1987.

The ice control structure in Oil City allowed the AR between Oil City and Franklin to remain at least 50% open all period. This resulted in increased waterfowl numbers and diversity after 2/1. High counts between Franklin and Oil City included: 2 **Mute Swans**, periodic visitors, 1/28 (GE); 3 **Gadwalls**, uncommon in winter, 12/27 (JS); 2 **American Wigeons** 2/12 (RS); 6 **American Black Ducks** 2/26 (RS); 4 **Northern Pintails**, uncommon in winter, 2/2 (GE); and 4 **Green-winged Teal**, not observed every winter, 1/28 (JS). More high counts of waterfowl included: 30 **Canvasbacks**, usually seen in single digit numbers when present in winter, 2/21; 30 **Redheads**, a species becoming more regular in winter, 2/21; 8 **Ring-necked Ducks** 2/21; 20 **Greater Scaup**, becoming the predominant scaup species in winter, 2/21 (all SB, GE, JH, DR); 35 **Long-tailed Ducks**, a regular winter visitor in small numbers, 2/17 (GE, JS, JW); 188 **Common Mergansers** 2/15 (JH); 50 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 2/15 (JS); 20 **Buffleheads** 2/21 (SB, GE, JH, DR). Also, at President 2/23, 2 male and one female **White-winged Scoter** were found (GE, RS).

Three early **Turkey Vultures** were at KL 2/22 (ML). Despite the cold and snow, **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported more frequently than usual. But **Rough-legged Hawks** were scarce, reported only 2/12 and 2/23 (GE, RS, JW). The highlights for the period were 3 **Snowy Owls**. The first was reported 12/4 perched on a telephone pole near the National Guard Armory in Oil City (DS). The second was found on Carsonville Road near Pleasantville 12/29 (DD). The third was located at the Rhoades Farm near KL 1/1 (GE). It was last seen 1/14 (KG, JS). The Pleasantville CBC produced a report of 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** (NB, JS, RS).

A lingering **Hermit Thrush** was at OCSP 12/27 (KG, JS) and was relocated in the same place 2/27 (RS). A **Brown Thrasher** at OCSP 12/27 provided the first Dec thrasher record for *Venango*. It was relocated several times until 1/26.

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net**; **Russ States, 11 E. Fourth St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pabirder@verizon.net**, Nancy Baker, Vaughan Boleky, Sandra Budd, Joyce Covell, Michael David, Nan Davidson, Dwayne DelGrande, Terri Fiely, Kathie Goodblood, Jeff Hall, Dave Inman, Andy Keister, Meg Koldick, Nick Koldick, Michael Leahy, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Nancy McWilliams, Danny Reynolds, Sherry Richardson, Carol Russell, Dorothy Staub, Jerry Stanley, Celene Watson, Jim Wilson, Terri Wittreich.

Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Peters Township (PET), Robinson Township (RBT), Timber Lake in Peters Township (TL), Washington Cemetery (WCEM).

The brutal cold in Jan and Feb froze all water in the county other than sections of the Monongahela River (which was not birded this season, unfortunately), and the AMD pond which does not freeze even in a winter like this. A small portion of TL also remained open into late Jan due to the action of an ornamental fountain, but even that location was frozen over by early Feb. As a result, AMD provided a tiny oasis for wintering waterfowl during the harshest weather, as it often does in winter, and much of the waterbird activity was centered there. Two rare geese appeared at AMD on the last day of the season, 2/28: one **Greater White-fronted Goose**, *Washington's* fourth record, and one **Cackling Goose** (RR, AK, FK). The white-fronted had an injured leg but seemed to manage well enough, and was last seen 3/10. The cackler stayed through at least 3/3. Two other sightings of Cackling Geese were made at AMD this season: 2 there 12/12 (MV) and one 1/24 (MV). The latter may well have been the same bird that was seen 2/28 and also in nearby *Allegheny* in early Mar. Northern *Washington* held a few hundred wintering **Canada Geese** through the season. Top counts were 527 at AMD 1/24 (MV) and up to 300 around TL through Jan (GG). It's quite likely that many of the same birds were being seen at both locations in Jan and Feb. Thirty **Tundra Swans** winged over RBT 12/24 (BS). An enterprising **Wood Duck** used the pond at WCEM through about mid-Dec (PB, et al.) but it eventually moved on. A handful of **American Black Ducks** were seen periodically at AMD from mid-Jan through the season (m.ob.). **Mallards** also gathered in large numbers at AMD, topped by 136 on 1/24 (MV). Very surprising was a gathering of 175 Mallards on the frozen pond at WCEM 1/31 (AK), during the height of the cold spell. With no open water, the presence of such a large flock was a bit mysterious. Among these mallards 1/31 was a female **Northern Pintail**, presumably the same female that has wintered at or near WCEM for an amazing eleventh consecutive year. This female pintail was also seen at the cemetery 12/7 (ST). In mild winters, this bird stays at the cemetery pond through the season, but generally disappears when the pond is frozen. Like the mysterious gaggle of Mallards it was with 1/31, this pintail was certainly an unexpected sighting deep in the middle of the harshest winter of the past decade. A male **Northern Shoveler** was at AMD 1/10-2/4 (MV, et al.).

