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Cover: The first Pennsylvania record, this **Mottled Duck** was seen at Canonsburg Lake, *Washington* 13 May but was initially identified as a Black Duck. By 23 May, the date of this photo, consensus was a Mottled Duck, which remained into August. (*Geoff Malosh*)

Editor's Corner

Looking back on Spring 2023, could we ever have imagined the Limpkins and American Flamingos to come this year? (To be fair, Limpkins were not so unexpected.) Indeed, compared to that, Pennsylvania's spring was a bit understated, though the first state record Mottled Duck (*Washington*) did not disappoint. For more rarities and unusual records, please see what our seasonal editor, Mike Fialkovitch, has written in the **Birds of Note** and **Summary of the Season**, and of course what our compilers have written in their coverage of 60 counties.

-INSIDE THE JOURNAL-

To make up for the lack of warbler fallouts reported statewide this spring, and to build anticipation for the upcoming Pennsylvania Bird Atlas, this issue's journal kicks off with Todd Watkins' details of a **Yellow-throated Warbler feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird**. Short communications such as this are encouraged and are published up-front as "research notes."

For guidelines on submissions, please turn to page 153, where you will see some updates on how to format tables, figures, bibliographies, and elements (exclusive of county reports). A full, standardized format guide will be available later this year.

Jumping back to winter, Scott Stoleson and his co-authors detail the 131 species reported during the **Warren Christmas Bird Count** over the last 80 years. Many intriguing patterns are revealed, with multiple factors in play that could explain why some species are increasing, while others are holding steady or decreasing.

The **nesting status of marsh birds** across most of the state was the focus of a 2020 Pennsylvania Game Commission-led effort described by Patricia Barber and her coauthors. The authors remind us of the importance of marsh bird conservation biology. Our bitterns and rails are too often overlooked, due not only to their secrecy but also to the fragmentations and degradation of their surviving habitats.

David Barber summarizes and analyzes the **spring raptor season** again this year, both at Hawk Mountain and at six other watch sites across the state. Controlling for various factors, he found that several species continued to decline, including Sharp-shinned Hawks, Northern Harriers, and others.

In addition to the **Photographic Highlights** section and the **vireos** in focus on the inside back cover, don't miss the White-winged Dove on page 154. Guidelines for photo submission are on p. 153.

As always, the county reports are truly exhaustive in scope and detail. Nevertheless, as you can see from the map, we are missing a few of them. Readers interested in becoming compilers can study various county reports to get a sense of the scope of work required; ideally, the compiler should be familiar with and have birded in each county for which they are responsible. Please note that while the format to be used is standard throughout, compilers can use their judgment to decide what species to include or leave out, and how much overall detail they wish to include.

-CONFERENCES-

The capstone of the numerous events the Pennsylvania Ornithological Society organizes across the state is doubtless the annual meeting/birding festival. In 2024, it will be held in Washington County from May 31 to June 2, with field trips focusing on the southwestern portion of the state, and a full slate of ornithology talks. Please check pabirds.org regularly for updates.

This spring, the PSO conference/festival was held in State College, with field trips throughout Centre and surrounding counties. The *PSO Pileated* (2023 Vol. 2) gives all the details. The following ornithology talks were delivered: Mercy Melo (UMass/Hawk Mt): "The Continental Decline of American Kestrels: An Investigation of Possible Drivers and Future Management Strategies" / Lauri Green (Bloomsburg Univ.): "The Thermoregulatory Effects of Tree Swallow Nests and Nest Boxes: Implications for Reproductive Success and Climate Change" / Scott Parkhill (Audubon MidAtlantic): "Mature Forest Management: Wood Thrush Habitat and Opportunities for Carbon Forestry" / Andy Wilson (Gettysburg Coll.):

"Looking Forward to a Third Pennsylvania Bird Atlas"

-ORNITHOLOGICAL HISTORY-

With this issue begins a regular spotlight on a Pennsylvania ornithological work that readers can find the full text of online (in this case, at Google Books).

'The White-eyed Vireo is a common summer resident, very generally distributed, in suitable localities, throughout the state, from late in April until sometimes the last week in October...this curious white-eyed, inquisitive, scolding, unsuspecting, shrill-voiced, and vehement songster...resides in thickets and tangle undergrowth, along the edges of woods, etc., usually in the vicinity of water...where green briars and blackberry bushes abound.'
(Warren, p266)

In 1889, B. H. Warren, the Ornithologist of the State Board of Agriculture, submitted to the PA House and Senate a revised edition of the *Birds of Pennsylvania*, and it was published the following year; 19,000 copies of this 434-page, 100-plate tome were printed.

Here's the full reference:

B. H. Warren. 1890. *Report on the Birds of Pennsylvania. With Special Reference to the Food-Habits, based on over Four Thousand Stomach Examinations*. 2nd ed., E. K. Meyers, Harrisburg, PA.

The scope of the work speaks for itself. In addition to stomach contents and skin measurement, Warren also writes about the natural history of many species, such as the White-eyed Vireo above and the state's five other vireos (all of which bore the same names then that they do now). Species such as Long-eared Owls receive extensive treatment, including detailed anecdotes on nesting habits (p147). The plates are outstanding and will look familiar: they were borrowed from the work of John James Audubon. Enjoy!

—Mark Bonta
Tyrone PA
September 30, 2023

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**RESEARCH NOTE:
Photographic Evidence of Brood
Parasitism of Yellow-throated
Warbler by Brown-headed
Cowbird in Pennsylvania**

On 4 July 2023, I witnessed and photographed a Yellow-throated Warbler (*Seto-phaga dominica*) feeding insects to a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) on Sand Island, Bethlehem, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania (Fig. 1). Observed for about 20 minutes, the foraging and feeding were active and constant, the adult returning with another insect every minute or so, more than a dozen times. The adult warbler occasionally sang while foraging and the fledgling cowbird vocalized incessantly whenever the adult approached. Observations were both from the ground and from an adjacent bridge and staircase that enabled horizontal views of the feeding, which took place mid-story of two large American Sycamore trees on the shoreline of the Lehigh River.



Fig. 1. Brown-headed Cowbird (L.); Yellow-throated Warbler (R.).

While Yellow-throated Warbler nesting is rare in eastern Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley, both Sand Island in Lehigh County and the immediately contiguous Nisky Hill Cemetery in Northampton County have hosted successful breeding for several years running. I live nearby, bird both areas regularly, and indeed in July 2022 photographed fledglings that were being fed insects (ebird.org/checklist/S114316443). Both locations have extended stretches of large American Sycamore trees (*Platanus occidentalis*), which Pennsylvania populations of these warblers prefer (Ickes 1992). In fact, the Yellow-throated Warbler subgroup *S. d. albilora* was previously called the "Sycamore Warbler."

Curious about whether cowbird parasitism might reduce nesting success of a species that nests sparsely in our region, I explored the literature on brood parasitism by cowbirds, with a focus on Yellow-throated Warbler. The Brown-headed Cowbird is

Pennsylvania's only obligate brood parasite (Brittingham 2012), neither building its own nests nor raising young. There are numerous studies on cowbird parasitism in general and on effects on other species (e.g., Hoover and Brittingham 1993, Robinson et al. 1995, Burhans 1997, Kilgo and Moorman 2003), including one recently in this journal concerning Hooded Warblers (Mumme 2023). The cowbird is known to parasitize at least 240 other species (Lignac and Mumme 2023). Cup-nest-building species like many warblers can be particularly susceptible (Ortega 1998). Surveys for the *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* identified 32 different host species in Pennsylvania, including 13 warblers (Brittingham 2012).

I found little related to Yellow-throated Warblers. One comprehensive summary of all documented host species parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds (Friedmann and Kiff 1985) lists only four known records nationally at the time for Yellow-throated Warbler, two in North Carolina (Potter and Whitehurst 1981), one in Ohio and one in Oklahoma (Nice and Nice 1924). A more recent report from the Illinois State Academy of Science (Traina 2011) documented an additional case there and indicated that by 2011 other national records existed only from those four before 1985 plus cases from breeding bird atlases in Florida (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 2003), Kentucky (Palmer-Ball 1996), Tennessee (Robinson 1997), and Missouri (Missouri Department of Conservation 2011).

I could find no evidence of documented Yellow-throated Warbler parasitism by cowbirds in Pennsylvania. Although the species is considered a suitable host (Friedman 1963), parasitism may be observed rarely in part because of how inaccessible this warbler's nests tend to be—near ends of branches upwards of 40 feet high in Sycamores (Ickes 1992). Moreover, in Pennsylvania breeding is limited largely to the southwestern-most and southeastern-most corners of the state (Ickes 2012). Whatever the reason, this appears to be the first documented case of Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism of Yellow-throated Warbler in Pennsylvania.

—Todd A. Watkins
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Insights from 80 Years of Warren, PA, Christmas Bird Counts

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INTRODUCTION

A 2019 landmark paper by Rosenberg et al. used 50+ years of Breeding Bird Surveys, radar migration counts and other data sources to document the net loss of almost three billion birds from North America since the 1960s. They also showed that the degree of population decline varied both regionally and by taxon, with a few avian groups increasing in that time (e.g., waterfowl, raptors, and vireos). But as Rosenberg et al. noted (2019), their study did not address population levels of birds wintering in North America. Wintering birds comprise permanent residents remaining on their breeding grounds and birds moving south from further north.

The sole source of somewhat standardized avian data for the winter months is the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) program of the National Audubon Society. The CBC is the among the largest and oldest citizen science programs in the world. CBCs began in North America in 1900 (Butcher et al. 1990). Every CBC consists of a tally of all birds detected within an established circle 24.1 km (15 miles) in diameter on a specific day between Dec. 14 and Jan 5. Today, close to 2,000 CBCs are conducted annually by tens of thousands of volunteer participants (Dunn et al. 2005). Here we summarize and discuss the results of 80 years of Christmas Bird Count data from a single location in northwestern Pennsylvania as a microcosm of wintering birds in northeastern North America. We note contrasting trends among species and discuss potential causes for those trends.

Warren CBC

Local birders began a CBC in Warren, Pennsylvania, in 1939. Except for a three-year hiatus during World War Two (1942-45), it has been run continuously, for a total of 80 years with data. The number of participants has increased from a single observer in 1939 to an average of 47 over the past decade. As with most CBCs, the count circle is divided into sections covered by specific teams whose composition and effort has been fairly stable over years and even decades. Similarly, the current compiler (co-author Toole) and organizer (o-author Watts) have performed those functions for the past 32 years.

The Warren CBC circle is centered on the intersections of Pennsylvania Avenue and Market Street in the city of Warren in Warren County, PA (41°50'37.9" N, 79°08'42.4"). Elevations within the circle range from 1,133 feet above sea level at the downstream end of the Allegheny River up to 2,063 feet above sea level in hills east of town. The count circle includes abundant water: the Allegheny River bisects the circle from its eastern perimeter at Kinzua dam, westward through the city of Warren, then veers southward 5.5 miles west of town for a total length of 19.1 miles within the circle. A major tributary, Conewango Creek, enters the count circle at its northernmost point and flows southward about nine miles to its confluence with the Allegheny in downtown Warren. Other major waterways include 1.5 miles of Tionesta Creek and the 48-acre lake at Chapman State Park, both on the southern edges of the count circle. Except for periods

of extreme cold, most of these waterways remain at least partially open in mid-December, and often host large numbers of waterfowl if nearby lakes Erie and Chautauqua (NY: Chautauqua Co.) freeze earlier than usual.

The Warren count circle encompasses a mosaic of land ownership categories, from primarily individual private lands in the north half to a mix of personal private properties, timber and energy company lands, and substantial public lands including portions of the Allegheny National Forest, Cornplanter State Forest, and Chapman State Park in the south half. The circle includes a diverse array of habitats, due in part to its straddling the interface between two ecologically distinct physiographic provinces. The northwestern third of the circle lies within the Glaciated Northwest, where rolling hills support a mix of small farms, woodlots, and exurban residential areas. Land south and east of Warren is part of the Unglaciated Allegheny High Plateau, characterized by deeply incised valleys and extensively forested plateau tops. Most of the more developed areas occur in the Allegheny, Conewango, and Tionesta valleys.

Forest cover dominates the circle. Dominant trees include maples, cherry, beech, and hemlock in the higher country, and oaks, sycamores, maples, and aspen in the valleys. Unlike much of the rest of the country, Warren County has not changed substantially in the last 80 years except for extensive regrowth and maturation of forest. The county's human population declined by 11.7 percent between 1940 and 2022 to 37,805 (U.S. Census Bureau 2023).

Warren climate during CBC span

Situated about halfway between Pennsylvania's snowiest city (Corry, Erie Co.) and its coldest (Bradford, McKean Co.; Menne et al. 2012), Warren unsurprisingly has severe winters. For that reason, our CBC is held on the first available Saturday of the CBC season, falling between Dec. 14 and 21. We collated weather data for the Warren, PA, weather station (USC00369298) from 1939 through 2022 from the National Climate Data Center (Menne et al. 2012). We averaged weather data for the entire week of Dec. 14-21 (hereafter "D3", for the third week of December) for each year of the CBC to better characterize the climate typical for that period.

Over the 80 years of the CBC, temperatures during D3 have averaged a high of 35.2° F and a low of 21.6° F (range: -12° [1942] to 67° F [2015]). Daily minimum temperatures increased significantly over the 80 years from 18.5° to 24° F ($F = 4.35$, $df = 82$, $P = 0.04$; Fig. 1). Daily maximums trended upwards from 34° F to 37° F, but that increase was not statistically significant ($F = 1.78$, $df = 82$, $P = 0.19$). Measurable precipitation fell on 61.1% of D3 days; on 34.7% it fell as snow, primarily as light lake-effect "snow drizzle". Daily snowfall averaged 1.5 inches/day. Snowpack averaged 2.6 inches (range: 0 to 21 in.) but was consistently higher outside of the city of Warren (Menne et al. 2012).

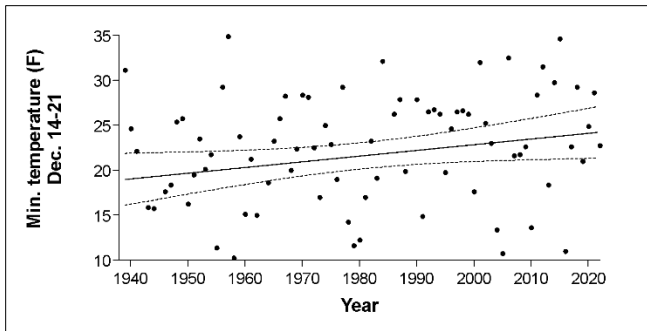


Fig. 1. Daily min. temps. in Warren, PA: December 14-21, from 1939 to 2022. Daily mins. increased significantly by 5.5°F ($F = 4.35$, $df = 82$, $P = 0.04$). Solid line indicates a linear regression of temperature against year and the dotted line the 95% confidence intervals.

Analytical Methods/Approaches

The CBC has been criticized as an unreliable indicator of avian population trends for several reasons including (1) variability in effort among different CBCs; (2) variability in effort from year to year; (3) variation in detectability/avian activity due to weather conditions on the fixed day of CBCs (Dunn et al. 2005, Sauer and Link 2002). The first issue is irrelevant for our analysis of a single CBC. To account for varying degrees of effort and varying weather conditions among years, we standardized our data by adjusting counts to numbers per group-hour (Bock and Root 1981). To reduce the amount of year-to-year variance resulting from weather-related stochasticity in the data, we used five-year running averages of the group-hour data to assess long-term trends. We applied linear or non-linear regression to corrected count data for species with large sample sizes and for total number of species and total birds. We excluded birds seen only during count week and rare species (those seen in <25% of years; Bock and Root 1981).

RESULTS

A total of 131 species have been counted on the Warren CBC over the years. Of these, 64 species were recorded on ≥ 25 counts ($\geq 31\%$ of years) (see Table 1). Eight species have been reported every year: Downy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, House Sparrow, European Starling, Northern Cardinal, Dark-eyed Junco, American Tree Sparrow, and Song Sparrow (scientific names in Table 1). Another three species were missed in just one or two years: Blue Jay, Brown Creeper, and White-breasted Nuthatch. The species count for any single CBC has averaged 47 (range = 13 to 69).

Population trends

Most of the common species recorded showed some sort of trend in abundance over the 80 years of Warren CBCs. Only three showed no substantial change in that time (indicated as “NT” in Table 1). Thirteen species recorded on ≥ 25 counts had individual count totals too sparse to detect trends (Table 1: SS). Three species showed continuous declines through the years: American Black Duck, Ruffed Grouse, and American Tree Sparrow (Fig. 2). Numerous species showed a roughly parabolic pattern of increasing over time to a peak, then declining steadily in subsequent years (Table 1: PK/DEC). As just one example, Fig. 3 shows abundance of House Finch. Not all species declined, however; there were some notable and even extreme population increases (Table 1: INC). Several species showed exponential growth over time, such as Bald Eagle (Fig. 4), Wild Turkey, Bufflehead, and Carolina Wren, among others. Another 12 species showed a pattern of increasing abundance up to a point,

then leveling off to a fairly steady number (Table 1: INC/PLAT). Downy Woodpecker exemplifies this pattern (Fig. 5). Finally, several boreal finch species showed an irruptive pattern, being sparse or absent in most years, with periodic years of large numbers. For example, in most years a total of zero to five Pine Siskins were reported, but irruption years yielded as many as 1,964 (Fig. 6, Table 1).

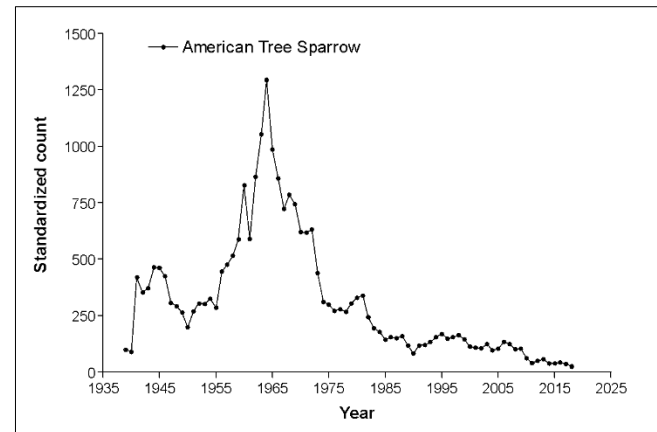


Fig. 2. American Tree Sparrow pop. trend for the Warren CBC as an example of a species showing fairly continuous declines 1939-2022. Abundances are based on 5-yr rolling avgs. corrected for party-hour effort.

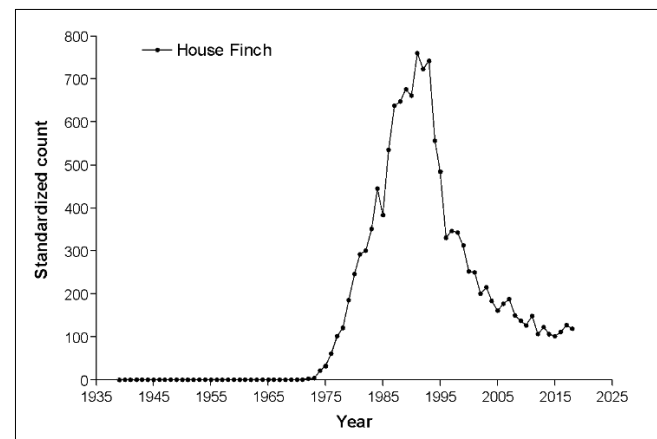


Fig. 3. House Finch population trend for the Warren CBC 1939-2022, as an example of a species showing increases followed by rapid declines. Abundances are based on 5-yr rolling avgs. corrected for party-hour effort.

DISCUSSION

Various potentially interacting factors may be responsible for observed changes in abundance on the Warren CBC, including disease, habitat change, and warming climate. Declines over just the past two to three decades may result in part to decreased feeding by humans due to a declining and aging human population and economic issues; any changes resulting from fewer feeders may be conflated with larger-scale factors affecting birds at regional or continental scales.

Population increases

As Rosenberg et al. (2019) pointed out, several avian taxa have increased over the last 50 years, notably raptors, upland gamebirds, and waterfowl. Our results reflect those continental trends. Numbers of Canada Geese and several of our most common ducks have increased greatly, certainly due mostly to successful waterfowl management (Anderson et al. 2018). Intense management and protection under the federal Endangered Species Act and other laws are likely responsible for

the exponential growth in Bald Eagles. Similarly, well-enforced game laws, habitat management, and a declining hunter population in the state likely promoted the exponential growth in turkeys. Widespread deployment of nest boxes probably increased local numbers of Eastern Bluebirds as it has elsewhere (Gowaty and Plissner 2020).

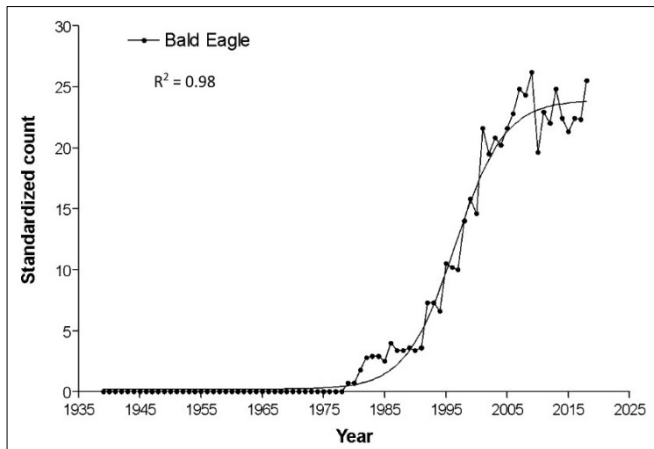


Fig. 4. Bald Eagle population trend for the Warren CBC as an example of a species showing exponential growth 1939-2022. Abundances are based on 5-yr rolling avgs. corrected for party-hour effort. Line indicates sigmoidal function fit to data.

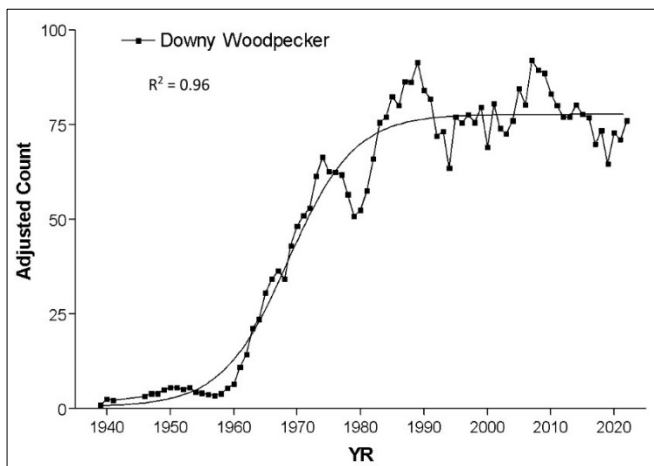


Fig. 5. Downy Woodpecker population trend for the Warren CBC as an example of a species showing increasing numbers that then level off to a plateau, 1939-2022. Abundances are based on 5-yr rolling avgs. corrected for party-hour effort. Line represents sigmoidal function fit to data.

Other species have clearly increased due to the northward expansion of their range, due at least in part to our warming climate (Hitch and Leberg 2007, La Sorte and Thompson 2007). These southeastern species include Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Wren. None of these birds was seen in the first several decades of our CBC.

The regrowth and maturation of forests over the years since the CBC began likely promoted increases in mature forest species, such as Cooper’s Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Common Raven, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Brown Creeper.

Population declines

Diseases have affected numerous bird species. Ruffed Grouse populations have dwindled over time despite intensive management, due mostly to the spread of West Nile Virus (Bolgiano 2019) and perhaps increased predation by the

proliferation of fishers (*Pekania pennanti*) in the state (Lovallo 2008). Other species known to be particularly susceptible to WNV also have experienced recent declines or leveling-off of otherwise increasing populations. These include Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, all of our Corvids, chickadees, European Starling, House Sparrow, and Song Sparrow (Taieb et al. 2020). House Finches have declined greatly since the mid-1990s due to their susceptibility to avian conjunctivitis (Dhondt et al. 1998). It seems noteworthy that three introduced non-native (to the eastern US) species all have shown declines in recent years: Rock Pigeon, European Starling, and House Finch (Table 1). This pattern reflects continental declines in many introduced species (Rosenberg et al. 2019).

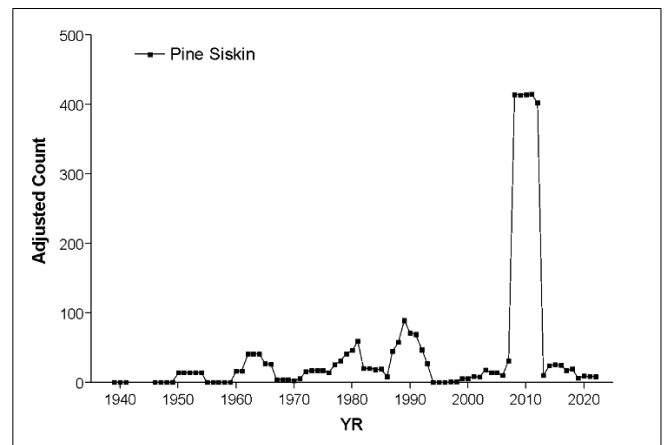


Fig. 6. Pine Siskin population trend for the Warren CBC as an example of a species showing an irruptive pattern of occurrence from 1939-2022. Abundances are based on 5-yr rolling avgs. corrected for party-hour effort.

The regrowth of the region’s forests appears to have benefited mature forest species but may have had negative impacts on the abundance of wintering early-successional species such as sparrows, Mourning Dove, and Cedar Waxwing, all of which have declined in recent decades (Table 1). The American Tree Sparrow is an unusual case. In the early years of the CBC this sparrow was consistently abundant both at feeders and in natural areas, second in abundance only to Dark-eyed Juncos; overall counts averaged >250 until the mid-1970s. In the past 20 years, the count has averaged 55, with some years as few as four overall. Whether these local numbers indicate an actual decline in continental Tree Sparrow populations or are simply an artifact of our December weather conditions in recent years becoming too warm for these Arctic breeders is unclear. It should be noted that boreal-breeding birds overall have declined continent-wide by 33% (Rosenberg et al. 2019), a decline second only to grassland birds.

Evening Grosbeaks represent another odd case. While always irruptive, during the middle years of the Warren CBC (1957 to 1995) their irruptions were frequent and with large numbers (up to 875) present. Since then, their irruptions have become much less frequent and with fewer birds, with a maximum of only 21 seen since 2002. This decline has been documented across the species’ entire wintering range and has become a cause for considerable concern (Bonter and Harvey 2008).

CONCLUSIONS

Most species that commonly winter in Warren, Pennsylvania, have experienced substantial changes in abundance based on Christmas Bird Counts conducted since 1939. Of 64 regularly

occurring species, 24 have either declined in numbers continuously or peaked and then declined. Another 12 species that increased for many years have reached a plateau in abundance; whether this represents a steady state or just the beginning of a decline remains to be seen. In contrast, several species have shown steady increases in abundance. The potential causes for these observed trends range from local factors, such as reforestation and state game laws, to factors occurring at regional, continental, or even global scales. The latter include climate change and diseases; solutions for such large-scale issues may be rather intractable. However, the success of human interventions in the form of management, game laws, and even hunting regulations to recover various species, such as Bald Eagle, demonstrate the potential ability of humans to prevent or reverse population declines.

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Table 1: Bird Species Recorded on Warren, PA, Christmas Bird Counts, 1939-2022. C2: Frequency (Number of years species was detected on count day, excluding count week only birds); C3: MEAN COUNT>0 (Mean number of birds recorded for those years with non-zero counts); C4: Trend (general population trend: NT = no trend evident; IRR = irruptive; INC = continuous increase over time; INC/PLAT = increasing up to a point, then relatively level; DEC = continuous decrease over time; PK/DEC = increasing to a peak, then decreasing; SS = sample sizes too low to assess trend; dash = too infrequently encountered to determine a trend); C5: year 1st reported. Subscript R: Apparently resident bird: present year-round, although breeding populations may be augmented or replaced entirely by birds from further north. Excludes those species that occasionally linger into mid-December but normally leave for the winter (e.g., American Robin). Subscript I: Non-native to the eastern U.S.

SPECIES	C2	C3	C4	C5
Snow Goose <i>Anser caerulescens</i>	4	3.0	—	1970
Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i> _R	41	331.4	INC	
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i> _R	26	2.0	SS	
Trumpeter Swan <i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	1	0.2	—	
Tundra Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	18	20.3	—	
Wood Duck <i>Aix sponsa</i> _R	40	0.3	SS	
Blue-winged Teal <i>Spatula discors</i>	2	0.2	—	
Northern Shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i>	1	0.2	—	
Gadwall <i>Mareca strepera</i>	8	0.2	—	
American Wigeon <i>Mareca americana</i>	6	0.2	—	
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> _R	66	288.7	INC	
American Black Duck <i>Anas rubripes</i>	63	12.3	DEC	
Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	3	0.4	—	
Green-winged Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	6	0.2	—	
Canvasback <i>Aythya valisineria</i>	6	0.5	—	
Redhead <i>Aythya americana</i>	10	1.6	—	
Ring-necked Duck <i>Aythya collaris</i>	12	0.8	—	
Greater Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	5	0.5	—	
Lesser Scaup <i>Aythya affinis</i>	10	0.3	—	
Harlequin Duck <i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	1	1.2	—	

Surf Scoter <i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	1	0.2	—	
White-winged Scoter <i>Melanitta deglandi</i>	4	0.8	—	
Long-tailed Duck <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	8	30.7	—	
Bufflehead <i>Bucephala albeola</i>	50	30.0	INC	1966
Common Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	62	0.8	PK/DEC	
Hooded Merganser <i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i> _R	57	1.1	INC/PLAT	1965
Common Merganser <i>Mergus merganser</i> _R	59	58.2	PK/DEC	
Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>	19	97.6	—	
Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	15	0.3	—	
Wild Turkey <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> _R	37	11.9	INC	1959
Ruffed Grouse <i>Bonasa umbellus</i> _R	69	4.2	DEC	
Ring-necked Pheasant <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> _{IR}	31	1.2	SS	
Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	52	3.6	NT	
Horned Grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i>	20	0.7	—	
Rock Pigeon <i>Columba livia</i> _{IR}	49	314.8	PK/DEC	
Mourning Dove <i>Zenaida macroura</i> _R	61	204.1	PK/DEC	
American Coot <i>Fulica americana</i>	24	1.1	—	
Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	4	0.4	—	
American Woodcock <i>Scolopax minor</i>	1	0.2	—	
Bonaparte's Gull <i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	5	1.0	—	
Ring-billed Gull <i>Larus delawarensis</i>	61	119.7	PK/DEC	1957
Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	59	19.1	PK/DEC	
Glaucous Gull <i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	1	0.2	—	
Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	3	0.8	—	
Common Loon <i>Gavia immer</i>	11	0.3	—	
Double-crested Cormorant <i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	3	0.2	—	
Great Blue Heron <i>Ardea herodias</i> _R	62	8.4	PK/DEC	
Black-crowned Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1	0.2	—	
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	2	0.2	—	
Northern Harrier <i>Circus hudsonius</i>	7	0.3	—	
Sharp-shinned Hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	46	1.7	SS	
Cooper's Hawk <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> _R	57	3.2	INC/PLAT	
American Goshawk <i>Accipiter atricapillus</i> _R	5	0.2	—	
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> _R	41	10.0	INC	1983
Red-shouldered Hawk <i>Buteo lineatus</i>	10	0.2	—	
Broad-winged Hawk <i>Buteo platypterus</i>	2	0.2	—	
Red-tailed Hawk <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> _R	62	11.5	PK/DEC	
Rough-legged Hawk <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	19	0.4	—	
Eastern Screech Owl <i>Megascops asio</i> _R	45	2.1	SS	
Great Horned Owl <i>Bubo virginianus</i> _R	50	2.1	SS	
Barred Owl <i>Strix varia</i> _R	30	0.7	SS	
Northern Saw-whet Owl <i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	6	0.4	—	
Belted Kingfisher <i>Megaceryle halcyon</i> _R	73	7.6	PK/DEC	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	14	0.5	—	
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	2	0.2	—	
Red-bellied Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes carolinus</i> _R	38	13.2	INC	1976
Downy Woodpecker <i>Dryobates pubescens</i> _R	80	52.5	INC/PLAT	
Hairy Woodpecker <i>Dryobates villosus</i> _R	73	15.9	INC/PLAT	
Pileated Woodpecker <i>Dryocopus lineatus</i> _R	67	4.5	INC/PLAT	
Northern Flicker <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	52	3.2	SS	
American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius</i>	55	1.4	SS	
Merlin <i>Falco columbarus</i> _R	2	0.3	—	
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	0.2	—	
Eastern Phoebe <i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	3	0.2	—	
White-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo griseus</i>	1	0.2	—	
Northern Shrike <i>Lanius borealis</i>	14	0.3	—	
Blue Jay <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i> _R	78	215.8	INC/PLAT	
American Crow <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> _R	64	116.2	INC/PLAT	
Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i> _R	31	4.1	INC/PLAT	1983
Black-capped Chickadee <i>Poecile atricapillus</i> _R	80	326.6	PK/DEC	
Tufted Titmouse <i>Baeolophus bicolor</i> _R	70	49.3	INC	1952
Horned Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	20	13.3	—	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet <i>Corthylio calendula</i>	25	0.8	—	
Golden-crowned Kinglet <i>Regulus satrapa</i> _R	75	16.8	INC/PLAT	

Red-breasted Nuthatch <i>Sitta canadensis</i> _R	59	6.9	PK/DEC	
White-breasted Nuthatch <i>Sitta carolinensis</i> _R	78	82.5	PK/DEC	
Brown Creeper <i>Certhia americana</i> _R	78	8.8	PK/DEC	
Winter Wren <i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>	32	0.8	SS	
Carolina Wren <i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i> _R	52	6.3	INC	1967
European Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> _R	80	572.9	PK/DEC	
Gray Catbird <i>Dumatella carolinensis</i>	9	0.2	—	
Brown Thrasher <i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	3	0.2	—	
Northern Mockingbird <i>Mimus polyglottos</i> _R	10	0.3	—	1966
Eastern Bluebird <i>Sialis sialis</i> _R	33	4.0	INC	1954
Hermit Thrush <i>Catharus guttatus</i>	8	0.5	—	
American Robin <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	60	9.6	NT	
Cedar Waxwing <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	50	108.6	PK/DEC	
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i> _R	80	262.2	PK/DEC	
Evening Grosbeak <i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	46	126.0	PK/DEC	
Pine Grosbeak <i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	8	8.6	—	
House Finch <i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i> _R	47	193.6	PK/DEC	1976
Purple Finch <i>Haemorhous purpureus</i> _R	57	6.8	PK/DEC	
Common Redpoll <i>Acanthis flammea</i>	18	9.9	—	
Red Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	2	0.6	—	
White-winged Crossbill <i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	5	2.6	—	
Pine Siskin <i>Spinus pinus</i>	39	51.7	IRR	
American Goldfinch <i>Spinus tristis</i> _R	74	138.6	INC/PLAT	
Lapland Longspur <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	1	0.6	—	
Snow Bunting <i>Plectrophenax nevalis</i>	15	14.1	IRR	
Chipping Sparrow <i>Spizella passerina</i>	10	0.4	—	
Field Sparrow <i>Spizella pusilla</i>	48	4.6	PK/DEC	
American Tree Sparrow <i>Spizelloides arborea</i>	80	113.0	DEC	
Fox Sparrow <i>Passerella iliaca</i>	18	0.6	—	
Dark-eyed Junco <i>Junco hyemalis</i> _R	80	398.2	INC/PLAT	
White-crowned Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	14	0.9	—	
White-throated Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	64	28.0	PK/DEC	
Vesper Sparrow <i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	1	0.2	—	
Song Sparrow <i>Melospiza melodia</i> _R	80	23.5	PK/DEC	
Lincoln's Sparrow <i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	1	0.2	—	
Swamp Sparrow <i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	26	0.8	SS	
Eastern Towhee <i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	20	0.7	—	
Eastern Meadowlark <i>Sturnella magna</i>	13	1.2	—	
Baltimore Oriole <i>Icterus galbula</i>	4	0.2	—	
Red-winged Blackbird <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	36	2.4	SS	
Brown-headed Cowbird <i>Molothrus ater</i>	42	6.8	NT	
Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	15	0.3	—	
Common Grackle <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	28	1.3	SS	
Ovenbird <i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	1	0.2	—	
American Redstart <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	1	0.2	—	
Yellow Warbler <i>Setophaga petechia</i>	1	0.2	—	
Yellow-rumped Warbler <i>Setophaga coronata</i>	16	0.9	—	
Northern Cardinal <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i> _R	80	103.7	INC/PLAT	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak <i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	1	0.2	—	

Results of 2020 Pennsylvania Game Commission Marsh Bird Surveys, with Comparisons to BBA Results

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Spring 2020. As COVID spread rapidly, many everyday activities were curtailed or canceled. By fortunate coincidence, thanks to the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), some Pennsylvania birders found a relatively safe outlet to help compensate for canceled birding trips, local field trips, and bird club meetings - surveys for marsh birds, a significant proportion of which were carried out by volunteers. During May and June 2020, almost 1,000 wetland surveys were conducted using standardized recorded vocalizations of each of nine target species to elicit responses.

Many, if not most, of Pennsylvania's marsh nesters are believed to be declining. However, solid data to allow assessment of population status of these uncommon or rare species are difficult to obtain given their secretive nature, their nocturnal or crepuscular habits, and difficulty accessing their habitat. Marsh species are not well monitored through the Breeding Bird Survey routes that provide abundant data for songbirds.

Breeding Bird Atlases (BBA) provide a relatively systematically gathered source of population data for wetland specialists. Two BBAs have been conducted in Pennsylvania, carried out during 1984-1988 and 2004-2008 (Brauning 1992, Wilson et al. 2012), with the state divided into 4,937 survey blocks, each approximately 24 sq. km. (9 sq. mi.). Of nine key wetland species listed below, five decreased in total block detections between BBA1 and BBA2, two increased slightly, and two had so few detections as to allow no meaningful conclusion about status, except for their rarity (Table 1). Note that the total number of block detections includes *Confirmed* + *Probable* + *Possible* reports.

The nine primary targeted species are American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), American Coot (*Fulica americana*), Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) (Fig. 7), Sora (*Porzana Carolina*), Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*), King Rail (*Rallus elegans*), and Black Rail (*Rallus elegans*).

The BBA results are rather bleaker when the number of blocks with only *Confirmed* nesting reports are compared between the two atlas projects (the right-most two columns in Table 1). Despite somewhat more extensive coverage and use of targeted wetland surveys, including use of recorded vocalizations, seven of the nine species saw a reduction in blocks with confirmations, one had the same number of confirmed blocks from each atlas, and one was not confirmed during either atlas (Table 1). These results mirror those from neighboring New York and Maryland, states that have also completed two BBAs at 20-year intervals (Ellison 2010, McGowan and Corwin 2008).

While BBA results are important and provide some systematically obtained data, most BBA effort is nevertheless not focused on uncommon or rare marshland species. Thus, the project described here was developed by the PGC and designed

specifically to encourage volunteer help from the Pennsylvania birding community.

Table 1: Changes in Block Detection of Nine Wetland Specialists between BBA1 and BBA2 in Pennsylvania. Block number and location were identical between the two surveys. 4,937 blocks surveyed. Changes in block detection are raw numbers from each atlas and have not been adjusted to reflect slightly more block effort during BBA2 compared to BBA1. "Total Blocks" = *Confirmed* + *Probable* + *Possible* records; the right two columns show numbers of *Confirmed* blocks only.

	Total Blocks	Total Blocks	% change	Conf. Blocks	Conf. Blocks
	BBA1	BBA2		BBA1	BBA2
<i>American Bittern</i>	53	31	-42	5	2
<i>Least Bittern</i>	31	28	-10	9	6
<i>Pied-billed Grebe</i>	86	64	-26	26	26
<i>American Coot</i>	25	18	-28	11	2
<i>Common Gallinule</i>	76	48	-37	32	13
<i>Sora</i>	88	100	+14	22	13
<i>Virginia Rail</i>	120	153	+28	34	31
<i>King Rail</i>	5	5	0	2	0
<i>Black Rail</i>	2	0	-100	0	0

METHODS

Pennsylvania Game Commission staff and volunteer birders conducted methodical marsh bird surveys throughout the state, following the North American Secretive Marsh Bird protocol (Conway 2009), which includes use of recorded calls of nine species to elicit response. Each point was visited three times, and a survey was conducted once in each of three two-week periods (1 to 15 May, 16 May to 5 June, and 6 to 20 June). To allow volunteers who started surveys after the end of the first survey period to conduct three replicates, a fourth two-week survey period was added (21 June to 4 July).

To facilitate the survey and improve data collection, Diversity and Geospatial PGC staff developed a GIS-based survey tool in Survey123. The tool was embraced by staff and volunteers with only a single volunteer using paper forms. Similar tools are planned for other Diversity surveys.

In addition to the nine primary target species listed in Table 1, surveyors also recorded detections of six additional species associated with wetlands or wet fields and woodlands: Willow Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Sedge Wren, American Woodcock, and Wilson's Snipe. No recorded vocalizations were used for these six species (Table 2).

RESULTS

From 1 May to 30 June 2020, 988 marsh bird surveys were completed, resulting in 434 detections of the nine targeted marsh bird species. The locations of survey sites are shown in Fig. 1. Coverage was extensive, albeit uneven, across the state. There

were pockets of relatively dense coverage in the far northeast, in the middle Ridge-and-Valley in Centre and Huntingdon counties, in portions of the Piedmont south of the ridges, and in part of the northwest.

Table 2: 2020 Survey Detections (#) of Six Additional Species.
E = endangered in PA

	#
<i>Willow Flycatcher</i>	211
<i>Alder Flycatcher</i>	50
<i>Marsh Wren</i>	63
<i>Sedge Wren (E)</i>	15
<i>Wilson’s Snipe</i>	11
<i>American Woodcock</i>	2

Some areas were poorly covered, especially the north-central forested highlands, where relatively few birders live. Coverage was also sparse along the southern tier from Fulton County westward and in much of the Ridge-and Valley.

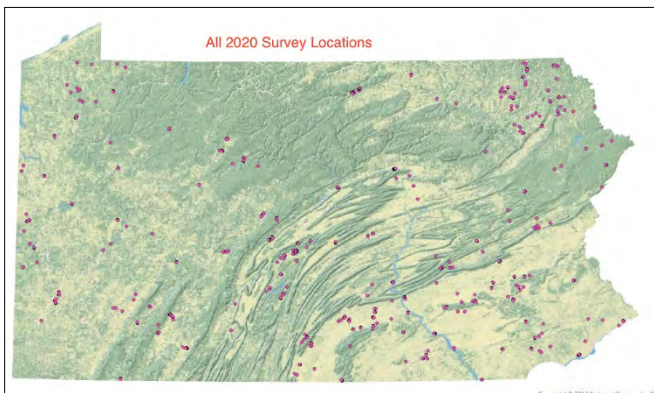


Fig. 1. All 2020 Survey Locations.

The results provided here do not include a separate targeted effort in the state’s largest wetlands in western Crawford County or the wetlands at Presque Isle State Park, Erie County. Those areas were surveyed under contract with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to address that extensive habitat and difficulty of access. As a result, some species detections are under-represented in the northwest compared to past statewide BBAs.

The number of detections for each of the nine targeted species and the six additional species are shown in Tables 2 and 3. By comparison of Table 3 with the BBA2 data in Table 1, the number of detections for each of the nine target marsh species in the 2020 surveys is roughly in proportion to the number of blocks with observations for each species during BBA2. The figures show locations for selected species.

Table 3: Marsh Bird Detections 5/1 – 6/30/ 2020 in 988 Surveys. (See figs. for some of these species). C2: total number of detections; C3: # of locs. where detections made; C4: E = Endangered in PA.

	C2	C3	C4
<i>American Bittern</i>	28	12	E
<i>Least Bittern</i>	14	10	E
<i>Pied-billed Grebe</i>	11	8	
<i>American Coot</i>	5	5	
<i>Common Gallinule</i>	17	11	
<i>Sora</i>	79	38	
<i>Virginia rail</i>	275	72	
<i>King Rail</i>	4	4	E
<i>Black Rail</i>	0	0	

COMMENTS ON SELECTED SPECIES

Virginia Rail

There were more detections of Virginia Rail, 275, than all the other eight primary target species combined (Table 3). Virginia Rail was also the most-often detected of these nine species in both BBA1 and BBA2. During the 2020 survey, they were detected at 72 survey locations (Fig. 2), the distribution of which, across the state, is like the distribution of all 2020 survey points and somewhat similar to the distribution during BBA2 (Van Fleet 2012a), excepting data lacking because of the afore-mentioned exclusion of the Crawford County and Presque Isle wetlands.

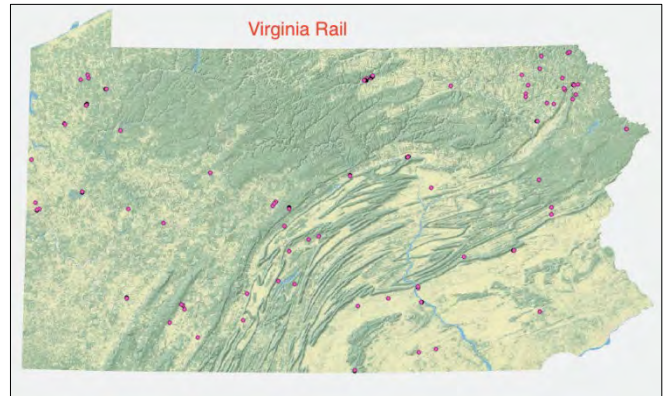


Fig. 2. Virginia Rail detections.

Most obvious is a cluster of detections in the far northeast, centered in Susquehanna and Wayne counties, as well as at SGL 313 (“The Muck”) in Tioga County. There was also a cluster in the middle Ridge-and-Valley region, possibly helped by good coverage there. At the time of analysis of the BBA2 results, it was suggested there could be in the low 100s of breeding pairs in the state (Van Fleet 2012a).

Sora

Soras were detected 79 times at 38 survey points (Table 3). Detections were widely scattered with a modest concentration in central Pennsylvania, which again may reflect the relative abundance of surveys done there (Fig. 3). Overall, the 2020 distribution is only a fair match to the results of BBA2, in which most blocks with Sora detection were in the northwest (Van Fleet 2012b), where relatively few locations were surveyed in the 2020 survey.