A single **Canvasback** also appeared at AMD 1/10 (MV), after which Canvasbacks were seen daily there through the season. Numbers fluctuated day to day with typical counts between 5 and 12 beginning 1/24; the top count was 19 on 1/29 (MV). Three **Redheads** took up residence at AMD beginning 1/10 (MV) where they remained through at least 2/23. By season's end, additional Redheads appeared at AMD (9 on 2/28 the top count) and also at freshly opened water elsewhere in the northern part of the county. A **Ring-necked Duck** at AMD 2/24-25 (GG, MV) was the only one reported. A **Greater Scaup** showed up at AMD 2/23 (MV) and stayed to at least 2/28 (RR, AK, FK, GM). Two **Lesser Scaup** were also there 2/24 (GG). Late winter brought a scads of **White-winged Scoters** to southwestern Pennsylvania, but *Washington's* only sighting by season's end was one on the other end of the season, on 12/7 at Boone Res. (MV). Two **Bufflehead** were at AMD 1/29-2/4; later up to 5 were there 2/11-19 (m.ob.). Last fall-season **Hooded Mergansers** were 2 at Boone Res. 12/7 (MV); first returning bird was at AMD 2/19 (MV). Ten **Common Mergansers** were seen on Chartiers Creek at Frosty Valley G.C. 2/21 (*fide* RR), a rare bird in *Washington*. A male **Red-breasted Merganser** dropped in at AMD 2/11-19, and was joined by a female 2/18-19 (MV, GG, et al.). The only **Ruddy Duck** was at CL 12/6 (GG).

Ring-necked Pheasant and **Ruffed Grouse** were both seen at GCW 12/15 (SP). Up to 10 **Great Blue Herons** took advantage of the open water at AMD 2/10-12 (GG). First returning **Turkey Vultures** were at AMD 2/28 (RR). **Northern Harrier** was seen variously at PET (GG) and RBT (MV, et al.) through the season. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was at RBT 2/1 (KG).

The injured **American Coot** remained at TL through at least 2/13 (GG). The ice had finally overwhelmed the ornamental fountain by late Jan, and the coot was seen on the ice there with Canada Geese and Mallards thereafter through 2/13, but not after that date. Its fate is unknown. Another coot attended AMD from 1/10 through the season (m.ob.). First **Killdeer** was at GCW 2/28 (RR). A **Ring-billed Gull** was at Boone Res. 12/8 (RR) and a **Herring Gull** was on the ice at Lake Joann 1/12 (GG), together representing the only reports of gulls in the county this season. Considering the record-setting gull show in downtown Pittsburgh in Jan and Feb, it is certainly a shame that the Monongahela River was not birded this winter.

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** used a Wood Duck box in RBT as a roost again this year, last seen 2/22 (MV). A few **Short-eared Owls** wintered in

RBT this winter as usual as well. The top bird of the season for *Washington* was certainly the **Snowy Owl** found and photographed in a farm field south of Cecil 12/9 (BS). Despite numerous attempts by several birders, it was not relocated. Wintering **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found at GCW (SP), Canonsburg (AK), and WCEM (AK). Wintering **American Kestrels** were reported from six locations. Two **Merlins** were in WCEM 12/7 (ST) and one was there 1/31 (AK). Another Merlin was in PET 12/24 (GG).

A well-described **Northern Shrike** was reported 12/28 from the RBT grasslands that also host wintering Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers (RH). It also was not relocated despite a few attempts. Even in a year with as deep a minimum of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** statewide as this, WCEM and Hillman S.P. in *Washington* can be relied upon to produce this species. Up to 6 wintered at WCEM (PB, et al.), and several were at Hillman in Jan, including count of 11 on 1/1 (MV). **Brown Creeper** also wintered in small numbers at both of those locations. The season's only **Winter Wren** was at GCW 12/15 (SP). Three **Hermit Thrush** were at GCW 12/15 (SP), and one was at Hillman S.P. 1/1 (MV). Field birds at GCW 12/15 included 3 **Lapland Longspurs** and one **Horned Lark** (SP), the former a rare bird for *Washington*. A nice count of 20 **Snow Buntings** was made near Avella 12/17 (AT), and 30 were spotted near Cross Creek 2/15 (CBr). A **Fox Sparrow** was nicely photographed at WCEM 1/31 (AK), and another was reported at a feeder in PET 2/27 (GG). GCW held the last **Swamp Sparrows** of the fall 12/15 (SP) and the first of the spring 2/28 (RR). Similarly, **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported only at GCW on those dates, 19 on 12/15 (SP) and 5 on 2/28 (RR). **Red-winged Blackbirds** appeared suddenly in late Feb, with the first 16 at RBT 2/22 (MV). Up to 6 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found by hopeful Snowy Owl searchers in Cecil Twp. 12/10 (SB, et al.). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were at GCW 12/15 (SP).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Carole Borek, Cathy Brown (CBr), Paul Brown, Gigi Gerben, Karena Gregg, Rich Hanlon, Fred Kachmarik, Alyssa Karmann, Jeff McDonald, Scott Pendleton, Russ Ruffing, Beth Signorini, Amy Taracido, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass.

Wayne County

While out seeking count week birds for the new Duck Harbor Pond CBC 1/8, several observers were treated to the sight of a **Golden Eagle** that they were able to follow by car for about a mile until it dropped into a grassy field and caught what appeared to be a rabbit (DA, RW, SK). Another Golden Eagle was reported along Rte. 191 south of Lookout 2/9 (DA, SK). **Rough-legged Hawks** once again returned to the fields around Buckingham Rd., with two dark morph individuals reported during the White Mills CBC 1/4. Two more individuals, both light morph, were located during the *Wayne* WRS route 2/9, one along Buckingham Rd. and the other along Carley Brook Rd. and Oregon Turnpike (DA, SK). *Wayne's* first and only known documented **Snowy Owl** was photographed on private property off Vinton Mountain Rd. on Moosic Mountain near the *Wayne/Lackawanna* border 1/5 (JV).

Individual **Northern Shrikes** were observed along SR 1018 between Stalker Rd. and Lester Rd. 1/8 (DA, RW, SK), at Anthill Farm on Beech Grove Rd. 1/13 (CF), and near the intersection of Lillie Rd. and Rutkoski Rd. 1/13 (CF). Over-wintering species observed during the White Mills CBC 1/4 included 5 **American Robins** and one **Gray Catbird**. The 32 **Eastern Bluebirds** represented a higher count than usual. Thirty-one **Snow Buntings** were found in the Dorflinger-Suydam Sanctuary parking lot 1/4 (CF) and 50 were observed during the *Wayne* WRS 2/9 (DA, SK).

Observers: **Chris Fischer, c/o Bugaj/Fischer, PC, P.O. Box 390, Honesdale, PA 18431, (570) 446-9597, cfischer17@gmail.com**, Dan Altif, Ronnie Fischer, Trudy Gerlach, Stephen Kloiber, Barbara Leo, Sandra Ward Povse, Joe Vinton, Richard Wiltraut.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Spring Lake (ESL, also known as Derry Lake), Kuehl Property Area (KP), Latrobe Reservoir (LR, also known as Trout Run Reservoir), Lock & Dam #4 Natrona (L&D4), Loyalhanna Dam (LD), Manitto Lake (ML), St. Vincent Wetlands (SVW), Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT).

One impact of this especially cold weather season was the many more observations reported on eBird of waterfowl on the open water of the Allegheny River, which serves as the northwestern border with *Allegheny*.

These observations accounted for much improved reporting of many of the diving duck species. Two CBCs were conducted during the season: the 40th Bushy Run Count 12/15 (compiler Dick Byers) and the Rector Count 1/4 (compiled by Amy Tegeler).