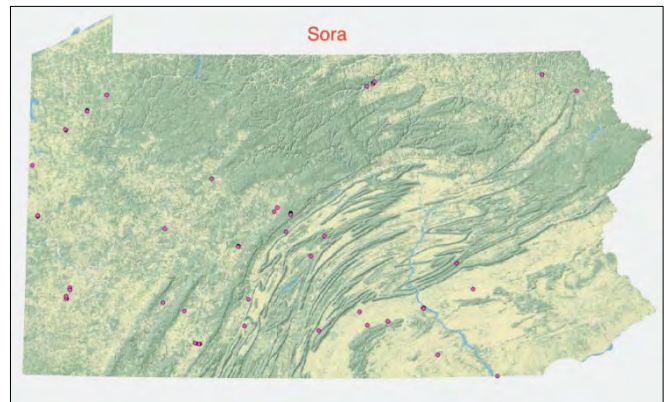


Fig. 3. Sora detections.

American Bittern

The 28 total detections of American Bittern (Figs. 4 and 5) came from 12 locations, eight of which were in the northeastern tier counties, including from SGL 313. SGL 313 was the location for one of only two *Confirmed* reports during BBA2 and provided the only actual sighting of a recently fledged juvenile. At the time of the analysis of the results of BBA2, it was estimated that at most there may be low double-digit numbers of nesting pairs in the state (Wilhelm 2012).



Fig. 4. American Bittern. Photo by Bill Libhart, East Donegal Twp, Lancaster, 13 April 2022.



Fig. 5. American Bittern detections.

Least Bittern

Even within this group of generally difficult to assess species, Least Bitterns are among the most difficult, making their real status of considerable mystery. The 14 detections at 10 locations in 2020 (Fig. 6) are widely scattered and suggest no part of the state that can be considered a stronghold. The same was true from BBA2 except for modest clusters in the far northwest and southeast corners (Van Fleet 2012).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish a long-term monitoring database of wetland birds.
2. Continue conducting wetland surveys for marshes 3-10 hectares as well as traditionally surveyed wetlands greater than 10 hectares, at least every four years. The next survey is planned for 2024 or 2025.
3. Include management and conservation of wetland birds of conservation priority in comprehensive game lands management plans.

4. Work with other organizations to monitor, conserve, and manage wetland birds that are especially vulnerable due to their rarity, isolation, and secretive nature.
5. Increase participation of the public in organized surveys and less formal monitoring projects like Pennsylvania eBird and increase the quality of those reports by educating the users about the use of eBird features like photographs, detailed notes, and breeding codes that increase the credibility and utility of these reports.
6. Continue and expand engagement and education of the public concerning wetland birds and their habitats.
7. Evaluate wetlands outside of the survey period to determine if the habitat is suitable, to more efficiently use the short survey period during the breeding season.

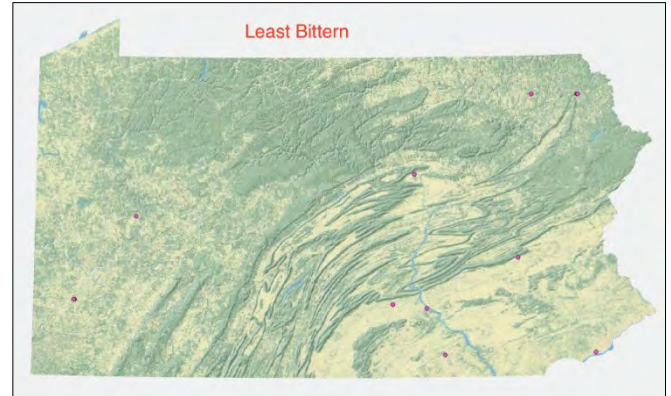


Fig. 6. Least Bittern detections.

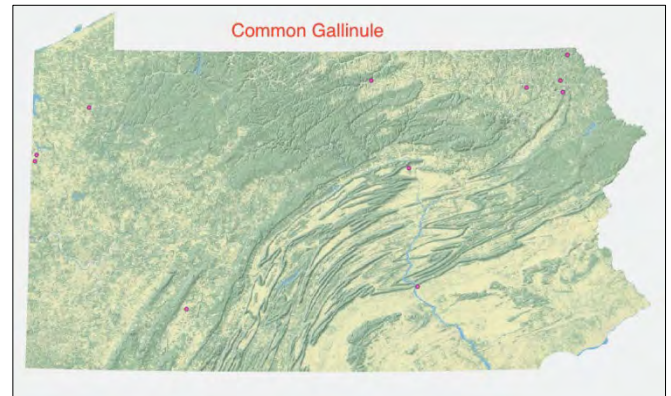


Fig. 7. Common Gallinule detections.

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Pennsylvania Raptor Migration Summary - Spring 2023

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Following a warm, dry winter with below average snowfall, the 2023 spring count season started with one of the warmest and driest Februaries on record. Temperatures moderated in March, but warmed up again in April, before cooling off in May. Precipitation, however, remained below average throughout the spring. Early season winds were predominantly out of the west and northwest which slowed the migration, but southerly winds during the first and third weeks in April produced a few pulses of migrants.

MIGRATION SUMMARY

Seven Pennsylvania spring watch sites counted 27,696 total raptors in 1,919 hours during 323 days of counting between February 14 and June 6, for a rate of 14.4 raptors per hour (please refer to Table 1, below, for data referred to in this section). Spring count hours were 32% above the 10-year average of 1,453 hours. The total spring raptor count was six percent above the average of 26,144 and the number of raptors counted per hour was 21% below the average of 18.2. Nine species had below average counts with notably low counts of Northern Harriers (31% below average) Sharp-shinned Hawk (31% below average), and American Kestrel (28% below average). Black Vultures, Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, Golden Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons also had counts below their 10-year averages. The counts of Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks were the second and fifth lowest count totals, respectively, in 24 years of Pennsylvania's spring counts.

Four species had above average counts. Turkey Vultures were 13% above average, Ospreys were 10% above average, Bald Eagles were 24% above average, and Merlins were 13% above average. Cooper's Hawks, American Goshawks, Broad-winged Hawks, and Mississippi Kites had average counts.

SITE HIGHLIGHTS

Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford)

Counters recorded 880 raptors in 360 hours over 63 days from February 14 to May 7, a rate of 2.4 birds per hour. The overall count was 16% below the 10-year average and effort was 8% above average. Counts of Bald and Golden Eagles were 52% and 17% above average respectively (Table 1). The Bald Eagle total of 53 was the second highest spring count. Counts of Red-shouldered Hawks were also above average. Counts of Black Vultures, Turkey Vultures, Ospreys, Broad-winged Hawks, and Red-tailed Hawks were all below their 10-year averages (Table 1). The Osprey count of 25 was 56% below average and the 2nd lowest count recorded in Allegheny Front's 26-year history.

The first migrant of the season was an adult Golden Eagle recorded at 10:22 am on February 14. The day's count also included three Black Vultures, two Turkey Vultures, and five Red-tailed Hawks. Moderate southeast winds on March 6 produced the highest count of the season with 86 raptors, including season highs of 16 Red-shouldered Hawks, 23 Red-tailed Hawks, and 32 Golden Eagles. Thirteen raptor spp. were

observed on April 3, including a juvenile American Goshawk, one of only two goshawks recorded at PA watch sites this spring.

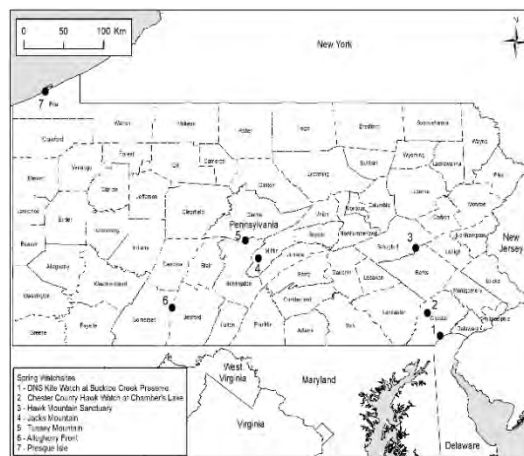


Fig. 1. Spring raptor watchsites in Pennsylvania, 2023.

Chester County Hawk Watch & Migration Count at Chambers Lake (Chester)

This was the second full season count for this watch site. Chambers Lake counters recorded 963 raptors in 554 hours over 84 days from March 1 to May 31, a rate of 1.74 birds per hour. The Osprey total of 138 was the largest of any Pennsylvania watch site (Table 1). A season-high 79 birds were recorded on April 18, including four Ospreys, one Bald Eagle, one Cooper's Hawk, 72 Broad-winged Hawks, and one Merlin (Table 2).

Delaware Nature Society Kite Watch at Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Chester)

During the 6th year for this late spring kite and shorebird watch, counters tallied 15 raptors in 117 hrs over 21 days from May 17 to June 6, a rate of 0.13 birds per hr. Two Mississippi Kites were tallied on May 21, the only kites recorded this year and below the 6-yr average of 6.3. Bucktoe Creek was the only watch site in Pennsylvania to record Mississippi Kites this spring.

Hawk Mountain (Berks/Schuylkill)

Counters recorded 1,189 raptors in 267 hrs over 44 days from March 20 to May 15, a rate of 4.5 birds per hour. The total count was 29% above the 10-year average of 922 and effort was average. The count of 173 Turkey Vultures was 157% above average and a new high count (Table 1). Counts of Bald Eagles, Broad-winged Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, and American Kestrels were also above average. Counts of Ospreys and Red-shouldered Hawks were 21% and 69% below average. The 46 Ospreys tied for the lowest count in 25 years of spring counts at Hawk Mountain. Counts of all other species were average (Table 1).

A flock of 67 Turkey Vultures observed on March 27 was a season high and accounted for 39% of the Turkey Vulture count total. Twelve Bald Eagles were counted on April 17 along with

three Ospreys, nine Sharp-shinned Hawks, 133 Broad-winged Hawks, and 10 Red-tailed Hawks. Broad-winged Hawks peaked on April 21 with a high of 215 (Table 2). The only Golden Eagle of the season was observed on May 2.

Jack's Mountain (Mifflin)

Hawk watchers counted 240 raptors in 33 hours over 7 days from March 1 to April 27. a rate of 7.2 birds per hour (Table 1). The high-count day was April 21 with 50 raptors, including one Osprey, two Sharp-shinned Hawks, two Cooper's Hawks, and 45 Broad-winged Hawks.

Table 1: Spring 2023 Count Results for Pennsylvania Watch Sites. KEY TO TABLE HEADERS: BLVU: Black Vulture; BWHA: Broad-winged Hawk; TUVU: Turkey Vulture; RTHA: Red-tailed Hawk; OSPR: Osprey; RLHA: Rough-legged Hawk; BAEA: Bald Eagle; GOEA: Golden Eagle; NOHA: Northern Harrier; AMKE: American Kestrel; SSHA: Sharp-shinned Hawk; MERL: Merlin; COHA: Cooper's Hawk; PEFA: Peregrine Falcon; AGOS: American Goshawk; MIKI: Mississippi Kite; RSHA: Red-shouldered Hawk; Unid: Unidentified.

ALLEGHENY FRONT (BEDFORD) - BOB STEWART, COMPILER																					
MONTH	Days	Hrs	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	AGOS	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
FEB	11	53.5	3	26	0	5	0	1	1	0	2	0	17	0	5	0	0	0	0	4	64
MAR	22	129.0	0	26	0	19	2	25	13	0	26	0	81	0	75	5	1	2	0	20	295
APR	26	158.3	0	29	20	26	7	55	18	1	3	204	75	0	14	6	3	1	0	18	480
MAY	4	19.3	0	0	5	3	2	2	1	0	0	20	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
TOTAL	63	360.0	3	81	25	53	11	83	33	1	31	224	181	0	94	11	4	3	0	42	880
TOTAL/HR			0.01	0.23	0.07	0.15	0.03	0.23	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.62	0.50	0.00	0.26	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.12	2.44
% OF FLIGHT			0.3	9.2	2.8	6.0	1.3	9.4	3.8	0.1	3.5	25.5	20.6	0.0	10.7	1.3	0.5	0.3	0.0	4.8	100
AVG 2014-'23	56.6	334.7	7.9	130.2	59.9	34.8	11.8	79.2	32.0	1.4	24.2	324.2	205.1	0.2	80.3	10.9	4.0	3.6	0.0	36.4	1043.0
CHESTER COUNTY HAWK WATCH AT CHAMBERS LAKE (CHESTER) - LARRY LEWIS, COMPILER																					
MONTH	Days	Hrs	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	AGOS	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
MAR	28	183.0	39	291	22	29	0	6	4	0	2	0	38	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	433
APR	30	221.5	5	79	105	25	9	39	23	0	13	156	47	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	510
MAY	26	149.5	0	0	11	1	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
TOTAL	84	554.0	44	370	138	55	9	50	30	0	15	156	85	0	0	9	2	0	0	0	963
TOTAL/HR			0.08	0.67	0.25	0.10	0.02	0.09	0.05	0.00	0.03	0.28	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.74
% OF FLIGHT			4.6	38.4	14.3	5.7	0.9	5.2	3.1	0.0	1.6	16.2	8.8	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
DELAWARE NATURE SOCIETY KITE WATCH AT BUCKTOE CREEK PRESERVE (CHESTER) - LARRY LEWIS, COMPILER																					
MONTH	Days	Hrs	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	AGOS	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
MAY	15	84.5	0	0	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	13
JUN	6	32.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	21	117.0	0	0	10	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	15
TOTAL/HR			0.00	0.00	0.09	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.13
% OF FLIGHT			0.0	0.0	66.7	6.7	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	13.3	0.0	100
AVG 2014-'23	20.8	155.2	0.0	0.0	7.7	2.2	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	6.3	0.0	17.2
HAWK MOUNTAIN (BERKS/SCHUYLKILL) - DAVID BARBER, COMPILER																					
MONTH	Days	Hrs	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	AGOS	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
MAR	2	5.5	0	69	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	81
APR	27	172.4	17	102	38	56	19	63	23	0	2	592	77	0	0	28	6	1	0	31	1055
MAY	15	89.0	6	2	7	6	0	4	6	0	0	13	6	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	53
TOTAL	44.0	266.9	23	173	46	63	20	68	31	0	2	605	85	0	1	32	7	2	0	31	1189
TOTAL/HR			0.09	0.65	0.17	0.24	0.07	0.25	0.12	0.00	0.01	2.27	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.12	4.45
% OF FLIGHT			1.9	14.6	3.9	5.3	1.7	5.7	2.6	0.0	0.2	50.9	7.1	0.0	0.1	2.7	0.6	0.2	0.0	2.6	100
AVG 2014-'23	42.4	255.4	19.8	67.4	58.2	43.9	18.0	72.2	28.6	0.1	6.5	442.6	73.7	0.1	1.6	24.3	6.1	2.1	0.0	59.0	922.1
JACKS MOUNTAIN (MIFFLIN) - DARRELL SMITH, COMPILER																					
MONTH	Days	Hrs	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	AGOS	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
MAR	2	10.0	0	30	1	3	0	4	2	0	0	0	14	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	59
APR	5	23.3	0	64	11	1	1	5	4	0	1	77	10	0	0	1	1	1	0	4	181
TOTAL	7	33.3	0	94	12	4	1	9	6	0	1	77	24	0	4	1	1	1	0	5	240
TOTAL/HR			0.00	2.82	0.36	0.12	0.03	0.27	0.18	0.00	0.03	2.31	0.72	0.00	0.12	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.15	7.21
% OF FLIGHT			0.0	39.2	5.0	1.7	0.4	3.8	2.5	0.0	0.4	32.1	10.0	0.0	1.7	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	2.1	100
AVG 2018-'23	5.8	28.9	1.0	27.6	11.2	4.8	0.6	10.0	6.0	0.4	2.2	171.0	19.4	0.0	4.6	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.0	1.8	263.0
PRESQUE ISLE (ERIE) - JERRY MCWILLIAMS, COMPILER																					
MONTH	Days	Hrs	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	AGOS	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	*Total
FEB	2	4.0	0	9	0	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
MAR	13	54.3	0	9994	1	49	5	8	11	1	100	0	106	2	0	20	7	1	0	23	10328
APR	20	74.5	1	6741	22	42	10	289	17	0	13	1891	189	2	0	144	11	1	0	23	9397
MAY	12	37.8	0	1135	40	122	7	54	6	0	0	1555	45	0	0	6	1	0	0	3	2974
TOTAL	47	170.5	1	17879	63	223	23	351	34	1	113	3446	340	4	0	170	19	2	0	49	22719
TOTAL/HR			0.01	104.86	0.37	1.31	0.13	2.06	0.20	0.01	0.66	20.21	1.99	0.02	0.00	1.00	0.11	0.01	0.00	0.29	133.25
% OF FLIGHT			0.0	78.7	0.3	1.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	0.0	0.5	15.2	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	100
AVG 2014-'23	52.8	176.1	1.2	15901.1	69.5	190.1	63.6	672.3	47.2	1.1	147.0	3357.5	461.6	8.6	0.8	271.7	14.3	6.7	0.1	34.2	21249
* INCLUDING SWAINSON'S HAWK ON 4/21/2023																					
TUSSEY MOUNTAIN (CENTRE) - NICK BOLGIANO AND JON KAUFMANN, COMPILERS																					
MONTH	Days	Hrs	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	AGOS	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
FEB	5	35.5	0	7	0	2	0	2	1	0	5	0	5	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	31
MAR	27	195.3	0	99	14	43	8	27	9	0	25	0	115	0	94	16	3	4	0	15	472
APR	25	186.8	0	51	63	18	14	127	15	0	2	728	120	0	15	23	1	0	0	10	1187
TOTAL	57	417.5	0	157	77	63	22	156	25	0	32	728	240	0	118	39	4	4	0	25	1690
TOTAL/HR			0.00	0.38	0.18	0.15	0.05	0.37	0.06	0.00	0.08	1.74	0.57	0.00	0.28	0.09	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.06	4.05
% OF FLIGHT			0.0	9.3	4.6	3.7	1.3	9.2	1.5	0.0	1.9	43.1	14.2	0.0	7.0	2.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	1.5	100
AVG 2014-'23	56.7	400.9	7.7	185.6	88.9	69.1	21.3	162.1	26.2	0.6	40.3	919.6	286.0	2.2	169.5	42.3	6.3	2.5	0.0	30.2	2059.9
2023 TOTALS FOR ALL WATCHSITES																					
MONTH	Days	Hrs	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	AGOS	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
FEB	18	93.0	3	42	0	17	1	3	2	0	7	0	22	0	14	0	0	0	0	4	115
MAR	94	577.0	39	10509	39	144	16	71	41	1	153	0	356	2	173	46					

Presque Isle (Erie)

Presque Isle counters tallied 22,719 raptors in 170.5 hours over 47 days from February 15 to May 31, a rate of 133.3 birds per hour (Table 1). The total count was 7% above the 10-year average of 21249 and effort was 3% below average. Counts of Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, and Merlins were 12%, 17%, and 33% above average, respectively. The 17,879 Turkey Vultures counted was the third highest total in Presque Isle’s 15-year history. Counts of Ospreys, Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper’s Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, and Peregrine Falcons were all below average. The counts of Northern Harriers (23) and Red-tailed Hawks (340) were the lowest count totals recorded at Presque Isle.

The first big Turkey Vulture flight occurred on March 16 with 1,232 vultures counted along with a season-high 55 Red-shouldered Hawks, an American Goshawk, and a Rough-legged Hawk. Flights of Turkey Vultures continued to build over the next two weeks, culminating in a season high 4,303 vultures on March 29. A steady south-southwest wind on April 5 produced the largest flight of the season with 2,277 raptors counted including 1,908 Turkey Vultures and season highs of 105 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 63 Red-tailed Hawks, and 92 American Kestrels. Broad-winged Hawks had two distinct peaks with 1,807 on April 21 and 1,205 on May 19. A juvenile light morph Swainson’s Hawk was seen on April 21, the first record for Presque Isle’s spring count.

Table 2: Peak Count Dates for Broad-winged Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk at Selected Pennsylvania Watch Sites.

Site	Broad-winged Hawk		Red-tailed Hawk	
	Peak Count	Date	Peak Count	Date
Allegheny Front	58	4/20	23	3/6
Chamber’s Lake	72	4/18	8	4/11
Hawk Mountain*	215	4/21	10	4/17
Jacks Mountain	45	4/21	12	3/1
Presque Isle	1807	4/21	63	4/5
Tussey Mountain	236	4/20	29	4/5

* Site begins count in April

Tussey Mountain (Centre)

Counters tallied 1,690 raptors in 417.5 hours over 57 days from February 24 to April 26, a rate of 4.1 birds per hour (Table 1). The total count was 18% below the 10-year average and effort was 4% above average. No species had above average counts this spring. Counts of Turkey Vultures, Ospreys, Red-shouldered Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, and Golden Eagles were all below average. The count of 118 Golden Eagles this year was 30% below the 10-year average of 169.5 and the lowest recorded in Tussey Mountain’s 23-year history. Counts of all other species were near average.

Strong southerly winds on March 1 produced a season high 13 Red-shouldered Hawks and 12 Golden Eagles. March 1 was the only day during the first three weeks of March with southerly winds, the time when most of the Golden Eagles migrate past Tussey Mountain. More favorable winds in early April produced a three-day total of 65 Red-tailed Hawks with a season high 29

counted on April 5 (Table 2). Also tallied on April 5 were 48 Sharp-shinned Hawks and six American Kestrels. The season’s high count occurred on April 20 with 267 raptors observed including eight Ospreys, 17 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 236 Broad-winged Hawks, and two Red-tailed Hawks.

CONCLUSIONS

Although effort was above average at all but one site, it was not reflected in the count totals, with only two sites recording above average totals. And while the overall total for all species and Osprey, in particular, were above average, this was due to the addition of the Chamber’s Lake watch site. When factoring in effort by calculating encounter rate (birds per hour), both the number of raptors and number of Ospreys per hour were below the 10-year average. Osprey was not the only species with a below average rate this spring; encounter rates for Northern Harriers and Sharp-shinned Hawks were the lowest ever recorded during spring in Pennsylvania, and encounter rates for Red-tailed Hawks were the third lowest.

The warm, dry winter certainly could have played a part in the lower numbers recorded for some species. Below average snowfall may have allowed some birds to overwinter farther north than normal. Winter snow cover appears to be one of the factors that affects Golden Eagle migration at Tussey Mountain with their largest counts recorded when snow cover on the lookout is several feet deep and the deep snow pushes the eagles further south. This year there was little snow cover, allowing eagles to access food more readily. Similarly, increasingly warmer winter temperatures due to global climate change has been suggested as a cause for Red-tailed Hawks migrating shorter distances or becoming year-round residents.

While numbers of Red-tailed Hawks are increasing on Christmas Bird Counts, which suggests that declines at watch sites are due to shifts in migration, the same cannot be said for other species such as Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Rough-legged Hawks. These three species, along with Ospreys, American Goshawks, and American Kestrels were recently named as Raptors at Risk by the Raptor Population Index. Raptors at Risk are the North American raptors with the greatest number of watch sites with declining 10- or 20-year trends. The potential causes for declines among these species are both numerous and varied and include habitat loss, environmental contaminants, loss of prey, and disease. Research is needed to better understand the migration ecology and the conservation threat to these species. For more information on species declines and their causes, visit RPI-Project.org/raptors-at-risk/.

Acknowledgments: Thank you to the site compilers for providing insight and access to their data, particularly Nick Bolgiano and Bob Stewart. Data were downloaded from www.hawccount.org (accessed June 2023) a site managed by Jason Sodergren, HMANA database manager and the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Regional weather information was gathered from the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University.

This article is *Hawk Mountain Conservation Science* Contribution number 389.

Summary of the Season: Spring – 2023

Michael Fialkovich

Most of Pennsylvania experienced extended periods of dry weather during the entire season. Rain in March typically brings down waterfowl, but with the lack of precipitation, no notable waterfowl fallouts were reported. The neotropical bird migration was described as subpar, poor, and lackluster. Some interesting hybrid waterfowl and gulls were discovered during the season. Trumpeter Swans, Common Ravens, and Fish Crows continue their expansion in the state.

Ross's Goose was only found in four counties but notably absent from *Lancaster*, where they are nearly annual. **Greater White-fronted Geese** were in 10 counties, mainly in the southeast as usual, but birds were in *Crawford* and *Erie* in the northwest and *Cambria* and *Centre* in the central part of the state. A **Snow X Canada Goose** was in *Montgomery* and a **Greater White-fronted X Canada Goose** was in *Cumberland*. A **Brant** was detected by a nocturnal recording device in *Centre*, the only report this season. **Cackling Geese** were in seven counties.

Mute Swans were in five counties and continue to have the highest counts in *Bucks*. An increasing species in the state, **Trumpeter Swans** were reported in 18 counties, up two from last year. Breeding was confirmed again in *Cumberland*. A family group was in *Pike* and a single bird in *Snyder* provided a second county record. A group of eight were in *Susquehanna*. Elsewhere, birds appeared as transients.

Although the paucity of major storms resulted in a lack of waterfowl fallouts, some notable ducks appeared. The **Common Shelduck** of questionable origin continued from the winter and remained in *Lebanon* through the season. **Eurasian Wigeon** was in four counties and was the third record for *Northampton*. The surprise duck of the season was a **Mottled Duck** in *Washington* that was initially thought to be an American Black Duck, but some observers took a closer look and noticed it didn't seem quite right. A surprising first state record, the bird stayed through the season, allowing many to add it to their state lists. An adult male **Tufted Duck** in *Erie* provided a first record for the county. All three scoters were reported. **Surf Scoters** were in 13 counties, **White-winged Scoters** were in six counties, single **Black Scoters** were in four counties, and **Long-tailed Ducks** were in 22 counties.

Hybrid ducks include a **Hooded X Common Merganser** in *Lycoming* and a **Ring-necked Duck X Lesser Scaup** was an interesting find in *Erie*.

The currently extirpated **Northern Bobwhite** is regularly represented by released birds, as was the case in *Allegheny* and *York*. **Ruffed Grouse** was reported in 23 counties as it continues its apparent recovery after a hefty decline in population. Last year during the spring they were reported in 19 counties and in 2021 reports came from 16 counties. Is the increase in counties reporting evidence of an increasing population?

The rather mild winter did not result in Lake Ontario freezing, so **Red-necked Grebes** were only recorded in small numbers in nine counties. A **Western Grebe** was a nice find in *Erie* in April. **Eared Grebe** went unreported this spring.

Eurasian Collared-Doves were in the expected counties of *Berks* and *Franklin*. Birds were also found in *Cumberland* and *Lancaster*. Away from the usual locations, a bird returned to *Clarion* for the second consecutive year. A **White-winged Dove** provided a first county record for *Mercer*.

Nightjars include **Common Nighthawk** in 30 counties and **Eastern Whip-poor-will** in 24 counties. After annual reports since 2006, **Chuck-will's-widow** went unreported this year.

A **King/Clapper Rail** was recorded by a nocturnal recorder in *Centre*. The calls were not sorted out at the time of this writing. Uncommon in migration, **Common Gallinules** were in 16 counties. A bird at the Dreibelbis Wetlands in *Centre* was probably the most viewed of them with many PSO Bird Festival attendees stopping by to see it. One in *Clarion* and one in *Blair* provided first county records.

Sandhill Crane is another of the state's expanding species and has been established for many years. They were reported in 30 counties. Three were a rare find in *Beaver*, a pair returned to a suspected breeding site in *Lackawanna*, *Montgomery* recorded a high count, *Snyder* had a rare visit, they were near a previous breeding site in *Sullivan*, and they were seen repeatedly at a swamp in *Warren*.

Single **American Avocets** were in six counties, with *Monroe* and *Wayne* sharing a bird and providing a second county record for *Monroe*. **Black-bellied Plover** is uncommon

in spring with reports in only seven counties, including triple-digit counts in *Chester* as part of the tremendous flocks of migrating shorebirds observed in that part of the state. Much rarer in spring due to their northbound migration concentrated in the central U.S., single **American Golden-Plovers** were in *Adams* and *Erie*. **Piping Plovers** returned to their breeding grounds at Presque Isle in *Erie*. **Upland Sandpipers** were only reported from *Clearfield* and *Crawford*. Unfortunately, they are apparently gone from a long-established location in *Clarion*. The Pymatuning area in *Crawford* seems to be the most reliable place to find them currently. Spectacular **Whimbrel** flocks were observed as they leave the Delaware Bay and fly over *Chester* and *Delaware*. Two were in *Erie* where they are annual in late May, usually just one or two birds. A large flock was noted in *Lancaster*, and they were detected by nocturnal flight call recorders in *Blair*, as a first county record, and *Montgomery*. **Ruddy Turnstone** was in nine counties. They are most often seen in opposite corners of the state, along Lake Erie and in the extreme southeast. Large flocks were present as usual in spring, flying over Bucktoe Creek Preserve in *Chester*. One in *Erie* was quite early and was the only report from that county for the season. Single birds were in far flung locations in the state, including rare appearances in *Butler*, *Elk*, *Indiana*, and *Tioga*. A large flock of **Red Knots** were observed in *Chester* leaving Delaware Bay like the Whimbrels mentioned above. Rare in spring were three reports of **Stilt Sandpiper**: two in separate locations in *Clearfield* and one in *Washington*. **Sanderlings** were only reported in *Erie*. The **Purple Sandpiper** that wintered at Presque Isle continued into early May. **White-rumped Sandpipers** were in ten counties, right on average for the past ten years.

Table 1: Total County Reports of White-rumped Sandpiper in Spring: 2014-2023

YEAR	TOTAL
2023	10
2022	7
2021	5
2020	12
2019	10
2018	6
2017	14
2016	10
2015	4
2014	8

Uncommon in spring, **Short-billed Dowitchers** were reported from 14 counties. Rare in spring, a **Long-billed Dowitcher** was in *Clearfield* and five, a good count, were in *Mercer*. A flock of **Wilets** were observed in *Erie* by an observer watching from the tower at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and two in *Huntingdon* provided a second county record.

It was a good spring for phalaropes in the state with all three species reported. Though **Wilson's Phalarope** may be the most common species in the state, they were only in *Erie* and *Franklin*. **Red-necked Phalarope** had a nice showing this spring with reports from seven counties, five of those in the eastern part of the state. The least common **Red Phalarope** was found only in *Bucks*.

A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was a rare spring visitor in *Erie*. Single **Black-headed Gulls** were only in *Bucks* and *Dauphin* (where they are annual). **Little Gulls** were in *Dauphin* and *Lancaster* where they are annual along the Susquehanna River. One was also along the Delaware River in *Delaware*. **Laughing Gulls** made their annual appearance in numbers in *Bucks*, a few were in *Chester*, one made a rare visit to *Franklin*, and numerous reports came from *Philadelphia*. A **California Gull** was at Gull Point at Presque Isle in *Erie*. **Iceland Gulls** were in *Bucks*, *Delaware*, and *Erie* during the season. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were in nine counties including as a rare visitor in *Wayne*. Triple digit counts were made in *Bucks*. **Glaucous Gulls** were only reported from *Bucks* and *Erie* during the season. A bird in *Bucks* lingered well into May. **Great Black-backed Gulls** were in five counties. One in *Pike* was rare for that county. Two **Lesser Black-backed Gull X Herring Gulls** were in *Bucks*.

Least Tern was in *Philadelphia* along the Delaware River. The bird was also recorded on the New Jersey side of the river. **Black Tern** was only reported in five counties. All reports involved single birds except for *Erie* where two were present.

Uncommon in spring, **Red-throated Loon** was in eight counties: *Allegheny*, *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Butler*, *Centre*, *Lancaster*, *Montour*, and *Snyder*. This species is just numerous enough not to be included in the Birds of Note. A good tally of **Common Loons** was in *Mercer*.

An adult **Brown Booby** was a great find in *Bucks* in mid-May, providing the eighth

state record. This species seems to have the potential to show up anywhere at any time in recent years. Most of the records are from August. An amazing three or four **Anhinga** were in *Huntingdon*, and one was photographed on the Conejohela Flats in *Lancaster* (a photo was discovered on a Facebook page), furnishing the first county record. **Great Cormorants** were in the usual locations in *Bucks*, *Delaware*, and *Philadelphia*.

Single **American White Pelicans** were in *Clinton*, *Erie*, and *Philadelphia*. A flock of 45 were photographed soaring in *Fayette*. A **Brown Pelican** spent two days in *Bucks*, and another was in *Lancaster* for nearly a week, but not visible for several days during that period. It is not known if the bird was out of sight or if it left and returned.

American Bitterns were found in 29 counties while **Least Bitterns** were only reported from 10 counties. **Snowy Egrets** were in six counties. Three birds in *Erie* were notable; finding one is rare there. There were only two **Little Blue Heron** reports, one each from *Erie* (rare for the county) and *Philadelphia*. **Tricolored Heron** was in *Chester* and *Erie*. *Erie* birders did well finding many rare heron species for that county. The only **Cattle Egret** report was a single bird in *Chester*.

Black-crowned Night-Herons were in 15 counties. Birds in *Allegheny* and *McKean* were rare visitors. A few were in a rookery of Great Blue Herons in *Franklin*, and one was a first for *Susquehanna*. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were in five counties. Breeding birds returned to nesting sites in *Dauphin* and *Cumberland*.

Glossy Ibis were in seven counties. Single birds made rare appearances in *Berks* and *Centre*, and 29, a good count, were in *Dauphin*.

Black Vultures were found in 11 counties. A nest was in *Somerset*; in *Potter* they are rare but expanding; they were formerly rare in *Allegheny* but are now annual with increasing reports. A bird with wing tags was observed in *Berks*. You can read details about the origin of the bird in the *Berks* report.

Always an exciting find, **Swallow-tailed Kites** were in *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Lancaster*, *Philadelphia*, and *Snyder*. **Golden Eagles** were reported in 12 counties. *Bedford* and *Lebanon* observers recorded them at hawkwatches (see seasonal totals in

both county reports) and the other county reports were flyovers.

Declining in the state, **American Goshawk** was recorded at hawk watch sites in *Bedford* and *Erie*. Two unmated birds returned to nest sites in *Warren*. It was quite the spring for **Mississippi Kite** with reports in eight counties, most with multiple reports, particularly *Chester*, *Delaware* and *Philadelphia*. We are still waiting to discover this species breeding in the state. A **Swainson's Hawk** was a great find at the Presque Isle Hawkwatch in *Erie*, representing a third county record. **Rough-legged Hawks** usually linger long enough into the season to be included in the reports. Birds were in three counties: *Clarion*, *Lancaster*, and *Tioga*.

Barn Owls were reported nesting in *Centre*, *Dauphin* and *Franklin*. They were heard in *Adams*, *Blair* (via nocturnal flight call recording), *Clinton*, *Montgomery*, and *Philadelphia*. The extremely secretive **Long-eared Owl** was reported from five counties. **Short-eared Owls** were only in nine counties. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were reported in 14 counties, including a possible breeding attempt in *Clarion*.

Red-headed Woodpecker reports remain fairly consistent with birds noted in 34 counties, up quite a bit from last year's 23. In 2021, they were in 30 counties.

A few counties reported **Merlin** activity that may have indicated nesting, but none were confirmed, but it may be early to determine with certainty. One was seen near last year's nest site in *Allegheny*, a pair may have been breeding in *Blair*, a pair was present all season in *Clarion* and may have bred, two were at a regular nest site in *Erie*, there were sightings in *Indiana* all season and the same in *Montour* where they were reported as likely nesting, and pairs were noted in *Warren* all season where they nested in previous years.

A **Western Kingbird** was a surprise at Presque Isle State Park. The overwintering **Say's Phoebe** continued in *Lancaster* until late March.

A **Loggerhead Shrike** was spotted in flight from the vantage point of the tower at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center across *Erie Bay* from Presque Isle. The bird was photographed as it passed by. One wonders how many birds pass through like that above our heads and go undetected. The **Northern Shrikes** observed all winter in *Lawrence* and

Westmoreland continued into March. One was spotted in *Elk* in early March.

Blue Jay migration is typically noted along the shores of the Great Lakes, but a surprisingly large number were noted in *Bucks* and *Montgomery*. Read the county reports for the impressive totals. **Fish Crows** continue to expand and establish themselves into new parts of the state with reports in the western counties becoming regular.

Marsh Wren is a widespread migrant, but still a notable find during migration due to their specific habitat requirements. Birds were found in 13 counties.

Bicknell's Thrushes were documented in *Chester*, *Lancaster*, and *Philadelphia*.

American Pipits were found in 21 counties.

There was a bit of a northern finch invasion this spring as birds that moved south of the state passed through on their way back to the boreal forest. Numbers were small but widespread. **Red Crossbills** were in a surprising eight counties with highest totals in *Cumberland* and *Huntingdon*. **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported in 25 counties and **Pine Siskins** in 31 counties. A **Hoary Redpoll** visited a feeder in *Montgomery* in March, providing a second county record.

Typically, just a few **Lapland Longspurs** and **Snow Buntings** remain long enough to be a part of the spring seasonal reports. Both species were in two counties.

A **Lark Sparrow** was seen for a day in *Luzerne*. **Clay-colored Sparrows** were in a surprising 12 counties, a good showing for this uncommon migrant. One in *Bucks* was likely a first for the county, *Chester* added to its few sightings, single birds at two private residences in *Crawford* were notable, one in *Cumberland* continued from the winter, four were in *Erie*, observers in *Juniata* recorded the third in eBird, and one in *Lycoming* provided an eighth county record. A pair returned to the breeding site in *Clarion* which

was good news because they seem to be declining there. A very late **Dark-eyed Junco** lingered in *Allegheny* through the season, and one was in *Montgomery* to the very end of May. **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows** were in *Allegheny* and *Cumberland*. The bird in *Allegheny* spent the winter with a small flock of the typical subspecies that winters and migrates through the state. Intriguingly, it was in juvenile plumage during the winter and was observed changing into adult plumage during its lengthy stay.

The **LeConte's Sparrow** that wintered in *Montgomery/Philadelphia* continued to early March. Although reclusive, this bird offered views for numerous observers. **Henslow's Sparrows** returned to breeding locations in six counties in the western part of the state.

Single **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were in *Cameron* and *Erie* on single days. **Rusty Blackbird** was reported in 32 counties.

Prothonotary Warblers were in 16 counties. There was potential breeding in *Chester* where they were heard in May for the third year in a row at the same location. The numerous extensive wetlands in *Crawford* continues as a breeding site. One remained at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware through the season, potentially breeding. The nest boxes at Presque Isle in *Erie* continues as a re-established breeding site. Three birds were good finds in *Northampton*. Birds were at five locations in *York*. **Swainson's Warbler** was discovered at Bear Run Nature Reserve in *Fayette* for the second year. Two males were present last year and banded. Two males were also present this year, but neither was banded, and breeding was not confirmed. Is there a developing, but small population in southwest Pennsylvania? Time will tell. One was also captured and banded at Powdermill Avian Research Center in *Westmoreland* not

that far north of Bear Run. **Orange-crowned Warbler** is always scarce in spring with reports from just 10 counties. The only **Connecticut Warbler** reported was in *Erie*. The **Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler** that wintered in *Lancaster* was last reported in early April. Among warblers declining in population, **Cerulean Warblers** were in 23 counties, **Kentucky Warblers** in 20 counties, and **Golden-winged Warblers** in 23 counties. Both hybrid warblers were reported this spring, with **Brewster's Warbler** in nine counties and the less common **Lawrence's** in seven counties.

Summer Tanager has been fairly numerous in recent years during this season, but their presence is irregular and not predictable. This year they were only reported in three counties.

There were two **Western Tanagers** this spring, one in *Cameron* and one in *Luzerne*. The bird in *Luzerne* was at a FedEx facility.

Blue Grosbeaks were reported from 12 counties. The disjunct pair in *Allegheny* returned this season to breed at a site with continued degrading habitat. Birds in *Blair*, *Centre*, and *Westmoreland* were rare for those counties.

A **Painted Bunting** spent a few days in *Blair*, discovered by a photograph on a Facebook page. One in *Montgomery* visited a feeder for a day and provided a third county record and finally one that overwintered in *Philadelphia* was last reported in mid-March.

Dickcissel reports were limited. One spent a few days in *Berks*, one was in *Chester* for one day, five or six were in *Cumberland* where they have been nearly annual and often nest and two in *Montgomery* were detected by nocturnal flight recorders.

Reports were received from 60 out of 67 Pennsylvania counties this season. Thank you to the county compilers for their continued work generating these reports-

Birds of Note – March through May 2023

This report summarizes unexpected species reported in Pennsylvania for this period. Most 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 to rare but occur during this time period in most years.

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

Birds in *Italic and Underlined* typeface occur fewer than four to seven 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.

Abbreviation: NFC (Nocturnal Flight Call)

Snow Goose X Canada Goose – *Montgomery*: one continuing at Worcester to 3/3 (Douglas Baird).

Ross’s Goose – *Chester*: one flying over Chamber’s Lake 3/3 (Larry Lewis); *Erie*: one along the Bayfront Highway in Erie 3/22 (Jason Bojczyk); *Lycoming*: one in Loyalsock 3/11 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown); *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 3/5-6 (Dave DeReamus).

Greater White-fronted Goose – *Bucks, Cambria, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Crawford, Dauphin, Erie, Lancaster, Montour*.

Greater White-fronted Goose X Canada Goose – *Cumberland*: one at Opossum Lake 3/8 (Doris Brookens, Scott Brookens, Steve Brookens, Tim Johnson).

Brant – *Centre*: one detected at a NFC station in State College 5/25 (Joe Gyekis).

Cackling Goose – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/2 (Rudy Keller) and four there 3/27 (Russell Hoffman); *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 3/4 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cambria*: one at Croyle Twp. 3/29 (Margaret Higbee); *Erie*: two seen in flight from the Tom Ridge Environmental Center Tower at Presque Isle State Park 3/6 (Jason Bojczyk); *Montour*: one at Montour Preserve 3/3-16 (m.ob.); *Montgomery*: four at Green Lane Park 3/8 (Sam Stuart), one at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 3/14 (Redmond Brubaker); *York*: one at Codorus State Park 3/9-15 (Evan Brooks, Bob Reiter).

Mute Swan – *Bucks*: present at 12 locations, high of 12 at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/6 (Dawn Denner); *Cumberland*: continued from the winter at Creekview Road Marsh and Kuhn Lake 3/5 and PA-233 Conservation Ponds 3/6 (Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne), one in flight at Mechanicsburg 4/24 (Ian Gardner); *Lawrence*: one at the Copper Road Marsh 3/4-5/6 (Mark Vass); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park on or near 5/6 (Jason Fehon, et al.); *Sullivan*: two at Celestial Lake 3/26 (Shannon Scheffler).

Common Shelduck* – *Lebanon*: continuing from last season at Lion’s Lake (m.ob.), *doc submitted previously*.

Eurasian Wigeon – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee continued from the winter up to 4/8 (Katie Ruth); *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 4/8-11 (m.ob.); *Indiana*: one continued from the winter up to 3/2 at Yellow Creek State Park (Annie Lindsey, Joe Saxfield); *Northampton*: one at Minsi Lake 5/4 (June Smith), third county record.

Mottled Duck* – *Washington*: one at Canonsburg Lake 5/13 through the season (Matthew Juskowich, m.ob.), first state record, *doc submitted*.

Tufted Duck* – *Erie*: an adult male at Presque Isle State Park 4/12-19 (Jason Bojczyk, m.ob.), first county record, *doc submitted*.

Ring-necked Duck X Lesser Scaup – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 4/19 -24 (Jason Bojczyk, Tim Lenz).

White-winged Scoter – *Delaware*: two on the Delaware River at Hog Island Road 3/16 (John Zygmunt); *Fayette*: two at Deer Lake 3/7 (Jane Clark et al.); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 3/28 (Ed Donley, Patience Fisher, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, John Taylor, Mike Weible); *Lycoming*: two at Rose Valley Lake 4/1 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown, Norwood Frederick) and 4/14 (Bobby Brown, Rebecca Brown); *Monroe*: four at Tobyhanna State Park 3/28 (Paul Nale); *Montour*: two at the Montour Preserve 3/7 (Andrew Keister), one there 3/10 (Tom Shervinskie).

Black Scoter – *Armstrong*: one at Freeport 3/1 (Sierra Waltenbaugh, Stacey Waltenbaugh); *Centre*: two at Bald Eagle State Park 4/17 (Joe Verica, et al.); *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek State Park 3/7-11 (observer not listed); *Delaware*: one at Marcus Hook 4/6 (Christopher Hinkle); *Huntington*: one at Lake Perez 5/3 (m.ob.).

Hooded X Common Merganser – *Lycoming*: one at Williamsport Dam 4/24 (Eric Hartshaw, m.ob.).

Red-necked Grebe – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/12 (Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf); *Blair*: one at Canoe Creek State Park 3/25 (Lisa Blazure); *Centre*: two at Bald Eagle State Park 3/12 (Julia Plummer); *Clearfield*: one at Curwensville Lake 3/10 (Jerod Skebo); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 5/6 (Jason

- Bojczyk); *Huntington*: one at Raystown Lake 3/11 (Jay Zook); *Monroe*: two at Gouldsboro State Park 3/26 (Jon Mularczyk); *Northumberland*: one at the Adam T. Bower Dam 3/7 (Karol Pasquinelli, Bryce Perles, William Donmoyer); *Wayne*: two at Lake Wallenpaupack 3/26 (Ryan Johnson, Bradley White).
- Western Grebe*** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 4/23-24 (Michael David, m.ob.), *doc submitted*.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove** – *Berks*: up to six present in Shartlesville during the season (m.ob.); *Clarion*: one in Strattanville for the second year in a row 5/26 (Ron and Tracy George-Snyder) and 5/31 (Kenneth Rieker); *Cumberland*: one at Newburg 4/20 (Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne); *Franklin*: regular reports from Greencastle, Marion and Shady Grove; *Lancaster*: one near Farmersville 5/23 (Zach Millen).
- White-winged Dove*** – *Mercer*: one at a private residence in Transfer 5/11-12 (Kim Springer, Martin Carlin), first county record, *doc submitted*.
- King/Clapper Rail*** – *Centre*: one detected at a NFC station in State College 4/26 (Joe Gyekis).
- American Avocet** – *Clearfield*: one at Curwensville Lake 4/17 (John Forcey, Jerod Skebo); *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 4/17 (Atlee Detweiler, Joshua Heiser, Yianni Laskaris, Brian Miller, Michael Williams); *Erie*: one 4/19-21 at Presque Isle State Park (Steve Schmit, et al.); *Monroe/Wayne*: one at Gouldsboro State Park 4/17 (Jon Mularczyk), second county record for *Monroe*; *Northumberland*: one at Watsonstown Memorial Park 4/17 (Brian Freiwald).
- American Golden Plover** – *Adams*: one at the Buttonwood Road Farm Pond 4/4 (Cy Deitz, Linette Mansburger); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 4/21 (Tim Lenz).
- Piping Plover** – *Erie*: up to three in May at Presque Isle State Park (m.ob.).
- Upland Sandpiper** – *Clearfield*: one along Sandy Ridge Road 4/21 (John Forcey) and 5/7 (Bill Voris, Nick Voris); *Crawford*: present at the usual locations (m.ob.), one in the Guys Mills area 5/31 (Isaac Field, Steve Rotkovecz).
- Whimbrel** – *Blair*: recorded at a NFC station in Plummer's Hollow 5/22 (Mark Bonta), first county record; *Chester*: flocks of 300 flying over on 5/25 and 30 on 5/26 at Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Larry Lewis, m.ob.), flocks of 30 (Zach Baer) and 60 (Ross Gallardy) were observed flying over private residences 5/25; *Delaware*: one at Hog Island Road 5/19 (Al Guarente), 70 flying over 5/24 (Ross Gallardy); *Erie*: two at Presque Isle 5/15 (Steve Schmit); *Lancaster*: 80 plus near Reamstown 5/26 (Ervin Martin); *Montgomery*: detected at a NFC station in Wyndmoor 5/24 (Jason Fehon).
- Red Knot** – *Chester*: 180 flying over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/27 (Larry Lewis, m.ob.).
- Stilt Sandpiper** – *Clearfield*: one near Karthaus Elk Refuge 4/19 and 4/30 and at the Pottersdale Road Strip Mine 5/2 (both John Forcey); *Washington*: one at Canonsburg Lake 5/13 (Matthew Juskowich).
- Sanderling** – *Erie*: present 5/11-23 with a high count of 24 on 5/20 at Presque Isle State Park (m.ob.).
- Long-billed Dowitcher** – *Clearfield*: one at Curwensville Lake 4/30 (John Forcey, Jerod Skebo); *Mercer*: five at Shenango Reservoir 4/30 (Jeff Brinker).
- Purple Sandpiper** – *Erie*: continued from the winter up to 5/9 (m.ob.).
- Willet** – *Erie*: 12 observed in flight from the Tom Ridge Environmental Center tower 4/30 (Jason Bojczyk); *Huntingdon*: two at Raystown Lake 5/3 (Ken Tucker, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler), fifth county record.
- Wilson's Phalarope** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/18 (Jennifer Ferrick, David Lindo), one flying past the Tom Ridge Environmental Center 5/23 (Jennifer Ferrick, Jason Bojczyk); *Franklin*: one at Antrim Commons Ponds 5/12-14 (Bill Oyler, m.ob.).
- Red-necked Phalarope** – *Bucks*: one in Milford Twp. 5/20 (Devich Farbotnik); *Clinton*: one at Ohi/McElhatten Reservoir 5/20 (Amos Hershberger); *Cumberland*: one at PA-233 Conservation Ponds (Vern Gauthier, m.ob.); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 5/21-27 (Steve Schmit, m.ob.); *Monroe*: one at Weir Lake 5/23 (Paul Nale); *Montgomery*: one at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 5/20 (Norberto Fonseca, m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 5/18-19 (m.ob.).
- Red Phalarope*** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 5/11-12 (August Mirabella), *doc submitted*.
- Black-legged Kittiwake*** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/5 (Tim Lenz), *doc submitted*.
- Black-headed Gull*** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/5-9 (Devich Farbotnik, Dawn Denner), *doc submitted*; *Dauphin*: one at the Millersburg Ferry Wall 3/17 (Scott Bills), *doc submitted*.
- Little Gull*** – *Dauphin*: one at the Millersburg Ferry Wall 3/17 (Scott Bills), *doc submitted*; *Delaware*: one at Marcus Hook 4/6 (Christopher Hinkle, Ben Filreis), *doc submitted*; *Lancaster*: one at Peach Bottom 3/10 (Bob Schutsky), *no doc*, one north of Accomac 3/11 (Tom Garner), *no doc*, two near Wrightsville 3/27 (Meredith Lombard), *doc submitted*.
- Laughing Gull** – *Bucks*: an estimated 900 at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/9 (Eric Zawatski), one at Nockamixon State Park 4/30 (Devich Farbotnik), one along the Delaware River at Washington Crossing Park 5/25 (Jesse Anderson); *Chester*: one in a mixed gull flock flying over Waterloo Mills Preserve 4/20 (Kevin Fryberger); *Franklin*: one at Antrim Commons Ponds 4/30 (Bob Koontz); *Philadelphia*: reported in various locations (eBird).
- California Gull*** – one at Presque Isle State Park 5/7 (Ripley Kindervater, Joao Tavares), *doc submitted*.
- Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 4/20 (Jerry McWilliams, Tim Lenz).
- Iceland Gull** – *Bucks*: two at Peace Valley Park 3/11 (Joel Marcink), one on the Delaware River at Morrisville 3/23 (Eric Zawatski), numerous in March at the Nockamixon State Park docks; *Delaware*: one at Marcus Hook 3/18 (Angelo DelloMargio, Christopher Hinkle, Tom Voter); *Erie*: reported 3/4-4/21 (m.ob.).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** – *Berks*: one in Oley 3/4 (Rudy Keller); one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/8 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: 1042 at Nockamixon State Park Marina 3/4 (Devich

- Farbotnik), 1130 were there 3/11 (Eric Zawatski); *Chester*: one at Mosquito Lane Retention Pond 3/10 (Derek Stoner); *Delaware*: present at Marcus Hook from mid-March to mid-April, five at the Commodore Barry Bridge 4/30 (Debbie Beer), also along Hog Island Road 3/25 (m.ob.) and 4/15 (Rob Fergus); *Lebanon*: one in the Lebanon area 3/25 (Rita Stima); *Montgomery*: 25-40 at Green Lane Park through 3/11 (m.ob.) with decreasing numbers remaining through 3/26 (m.ob.); *Pike*: present at Lake Wallenpaupack 3/12-4/9 with a high count of 10 on 3/15 (Ryan Johnson); *Wayne*: one at Lake Wallenpaupack 3/12 (Chris Fischer, Bradley White); *Philadelphia*: one at Bartram's Garden 3/21 (Angelo Dellomargio), up to two at the Philadelphia Naval Yard 3/7-4/5 (m.ob.), six at Hog Island 3/25-4/15 (Rob Fergus).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull X Herring Gull** – *Bucks*: two at Nockamixon State Park 3/9-12 (John Finch, Eric Zawatski, Bill Etter).
- Glaucous Gull** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/15-5/20 (Devich Farbotnik, Eric Zawatski); *Erie*: single birds the first half of March at Presque Isle State Park (Kendall Zook, Jerry McWilliams).
- Great Black-backed Gull** – *Berks*: two at Blue Marsh Lake 3/8 (Rudy Keller); *Erie*: present all season at Presque Isle State Park (m.ob.); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 3/18 (Dave Belford); *Pike*: two at Lake Wallenpaupack 3/12 (Chris Fischer, Bradley White) and 3/23 (Ryan Johnson); *York*: up to seven over Wrightsville 3/3-19 (Mary Creager, Chad Ehrhart).
- Least Tern*** – *Philadelphia*: one at Windy Point (Ed Edge, eBird) and at the Philadelphia Naval Yard 5/29 (Tanya Burnett, Patrick McGill, Peter Hamner, eBird), *doc submitted*. Also eBird reports on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River.
- Black Tern** – *Chester*: one at Struble Lake 4/30 (Zach Baer, m.ob.); *Erie*: two at Presque Isle State Park 5/22 (Chris Lundberg); *Franklin*: one at Antrim Commons Ponds 5/13 (Jessica Ferguson, Ron George, Tracy George-Snyder, Bob Kochert, Terry Kochert, Chris Payne, Rebeca Payne); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 5/7 (Eric Pilgram) and 5/15 (Garrett Strittmatter, Mark Strittmatter); *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 5/16 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown, Rebecca Brown).
- Brown Booby*** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/17 (Jim Hartley, Devich Farbotnik, Dawn Denner), sixth county record, *doc submitted*.
- Great Cormorant** – *Bucks*: reported in March at the usual locations along the Delaware River (m.ob.) with a max of five in Bensalem Twp. 3/4 (Mike Grubb); *Delaware*: reported at the Commodore Barry Bridge 3/26 (Oliver James, Christopher Hinkle), one flying over Tinicum Twp. 4/9 (Ethan Kang); *Philadelphia*: up to two at Bartram's Garden 3/12-18 (Karl Wallulis, Lindsay Collins, Yen Nguyen), one at the Philadelphia Army Corps of Engineers Compound 3/26 (m.ob.), present at the Philadelphia Naval Yard 3/2-4/5 with a high of 12 from 3/20-22 (m.ob.).
- Anhinga*** – *Huntingdon*: three or four at Lake Perez 5/10-11 (Ken Bowman, Jon Kauffman, Laurie McLaughlin, Mark McLaughlin, Joshua Potter, Doug Wentzel), third county record, *doc submitted*; *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 5/18 (photographed by a kayaker and posted on facebook), first county record, *doc submitted*.
- American White Pelican*** – *Clinton*: one at Ohl/McElhatten Reservoir near Logantown 5/27 (Amos Hershberger), *no doc*; *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 4/26-27 (fide Jennifer Ferrick), *no doc*; *Fayette*: a flock of 45 soaring over Farmington 4/4 (Ryan Mathus, David Burleson, Patrick Woodstar), *doc submitted*; *Philadelphia*: one in the Germantown area 5/1 (Liam Hart, Patrick, McGill), *doc submitted*.
- Brown Pelican*** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/18-19 (Jim Hartley, Dawn Denner), *doc submitted*; *Lancaster*: one soaring over Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 5/14 (Nancy Clupper, Tom Clupper), the same bird reappeared at the dam 5/18-19 (Steve Ferreri, m.ob.), *doc submitted*.
- Snowy Egret** – *Bucks*: one at Bradford Dam 5/4 (Gail Johnson, m.ob.), two at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/29 (Dawn Denner) and one there 5/14 (Dawn Denner); *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 4/16 (Chad Hutchinson, m.ob.), one at Herb Pennock Park 5/14 (Norman Lincoln); *Cumberland*: one at Children's Lake 5/9 (Tim Johnson, m.ob.); *Erie*: three at Presque Isle State Park 5/19 (Nathan Hall); *Montgomery*: one at Norristown Dam 5/13-14 (Redmond Brubaker, Mike Rosengarten, m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 5/5-31 (m.ob.).
- Little Blue Heron** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/10-11 (Doug Massey, Jamie Hill); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 4/19 (Brandon Cook), two at Woodlands Cemetery 5/13 (Angelo DelloMargio).
- Tricolored Heron*** – *Chester*: one near Exton Park 4/16 (John Daniel, m.ob.), *doc submitted*; *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 4/21 (Jason Bojczyk, Mary Birdsong), *doc submitted*.
- Cattle Egret** – *Chester*: one near Kemblesville 4/3 (Marylyn Henry, m.ob.).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Chester*: an immature at Glenville Farm Pond 5/3 and 5/7 (Rick Robinson, m.ob.); *Cumberland*: one at West Fairview Boat Launch 5/27 (Ramsay Koury), a nesting pair near State Game Lands 169 on 5/5 (Jennifer Moore); *Dauphin*: returned to Hamilton St. in Harrisburg 3/22 (Jen Hirt); *Lackawanna*: one at Archbald Pothole State Park 5/11 (Tony DeSantis).
- Glossy Ibis** – *Berks*: two near Kutztown 5/2 (Peter Saenger) and 7 in Leesport 5/7-8 (Andy Wlasniewski, Matt Wlasniewski, et al.); *Centre*: one reported at Howard Park (Dan Hannon) and one at Bald Eagle State Park (Julia Plummer) 4/16 may have been the same bird; *Chester*: three at Honeybrook Water Treatment Facility 5/10 with one continuing 5/13 (observer not listed); *Dauphin*: a flock of 29 at West Fairview 5/18 (Barb Matthews, Steve Schmit); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 5/16 (Eric Zawatski); *Northampton*: two in a flooded field along Steuben Road 5/3-4 (Michael Schall); *Philadelphia*: present 4/22-5/9 with a max of 4 on 5/19 (Ed Edge, m.ob.).
- Swallow-tailed Kite*** – *Berks*: one flying over Old Topton Rd. 5/9 (Kate Harms), *doc submitted*, one flying over the intersection of Rte. 222 and 622 on 5/19 (Russell Hoffman), *doc submitted*; *Bucks*: one in Bedminster Twp. 5/7 (Kim

Fleming); *Chester*: one near Downingtown 4/16 (Zach Baer), *doc submitted*, one near Cochranville 5/12 (Michael Gardner), *doc submitted*; *Lancaster*: one flying over Rohrerstown 4/22 (Seth McComsey), *doc submitted*; *Snyder*: one flying over Middleburg 5/9 (Margaret Burr), second county record, *doc submitted*; *Philadelphia*: one at Edgely Woods and Meadows 4/5 (Drew Master), *doc submitted*.

American Goshawk – *Bedford*: one at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (date and observer not listed); *Erie*: one at the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 3/16 (Jerry McWilliams, Don Snyder, Ken Felix), one flew past the Tom Ridge Environmental Center Tower 4/21 (Jason Bojczyk); *Warren*: two unmated birds in established territories in Allegheny National Forest during the season (Scott Stoleson, Don Watts).

Mississippi Kite* – *Bucks*: one photographed flying over Quakertown 5/13 (Cody Peters), *doc submitted*, one in Newtown Twp. 5/15 (Barbara S, Will Stollsteimer), *doc submitted*, one photographed in Doylestown Twp. 5/29 (Eric Zawatski), *doc submitted*; *Chester*: one over Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens 4/26 (Kevin Fryberger), *doc submitted*, another over the same location 5/16 (Kevin Fryberger), *doc submitted*, two at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/21 (Larry Lewis), *doc submitted*, one near Downingtown 5/22 (Zach Baer), *doc submitted*, one at Okehocking Preserve 5/22 (RG, m.ob.); *Delaware*: one at Ridley Creek State Park 5/12 (Kiehl Smith), *doc submitted*, one at Hildacy Preserve 5/18 (Debbie Beer, et al.), *doc submitted*, one observed from Okehocking 5/22 (Ross Gallardy, Jeff Kenny, et al.), *doc submitted*; *Lancaster*: one near Danville 5/14 (Keath Leidich), *no doc*; *Lebanon*: one near Jonestown 5/10 (Andrew Markle), *doc submitted*; one in Annville 5/14 (m.ob.), *doc submitted*; *Monroe*: one at Shawnee 5/25 (Jon Mularczyk); *Montgomery*: one in Penn Valley 5/16 (Jessica Coss), *doc submitted*; *Philadelphia*: one at the Southwest Philadelphia Water Treatment Plant 5/14 (Ed Edge), *doc submitted*, one at Wissahickon Valley Park 5/14 (Victoria Sindlinger), *doc submitted*, two over Aubury Arboretum 5/14 (Bill Reaume), *doc submitted*, 4 in Germantown 5/12 (Liam Hart), *doc submitted*.

Swainson's Hawk* – *Erie*: an immature at the Presque Isle Hawkwatch 4/21 (Jerry McWilliams, et al.), third county record, *doc submitted*.

Rough-legged Hawk – *Clarion*: a dark morph continued at Lucinda up to 3/20 (Eric Schill); *Crawford*: one at the Miller Ponds 3/16-20 (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/8 (Lauren Shaffer); *Tioga*: last reported at Cowanesque Lake 3/16 (Ken Cooper).

Barn Owl – *Adams*: one at Virginia Mills 3/21 (Tony Arnold); *Blair*: one recorded at a NFC station in Plummer's Hollow 4/20 (Mark Bonta); *Centre*: four young and two adults at Centre Hall 3/8-5/23 (Jon Kauffman, et al.), one heard at a NFC station in State College (Joe Gyekis); *Clinton*: one heard at State Game Lands 255 on 5/5 (Matthew Schenck, Peter Shaver); *Dauphin*: six young banded at an undisclosed location 5/19 (Scott Bills, Stephanie Bills); *Franklin*: nesting at two undisclosed locations; *Monroe*: one at West End, no date (Cory Husic); *Montgomery*: one recorded in Franconia

Twp. 4/10 (Scott Godshall); *Philadelphia*: one picked up on a Nocturnal Recording Device 5/8.

Long-eared Owl – *Bucks*: single birds at two undisclosed locations in March (m.ob.); *Centre*: one reported in eBird during the season; *Chester*: one continued from the winter to 4/2; *Erie*: single birds 3/20 (Jerry McWilliams), 4/8 and 4/16 (Roger Donn) at Presque Isle State Park; *Montgomery*: two in the northern part of the county 3/12 (m.ob.), singles were at an undisclosed location in the center part of the county 3/24 and in the southeastern part of the county 3/3-12 (m.ob.).

Western Kingbird* – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/30 (Jennifer Ferrick, Jason Bojczyk), *doc submitted*.

Sav's Phoebe* – *Lancaster*: the bird at Susquehanna Water Treatment Plant, Washington Boro continued from the winter to 3/25 (m.ob.), *doc submitted*.

Loggerhead Shrike* – *Erie*: one flew past the Tom Ridge Environmental Center tower 5/9 (Jason Bojczyk), *doc submitted*.

Northern Shrike – *Elk*: one at East Branch Clarion River Lake 3/1 (Andrew Sidelinger), one in Kersey 3/24 (Chelsea Beck); *Lawrence*: one continued at the Volant Strips from the winter to 3/26 (Jeff Brinker, Amy Henrici); *Westmoreland*: present from the winter at Mammoth Park to 3/26 (m.ob.).

Bicknell's Thrush* – *Chester*: one at Pickering Creek Trail 5/16 (Ashley Rathman), *doc submitted*; *Lancaster*: one at Wheatland Hills Community Park 5/22 (Daniel Lane), *doc submitted*; *Philadelphia*: one in Rittenhouse Square 5/13 (Martin Dellwo, m.ob.), *doc submitted*.

Hoary Redpoll* – *Montgomery*: one in Pottsgrove 3/11 (MikeAnderson), second county record, *doc submitted*.

Red Crossbill – *Bedford*: four at Shawnee State Park 3/5 (George Young); *Chester*: continued from the winter at Nottingham Park with a high count of 18 on 4/18 (Lou Jacobs, Theresa Jacobs) and last reported 4/23. One was heard in Coatesville 5/3 (Larry Lewis); *Clearfield*: one at Treasure Lake 4/15 (Dave Reinhart); *Cumberland*: up to 14 at King's Gap State Park and nearby Michaux State Forest 3/11-4/16 (Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne, Ramsay Koury, Annette Mathes, Allison Matlock, Ian Gardner), one at Huntsdale 3/26 (Michael Schwanebeck); *Huntingdon*: a flock of 17 at Masseyburg 5/19 (Julian Avery); *Snyder*: one on Shade Mountain 4/8 (Andy Keister); *Tioga*: one heard at Hills Creek State Park 4/14 (Ken Cooper); *Warren*: one at Henry's Mills 4/11 (Josh Ketry).

Lapland Longspur – *Chester*: one at Homestead Road to early March (Jeff Kenny, Ashley Rathman); *Lancaster*: two near Gap 3/11 (Redmond Brubaker, Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf); *Montour*: a max of three on Shady Hill Road 3/1-20 (m.ob.).

Snow Bunting – *Fayette*: one near Farmington 3/11 (Fritz Koppeschall); *Montour*: a max of three on Shady Hill Road 3/1-20 (m.ob.).

Lark Sparrow* – *Luzerne*: one at Kirby Park 5/18 (Rick Koval, Wendy Koval, Trebor Hall), *doc submitted*.

Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow* – *Allegheny*: one continued from the winter up to 5/10 in West Deer Twp. (Linda Croskey, m.ob.), *doc submitted*; *Cumberland*: one in Greason through early May (Tim Johnson, Karena Johnson), *no doc*.

LeConte's Sparrow* – *Montgomery/Philadelphia*: one continued from the winter at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust to 3/3 (m.ob.), *doc submitted previously*.

Henslow's Sparrow – *Allegheny*: present at Imperial 5/4 through the season (Adrian Fenton, m.ob.); *Blair*: one recorded at a NFC station in Plummer's Hollow 5/17 (Mark Bonta); *Butler*: two on Book Road 5/26 (Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel); *Clarion*: returned to Curllsville 4/13 and continued at the usual sites through the season (Carole Winslow, m.ob.); *Indiana*: present at State Game Lands 273 on 5/5 (Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee), near Glen Campbell 5/13 (Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee) and at State Game Lands 262 on 5/23 (Stefan Karkuff); *Lawrence*: present at the Volant Strips 5/7 (Richard Nugent) and 5/13 (Jeff Brinker); *Washington*: found at seven locations (m.ob.).

Yellow-headed Blackbird* – *Cameron*: one at Sterling Run 3/18 (Grace Johnson), *doc submitted*; *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/11 (Julie Willis), *no doc*.

Lawrence's Warbler – *Allegheny*: one at Sewickley Heights Park 5/6 (Sean Mueseler); *Lycoming*: a female at Rose Valley Lake 5/8 (Melissa Holland, Bobby Brown, Rebecca Brown), a male at the same location 5/11 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown).

Swainson's Warbler* – *Fayette*: two at Bear Run Nature Reserve 5/22 (David Burleson, Rudi Wareham, Nick Liadis, David Yeany II), *doc submitted*; *Westmoreland*: one captured and banded at Powdermill Avian Research Center 5/11, *doc submitted*.

Connecticut Warbler – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/22 (Sam Zhang).

Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler – *Lancaster*: the male that wintered at the Susquehanna Water Treatment Plant in Washington Boro was last reported 4/2 (m.ob.).

Summer Tanager* – *Crawford*: one at a private residence 5/6 (Darrel Landis); *Delaware*: one at Springton Reservoir 5/6 (John Zygmunt), one recorded singing in Wallingford 5/31 (John Drake), *doc submitted*; *Montgomery*: one recorded calling in Wyndmoor 5/7 (Jason Fehon, Sara Busch, Steve Grunwald), *doc submitted*.

Western Tanager* – *Cameron*: a male at Sterling Run 4/22 (Grace Johnson), *doc submitted*; *Luzerne*: a male at a FedEx near the I-81/I-476 interchange 5/4 (Bill Shupp), *doc submitted*.

Painted Bunting* – *Blair*: a male near Juniata Valley Church for a few days, last seen 4/22 (photos on facebook, eBird), first county record, *doc submitted*; *Montgomery*: a male visited a feeder in Gilbertsville 3/31 (Jason Hartley), third county record, *doc submitted*; *Philadelphia*: one at Bartram's Garden continuing from January up to 3/16 (m.ob.), *doc submitted*.

Dickcissel – *Berks*: several at Rodale Experimental Farm 5/20-29 (m.ob.); *Chester*: one heard near Cochranville 5/11 (Ross Gallardy); *Cumberland*: one visited a feeder in Mechanicsburg 4/26 (Stefan Karkuff), five near Newburg starting 5/27 (Bob Koontz, Vern Gauthier, Bill Oyler, Allison Matlock); *Montgomery*: single birds detected by NFC recorders in Wyndmoor 5/12 (Jason Fehon) and at Franconia Twp. 5/13 (Scott Godshall).

Exotic: Black Swan – *Montgomery*: two at Green Lane Park 5/6 (Jason Fehon).

25 Years Ago in Pennsylvania Birds



Volume 11 No. 2 (1997)

Nick Bolgiano discussed the history of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania.

Ed Kwater reported on an odd-looking White Pelican in *Beaver*.

Don Henise discussed the pale form of Field Sparrow.

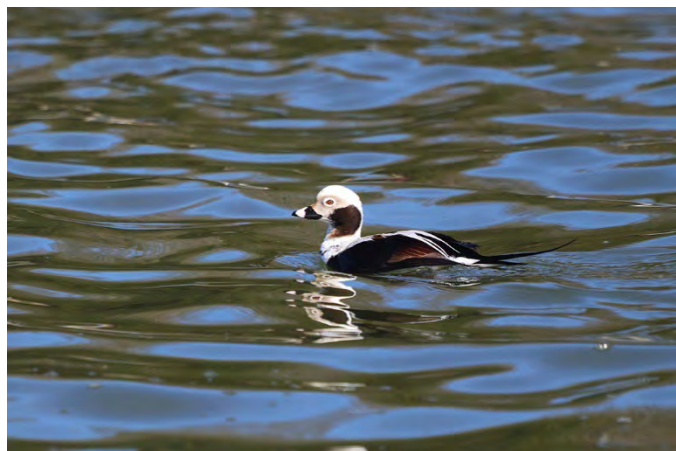
Rare birds reported included Sandhill Crane (first *Centre* record), Anhinga, White Ibis, Gull-billed Tern (first photographed record for Pennsylvania), Kirtland's Warbler, and Western Meadowlark.

This issue can be read at pabirds.org.

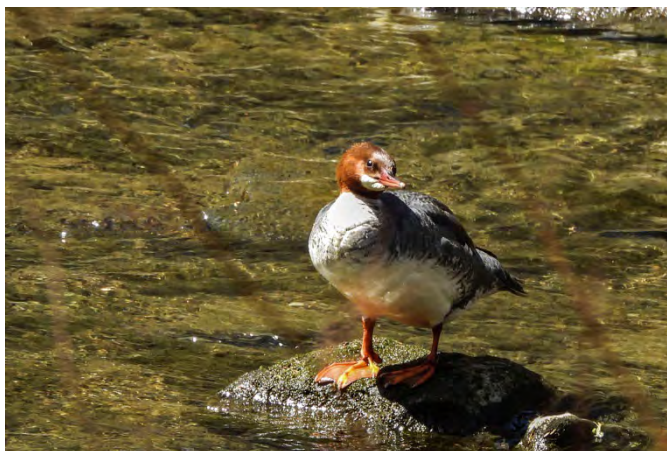
Photographic Highlights



The **Common Shelduck** of uncertain origin continued from the winter, seen here at Lion's Park Lake, *Lebanon* 21 March. (Barry Blust)



Long-tailed Duck at Prince Gallitzin SP, *Cambria* 2 April. (Pam Illig)



Basking happily (it seemed to the photographer) in the sun, this **Common Merganser** was at the Westmoreland Heritage Bike Trail, Westmoreland 19 April. (Tom Kuehl)



Wild Turkey courtship at Glen Rock, York 12 May. (Bob Reiter)



Black-billed Cuckoo is reported infrequently in *Lehigh*; this Black-bill was at Lesser Lake 28 May. (Liz Brensinger)

Color printing

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(More photos inside back cover)



One of possibly two **Common Gallinules** at Dreibelbis Birding Area, Centre 22 (here 25) April – 27 May. (*Debra Rittelmann*)



Semipalmated Sandpiper at Imperial Grasslands, Allegheny 27 May. (*John Flannigan*)



Wilson's Snipe at Bowman Road Ponds, Westmoreland 13 May. (*Mark McConaughy*)



This **Red Phalarope** at Peace Valley Park, Bucks 11-12 (here 11) May provided the only Pennsylvania report for the spring and was the seventh park record. (*August Mirabella*)



Continuing to increase in number, the southeast Pennsylvania **Lesser Black-backed Gull** flock reached a new eBird high count of 1,130 on 11 March, when seen here at Nockamixon SP, Bucks. (*Eric Zawatski*)



Can you tell the **Greater Yellowlegs** from the **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Lake Redman, York 23 April? (*Bob Reiter*)



This **American Bittern** stayed at Panther Hollow Lake at Schenley Park in Pittsburgh, *Allegheny* 28 (here 30) April – 8 May. (*Dean Newhouse*)



Black-crowned Night-Heron at Ephrata Community Hospital rookery, *Lancaster* 19 April; the high count of adults this spring was 62 on 15 April. (*Pamela Fisher*)



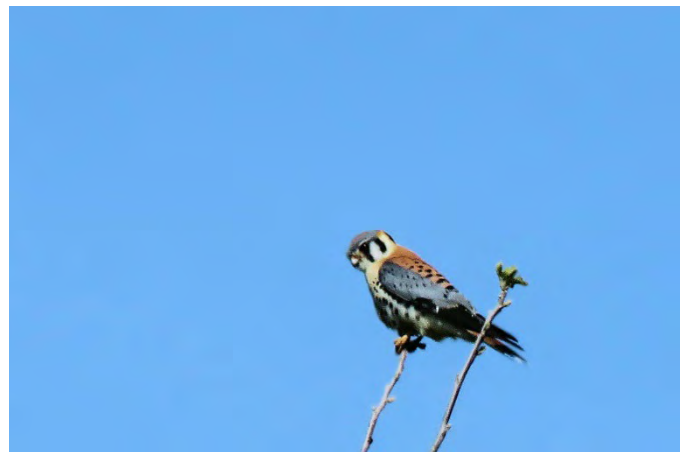
Making a rare appearance in *Berks*, seven **Glossy Ibis** foraged for five days in a marshy area on Washington Rd, seen here 7 May (*John Ruggles*)



Swallow-tailed Kite noticed overhead while the observer pumped gas at Fleetwood, *Berks* 19 May, possibly the same bird reported nearby 9 May; second or third *Berks* record. (*Russell Hoffman*)



Red-headed Woodpecker reports were high this spring; this Red-head was at Brodhead Creek Park, *Monroe* 21 May. (*Nancy Tully*)



American Kestrel at Boys Home Park, *Allegheny* 19 April. (*Dean Newhouse*)



Olive-sided Flycatcher, a treat anytime, is less often found in spring than fall; this flycatcher was found 12 May at Rose Valley Lake, Lycoming. (Bobby Brown)



Another flycatcher less often reported in spring, this **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Moraine SP, Butler 17 May. (Eric Hall)



Are there any hunting camps in Pennsylvania that do not have nesting **Eastern Phoebes?** - a pair built a nest on a light fixture at a camp at Holi Acres, Forest, seen here 14 May. (Tom Kuehl)



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Northwest Lancaster County River Trail, Lancaster 10 May. (Darla Shank)



Marsh Wren present at Homewood Cemetery, Allegheny 26 April – 5 (here 2) May. (John Flannigan)



Brown Thrasher with nest material at New Milford, Susquehanna 22 April. (Nancy VanCott)



This **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was present in a native plant yard at Doylestown, Bucks 16-22 (here 22) May. (August Mirabella)



An **American Robin** getting serious about nest construction at Seneca, Venango 17 April. (Meg Kolodick)



Fox Sparrow at Mifflintown, Juniata 23 March. (Chad Kauffman)



A flock of **Evening Grosbeaks**, numbering up to 21, frequented a feeder at Woolrich, Clinton 7 April (here 16) – 10 May. (Wayne Laubscher)



Prairie Warbler at Scotia Barrens, Centre 7 May. (Alan MacEachren)



Canada Warbler at Oil Creek SP, Venango 13 May. (Jeffrey Hall)



Golden-winged Warbler at Birdman Rd, Somerset 23 May. (David Poder)



Lawrence's Warbler is the genetically recessive, less common hybrid of Golden- and Blue-winged Warblers; this bird was photographed in Perry 4 May. (Rick Carlson)



Near the northern limit of its nesting range, this **Kentucky Warbler** was on Spruce Run Rd., Union 13 June, fifth county eBird record. (Brent Bacon)



Blackpoll Warbler at Beltzville SP, Carbon 20 May. (Eric Zawatski)



Northern Parula at Prince Gallitzin SP, Cambria 27 April. (Pam Illig)



Western Tanager present only a few hours during rain 22 April at Sterling Run, Cameron; first county record and one of two in the state for the season (the other in Luzerne 4 May). (Mark Johnson)

LOCAL NOTES – MARCH THROUGH MAY 2023



ABBREVIATIONS

BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	min	minimum	RBA	Rare Bird Alert
CA	Conservation Area	m.ob.	multiple observers	Rd	Road
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	Mt (Mts)	Mount/Mountain/Mountains	Res	Reservoir
CP	County Park	NA	Nature Area or Natural Area	Rte	Route
Cr	Creek	NF	National Forest	SF	State Forest
et al.	and others	NFC	nocturnal flight call/s	SGL	State Game Land
E/N/S/W	East, North, South, West	NM	National Monument	sp., spp.	species, plural of species
Ft	Fort	NP	National Park	SP	State Park
GC	Golf Course	NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	STP	Sewage Treatment Plant
GP	Game Preserve	PAMC	Pennsylvania Migration Count	subad(s).	subadult(s)
Hwy	Highway	ph.	Photographed	Twp	Township
imm(s).	immature(s)	Pt	Point	vr.	voice recording
Jct	Junction	PORC	Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee	vt.	videotape
juv(s).	juvenal [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R	River	WA	Wildlife Area
L	Lake	RA	Recreational Area	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
max	maximum			WRS	Winter Raptor Survey

Data for county reports incorporate observations derived from eBird [ebird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed Sept 23, 2023)].

Adams County

Locations: Buttonwood Rd Farm Pond (BTW), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Mountain Rd (MTN), Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve (SHNP), Virginia Mills (VAMI).

South-central Pennsylvania's spring weather was mixed. March was near normal and snow-free while April heated up to 4°F above average and was also wetter than normal by 1.5 inches. May was cool at 2°F below average. May's rainfall level of 3.5 inches below normal started a dry trend that carried through most of June. Species count at 188 was within the current five-year range for the period.

This season's waterfowl showing was similar to the prior three years: lackluster in both variety and numbers. Three reports of **Northern Shovelers** spanned 3/6-4/18 (BK, DR, AW) with a trio being the high count. Six **Greater Scaup** at LPRR 3/26 (MS) and nine **Lesser Scaup** at L Mae 3/19 (EB, CW) were the best counts of the limited scaup reporting. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at L Mae 3/1 (MS) and a pair were at BTW 4/6 (DR). Seven sites holding **Pied-billed Grebe** were a decent showing while a single **Horned Grebe** was at LPRR 4/17 (MH).

Strong reporting of **Wild Turkey** was paced by a 33-count at GNMP 3/6 (TA) and 19 at MTN 3/13 (R&DS). Ring-necked Pheasant was a miss. Eight sites reporting **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and no sites reporting **Black-billed Cuckoo** were typical. Five sites saw **Common Nighthawks** 5/7-24 (m.ob.), but no count exceeded a pair. First report of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** came from MTN 4/18 (R&DS). GNMP held a **Virginia Rail** 5/10-16 (KS, AW). A **Sandhill Crane** at GNMP 5/16 (TA) was a nice find as was an **American Golden-Plover** at BTW 4/4 (CD, LM). Three reports of **Semipalmated Plover** 4/20-5/13 (CD, RH, EV) were a surprise. The prior six springs only had one report for the county. A **Dunlin** was at LAR 4/18-23 (EV), and another was at Gettysburg College 5/4 (DR, MS).

Four reports of **American Woodcock** were paced by a 4-count at MTN 3/13 (R&DS). **Wilson's Snipes** were well detected with 10 sites holding birds. Nice counts of 18 birds came from BTW 4/15 (EV) and GNMP 3/19 (MS). A dozen **Spotted Sandpipers** were at LPRR 5/19 (MB). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a nice find along Rock Cr. 4/22 (CD). A **Golden Eagle** over VAMI 3/9 (TA) was a good catch. Only two reports of **Sharp-shinned Hawk** this period is a remarkably low number. The best of the nine **Broad-winged Hawk** reports was an early kettle of 10 over VAMI 3/28 (TA). That same locale continued to provide a **Barn Owl** report 3/21 (TA). **Barred Owl** enjoyed good reporting with 18 sites producing birds. A group of five were calling at SGL 242 on 3/9 (MS). Always an *Adams* highlight, 25 locations held **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, but the high count was limited to three. A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at GNMP 5/12 (ML).

Singles of **Least Flycatcher** were found at three sites 5/4-19 (GA, MB, KS). A **White-eyed Vireo** at Fairfield 4/7 (GDM) was very early. With four reports of **Horned Lark** 3/4-4/20 (m.ob.), no count exceeded three. An early **Tree Swallow** was at Fairfield 3/2 (EB). Up to five **Cliff Swallows** were at LAR 4/23-29 (EV), and Sachs Bridge produced a single 5/24 (EB). The influx of **Black-capped Chickadees** noted in the Fall and Winter reports continued this period with observations through 5/5 (m.ob.). A **Winter Wren** along Pumping Station Rd 3/22 (EB) was the only report. Ten sites reporting **Veery** was a strong showing. A pair of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were at LPRR 5/20 (TSt). Four sites held **American Pipits** 3/22-5/5 (TA, EB, MS, EV) with a visit to BTW 4/7 (TA) producing 12.

An **Evening Grosbeak** in flight at Sachs Bridge 3/2 (EB) was the only Spring report. **Purple Finch** reports came from 16 locales with double-digit counts of up to 10 birds at MTN 4/15 (R&DS) and 13 at Mummasburg Rd 4/5 (PKB). A single **Pine Siskin** at Shippensburg Rd 5/7 (MC) was the only report. **Grasshopper Sparrow** reporting was paced by a nice 10-count at GNMP 5/10 (JM). A **Chipping Sparrow** at L Kay 3/17 (TA) was the earliest report. After a good winter-period showing, **American Tree Sparrow** was a miss. Reporting of **Fox Sparrow** was in a very narrow timeframe 3/6-16, but there were nice counts of six at MTN 3/9 (R&DS) and eight at SHNP 3/11 (EH). **Vesper Sparrow** singles were at GNMP 4/21 (DS) and 5/1 (DR) and along Knox Rd 4/2 (TA). GNMP produced top counts for **Savannah Sparrows** 3/1 (AW) and **Swamp Sparrows** 3/21 (TA) with respective counts of eight and 13. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** visited VAMI 5/5-9 (TA). A pair of **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found at GNMP 5/12-23 (TA, BL, MS, AW). **Bobolink** and **Eastern Meadowlark** saw good reporting. Sixteen meadowlarks at GNMP 5/12 (DL) was the high count, while bobolink max count was a

trio. Six sites produced **Rusty Blackbird** reports, led by seven along Old Mill Rd 3/8 (TA).

This Spring's warbler migration in *Adams* was a bit difficult to judge. Those who noted a sub-par migration questioned whether the last week in Apr and the first week in May with temperatures averaging 5°F below normal, with some rather blustery days, accounted for a disruption in the migration through *Adams*. However, 30 species were found, a reasonable level for the county. Reporting through eBird seemed to indicate that this year was short of any fallout days, and seeing good variety and numbers required trips involving extended time and mileage. Single **Blue-winged Warblers** were found at GNMP 5/1 (DR) and along Boy Scout Rd 5/14 (RH). **Tennessee Warbler** and **Nashville Warbler** produced three and four reports, respectively, all involving single birds. Up to three **Kentucky Warblers** were found at SHNP 5/17-28 (TA, JK, MS, SW). Nice **Hooded Warbler** counts of nine birds came from Michaux SF 5/19 (MM), and eight were at SHNP 5/28 (MS). A **Cerulean Warbler** at SHNP 5/28 (MS) was a good find. Up to three **Bay-breasted Warblers** were at GNMP 5/13-16 (BL, AW), and the Wrensville area and Michaux SF produced singles 5/12 (EK) and 5/14 (CC), respectively. A pair of **Yellow-throated Warblers** was detected at SHNP 5/28 (MS). Single **Canada Warblers** were found at GNMP 5/16 (JM) and 5/24 (SW), Plum Run 5/20 (EV), and up to a pair at SHNP 5/26-27 (TA, SW). The sole **Wilson's Warbler** was at GNMP 5/14 (BL). Continuing a good trend, eight sites produced **Blue Grosbeak** reports beginning 5/1 (m.ob.) with up to three at MTN 5/15-23 (R&DS).

EXOTICS: A well-described **Pied Crow** was sighted at GNMP 3/8 (TS, et al). This common bird of sub-Saharan Africa has no record of vagrancy outside of some possible ship-aided movement around Europe. The source of this escapee is not known.

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Allegheny County

Locations: Allegheny River (ALR), Dashields Dam (DASH), Duck Hollow (DH), Findlay Township (FIN), Harrison Hills Park (HHP), Imperial (IMP), North Park (NP), Sewickley Heights Park (SEW), Sharpshors (SHR), Wingfield Pines (WP).

The mild weather continued in March bereft of cold and snowstorms. April brought a few cold fronts with storms and high winds. The warbler and other neotropical migrations were disappointing this year with just a day or two of good numbers of migrants.

There were a few **Snow Goose** reports, an uncommon but regular migrant here. One at the Waterfront Shopping Center in Homestead continued from Feb and was last reported 3/10 (m.ob.). It was seen with **Canada Geese** feeding on an open lawn along the entrance road to the shopping center. Another continued from Feb just outside of NP to 3/20 (m.ob.). One was found in Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville 3/15-16 (AB, CB). What was likely the same bird was nearby on the ALR at SHR 3/15-17 (RB, AF). A flock of 14 was observed flying over Franklin Park 3/14 (OM). **Tundra Swans** were noted in Mar with an unknown number flying over Gibsonia 3/1 (KP), 48 flying over Verona 3/1 (SK), 46 at West Deer Twp 3/6-8 (LC), and one on the ALR at Blawnox 3/10-11 (RB, m.ob.).

Northern Shoveler reports included nine at Fox Chapel Marina 3/4 (eBird), two there 3/12 (BS), two at NP 3/4 (DM, AF), three at DH 3/18 (m.ob.), four at Peter's Cr. 3/27 (JF), and four at IMP 4/3 (JK, DBn, MV). A few **Gadwall** were found this spring: two at IMP 3/1-5 (MV), three nearby at Moody Road in FIN 3/2 (MV), four at the PennDOT Wetlands next to Boyce-Mayview Park 3/4 (JF), and one at NP 4/15 (DB). **American Wigeon** reports were good for this uncommon migrant in the county. One was at Chapel Harbor 3/6 (LK, m.ob.), two at the PennDOT wetlands next to Boyce-Mayview Park 3/7 (RB), two at NP 3/5-25 (m.ob.), three on the ALR at SHR 3/30 (DB), one in FIN 4/3 and 4/7 (MV), and one in Harmar Twp 4/12 (TB, m.ob.).

Six **Northern Pintails** were at SHR 3/3 (JK) and two at NP 3/4 (AF, m.ob.). A male **Canvasback** at SHR 3/7 (DM, m.ob.) was the lone report.

A bird at Chapel Harbor that day is presumed to have been the same individual. A **Redhead** was at SHR Marina 3/2 (JK), and there was an eBird entry of one at WP 4/1. Eight **Long-tailed Ducks** were at SHR 3/7-9 (JVs, IR, PR). A **Common Merganser** with six young was at Oakmont 5/19 (SK). **Red-breasted Merganser** was present the entire season with a high count of 12 at Chapel Harbor 3/15 (DB, RB). Two somewhat late birds were at DASH 5/20 (MV). Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at IMP 3/8-12 (MV, m.ob.) with single birds at Peter's Cr 3/14 (JF), DH 3/24 (DM, JK), Allegheny Cemetery 4/1 (JL), and five at DASH 4/17 (ST, JK).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was reported in eBird at Franklin Park 5/22. A **Virginia Rail** was recorded calling at WP 3/6 and continued through Apr (DN, NN). Two were there in May (m.ob.), so breeding at this site again would be a possibility. Two **Soras** were at WP 4/27 (JK). Two were in a small patch of cattails at Panther Hollow L in Schenley Park 4/30 (SR) with one seen up to 5/7 (m.ob.). Yet another **Sora** was at NP 5/8-14 (AF, m.ob.). A **Common Gallinule** was a nice find at a small pond on Janoski's Farm in FIN 5/8 (MV) where it remained to 5/10 (m.ob.).

A **Semipalmated Plover** was at NP 5/17-19 (IF, m.ob.) and one was at Peter's Cr. 5/20 (JF, JP). Two **Dunlin** were at NP 4/20 (AF). **Least Sandpiper** was present at IMP 5/9-19 (RB, m.ob.) with a high count of four on 5/12 (RB) and at NP 5/5-18 with a high count of eight on 5/14 (m.ob.). One was at Chapel Harbor 5/23 (RB) and one at DASH 5/24 (MV). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at NP 5/8-18 (m.ob.), one along the ALR at Oakmont 5/20 (SK), and two at DASH 5/24 (MV). An early **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at IMP 3/26 (TC, m.ob.). A good count of 44 **Wilson's Snipe** were at the main pond at IMP 4/9 (MV). It has been a long time since double-digit counts were made in the area. It was fairly common in the past but, as habitat continues to be destroyed, high counts are becoming fewer.

A flock of about 50 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were flying along the ALR at Oakmont 3/29 (MS). A total of 38 were counted flying past DASH 4/6 (ST), one was there 4/7 (ST), and one 4/16 (MV). A **Caspian Tern** flew past DASH 4/17 (JK), and four were there 4/22 (AF). Fifteen **Forster's Terns** flew past DASH 4/6 (ST), one was perched on a buoy there 4/7 (MV), and two were there 4/22 (AF).

A **Red-throated Loon** was on the ALR at Blawnox 3/11 (MF, m.ob.) providing the 12th county record. A **Common Loon** was at NP 3/20-29 (RB), one was at DH 4/10-12 (JSH, m.ob.), one was at Harmar Twp 4/12 (MF, m.ob.), and one lingered at Chapel Harbor 5/24-30 (RB).

An **American Bittern** was discovered at the same small patch of cattails at Panther Hollow L in Schenley Park as the Soras mentioned above 4/29-5/7 (AF, m.ob.). This bird was amazingly tame, hunting and resting close to a busy trail. It was often seen and photographed capturing fish and frogs. This provided a rare opportunity to see a bittern at close range in the open. It was amazing that two Soras and this bittern were found at the same small patch of habitat in a city park! An early **Great Egret** was at DH 3/24 (JF), and one was seen at SHR flying down river 4/6 (RB). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at the PennDOT Wetlands next to Boyce-Mayview Park 5/20 (JS).

Black Vultures continued this season with two at Bridgeville 3/31 (JM), one at Blawnox 3/25 (AF), and one at Fox Chapel 3/25 (AH, PM), where they have been regularly roosting with **Turkey Vultures** on a water tower. One was in South Park Twp 4/4 (JF) and one was flying over I-79 near the Rte 51 exit 4/10 (JP). A **Merlin** was in Squirrel Hill 5/30 (MK) near the breeding site used last year, so they may have returned to breed again.

Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at Frick Park 5/7 (AF, et al.), another was at a feeder in Moon Twp 5/8 (JB), and one visited a yard in Pine Twp 5/27 (PL, SL). High counts of **Fish Crow** were in Squirrel Hill as usual with 20 there 3/6 and 30 on 3/25 (MK). One was at HHP 4/1 (MF, OL), and 19 were in Verona 5/3 (SK). A **Common Raven** nest with three chicks was on a highway overpass near IMP 4/20 (MV). A pair nested at this same location in the past.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at HHP 5/20 (MG) and another was at Frick Park that same day (RH), surprisingly the only two reports this season. An **Alder Flycatcher** was in Hays 5/4 (KB). Uncommon to rare in spring, single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at Boyce Park in Plum 5/16 (EH), Beechwood Farms 5/18 (DM), and Schenley Park 5/18 (FI). **Bank Swallow** reports included one at DH 5/2 (JF), one at NP 5/2-4 (RB, LG), two there 5/13 (LF) and two in FIN 5/5 (MV). Two early **Cliff Swallows** were at WP 4/1 (RB), three were at IMP 5/9 (LS, et al.) and four were near the Point in Pittsburgh 5/26 (JK). Both are the least common species here.

The **Marsh Wren** that spent the winter at Hartwood Acres was last reported 3/18 (m.ob.). One was at WP 3/1-4/7 (DN, NNe, RB), and one

was photographed at the pond in Homewood Cemetery 4/26 where it remained to 5/5 (ZV, m.ob.). A great count of 14 **Purple Finches** visited a feeding station in Indiana Twp 4/20 (DY), and 30 were at Bethel Green 4/23 (MJ). Other reports included one at a feeder in Harmar Twp 3/30 (JV), six in Pine Twp 4/17 (PL, SL), and two there 5/27 (PL, SL). Surprisingly, there were two **Pine Siskin** reports. Two were photographed at a feeder in Brighton Heights 5/18 (AT), and one was at Dead Man's Hollow 5/19 (KB).

A **Dark-eyed Junco** lingered at a feeder in South Park Twp through May (PS). The **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** continued from the winter in West Deer Twp to 5/10 (LC). Two **Vesper Sparrows** were at IMP 4/17 (AF), and one continued in May (DBn). This species has been declining quickly and probably won't be at this site in a few years. **Savannah Sparrow** was in the IMP area throughout May (m.ob.). A **Henslow's Sparrow** was heard singing in the IMP Area 5/4 (AF, m.ob.) through the month in one of the last grassland sites that has not been developed. There were only three reports of **Lincoln's Sparrow** this spring: one along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail in Lawrenceville 5/7 (CB, AB), one at NP 5/12 (LF), and two at Barking Slopes 5/10 (RB).

Bobolinks held on at the Truck Stop at IMP (m.ob.) where some grassland has remained, and up to nine were at Boys Home Park in May (m.ob.). **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported at several **Location**: six in Pine Twp 3/19 with two lingering to 3/31 (PL, SL), one at HHP 4/1 (AH, PM), up to six that lingered into May at WP (m.ob.), two at Bridgeville 5/5 (JO), and one at Dead Man's Hollow 5/6 (ABu).

As mentioned above, warbler migration was poor this spring but not without notable species. A total of 34 species were reported. Two **Worm-eating Warblers** returned to the breeding site at HHP 5/6 (OL). A **Brewster's Warbler** was found at Chatham University 5/7 (MK), and a **Lawrence's Warbler** was photographed at SEW 5/6 (SM). There were three reports of the rare **Golden-winged Warbler** this spring. Single birds were at SEW 5/7 (LN), Beechwood Farms 5/7 (DM) and photographed in Wilkinsburg 5/8 (CT). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was a good find at Frick Park 5/25-26 (CK, KSJ, m.ob.). In recent years, this species has been found in the park along Nine Mile Run in the wetlands, but this one was in a dry wooded area of the park. Rare in spring, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found in SEW 4/26 (JK), 5/4 (RH), and two were there 5/5 (LN). A **Mourning Warbler** was at Frick Park 5/12 (RB) and another was in Indiana Twp 5/20 (BS). An early **Palm Warbler** was in West Deer Twp 4/1 (LC). **Prairie Warbler** has been rarely detected during migration, but this spring three were found: one photographed at Hays 4/22 (RH), one at Beechwood Farms 5/7 (PB, DM) and one at Deer Lakes Park 5/7-8 (DY, et al.).

A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** returned to IMP this year. One was found 5/14 (DBn) followed by two on 5/15 (RB) and seen through May (m.ob.). The area they favor has been brushy from the initial preparation for development. So far, the area has remained open and brushy, but it is only a matter of time before development takes over.

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Armstrong County

Locations: Armstrong Trail north of Dam eight (AT8), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL), Keystone Lake (KEY).

Records from eBird showed 178 species reported here during the March-May period, which is seven more than the past 10-year average. Nine rare bird reports were issued, though most were for birds found outside their typical dates rather than for being rare in the area.

The species detected during the period did not differ much from previous years, but there were divergent patterns in the migratory

species' arrivals in spring 2023. One pattern was the early departure of numerous waterfowl, presumably for their breeding grounds up north. Over the last ten years, it has been common for the following species to persist in *Armstrong* into Apr: Northern Shoveler, **Gadwall**, **American Black Duck**, **Green-winged Teal**, Canvasback, **Redhead**, **Lesser Scaup**, and **Horned Grebe**. However, in 2023, neither the Northern Shoveler nor Canvasback were observed at all, while the rest were observed in Mar but gone by Apr. The early departure of these birds was mentioned in 2022's spring summary as well. **American Wigeon** was spotted three times in spring of 2023, twice on 3/2 at different locations separated by six kilometers: the boat launch at CCL and Rosston Boat Launch on the Allegheny R (TR). The third time was at KEY 4/26 (MS), which was so late in the season that eBird flagged it as rare. The only time this species has been seen later in the season was in 1994, also at KEY (MH, RH).

A **Surf Scoter** was photographed at AT8 on 5/5 (TR). This species has only been reported in the county five other times, with four of those sightings taking place in the fall season. The only spring sighting before this year was 5/14/21 at the same location (AT8) by the same observer (TR)! In the same way, a **Black Scoter** was observed on 3/1 this year at Freepport (SW, StW). This species has previously been observed just four other times in the county, and only in the fall season. A **Semipalmated Plover** was seen at CCL 5/2 (JB). This species has graced *Armstrong* numerous times at both CCL and KEY, but it is rare in the spring. According to eBird, the only other spring sightings have been at CCL in May 2022 and May 2019.

Red-headed Woodpeckers are considered rare in *Armstrong*, but they have been sighted in most years since at least 2013 when the species first appeared in county eBird records. This year was no exception, with the species being spotted at two locations during spring: near an unnamed creek along Deer Rd outside Worthington 4/30-5/4 (MM) and near Mill Run near the intersection of Red Mill Rd and Graham Rd. 4/30 (RS), consistent with the species' preference for living near streams and other bodies of water.

A pair of **Fish Crows** were seen 5/10-12 along Airport Rd outside Kiskimere and the Kiskiminetas R (RE). This species is not rare in neighboring counties, but for *Armstrong*, this was only the fourth observation recorded on eBird. A healthy population of Fish Crows lives further south in and around Pittsburgh. Sometime soon, observations of the Fish Crow along *Armstrong* waterways may be commonplace.

An observation of 400 **American Robins** set a high-count record in agricultural fields along Hogg Rd. south of Worthington next to Buffalo Cr. 3/12 (TR). The birds were distributed across three fields, and because the fields were hilly, additional robins might have been missed. About 150 **European Starlings** and smaller numbers of several blackbird species were mixed in.

Three species of warbler arrived on spring migration in the county earlier than normal. A **Black-and-white Warbler** and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** were both detected at AT8 on 4/16 (TR). Only 16.3% of eBird checklists within the first three weeks of Apr include the Black-and-white Warbler, and that number drops to 3.1% for the later-arriving Black-throated Green Warbler. **Hooded Warblers** have arrived even later, so the observation of that species at two different locations within SGL 247 on 4/21 (TR) makes these the earliest this species has ever been documented in the county. There is also an exciting report on **Mourning Warblers** to share. Two individuals were photographed and recorded at the same location at AT8 on 5/18 (JKn, AR). This is a record high count for the county. There have been only three other detections of this warbler in *Armstrong* since eBird records began.

I end with another note about the **Ovenbird**. In last year's report at this time, I noted that the Ovenbird was a few days late in arriving. This was true for 2023 as well. The first detection I found in eBird this year was in Chicora 5/5 (DM). This was three days later than last year, and six days later than our 10-year average. Meanwhile, Ovenbirds arrived in surrounding counties one to two weeks before they appeared in *Armstrong*.

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Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Enon Valley (EV), Independence Marsh (IND), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rocky Bend Nature Preserve (RBNP), Mouth of the Beaver River at Rochester (RCH).

An early **Blue-winged Teal** was back at IND by 3/2 (DZ), and there were scattered records there from the same site until 4/18. A wetland near EV on McRoberts Rd has been a good location historically but got very little coverage until recently, when a pair of Sandhill Cranes was found in the area two years ago. This spring, with increased attention, it proved productive for waterfowl, beginning with seven **Northern Shovelers** 3/4 (MV). Other notable sightings at this spot included up to 25 **Gadwall** 3/26-4/1 (MV), up to 39 **American Wigeons** 3/4-4/1 (MV), a **Green-winged Teal** 4/1 (MV), an impressive 117 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/26 (MV), and 11 **Bufflehead** 3/26 (MV). Elsewhere, notable waterfowl included two **Northern Shovelers** at IND 3/30 (DZ), a lingering **Northern Pintail** at IND 3/11-30 (MV) and two at AR 3/20 (JM), a **Canvasback** at RCH 3/8-20 (DZ), one or two **Greater Scaup** at AR through 4/15 (JM, DZ), and as many as 12 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at RCH 3/18-4/3 (DZ). Best of all was a flock of 37 **Long-tailed Ducks** at RCH 3/7 (DZ), very likely a new highest-ever count for the county. **Common Mergansers** were reported from several locations, primarily along Raccoon Creek, as the species continues to expand as a breeder in sw. Pennsylvania.

A nice count of 10 **Horned Grebes** was made at RCH 3/7 (DZ), the same day as the big Long-tailed Duck flock. Three others were at AR 3/25 (MD, MU). Reports of the increasingly rare **Black-billed Cuckoo** included one at Hanover Twp 5/14 (JM) and two at RBNP 5/17-21 (DZ). A **Common Nighthawk** was over Hanover Twp 5/15 (JM). Very nice were three **Sandhill Cranes** near Darlington 3/6 (TM), not far from the McRoberts Rd site discussed above. Shorebirds were in very short supply. The Siebel farm in Independence Twp hosted the two "rarest" found this season: a **Dunlin** 5/15-18 (MV) and two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/23 (MV). Also present there was a **Least Sandpiper** 5/18-23 (MV), and this species was also reported from the RCSP spillway 4/27-5/11 (JM, et al.). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at IND 5/13-14 (CD) was one of only a few shorebirds reported there this season. **Greater Yellowlegs** (4/19-5/11) and **Lesser Yellowlegs** (4/11-5/5) and **Solitary Sandpiper** (4/19-5/16) were also at IND periodically (DZ). Probably the most notable shorebird record was of the 21 **Spotted Sandpipers** at the RCSP spillway 5/11 (MV), the largest single-site count for *Beaver* (not involving recent hatchlings) in modern times.

Reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** were limited to five dates at RCH 3/7-4/22 (DZ) where the max was 12 birds, and 10 were at AR 3/25 (MD, MU). Top count of **Ring-billed Gull** was 129 at RCH 4/22 (MV). Very nice, and a bit early, were two **Common Terns** at RCH 4/22 (MV, DZ). A **Common Loon** was at RCH 4/3 (DZ), the only one reported. An **American Bittern**, quite rare for the county, was well described at IND 4/6 (LG). **Great Egrets** included singles at RCH 4/23 (MV) and at EV 5/6 (MV). A **Northern Harrier** was still around the old Little Blue L site 5/5 (MV), suggesting a pair might attempt to breed there this summer. Single **Merlins** were noted at Beaver Falls 3/10 (MV) and at RCH 3/18-20 (DZ), all of which might have been the same bird. **Peregrine Falcons** were once again present in the RCH area and near Aliquippa (m.ob.) all season.

A singing **Alder Flycatcher** was a nice find in Greene Twp 5/17 (MV). First returning **Purple Martin** was noted at a long-standing site near Fombell 3/24 (DF *vide* MV). Up to 12 were at RCSP beginning 4/21 (JM) through the season. A few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** hung around from the winter season, the latest of which was in Hanover Twp 5/15 (JM). A **Veery** was still at RBNP 5/26 (DZ), and **Swainson's Thrush** was noted at three locations in May. A pair of **Purple Finches** was in Economy Borough 4/14 (KD). **Grasshopper Sparrow**, uncommon in the county but probably more common than might be assumed by its typical frequency of reports, was noted at Greene Twp (MV) and near Zelenople (EH), both on 5/14. **Lincoln's Sparrow**, rare in spring, was found at RCSP 5/11 (JM) and RBNP 5/13 (DZ).

The grasslands at the former Little Blue L held up to six **Bobolinks** 5/5-17 (MV). Top count of **Rusty Blackbird** was 72 in EV on Anderson Rd. 3/4 (MV), and up to 20 were frequently reported at IND 3/15-5/5 (DZ, AZ). Early returning breeding warblers at RCSP 4/22 included **Ovenbird**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Cerulean Warbler** (RT). Reports of **Northern Waterthrush** included one at RBNP 4/24 (DZ), two at Brush Creek C.P. 5/15 (WP), and one seen on a few dates at IND 4/26-5/14 (AZ, DZ). A

Black-throated Blue Warbler at Economy 5/10 (KD) was the only one reported this season. Curiously, there was only one report for adjacent *Washington* this spring as well, and not for lack of coverage, especially there. Reports of **Wilson's Warbler** included one at RBNP 5/9 (DZ) and one at IND 5/14 (DZ).

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Bedford

Locations: Big Creek Road (BC), Canal Ponds (CP), Everett (EV), Mountain Meadows (MM), Rural Home Site (RHS), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Sollenberger Road (SR), Union Memorial Church (UM), White-tail Wetlands (WW), Willow Brook Lane (WB).

There were 185 species reported to eBird for *Bedford* during Spring 2023. Unlike last year, there were no snowstorms in March, which may explain why waterfowl counts were down. The early warm weather resulted in an early spring, but May was cooler and drier than normal.

Tundra Swans dropped into *Bedford* on 3/7, with 500 observed at SSP (m.ob.). The last Tundra Swan departed 4/8 from SSP (AB). Of the 29 species of ducks found in the United States, 21 species were observed in *Bedford*. High count at WW 5/14 was 22 **Wood Ducks** (EB). The following high counts were all from SSP: 17 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/2 (EB), 36 **Northern Shovelers** 3/4 (ABn), 22 **Gadwall** 3/25 (SB), 40 **American Wigeons** 3/4 (ABn) and 3/11 (J&SD), 30 **Mallards** 3/7 (ABn), 23 **American Black Ducks** 3/19 (RB), 36 **Northern Pintails** 3/4 (ABn), 14 **Green-winged Teal** 3/20 (m.ob.), six **Canvasbacks** 3/7 (m.ob.), 38 **Redheads** 3/16 (TM), 200 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/4 (ABn), eight **Greater Scaup** 3/19 (EB), 80 **Lesser Scaup** 3/7 (m.ob.), 29 **Long-tailed Ducks** 3/7 (m.ob.), 60 **Bufflehead** 3/7 (m.ob.), three **Common Goldeneye** 3/7 (ABn), 87 **Hooded Mergansers** 3/11 (J&SD), 200 **Common Mergansers** 3/4 (ABn), 132 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 3/20 (m.ob.), and 115 **Ruddy Ducks** 4/18 (TM). High counts of ducks were down, for the most part, compared to 2022.

West Nile Virus has taken a terrible toll on **Ruffed Grouse**, with singles reported from just three **Location:** at Buck Run II (AB), at SSP 4/23 and 5/13 (ABn), and at Canal Ponds 5/11 (ABn). Highs of nine **Pied-billed Grebes** at SSP 4/7 (J&SD) and 4/14 (GY) and of eight **Horned Grebes** at SSP 3/7 (m.ob.) were reported.

The first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported 5/14 WW (EB), with only seven other reports. The first **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted at RHS 5/9 (J&BC), where they were reported until 5/12. It is surmised that these two species are notably down this year because they followed the outbreaks of spongy moth and other hairy caterpillars in other parts of the state. There were no reports of Common Nighthawks this spring. The first **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at Mountain Springs Road 5/6 (KR). A high count of 25 **Chimney Swifts** was observed at EV 5/5 (m.ob.). There were numerous sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, but the earliest was at MM 4/26 (M&LJ), while a high of five was reported at Residence 5/16 (LW).

One **Sora** was reported at CP 4/27 (ABn). There were numerous sightings of **American Coots** at SSP throughout the spring, with the first report 3/4 (ABn), peaking at 26 on 4/6-7 (m.ob.). An uncommon sighting of two **Sandhill Cranes** was reported at WW 4/3 (KS). Seven **American Woodcocks** were seen at WW 3/9 (EB). A high count of seven **Greater Yellowlegs** was at SSP 5/9 (EB), while only one **Lesser Yellowlegs** was seen at WW 5/9 (EB). Numerous sightings of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported at SSP with a high count of 46 on 3/25 (SB). A single **Caspian Tern** was seen at SSP three times 4/18-5/4 (m.ob.). **Common Loons** made frequent appearances at SSP, with a high count of 10 on 3/25 (SB); the last reported sighting was 5/7 (ABn). A great find was an **American Bittern** at WW 4/9 (EB). **Great Egrets** stopped by SSP mid-Mar to mid-Apr with a high of nine on 4/18 (TM).

The Allegheny Front Hawk Watch compiler, Bob Stewart, noted that the spring watch total migrant raptor count was 880 – well below the five-year average of 1,119. There were no new season records. The **Broad-winged Hawk** count of 224 was below average and well below last year's count of 757. **Red-shouldered Hawks** numbered 31, near the five-year

average. The total of 181 **Red-tailed Hawks** was also below the five-year average of 205. No **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen this year. The **Northern Harrier** count of 11 matched the five-year average. The **Bald Eagle** count of 53 was well below last year's count of 90 but still above the five-year average of 40. **Golden Eagle** numbers remained strong – the count of 94 was lower than the two previous years but still greater than the five-year average of 87. Accipiters were near or greater than the five-year average. The counters notched 83 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 33 **Cooper's Hawks**, and one juv. **American Goshawk**. The Goshawk was the first in four years. More details are available at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch's website.

Two **Northern Harriers** were seen at WW 5/14 (EB). **Red-headed Woodpecker** sightings increased in *Bedford* with regular reports from the Layton Property (BL) with a high of five at CP 5/3, 5/5, and 5/11 (ABn). Scattered reports of **American Kestrels** increased, with a high of four on Shaffer Rd 3/26 (EB), and consistent reports of one or two at UM 3/5-5/31. A single **Merlin** was reported at just three sites: along I-70 on 3/10 (MN), at Allegheny Front Hawk Watch 4/3 (DP), and along BC 4/9 (M&LJ). A high of four **Acadian Flycatchers** was reported at Bedford Springs 5/18 (AB), while four **Willow Flycatchers** were seen at WW 5/14 (EB). Two **Least Flycatchers** were reported at SSP 5/17 (EB).

Fish Crows were reported along Rte 30 from Bedford to EV, with a high of two at EV 4/7 and 4/28 (m.ob.) and two at Bedford Springs 5/3 (MB). **Horned Larks** were reported along SR 3/12-5/9 when a high of three was noted (EB). High counts of 15 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at SSP 4/29 (m.ob.), 31 **Purple Martins** at Down River GC 4/16 (M&LJ), and 35 **Cliff Swallows** at SSP 5/13 (ABn).

One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported at SP 5/11 (MM). A **Swainson's Thrush** was seen at Pinewood Ave 5/15 (BY) and one at Mann' Choice 5/21 (ABn). Just one **Hermit Thrush** was reported at SSP 5/21 (SM). There were multiple reports of **Wood Thrushes** in *Bedford*, with a high of 12 reported on 5/13 (JC) and 5/20 (ABn). An **American Pipit** was seen at CP 5/3 (ABn). **Evening Grosbeaks** made a surprise stop at three locations in *Bedford*: seven were reported 3/15 at Carpenter Home (EB), while a flock of eight visited MM from 4/28 to 5/2 (M&LJ) before moving north a half-mile to spend two more weeks at the Layton Property (BL). The only site for **Red Crossbills** was SSP, where four were seen 3/5 (GY). The only **Pine Siskin** was reported at SP 4/29 (m.ob.).

Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from four locations with a high of three on 5/27 (EB). **American Tree Sparrows** were scarce, but a high of six was seen at SSP 3/11 (J&SD). **Fox Sparrows** were regular visitors at MM 3/4-4/5 with a high of three there 3/12 (M&LJ). **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported in just a few areas with a high count of six at SSP 5/6 (m.ob.). The only **Vesper Sparrow** was reported at BC 5/8 (CH). **Savannah Sparrows** were only seen at SR with a high count of two on 5/16 (EB). A **Swamp Sparrow** was reported at BC 5/8 (CH). A high count of 25 **Eastern Towhees** was at SSP 5/7 (ABn).

No **Yellow-breasted Chats** were reported. **Bobolinks** were seen at three locations with a high of seven at WB 5/6 (ABn). **Eastern Meadowlark** sightings were numerous in *Bedford*; the most frequent were along SR and UM (EB), but the high count was nine at WB 5/6 (ABn). **Orchard Orioles** were reported from scattered locations, with a high count of eight at SSP 5/7 (ABn). **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at SSP and CP, with a high count of four on 5/3 (ABn).

Warbler diversity decreased by four from last year, with 28 species reported in *Bedford*. A high count of 13 **Ovenbirds** was reported at SSP 5/7 (ABn), with frequent reports throughout the county. There was a high count of three **Louisiana Waterthrush** at SSP 4/16 (EB), while just one **Northern Waterthrush** was reported 5/19 (EB). A high count of five **Golden-winged Warblers** was reported at SSP 5/6 (m.ob.), while three **Blue-winged Warblers** were seen there 5/7 (ABn). A single **Kentucky Warbler** was reported from Pinewood Ave (BY). Four **Cape May Warblers** were seen at SSP 5/11 (MM). Four locations yielded **Cerulean Warblers**, with a high of two at Family Farm 5/6 (ABn). A single **Blackpoll Warbler** was reported at four sites in the central part of *Bedford*, with SSP having the most sightings 5/13-19 (m.ob.). **Pine Warblers** were consistently reported from SSP, with a high of four on 4/29 (m.ob.). **Prairie Warblers** were reported from SGL 48, and one was seen at BC 5/8 (CH). Single **Canada Warblers** were reported from three sites: RHS 5/10 (J&BC), SSP 5/19 (m.ob.), and MM 5/24 (M&LJ).

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Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), E.J. Breneman's Quarry (BQ), Hamburg Reservoir (HR), Hopewell Big Woods Trail (HPT), Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KDRA), Lake Ontelaunee (LO): Bailey's Creek (BC), West Shore Drive (WS); School Road Pond (SRP).

The first two months of this spring had no "lion or lamb" effects here other than there were no fronts to urge the neotropical migrants to stop. May set a record in *Berks'* meteorological annals with the second driest month at 0.009 inch of rain. There were some unusual sightings that enlivened field reports.

The large flocks of **Snow Geese** present in Jan and Feb began to leave *en masse*, leaving behind smaller flocks of hundreds scattered. The largest flock of 3000 **Snow Geese** stayed in the area of SRP 3/5 (RK). A single **Cackling Goose** mingled with **Canada Geese** at BC 3/2 (RK), while four were with a flock of the larger **Canada Geese** at WS 3/27 (RH). **Tundra Swans** have often been seen flying during their journey north with 11 at BQ 3/2 (JS) while 75 were counted at LO (RK). A pair of puzzling **Trumpeter/Tundra Swans** was too distant for definitive identification at BC 4/2 and, though viewed with a scope, they managed to stay out of range (SN).

Blue-winged Teal was first reported at BC 3/15 (AS). A nice number of 14 were found at Peter's Cr 4/13 (PN). Ten **Northern Shovelers** joined a group of puddle ducks at WS 3/12 (NWo, WW). A single male **Eurasian Wigeon** first seen at WS 2/5 (BL) remained in that section of LO until last reported at BC 4/8 (KR). The 100 **American Wigeon** reported at BC 3/16 (AW) remained at this preferred feeding area until their numbers crested at 208 on 3/26 (RK). Becoming rare in *Berks*, a single **Canvasback** stayed at BQ 3/8-20 (RK, m.ob.). This was the only **Canvasback** reported for this spring migration. In contrast, a raft of 28 male and 32 female **Redheads** rested at LO 3/2 (RK); 18 **Redheads** were at nearby Peter's Cr 3/21 (KI).

During the week of 3/15, there were 1799 reports of **Ring-necked Ducks** throughout *Berks* (m.ob.). At LO, six **Greater Scaup** were found 3/17 and 3/28 (AW) and three were at LO 4/4 (RK). A fallout of 136 **Lesser Scaup** were close enough to count at BML 3/7 while a distant raft of **Greater/Lesser Scaup** was uncountable (JS). An unusual number of 12 **Long-tailed Ducks** sought refuge at WS 3/28 (RK). The fallout of 3/7 resulted in 100 **Bufflehead** sheltered at BML (JS). The same weather event brought 30 **Bufflehead** to WS 3/8 (RK). Two **Common Goldeneye** lingered at BC 3/8-26 (RK, AS, AW).

Mar and Apr are usually when high numbers of **Common Mergansers** have enjoyed feeding at LO and WS. Birders have enjoyed the antics of gulls chasing and harassing the rafts of **Common Mergansers** as they have churned the waters looking for food. The highest numbers at LO were 871 on 3/2 (RK), 1100 on 3/14 (TU), and 600 on 3/23 (RK). On 4/2, 66 **Common Mergansers** were counted at LO as their numbers dwindled (RK). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** mingled with **Common Mergansers** at LO 3/2 (RK), and a discrete group of 10 **Red-breasted Mergansers** was mixed in with the **Common Mergansers** at LO 3/23 (RK, JW, PW).

Drumming but seldom seen, **Ruffed Grouse** were consistently heard during this period at HR and SGL 106 (KG, BL, JR, AW, JW, MW, PW). The preferred spot for grebes in good numbers was WS 3/31 with 10 **Pied-billed Grebes** (TU) and 10 **Horned Grebes** (RK). A rare **Red-necked Grebe** was at WS 3/12 (NWo, WW).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued in Shartlesville in numbers as high as six (m.ob.). Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** far outnumbered those for **Black-billed Cuckoos**, with the only reports of the latter at Mt Penn 5/6 (RH) and a pair at HBT 5/26 (BR). Migration flights of **Common Nighthawks** were scattered, with nine counted at KDRA 5/19 (KG) after 46 were tallied at KDRA 5/17 in the hour before sunset (MW). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** continued to concentrate along the Kittatinny Ridge at Northkill Gap. On 5/27, an estimated six "whips" were heard with two dropping in on the gravel lane for a close-up view (JR, AW, MW), and six

were reported at Northkill Gap three days later (KG). Two **Sandhill Cranes** called as they flew overhead at Womelsdorf 4/9 (KL). An observer was alerted, looked up, and saw three **Sandhill Cranes** calling as they flew over a home in Green Hills 4/21 (JR).

Lack of suitable feeding habitat continued to reduce the number of shorebirds reported. There were no large numbers of shorebirds feeding along the exposed shorelines, especially during the severe May drought. A single **Semipalmated Plover** found a small puddle at SRP 5/11 (JW, PW). A rainstorm created a pool on Virginville Road for a **Dunlin** 5/9 (TU). **Least Sandpipers** were the most reported shorebirds with 11 in a field in Mertztown 5/3 (RK) and 10 in a flooded field in Lyons 5/6 (TU). Single **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at a pool on Evansville Road 5/1 (MW) and a small marsh at Hamburg Commerce Park 5/7 (JR, AW). The only **Semipalmated Sandpiper** reported was at SRP 5/2 (RK) in the remnants of a once-larger pond.

American Woodcocks arrived to exhibit their courtship rituals with numerous shows being reported. A woodcock barely avoided being hit while in the throes of ecstasy as it headed for a windshield near Bern Twp 3/6 (JS). A flooded field near Fleetwood provided cover for eight **Wilson's Snipes** 4/28 (JSo).

The huge gull numbers dispersed and disappeared with the warmer weather, leaving smaller flocks of **Ring-billed Gulls** and **Herring Gulls** to wander *Berks* in search of rain pools and freshly plowed fields. A flock of 300 **Ring-billed Gulls** was scanned while along Rte 73 in Oley 3/4, and one **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found (RK). On 3/8, a lone **Lesser Black-backed Gull** rested on LO (RK). Might it have been the same bird since LO is approximately five miles from Oley? Two **Great Black-backed Gulls** stopped at BML 3/8 (RK), but only one was at BML's State Hill Boat Launch 3/3 (BL).

One **Caspian Tern** showed up at WS 4/30 (DH). A lone **Red-throated Loon** avoided the **Common Mergansers** at LO 3/11 (TU). Most reports of **Common Loons** were of individuals calling as they migrated overhead. Two **Common Loons** were seen during a club field trip to BML 4/18 (m.ob.). The high count of 17 was at LO 4/30 (DH).

The elusive **American Bittern** surprised an observer as he drove along Crystal Cave Rd near Kutztown 5/12 (GA). Another **American Bittern** was flushed at BML's Sheidy Boat Launch 5/29 (JY). **Great Egrets** were reported as singles except for the two found in a field near Fleetwood 5/8 (AS). The earliest report for **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at the LO access at Moselem Springs 3/24 (AS, PT), then three were found at BML 4/13 (PN), and four fed in the LO spillway 5/16 (RH).

Glossy Ibises made rare appearances when two were observed feeding in a field near Kutztown 5/2 (PS). A marshy wetland along Washington Rd in Leesport turned out to be good habitat for puddle ducks and seven **Glossy Ibises**, foraging in the marsh 5/7 (AW, MW) and photographed the following day (JR, JW, PW).

The shift in **Black Vulture** populations has been under study in recent years. Locally, Hawk Mountain staff members have been wing-tagging **Black Vultures** with yellow tags. A **Black Vulture** with two red wing tags was seen near Green Hills 3/12 (AZ), one of four sitting on a high-tension power tower. A follow-up by Hawk Mountain staff determined that this bird was tagged in West Virginia by the USDA's wildlife services.

When pumping gas at the intersection of Rtes 222 and 662 on 5/19, Russell Hoffman happened to glance at the sky and saw a "very white bird" soaring over the intersection. He grabbed his binoculars and then his camera to photograph a **Swallow-tailed Kite**. The kite lingered for a few moments, then headed south above Rte 222. He wasn't aware that a **Swallow-tailed Kite** had been reported along Old Tipton Rd on 5/9 by Kate Harms. The two sightings were less than 10 miles apart. No other sightings of **Swallow-tailed Kites** have been noted. The first record of **Swallow-tailed Kites** was of two in southern Berks near Knauers from 5/24-28 in 1995. These recent kites created quite a stir and were seen by many.

Bald Eagle reports of nesting pairs and perched birds have been numerous and county-wide. Local residents have been watching the nests and reporting the progress of nest-building, eggs hatching, and fledgling changes. A well-known site has been the Rutter's nest along Rte 61 in Hamburg. Two fledglings were seen and survived to leave their nest. The number of nests in *Berks* has been estimated at 10 or more. A full report of the 2023 spring raptor migration at Hawk Mountain is found elsewhere in this issue.

Pellets were found in Mar at the area where a Northern Saw-whet Owl was found in prior months (JS).

Red-headed Woodpecker sightings were county-wide this period with many of these colorful woodpeckers visiting suet and sunflower feeders. A new nesting site was discovered on SGL 106 on 5/12 (MB) and confirmed 5/15 (LS). The **Peregrine Falcon** nesting at 5th St and Penn Ave was successful with two fledglings that survived to leave their nest on the ledge of a building in Reading (BU).

There were only two sightings of **Olive-sided Flycatchers**, and it was not for the lack of perches, with the hundreds of dead ash trees. Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported at Maiden Cr at LO 5/8 (SS) and Keim Rd in District Twp 5/14 (RK). **Acadian Flycatchers** returned to their breeding grounds with four at Hay Cr. 5/21 (JT) and six at HR 5/31 (KG). **Least Flycatchers** made lone appearances in these **Location**: KDRA 5/6 (KG), HR 5/5 (KG, TU), and HPT 5/3 (AS).

Fish Crows have become more common in residential areas than **American Crows** and have less fear of humans, frequenting parking lots, dumpsters, community parks, beaches, and restaurants. A **Fish Crow** was observed looking for food by tearing a rotting stump apart. After little success in removing grubs or ants, it dropped to the ground for small twigs which it stuck into the stump and pulled out with some tasty morsels and sap on them (JS).

Bank Swallows were seen in migration with mixed flocks of **Barn Swallows** and **Tree Swallows**. The only known breeding site here has been the quarry operation at Hay Cr. Eight **Bank Swallows** were observed 5/15 flying to and from their nesting sites (RH). Limited access has prevented better observation of the nest holes in the quarry. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen in singles primarily near conifers and bird feeders. A lone **Pine Siskin** was found at SGL 280 at Brownsville 3/21 (JSp), and one enjoyed a Shillington home's thistle feeders 4/24-5/4 (GW, NW).

Lincoln's Sparrows have been anticipated in migration but are usually found as shy singles. One was at KDRA 5/13 (KG) with another at Wyomissing Park 5/15 (BL), and also at Keim Rd in District Twp 5/14 (RK).

Yellow-breasted Chat was at HPT 5/6-29 (m.ob.).

A total of 33 species of warblers were reported this quarter. Continuing the trends of the past decade, there were no major fallouts of these feathered jewels. In fact, satellite images seemed to indicate that the waves of migrants appeared to fly around or over *Berks*. Observers had to be content with finding clusters of mixed warblers. These were the notable species reported: **Golden-winged Warbler** at a Dryville residence 5/7 (SF); **Prothonotary Warbler** at Schuylkill R Trail 5/21 (RH); **Mourning Warbler** at HR 5/15 (MW), at SGL 110 at North Kill Gap 5/16 (LS), at Hawk Mountain visitor center 5/16 (JD), and at KDRA 5/26 (KG); **Kentucky Warbler** at SGL 106 on 5/13 (JW, PW); **Cerulean Warbler** at HR 4/21 (MW) and at HR 5/12 (KG); **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Northkill Gap 5/28 (MWh); **Wilson's Warbler** at Sacony Trail Kutztown 5/15 (TU), at SGL 280 at Brownsville 5/20 (LC, et al.), and at French Creek SP 5/20 (BL).

Blue Grosbeaks, which prefer specialized habitats and are difficult to find, were reported at HPT 5/10 (BL) and on Virginville Rd 5/31 (DR). Rodale Experimental Farm again held acres of grasses, the perfect habitat for **Dickcissels** which were present 5/20-29 (m.ob.).

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Blair County

Locations: Canoe Creek State Park and IBA (CCSP), Frosty Hollow (FH), Lakemont Park Pond (LPP), Lower Trail (LT), Lower Trail—Mt Etna to Williamsburg (LT-MW), Moorhen Marsh (MM), Plummer's Hollow Nature Reserve (PHNR), State Game Lands 278-North (SGL278-N).

Spring was a productive season for *Blair*, with 210 total species reported, including three new for the county (**Common Gallinule**, **Painted Bunting**, and **Whimbrel**) and 33 species of warblers.

The single report of **Snow Geese** was of an unusually large, low-flying flock of around 140 individuals in the Cove (Rte 866 near Martinsburg in) 3/16 (PI, ph). A **Trumpeter Swan** was first seen 4/1 along River Rd S of Tipton (MK, ph.) then nearby on 4/2 (JC, ph.) and again 4/19 (MK ph.) along Old Hwy 220 about 0.5mi SE of the early sightings. **Tundra Swans** peaked in early March with a diurnal high count of 300 from PHNR Mar 6 (DB). Many NFC from large Tundra Swan flocks were recorded from PHNR (MB, vr.).

Other waterfowl were plentiful at CCSP and in a variety of wetlands, ponds, and reservoirs through *Blair*. Those with identifiable NFC were recorded over PHNR as well. A **Canvasback** was at CCSP 3/20 (JC) and 3/22 (AE). **Long-tailed Ducks** were recorded many times over PHNR 3/1 to 4/3 as NFC (MB, vr.); it is possible that these were flying north from Raystown Lake, a deep-water reservoir directly south of PHNR. Single Long-tails were also reported at Lakemont Park Pond 3/23 (PI MK) and CCSP (JC 3/8 ph.). There was a single **Common Goldeneye** report of six individuals at CCSP 3/7 (JK). *Blair* all-time high counts were of 145 **Ring-necked Ducks** seen at CCSP 3/4 (JC), nine **Northern Pintail** at CCSP 3/9 (JK), and 52 **Hooded Merganser** at CCSP 3/20 (JC). Breeding Hoodies were confirmed at MM 5/17 (MK).

Ruffed Grouse were recorded through the season in several of *Blair's* most heavily birded locations; they should be looked and listened for elsewhere as well. Single birds were reported from PHNR four times between 3/29 and 4/23 (m.ob.), CCSP 3/29 and 4/15 (JC), at Frosty Hollow 4/4 to 5/24 (LB, BB), and at three locations along the LT throughout the season (m.ob.).

The single report of **Red-necked Grebe** was from CCSP 3/25 (LB).

The star of the **Common Nighthawk** migration was an individual photographed by many observers as it roosted in a tree at CCSP 5/21 during a PSO fieldtrip. In Altoona, the species was first recorded 5/15 (MK) with the observer commenting that the species may breed downtown. PHNR recorded were of a pair 5/13 and singles 5/14 and 5/15 (MB). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was present during the breeding season at the very early date of 4/8 at PHNR (MB).

Three **Virginia Rails**, an all-time county high count, were recorded calling at MM 4/19 (MK) while **Sora** were recorded calling at the same location on three occasions: a single on 4/22 (JC), two on 5/17 (MK), and one on 5/27 (MK). A **Sora** was also recorded as an NFC flyover 4/14 at PHNR (MB, vr.). The first *Blair* report of **Common Gallinule** was an NFC from PHNR 4/15 (MB, vr.). There were very low numbers of **American Coot** recorded this season: singles at LPP 3/25 (JC) and at CCSP 3/17 (SB), 3/24 (AK), and 4/15 (JC).

Most of the expected shorebirds were reported as NFC over PHNR, and some were also reported on the ground at various locations. Nevertheless, appropriate stopover habitat in *Blair* is nearly nonexistent for all but **Killdeer** (throughout, m.ob.), snipe, and **Spotted Sandpiper** (throughout, m.ob.). **Semipalmated Plover** showed up over PHNR as NFC beginning 5/23 (MB, vr.) with an all-time county high of five. A group over PHNR constituting at least two **Whimbrel** 5/22 was the first *Blair* record of this species (MB, vr.) and further NFC of this species were recorded 5/22 and on other nights but have not yet been uploaded to eBird. Other PHNR NFC included **Least Sandpiper** 5/11 (MB vr.), **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/10 (MB vr.), and **Pectoral Sandpiper** 5/23 (MB vr.), which was also at Watts Farm Field 4/22 (JC).

Single **Wilson's Snipe** were recorded four times by NFC 3/30-4/7 at PHNR despite never having been recorded there before; the species was not recorded elsewhere this season. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at LPP 4/15 (JC), two were along Watts Rd 4/27 (MK, ph.), and one was detected via NFC 4/21 at PHNR (MB, vr.). **Greater Yellowlegs** was detected via NFC at PHNR 5/5 (MB, vr.) and at CCSP 4/22 (JK), while NFC of a **Lesser Yellowlegs** on the ground at PHNR was recorded 4/29 (MB, vr.) and three were seen at CCSP 4/23 (JK).

Bonaparte's Gull was scarce this season, recorded at CCSP 3/20 to 3/31 (m.ob.) with a high count of three 3/25 (EB ph., LB) and once at Reese Pond 4/21 (MN). There was a single record of two **Herring Gulls**

4/26 at PHNR (MB). **Caspian Tern** was recorded twice via NFC 4/17 and 4/20, over PHNR; records probably involved multiple birds (MB, vr.). **Common Loon** were recorded as singles and pairs on several occasions 3/5 to 5/7 at CCSP (m.ob., ph.) and one was recorded at LPP 4/5 and 4/6 (MK). A single was seen over PHNR 4/1 (MB) and a substantial flight of 16 occurred over PHNR on the morning of 4/19 (RF, MB).

American Bitterns were recorded frequently via NFC over PHNR, with an all-time county high of four 4/20 (MB, vr.). **Least Bittern** was recorded once over PHNR via NFC 5/14 (MB, br.). Flyover **Great Egrets** were recorded in trios at PHNR 4/1 and 4/16 (MB), with a single over Penn State Altoona 4/3 (LP) and an individual at Henry's Pond in Williamsburg 3/22 (LG). Two Great Egrets were photographed at SGL278-N 4/4 (MN).

Single **Golden Eagles** were seen at PHNR 3/1, 3/29, and 4/12 (MB), and at CCSP 4/17 (JC). The migratory peak for **Broad-winged Hawk** over PHNR occurred 4/16 to 4/20, with a season-high 28 individuals reported 4/20 (MB). A *Blair* all-time high count of 122 **Turkey Vultures** was seen over PHNR 3/27 (MB).

A **Barn Owl** was recorded over PHNR via NFC 4/20 (MB, vr.) while other rare owl species (Long-eared, Short-eared, N. Saw-whet) went unrecorded in the county.

Red-headed Woodpeckers continued their climb in numbers, with reports at no less than eight locations throughout the season, of singles except for a pair seen in a backyard near Tipton 5/16 (SM). The all-time high count of **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** (22) was recorded along the LT-MW 5/19 (NB). All other expected woodpeckers continued in high numbers, due in part to large quantities of trees killed by emerald ash borers and spongy moth caterpillars.

Merlin reports continue their upward trend, though multiple reports may be of the same one or two individuals visiting locations throughout the N part of *Blair*. A single was reported 3/23 and 4/19 at PHNR (MB, RF), while in Altoona, a pair was reported 4/19 (MK, ph.) and again 4/26 (MK), with a single seen on 5/4 (MK); possible nesting was reported. Meanwhile, a single **Peregrine Falcon** was seen 4/28 at PHNR (MB).

Alder Flycatcher was recorded once 5/17 via NFC at PHNR (MB vr.) and a single **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen 5/17, also at PHNR (MB), but no Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported this season in the county.

All expected vireo species were reported; not surprisingly, **White-eyed Vireo** was the rarest. A single individual vocalizing was reported from PHNR 5/15 (MB) and there were multiple reports from FH (5/6, 5/12, 5/19), of singles each time (LB).

Common Ravens continue to increase in numbers, and the *Blair* all-time high count of 29 was reported from PHNR 4/14 (MB).

The LT-MW continues to yield county high counts, including **House Wrens** (11) 6/2 (NB) and **Gray Catbirds** (48) 5/19 (NB). Meanwhile, Nine **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in PHNR 4/23 constituted an all-time county high (MB). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** migrated through in large numbers, with an all-time *Blair* high count of 25 in PHNR 5/6 (MB).

Sixty **American Pipits** along Short Cut RD S of Williamsburg were an all-time county high 4/22 (JK).

Singles, pairs, and occasional trios of **Purple Finches** were the norm at multiple locations. High counts were 11 at PHNR (Mbo) and 5 at CCSP (MK), both 4/16. Meanwhile, the lone **Pine Siskin** of the season was reported near Bellwood 4/27 (JC).

Grasshopper Sparrows were reported as NFC flyovers at PHNR from 4/15 through the period, with rates up to 3/hr (MB). On the ground, a single individual was recorded at a known breeding location, State Game Lands 198 N of HWY 22 5/25 (MC). There was a single record of **Henslow's Sparrow** as an NFC flyover from PHNR 5/17 (MB, vr.).

There were three records of single **Yellow-breasted Chats**. One was a visual report from CCSP 5/12 (CS) and the other two were of vocalizing birds near Goodman Rd along the LT 5/18 (NB) and 5/29 (JK).

Bobolink was recorded several times via NFC at PHNR, including 5/8 (MB, vr.). Both oriole species were reported in record high numbers along the LT-MW 5/12: **Baltimore Oriole** (29) and **Orchard Oriole** (10) (NB). The *Blair* second highest count of a single species in a single location, according to eBird, was of a 3/20 Icterid flock on a PHNR ridgetop that contained around 3,000 **Common Grackles** (DB, vt.). **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported throughout April at various locations, with a high count of 17 4/26 at the Ray Amato Memorial Trail (JC).

A heat wave in late April brought back many warblers a week ahead of average return dates, but wet weather and other adverse conditions did not favor good warbler fallouts in May. Nevertheless, 33 warbler

species, representing all expected Spring species, were reported. The notables are mentioned below. Despite considerable effort, only one **Golden-winged Warbler** was reported, at SGL 278-N 5/29 (MN). The second Spring report for *Blair* of **Orange-crowned Warbler** was from PHNR 4/9 (MB, ph.). Two **Mourning Warblers** were seen at two locations in PHNR 5/13 (MB), and singles were reported at LT 5/18 (NB) and FH 5/19 (LB). A single **Kentucky Warbler** was heard at PHNR 5/13 near a location it has occasionally bred. A *Blair* high count of 25 **Black-and-white Warblers** was reported from PHNR 5/6 (MB) and the Pennsylvania high count of **Worm-eating Warblers** (28) was reported from PHNR the same day (MB).

Blue Grosbeaks visited the area in early May, and one was tallied for *Blair* when it visited a feeder near Tyrone 5/1 and 5/2 (SL). The most outstanding county record for Spring 2023 was of an adult male **Painted Bunting**, reported to MK. It was at a feeder near Juniata Valley Church up through 4/22, and photos were provided. The *Blair* high count of **Scarlet Tanager** (41) was tallied at PHNR 5/14 (MB).

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Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Township (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), Silver Lake Park (SLP).

March was near average in terms of temperature (+1.0°F) and a little drier (-1.16") than usual. April was quite warm (+3.3°F) and somewhat wetter (+1.27") than average. May was the real outlier, with a strange combination of cool (-2.9°F) temperatures and drought conditions (-3.09"). In total, 229 species were documented in *Bucks* this spring, significantly below the 10-year average of 236. March and April featured some sudden warm-ups, but without any major waterfowl fallouts. When May came around, many days were cool and dry with an easterly wind component. This rarely has boded well for spring passerine migration, and many people felt that this spring was a bit disappointing even considering a decent species variety. Top rarities included **Red Phalarope**, **Black-headed Gull**, **Brown Booby**, **Brown Pelican**, and **Swallow-tailed Kite**. Thanks as always to August Mirabella for compiling general notes and observations from long-time birders. Ken Kitson's 1998 *Birds of Bucks County* as well as this journal were referenced for historical information such as early dates, late dates, and county records. In general, only a few early and late dates were set, several of which pertained to shorebirds riding the early spring warm fronts. This year's Pennsylvania Migration Count was the last one to be organized and compiled by Diane Allison. A special thank you, Diane, for 30 years of dedication to this count and for providing this compiler with unforgettable *Bucks* birding memories! The final iteration of this all-day tally took place on 5/13, when a fairly good total of 147 species (9,446 individuals) was detected. Five high counts were tied or broken this year.