The high count for **Tundra Swan** was 15 at ESL 12/8 (JE). The only report for **Snow Goose** was of a single bird at LR 12/12 (TA, LH). St. Vincent Wetlands provided the only report for a single well-described **Cackling Goose** as well the season-high count of 850 **Canada Geese**, both observations 1/1 (HP).

No high counts reported, however there were many reports for **Gadwalls** and **American Wigeons**. There were also numerous reports for **American Black Ducks**, with a high-count of 43 at LR 1/1 (HP). Other puddle ducks were limited. Only 2 **Green-winged Teal** were reported for the season at LR 1/1 (HP). **Northern Pintail** reports were of 2 at SVW (1/1) and 3 at ESL 2/2 (SG), and the only **Northern Shoveler** report was of a flock of 5 on 1/1 (HP). Observers provided many reports of **Canvasback** on the Allegheny R. in Feb; top count was 20 at L&D4 on 2/19 (LP). At least one **Canvasback** was at ESL 2/28 (CK). There were scattered reports of single **Redheads**, with the season-high of 9 at ML 12/20 (MM). **Ring-necked Duck**, **Greater Scaup**, and **Lesser Scaup** were reported on the Allegheny R. in low numbers.

Observers were thrilled with high counts for **Long-tailed Ducks**, found on the open waters of the Allegheny R. Reports at L&D4 included a photo submission of 32 on 2/15 and 36 on 2/20 (MVT), 36 on 2/16 (LP), 43 on 2/20 (SG), and the high of 46 on 2/17 (RN). At least one Long-tailed Duck was at ESL 2/28 (CK). One **White-winged Scoter** provided a rare *Westmoreland* sighting at L&D4 on 2/16 (LP). Several reports of 3 or fewer **Common Goldeneyes** were made for LR in Dec through 1/4; also, no more than 5 **Common Goldeneyes** were counted on the many Feb eBird Allegheny R. reports. Low numbers of **Buffleheads** were reported at several locations; 5 were at ESL 12/12 (TA/LH). All three merganser species were observed during the season. Unless the water there is frozen, **Hooded Mergansers** are generally present at the BRR; the highest season count for that location was 18 on 12/27 (LF). **Common Mergansers** were reported at several locations, including a top count of 14 at LD (SH). There were 5 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at BRR 12/20 (MM). A single **Ruddy Duck** at ML 12/20 provided the only report (MM).

There were several reports for **Pied-billed Grebes** through 1/1 (high of 4) for BRR. One **Horned Grebe** appeared injured on the ice at BRR 1/12 (KB, JK, TK) and another single bird was at ESL (TA/LH). One well-described **Red-necked Grebe** was at L&D4 on 2/6 (SG). The water pump at ESL preserves at least a minimal amount of open water at this lake in the town of Derry; this provided for several reports for **American Coot**, including 4 on 1/18 (SG).

Once again both vulture species overwintered in the Ligonier Valley. There were 47 **Turkey Vultures** and 6 **Black Vultures** tallied 1/4 on the Rector CBC. Five **Black Vultures** were photographed at a deer carcass north of Ligonier on Rte. 711 on 1/31 (DM). There were several reports for **Northern Harrier** over the season in the Crabtree farm area. One harrier was observed near the Giant Eagle in Harrison City 12/14 (JK). Another was reported at the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve near Latrobe 1/2 (JKe). Both **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were tallied on the Bushy Run and Rector CBCs.

An excellent count of 6 **Red-shouldered Hawks** was recorded for the Rector CBC. Missed on the Bushy Run CBC, a juv. Red-shouldered Hawk was visible and vocal 1/1 and 1/5 at the KP (JK, TK). While following up on a report of a Snowy Owl in the Ligonier Valley 12/27, 10 **Red-tailed Hawks** were spotted along Rte. 381 in the horse farm area south of Rte. 30 (SB). There were numerous reports for the resurgent **Bald Eagle**. Significant reports include 3 at LR 1/1 (HP) and a remarkable count of 8 at LD 2/15. Four were noted in the same area during a WRS 1/13 (TK, JK).