Most of the region's **Snow Geese** had left the county before this period began. On 3/17, flyover flocks of 250 at NSP (VM) and 150 at L Towhee CP (PT) constituted the final migrant push and seasonal high counts this year. **Greater White-fronted Goose** is not always reported in the spring after winter birds depart; an adult was photographed at NSP 3/29 with a handful of **Canada Geese**, making it easy to pick out (CPI ph.). Only one **Cackling Goose** was reliably reported, this one at PVP 3/4 (DF). **Mute Swans** were at 12 locations, more than average, almost always in ones or twos (m.ob.). The high count of 12 at PWT 5/6 (DD) was lower than several recent springs at this location. After a delightful spring for **Tundra Swans** last year, one flyover flock of 18 in Buckingham Twp 3/12 were the only ones reported this year (EZ).

Twenty-one duck species were found this period, a bit lower than typical and with no standout rarities or high counts. **Blue-winged Teal** showed up at seven widely spread locations in single digits, with a high of five at NSP 3/27-28 (JBH, EB). Many high counts for dabbling ducks were disappointing, such as 23 **Northern Shovelers** at PWT 4/1 (DF) and 30 **Gadwall** at SLP 3/5 (MG). Thirty **American Wigeons** at Churchville Park 3/2 (KL) were close to average, though. **American Black Ducks** at L Towhee CP only reached 48 on 3/18, certainly fewer

than normal (DH). Always the early movers, **Northern Pintail** were seen primarily at the beginning of the season, with groups of 19 at PVP 3/2 (KR) and 15 over Richland Twp 3/4 (BB). A decent spell of spring weather brought 61 **Green-winged Teal** to BRD 3/27 (AM).

One **Canvasback** was reported along the lower Delaware R at Mud Island 3/9 (DB). **Redheads** fared better with two at PVP 3/2 (KR, JW), four at NSP 3/27 (JBH), and one at the PWT area 4/5 (MG). As many as 151 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at PVP 3/6 (KI), a good average for this time of year. The sum of high counts from four **Greater Scaup** locations totaled 52, including a good modern-day count of 28 at NSP 3/11 (DB, m.ob.). **Lesser Scaup** numbers and distribution were very similar, with a cumulative high count of 58 across five sites led by 21 at PWT 4/2-5 (MG, m.ob.).

Although zero scoter species were found this spring, **Long-tailed Ducks** were found in small numbers at four sites. Reports began with one on the Delaware R at Mud Island 3/4 (MGr), followed by two at PVP 3/7 (JW), five at NSP 3/28 (KR), and a closely photographed drake at PWT 4/9 (DD). **Common Goldeneye** was in fairly low numbers at their favorite spots, with high counts of 15 at both NSP 3/4 (RS) and on the Delaware R in Yardley 3/6 (SH). An unusually high concentration of 120 **Hooded Mergansers** were at PWT 3/13 (BS, WS). **Common Merganser** numbers were drastically lower than in most recent springs, with the high count of 464 at PVP 3/6 (KI) being less than a quarter of what is expected during peak season. The sum of high counts for **Red-breasted Mergansers** at five sites totaled 30, with no individual sites having more than 10 birds (m.ob.). **Horned Grebes** were also found at five sites, with a high of nine at NSP 3/18 (DH, m.ob.). A late bird on 5/17 was notable at PWT (DF).

High counts from 26 **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** sites totaled 30 birds, a decent tally (m.ob.). After a terrible showing last year, 14 **Black-billed Cuckoos** from 12 sites were a welcome return and maybe even above average (m.ob.). The continued low migrant presence of **Common Nighthawks** is worth documenting here, with numbers especially along the Delaware R a shadow of what they were even a decade or two ago. This spring's high count was only 25 in Newtown Twp 5/11 (BS, WS, JH). One seen flying past the river at an undisclosed location 4/22 set a new county early date by five days (JMt *fide* AM). A night watch at QTS 5/9 brought a surprise **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, a rare spring record (DF).

While the secretive **Virginia Rail** was only reported from one site this season (DF), two **Soras** were at PWT 5/6 (DD) and again 5/13 (DF), and one was in Upper Makefield Twp 5/10 (RRF). An additional one was at QTS 5/8 (DF). Many birders were happy to see a furtive and colorful **Common Gallinule** at PVP 5/19-27 (EA *fide* TF, m.ob.). Gallinules are rare spring migrants in *Bucks*, often difficult to see in dense aquatic vegetation. The popular pair of **Sandhill Cranes** were last seen at their PRN wintering location 3/16 (KR, KM). An additional crane was seen flying above a Milford Twp park 4/29, almost certainly a passing migrant (SM).

The spring tally of shorebird species came in at just 15, below average and identical to last year's total. The only two plovers were the abundant **Killdeer** and the fairly common migrant **Semipalmated Plover**. The latter were seen at only two sites, with high counts of seven at BRD 5/17 (KR) and four at PWT 5/14 (DD). One **Dunlin** was photographed at PWT 4/22 (DF, DD), and two more made a pit stop at BRD 5/4 (AM). The top count of **Least Sandpiper** at BRD was 67 on 5/14 (AM), the same day that last year's peak tally came. Shorebirds have impeccable timing. The lone **Pectoral Sandpiper** report came from PWT on 4/23-24 (DF, DD). Another infrequent observation this year was of a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at BRD 5/10, often a more common spring migrant (KR). Only one more was reported in the county this spring, at PWT 5/20 (DF). *Bucks* has not really been in on the recent nocturnal flight call (NFC) monitoring scene, but this spring a station in Quakertown detected **Short-billed Dowitcher** 5/22 for the season's only report.

Displaying **American Woodcocks** are not unusual, but one birder's careful observation in good habitat yielded a new eBird county record of nine displaying birds at one site in Buckingham Twp 3/2 (EZ). In a similar vein, **Wilson's Snipe** numbers were way up at their annual BRD hotspot throughout their peak migration in Mar and Apr (m.ob.). The top count there was an outstanding 60 snipe on 3/26 (VP), if not a new all-time high then certainly the best count in a long time. Probably our most frequent spring phalarope, a beautiful female **Red-necked Phalarope** was discovered at a retention pond in Milford Twp 5/20 (DF). A second female was seen days later at the opposite end of the county, at PWT 5/25 (EZ vt.). Although it was in nonbreeding plumage, a **Red Phalarope** at PVP

5/11-12 (AM ph.) was a significantly rarer find and seen by more birders. This is the county's 13th known record of the species.

The rest of the shorebirds passed through without too much fanfare. Thirteen **Spotted Sandpipers** at BRD 5/14 were a good total (AM). A **Solitary Sandpiper** at PVP 3/19 (DL) was almost two weeks earlier than the previous arrival date of 4/1. **Lesser Yellowlegs'** higher counts included 20 at BRD 5/4 (AM) and 35 at PWT 5/9 (EK). Ten **Greater Yellowlegs** in a New Britain Twp flooded area 5/1 were a good spring total (AM), while one at Pine Run Dam 3/2 set a new early date by 10 days (KR).

Nine gull species were found this spring, but only one tern species made the combined total closer to average. The top tally for **Bonaparte's Gulls** was 42 on the Delaware R in Morrisville 4/1 (RS) and that same number at PWT 5/6 (DF). A much rarer **Black-headed Gull** in breeding plumage joined 20 "Bonies" at PWT 4/5-9 for the county's 15th known record. (DF ph., DD ph.). Spring and summer resident **Laughing Gulls** were estimated at 900 on 5/9 in PWT (EZ). They are much rarer farther up the Delaware R and inland, so reports of singles at NSP 4/30 (DF) and on the Delaware R at Washington Crossing Park 5/25 (JA) were noteworthy.

Reports of **Iceland Gulls** included two at PVP 3/11 (JM) and one on the Delaware R at Morrisville 3/23 (EZ), but the real hotspot remains the NSP marina docks. Numerous Icelands could be picked out from the other large gulls during Mar, including a rare adult "**Thayer's**" **Iceland Gull** on 3/4 (DF ph.). The highest single count was of 11 birds on 3/9 (JF ph.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers are swelling dramatically in the county, once again reaching nationally significant numbers. At the NSP marina, 1042 were counted individually on 3/4 (DF). Further into peak migration, 1130 were carefully estimated at the docks 3/11 (EZ ph.). This is almost certainly a new high count for Pennsylvania, and few other places in North America have recorded counts this high at a single site, according to eBird. Not surprisingly, numbers like these included up to two **Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gull** hybrids 3/9-12 (JF ph., EZ ph., BE). It's not unheard of for **Glaucous Gull** to persist on the lower Delaware R into May, but an immature at PWT 4/15-5/20 was still a quality find and the period's only report (DF, EZ ph.). Amazingly, a **Caspian Tern** at NSP 4/6 (JD) and one at PWT 5/3 (DF) were the only reports of this migrant for the whole spring. They are typically reported in singles, pairs, and small groups from multiple locations in spring. Six scarce **Common Terns** stopped at PWT 4/30, the only other tern species reported this spring (DF).

A distant **Red-throated Loon** was seen by multiple birders from 3/11-12 at NSP (DF, m.ob.). More curious was a report of a flyover in Newtown Twp 5/7 (KG ph.), which is late but not extremely so. **Common Loon** detections were mostly uneventful and often in the low single digits, but a very warm 4/14 produced groups of 10 at PVP (KI) and 20 at NSP (SG). A few Observers at PWT 5/17 were able to see the sixth *Bucks* record of **Brown Booby**, apparently an adult as seen in photographs (JH, DF ph., DD ph.).

Great Cormorant was lightly reported from three typical locations on the lower Delaware R, mostly in Mar (m.ob.), with a maximum count of five at Mud Island in Bensalem Twp 3/4 (MGr). **Double-crested Cormorant** numbers reached typical spring concentrations in excess of 200 birds, with 255 at PVP 4/18 (AM), 218 at PWT 4/23 (DF), and 210 on the Delaware R at Morrisville 5/3 (EZ). One of the county's largest rarities was an adult **Brown Pelican** that was found 5/18 (JH) and dwarfed a pack of **Herring Gulls** at PWT on 5/19 (DD ph.). This is the second confirmed county record.

Regular monitoring of **American Bittern** migratory flights at QTS resulted in a good total of 21 bitterns on 13 spring nights 4/3-5/12 (DF), with a peak count of four birds together 4/3 (DF, AH). Bitterns seem to have a habit of showing up in odd places and small slivers of habitat, and one at the edge of a small pond in Doylestown Twp 4/12 fit that profile well (TFH). One was detected by NFC monitoring in Quakertown 4/27 (CP), one flushed from Paunacussing Preserve 5/4 (EZ), and one was heard at SLP 5/6 to complete this spring's roundup of sightings (LC, KW). **Least Bittern** has been consistently tied to reedy wetland habitat, and such habitat attracted one to SLP 5/18 (DD). **Great Egret** sightings were as usual, with most observations of one or two birds and one report of four at Tyler SP 5/11 (MF, BEB). Six on the lower Delaware R 4/22 was a good spring tally (DF). A **Snowy Egret** was seen by many at BRD 5/4 (GJ, m.ob. ph.). Two flew past PWT during a rainstorm on 4/29 DD ph.), and one there on 5/14 was quite possibly a third individual (DD ph.). In a slightly odd twist, none of the four sites reporting **Black-crowned Night-**

Heron were the annual SLP site. Most if not all of these were migrants. An adult was seen on the Delaware R in Tinicum Twp 5/15 (GLe), and perhaps the same bird again on 5/31 (EB). An immature was at NSP 5/17 (DF), an adult was at PVP 5/18 (ML ph.), and an unknown aged bird flew over Hilltown Twp on the night of 5/18 (AH).

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was photographed in Bedminster Twp 5/7, about the sixth county record (KF). Readers of this report should begin to expect **Mississippi Kite** to appear here just about every spring, as more and more kites wander north to our area. One was photographed well over a Quakertown yard 5/13 (CP ph.), one was described with vultures in Newtown Twp 5/15 (BS, WS, *no doc*), and an adult was observed and photographed in Doylestown Twp 5/29 (EZ). It has always been good practice to document kites with photos and a rigorous description that eliminates other long-winged raptors. Observers are also encouraged to submit a report to PORC, as long as it continues to be a Review List species. Our most abundant migrating raptor is the **Broad-winged Hawk**, and birders paying attention to the skies in mid- to late Apr can be rewarded with a great flight. One observer had a decent count of 48 over a Quakertown residence 4/22 (CP). Owls are a sensitive topic in general, for good reason. The recent assignment of **Long-eared Owl** as an eBird "sensitive species" means that specific locations are not available for public viewing. This spring, single Long-ears were detected at two sites during the month of Mar (m.ob. ph., vr.). A migrant **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at PVP 3/21 was discovered more by a mobbing porphyrio flock than by the human observer (AM).

Of the ten locations (!) hosting **Red-headed Woodpecker**, five of these were known breeding sites (m.ob.). Some or all of the remaining five were migrant observations, falling in the species' prime May migration window (m.ob.). With so many dead ash and other trees available in some locations, though, it will be interesting to see if any of these observations were continued into the summer season. As far as notable falcon observations go, a **Merlin** over Owl's Nest Park 5/17 was on the later side for this migrant and the last of several mid-May observations this year (SF, CF ph.).

Olive-sided Flycatchers can appear in almost any wooded patch during migration, such as in a Warminster Twp park 5/7 (BS ph.). However, the most reliable spot to find one in spring and fall is the trails at SGL 157. Indeed, one stopped here 5/16, just the right time window for birders to search for them (AH). One **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was described in Upper Makefield Twp 5/15 for the only report (CPI). **Alder Flycatchers** had a very good run this spring, with single birds at five locations. One was at NSP 5/14 (SG vr.), Owl's Nest Park 5/15 (SF vr.) and at nearby Paunacussing Preserve 5/22 (EZ vr.), one in Hilltown Twp 5/23 (AH), and one at PVP 5/26 (KI). Single **Least Flycatchers** were found, and often photographed or recorded, at nine sites for an average spring showing (m.ob.). **Blue-headed Vireos** arriving here early seems to be a trendy thing lately, so the one at SLP 4/10 was tied for an all-time early arrival but not shocking for recent years (DD). A **Red-eyed Vireo** at PWT 4/23 (DF) matched our county arrival date.

The **Blue Jay** migration tap was set to "On" this spring, following a typical two-year irruptive pattern. The highest dedicated tally produced 340 at NSP 5/6 (SG). The largest single group of **Common Ravens** was six at SLP 3/5 (DD), a notable southern tally of this newer county resident. A little light for an irruption year, but still noticeable, were reports of one or two **Black-capped Chickadees** across 13 sites countywide (m.ob.). One reported on 5/6 at Churchville Park would set a new late record by 19 days if correct (KK). Chickadee identification, especially in the spring when birds are worn, is always tough. A lack of spring snowpack meant very low **Horned Lark** numbers, with sightings at just five locations and a high of only 25 at MKF 3/9 (RS). The presence of at least one bird at MKF into late May (RS) and at PWT 5/6 (DD ph.) is possible indication of breeding attempts.

Red-breasted Nuthatches had a fine spring, with winter residents augmented by returning spring migrants through most of May (m.ob.). The highest count from any of the 36 reported sites was of five at NSP 3/10 in good habitat (DF). A very late **Brown Creeper** at SGL 157 on 5/29 was reported to be singing (MGr). Creepers have rarely been confirmed breeding in the county in the past couple decades, but a few remnants of habitat remain. If this was a late migrant, it set the new county late date by a large margin. Marsh Wren was a surprising spring miss for the species list. At least a couple are usually seen during migration. Four sites hosted **Gray-cheeked Thrush** in May, with high counts from each site totaling seven birds (m.ob.). **Swainson's Thrushes** were reported in abundant numbers, with high counts from 33 sites adding up to 59 birds (m.ob.). This kind of distribution was not

reported in at least the past four spring seasons in **Bucks**. Six lingering **American Pipits** in the MKF area 5/17 (RS) were the highest number from six sites, but one at BRD 5/23 was notable as furnishing a new county late by four days (KR).

Purple Finches were seen by many this spring, usually in singles and small groups at 32 locations (m.ob.). The standout high count was of 27 in SGL 157 on 4/27 (DF), and the last reported female-type bird was at SLP 5/15 (DD). **Pine Siskins** did not feature as a major irruptive migrant this spring. One was at a feeder with other finches in Tinicum Twp 4/9 (GS, HS), and one was in Owls Nest Park in Buckingham Twp 4/18-22 (SF).

Migrant **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at MKF 5/22-23 (RS) and detected by NFC over Quakertown on five nights 4/21-5/13 (CP). The 4/21 detection set an early date by three days, part of a statewide realization that this species migrates through the region a lot earlier than most returning breeders. Another migrant was a big surprise to Observers when it popped up for photos in a wooded Millford Twp preserve 5/7 (BH, GH, BG). Likely resident birds were back at Tinicum Twp 5/13 (DA) and up to two at Van Sant Airport from 5/10 through the end of the season (m.ob.).

Speaking of surprises, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** singing in a West Rockhill Twp yard 5/14 was an excellent record and possibly the first time this species has been recorded singing in the county (GL ph, AH vr.). Continuing numbers of declining **American Tree Sparrows** from the winter resulted in a high count of seven in Plumstead Twp 3/6 (MF). The other three sites had just one or two birds, and the last report came from Upper Makefield Twp 4/7 (CP). The only report of **Vesper Sparrow** came a little early during their migration from a Doylestown Twp park 3/30 (NG). In fact, this was a new county early date by one day. A **Savannah Sparrow** in a mown West Rockhill Twp field 5/29 was too late for most migrants and likely failed if it attempted to breed (AH).

A singing **Yellow-breasted Chat** attracted a lot of birder attention at PVP 5/12-17 (MS, m.ob. ph.), and one there on 5/21 may have been a different bird (AH). A separate chat was heard calling at MKF 5/13, again probably a migrant (RS). Also on 5/13, a good spring flock of 65 **Bobolinks** put down at MKF (RS). After several down seasons at SLP, nice **Rusty Blackbird** groups included 35 on 3/8 (MGr) and 50 on 4/30 (DD). Elsewhere, moderate numbers included 25 at QTS 4/3 (AH) and 19 at BRD 4/21 (AM).

Despite low numbers in general, warbler variety was good at 33 species. Golden-winged was the only real miss. **Prothonotary Warbler** was detected at SLP 4/22, 5/7, and 5/23 (all DD), in all probability at least two birds. Much earlier in the spring, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** visited suet for the second year in a row 3/14-17 (BS ph., WS). Three different **Nashville Warbler** sightings were documented before the previous arrival date of 4/25, with this year's earliest coming in at 4/21 in SLP (DD). Single **Mourning Warblers** were at three **Location**: at BRD 5/9 (AM), at SLP 5/18 (DD), and in Doylestown Twp 5/21 (NG). **Kentucky Warblers** were singing at Tyler SP 5/17 (MGr, DF) and Neshaminy SP 5/19-20 (WS, BS), one apiece. A **Hooded Warbler** at SLP 4/22 (DD) was the new earliest arrival in the county by three days. A singing **Cerulean Warbler** was a great bird in Springfield Twp 5/12 (BF). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** singing from sycamore trees on the Delaware R in Riegelsville 4/14-15 (EZ, EB) was less unexpected, but always a good find. Both male and female **Blue Grosbeaks** returned to MKF 5/12 (RS), while a female in Lower Makefield Twp 5/7 was more likely a passing migrant (MD, AS). A male was at PWT 5/13 (DF).

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Butler County

Locations: Lake Arthur (LA), North Shore (NS); Stoughton Road (SR).

The spring season seemed to start early with temps in the 40s the first week of March. **Eastern Bluebirds** were inspecting nest boxes, **Lesser Yellowlegs** foraged at Lake Arthur, and **Wild Turkey** gobblers displayed for hens. Due to the extraordinarily mild winter, many duck species had already arrived in February so it seemed spring was imminent. However, after these early encouraging signs, colder temperatures prevailed, and a slow gradual spring unfolded.

Cold wet weather the last two weeks of Apr and into the first days of May encouraged a few migrants to linger, including a **Tundra Swan** photographed in the far northeastern area of the county 5/7 (DW). Other notable late birds included **Blue-winged Teal** until at least 5/18. The species historically nested in *Butler* but has not been confirmed since the first Breeding Bird Atlas. Tagged as late by eBird were two pairs of **Green-winged Teal** which lingered at Thorn Res until at least 5/5 (KB). Three, including one drake, lingered there until at least 5/7 (KB), and another was seen at SGL 95 marsh 5/8 (KB). Rounding out the rear-guard was a **Ruddy Duck** at Christie Rd 5/13 (MAK, GK). Dry weather the last three weeks of May alarmed Observers as insect activity was greatly reduced at the beginning of the nesting season. Surprising was a **Ruddy Turnstone** photographed at LA 5/31 (GG *vide* MV). Much more frequently seen in *Erie*, this is one of only eight known *Butler* records for this species; the most recent was in 2012.

Overall, 21 species of ducks were reported with **Canvasbacks**, **Long-tailed Ducks**, and **Common Goldeneyes** rather scarce. No scoters were reported. Despite no notable fallouts or events, a few nice counts included 24 **Northern Shovelers** at Wildlife Observation Area 3/5 (JJ), 21 **Northern Pintails** at SGL 95 marsh 3/22 (MAK, GK), and 62 **Green-winged Teal** there the same day (KB).

Small flocks of **Wild Turkeys** were widespread, with top counts of 53 at Reichert Rd 3/20 (MAK, GK) and 54 there 3/24 (MC). **Ruffed Grouse** were reported from three locations with eBird showing almost none in surrounding counties. Small numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen through the season, and **Horned Grebes** dove for fish at LA until 4/23 (vr.). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** arrived at SR 5/13 (MC et al) and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were a bit earlier at Burton Road 5/9 (DK). The northeastern section of the county is one of a few areas that consistently harbor **Eastern Whip-poor-wills**, **Virginia Rails** and **Sora** were seen in their usual haunts at SGL 95, as well as in marshes around LA, with singles of both species at SR 5/13 (MC et al).

Rather scarce in Western Pennsylvania this season, the only location cited for **Common Gallinule** was SGL 95. Most often seen in small numbers, **American Coot** tallies topped out at 66 at LA 3/20 (KK), and **Sandhill Cranes** were seen consistently through the season at SGL 95 and SR (m.ob.). Overall, 15 shorebird species were reported. In addition to the unexpected **Ruddy Turnstone** described above, three **Black-bellied Plovers**, uncommon in *Butler*, foraged at SGL 95 marsh 5/16 (OM). Not seen as frequently as the expected shorebirds, both **Dunlin** (vr.) and **Short-billed Dowitchers** were enjoyed. Up to four **Dunlin** were found at SGL 95 marsh 5/13-17, and three **Short-billed Dowitchers** were photographed nicely in flight at LA 5/11 (MAK, GK).

Having already returned by 2/25, **American Woodcocks** were spotted 3/2-5/16 (vr.), and a nice flock of 20 **Wilson's Snipes** was put up by a **Northern Harrier** at SR 4/2 (MAK, GK). **Bonaparte's Gulls** gathered in nice flocks of 64 at NS 3/29 (MAK, GK), 103 were there 4/20 (MC), and 137 showed up at L Oneida 4/19 (KB). These are very nice totals, but they pale in comparison to several historic high counts from the 1970s, including 500 to 700 tallied by expert birders (WR, SR, PH). **Caspian Terns** stopped at LA 4/6-22, and **Forster's Terns** were seen there 4/20-5/13, with one seen with a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls in the unusual location of LO 4/19 (KB). A **Red-throated Loon**, observed shaking a recently caught fish, then losing it to Ring-billed Gulls nearby, was observed by many at NS 3/12-16 (MC et al). **Common Loons** were present at LA 3/15 through the season into Jun with a nice tally of 63 at Bear Run Boat Launch 3/31 (MD).

Small numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** were present in early Mar, building to 34 at Bear Run Boat Launch 3/25 (MC) and up to 133 at McDanel's Boat Launch 4/1 (vr.). A infrequently reported species, **American Bittern**, was spotted at SGL 95 Gate Seven 5/6 (MAK, GK). The new **Great Blue Heron** rookery discovered last year at Pry Rd had seven nests, one with young 5/6 (MAK, GK). **Great Egrets** graced three locations 4/23-27 (vr.). The first **Osprey** to arrive was at Porter's Cove

3/18 (MC). With multiple nests around Moraine SP and SGL 95, a pair at LO was observed carrying nesting material, but breeding had not yet been confirmed (KB). Osprey sightings have increased from other areas including one observed at Glade Run L 3/27-4/26 (SG). Observers should anticipate a nest at that location. Most interesting was an account of one hovering over a goldfish garden pond at a Portersville residence 4/29 (MC).

Bald Eagles were observed on nest at LA, SGL 95 and LO. Very scarce regionally, single **Short-eared Owls** were seen at SR 3/5-19 (MC), and **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were enjoyed at five locations (vr.). Single **Merlins** were listed at LA 3/15-4/7 (vr.) and a **Peregrine Falcon**, not often seen in *Butler*, visited SGL 95 marsh 4/29 (KB). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was photographed at Burton Road 5/17 (EH). Very interesting were two **Fish Crows** seen and heard at Butler-Freepoint Trail 4/20 (OM). Fish Crows have been observed in nearby *Allegheny* since 2004 and have only been reported in *Butler* a few times. **Common Ravens** were widely observed in every section of the county through the season.

An interesting display of bird behavior was photographed at South Shore 4/2 (KB) when an estimated 220 **Tree Swallows** took short flights over the water, then repeatedly returned to the same tree. After a winter season that saw just a single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reported, up to four were seen foraging in at least a dozen widespread localities. A nice flock of 45 **American Pipits** appeared at SR 4/1 (MC et al). Usually seen as singletons or duos, 13 **Purple Finches** graced a feeder near Callery (CT) and up to 36 were observed at Shanor-Northview 4/17-26, part of a nice movement. Occasionally confirmed as nesting in *Butler*, one was observed carrying nesting material at SGL 95 Parker 5/11 (KB).

Grassland sparrows were in short supply. With the decline in grassland observations from the Barkeyville Flats, areas around Book Rd showed promise with recent observations of seven **Savannah Sparrows**, two **Henslow's Sparrows** as well as 17 **Bobolinks** 5/26 (MAK, GK). By far the largest tally of **American Tree Sparrows** was 33 at SGL 95's Gate Seven 3/16 (MAK, GK).

Highlights from the wonderful warblers included both a **Golden-winged Warbler** at Pry Road 5/18 (KB) and a **Brewster's Warbler** banded near Chicora 5/26 (NL). Among warblers seen only once were the Golden-winged cited above, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** observed at Park Road 5/11 (MAK, GK) and a **Prairie Warbler** at Hooker Rd 5/11 (KB). Overall, thirty-one species and one hybrid were seen in a season that had good variety but less than stellar numbers. First reported arrival dates were these: **Ovenbird** 4/21, **Louisiana Waterthrush** 3/29, **Northern Waterthrush** 4/21, **Blue-winged Warbler** 4/23, **Black-and-White Warbler** 4/24, **Tennessee Warbler** 5/8, **Nashville Warbler** 4/23, **Kentucky Warbler** 5/7, **Common Yellowthroat** 4/25, **Hooded Warbler** 4/14, **American Redstart** 4/30, **Cape May Warbler** 5/7, **Cerulean Warbler** 5/7, **Northern Parula** 4/26, **Magnolia Warbler** 5/8, **Bay-breasted Warbler** 5/7, **Blackburnian Warbler** 5/6, **Yellow Warbler** 4/15, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 5/4, **Blackpoll Warbler** 5/13, **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 5/6, **Palm Warbler** 4/22, **Pine Warbler** 4/11, **Yellow-throated Warbler** 4/11, **Black-throated Green Warbler** 4/23, and **Canada Warbler** 5/17.

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Cambria County

Location: Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG).

In total, 187 species were reported during the spring. A large number of ducks at PG finally showed up 3/5. Species of note that week included a **Greater White-fronted Goose** (TA). A single **Cackling Goose** was found at a private-residence pond in Croyle Twp 3/29 (MH). **Blue-winged Teal** showed up at PG 3/29 (m.ob.), and a **Northern Shoveler** was also there the week of 3/5 (m.ob.). **Long-tailed Ducks** graced the county in three different locations at the end of Mar into Apr: PG (m.ob.), Duman L.'s Dam (AE), and L Rowena (AM). **Common Goldeneye** was also at PG the week of 3/5 (m.ob.)

An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was found outside of Hastings 5/26 (PI, WI). **Virginia Rails** were reported at PG 4/15, 4/23 and 5/13 (TA, JC),

with a **Sora** there 4/23 (JC) and a **Least Sandpiper** 5/26 (PI, WI). **American Woodcocks** continued at PG in Apr and early May (m.ob.) and at SGL 184 (JK, AR).

Wilson's Snipe, **Spotted Sandpiper**, and **Solitary Sandpiper** were all at PG. Shorebird species at PG included a **Greater Yellowlegs** on 4/6 (J&SD), **Lesser Yellowlegs** seen twice in mid-May (TA, RL), and an **American Bittern** 5/12 (PI, WI).

A **Horned Lark** was on Colver Road 5/16 (MK). **American Pipits** were reported at PG 4/29 (TA). **Pine Siskins** were at Wilmore Res 4/13 (TA) and at a private residence in Johnstown 4/21 (DP). Small numbers of **Bobolinks** were found in four locations in May (PI, WI, RL, TA). A single **Rusty Blackbird** was found multiple times at PG (m.ob.).

Thirty species of warblers were reported throughout the county, including **Golden-winged Warbler**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, and **Cerulean Warbler**. Notable was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** reported along Fiske Road 5/12 (TA). **Canada Warbler** and **Wilson's Warbler** were also observed.

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Cameron County

Locations: Britton Hill (BH), Hicks Run (HR), Sterling Run (SR), Sterling Run Mines (SRM), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP).

There were 161 species found this season. A first county record, **Greater White-fronted Goose**, was at SSP 3/23 (KJ). Two **Blue-winged Teals** were at HR 4/29 (WW), and 13 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were observed at SSP 3/4 (MJ). A single **Virginia Rail** was found at SSP 5/25 (DB), and six **Wilson's Snipe** were at SRM 4/1 (AS). Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** passed through SSP 5/13 (BH), also visited by 15 **Ring-billed Gulls** 5/6 (WW) and a **Golden Eagle** 3/14 (KJ).

Five **Barred Owls** were found at SRM 4/15 (CB). A continuing pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was seen at BH 4/26-5/31 (SZ). A **Merlin** was at HR 5/19 (ES). Eight **Horned Larks** were found at SRM 3/26 (AS). A high count of 33 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, nine **Brown Creepers**, and five **Winter Wrens** were seen at Wykoff Run 4/2 (EM). Twelve **Hermit Thrushes** were at SRM 4/14 (AS).

As many as 37 **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen daily at a feeder in SR 4/19-5/7 (KJ). Eleven **Purple Finches** were at SRM 4/23 (AS). In May, two **Pine Siskins** were seen at SSP 5/6 (BG), and five **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at SRM 5/14 (AS).

A rare **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found at SR 3/18 (GJ). Eleven **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at SRM 4/14 (AS). An **Orchard Oriole** was found at SSP 5/13 (GJ). Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were at BH 3/17 (MJ). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was found in Emporium 5/7 (AS). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at SSP 5/13 (GJ).

The first county record of a single **Western Tanager** was found at SR 4/22 (GJ).

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Carbon County

Locations: Beltzville State Park (BSP), Hickory Run State Park, Mud Run/ Hawk's Falls area (HRSP), Mauch Chunk Lake and Park (MCL), Penn Forest Reservoir (PFR), Phieffer's Ice Dam Park (PIDP), Strohl's Valley Road (SVR), Wild Creek Reservoir (WCR).

Birds had to contend with fluctuating temperatures in March with at least 48 hours of hot, dry weather, then with the cold, damp weather that followed.

One **Greater White-fronted Goose** was spotted at BSP 4/3 (LB). The **Snow Goose** high count was 140 at SVR (PN). Earliest count of four **Wood Ducks** was at BSP 3/4 (MD). A single **Gadwall** was a loner at Perryville Dam 3/27 (PN). Another single was an **American Wigeon** at MCL 3/8 (JBD) and then at PIDP 3/14 (PN). **American Black Ducks** were counted at eight at BSP 3/7 and then 40 at MCL 3/8 (JD). One

Blue-winged Teal at MCL 4/6 (SH) was an early bird. **Northern Pintails** at BSP numbered 15 (PN) 3/7, and three **Green-winged Teals** at BSP 3/17 and then seven at MCL 3/22 (JBD) rounded out that count.

Four **Redheads** passing through showed up at MCL 3/8 (JBD). **Ring-necked Ducks** really showed up with the highest count of 51 at BSP (BW) and were also seen at MCL 3/22 and 4/7. A migrant **Greater Scaup** was spotted at BSP 4/20 (EK) and then later another or the same 5/18 (RR). One **Lesser Scaup** got in the count at BSP 5/7 (BW).

Twelve **Long-tailed Ducks** refueled at BSP 3/28 (BS). **Bufflehead** high count of 20 was at BSP 3/16 with last count of four at BSP 4/20 (EK). Top count for **Hooded Mergansers** was 13 at MCL 3/18 (JBD). **Common Mergansers** with 21 at WCR was the higher of two counts 4/15 (PN). One **Ruddy Duck** seemed a little late at BSP 5/7 (BW).

A flock of 16 **Wild Turkeys** was counted at SVR 3/25 (PN). **Common Loons** were spotted with a high count of seven at WCR on 4/27 (BW), and last sighting was one at BSP 5/20 (EZ). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** at BSP on 4/6 (PN) was a fortunate sighting. Up to six **Double-crested Cormorants** at various locations with the earliest showing up 3/29 also made the list.

The first **Osprey** sighting was two at BSP 3/29 (MC). **Bald Eagles** were mainly at BSP with one near the nesting site 4/8 (m.ob.) One **Northern Harrier** at BSP was seen from 3/1-5/13. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** made the count with the earliest date 3/4 (MD) and later two were seen 5/14 (SH), both at BSP. **Cooper's Hawks** and **Red-shouldered Hawks** in pairs were counted at various locations (m.ob.), with the earliest sighting for a **Broad-winged Hawk** 4/19 (BD). First sighting for **Red-tailed Hawk** was 3/18 Perryville Dam (RR). **American Kestrels** were at SVR as early as 3/23 (RR). One **Merlin** was noted at BSP 3/14 (BW).

A single **American Coot** on 4/16 at MCL (SH) made the count as well. In the sandpiper gang, earliest dates were one **Spotted Sandpiper** seen 5/18 (MM), one **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/7 (PN), two **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/28 (RB), and one **Least Sandpiper** 5/6 (RR). At BSP, one **Wilson's Snipe** on 3/30 (MM) and four **American Woodcocks** 3/4 (MD) were pretty much on time.

Of the gulls, single **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen 3/29 and 4/30, one at MCL and the other at BSP. A **Ring-billed Gull** first appeared at PIDP 3/2 (PN), and last sighting was at BSP 4/21 (DG). A **Caspian Tern** at MCL 4/30 (SH) and a **Foster's Tern** at BSP 4/21 (RB) were the only terns reported. Another single was a **Barred Owl** at HRSP 5/6 (TH).

One **Common Nighthawk** at BSP (EZ) and two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** at PFR 5/15 (PN) were reported. Only one **Chimney Swift** at MCL 4/30 (DK) was counted. The **Red-headed Woodpecker** on 5/20 got its photo taken at WCR (RR). Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** at MCL 4/7 (SH) were a plus. **Northern Flickers** arrived at PIDP at least as early as 3/7 (PN).

Eastern Wood-Pewees were sighted at both PFR and WCR 5/25. An **Acadian Flycatcher** appeared at HRSP 5/22 (JB), a **Willow Flycatcher** at SVR 5/25 (PN), three **Least Flycatchers** at HRSP 5/11 (TF), and an **Eastern Phoebe** was spotted at BSP as early as 3/30 (PN). Only one **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at WCR 5/25. **Eastern Kingbirds** were reported at various locations 5/18-5/28 (m.ob.).

Four vireo species were around: **White-eyed Vireo** at BSP 5/20 (EZ), two **Yellow-throated Vireos** last reported 5/22 (JB), **Blue-headed Vireo** first reported 4/21 (RB), and a **Warbling Vireo** both at MCL 4/30 and at SVR 5/25. Two **Horned Larks** were counted at SVR 3/22 (RR) and one at BSP 4/16 (BW). Only two **Purple Martins** were the high count at SVR 5/25 (PN). Better counts of swallows came in: 24 **Tree Swallows** at MCL 4/30 (DK), high count of 12 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at MCL 4/30 (DK), four **Bank Swallows** at BSP 5/20 (EZ), two **Cliff Swallows** at MCL 4/30 (DK), and **Barn Swallows** beginning 4/30 at various locations with high count of 10 at SVR 5/28.

Two **Brown Creepers** were spotted at HRSP 4/1 (JD). Up to three **House Wrens** were seen 4/27 (RR) and a **Winter Wren** 4/19 (BD), all at BSP. Top count for **Veery** was four at HRSP 5/21 (JH) with other sites hosting one: PFR 5/28, WCR 5/28, and HRSP 5/31. A **Swainson's Thrush** was photographed at HRSP 5/21 (LH) with another one showing up a day earlier at BSP (RB). The earliest report for a **Hermit Thrush** this year was one at SVR seen 3/9. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at various locations with earliest report at BSP 4/8 (PN). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were around at WCR as late as 5/13 (AM).

Up to six **Ovenbirds** at HRSP 5/21 (JH) was a good count with singles at various locations, and **Worm-eating Warbler** was seen several times. **Louisiana Waterthrush** came in with four sightings with

the earliest at HRSP 5/11 (TF), but the only sighting for **Northern Waterthrush** was at BSP 5/21 (JBD).

The more uncommon warblers seen at BSP included one **Blue-winged Warbler** 5/12 (RB), **Tennessee Warblers** at the largest count of six on 5/20 (EZ), two **Nashville Warblers** 5/9 (RB), and a **Mourning Warbler** (EZ) 5/20. Four **Cape May Warblers** at BSP 5/13 (AM) and singles of **Northern Parula** at various locations were also recorded. Single **Magnolia Warblers** were at WCR and HRSP 5/13-21. Single **Bay-breasted Warblers** considered uncommon were seen at BSP and WCR 5/20 (RB) and 5/31 (AM). Two **Blackburnian Warblers** at HRSP 5/21 (JH) were noted. **Blackpoll Warblers** had five sightings at various locations 5/11-26. Only one report came in at five **Black-throated Blue Warblers** again at HRSP 5/21 (JH). Two **Palm Warblers** showed up first at SVR 4/10 (PN). **Canada Warblers** from 5/21 and at a high count of 10 (JH) at HRSP then had four at the same location 5/28 (SC). A **Wilson's Warbler** at BSP 5/20 (EZ) was a good note.

Clay-colored Sparrows seemed early with two sightings at BSP 3/14-19. A **Savannah Sparrow** at BSP 5/9 and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at BSP 5/12 were nice sightings (both RB). **Swamp Sparrows** were recorded at BSP as early as 3/30 (MM). A single **Fox Sparrow** hung around until 4/5 (RB). **White-crowned Sparrows** were last seen 5/14 (TS).

Eastern Meadowlark at only one report was recorded 5/23 at BSP (RB), and one **Rusty Blackbird** 3/26 was at BSP, too (MC).

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Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Black Moshannon State Park (BMSP), Dreibelbis Birding Area – formerly known as Julian Wetlands (JUL), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), Toftrees Pond and Gamelands (TOF).

The following species were reported in five or more locations and will not be discussed further in this report: **Snow Goose**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Great Egret**, and **Yellow-throated Warbler**. Information for this report was obtained primarily from eBird and the State College Bird Club listserv with background and status from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was observed at TOF 3/11-15 (NL, et al.). This species was reported five times between 1972-2009. Beginning in 2016, there was at least one report, often of multiple birds, in six of the eight years. A **Brant** was heard at an NFC station in State College 5/25 (JG). A **Trumpeter Swan** was spotted in two **Location:** BESP 3/31-4/1 (RS, et al.) and the Howard Park and Boat Launch 4/1 (JV). Because of the proximity of these locations and the overlapping observations, they are probably sightings of the same bird. **Black Scoters** are rare spring migrants. Nonetheless, a pair was seen at BESP 4/17 (JV, et al.).

An unexpected sighting of a "pair [of **Red-necked Grebes**] in non-breeding plumage" occurred at BESP 3/2 (JP).

On 4/26, a **King/Clapper Rail** was heard during an NFC count in State College. The observer "want[s] to rule out Clapper by probability but will leave it as a slash for now" (JG). Since 1956, there have been four reports of **King Rails** in *Centre*, but **Clapper Rails** have never been reported.

Up to four **Virginia Rails** were at JUL 4/3-5/28 (JKe, et al.). Single birds were noted at Bald Eagle Baptist Church 4/22 (DH) and at the Curtin Wetland 5/5 (SS). Single birds were also reported at BMSP 5/19 (RF) and 5/26 (AM).

One or two **Common Gallinules** were at JUL 4/22-5/27 (MK, et al.). A single one was seen at 5/6-7 SCO (SSz, MM, BB). A casually occurring **Black-bellied Plover** was "mixed in with a flock of gulls" at BESP 4/22 (JV). Up to 15 **Dunlin** were noted at BESP 4/16-5/25 (JP). One was also spotted 4/21 at BMSP (MB). A **Red-throated Loon** was seen in "non-breeding adult plumage" at BESP 4/15-22 (JV, KE). A rare **Glossy Ibis** was reported in two locations 4/16; however, because of the proximity of

Howard Park and Boat Launch (DH) and BESP (JP), the reports were probably of the same bird.

At a nest box location near Centre Hall, as many as six **Barn Owls** were observed 3/8-5/23 (JK, et al.). The high count of six was reported 5/23 with representatives of the "PGC banding four young. Two parents [were in the] silo." One was also heard at an NFC station in State College 4/21 (JG). A **Long-eared Owl** was reported to eBird sometime during the spring migration. However, this is a sensitive species, and no additional information is available.

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were observed at two **Location:** one was seen in Poe Valley in Bald Eagle SF 5/12 (NF, BB, JF), and at least one was present in SCO 5/19 (MF, PSO Data) and 5/24 (DH). A couple lucky birders saw and heard **Philadelphia Vireos:** one in Spring Cr. Canyon at SGL 333 on 5/15 (AE) and another at BESP 5/27 (GH). A foraging **Marsh Wren** was spotted at JUL 4/27 (KP, DH).

Gray-cheeked Thrush was reported at three locations. One was spotted at SCO 5/18 "with [a] flock of migrant warblers" (TJo, LH, NR). Another was recorded 5/23 during an NFC count in Bellefonte (JP). An unknown number was recorded in an NFC count on Remington Ridge 5/23 (JV). Two female **Evening Grosbeaks** were spotted in Pine Grove Mills 4/29 (JV). Single rare **Mourning Warblers** were reported at four **Location:** at Galbraith Gap 5/7 (TJ), at SCO 5/13 (DH), along SR 3021 near Julian 5/20 (JV, et al.), and at BESP 5/28 (JP). A casually occurring adult male **Blue Grosbeak** was present in Taylor Twp 4/27-29 (MN, et al.).

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), ChesLen Preserve (CLP), Downingtown (DOW), Great Marsh (GM), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Pickering Creek Trail (PCT).

This season was characterized by the appearance of many first and second seasonal records. Like the only winter sighting, a lone **Ross's Goose** was observed on 3/3 flying north over CL with approx. 500 **Snow Geese** (LL). Puddle ducks were reported in moderate numbers at expected locations through mid-April, with a few reports of **Blue-winged Teal**, **American Wigeon**, and **Green-winged Teal** into May. A single **Canvasback** spent part of March at Honey Brook WTF, while **Redhead** was represented by a pair that spent the entire month at CL; a max of 12 birds were at MCSP 3/12. The only scoter for the period, one **Black Scoter**, was at MCSP 3/7-11. Another sought-after diving duck was **Long-tailed Duck**; at Struble L three were reported on 3/28 while two spent time at MCSP 3/7 and again 3/28. Fifteen **Common Goldeneye** at MCSP 3/12 (RRg) were notable. Also at MCSP were one to two **Red-breasted Merganser** during several days in Mar, but the 15 drakes that dropped into CL 3/2 were remarkable (LL, RR, MN).

Common Nighthawk was reported from only a few locations, with a high of 40 over a residence in DOW 5/22 (ZB). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** had one to four birds heard during the evenings 5/13-21, and two were heard on 5/22 during a visit that began at 4:41 AM (LLy). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were first reported during the week of 4/8. **Virginia Rail** was reported from seven locations, some expected and some not so much. At CLP, one to two birds were consistently heard, viewed, and photographed 4/4-5/22, and then on 5/23 breeding was evidenced with a sighting of 12 Virginia Rails: three ad. and nine chicks split in two family groups (CH). Common breeders at GM, a high of 11 birds were identified 4/19 (MC). For the third year in a row, two birds grunted their way into eBird reports at Daisy Point Rd Wetland 4/22 (SS). Single birds were reported from Waterloo Mills Preserve 4/5 (KF), Valley Forge NHP 4/22 (JW), and MCSP 5/1 (KF, PD). Two birds that unexpectedly responded to a **Sora** tape 5/5 represented species #163 for Crow's Nest Preserve (JK). In addition to the Sora heard there 5/5, a single bird was heard at Waterloo Mills Preserve 5/3 (KF), while one to two were frequently reported from CLP 4/18-5/13. **American Coot** reports of one to three birds came from numerous locales with most birds present through mid-Apr (m.ob.).

Several species of shorebirds were most likely observed high in the evening sky, migrating north from Delaware Bay. **Black-bellied Plover** is one such species, as seen from CLP 5/26 when 110 birds were observed (RG, JK, AC). Many sightings are reported from BCP during the Delaware Nature Society's Kite & Shorebird Watch. From there 300 **Whimbrel** were observed 5/25, and 30 on 5/26 (LL, m.ob.). From private residences in the area, another (possibly the same?) 30 Whimbrel (ZB) and another 60 (RG) were observed 5/25. From Okehocking Preserve, another 70 were reported 5/24 (RG). Also, from BCP on 5/27 were 270 **Ruddy Turnstones** and 180 **Red Knots** (LL, m.ob.), while a day earlier, on 5/26, 200 **Dunlin** were reported. Dunlin were also reported on the ground, with single-bird observations at CLP 4/16, MCSP 4/30, and Longwood Gardens - Abbondi Property 5/15.

In suitable habitat, observations of one to two birds were reported of **White-rumped Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, and **Short-billed Dowitcher**. **Semipalmated Plover** was seen in bigger numbers at Glenville Farm Pond with a max of 11 on 5/17. A **Laughing Gull**, always unusual inland, was seen in a mixed flock over Waterloo Mills Preserve 4/20 (KF), and a bit-late **Lesser Blacked Gull** was at Mosquito Lane Retention Pond 3/10 (DS). A stunning single **Black Tern** was at Struble L 4/30 (ZB, m.ob.), and a **Forster's Tern** at MCSP 5/13 (RG, ZB, m.ob.).

American Bittern was located at CLP 4/3 (RR, m.ob.) and reported intermittently until 5/2 when it was photographed in flight (JD). Another was at GM 4/16-23 (RM, m.ob.). It was a good spring for waders. At CL 4/16 a **Snowy Egret** was located and stayed for most of the day (CH, m.ob.); another was flushed from the stream at Parrish Trail/ Herb Penneck Park 5/14 (NL). An unprecedented spring-season **Tricolored Heron** was located at a small pond near Exton Park 4/16 (JD, m.ob.). Another spring-season find near Kemblesville in the extreme south of the county was **Cattle Egret** 4/3 (MH, m.ob.). Cattle Egret have now been seen in this general area, during different seasons, for three consecutive years. Both night-herons were reported. On 4/16, a fly-by ad. **Black crowned Night-Heron** was observed while driving along a road in Exton (DK), and another was at Duck Farm Rd in Oxford 5/12 (DM), a first for the location. A more expected area was CL, where an imm. spent 5/13-14 (LLy, m.ob.). Another likely location, Glenville Farm Pond was where an imm. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was found 5/3 and again 5/7 (RR, m.ob.). **Glossy Ibis** was reported from Honey Brook WTF, with three on 5/10 and at least one staying through 5/13.

Outstanding were two sightings of **Swallow-tailed Kite**. On 4/6 one was overhead near DOW 4/16 (ZB), and the other over C.A.O.S Headquarters near Cochranville 5/12 (MG). Neither bird stayed in the area and unfortunately was only seen by the eBird submitter. Overhead as well was an imm. **Golden Eagle** reported from Waterloo Mills Preserve 3/22 (KF).

Yet another super spring bird was **Mississippi Kite**, of which four were reported. Earliest sighting was 4/26 with a bird over Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens (KF), and then another, also over Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens, this one 5/16 by the same observer (KF)! At BCP, there were two birds 5/21 (LL). On 5/22 two sightings were reported: one over a residence near DOW (ZB), and another not much farther to the east from Okehocking Preserve (RG et al).

Of the five birds initially discovered during the Western Chester CBC, at least one **Long-eared Owl** continued until 4/2. There were two reports of **Saw-whet Owl**, likely migrating, from a private residence near DOW 3/6 (ZB), and the other from the Hardwick Property 3/29 (KF). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported from a couple locales, but with one to three birds, along Beaver Dam Rd continued to be the reliable place to observe these beautiful birds.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was photographed at PCT 5/11 (CH), and at Coventry Woods Park 5/16 (PW, JW). A **Philadelphia Vireo** at Kerr Park 5/11 (BB) was a nice find. **Black-capped Chickadee** reports continued until mid-Apr. **Bank Swallow** was reported from the third week of Apr through the first week of May, and **Cliff Swallows** during the third week of Apr. **Marsh Wren** reports came from a few locales besides reliable CLP, where one to two birds were 4/7-5/17. Single birds were observed at Black Rock Sanctuary, Stroud Preserve, MCSP, and MCSP-Dorlan Mills.

Swainson's Thrush are always cool to see, and **Gray-Cheeked Thrush**, seen and heard, even more so...but **Bicknell's Thrush!** Now that is a super thrush, a super find, and exactly what was reported after sonogram confirmation at PCT 5/16 (AR). Only the second confirmed **Chester** record, the other was a bird at Paradise Farm Camp in May 2020 (MH), which included an excellent visual analysis as well.

The **Red Crossbill** event at Nottingham Park, which began 2/22 (MG), continued through the spring with the last report made 4/23; the high count was 18 on 4/18 (L&TJ). A single bird was heard above a private residence in Coatesville 5/3 (LL). Small numbers of **Pine Siskins** continued through early May, primarily at feeders, and a single **Lapland Longspur** made it into early Mar at Homestead Rd (JK, AR). With only a handful of previous **Chester** sightings, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Bryn Coed Preserve was another great find. This bird was reported first 3/3 and last 3/22, both by the same observer (KC). Seen from six locales, the sought-after **Vesper Sparrow** was most reported from CL 3/31-4/5 (RG, m.ob.), with as many as three birds. That same initial observation reported an impressive flock of 25 **Savannah Sparrows** as well. **Rusty Blackbird** was reported from several locations in suitable habitat, but notable was a count of 40 from GM 3/19 (MC, m.ob.), with some continuing through 4/23.

The unique habitat of southwest **Chester** remains the most reliable spot for **Yellow-breasted Chat**. Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens and nearby Nottingham CP have typically yielded four to six birds, many identifying themselves by maniacal song and flight.

A number of birders commented that, in general, the overall warbler migration seemed a bit slow this spring. There were two reports of the highly prized **Golden-winged Warbler**: one at Hibernia CP 5/5 (LL) and one along Struble Trail 4/28 (BB), where the observer had the good fortune of seeing both Golden-winged Warbler and **Blue-winged Warbler** together. Heard only was a third Golden-winged Warbler, or was it? The careful observer noted that previous instances of Blue-winged Warbler singing the Golden-winged Warbler song have suggested that Golden-winged Warbler identification be accompanied by visual confirmation. Another beauty, **Prothonotary Warbler**, was identified by song only in the lakeside vegetation of CL 4/29 and 5/14 (LL). Reports 5/7-20 of one to two birds singing tended to support breeding of Prothonotary Warbler at SGL 43 (LLy, m.ob.), where they have now been heard since 2021 (JK).

Mourning Warbler was hard to come by with the only report from PCT 5/8 (KV). Equally scarce was **Kentucky Warbler**, with one report from a Glenmore locale 5/10 (RG), and another from PCT of a singing bird 5/21 (ZB). Typically difficult to see high in the treetops, **Cerulean Warbler** was heard only: one from the Johnson Property 5/3 (BS, WS), and another at Hibernia CP 5/10 (LL). A rare breeder in **Chester**, **Yellow-throated Warbler** continued to be a reliable find at Kerr Park in DOW. This species has been recorded here every year since 2013 and known to have been present "for at least five years before that" (HM).

Yet another auditory report was that of **Dickcissel**, heard near Cochranville 5/11 (RG).

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Clarion County

Locations: Clarion (CL), Cook Forest (CF), Curlsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Lawsonham (LW), Lucinda (LU), Mt Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330 (MZ), New Bethlehem (NB), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT), Sarah Furnace (SF).

Snow Geese are much less common than in eastern Pennsylvania, and so it was unusual to see 16, with two being blue phase, in a rather low

flyover near CV 3/15 (CW). **Blue-winged Teal** were only found at Beaver Cr, with no more than two found 3/24-30 (KD, KS, MS). **Northern Shoveler** were found at just two locations, with two at NB 3/4 (BR) and two at KL 3/6 (JH). There was one report of **Canvasback**, but it was a high number for spring in eBird, with 50 seen during a fallout of various waterfowl at KL during a snowstorm 3/14 (ES). Only a single **Common Goldeneye** was seen at KL 3/13-3/14 (ES, CW). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were also only noted once, with three at KL 3/30 (KD, KS). For a nice breeding record, a female **Common Merganser** was seen on the Allegheny at SF with 10 young 5/2 (OM).

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** continues for the second year in Strattanville, seen 5/26 (R&TGS) and 5/31 (KR). Only one **Common Nighthawk** was reported in migration, near CV 5/19 (KB). A single **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was reported calling in the early morning at MZ 5/17 (JB, JaB). In a record first sighting for *Clarion*, a **Common Gallinule** was found at a small marshy beaver pond area near Mount Airy 5/29 (NC). Also at Mount Airy, a single **Least Sandpiper** was found at a small farm pond along with two **Solitary Sandpipers** 5/18 (CW). Another solitary sandpiper was found at a farm pond near LU 5/4 (ES). **Wilson's Snipe** were only reported at a pond edge near LU, with two seen 4/2 (ES). Three **Spotted Sandpipers** were found along the Clarion R at CF 5/28 (DM, ES). The only gull reported was **Bonaparte's**, with an adult seen over farm fields near LU 4/14 (ES). A lone **Great Egret** was found near Limestone 5/4 (DR).

Northern Harriers were found early in the season with two near LU 3/6 and then one bird at two separate areas near LU 3/20 and 3/25 (ES). One was also seen flying along the shoreline at KL during a snowstorm 3/14 (ES). Later in the season, a lone bird was seen over field areas near Fisher 5/5 (DK). At their previous nesting location at MZ, just a single bird was reported 5/15 and 5/21 (LB, NW, WW). Nesting **Bald Eagles** were seen at a newer location on the Allegheny near Parker with an adult on the nest 3/11 (DD, ES, CW). A nest near CA on the Clarion R was successful with two young birds seen last 5/17 (TD, BF, CW). An active nest was also located on the Clarion R at CF with two adults and at least one young present 5/28 (DM, ES). A dark phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was still present near LU 3/16 and last seen 3/20 (ES).

A **Great Horned Owl** was reported on a nest near Leeper 3/23 and 3/26 (ES). A recently deceased **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found in a screech owl nest box during regular box checks near Strattanville 4/3 (MH, LT). No apparent cause of death was able to be determined, and while a very unfortunate find, it does provide another possible attempted breeding record for *Clarion*.

The only woodpecker sighting of note, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported coming to a feeder in Callensburg 4/21-23 (VG). **Merlins** once again have been likely breeding in CL, but with no certain nesting location yet found. A pair was seen on multiple occasions in town, perched together or calling, beginning 3/28 and present through the end of the season (ES, TS).

Only one **Alder Flycatcher** was reported this year, a bird singing near Turkey City 5/30 (KiB). **White-eyed Vireos** have inhabited limited areas in *Clarion*, with one found along the creek in NB 4/21 and 5/2 (ES), and two near Turkey City 5/30 (KiB). **Yellow-throated Vireos** also inhabit specific habitats along the rivers, with one singing along the RVT 5/29-31 (TR, CW) and one along the Armstrong Trail near East Brady 5/31 (TR). Up to two were singing on the Armstrong Trail at SF 5/21-31 (KMA, NA, SG, KP).

Horned Larks continued to be present only in low numbers, but a possible breeding record was encouraging with a pair present and the male singing in good habitat near CV 3/26 (CW). A lone bird was also at farm fields near Leeper 4/1 (ES). **Cliff Swallows** were found returned to their previous nesting locations, with two at a bridge in NB 4/27 (ES) and 30 actively nesting at a bridge in CF 5/28 (DM, ES). **American Pipits** were reported more frequently this year, with single birds at three locations near LU 3/1, 3/3, and 3/6, and then one late in migration at a farm pond near Leatherwood 4/30 (ES).

The only finch species of note were two sightings of **Pine Siskins** in migration: one near LU 5/6 (ES), and one at a feeder in Rimersburg 5/11 (MM). For sparrows, the first of note has been the return of **Clay-colored Sparrows** to their breeding area for the past several years on the Stockdill Rd area of MZ. The first sighting was reported 5/18, and up to two birds continued singing through the season (KA, NA, JK, AR, CW, et al.). Also unusual was a **Vesper Sparrow** reported at CV strips area 5/31 (KP). **Henslow's Sparrows** made their return around their typical time frame, first being heard singing at dusk near CV 4/13 (CW). For the rest of the season, they were reported in their typical nesting areas in

generally average numbers, other than some reports of decreased numbers in areas of MZ where more frequent burning of fields had taken place, and this continued through the season (m.ob.). **Lincoln's Sparrows** have been less frequently found in spring, and there were only two reports of note: a remarkable sighting of one in a brushy area next to the Walmart in CL 5/10 (ES), and one in more typical habitat near CV 5/18 (CW).

Yellow-breasted Chats have been habitat specialists increasing areas to populate in the county, yet there was only one reported for the season, at overgrown strip fields near CV starting 5/15 and continuing through the season (CW). **Worm-eating Warblers** continued in small numbers in their limited habitat niche along the southern border waterways, where one was seen at RVT at Redbank 5/31 (TR), one at SF 5/21 (SG) and then two also seen there 5/30 (KA, NA).

Northern Waterthrushes are not often reported in spring, so it was unusual to find one singing in wetland areas along the RVT 5/19 (CW). Another rare warbler in any season is the **Golden-winged Warbler**, and so it was an excellent record to find a male feeding in apple tree blossoms near CV 5/6 (CW). **Kentucky Warblers** are nearing their northern range limit in Pennsylvania, so their numbers are always limited. They were first reported near Redbank on the RVT, with two singing birds seen 5/18 (KyB, TrS), and then two other singing birds seen and heard near LW 5/29 (CW). **Cerulean Warblers** continued but seemed to be declining in numbers, possibly due to changes in habitat. Just one singing male was reported in two locations, at RVT near LW 5/19-31 (TR, CW) and at SF 5/21 (SG). Two singing males were found at SF 5/30 (KA, NA).

Yet another habitat specialist, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, was only reported at one location, on the RVT at LW, where a singing male was found 4/13 and again 5/29 (CW). The last warbler of note is another species not often reported in spring, a **Canada Warbler**, which was found singing in marginal breeding habitat along the RVT at LW 5/29 (CW). Though late, this was likely not a bird staying to breed as this is south of their typical breeding range other than in the higher elevations.

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Clearfield County

Locations: Curwensville Lake (CL), Karthaus Elk Refuge (KER), Sandy Ridge Road (SRR), Treasure Lake (TL).

Ruffed Grouse were observed throughout the county (m.ob.). A **Red-Necked Grebe** was seen at CL 3/10 (JS). An **American Avocet** was photographed at CL 4/17 (JF, JS). An **Upland Sandpiper** was seen along SRR 4/21 (JF) and 5/7 (BV, NV). An uncommon migrant in the High Plateau, a **Stilt Sandpiper** was photographed near KER 4/19 and 4/30 (JF) and seen at the Pottersdale Road Strip Mine 5/2 (JF). Another uncommon migrant, a **Long-Billed Dowitcher**, was photographed at CL 4/30 (JF, JS).

A pair of **Osprey** was observed at the nesting platform at Shaggers Inn Shallow Water Impoundment 3/31 (JP). A migrating **Golden Eagle** was seen at KER 3/5 (JF). A **Northern Saw-Whet Owl** was photographed along Redden Hill Road 4/3 (JF). **Merlins** were seen in Curwensville 4/8 (JS), in DuBois 4/14 (AD), at TL 4/1 (DR), along SRR 5/18 (TJ, LH, DR, NR), and along Shaggers Inn Rd 5/26 (JF).

A **Red Crossbill** was seen at TL 4/15 (DR). Late season **Pine Siskins** were seen at the Beaver Meadow Walkway 5/6 (DK) and east of Olanta 5/25 (BD). A **Clay-Colored Sparrow** was seen at SGL 60 on 5/22 (SK). Personal communication was supplemented by information from the PABirds listserv and eBird for this report.

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Clinton County

Location: Mill Hall (MH).

An **American White Pelican** was found at the Ohl/McElhatten Res (OMR) near Loganton 5/27 (AH). On 5/6 and 5/10, up to two **American Bitterns** were observed at the MH wetlands (CH, ChH, MS, PS). During the period, **Ospreys** again successfully nested at both the MH and Beech Cr sites (m.ob.).

American Kestrels also again successfully nested at Swisssdale during the period (WL). At the Central Mountain High School wetlands in MH, two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were reported 5/19 (CH, ChH). At the Ohl/McElhatten Res (OMR), near Loganton, 14 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were discovered 5/16 (AH). One **Red-necked Phalarope** was seen at the same location 5/20 (AH).

A **Barn Owl** was reported to have been heard at SGL 255 on 5/5 (MS, PS). At Swisssdale 5/2, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at a residence (EB). One **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found at Kettle Creek SP 5/6 (MS).

Evening Grosbeaks were seen at a feeder in Eastville 3/28 (MS). Also in Eastville, seven were at a feeder 4/23 (LH). A flock of **Evening Grosbeaks** was observed coming to a feeder in Woolrich from 4/7-5/10 (CH, ChH).

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Columbia County

Spring weather was relatively warm and extremely dry. The reduced number of storm events led to a decrease in rare bird sightings. PSO held a county focus event in March so the number of eBird checklists submitted for the spring season was relatively high.

Becoming more and more uncommon, the season's only **American Coot** was reported at the Paper Mill Road L 3/18 (m.ob.) along with many other waterfowl. A group of three **Sandhill Cranes** were found at a small pond near Mountain Rd 3/9-15 (m.ob.). A flock of five **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was reported from the Bloomsburg Boat Launch 5/27 (ES). At least five **Wilson's Snipe** were found at the Harris Road Wetlands 3/18-19 (m.ob.).

Barred Owl have been reported more frequently in the County. This season, single birds were reported from SGL 226 on 4/25 (KP) and again 5/16 (AK). The season's only report of **Pine Siskin** was a single bird visiting a feeder in Catawissa 3/16 (KH). **Yellow-breasted Chat** have been infrequently reported in the county, and this season's only report was of a single bird singing in SGL 226 on 5/24 (KP, BP).

A single singing male **Cerulean Warbler** was reported from SGL 58 on 5/24 (AK) and again 5/22 (KF). These are the first reports of **Cerulean Warbler** in SGL 58, and with good habitat existing here, hopefully a new breeding colony can be located here.

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com**, Kevin Fryberger, Karen Hergan, Karol Pasquinelli, Bryce Perles, Eric Supuy.

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM); McMichael Road (MMR); Pymatuning State Park (PSP); Miller's Ponds (MP); Woodcock Lake (WL).

Greater White-fronted Goose observations included four in the Conneautville area 3/27 (CN, BM) and 3/28 (JH, MHo). **Trumpeter Swan** reports have increased over the last several years, and this season was also higher than the historical average but in line with recent trends (m.ob.). A high count of 70 **Tundra Swans** was observed at a private residence in the Townville area 3/6 (AL). A single late individual was at PSP-Spillway 5/5 (AD).

A single early **Blue-winged Teal** was observed at MMR 3/6 (AH). There were several late reports of **Gadwall** in the Pymatuning area in May (m.ob.), with the latest being two birds at MP 5/26 (MHi, RHi). A single **Eurasian Wigeon** was observed at MP 4/8-11 (m.ob.). **Northern Pintail** was observed in its expected numbers and locations, with a high

count of 320 at MMR 4/4 (RH). Late observations of **Green-winged Teal** included two birds seen at MMR 5/5 (AD, YL), 10 at MP 5/5 (MAK, GK), and up to two at the same location 5/10-19 (m.ob.). Notable high counts of waterfowl included 350 **Canvasback** at CL 3/19 (RH), 1200 **Redhead** at CL 3/12 (JF), 430 **Ring-necked Ducks** at CL 3/12 (JF), 600 **Lesser Scaup** at CL 3/19 (RH), 100 **Bufflehead** at CL 3/8 (BM), 350 **Common Mergansers** at PSP-Spillway 3/12 (JF), and 1000 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 3/15 at PSP-Orchard Board Ramp 3/15 (EH). Notable counts of **Greater Scaup** at CL included 40 on 3/8 (DF, BG) and 35 on 3/12 (BW). Observations of **Long-tailed Duck** were higher than average (m.ob.), with high counts of 30 at CL 3/7 (LB), 30 at PSP-Causeway 3/7 (LB), and 18 at WL 3/18 (JH). A late single **Common Goldeneye** was observed at CL 5/5 (AD). A single late **Ruddy Duck** was observed at PSP-Spillway 5/26 (MHi, RHi), an expected location for this species this late in the season.

Ruffed Grouse observations, all in the eastern half of *Crawford*, included up to two birds at SGL 122 on 4/16-30 (AL), one at SGL 69 on 4/16 (AL), one at SGL 146 on 5/10 (JH), and a single bird at WL's Abandoned Road Trail 5/27 (YL). A notable high count of 32 **Horned Grebe** was observed at PSP-Causeway 3/11 (DE, BM). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was observed in its expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). **Common Nighthawks** were in their increasingly expected low numbers and locations (m.ob.). Notable counts of **Chimney Swift** at Allegheny College in Meadville included 259 on 5/5 and 215 on 5/6 (JH).

Virginia Rail, Sora, and Common Gallinule were observed as expected (m.ob.). A notable high count of 425 **American Coot** was observed at CL 3/12 (JF). **Sandhill Crane** was observed in slightly higher-than-average numbers in its expected locations (m.ob.).

Notably, a single **American Avocet** was observed at MP 4/17 (AD, JH, YL, BM, MW). A **Black-bellied Plover** was at MP 5/25 (NW, WW) and 5/26 (MHi, RHi). **Upland Sandpipers** were in their expected numbers in PSP locations (m.ob.). Significantly, a single bird was observed on Lippert Road in the Guys Mills area 5/31 (IF, SR), a new location for this species. Up to two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at MP 5/10-5/16 (m.ob.). Observations of **Short-billed Dowitcher** at MP included two on 5/8 (CN) and one on 5/10 (KH, KR, LS, JW) and 5/15 (DM). A high count of eight **American Woodcock** was observed at Erie NWR 4/27 (YL). High counts of 56 **Greater Yellowlegs** and 28 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/5 (MAK, GK) were at MP 4/8 (CW), an expected migration staging ground for these species.

A notable high count of 800 **Bonaparte's Gull** was observed at PSP-Dam 4/8 (MW). A single **Common Tern** was at PSP-Jamestown Campground Beach 5/29 (EO). A notable count of 52 **Common Loon** was at PSP-Dam 3/28 (TD). Notable observations included **American Bittern** with single birds at Erie NWR 4/7 (YL) and at SGL 122 (AL, AS), and **Least Bittern** with single birds at MMR 5/14-5/21 (m.ob.) and at Erie NWR's Seneca District 5/28 (YL). Early observations of **Great Egret** included one at PSP 4/4 (EH) and four at MMR 4/6 (CL, MO).

An early single **Osprey** was observed at WL 3/20 (CL). A slightly early single **Broad-winged Hawk** was at a private location in the Meadville area 4/12 (TN). A single **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed at MP 3/16-20 (m.ob.), the latest observation from the winter season. Observations of **Short-eared Owl** included two at MP 3/15 (EH), three at PSP-Swamp Road 4/2 (KS, SS), and three at MP 4/8 (KS, SS).

Red-headed Woodpecker and **Merlin** were observed in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). **Peregrine Falcon** reports included a single bird in the Townville area 4/19 (AL) and one at MMR 5/18 (YL).

Observations of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** included a single bird at WL- Abandoned Road Trail 5/21 (KPi) and 5/23 (BM). **White-eyed Vireo** included a single bird in the Meadville area 5/12 (RB), two at SGL 214-Brooks Road 5/13 (BM), a single bird at CM's The Wells 5/19 (CL, MO), and a single bird at Erie NWR - Tsuga Trail 5/22 (YL). **Philadelphia Vireo** observations included single birds seen at CM's Custards 5/15 (TN), Ernst Bike Trail 5/15 (BM), the Meadville area 5/17 (RB), and the Blooming Valley area 5/19 (SF, NR).

Common Raven, increasingly common in *Crawford*, were observed in expected locations (m.ob.). **Horned Lark** was observed in its expected locations and abundance (m.ob.). Notable counts of **Tree Swallow** included 200 at CM's Geneva 4/7 (MC) and 200 at Mystic Park's East Branch Trail 4/30 (AL). Early observations of **Barn Swallow** at CM's Custards included single individuals 3/12 (KP) and 3/26 (JH). A good count of 100 birds were observed at PSP 4/18 (AL).

Red-breasted Nuthatch was observed in its expected numbers (m.ob.). Early observations of **House Wren** included two seen in the

Saegertown area 4/15 (RK) and a single bird at a residence in the Cochran area 4/15 (PB). **Marsh Wren** was observed in its expected numbers and locations (m.ob.).

Observations of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** included single birds seen at SGL 69 on 5/8 (AL), in the Saegertown area 5/16 (RK), at CM's Custards 5/19 (TN, KPi), and two in the Pymatuning area 5/23 (LSt). **Northern Mockingbirds**, expected but scarce, were observed in their usual numbers (m.ob.). **American Pipit** included a single bird at SGL 122 on 3/22 (AL), a single bird at PSP-Dam 4/8 (MW), and three birds at a residence in the Rundletown area 5/12 (AHi).

Notable reports of **Evening Grosbeak** included single birds at bird feeders, one in the Meadville area 4/29 (CWN), and another in the Cambridge Springs area 5/8 (FZ). **Purple Finch** was in its expected numbers (m.ob.). The only observations of **Pine Siskin** were of a single bird in the Townville Area 3/3 and 3/30 (AL).

Observations of **Clay-colored Sparrow** included single birds in the Conneautville area 4/23-4/29 (m.ob.) and in the Rundletown area 5/12 (m.ob.). Early observations of **Field Sparrow** included a single bird in the Randolph Twp area 4/4 (SM), a single bird at WL- Abandoned Road Trail 4/4 (BM) and two on 4/5 (BM), one at Erie NWR 4/5 (YL), and a single bird at Erie NWR 4/7 (YL). **Vesper Sparrow** observations are scarce, so it is notable to have found two birds near a residence in the Cambridge Springs area 4/2 (KZ), one at the same location 5/11 (KZ), and one there 4/14 (KZ), with a single bird in the Rundletown area 5/5 (AD). **Grasshopper Sparrows** are rare in *Crawford*, so the observation of two near Rte 77 on 5/7 (ES) is notable. **Fox Sparrows** were observed in slightly higher than expected numbers (m.ob.). A single late bird was seen at Erie NWR 5/25 (YL). Observations of **Lincoln's Sparrow** included single birds in the Saegertown area 5/8 (RK), at a residence in the Townville area 5/12 (AL), at SGL 122 on 5/13 (AL), and at MMR 5/20 (BW). A good count of 45 **White-throated Sparrows** was at Mystic Park's East Branch Trail 5/7 (AL).

Bobolink was observed in its expected numbers and areas (m.ob.). A good count of 30 was at PSP-Wilson Road 5/17 (JK, AR). **Rusty Blackbird** was observed in its expected numbers and locations, including several early observations 3/1-7 (m.ob.) and a high count of 120 at Erie NWR - Seneca District 4/20 (AL).

A single **Worm-eating Warbler**, rare for *Crawford*, was at Erie NWR - Sugar L 5/25 (YL). A **Brewster's Warbler** was at SGL 146 on 5/10 (JH). **Prothonotary Warbler**, **Mourning Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler** were as expected (m.ob.). A good count of eight **Mourning Warblers** was observed at SGL 144 on 5/27 (TN, KPi). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was reported in the Fairfield Twp area 5/9 (SG). An early **Pine Warbler** was at a residence in the Townville area 3/3 (AL). The only observation of **Wilson's Warbler** was an individual at PSP-Nature Center 5/3 (JM). A **Summer Tanager** was reported at a residence 5/6 (DL).

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Cumberland County

Locations: Children's Lake (CL), PA-233 Conservation Ponds (CP), Creekview Road marsh and Kuhn Lake (CR), King's Gap State Park (KG), McCormick Park (MCP), Michaux State Forest (MSF), Opossum Lake (OL), Winding Hills Nature Trail (WH).

Unless otherwise stated, occurrences and the number of prior occurrences of the species listed in this report are according to eBird records and "Annotated List of Cumberland County Birds" (*Pennsylvania Birds* 30:138-147, V. Gauthier, 2016). Also note that there may be current and historical sightings for *Cumberland* listed on eBird from the Susquehanna River that may be possible to list on this report, but without

clear documentation otherwise, they are considered to have occurred in *Dauphin* since the county line is the west shoreline of the river.

An interesting goose that appeared to be a **Greater White-fronted x Canada Goose** hybrid was mixed in with a large flock of **Canada Geese** at OL 3/8 (DB, ScB, StB, TJ). An immature **Mute Swan** continued from winter, seen at CR 3/5 and CP 3/6 (both CP, RP), while another was seen in flight in Mechanicsburg 4/24 (IG). Up to three **Trumpeter Swans** were at SGL 169 throughout the season (m.ob.). A Trumpeter Swan pair returned to nest at CR this year with six eggs confirmed 5/5 (MB) and the first of five cygnets hatching 5/26 (CP, RP, MI).

The only **Eurasian Collared-Dove** of the season was reported along Enola Road near Newburg 4/20 (CP, RP). A single **Virginia Rail** was seen at CR 5/6-14 (AM, VG, BK), a location they have bred in past years, as well as at SGL 169 on 5/13 (NT), OL 4/15-22 (TJ, CP, RP), and Vincent DiFilippo Nature Preserve 5/25 (AD). **Soras** were found in at least five locations this spring, notably one at Spring Meadows Park 5/3-4 (DB) and one at MCP 4/17 (DW). A **Common Gallinule** was present at CR 5/5-11 (MB, AM, m.ob.). Two flyover **Sandhill Cranes** were seen near SGL 169 on 5/10 (JeM), while one frequented the marsh at SGL 169 on 5/17-24 (DB, StB, m.ob.).

With the lake at CL drawn down and the creation of new habitat at CP, shorebird sightings were steadier this spring than in recent years. One **Semipalmated Plover** was at CL 5/13 (PB, DB, StB, TJ), five were at WH 5/17 (AIM), and one was at CP 5/28 (VG). A **Dunlin** was in a retention pond outside Boiling Springs 5/12-14 (DB, StB, PB). An early **Pectoral Sandpiper** 3/28 (VG) was followed by one to two on 5/2-5 (CP, VG) and four more 5/11 (VG), all at CP. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** made early appearances with one at CL 5/1 (DB, StB), and another at CP 5/2 (CP), while up to two were at CL 5/13-21 (TJ, m.ob.). The real shorebird highlight of the season was a **Red-necked Phalarope** that appeared at CP 5/23 (VG, m.ob.), the first for *Cumberland* since 2011.

There were relatively few reports of **American Bitterns** this spring: one at SGL 169 on 3/29-30 (CP, RP) and one at WH 5/5-8 (AIM). A **Snowy Egret** at CL 5/9 was the first for *Cumberland* since 2019 (TJ, m.ob.). A **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was found in a traditional location at West Fairview Boat Launch 5/27 (RK), while a new nesting pair confirmed 5/5 just outside SGL 169 (JeM) provided a welcome development for this rare nesting species. A **Golden Eagle** was a good find along Big Spring 4/4 (VG). **Osprey** returned to nest at Enola, with one chick visible 5/30 (BM).

One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at Mt. Holly Marsh Preserve 5/13 (EB) and KG 5/21 (RP). One **Alder Flycatcher** was heard at SGL 169 on 5/21 (VG). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported along Ridge Rd in MSF 5/6 (VG) and at Camp Michaux 5/16 (DW). One **Marsh Wren** was found at WH 4/26 (AIM). There were six reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 5/12-23, including two reports of nocturnal flight calls near Newburg 5/13 (AM, BW). A late season **Evening Grosbeak** was photographed in a yard 5/23 (LB). Up to 14 **Red Crossbills** were found along KG and just outside in MSF 3/11-4/16 (CP, RP, RK, AtM, AIM, IG) and one at Huntsdale 3/26 (MS). Single **Pine Siskins** at KG 3/17 (CP) and South Middleton Township Park 4/18 (JM) rounded out the rarer finches for the season.

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** continued from winter through 4/25 at WH (AIM, AtM, MS, JR, SV). A **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** subspecies continued in Geason through early May (TJ, KJ). A single **Golden-winged Warbler** along Ridge Road in MSF 5/6 was the only report for the season (TC, RK). Single **Mourning Warblers** were found at WH 5/16-18 (AIM) and SGL 230 on 5/27 (NT). **Kentucky Warblers** were found at six locations, notably up to two at SGL 230 on 5/7-30 (m.ob.), and up to three at a private location just east of SGL 230 on 5/4-29 (PL). It was a great spring for **Yellow-throated Warblers**. A nesting pair was confirmed just outside SGL 169 on 5/6 (AM, LM), and continued here through the end of the season. An impressive density of this species was found along the Yellow Breeches Cr from Grantham to Lisburn during a survey 4/16 producing three at Messiah University, and three more between MCP and Lisburn (PL, AtM, RK, BM). At least one was still present near MCP 5/31 (KS, SM). A **Dickcissel** was a surprising find at a feeder in Mechanicsburg 4/26 (SK), while up to five were found along Hilltop Rd and Shady Rd near Newburg starting 5/27 (BK, VG, BO, AIM).

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Dauphin County

Locations: Appalachian Trail-Peter's Mountain (ATPM), Millersburg Ferry Wall (MFW), State Game Lands 290-Haldeman Island (HI), Susquehanna River at West Fairview (WF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was seen at HI 3/13 (AB, SB, StB, SS), and a **Trumpeter Swan** was spotted and photographed at WF 5/30 (BM). A **Surf Scoter** was photographed at MFW 4/1 (AB, SB, SBI) and another sighted at Front Street 4/30 (SS, m.ob.). Five spring sightings of **Common Nighthawk** were reported 5/15-17 with all of them being south of Peters Mtn (EB, LH, TM, SS, CT). The first **Eastern Whip-poor-will** of the spring was heard calling at Ft Indiantown Gap west corridor 4/24 (JD). Two wetland species, **Virginia Rail** and **Sora**, were found on the same day at WL 4/29 (RK). A **Sandhill Crane** was photographed at HI 5/29 (SS), and a **Red-necked Phalarope** was discovered and photographed at WL (SS, m.ob.).

Along with the usual Susquehanna R occurrences of **Bonaparte's Gull**, **Ring-billed Gull**, and **Herring Gull**, there were two great observations of the uncommon **Black-headed Gull** and **Little Gull** at MFW 3/17 (SB). With the usual **Caspian Tern** and **Forster's Tern** on the river was the sighting of a **Common Tern** at WF 5/13 (TC, RK, SS).

An **American Bittern** was seen at WL 5/5 (RT, EY) and a **Least Bittern** at HI 5/12 (SG, SM). The first spring return sighting of a **Great Egret** was at WL 3/19 (PP, RP, RS, DS), and of a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at Harrisburg Hamilton St 3/22 (JH). Rounding out these observations were 29 **Glossy Ibises** at WF 5/18 (BM ph, SS).

Two **Osprey** nests and one **Bald Eagle** nest had young on top of tall power line poles along the Susquehanna R near Steeltown 5/28 and 5/31 (EC, SL). The **Osprey** pair returned to WL area 5/20 (SL) with an additional pair building a nest on a different cell tower approximately one-half mile south of it. At an undisclosed site in upper *Dauphin*, six young **Barn Owls** were banded 5/19 (SB, SBI). A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were again nesting on private property in the Halifax area 4/24 (GR).

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was identified at ATPM 5/25 (GB). A lingering winter visitor, an **Evening Grosbeak** was photographed at a Harrisburg home 4/27-30 (PP, RP) as was a **Pine Siskin** in the same area 5/2 (KS). Warbler species' variety was excellent this season with 32 species seen, matching last year's count. Not very common was a **Prothonotary Warbler** at Harrisburg City Island 5/25 (JM) and a **Kentucky Warbler** at Hocker Park 5/27 (JS), BBTP 5/28 (RS) and ATPM 5/28 (EC).

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Delaware County

Locations: Brinton Lake (BL), Commodore Barry Bridge/Riverfront (CB), Delaware River/Hog Island Rd (DRHIR), Garnet Valley (GV), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Marcus Hook (MH), Philadelphia Airport (PHL), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR).

Spring was unremarkable following a winter of no snow. Temperatures hit 80F Apr 6th and again the following week when they neared 90F. There were few good fronts to push migrants through the region.

Most **Snow Geese** were reported mid-Mar through the end of that month, though three were found lingering at CCR 5/8 (BR). A **Blue-winged Teal** visited a small pond DRHIR 3/1 (RR), while one to five **Blue-winged Teal** were regular at JHNWR 3/15-5/11 (m.ob.); most other ducks were also noted from that location. **American Wigeon**, however, preferred CFM 3/16-19 (JZ, EK, JD), and CCR 4/30 (AB, DB) and 5/5 (BR). **Greater Scaup** were reported from DRHIR 3/23 (AG), MH 3/26 (CH, OJ), and JHNWR 4/8 (RR, TS), while **Lesser Scaup** were reported from JHNWR 3/1 (RR) and 3/21 (RF), from DRHIR 3/25 (RF, JZ) and 4/5 (JD), and from SR on six days 3/4-4/22 (m.ob.). Two **White-winged**

Scoters were observed from DRHIR 3/16 (JZ), and a flying **Black Scoter** was a brief sighting at MH 4/6 (CH). A **Long-tailed Duck** was found at CB 3/26 (CH, OJ). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was a surprise find at SR 3/31 (JZ, JD, RF), but there were many reports of multiple birds of this species from MH 3/18-4/6 (m.ob.), and also a single report from CB 3/25 (EK) and multiple birds at DRHIR 3/25-26 (m.ob.). This species continues to show increasing prevalence in *Delaware* during spring. **Ruddy Duck** was noted at SR on three dates and at JHNWR on four (m.ob.).

A **Wild Turkey** was in Chadds Ford 5/2 (LFI, AS), and one was gobbling near Colonial Plantation at RCSP 5/11 (DE). Seven **Horned Grebes** set down at SR 3/26 (JZ), while one was found there 4/30 (DB, AB). **Horned Grebes** were also reported from DRHIR 3/16 (AG), CB 4/7 (RF) and MH 3/23, 3/26, and 4/7 (m.ob.).

There were nine reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** in May (m.ob.), but more than twice as many reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** beginning 4/28 and running into May. In fact, **Black-billed** was reported consistently from the BT at RCSP throughout May (m.ob.). **Common Nighthawk** was reported on six dates from 5/7-24 (m.ob.). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived in Ogdon 4/17 (Jct).

Virginia Rail was first reported from DRHIR 4/12 (JZ) and then was sporadic there and at JHNWR through the end of May. **Sora** was heard from the former location 4/3 only (JZ) but consistent at the latter from 4/28 (RR) onwards (m.ob.). **American Coots** were reported from DRHIR on 4/2 (JZ), 4/14 (JZ, RF), and 4/16 (AG), as well as from CFM 3/18 (EK). A **Sandhill Crane** was photographed flying downriver at MH 3/24 (JD), and four were seen from that location 3/26 (ph. CH, OJ), but those were soaring over the NJ side.

Fifteen shorebird species were reported during the period. **Black-bellied Plover** were recorded at MH 4/27 and 4/29 (both CH), and DRHIR 4/29 (EK) and 5/19-21 (m.ob.). **Ruddy Turnstone** were also reported DRHIR at the same time 5/19-20 (m.ob.). **Semipalmated Plover** were at JHNWR 5/10-17 (m.ob.). A single **Whimbrel** was seen DRHIR 5/19 (AG), while about 70 were seen 5/24 (RG et al.) in *Delaware* airspace by watchers at Okehocking just over the border in *Chester*. A distant **Dunlin** was on the sand spit at DRHIR 4/23 (DB, JC), and another single bird was spotted at JHNWR 5/3 (RR). The high count on **Least Sandpiper** was 157 from JHNWR 5/16 (RR), but **Pectoral Sandpiper** was found only as a singlet there 5/3 (RR, JZ) and 5/8-9 (JZ, RR), with one also at BL 5/10 (JZ, RF). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** foraged at BL 5/10-11 (m.ob.) and at JHNWR 5/8 (JZ), 5/10 (RR), 5/12 (Jeremy F) and 5/17 when there were 37 (AG). Thanks to many more Observers out looking, **American Woodcock** were reported from seven different locations across the county in Mar (m.ob.). We can celebrate knowing that they are not confined to just one or two spots. **Wilson's Snipe** were reported 3/1-5/5 from their two usual locations, DRHIR and JHNWR, with a high count of 15 at DRHIR 3/12 (DB) and again 3/25 (BS).

It was another good year for **Bonaparte's Gulls** sighted along the river from MH up to DRHIR 3/26-4/29 (m.ob.) and a single bird at SR 3/28 (RF). For the second year in a row, a **Little Gull** was found among the Bonaparte's, this time from MH 4/6 (CH, BF). That location also produced an **Iceland Gull** 3/18 (ph. AD, CH, TV) and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** on four dates mid-Mar to mid-Apr with five of this species also at CB 4/30 (DB) and others at DRHIR 3/25 (m.ob.) and 4/15 (RF). The earliest **Caspian Tern** sighting was 3/25 from DRHIR (m.ob.), while **Forster's Terns** first appeared 4/6 at MH (BF, CH).

Great Cormorant was reported only 3/26 from CB (OJ, CH) and as a flyover in Tinicum Twp 4/9 (EK). **American Bittern** was at JHNWR 4/4 (RZ) and 4/7 (RR), and at DRHIR 4/19 (KE, DO, JZ). In addition, NFCs (night flight calls) were recorded in GV 5/6 (EK) and Wallingford 5/11 (RF).

An early **Osprey** was interacting with a **Bald Eagle** at JHNWR 3/7 (RZ). Mid-May brought multiple **Mississippi Kite** sightings. The first was photographed at RCSP 5/12 (KS); a second, observed on a bird walk at Hildacy Preserve 5/18 (DB et al.); a third, recorded in *Delaware* airspace but from Okehocking on 5/22 (RG, JK et al.). All expected owls were widely reported this year.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at the Brandywine River Museum 5/6 (DH). **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at the Wawa Tract 5/15 (BS, ph. JZ) and at CP 5/27 (KE). **Alder Flycatcher** was reported from JHNWR 5/17 (RR) and recorded behind Jet Stream in the DRHIR area 5/19 (JD). Ten reports of **Least Flycatcher** mid- to late May were more than usual (m.ob.). **Black-capped Chickadees** from this winter's incursion generally disappeared by Apr, though one was last reported 5/3 from Pennock Woods Park (SG). A flock of 16 **Horned Lark** were

noted, from a vantage inside a plane, flying along a PHL runway 3/6 (AG).

Five early **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** returned to usual perches along Darby Cr at JHNWR 3/16 (JM), while an early **Barn Swallow** was reported from the refuge 3/16 (RR). **Cliff Swallows** were reported in Glen Mills 5/1 (BB), at CCR 5/2 (BS), and at JHNWR 5/2 (RF) and 5/5 (RR). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Collman Meadow Trail 3/31 (EK) was early. **Purple Finches** were widespread in Mar and Apr, but the only **Pine Siskin** reported was 5/6 from RCSP (GS).

American Tree Sparrow was reported only from JHNWR 3/2 and 3/26 (both RR). **White-crowned Sparrow** was reported nine times from JHNWR (RR et al.) and 3/31 from Collman Meadow Trail (EK). A likely **Grasshopper Sparrow** was recorded as an NFC over GV 5/28 (EK).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was singing at CCR 5/17 (RF), at Harvey Run Trail from 5/21 (AG, JZ et al.), and BT at RCSP from 5/11 (DE, AG et al.) through the end of the period. One was also seen at NMP 5/16 and 5/30 (both JZ). **Bobolinks** were reported from First State National Historic Park 5/11 (AG) and recorded as NFCs over Wallingford (RF) that same day and over GV the next (EK). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at their reliable DRHIR/PHL locations throughout the period (m.ob.). Both orioles were early this year with **Baltimore Oriole** headed north over Haverford College 4/13 (KJ) and **Orchard Oriole** at JHNWR 4/20 (JM). It was a good season for **Rusty Blackbird** with reports throughout the period from their JHNWR stronghold, but at least 18 other locations across the county also hosted this species (m.ob.).

Thirty-two warbler species were reported during the count period with the expected species represented but in overall low numbers. **Prothonotary Warbler** was found at the BT 5/12 (KS) and in CFM 5/14 (EK), but one at JHNWR 5/1 remained into the breeding season (JZ et al.). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Newlin Grist Mill 3/18 (RK), Houston Park 3/18 and 3/23 (RF), Clayton Park 3/19 (EK), and JHNWR 3/17-18 (m.ob.), 3/28 (RR) and 4/13 (RR). **Mourning Warbler** was recorded at the BT 5/22 (JZ). **Cerulean Warbler** was seen and heard at RCSP 4/16 (RK). **Yellow-throated Warbler** returned to its breeding location at RCSP 4/6 (BS et al.) and was also reported from CCR 4/12 (BS), GV 4/16 (EK), and JHNWR 4/28 (RR), 5/5 (RR), and 5/18 (BS, LF).

A **Summer Tanager** was photographed at SR 5/6 (JZ), and another was recorded singing in Wallingford 5/31 (JD). **Blue Grosbeaks** were at the Rachel Kohl Library Trail in GV 5/7 (EK, Zelia M) and Chester Park 5/12 (AG), as well as at Harvey Run Trail 5/21 (AG, JZ et al.) onward and First State National Historic Park 5/25-26 (BS et al.). They might be breeding in the latter two locations.

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Elk County

Locations: Beaver Run Impoundment (BEA), Benezette (BEN), East Branch Clarion River Lake Vicinity (EBL), Johnsonburg (JO), Kersey (KER), Laurel Run Reservoir (LRR), Ridgway (RID), West Creek Wetland Learning Center (WC).

Three **Graylag Geese** were photographed in RID 3/17 (CB). **Long-tailed Ducks** were at LRR 3/28 when 14 were photographed mid-afternoon (MM) and 16 were seen early evening (CB). A **Ruddy Duck** was at BEA 4/11 (GJ, ES), and there were four sightings of **Ruffed Grouse** (BB, CB, MMu). There were four reports of **Pied-billed Grebes** 3/18-4/11 (CB, GJ, MM, ES), six of **Horned Grebes** 3/10-5/3 (CB, MM), five of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** 5/25-31 (BB, CB, MK, JP, JPI), and four of **Black-billed Cuckoos** 5/19-26 (BB, CB).