Killdeer were missed on both CBCs although there was a report of one at LR 12/7 (TA, LH). The species possibly left the area in the worst of this cold winter, because it was not until later in Feb when further reports were made: one 2/22 at L&D4 (SG) and 2 on the WHT 2/24 (KB). **Wilson Snipe** apparently did winter here, evidenced by a remarkable 15 at the well-known and often reliable Helen Road seep near Crabtree 2/1 (JK, TK). There was no sign that *Westmoreland* benefited from Great Lake invasion of gulls that occurred in nearby *Allegheny* this winter season. The only significant report was of 8 **Ring-billed Gulls** and 2 **Herring Gulls** at ESL 2/2 (SG).

Unfortunately there were no Snowy Owls confirmed in *Westmoreland* in this unprecedented irruption year for the species. There was an unconfirmed report of one near the Mother of Sorrows Church in Murrysville (MMa *vide* BP, DB). Another third hand report of one in the Ligonier Valley was investigated by staff from Powdermill Nature Reserve, however only Red-tailed Hawks were found in the area. Four owl species were tallied on the 1/4 Rector CBC: 7 **Eastern Screech Owls**, one **Barred Owl**, one **Great**

Horned Owl and one **Northern Saw-whet Owl**. A single **Belted Kingfisher** was tallied on the Bushy Run CBC, and not surprising that later reports were quite limited for the balance of this cold winter. There were 6 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** tallied on the Rector CBC. **American Kestrels** were widely reported including on both CBCs. An eBird submission of one **Merlin** near the Irwin exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike was the only report for the season (DN). The often-seen Tarentum Bridge **Peregrine Falcons** were observed at that location 2/1 (SG).

The high report for **Horned Lark** was 64 at Tucker Road, which was one of several locations of observations made on a 1/1 tour of the county (HP); the same tour yielded 3 well seen and described **Lapland Longspurs**, which was the only report of that species for the season (HP). Among the many low-elevation sightings of **Common Raven** was one that picked the top of a tall tree at the compiler's work location in downtown Jeannette 2/11 (TK). There was just a single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** recorded on the Bushy Run CBT, although there were several eBird reports in Feb in Penn Township (KW).

Unusual passerine records from the two CBCs included one **Brown Thrasher**, one **Chipping Sparrow**, and 2 **Purple Finches** on the Rector CBC, and a count-record 5 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and 2 **Hermit Thrushes** on the Bushy Run CBC. Missed on both CBCs, 18 was the season-high count for **Cedar Waxwings** at Delmont 2/20 (KB). Only one **Winter Wren** was reported, at BR 2/6 (KB). The top count of 31 **American Tree Sparrow** was on Bowman Road, New Alexandria 1/1 (HP). Signs of spring included a late evening flock of 25 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, followed by another of 20 near the KP 2/22 (TK). Seven **Common Grackles** had returned to Delmont 2/24 (KB) and 4 **Rusty Blackbirds** were in New Alexandria 2/15 (KJ). One **Brown-headed Cowbird** was tallied on the Bushy Run CBC. Among the reports for **Purple Finch** was a count of 3 in Mt. Pleasant 1/1 (TA). Three **Pine Siskins** were at DL 1/8 (TA), the only report of the season.

And finally, in a follow up from past reports, although it's not known why they have abandoned a collection of wicker pockets under the side porch, almost daily visits to the suet feeders nevertheless provided comfort that the Kuehl Property population of **Carolina Wrens** had survived the many sub-zero nights of this frigid winter season.

Observers: **Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724) 325-1918, tjkuohl@comcast.net**. Tim Anderson, Scott Bastian, Dick Byers, Ken Byerly, Karen DeSantis, Julia Ecklar, Mike Fialkovich, Larry Frauen, Steve Gosser, Laura Hahn, Susanne Haney, Higbee Party (HP, collectively Mike and Evelyn Fowles, Margaret and Roger Higbee, and Denny Lauffer), Karen Jackson, Chuck Kuchta, James Kellam (JKe), Janet Kuehl, Lamoreaux Party (LP, collectively Alex Lamoreaux, Robert Hosler, Chad Kauffmann, and David Yeany II), Maire Machens (MMa), Mark McConaughy, Donna Mohney, Dean Newhouse, Richard Nugent, Bill Powell, Marjorie Van Tassel, Tim Vechter, Kate Watkoski.

Wyoming County

Locations: Lake Carey (LC), Oxbow Lake (OL), Scottsville Road (SR), Sordoni's Farm (SF), Vosburg Neck (VN).

This winter seemed to be similar to most others in recent years, lots of good birds, but nothing particularly remarkable. For example, we missed the excitement of the great Snowy Owl irruption, receiving only a few reports of possible sightings within the county and one very reliable sighting that only the initial observer enjoyed. Other birders who searched for that bird and the several others that were "possible" were disappointed and had to travel north to New York or south to Hazleton in *Luzerne* to get a look at this most impressive owl.

All the same, the Tunkhannock CBC recorded a number of uncommon and even rare observations, which made for an enjoyable day. Additionally several other species rarely or uncommonly recorded in the county were observed. Overall, the CBC tallied 67 species, slightly above the average of the past ten years, and 14,589 individuals, the second highest ever for the count.

Snow Geese were observed during the 12/14 CBC in the highest numbers of the last 20 years, a total of 1985 from the combined efforts of five observation teams. These count day records were the only ones reported for *Wyoming* for the period. A single **Tundra Swan** was recorded 12/9 at LC (JB). Three **Gadwalls** and 2 **American Wigeons** were uncommon records for this year's CBC. Two **Northern Shovelers** represented a rare record for the CBC and were also recorded 12/7 and 12/10 at LC (JD). Four **Long-tailed Ducks** represented another rare record for the CBC, as they would be any time of year in *Wyoming*. A single **Common Goldeneye** provided yet another rare record for the CBC, and

was also observed 12/3 at LC (JD). **Ruddy Duck**, a species we see regularly here in small numbers during migration, made an uncommon appearance during the CBC; 23 were observed at OL 12/7 and 9 were there 12/10 (JD). They had been there in varying numbers throughout Nov and Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk was recorded twice during the period, 12/10 near the Borough of Meshoppen (RL) and 2/19 at SF (JDe). One of the real highlights of the period was **Golden Eagle**, observed 12/28 during the Southeast Bradford County CBC (JD). The bird, having just entered *Wyoming* airspace, was flying south along the river just west of Laceyville. Another Golden was observed 1/12 flying over Tunkhannock (RK). **Merlin** was yet another rare observation during the Tunkhannock CBC (RK).

As mentioned, *Wyoming* birders had almost no exposure to **Snowy Owl** in this county during what was one of the greatest irruptions in memory. There were several unconfirmed reports, and only one reliable record was made 1/16 just inside the county line north of Harvey's Lake, at the intersection of Rte. 29 and Rte. 415 (JH). The bird was perched on a pole and was not relocated despite attempts by several birders.

Finally, three other species made rare appearances on the CBC: 2 **American Pipits** (RK), one **Eastern Towhee** (RK), and one **Rusty Blackbird**, the last feeding with a group of **Red-winged Blackbirds** in a riverside field near Mehoopany (JD).

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York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd (ALT), Codorus State Park (CSP), East Manchester Township (EMTP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Lake Lea (LAL), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Spring Grove (SG), Southern Lancaster Christmas Bird Count (SLCBC), State Game Lands 243 (SGL), York Christmas Bird Count (YCBC), York Springs Christmas Bird Count (YSCBC).

As would be expected with this harsh winter, the species count of 103 (plus one hybrid) was down compared to recent milder winters. The YCBC held 12/28 tallied 80 species, the YSCBC on 12/30 produced 66 species for the *York* portion, and the small piece of *York* on the 12/15 SLCBC resulted in sub-par numbers. Compilers were BF, VG and RP/BS, respectively.

Snow Goose flights resulted in a count of 54 in the Lewisberry area 12/13 (EB) and about 200 on the YSCBC (DM). Single **Cackling Geese** were observed at LAL 1/1 (DH) and in EMTP 1/19 (MA). Three **Wood Ducks** at LAL 2/15-16 (SP) were early considering this winter's persistence. The highlight of the reporting period was a **Eurasian x American Wigeon**, first found at LAL 12/30 (DC) and studied by many through 2/17. **Greater Scaup** were at LAL 12/31-2/17 (m.ob.) with 5 the high count 1/11 (VG). Five reports of **Ruddy Duck** were paced by a count of 8 at GPSP 12/12 (DN). CSP produced the largest raft of **American Coot**—270 birds 1/16 (RS).