One **Common Nighthawk** was at EBL 5/20 (BB). An **American Coot** was at Rasselas Marsh 4/1 (CB). A **Sandhill Crane** was photographed on Little Drum Trail 4/16 (CB), as was a **Ruddy Turnstone** at EBL 5/26 (BB). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were near KER 5/5 (WA, MM). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at LRR 4/4 and 5/11 (MM ph.). One **Herring Gull** was at RID Res 4/9 (CB). A **Green Heron** was at WC 5/17 (MM), and two were at the Community Park Wetland near JO (LD).

During Spring, there was only one report of a **Great Horned Owl**, which was at EBL 3/11 (BB). **Barred Owls** had four reports: near BEA 4/30 (JP), with two at EBL 5/21 (BB) and one 5/31 (CB). One **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was photographed in RID 4/4 (DK), and another reported at EBL 5/21 (BB). A **Merlin** was seen in JO 3/4 (TC).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was reported between RID and St. Marys 5/20 (MM). There were five reports of **Alder Flycatchers** at EBL and Rasselas Marsh 5/26-31 (BB, JPI). At least two **Willow Flycatchers** were at WC 5/19-31 (CB, MM). A **Northern Shrike** was in EBL 3/1 (AS) and in KER 3/24 (CB). Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were near RID 5/5 (DK), and three were at the Elk Country Visitors Center 5/25 (MK). A **Swainson's Thrush** was in EBL 5/15 (CB), and one was near BEA 5/26 (JP). Ten **American Pipits** were seen in KER 3/21 (CB), then one was in BEN 5/7 (CL).

There were five **Evening Grosbeaks** in EBL 3/11, with the flock growing to 100 by 3/16 (BB). Seven sightings of **American Tree Sparrows** included a high count of six in KER 3/12 (CB). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was in BEN 5/7 (CL), and four were seen in RID 5/17 (MMc).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was near Brandy Camp 4/24 (CB), and two were on Kyler Rd 5/22 (BB). Three **Savannah Sparrow** sightings included one in KER 4/24 and two there 4/30 (both CB), then one near Wilcox cemetery 5/31 (JPI). One **Orchard Oriole** was photographed near RID 5/11 (MM). There were four **Rusty Blackbird** reports 3/19-31 with two at LRR (CB ph., MM) and the other two in KER (MM, CB). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was near JO 4/27 (MMu) and again 5/5 (CB). A **Northern Waterthrush** was near BEN "feeding at a small seasonal pond" 5/1 (JP).

One **Blue-winged Warbler** was photographed in a yard between RID and St. Marys 5/6 (MM). Warbler species migrating in late May included **Tennessee Warbler** (JF, MM), **Mourning Warbler** (BB), **Hooded Warbler** (BB, JF), and **Northern Parula** (DK, RK). A high count of 42 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were in EBL 5/26 (BB). Other migrating species in late May were **Blackpoll Warbler** (BB), **Palm Warbler** (MM, JP), and **Canada Warbler** (JF, BH, MH, DK).

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Erie County

Locations: Gull Point (GP), Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC).

Presque Isle Bay only froze temporarily this winter, so it was open through all of the spring period. Since there was no ice-break-up period, there were no big concentrations of gulls with a very poor showing of **Bonaparte's Gulls**. Some interesting waterfowl observations were made by Jason Boiczyc from the top of the TREC tower, including unprecedented numbers of **Surf/Black Scoters** rafting far out on the lake. Weather seemed to influence migration numbers this spring. There were two weeks of solid rain from late April through early May followed by numerous days of clear skies and warm temperatures, but with daily north winds caused by stationary high-pressure systems. This weather pattern may have accounted for the poor showing of many landbirds. With open skies every night and no major storms that would produce a fall-out, it is likely many Passerines overshot the park. Often some species that are typically found in good numbers were seen as just singles or a few individuals per day, with exceptions being **Northern Parula** and **Bay-breasted Warblers**, which were well represented. Northern finches were not well represented with only a sprinkling of **Pine Siskins** and **Evening Grosbeaks** reported. Jason, who was conducting migration surveys from the TREC tower, had some fantastic numbers of birds that would have passed through the area undetected by ground Observers. Birds he recorded in the greatest numbers were blackbirds, **American Robins**, and **Blue Jays**, but he also had daily good counts of **Purple Finches**, of which only a few were seen by ground Observers. Some real goodies were spotted this season, like the first county **Tufted Duck** as well as **Western Grebe**, **American White Pelican**, **Tricolored Heron**, **Swainson's Hawk**, **Black-legged Kittiwake**, **Western Kingbird**, and **Loggerhead Shrike**. The following birds of note were recorded from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

One or two mostly white **Snow Geese** were observed 3/2-22 with a whopping 135 seen from the top of the TREC tower 3/1 (JB). A **Ross's Goose** was a good find with a couple of blue **Snow Geese** along the Bayfront Hwy 3/22 (JK). A couple of **Greater White-fronted Geese** were on a private pond in Waterford 3/5-6 (RS, JM). Two **Cackling Geese** were noted among a flock of **Canada Geese** flying past the TREC tower 3/6 (JB). Multiple flocks totaling 3000 **Tundra Swans** passed over 3/6 (JM, JB).

Quite exciting was the first county record of an adult male **Tufted Duck** spotted at the channel 4/12 (JB) and remained to at least 4/19. It was well documented with photographs (m.ob.). A rare hybrid **Ring-necked Duck x Lesser Scaup** was in Niagara Pond 4/19 (JB) and again 4/24 in Sturgeon Bay (TL). A county record of 84 **Surf Scoters** were spotted rafting on the lake, seen from the TREC tower 4/29, and 24 the following day in the same area (JB). Even more remarkable was the flock of 240 **Surf/Black Scoters** also seen 4/29 floating well out on the lake from the TREC tower (JB). Again 5/10, 170 **Surf/Black Scoters** were rafting on the lake seen from the TREC tower (JB). Never has so many scoters been recorded here before in spring, and probably never this many in the fall, when high numbers are expected. The only **Red-necked Grebe** was on Presque Isle 5/6 (JB). A **Western Grebe** was a great find off GP 4/23 by (MD) when he came up to see the **Tricolored Heron** that was found two days before. The **Western Grebe** was seen and photographed the following day by many Observers.

Twenty-three **Sandhill Cranes** in three flocks was a good number spotted flying well south of the TREC tower on 3/26 (JB). The only **American Avocet** reported was one on 4/19 that remained to 4/21 at GP; (SS, et. al.). A molting **American Golden-Plover** was a rare spring find at GP on 4/21 (TL). Just two **Whimbrel** were reported this spring at GP, both on 5/15 (SSm). A **Ruddy Turnstone** at GP on 4/19 was record early in the county by about a week (SS). The **Purple Sandpiper** reported during the winter season remained to at least 5/9 for a record late date, but it was believed not to be well (m.ob.). A male **Wilson's Phalarope** was found at GP on 5/18 (JF, DL), and a second one flew past the top of the TREC tower on 5/23 (JF, JB). A **Willet** was at GP on 4/29 (RD) and another single bird was there on 5/10 (JH). Eight were there the next day at GP (AM). A flock of 12 **Willet**s flew past the TREC tower also on 4/30 (JB). An immature **Black-legged Kittiwake** was at the channel 5/5 for only the second spring record for the county (TL). The bird did not look healthy, and its remains were reportedly found later in the week.

Both **Kumlien's** and **Thayer's Iceland Gulls** were reported 3/4-4/21 (m.ob.). An apparent **Herring Gull x Great Black-backed Gull** was at Leo's landing 4/20 (JM, TL). **Glaucous Gulls** were unusually scarce this spring with just singles reported during the first half of Mar (KZ, JM). Two **Black Terns** were observed flying over Big Pond on 5/22 (CL). An **American White Pelican** made a brief visit at Leo's landing 4/26-27 (fide JF). The three **Snowy Egrets** at GP 5/19 were the most ever recorded in the county in a single day (NH). All other sightings in the past of **Snowy Egrets** have been single birds. An adult **Little Blue Heron** was on GP Trail 5/10 (DM) and seen again the next day in Niagara Pond (JH). A **Tricolored Heron** was spotted flying past the TREC tower 4/21 (JB) and later that day at GP (MB). The **Tricolored Heron** remained at GP until 4/27 (m.ob.).

A single **Black Vulture** passed over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch on 4/5 (JM, et al.). A **American Goshawk** flew past the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 3/16 (JM, DS, KF). An immature **American Goshawk** was nicely photographed as it flew past the top of the TREC tower 4/21 (JB). An immature **Swainson's Hawk** passed over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 4/21 for a third county record (JM et al.). It was also spotted and well photographed from the TREC tower (JB).

Three **Long-eared Owls** were reported in the pines: one 3/20 (JM), one 4/8, and one 4/16 (RD). **Short-eared Owls** were reported mostly at GP 3/5-4/3 (RD, RSw) with up to three at GP 3/31 (JB). A total of about 12 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were in the pines 3/17-5/3 (RD) with single day's high count of four in early Apr (RD).

At least one rather early **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen on Dead Pond Trail and Pine Tree Trail 5/12-14 (RSw et al.). Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported from Presque Isle 5/28 (JB). A real surprise, a third county record and first for the spring, was a **Western Kingbird** mobbing an **American Crow** at GP 5/30 (JF, JB). A totally unexpected sighting was of a **Loggerhead Shrike**, photographed as it flew past the TREC tower 5/9 (JB). This was the first county record since 1992 and the first ever photographically documented for this county. A few

Evening Grosbeaks were reported moving along the lake with most records of birds flying past the top of the TREC tower (JB et al.).

Rarely reported in the county these days was a **Grasshopper Sparrow** at Fry's landing 5/11 (MN). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at Erie Bluffs SP 5/7, and on the same day the same observer saw one at the east pier (CC). Another **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at beach 11 on 5/11 (KR) and at the north pier 5/19 (AZ). A **Fox Sparrow** at Pine Tree Trail 5/28 was record late in the county by a few days (JB). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was described from Glennwood Hills in Erie 5/31 (ML). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** made a brief visit in the lighthouse area 5/11 (JW).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was on Long Pond Trail 5/19 (JT) and another was at Fry's landing 5/22 (CL). A **Brewster's Warbler** was well seen and photographed on 5/7 (JM, JF). Despite the clear-cutting of trees at the head of Presque Isle Bay, at least two pairs of **Prothonotary Warblers** returned to nest in the boxes placed there (JH), though they were a bit late this year by not arriving until 5/20. The only **Orange-crowned Warbler** of the season was one seen and heard across from Thompson Circle on 5/16 (JB et al.). A **Connecticut Warbler** was seen briefly and not well by an experienced birder on 5/22 (SZ). A singing male **Common Yellowthroat** along Dead Pond Trail on 4/7 was an early record for the county by about two weeks (LM).

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Fayette County

Locations: Deer Lake (DL), Farmington (FAR), Greenlick Run Lake (GRL), Heritage Scout Reservation (HSR), Jacob's Creek Wetlands (JCW), Spring Valley (SPV).

The mild weather continued in March, which can feature snowstorms and cold, but not this year. April brought a few cold fronts with storms and very high winds, yet no major waterfowl fallouts occurred, just a few minor fallouts.

Tundra Swans moved through in early Mar. A group of 37 were at HSR 3/10 (DB) with 66 there 3/12 (RW) and 16 at DL 3/13 (JC). Weather 3/7 brought down some waterfowl at DL including a **Wood Duck**, nine **American Wigeon**, four **Gadwall**, 16 **Canvasback**, 16 **Redhead**, 125 **Ring-necked Ducks**, five **Hooded Mergansers**, eight **Common Mergansers**, and one **Ruddy Duck** (JC). GRL also hosted waterfowl due to the weather 3/7. **American Wigeon** were present but difficult to count due to the conditions. Other birds included 24 **Canvasback**, four **Redhead**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup**, six **Bufflehead**, a nice count of 13 **Long-tailed Ducks**, three **Hooded Mergansers**, two **Common Mergansers**, and one **Ruddy Duck** (KB). A nice count of 16 **Northern Shovelers** were at DL 3/7 (JC, et al.). Two **White-winged Scoters** and two **Long-tailed Ducks** were at DL 3/7 (JC, m.ob.). Three adult male **White-winged Scoters** stopped at GRL during a rainy day 4/18 (AG, m.ob.). A late **Redhead** was at Duck Pond Rd 5/8 (KB).

There were four reports of **Ruffed Grouse** in eBird for the season. All were in the southern part of the county. Two **Pied-billed Grebes** and two **Horned Grebes** were at GRL 3/7 (KB). **Common Nighthawks** were only reported in Connellsville, SPV, and FAR. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was in SPV 4/15 (RW, DB, AM), and two at Lamont Furnace 5/13 (CT).

Rarely reported in Fayette, two **Virginia Rails** were in SPV 4/21-5/14 (m.ob.). An early **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at DL 3/21-22 (CT, m.ob.). A nice count of 16 **Wilson's Snipe** were there 3/22 (JC). A total of 145 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at L Courage on the HSR property 4/9 (CT). **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported at a few locations. Two were at GRL 3/4 (KB), eight were there 3/7 (KB), two were at SPV 3/21, and they were present at HSR 3/25-4/10 (m.ob.) with a high of 35 on 4/10 (DBu). One was spotted flying over Connellsville 5/28 (KB). A **Herring Gull** was at GRL 3/8 (JL).

Two **Common Loons** were at GRL 4/18 (KB). A flock of 45 **American White Pelicans** were soaring over FAR 4/4 (RM, DBu, PW), providing the third county record. Single **Great Egrets** were reported at

Mill Run Res 4/8 (KW), Chalkhill 4/16 (DB), JCW 5/6 (KB), and SPV 5/10 (CT). **Black Vulture** was reported at Jumonville 4/27 (PL) and Connellsville 5/11 (KB).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was in SGL 51 in Dunbar 5/12 (WG). A **Fish Crow** was in the FAR area 5/6-7 (AM), and one was at SPV 5/25 (CT). Two **American Pipits** were at JCW 3/14 (EH), and four were at DL 3/22 (JC). A **Snow Bunting** was near FAR 3/11 (FK), a rare find in *Fayette*. Rare in the county as well, a **Vesper Sparrow** was a nice find along Gibbon Glade Rd near FAR 4/1 (CT). A great count of 65 **Rusty Blackbirds** was at DL 3/21 (JC). One was at JCW 4/2 (KB) and 4/21 (EH).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at SGL 51 in Dunbar Twp 5/12 (WG), and one was found during a survey near FAR 5/15 (TC). A **Brewster's Warbler** was on private property near Ohio Pyle SP 5/16 (KT, CT) where it remained through the season. Another was at Mill Run Res 5/20 (RW). **Swainson's Warbler** returned to Bear Run Nature Reserve 5/22 this spring for the second year in a row and remained through the end of the season (DB, RW, m.ob.). A **Pine Warbler** was reported at a feeder in FAR 3/4 (m.ob.) and nearby in SPV 3/8 (DB).

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Forest County

Locations: Beaver Meadows Lake (BEA), Buzzard Swamp Recreation Area (BUZ), Marienville (MAR), West Hickory (WH).

This season, with 165 species reported, started with 20 **Tundra Swans** photographed at BEA 3/2 (SK, AK). A **Northern Shoveler** was seen there 3/30 (SK, AK). An **American Black Duck** was near WH 4/9 (KS ph.). **Northern Pintails** were at BUZ 4/8 (CB, AS) while about 20 **Green-winged Teals** were also present at that same time (CB, AS). Twelve **Greater Scaup** were at BUZ 4/15 with a "raft of them on the back of the large pond" (DK). A **Long-tailed Duck** was near Cooksburg 3/28 (SK, AK); a **Common Goldeneye** was at BEA 3/29-30 (SK, AK); one **Ruddy Duck** was at BUZ 4/8 (CB, AS).

One **Common Nighthawk** was seen at BEA 5/22 (SH). A **Virginia Rail** was near WH 5/12-13 (KS vr.), and a **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen at Tionesta Lake 5/12 (KS ph.). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was viewed at BUZ 4/8 (CB, AS), and a single **Ring-billed Gull** was there 5/13 (SS). A **Great Egret** was photographed at BEA 4/20 (SK, AK).

Only two owl reports were submitted in Spring, both for **Eastern Screech-owls**: one near Starr 5/13 (T&JK), and another at WH 4/7 (KS). A **Merlin** was in MAR 4/18, "first heard calling; eventually landed on nearby utility pole" (ES); one was reported at Ministers Cr. 5/29 (ETN). Eight **Cliff Swallows** were in BEA 5/13 (CK, DK) with 12 seen in the Kelletville area later that day (T&JK, JM). A **Northern Mockingbird** was seen near Cooksburg 5/17 (SM).

On 3/18, Kim Springer received the 2022 Bluebird of the Year Award from the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania; she has monitored **Eastern Bluebird** boxes for over 20 years. A Flo McGuire Memorial Birdathon coincided with Global Big Day 5/13, when 64 species were seen and heard in almost three hours near WH including 12 **Wood Thrushes** (KS).

Evening Grosbeaks continued to visit with up to 53 in MAR 3/3 (DY, m.ob.), one at BEA 3/6 (SK, AK), and two in a Tionesta yard 4/22 (JM). A **Pine Siskin** was photographed near WH 4/15 (JS, KS).

Migrating sparrows in April through mid-May included: an **American Tree Sparrow** (KS), five reports with up to five **Fox Sparrows** (CB, AS, KS), three reports with a high count of four **White-crowned Sparrows** (T&JK, JM, KS, SS), a **Vesper Sparrow** (KS), and two reports of **Savannah Sparrows** for one and six seen (KS, CW).

An **Orchard Oriole** was at Tionesta L 5/13 (T&JK, JM). A month earlier, two **Rusty Blackbirds** were photographed at Lighthouse Island 4/13 (KS). Migrating warblers included **Worm-eating Warbler** (T&JK, JM), **Blue-winged Warbler** (T&JK, JM, KS ph., SS, CW), **Tennessee Warbler** (m.ob.), **Mourning Warbler** (KS, CW), **Cape May Warbler** (LS, KS) and **Cerulean Warbler** (T&JK, JM, JS, LS). Five **Cerulean Warblers** were seen in WH 5/13: "2 were together at the dead-looking wetland area, another two were fighting further down the road, and one was by itself singing...high in the treetops" (KS). Additional migrating

species were **Bay-breasted Warbler** (CK, DK, LS, KS), **Blackpoll Warbler** (SM, KS), **Palm Warbler** (PC, KT), **Yellow-throated Warbler** (JS, KS), and **Canada Warbler** (SH, CK, DK, JM, SS, ETN, CW).

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Franklin County

Locations: Antrim Commons Ponds (ACP), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Kriner Road Retention Ponds (KRIN), Letterkenny Reservoir (LERE), Lower Horse Valley (LHV), Mountain Lake, Fannettsburg (MLF), State Game Land 235's Bricker Road (BR), Upper Horse Valley (UHV).

Whether going where other birders go or to their own go-to locations, birders tend to bird at the same places seasonally to seek birds. It is refreshing and sometimes rewarding when new locations to explore are sought after. **Kentucky Warbler** historically has been an inconsistent find in *Franklin*. With South Mountain on the east side of the county and North Mountain, Tuscarora Mountain, and other ridges and valleys to the north and west, it seems like there should be locations on the flanks of these ridges that this species could be found. In the past, Kentucky Warblers were occasionally found along Irishtown Road in Michaux SF, in the remote mountainous valleys of Amberson or Little Cove, and in Stillhouse Hollow. However, there hadn't been a consistent location to expect them. In May 2020, Ron George and Tracy George-Snyder explored a dead-end forest road in Buchanan SF near Fort McCord. They took a hike and found a Kentucky Warbler and great habitat for the species. Since then, Kentucky Warblers have been found in this general location each spring and summer, including the current reporting period. Multiple birds have been seen or heard, evidence of nesting has been observed, and fledglings have been documented as of the time of this writing. It could be surmised that Kentucky Warblers have bred in this general area of *Franklin* for many years. I wonder how many other locations in the county, some accessible, that this species returns to every May? Kudos to birders who explore new birding locations and discover there are reasons to bird there!

The spring waterfowl season was so-so again in 2023. A high count of 58 **Tundra Swans** was reported (BKO), but overall reports were fewer than normal. There were 21 duck species reported, but activity was rather light. Highlights included a **Canvasback** at Greencastle Sportsman's Grounds 3/28 (KR), a **Surf Scoter** at MBRP 4/29 (KR, BKO, BO, KS, CP, RP), two **Common Goldeneyes** at LERE 3/7 (BKO, BO, KR), and one at GRRE 3/28-4/2 (KR). There were frequent reports of **Red-breasted Mergansers** 3/4-5/1 from locations including MLF, LERE, and GRRE (BKO, BO). A high count for the species was seven at a pond near Upper Strasburg 3/24 (BKO). The **Surf Scoter** was the duck highlight. Excluding the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in late Oct 2012, the Surf Scoter report was the fifth eBird historical report of the species in the county.

Ruffed Grouse, difficult to find in recent years, was reported on five eBird checklists from separate mountainous locations in the county. Surprisingly, there were no reports of **Horned Grebe** during spring migration. *Franklin* hosts the largest established population of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in Pennsylvania, and there were regular reports from the area of Greencastle to Marion to Shady Grove. Of note are some reports from Maryland in nearby *Washington* and *Frederick*, possibly the local colony scattering into our southern neighbor. The only report of **Common Nighthawk** was on Social Island Rd 5/23 (JC). The species is more prevalent in fall migration, but only a single report in spring is unusual.

A **Virginia Rail** was heard grunting several times at Happel's Meadow Wetland Preserve 5/31 (GA, BO). The habitat there seems conducive to rails, but access is difficult and traffic noise seems always present. Two **Sandhill Cranes** were found along Two Turn Road 5/2 (BB, VBt, BK, BO) and observed later by many others before departing. Later in May, one was observed in flight in Horse Valley 5/19 (BKO). The species has had more reports recently from neighboring counties as well.

Fifteen species of shorebirds were reported during spring migration, including some notables. There were frequent observations of **Semipalmated Plovers** throughout most of May from ACP with a high

count of 11 5/17 (AM, m.ob.), and single reports from KRIN 5/12 (BO) and GRRE (KR, BKO). There were also frequent reports of **Dunlins** mid-Apr through May at ACP with a high count of six on 4/29 (KR, m.ob.), several reports from GRRE (KR, DE, BO), and a single report from KRIN 5/1 (JC). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found at ACP 5/13 (KR). Up to two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at ACP 5/16-17 (KR, m.ob.). The shorebird highlight of spring migration was a **Wilson's Phalarope** present at ACP 5/12-14 (BO, m.ob.). The only other report of the species in Pennsylvania during 2023 through end of May was from Presque Isle SP in *Erie*. This is the seventh eBird historical record of Wilson's Phalarope in *Franklin*.

Spring **Bonaparte's Gull** reports were very light with only single birds on single days at GRRE 4/8 (KR) and ACP 4/21 (BKO, KR). An outstanding find was a **Laughing Gull** at ACP 4/30 (BKO). Outside of eastern Pennsylvania, this is the only report of the species in the state during the reporting period. A **Black Tern** made an evening stop at ACP 5/13 (JF, RG, TSG, BKrt, TK, CP, RP). Three **Forster's Terns** were found at MLF 4/28 (BKO, KR). The only reports of **Common Loon** were two birds at LERE 3/25 (BKO) and a single bird there 4/19 (BKO). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found among the many **Great Blue-Herons** at the Shippensburg Heron Rookery 5/2 (BO, BKO, DE). The species has been observed there in recent years prior to full leaf out; after that, the nests cannot be scoped.

Barn Owls nested at two known locations which were not disclosed due to sensitivity issues. There likely have been others that existed where there has been a combination of enough uncultivated fields and a suitable nesting site. A late **Merlin** was reported at ACP 4/26 (KR). An **Alder Flycatcher** was observed and vocalizing at SGL 235's UHV 5/18 (BO, KS). Unexpected here in spring, a **Philadelphia Vireo** was observed at Caledonia SP 5/13 (JC). Always a good bird here, a **Marsh Wren** was found at Mountain Road Fisheries ponds 4/29 (KR).

A female **Evening Grosbeak** observed very sporadically at Knob Hill Road feeders in Jan and Feb was last seen by the homeowner 3/6 (DK). An exceptional report, supported by photos, was a **Clay-colored Sparrow** along Country Road south of Chambersburg (4/30). The observer believes that he may have observed the bird a week prior, but it and many **Chipping Sparrows** with it were flushed from the roadside by a passing vehicle and not relocated at that time. The ID was confirmed visually a week later and documented with a photo 4/30 (DC). The bird and the other sparrows were likely a migrating flock, and there were no subsequent sightings. This represents the second visually confirmed eBird record of the species in *Franklin*.

There were 31 species of warblers reported in the spring reporting period, and additionally one winged warbler hybrid. **Golden-winged Warbler** was reported 5/8-28 at UHV (GA, BO, BKO, m.ob.). **Blue-winged Warbler** was reported from locations including UHV 5/12 (JF), Ft Loudon Fort Historical Site 5/14 (JC), SGL 76's LHV 5/16 (BKO) and the off-limits Letterkenny Army Depot 5/19 (DC). Hybrid **Brewster's Warbler** was photographed at UHV 5/8 (GA, BO). An early migrating **Mourning Warbler** was found at Creekside Nature Trail at Menno Haven 5/6 (BO). As referenced in the opening to this report, Kentucky Warblers were found at Buchanan SF's Broad Mtn Eastern Slope Trails 5/6 through the end of the reporting period. There was also a report from Red Rock Rd in Little Cove 5/20 (BO).

Blue Grosbeak reports were very light. There were a few from Portico Road 4/29 (DC) and 5/5 (BO), from Orchard Rd landfill 5/3 (JF), from Furnace Run Park 5/19 (BKO), and from Park Rd 5/22 (BKO). There were no Dickcissels reported in *Franklin* during the period. The first 2023 reports locally were just over the county line in *Cumberland* beginning 5/27. There have been fewer reports of this species in *Franklin* the past couple of years.

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Fulton County

Locations: Cowan's Gap State Park (CGSP), McConnellsburg (MC), Meadow Grounds Lake (MGL).

There were 176 species reported on eBird in *Fulton* during the spring period, which is 15 more than the spring of 2022.

Redhead was reported at MGL 3/4-15 in numbers of one to six (TM). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were seen at MGL 3/7 (TM). **Common Goldeneye** was also found at MGL with one 3/4 (TM) and four on 3/25 (TM). Good numbers of **Red-breasted Merganser** were reported from MGL 3/15-4/2 with a high count of 16 birds on 4/2 (TM). One **Ruddy Duck** was found at MGL 3/17 with two others at Forbes Trail Rd Ponds 4/30 (EB).

One **Ruffed Grouse** was reported at Buchanan SF's Knobsville Tract 3/26 (CF). Two **Sandhill Cranes** were heard only at MGL 3/21 (TM), and one seen at the same location 4/3 and 5/22 (TM). One **Wilson's Snipe** was reported in two different field locations off Rte 522 south of McConnellsburg 3/27 (PM). **Bonaparte's Gull** made a good showing this period with seven at CGSP 3/7 (BK), and at MGL on 12 different days 3/21-4/29, with a high of 15 birds 4/2 (TM). There was also one **Forster's Tern** at MGL 4/30 (TM). This was only the third eBird report for *Fulton* and the first since 5/4/2003. There was one **Golden Eagle** seen flying above the ridge at the east end of Boy Scout Rd. 3/18 (VG), and one other in MC 4/2 (TM). These are the only two spring eBird records for *Fulton* from the now mostly unused Pulpit Hawk Watch.

One **Bank Swallow** was seen at CGSP 4/8 (JC) and two others at MGL 4/26-27 (TM). Several scattered reports of **Least Flycatcher** included one from Witter Rd in Waterfall 5/12 (EB) and another at CGSP 5/20 (JC). Likewise, there were two locations of **Swainson's Thrush** migrating through the area. One was at Buchanan SF's Sideling Hill Picnic Area 5/12 (EB), and one bird was at MGL 5/18 and 5/21 (TM). The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at MGL 5/26 (TM).

There was one report of seven **Evening Grosbeaks** at a feeder on Duvall Rd. in Crystal Spring 3/15 (EB). One **Pine Siskin** was seen at German Lane in Thompson Twp 4/9 (DW). One **Fox Sparrow** was reported from MGL 3/29 (TM) and four more at the same location 3/31 (BK). The only Lincoln's Sparrow found was on Wells Valley Rd at Wells Tannery 5/17 (TM). As far as warblers of note go, there was one **Canada Warbler** seen at CGSP 5/20 (JC) and one **Wilson's Warbler** there 5/10 (TM).

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Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Enlow Fork (EF), Franklin Twp (FT), Greene River Trail (GRT), Morgan Twp (MT), Ryerson State Park (RSP), and Sycamore (SY).

Among ducks, 11 **Wood Ducks** were at EV 3/29 (MH). **Blue-winged Teal**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Gadwall** 3/9, and **Green-winged Teal** 3/2 were observed in FT (MH, C&SB, JC, BGA). **Ring-necked Ducks** were at Lake Wilma in Wayne Twp 3/9 (MH, C&SB, JC). **Hooded Merganser** and **Common Merganser** were reported in MT 3/6 (KK), and **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at Lake Wilma 3/9 (MH, C&SB, JC).

Black-billed Cuckoo was at SY 4/10 (JC). **Chimney Swift** was sighted in Waynesburg 5/12 (KK). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was first sighted in Monongahela Twp 4/20 (LP). **American Coot** was found in Wayne Twp 4/5 (NR). **Least Sandpiper** was observed in Washington Twp 5/2 and **Pectoral Sandpiper** in FT 4/16 (NR). **Wilson's Snipe** was found in Jefferson Twp 4/29 (RF). **Spotted Sandpiper** was found in Perry Twp 5/6 (SP) and **Solitary Sandpiper** in Whiteley Twp 4/28 (C&NK, MH). **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found in MT 4/29 (MD).

A **Common Loon** flew over Bell Farm 4/29 (JG). A **Great Egret** was observed in Cumberland Twp 5/15 (CB). **Green Heron** was in Whiteley Twp 4/28 (C&NK, MH). **Black Vulture** was found in Morris Twp 4/30 (JG). **Osprey** was at RSP 4/30 (MN). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** visited a feeder in SY 3/13 (JC). **Bald Eagles** were seen in many locations throughout the period (m.ob.). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** provided a good view in Washington Twp 3/30 (JC, MH). **Broad-winged Hawk** was found at RSP 4/30 (NK). **Eastern Screech-Owl** was at EV 3/1 (JH, MH); **Great Horned Owl** at SY 4/15 (JC); **Barred Owl** at GRT 4/29 (JP). **Belted Kingfisher** was in MT 3/6 (KK).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at EF 4/5 (WS). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported several times during the period with the first report in Center Twp 4/30 (B&MH). **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was heard in EV 5/2 (MH). **Acadian Flycatcher** was at Bell Farm 5/27 (m. ob.). **Willow Flycatcher** was heard on the BBS 5/29 (KK, D&LB), **Least**

Flycatcher at EF 5/27 (SG), **Eastern Phoebe** at SY 3/2 (JC), **Eastern Kingbird** at GRT 4/29 (JP), and **Great Crested Flycatcher** at Bell Farm 5/27 (m.ob.). **White-eyed Vireo** was found in MT 4/13 (KK) and at the same location **Yellow-throated Vireo** was present 4/20 (KK). **Blue-headed Vireo** was found in Monongahela Twp 5/14 (JeC). **Red-eyed Vireo** was found at EF 4/30 (m.ob.).

Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen in Aleppo Twp 4/3 (NR). **Purple Martin** arrived at Bell Farm 4/9 (L&DB) as did **Tree Swallow** 3/4 (LB). **Barn Swallow** was seen in MT 4/14 (KK, MH) and **Cliff Swallow** in the same location 4/29 (DG). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was found in Perry Twp 5/7 (JA). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was sighted at EV 4/7 (MH). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was noted in MT 4/29 (RF). **Brown Creeper** was found in Center Twp 4/4 (HL). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was observed at EF 4/5 (LH, MG).

House Wren was heard in SY 4/20 (JC). **Carolina Wren** young fledged at EV 5/5 (MH). **Gray Catbird** was observed in Whiteley Twp 4/28 (C&NK, MH), and **Brown Thrasher** was first sighted in EV 3/30 (MH). **Northern Mockingbird** nested in a boxwood bush at MT (RT). **Veery** was observed in Perry Twp 5/7 (JA), and **Swainson's Thrush** was found in MT 5/23 (BF). **Wood Thrush** was observed in FT 4/28 (C&NK, MH). **Cedar Waxwing** was found on a BBS 5/29 (KK, L&DB). **Evening Grosbeak** arrived at SY and stayed a few days 5/7 (JC). **Purple Finch** was sighted in Perry Twp 5/6 (SP).

Grasshopper Sparrow was found in Monongahela Twp 5/14 (JeC). **Chipping Sparrow** was first sighted in EV 4/4 (MH), and **Field Sparrow** was spotted in MT 3/31 (RT). **Dark-eyed Junco** was last reported from SGL 223 on 4/19 (NR). **White-throated Sparrow** was last reported in EV 5/7 (MH). **White-crowned Sparrow** was last reported in Jackson Twp 5/11 (RL). **Savannah Sparrow** was found in Monongahela Twp 5/14 (JeC) and **Swamp Sparrow** was at RSP 4/30 (MN). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found on a BBS 5/29 (KK, D&LB). **Eastern Meadowlark** was heard calling in Whiteley Twp 3/2 (BG, MH, C&SB). **Rusty Blackbird** was found at SGL 223 4/12 (NR). **Orchard Oriole** 4/21 and **Baltimore Oriole** 4/22 were found at SY (AC, JC).

Ovenbird was in SY 3/17 (JC). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found in Center Twp 4/4 (HL). **Blue-winged Warbler** was found in FT 4/28 (C&NK, MH). **Black-and-white Warbler** was at EF 5/27 (SG). **Kentucky Warbler** was in Monongahela Twp 5/14 (JC). **Common Yellowthroat** was found at EV 4/14 (MH). **Hooded Warbler** and **American Redstart** were at RSP 4/30 (DH). **Cerulean Warbler** was found at EF 4/30 (m.ob.). **Northern Parula** was at GRT 4/29 (JP). **Bay-breasted Warbler** was found in Jackson Twp 5/14 and at the same location **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 5/11 (RL). **Yellow Warbler** was in MT 4/20 (RT). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was eating suet at EV 4/7 (MH). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was in Aleppo Twp 4/3 (NR), **Prairie Warbler** in Richhill Twp 4/30 (JG), and **Black-throated Green Warbler** at EF 4/30 (m.ob.).

Scarlet Tanager was found at RSP 4/30 (DH). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** arrived at EV 4/14 (MH). **Indigo Bunting** was found in FT 4/28 (C&NK, MH).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Aitch Access at Raystown Lake (AA), Brumbaugh's Access at Raystown Lake (BA), Entriken Overlook at Raystown Lake (ENT), Huntingdon – town (HU), Juniata College (JC), Lake Perez (LP), Lower Trail at Alexandria (LT), Marklesburg waterfowl area-SGL 420 (MAR), Masseyburg (MAS), McAlveys Fort (MF), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Petersburg (PET), Raystown Lake (RL), Rothrock State Forest (RSF), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Mt. hawk watch (SMHW), Tussey Mt. hawk watch (TMHW).

The species count for the season in eBird was 217, typical of recent years. March and April were warm, with near-normal precipitation. May was dry, with rain some three inches below normal.

One **Trumpeter Swan** stayed around BA 4/25-5/9, about the seventh or eighth county record (m.ob.). The top count of **Tundra Swan** came from LP, rather than TMHW as is often the case, where 200 of the

big white birds descended on the lake 5/7 (m.ob.). Twenty-two duck species were recorded, mostly routine; a few good numbers were 39 **Wood Ducks** at MAR 3/24 (MN), 16 **Northern Pintails** at ENT 3/4 (PM, PaM, LaM), 25 **Green-winged Teal** at MAR 3/22 (PM), and 32 **Hooded Mergansers** at AA 4/6 (KT). On the negative side, **American Black Duck** numbers were low again – among 10 reports, the high count was only four birds. **Long-tailed Ducks**, too, seem only a fraction of migrant numbers formerly seen here; a total of only about 10-15 individuals, depending on duplicates, all in late Mar (m.ob.). A **Surf Scoter** was at LP 3/26 (JK, MM), the only report. More notable was a **Black Scoter** at LP 5/3 (m.ob.) both because of the late date and of general rarity in spring, this being only the second spring eBird report in *Huntingdon*.

Ruffed Grouse reports were more than in recent seasons, but nearly all reports were of singles; a covey of at least five flushed 5/23 at SGL 322 was good to see, presumably some being young birds (GG, DG). The only **Red-necked Grebe** was at ENT 3/11 (JZ); few, if any, are found in winters when Lake Erie remains mostly open.

Cuckoo numbers seem moderately high compared to recent years, especially **Black-billed Cuckoo**, usually very sparse; perhaps there was a good crop of caterpillar prey. There were nine reports of **Common Nighthawk**, much better than in recent years; mostly singles however, except a count of nine in HU 5/13 (DK).

A **Sora** at OC was fairly cooperative for birders during its long stay 4/5-5/12, presuming the same bird throughout. Single Soras were also at MAR (KT) and SCEC (NV), both 4/25. Also cooperative at OC was a **Common Gallinule** 4/19-25 (m.ob.); one was at SCEC 5/6 (EK, SI). A **Sandhill Crane** was at SCEC 5/6 (AV).

Thirteen shorebird species were recorded, including some not seen annually. A **Dunlin** was at OC 4/17 (GG, DG, KT). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** at McMahan Rd. 4/30 was only the fourth eBird record for the county, and first since 2008 (JK). Two **Willetts** at AA 5/3 provided the fifth county report (KT, DK, TK).

The high count of **Bonaparte's Gull** was 96 at the JC Field Station at RL 3/30 (PaM). Three **Caspian Terns** were at ENT 5/2 (DK, TK, KT) and three **Common Terns** were at RL dam 4/30 (CM). **Forster's Tern** reports were seven at JC Field Station at RL 4/30 (PM, PaM) and one at James Creek access at RL 5/2 (DK, TK). **Common Loons** passed over TMHW almost daily 4/3-26, with a high of 32 on 4/19 (AB, NB).

Three or four **Anhingas** were seen at LP 5/10-11 (KB, JK, LM, MM, JP, DW); the two previous *Huntingdon* records are both from fall at SMHW. A total of six **American Bitterns** were at four locations 4/1-5/4, a typical spring season number (m.ob.). Less often found, only one **Least Bittern** was noted, at OC 4/30 (KT); Least Bitterns have been recorded at OC six of 13 years since 2011. While a common sight in the county, 14 **Great Blue Herons** at OC 4/2 was an excellent number for one gathering (DO). The high count of **Great Egret** was five at BA 4/15 (KT). Single **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at LP 5/6 (NM) and near PET 5/17 (JK).

In late April, Ken Tucker saw **Osprey** activity on a communication tower on Stone Creek Ridge overlooking the town of Huntingdon and the Juniata River. He then noticed that a nest had been built on the top of the tower. The next day, two Ospreys were seen there, including one on the nest. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first nesting of Osprey in the county in recent times. Activity was still apparent well into June, giving hope of success.

Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard at MAS 5/5 and 5/11 (DW, MM, JK). **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports were higher than previous years by a factor of two or three, according to eBird stats, which matched the impressions of happy birders; a notable spike of reports occurred in late April and May. Away from TMHW, **Merlins** were found at OC 3/3 (Ni) and SCEC 5/20 (DB *et al.*). **Peregrine Falcons** were confirmed nesting in 2021, with at least two young fledged; after failure in 2022, status is uncertain. During the spring there were reports from at least seven locations in the northern half of the county.

The two rarest regular flycatchers here are **Alder Flycatcher**, a very late migrant, reported regularly at OC beginning 5/14 but not elsewhere except once at LTI; and **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, which went unreported. Reports of the least common nesting vireo, **White-eyed Vireo**, were fewer than usual, noted only at AA 4/26 and 5/5 (TK, DK, GG, DG), in Big Valley 5/10 (DiB), and at LT 5/28 (LB). With the now-well-known confusion on the Merlin app, **Philadelphia Vireo** reports were numerous, but the great majority were wrong, presenting a

challenge to eBird reviewers. Good counts of **American Pipit** came from PET, with 75 on 4/3 (PM, PaM, LaM, AF), and from PF, with 68 on 4/21 (KS) and 65 on 5/5 (KT).

Among winter finches, notable was a single **Evening Grosbeak** near MF 5/10 (MB), a location which hosted a flock two winters earlier. Top **Purple Finch** counts were 27 near MF 4/11 (MM) and 22 on Silver Pine Rd, on the edge of RSF, 4/14 (JM). Most notable among finches was a flock of 17 **Red Crossbills** feeding in pines at MAS 5/19 (JA) and seen at least one additional day. A few **Pine Siskin** reports were all of one or two birds.

Reports of grassland sparrows were limited: two of **Grasshopper Sparrow**, five of **Vesper Sparrow**, and nine of **Savannah Sparrow**, with the latter seen on multiple occasions at OC. **Yellow-breasted Chat** reporting was good with observations from about a dozen locations, topped by a count of four at SGL 112 on 5/13 (GG, DG). **Rusty Blackbird** was reported about a dozen times, from at least nine locations, with no count higher than six.

Thirty-two warbler species were recorded in eBird, a typical spring number. *Huntingdon* is, relatively speaking, a good area for finding **Golden-winged Warblers**, reports of which usually outnumber **Blue-winged Warblers**. However, some identifications are based on voice only, which does not allow definite assignment to species. In fact, there are nearly as many reports of **Brewster's Warbler** as for the two non-hybrid (by plumage) forms; Brewster's may sing either song (though not necessarily by any individual bird). Single **Mourning Warblers** were at SGL 67 on 5/15 (LaM) and LT 5/18 (NB). **Kentucky Warbler** is a rare breeder in the county; the only reports were of one 5/11 (DK, TK) and two on 5/17 (JK), both at SGL 322, a known reliable location.

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Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce Park (BS), Ghost Town Trail (GTT), Indiana (IN), Indiana University of PA (IUP), West Penn Trail (WPT), Yellow Creek SP (YC).

Eight **Snow Geese** at YC 4/8 (TM) was the fourth largest YC flock on record with two previous highs of 400 on 3/6/1990 (GL) and 23 on 3/9/2004 (LC, CG, MH, SS). **Tundra Swans** continued to move through the county with top counts of 81 near Plumville 3/1 (TH), 70 at YC 3/7 (LC, CH, MH, RH, GT), and 63 at Pioneer Lake, also 3/7 (GL); movement had tapered off to a singleton at Blairsville by 3/26 (KR). The top count of **Wood Ducks** was 119 as they left the marsh at YC 3/10 (MS, JT) in the late afternoon; this surpassed the previous spring high of 75 on 3/23/1999 (MH, CaL, LW). Three **Blue-winged Teal** 3/18 (AB) were first arrivals at YC. The last eight **Northern Shovelers** were spotted at YC 5/4 (JT) while two **Gadwall** lingered till 5/18 (JT). The **Eurasian Wigeon**, found last quarter, lingered through 3/2 (AL, JS) at YC. The last two **American Wigeons** remained at YC 4/25 (HR), the same day (SD, MH, RH, TR, JT) the last spring **American Black Duck** was also listed at YC. Two lingering **Green-winged Teal** were noted at YC 5/8 (MS).

Ten **Canvasbacks** and four **Redheads** were still present at YC 4/6 (MSC). A late **Ring-necked Duck** remained at YC 5/18 (JT). One of two **Greater Scaup** at YC was photographed 3/26 (JP) while two **Lesser Scaup** stayed on the lake through 5/23 (HR). Lingered scoters are not a YC phenomenon. A drake and two hen **Surf Scoters** were first observed at YC 4/18 (JT) and amazingly remained through 4/25 (SD, MH, RH, TR, JT) and were seen by many. A gorgeous drake **White-winged Scoter**, spotted by the Tuesday YC crew 3/28 (ED, PF, MH, RH, JT), was not as cooperative but was spotted later that same day (MW). **Long-tailed Ducks** put in a good appearance this spring with sightings on three dates: 21 on 3/7 (LC, CH, MH, RH, GT); two on 3/25 (MH, RH, NH, GT, RW); and 10 on 3/28 (LC, ED, PF, MH, RH, JT). Three **Buffleheads** were last noted 5/4 (MS). The best **Common Goldeneye** tally was 12 on 3/7 (LC, CH, MH, RH, GT). The WPT was a hotspot for **Common Mergansers** this spring with a top count of 11 on 3/21 (MM); although this is an uncommon local breeder, it was also unusual to spot a drake Common Merganser fly over a Shelocta BBS stop 5/27 (MH, RH). **Red-breasted Merganser** numbers at YC returned somewhat to

what they had been in the past with counts of 99 on 3/21 (ED, MH, RH, DK, GT), 130 on 3/22 (AKi), 110 on 3/26 (KL), and 90 on 4/11 (JT, GT). A high **Ruddy Duck** tally of 65 occurred 3/26 (JP).

It's good to report more **Ruffed Grouse** sightings, including one near Nolo 3/4 and 4/24 (TH), and four along three sections of the GTT 3/24, 4/3, and 5/13 (GT).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were respectively found at only 10 and six locations this spring. Only two sightings of **Common Nighthawk** were listed – one roosting on a tree limb along the WPT trailhead 5/10 (MS, JT) and another nocturnal sighting near IN 5/17 (DJ). The only-reported, but extremely early, **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard making "distinctive, half-hearted" calls along the Hoodlebug Trail 3/24 (JC).

A **Virginia Rail** was heard calling and was recorded at the Waterworks Conservation Area 4/10-11 (SD). **American Coot** numbers reached or surpassed 100 on ten dates at YC between 3/21 (ED, MH, RH, DK, GT) and 4/20 (JT). Three **Semipalmated Plovers** and a one-day-wonder **Ruddy Turnstone** appeared on the beach 5/17 (HR, MS, JT). The three plovers continued through 5/23 (HR) while another Semipalmated Plover was found 5/27 (TM, JT). A single **Dunlin** and a **Least Sandpiper** were first noted 5/12 (JT); single Least Sandpipers were also listed 5/23 and 5/ 31 (HR). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** accompanied the above-mentioned turnstone 5/17 (MS, JT, MW). Three **Pectoral Sandpipers** arrived at YC 4/18 (MH, RH). The first two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were observed 5/13 (GL, JP) while a singleton was photographed 5/30 (SD, CH, MH, RH). The beach also yielded a **Short-billed Dowitcher** on 5/12 (JT). **Wilson's Snipe** reports included one along the WPT at Blairsville 3/18 (MCA); singletons at IUP 3/22, 4/23, and 4/26 (JT); two at Conemaugh Floodlands 4/6 (MS); and one at YC 4/22 (MH, RH). The first two **Spotted Sandpipers** stopped on the beach at YC 4/22 (JT); the high count was seven on the park's south shore 5/12 (JT). Apr 25 (MD) marked the first migrant **Solitary Sandpiper** at YC; the last northward-bound Solitary was listed 5/12 (JT). Five **Greater Yellowlegs** flew into the south shore boat launch area 4/25 (MH, RH, TR) after the Tuesday morning YC outing; the last noted was one 5/17 (GS, MS, JT).