There was some evidence of **Ring-necked Pheasant** surviving the winter with one bird along Mt. Airy Rd 2/7 (CH) and 3 in Warrington Twp. 2/14 (KW). Strong reporting of **Wild Turkey** was evident with a count of 16 from SGL 1/1 (DH) the highest of the seven reports. The SG **Great Blue Heron** rookery showed signs of nest building activity starting the week of 2/17.

Bald Eagle sightings were numerous. A WRS 1/19 (DC, et al.) produced a count of 17 in the vicinity of the Norman Wood Bridge. That same survey and location produced the sole **Peregrine Falcon** sighting. Greg Grove has noted the growing trend for over-wintering **Red-shouldered Hawks** based on WRS results; *York's* 15 reports demonstrate that trend. A 12/4 (PJR) sighting of a **Merlin** perched on a Hanover church steeple led to supposition that this may have been the "*lutheranii*" subspecies (sorry, couldn't resist).

Small numbers of **Killdeer** were found throughout the period. Singles of **Wilson's Snipe** and **American Woodcocks** were reported 12/28 at SG (PK, RP) and 2/14 (DCa) from Dover Twp.

The county participated in the **Snowy Owl** invasion but observations were of birds in flight and did not afford long looks. A distant 12/9 observation was in the vicinity of the York/Thomasville airport (PJR). A 1/4 sighting occurred while the canoeist was pulling up to the stream bank while on a trip down Yellow Breeches Creek (GS). The bird was perched in a field and immediately took flight. GPSP continues as a stronghold for **Barred Owl** with a 1/15 (DN) trio treating the observer to the traditional calling, while

not yet progressing to the "caterwauling" generally associated with a breeding pair. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found on the YSCBC. **Belted Kingfishers** found open water at LR (CK) and SG (PK) throughout the period. A high count of 3 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** came from GPSP 1/31, an established over-wintering site (DN).

Eastern Phoebe was found on both the YCBC and YSCBC. A 2/16 sighting came from Saginaw (DW). The drudgery of this winter's too frequent show shoveling was reduced by combining with a bird watch. Such multitasking in the northern part of the county picked up movement of some 2700 crows on 2/8, evenly split between **American Crow** and **Fish Crow** (RK). The three **Common Raven** reports were all from the YCBC. There were 7 reports of **Horned Lark** 12/30-2/17, but no counts exceeded 20 birds. An interesting report suggested a perched pair of **Tree Swallows** along the river's edge at Wrightsville 2/28 (SS). As the lower Susquehanna R. in Maryland was producing eBird reports for this species starting 2/21, the 2/28 report is certainly plausible.

Black-capped Chickadee reporting was very high but the county is squarely in the hybrid zone and reporting was heavily skewed to the Great Backyard Bird Count period 2/14-17. The 10 reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** indicated minimal Dec sightings. **Carolina Wren** was found all period but the **Winter Wren** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** peaked in early Dec and trended downward thereafter. The highest count among 15 reports of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was the 8 found on the YSCBC.

Hermit Thrush found sustenance at LW throughout the period (CK). A **Gray Catbird** was at SGL 12/30-1/1 (DH) and a **Brown Thrasher** showed up in Monaghan Twp. 2/10 (JD). A **Palm Warbler** was found on the YSCBC and a **Common Yellowthroat** was at LR 12/13 (CK).

More in line with their typical winter occurrence, **Eastern Towhee** escaped the cold with no sightings 1/9-2/1. Sparrows were on the weak side. The only **Savannah Sparrow** was a single at EMTP 1/19 (MA). Five of the six reports of **Fox Sparrow** were in Feb, except for a single early Dec sighting. Of the five **Swamp Sparrow** reports, the high count was 5 from Lewisberry 12/14 (EB). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found 12/19-1/20 with a high count of 16 at ALT 1/20 (RK). **Purple Finches** were reported intermittently throughout the period and no other northern finches were reported.

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IN FOCUS



*Marbled Godwit, Duck Hollow, Allegheny County. See p. 44.
(Geoff Malosh)*



*White-winged Scoter, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County. See p. 30 & 44.
(Jeff McDonald)*



*Scarlet Tanager, New Hope, Bucks County. See p. 49.
(Renee Van Wyck)*

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE: Materials to be included in the publication are needed by the due dates below.

Issue	Sightings due to Compilers by...	Articles due to Editor by...	Publication Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 March	1 May	July
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 June	1 August	October
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 August	1 October	December
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 December	1 February	April

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