The top tally of **Bonaparte's Gulls** was 100 on 4/9 (JTi, JN) at YC. Single **Caspian Terns** visited YC 5/7 (EP) and 5/13 (GL); a **Black Tern** appeared at YC 5/7 (EP) and 5/15 (GS, MS). **Common Tern** sightings included singletons on 5/16 (MH, RH, JT) and 5/18 (JT). One to three **Forster's Terns** visited YC between 4/18 (SD, MH, RH, JT) and 5/23 (HR), but 5/13 (GL) yielded the high of 21 Forster's Terns.

Three **Great Egrets** stopped by YC 4/15 (KL); another was there 5/23 (HR). A **Black Vulture** was possibly on eggs along the GTT 5/13 (GT). This is the same location where the observer confirmed nesting last year.

An **Osprey** at YC on 5/30 (SD, CH, MH, RH), carrying a fish while being pursued by a Bald Eagle, suggested nearby, but still unconfirmed, nesting. A **Short-eared Owl** was last seen near West Lebanon 3/8 (CH). **Merlins** were noted around IN throughout the spring (v.o.).

Single **Alder Flycatchers** were found 5/21, both at YC (TM) and at Conemaugh Floodlands (MS). Much less common as a breeding bird than 20 years ago, **Least Flycatchers** were reported at only four locations between 5/8 (JT) and 5/16 (MH, RH, TR, JT).

Philadelphia Vireos were spotted at six spots (v.o.) between 5/7 (AK, JK) at Hemlock L and 5/26 (Anonymous) near Blairsville.

One to two **Horned Larks** were noted just north of YC between 3/15 (GT) and 4/18 (MH, RH) and at YC on 5/17 (MS, JT).

All six swallows were noted at YC this spring. Of note were four early-arriving **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** on 4/6 (MSC). One to four **Purple Martins** were hanging around YC between 4/4 (SD, ED, MH, RH, DK, JT, GT) and 5/23 (HR), roosting, but not nesting, in the martin house. Two **Bank Swallows** arrived 4/23 (AL, JS), and one or two were seen on four other dates through 5/16 (MH, RH, JT). Two **Cliff Swallows**, the first of the season, graced YC Lake on 4/22 (MH, RH); they were seen sporadically through 5/2 (ED, MH, RH, JT).

Red-breasted Nuthatches showed a good spring presence with the last sighting at White's Woods 5/15 (JC). **Brown Creepers**, in good numbers this spring, continued through the end of the period only at YC (SD, CH, MH, RH).

An early **House Wren** popped up at YC behind the park office on 3/25 (MH, RH, NH, GT, RW); we first heard it singing, but Greg was able to spot it. Before the rest of us saw it, the wren flew farther into the forest. Ray tried to pursue it unsuccessfully. Two additional birders (TP, MJS) heard the House Wren singing just up the road near the maintenance

building later that afternoon. This is the only March date in eBird for House Wren in *Indiana*.

Winter Wrens continued from the end of the previous period through 4/11 (SD, ED, JE, MH, RH, DK, GL, JP, JSC, MSC, GT) at YC; sightings along the GTT through 5/20 (CM) are probably locally breeding wrens as the habitat looks great.

Veeries were in short supply this spring with only two reports: one 5/13 (MH, RH) at SGL 174, and the other on 5/19 (MK) along the WPT. Only two **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were noted: singletons near Lewisville 5/18 (MC) and at BS 5/22 (MH, RH). **Swainson's Thrushes**, on the other hand, were listed at seven locations with multiple reports at some, between 5/10 (GT) when two were found at Pine Ridge Park and 5/22 (MH, RH) when the last was spotted at BS. **Hermit Thrushes** started showing up 4/6 (MS) in IN and 4/23 (MS) at the WPT trailhead. **Wood Thrushes** first appeared 4/30 (MH, RH) near Shelocta and 5/5 (MSC) near Brush Valley.

West of IN, two **Evening Grosbeaks** stopped at a feeder 4/25 and 4/28 (SA); north of Creekside one showed up 4/28 and two 5/1 (Anonymous). Early **Purple Finches** included one near Lewisville 3/16 (MC) and two each on 3/31 near IN (SD) and at Nolo (GL); the Nolo flock had increased to 14 by 4/17 (CL, GL). The first **Pine Siskin** arrived in IN 4/17 (JS); the only other report detailed five individuals near Lewisville 5/6 (MC).

Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were observed 5/13 (MH, RH) near Glen Campbell, one 5/17 (JP) at SGL 273, and two 5/23 (SK) at SGL 262. The first **Fox Sparrow** appeared at a Nolo feeder 3/11 (GL); high tallies included eight at Blacklick Valley Natural Area on 4/2 (GT) and five near Ernest 4/3 (MS). The only **Savannah Sparrow** was present at SGL 273 on 5/7 (MS) and 5/10 (MS, JT). **Henslow's Sparrows** were listed at SGL 273 on 5/5 (MH, RH), near Glen Campbell 5/13 (MH, RH), and at SGL 262 on 5/23 (SK).

Yellow-breasted Chat was found at only three *Indiana* locations this spring (v.o.) and missing from what had been the most reliable spot near Clarksburg.

Bobolinks, too, were mostly in low numbers with the only reports including two near Rossiter 5/7 (AK, JK), one N of Cramer 5/8 (AM), four near Hillsdale 5/13 (MH, RH), and eight in the Glen Campbell area 5/13 (MH, RH), and two near Dayton 5/14 (JS). YC hosted the first 15 **Rusty Blackbirds** 3/3 (JT), but rusties were present on eight other dates through 4/23 (JS) at YC. The best count of 19 was obtained along the WPT 3/31 (GT).

Thirty-one warbler species were sighted in *Indiana* this spring. Highlights included two **Golden-winged Warblers**: one at BS 5/10 (MS, JT), and the other at SGL 273 on 5/12 (MS). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was another great find, first sighted at YC 5/7 (LR), relocated later that same day (HR), and spotted again the next day (JT). Interesting was the appearance of a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at a suet feeder near IN 4/24 (SD). **Wilson's Warbler** showed up only at YC on 5/11 (HR), 5/12 (JT), and 5/17 (JKa).

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Jefferson

Locations: Brown Road (BR), Cloe Lake (CL), Galusha Road (GR), Gaskill Township (GT), Kelsey Road (KR), Kyle Lake, (KL), Little Toby Rails to Trail (LTRT), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MST), Martini Road (MR), Mill Creek (MC), Punxsutawney (PXY), Sigel (SL), Worthville Cemetery (WC).

The 2023 spring season provided a few uncommon sightings for the county. An unusually large flock of 24 **Snow Geese** was tallied in PXY 3/18 (NV). Four **Blue-winged Teal** were noted along MST 4/26 (DG), a pair of **Northern Shovelers** put down on KL 4/10 (CK), and an impressive fourteen **Common Goldeneyes** landed on CL 3/9 (JAK).

Additional notables included a **Ruffed Grouse** encounter near PXY 5/11 (NV), a **Solitary Sandpiper** along LTRT 5/14 (MM), and an **American Woodcock** near MR 5/17 (DK). A **Great Egret** was discovered at KL 3/26 (KW), and a trio of **Green Herons** were documented along LTRT 5/18 (DK).

Other sightings included an **Eastern Screech-Owl** vocalizing at an undisclosed private residence 5/29 (KD), and a **Barred Owl** was observed near MC 5/21 (SH). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** have been showing up more frequently in this part of the state. The most recent sighting occurred along GR 5/16 (DK).

Various passerines of note included a **White-eyed Vireo** along MST 5/8 (JAK), a **Philadelphia Vireo** near BR 5/24 (JS), a **Fish Crow** vocalizing at WC 5/24 (JAK), and a large flock of 50 **Horned Larks** in GT 3/8 (NV). Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were located along BR 5/23 (JS). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was noted near SL 5/17 (GE), and three **Evening Grosbeaks** were documented along GR 4/29 (DK). Another northern finch, a **Pine Siskin**, was found along BR 5/6 (JS). Additionally, a **Rusty Blackbird** appeared along MST 4/26 (DG).

Warbler highlights included a **Louisiana Waterthrush** at CCSP 5/24 (CB), a **Blue-winged Warbler** that appeared along MST 5/19 (JAK), and a **Kentucky Warbler** that was discovered near KR 5/25 (KD).

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Juniata County

Locations: Casner's Crossing - Juniata River (CC), Clearwater Res in Licking Creek Valley (CR), East Waterford (EW), Juniata County Industrial Park Retention Pond (JCIP), Karl Guss Park (KGP), Licking Creek Valley (LCV), McAlisterville (MA), Mifflintown (MIF), Mifflintown River Access (MRA).

Spring temperatures were mostly above normal, as seems to be expected now. Rainfall was well short of normal, especially during May when the deficit for the month was on the order of about three inches. For the season, 193 species were entered into eBird, the same as in 2022 and about average for the past six years. The county-wide species total for Migration Day, 5/13, was 144.

Not a common occurrence, 125 grounded **Tundra Swans** were at MRA 3/7 (CK, JP, MP). Eighteen species of ducks were reported, with generally routine numbers, meaning low counts. A nice total of 40 **Common Mergansers** were at CR 3/11 (JP, MP, TP).

Ruffed Grouse was reported only six times in six widely scattered locations, all singles. The only **Common Nighthawk** reports were of six at CC 5/13 (CK) and one at MA 5/25 (MP). A **Virginia Rail** was a good find at MA 5/13 (MP).

Several uncommon shorebirds were found at JCIP, including one **Semipalmated Plover** 4/27 (MP, CK), one **Dunlin** 4/15-16 (SS, JP, MP, CK, JH), a high of 14 **Least Sandpipers** 5/7 (SS), one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/11, and up to nine **Solitary Sandpipers** 4/30 (m.ob.). Following a couple earlier arrivals, **Spotted Sandpipers** were found at six different locations 4/30. **Greater Yellowlegs** were reported a total of seven times at five locations, and **Lesser Yellowlegs** reports were over a dozen.

Twenty-five **Bonaparte's Gulls** at MRA 4/2 were a nice find for *Juniata* (CK), as were counts of up to 28 **Double-crested Cormorants** there 4/1-2 (CK, JP, MP, SS). Not reported annually, an **American Bittern** was at CC 5/7 (CK).

Golden Eagles were noted at EW 3/8 (CK, JP, MP) and MIF 3/11 (CK). **Northern Harriers** continued from winter at Billyville Rd, with a high of seven on 4/2 (JP, MP). Single **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard two miles apart near KGP 3/4 (JP, MP, TP). The only **Merlin** was at MAC 3/31 (JP). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were at MA 3/2 (JP, MP) and at MIF 3/3 (CK, NK).

Carolina Chickadees are rare in *Juniata* but not unexpected, just north of the chickadee hybrid zone. One was at CC (CK) and another at Red Rock Rd (SS), both on 3/12. A **Marsh Wren** near MIF 5/6 (MP, TP) was the second county report in eBird. High counts of approximately 100 **American Pipits** were made near MIF 4/2 and at Long Rd 3/26 and 4/7 (MP, JP, TP).

Quite unexpected were six **Evening Grosbeaks** near Nook 5/3 (AW). One or two **Pine Siskins** visited a feeding station in LCV 3/5, 5/10, and 5/31 (DB); one was at MA 4/28 (MP). Only the third eBird record for *Juniata*, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found near MA 4/26 (MP). A good count of a declining grassland species, 13 **Vesper Sparrows** were on Troyer Rd near MA 4/7 (MP, JP). An impressive estimated 100 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at MIF 3/12 (SS).

Thirty-one warbler species were recorded, none unexpected. Notable were four **Golden-winged Warblers** near Reeds Gap 5/13 (JP, MP) and three there 5/15 (WW, NW). Not often reported, but likely an uncommon breeder, a **Kentucky Warbler** was at KGP 5/28 (SS).

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Lackawanna County

Location: Lackawanna SP (LSP).

The spring season in the Poconos was alarmingly dry. The months of April and May experienced very little rainfall and drought conditions carried over into June. However, spring birding continued as normal and ultimately produced a handful of notable bird sightings.

A nice, but expected, diversity of migratory waterfowl species was reported throughout the county. The most impressive among these were **Tundra Swans** discovered at three different locations by multiple Observers. The period's high was nine at Bassett Pond near Fleetville 3/1-3/6 (m.ob.). Also of note were the five **Redhead** found at Griffin Reservoir 3/2 (MM).

Birders will likely agree that *Lackawanna's* best observation for the season came from Archbald Pothole SP when a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was found and ph. 5/11 (TD). At least two **Sandhill Cranes** returned to suspected breeding grounds near Watts Rd 3/18 (RW) and were last reported there 4/13 (CF). A **Golden Eagle** reported at LSP 3/24-3/25 (MJ) deserves mention. The most notable shorebird sighting of the period was a **Dunlin** at Sicklers Pond 5/16 (DS). Three noteworthy wood-warbler county high counts were produced from Pinchot SF; an estimated 40 **Ovenbird**, as well as individual tallies of 15 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** and 16 **Black-and-White Warblers** (KB). Bringing a close to *Lackawanna's* 2023 spring season highlights was the unmatched discovery of eight **Evening Grosbeaks** at LSP 4/18 (TD).

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Lancaster County

Locations: Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna WTP Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Wheatland Hills Community Park (WHCP).

Our weather for the season was routine overall. However, May set a record with only 0.2 in of rain compared with the average of nearly 4 in. Weather information is sourced from the NWS Harrisburg station. The species count was 228, versus the five-year average of 234 (229, 232, 243, 233, 232 previous). The first county record **Anhinga**, second **Brown Pelican**, second **Bicknell's Thrush**, fourth **Swallow-tailed Kite**, and continuing third **Say's Phoebe** and third "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were seasonal highlights. The all-time county list increased to 365.

Spring **Snow Geese** migration was quite unusual and early by historical standards. Coming into Mar there were fewer than 3,000 birds remaining, and by the end of the first week they had cleared out entirely. Nine **Greater White-fronted Geese** dropped by MCWMA 3/6 (m.ob.), as did four **Long-tailed Ducks** 3/26 (JF, m.ob.). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were frequent along the Susquehanna R, but scoters were absent.

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was found in a field near Farmersville 5/23 (ZM). **Sandhill Crane** sightings were quite numerous around the county, notably a flock of 12 in flight over LCCP 5/7 (JB). There were 17 shorebird species this spring. **Black-bellied Plover**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Dunlin**, **White-rumped Sandpiper**, and **Short-billed Dowitcher** all made the list from Susquehanna R locations and MCWMA. Late on the evening of 5/26, a northbound flock of 80+ **Whimbrel** were observed near Reamstown, just south of the Ephrata mountain (EM). An adult **Little Gull** was sighted on the Susquehanna R at Peach Bottom 3/10 (BS), one was north of Accomac 3/11 (TG), and two were near Wrightsville 3/27 (ML). Surprisingly, **Caspian Tern** was the only tern

species found. A **Red-throated Loon** floated on MCWMA 5/2 (JW, m.ob.).

An **Anhinga** was discovered and photographed 5/18 at SRCF by a kayaker and posted to Facebook (anon.). It was not re-found despite a thorough search the following day. Its presence was not surprising given the high volume of reports across PA and neighboring states this spring. What is surprising is that it was the first *Lancaster* record! Given some of the outlandish water bird sightings over the last century or more in this county, it was just a matter of time. No doubt there will be more in the future as they continue to overshoot into the northeast in increasing numbers.

Hardly to be outdone, an adult **Brown Pelican** circled over MCWMA 5/14 (NC, TC). The bird (presumably the same individual) reappeared there on the dam 5/18 (SF, m.ob.). It was observed all day on 5/19 sitting along the lake shore, hardly moving. Its fate is unknown but given its behavior it was probably not a positive outcome for the second *Lancaster* record.

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** appeared in front of a storm over Rohrerstown 4/22 (SM). It circled with vultures for several minutes, obliging the observer just enough time to grab his camera, marking the fourth record for *Lancaster*. A **Mississippi Kite** was seen near Danville 5/14 (KLe), and a stunning adult male **Rough-legged Hawk** was photographed at MCWMA 3/8 (LS).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** sang at MCWMA 5/22 (KLo), the only one for spring. The final date for the over-wintering **Say's Phoebe** at SWTPWB was 3/25 (m.ob.). The second county **Bicknell's Thrush** was well-photographed and its diagnostic song recorded at WHCP 5/22 (DL). The only previously accepted record of this cryptic species came from the same observer in the same location nearly 18 years to the day prior! This shows just how difficult these are to find, and even harder to confirm. Another would be captured in a banding operation post-period.

Both **Purple Finch** and, in particular, **Pine Siskin** showed a notable increase over last spring. There were two **Lapland Longspurs** in a field near Gap 3/10-11 (RB, NW, WW). Thirty-three warblers were found, including an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at NDP 3/1-4/13 (SM, m.ob.). The over-wintering male "**Audubon's**" **Yellow rumped Warbler** was last reported at SWTPWB 4/2 (m.ob.), having been photographed in beautiful breeding plumage, confirming its identity beyond a doubt.

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Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Coper Road marsh (CR), Plain Grove Township (PG), Shaner Road Marsh (SR), Volant Strips (VSM), Vosler Road (VR).

A **Mute Swan** hung out at CR 3/4-5/6 (MV), and a **Tundra Swan** was at Edinburg Lake 3/4 (MV). The season was bookended by duos of **Blue-winged Teal** at CR 3/5 (RV) and at SR 5/20 (MV), with several more reports made in between. CR hosted some impressive numbers of dabblers in Mar. Among these were counts of up to 16 **Northern Shovelers** 3/18-4/2 (MV), **Gadwalls** numbering 49 on 3/4, 188 on 3/18, and 227 on 3/24 (all MV), and 18 **American Wigeon** 3/18 (MV). There were also 95 **Ring-necked Ducks** there 3/4 (MV) and 58 still there 3/18 (MV). Elsewhere, notables included four **Northern Shovelers** at SR 3/9 (GK, MAK), 27 **Gadwall** at BS 3/8 (LF *et al.*), **Northern Pintail** at BS and SR 3/9 (GK, MAK), two **Redheads** (the only ones reported this season) at Edinburg L 3/4 (MV), 45 **Ring-necked Duck** still at SR 4/5 (MK), a nice find of 76 **Lesser Scaup** at Edinburg L 3/4 (MV), and a lingering **Bufflehead** at SR 5/6 (MV).

A late **Horned Grebe** was at SR 5/20-22 (MV). The only reports of nightjars were of a **Common Nighthawk** 5/19 and an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** 5/6, both on Newman Rd east of New Castle (RV). **Virginia Rail** was noted at BS 4/27 (PS) and 5/26 (GK, MAK). A **Common Gallinule** was found on Edwards Rd near Wampum 5/12, close to the traditional location for them on Wampum-New Galilee Rd, where four were noted 5/22 (both MV). The first report of **Sandhill Cranes** involving a colt was made at VSM 5/11 (RN). The few shorebirds reported this

season included up to three **Semipalmated Plovers** at SR 5/20-25 (MV) and one at VR 5/29 (MV), a **Dunlin** at SR 5/20 (MV), and a late **Solitary Sandpiper** at Galilee Rd 5/22 (MV). A nice count of 31 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was made at the old Three Rivers Gravel Pond on Larchwood Dr 4/1 (MV), but even more unusual for the county were the three **Common Terns** on the Beaver River near Moravia 4/29 (MV). A **Forster's Tern** on Golf Course Rd 5/11 (RN) was another nice find. The last **Northern Harriers** of the spring were noted at VSM 4/8 (MC). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was noted in three locations, including again at Book Rd in SGL 151 on 5/11 (GK, MAK).

Alder Flycatchers were found at BS 5/22 (TR) and on Nelson Rd, VSM 5/26 (GK, MAK). A **Northern Shrike** held on in the VSM area through 3/26 (JB, AH), probably one of what may have been multiple birds in this area from the winter season. A **Philadelphia Vireo**, rare in spring, was adequately described at McConnell's Mill SP 5/10 (JM). Reports of **Common Raven**, still rare in *Lawrence* (but for how much longer?), included one along the Pennsylvania Turnpike a few miles from the Ohio line 3/19 (KO) and one near New Castle 4/23 (FS). A count of 13 **Purple Martins** was made at CR 4/29 (MV), and singles were also noted at four other locations. A count of 21 **Bank Swallows** on the Beaver River near Moravia 5/6 (MV) suggested a colony somewhere close by, and 15 were at SR 5/20-29 (MV), a location with plenty of potential nest sites nearby. The latest of a handful of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was one that remained in a New Castle yard from the winter to 5/7 (PS). *Catharus* thrushes (besides Hermit) were quite sparse, with just two reports of **Swainson's Thrush** and only one of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, the latter in New Castle 5/13 (CB). **American Pipits** included one in PG 4/16 (MC) and one on Mudbridge Rd 5/4 (JS). Mudbridge Rd also had the only **Vesper Sparrows** of the season 4/6-8 (JS). Grassland sparrows barely registered at VSM this season, but it was unclear whether this was due to a lack of coverage (probably not; see below). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was there 5/13 (JB), and **Henslow's Sparrow** was noted just twice 5/11 (RN) and 5/13 (JB). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at BS 5/22 (TR) was a nice spring find. **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at VSM 5/13 (JB). Despite the lack of sparrow reports at VSM, **Bobolinks** were frequent there, with many reports of up to 20 made beginning 5/11, so lack of coverage may not have been the primary culprit for the sparrows' poor show. Five total reports of **Rusty Blackbird** 3/21-5/5 (m.ob.) were scattered around the county and all of single birds. **Tennessee Warbler** was the only pass-through migrant that was well-reported, with at least 10 reports 5/12-21 (m.ob.). A **Magnolia Warbler** at SGL 151 on 5/22 (MV) was the only one. A **Pine Warbler** was on Mudbridge Rd 4/20 (JS), and a **Canada Warbler** was at BS 5/11 (RN).

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Lebanon County

Locations: Cold Springs Rd (CSR), Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation (FIG), Lebanon Valley Rail Trail (LVRT), Lion's Lake (LL), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Michters Rd (MR), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Fox and Prescott Rd (FXP), Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands (QEW), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2MTN), SGL 145, SGL 156, SGL 211, Shuey Lake (SL), Stover's Dam Park (SDP), Swatara State Park (SSP), Twin Groves RV Resort (TGR).

The **Common Shelduck**, of uncertain origin, continued to attract numerous birders to LL through the spring quarter. A **Canvasback** was at MLSP 3/2 (JD). One was also observed at LL 3/8-14 (JM, MC, ES, DR, IR, MH, m.ob.). Twenty-six **Redheads** provided a good count at MLSP on 3/2 (JD). Also part of the fallout there that day were 110 **Ring-necked Ducks** (TK, JD). Two **Greater Scaup** were at MLSP 3/2 (JD), with one there also on 4/17 (TB). A **Greater Scaup** was at MC 3/5 (JH). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were at MLSP 3/7 (SD, SW, CT, JD). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at MLSP 3/30-31 (RP, JD, CT, TB, m.ob.).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was drumming at SSP 3/16 (TK). Grouse were also found at SGL 211 on 4/14 (TB) and 5/21 (SW).

Two **Common Nighthawks** flew over MLSP the evening of 5/10 (RS).

Two **Virginia Rails** were found at FIG 4/13-24 (JD, CT, JH, SW, RS). Two were at SL within FIG 5/3-13 (JD, CT, JH, RK, TC). A **Sora**

was at FIG 4/13-15 (JD, CT, JH). A **Common Gallinule** was also observed at FIG 5/3 (JD, CT). Two **Sandhill Cranes** made an appearance at MC 4/11 (NW, WW).

Semipalmated Plovers were found at QEW 5/7 (P&RW) and at FXP 5/27 (P&RW). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at FXP 5/3 (FHa).

Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at MLSP 4/19 (RS), with one there on 4/29 (DD, TB, KB, JA, JD). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was in the Lebanon area 3/25 (RS).

An **American Bittern** was found at MC 5/13 (SM). A **Great Egret** provided a new county early date at SDP 3/29-30 (P&RW, JM). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at SL 4/15-17 (JH, SW, CT, JD).

Two **Golden Eagles** were seen at 2MTN 3/1 (JD). A **Mississippi Kite** provided a thirteenth county record along Interstate 81 near Jonestown 5/10 (AM). A **Merlin** was seen at TGR 5/5 (DD).

A **Short-eared Owl** was seen on the Lebanon side of MC 3/26 (RS).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were found at SGL 156 on 5/14 (JH) and in the Cold Springs area of SGL 211 on 5/20 (NF).

A **Cliff Swallow** was at MLSP 5/18-20 (SW, MM).

Mar and Apr were good for **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and **Purple Finches**. They were reported from many locations this spring. Twelve **Purple Finches** were at SGL 145 on 4/29 (P&RW), with fifteen at MR 4/30 (P&RW).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was at MLSP 4/15 (JDe).

Twenty-six **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at SGL 145 on 4/14 (PB, RP). Six **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen at the LVRT 3/31 (JM). Six were also at Bindnagle's Church 4/25 (MC).

A **Mourning Warbler** was at SGL 145 on 5/10 (P&RW). Up to two **Cerulean Warblers** were at FIG 5/13-21 (JD, SW, JF), and specifically along CSR at FIG 5/24-31 (JH, SD, MC, JM, P&RW). A **Pine Warbler** was singing on territory fairly early along Tomstown Rd at FIG 3/18 (JH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** provided a sixteenth county record along MR 4/29-5/2 (FH, RP, JF, m.ob.).

Blue Grosbeaks were found at a farm in Grantville 5/8 (TB, AS), at MC 5/19-20 (RS, P&RW), and at FIG 5/22 (JD, CH).

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Lycoming County

Locations: Robert Porter Allen Natural Area (RPANA), Rose Valley Lake (RVL).

A total of 201 species were reported during the spring.

A **Ross's Goose** was mixed in with a flock of Snow Geese in Loyalsock 3/11 (BB, DeB, BoB), providing the second *Lycoming* record of that species. Three **Trumpeter Swans** were on Beaver Lake 3/20 (BB, DeB, BoB) and 3/21 (RB, MH).

A **Surf Scoter** was at RVL 4/22 (BB, DeB, BoB, NF) and 4/23 (BB, RB). Two **White-winged Scoters** were at RVL 4/1 (BB, DeB, BoB, RB) and one was at the same location 4/14 (BB, RB).

A male **hybrid Hooded x Common Merganser** was seen at the Williamsport Dam 4/24 (EH *et al.*) and was last reported there 5/7 (JD). A female-type of that hybrid was seen at the same location in early 2022, so given how rare this pairing is, it's possible that it was an imm. in 2022 and returned as an adult.

At least two **Soras** were at RPANA 5/3-8 (BB, DeB, BoB *et al.*). A **Common Gallinule** was at RVL 4/29-5/4 (BB *et al.*). One was also at SGL 252 on 5/7 (BB, RB, AK). A **Sandhill Crane** was at RPANA 4/20 (m.ob.), and a pair there 4/29 (m.ob.).

A **Black Tern** dropped in at RVL 5/16 (BB, DeB, BoB, RB).

It was by far the best season in many years for **American Bitterns**, with sightings at RPANA 4/17 (BB, DeB, BoB, RB), 4/30 (BB, DeB, BoB), 5/3 (BB, DeB, BoB), and 5/7 (BB), and an additional one at RVL 4/29 (m.ob.).

There were a higher number of **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports than normal, including Fairfield Twp 4/24-26 (EH *et al.*), near Larryville

4/24-5/3 (DR), Eldred Twp 5/3 (JD), and three individuals at SGL 252 on 5/7 (BB, RB, AK).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at RVL 5/12 (BB, DeB, BoB). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at SGL 252 on 5/21 (BB, RB, AK).

A **Marsh Wren** was at RPANA 4/27 (BB, RB), which provided only the third spring record of that species in *Lycoming*.

Two **Evening Grosbeaks** visited a feeder in Ralston 5/4 (NF).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at RPANA 5/13 (BB, DeB, BoB), which provided the eighth record of that species in *Lycoming*. Two **Vesper Sparrows** were at RPANA 4/30 (BB, RB). At least five **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at RPANA 5/8 (BB, DeB, BoB), which is a very notable count for this uncommon spring species. One was also seen near Larryville 5/18 (DR, JD).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at SGL 252 on 5/14 (BB, RB), and two were present at the same location a week later on 5/21 (BB, RB, AK).

A female **Lawrence's Warbler** (hybrid) was at RVL 5/8 (MH, BB, RB), and a male was on the other side of the lake 5/11 (BB, DeB, BoB). A **Mourning Warbler** was at Upper Bodines Rd. 5/17 (BB, RB), and one was at Mill St. 5/20 (BB, DeB, BoB).

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McKean County

Locations: Bradford (BRD), Rixford (RX), Smethport (SME), Willow Bay Recreation Area (WIL).

Twenty-five **Tundra Swans** were photographed on the first day of the spring season near BRD 3/1 (KE). Two **American Black Ducks** were at WIL 5/22 (BG). There were two **Buffleheads** at Elk SP 3/26 (CB) and two at Rasselas Marsh 4/1 (PW). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Hamlin L Park 4/6 (BG). Unusual migrating water birds 4/6-5/21 included two **Wilson's Snipes**, up to three **Spotted Sandpipers**, a **Solitary Sandpiper**, a **Lesser Yellowlegs**, a **Bonaparte's Gull**, a **Forster's Tern** (BG, *fide* CS), and five **Black-crowned Night-Herons** (MB, MMs, MS, BS).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was "eating grape jelly" in a BRD yard 5/9 (MM), and one was at a Kane feeder 5/11 (FA). A **Merlin** was seen in SME 3/30 (BG) and again 4/22 (MS).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was noted east of Norwich 5/17 (TD), and four were there 5/28 (AS). Two **Bank Swallows** were seen at WIL 5/24 (BG), and six **Cliff Swallows** were near SME 5/13 (BS). Nine **Brown Creepers** were "singing" outside Kane 4/21 (CW). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at SME 4/22 (MS). A **Northern Mockingbird** was seen at a farm outside Kane 5/16 (FA), and a **Swainson's Thrush** was near SME 5/13 (BS).

Two **American Tree Sparrows** were near SME 4/2 (BG), and three **Savannah Sparrows** were there 4/22 (MS). An **Orchard Oriole** near BRD 5/10 "kept flying around the house, tapping at a window" (MMs), and one was near SME 5/13 (BS). Six **Rusty Blackbirds** made a "flock in an apple tree" near SME 4/20 (BG), and two were seen near there 4/22 (MS).

Migrating warblers included one of each of the following: **Blue-winged Warbler** in RX 5/9 (LC), **Tennessee Warbler** at Timberdoodle Flats 5/14 (LC, BG) and in RX that day (LC), **Nashville Warbler** near Mt. Jewett 5/11 (BH), **Cape May Warbler** at WIL 5/9 (CC), **Cerulean Warbler** also at WIL 5/23 (BG), **Northern Parula** at WIL 5/23-24 (BG), **Bay-breasted Warbler** at SME 5/13 (BS) and at RX 5/13 (LC), **Pine Warbler** at RX 4/15 (LC), **Canada Warbler** and a **Wilson's Warbler** both at SME 5/13 (BS).

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Mercer County

Locations: Big Bend (BB), Chestnut Run (CR), Greenville (GN), Golden Run (GR), Jackson Center (JC), Jamestown (JA), Mercer-Grove City KOA Holiday Campground (KOA), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Mahaney Recreation Area (MR), Maurice Goddard SP (MG), Moxie Woods FSF (MO), Otter Creek (OTC), Propagation Area

(PR), Sharon (SH), Shenango Reservoir (SR), Shenango Trail (ST), Sharpsville (SV), Spring Rd. (SP), State Gamelands #130 (S130), State Gamelands #284 (S284), Tieline Rd. (TE), Transfer (TF), Trout Island (TI), West Lake Rd. (WL), West River Rd. (WRR), Wise Rd. (WI).

Temperatures for March, April and May were generally above average with hardly any snow deposition. March was mild with an average temperature of 49F (maximum 64F, minimum 18F). March continued the nearly snowless pattern for the year with no measurable snowfall; however, 3.99 inches of precipitation were recorded for the month. April was noted for generally mild weather, but a few wild variations in conditions were interspersed to keep everyone wondering if spring and migration would ever arrive. April recorded an average temperature of 52F (maximum 85F, minimum 0F) and 2.64 inches of precipitation with no measurable snow. May began with four days of cool, wet weather that resulted in mortality for newly arriving Purple Martins in colonies throughout the region. Overall, the month of May continued the warmer than average season, recording an average temperature of 59F (maximum 85F, minimum 32F).

Notable waterfowl species for the period included 50 **Tundra Swans** at CR 3/1 (MH) and two **Surf Scoters** at LW 4/1 (MD). **Blue-winged Teal** were first observed 3/9 at S284 (GK, MAK) with a max of six seen 4/2 at PR (KS), the last observation for the reporting period. A large raft of 500 **Common Mergansers** was found at PR 3/26 (MW), and **Red-breasted Mergansers** in large rafts were at several large bodies of water including 600 on 4/1 at LW (MW) and 350 at CR 3/29 (MH, SS). The last observation of the species was 250 at LW 4/9 (SK). One **Long-tailed Duck** was recorded 4/9 at LW (SK) and four late **Ruddy Ducks** were found 5/13 at PR (JB).

Perhaps the most notable observation of the period was the discovery of a **White-winged Dove** at a private residence in Transfer 5/11-12. The discovery was a first for the species in *Mercer* and was well documented with photographs, audio, and video that captured behavior and calls over two days (KS, MC). (See photos on p. 154 of this issue.)

Common Nighthawks were found 5/18 at GN; a max of five were observed at PR 5/27 (MW). One **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was vocalizing 4/17 at MG (MW).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were first observed 5/6 at GN (MW). Numerous reports followed within the next few days from county-wide locations.

Fifteen species of shorebirds were observed for the period with most reports coming from the Shenango Wildlife Area Propagation Ponds and SR. The earliest observation for the period was of **Wilson's Snipe** when a single individual was observed 3/14 at GN (MW). One **Black-bellied Plover** was found, along with a single **Semipalmated Plover**, 13 **Least Sandpipers**, and one **Short-billed Dowitcher** at SR 5/6 (MW). A max of 40 **Least Sandpipers** and 15 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were observed 5/17 at PR (MW), and a max of 10 **Semipalmated Plovers** were found 5/26 at PR (MW). Three **Pectoral Sandpipers** and three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found at PR 5/12 (MW). Five **Dunlin** were observed at PR 5/14 (MW). **Long-billed Dowitchers** were at PR with five present 4/30 (JB). A single **Spotted Sandpiper** was found 4/14 at ST (MW), and a max of eight were found 5/18 at the same location (MW). Six **Solitary Sandpipers** were at PR 5/12 (MW). A max of ten individuals of **Lesser** and **Greater Yellowlegs** were found at PR on 4/27 and 5/12 respectively (MW).

Bonaparte's Gulls moved through in large flocks with 100 at MR 3/30 (MH, SS) and 150 at LW 4/1 (MD). An additional flock of 200 were observed at CR 4/19 (MH, SS). Two **Caspian Terns** were found 4/17 at MG (MW). At PR 5/12 (MW) were 25 **Common Terns**, but the only reports of **Forster's Tern** came from LW where two were reported 4/7 (EW) and one was seen 4/13. A large group of 200 **Double-crested Cormorants** was found at CR 4/4 and 4/12 (MH, SS); 500 were estimated to be present in the same area 4/19 (MH, SS).

A high count of 86 **Common Loons** were tallied at MG 4/1 (MD, MU). Two **Great Egrets** were observed 3/28 at both TF (MH) and WL (BW); a max of six were observed 5/7 at PR (JB).

The first **Osprey** arrival was documented 3/16 at SR (KS). One **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling 3/18 in GN (MW).

The much-anticipated spring migration of passerine species began in earnest in mid-Apr when swallows and **Purple Martins** were observed. **Tree Swallows** were first observed 3/18 at LW (JS) and two **Purple Martins** were first noted 4/2 at WI (GE, CK). Reports of flycatchers began 4/29 with an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** from SH (MH). Four **Acadian** and two **Alder Flycatchers** were reported 5/12 at JA (SB,

MW). One **Least Flycatcher** was observed 5/1 at GN (MW), and a high count of three was reported from SR 5/6 (MW). **Warbling Vireo** was first recorded 4/20 at SV (MH) with a high count of three at GN 5/5 (MW). One **Philadelphia Vireo** was observed 5/10 at GN (MW). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were observed in migration 4/30 when a high count of 12 was tallied at ST (MW); the observer noted that there were "many" at that location that day. Ten **Swainson's Thrushes** were observed at GN 5/23 (MW), and a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was observed 5/13-14 at KOA (JP). **American Pipits** were found only on two days: 3/30 at TE when 30 were found in plowed fields (KD, KaS), and 5/20 when six were recorded at TI (KS). A **Pine Siskin** was a lucky find 4/17 at WI (GE) as were a lingering **American Tree Sparrow** 4/12 at JC (MH) and a **White-throated Sparrow** 5/18 at JA (MW). A lovely flock of 33 **Rusty Blackbirds** was found at OTC 3/8 (KS), and 15 **Bobolinks** were in grasslands at SP 5/12 (MH, SS).

Warblers were well-represented in the spring observational records with 29 species documented beginning in Apr with **Pine Warbler** 4/7, **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/8, and **Yellow** and **Palm** warblers both 4/19. Species of note included: three **Prothonotary Warblers** at SR 5/18 (MW), five **Blackburnian Warblers** at MO 5/18 (NR), single **Mourning Warblers** at ST 5/13 (JB) and another at WRR 5/14 (MH), **Prairie Warbler** at GR 5/15 (RN), **Canada Warbler** at BB 5/13 (JB) and JA 5/27 (SB), and **Wilson's Warbler** at ST 5/6 (JB). High counts of three **Kentucky Warblers** and 15 **Hooded Warblers** came from S130 on 5/14 (JBo, JeB).

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Mifflin County

Locations: Bald Eagle SF (BESF), Barfoot Rd near Milroy (BF), Belleville (BE), Big Valley (BV), Bunker Hill Pond in Big Valley (BHP), Lewistown (LT), Milroy (MIL), Newton-Hamilton (NH), Rothrock SF (RSF), Tuscarora SF (TSF), Victory Park in Lewistown (VP), Zook farm near Belleville in Big Valley (ZO).

The mostly warm and largely dry spring in *Mifflin* saw 176 species entered into eBird. The only report of **American Black Duck** was of two at BHP 3/1-4 (JZ, JK). Among duck species not frequently reported in the county, the following were at VP: eight **Northern Shovelers** 3/7-8, four **Canvasbacks** 3/7, and two **Redheads** 3/7 (RD, CK).

Ruffed Grouse reports were few. Singles were found in BESF 3/28 (MH), 4/4 (MH), and 5/3 (JK). Two **Virginia Rails** were at a private residence near MIL 5/5-6 (JK). One **Dunlin** near BE 4/29 (CY) and nine at BE 5/13 (JZ) constituted only the third and fourth records in eBird for *Mifflin*. A total of six **Spotted Sandpipers**, all singles, were reported from four locations. **Solitary Sandpiper** reports were topped by four and five at BF 5/1 and 5/6, respectively (JK). A good count of 10 **Wilson's Snipe** were at MIL 4/7 (JK). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were at BF 4/29 (JK), and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were four at BE 5/5 and four also at BF 5/6 (JK).

Up to seven **Double-crested Cormorants** hung around VP 4/7-5/10 (RD, MN, DS, JK). An **American Bittern** at BE 5/5 provided just the second eBird record for the county (JK). Sixty-five **Black Vultures** were at a roost near LT 3/4 (CW), but after that no report of more than two was noted – possibly the result of avian flu. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found in BESF 3/5 (MH). The only "big" falcon was a **Peregrine Falcon** at VP 3/23 (RD).

Top counts of **American Pipit** were 25 on 5/1 and 30 on 5/12, both reports from BV (JK). There were seven reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow**, all from the farmlands around MIL, where field usage is less intense than elsewhere in BV. **Vesper Sparrow** was reported six times from that same area 5/5-28, with a high of four (JK); otherwise, the only report was of two at ZO (4/8). Twelve reports of **Savannah Sparrow** included none of more than four birds.

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found along Licking Creek Rd in TSF 5/6 (JK) and two were there 5/11 (JZ). One or more chats were found regularly on a powerline cut on Stone Mt. (CY). A total of only eight **Bobolinks** were recorded on three dates, all around MIL (JK). More than two dozen reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** was, hopefully, a good sign for a declining species, although there were no reports of more than three birds.

Twenty-eight warbler species were reported. "Winged" warbler reports included a **Golden-winged Warbler** near NH 5/6 (JK), a **Blue-winged Warbler** at Siglerville 5/6 (JK), and both a **Blue-winged** and a **Brewster's Warbler** at SGL 107 on 5/18 (RD). With only a half-dozen records in eBird, **Mourning Warbler** is a rarity here; one was on a farm near BE 5/24 (CY). **Cerulean Warbler** reports were led by an excellent count of eight on Licking Creek Rd in TSF 5/6 (JK); four other reports were of one-two birds. Single **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at LT 4/26 (RD) and NH 5/2 (JK). Very common and localized nesters in *Mifflin*, a total of eight **Canada Warblers** were tallied in the Cooper's Gap and Lingle Valley Rds area of RSF, including four recorded 5/13 (JZ) and three on 5/16 (RD); elsewhere, one was found on Treaster Valley Rd in BESF 5/6 (JK).

Observers: **Greg Grove**, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652, gwg2@psu.edu, Rob Dickerson, Madison Henrie, Jon Kauffman, Carolyn Wray, Christopher Yoder, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

Locations: Broadhead Creek Rec Area (BC), Cherry Valley NWR (CV), Delaware Water Gap NRA (DWG), Gouldsboro SP (GSP), Mount Pocono Airport (MPA), Silver Valley Natural Area (SV), Skytop (ST), Stillwater Lake (SL), Pocono Summit Lake (PSL).

The period included some exciting finds, including an **American Avocet** and unprecedented shorebird numbers in two retention ponds that were filled with rich, black dirt last fall. These types of basins seem to go ecologically dead after a season or two, so you have to get 'em while the gettin's good! A plethora of late waterfowl in May was also a welcome surprise.

March 19th started off with a pair of **Trumpeter Swans** on a secluded, high-altitude location called Lake in the Clouds (Jan Olsommer). (To cheat a little bit, these two turned into nine in the coming months). A **Blue-winged Teal** was at MPA 5/3 (BJ). The high for **Green-winged Teal** was 23 at MPA 3/29 (BJ). Single **Northern Shovelers** were in the West End 3/5 (JM) and at MPA 3/29 (BJ). A wonderful and well-timed storm fallout on 4/17 dropped an amazing count of 58 **Gadwalls**, 80 **Buffleheads**, and 34 **Ruddy Ducks** on PSL (BJ), but nothing rivaled the 900 **Ring-necked Ducks** on SL 3/20 (BJ). It was a slow spring for **American Wigeon**, with four being ticked on Brady's Lake 3/4 (JM). Pairs of **Canvasbacks** and **Redheads** were found in Mar on SL and PSL, respectively (BJ). A total of 116 **Buffleheads** hit the waters of ST 3/30 (RK). On 3/28 four **White-winged Scoters** graced the beautiful Tobyhanna SP along with at least five **Long-tailed Ducks** (PN).

A few late waterfowl found on various days in May included a **Ruddy Duck** and **Northern Pintail** (BJ), a **Bufflehead** (JM), and two **Lesser Scaup** (BW).

Two **Red-necked Grebes** were a great find at GSP 3/26 (JM). An **American Coot** spent a couple of weeks at Witmer's L from 3/3 (PN). A high count of two **Common Gallinules** were at SV 5/26 (JM). Six **Black-billed Cuckoos** were a good count in the high-elevation backcountry in the northeastern portion of the county (NK).

A second county record in back-to-back years was an **American Avocet** at GSP 4/17 (JM). The shorebird report would be best given with species name, followed by the high count and date all at MPA (BJ).

Semipalmated Plovers (10)—5/16

Dunlin (1)—5/9

Pectoral Sandpipers (5)—5/9

Least Sandpipers (146)—5/18

Wilson's Snipes (60)—4/7

Solitary Sandpiper (41)—5/12

Greater Yellowlegs (20)—5/3

Lesser Yellowlegs (36)—5/10

Finally, a **Red-necked Phalarope** was at Weir L on 5/23 (PN).

A **Common Tern** and 16 **Bonaparte's Gulls** moved through the area of GSP on 4/17 (JM). Adam Smith found two **American Bitterns** together on SGL 127 on 5/26. Close to GSP was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flushed from a wetlands on 5/22 (UMaine Bird Squad). A **Mississippi Kite** graced the skies of Shawnee 5/25 (JM). A **Barn Owl** was a much needed find for the county in the West End (CH). A **Merlin** zipped through CV 5/22 (JS). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** pair was observed making a nest hole at BC 5/18 and subsequently seen feeding

young in June (JW). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a life bird for the observer 5/21 at CV (MG).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was found at CV headquarters 4/22 (GB). At times, two were heard and continued through the end of the period (m.ob.) Another was found in the West End (CH). A **Marsh Wren** was a one-day wonder 5/10 at ST (RK). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was a nice find at DWG 5/8 (JM). Terry Master's bird count at DWG on 5/13 produced 33 **Cerulean Warblers**. Rounding out this review was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at the home of the observer on 5/13 (CH).

Observers: **Bruce Johnson**, brucejohnson207@yahoo.com, Guy de Bruyn, Maricatherine Garr, Cory Husic, Noel Kelly, Rick Koval, Paul Nale, Jon Mularczyk, June Smith, Billy Weber Jeff Wilkins.

Montgomery County

Locations: Congo Rd Open Space (CROS), Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Evansburg SP (ESP), Fort Washington SP (FWSP), Franconia Twp (FT), Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown Dam (ND), Palm/Hosensack Farmland (PHF), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Saunders Woods Preserve (SWP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

Despite a somewhat lackluster and weather-delayed passerine migration, 222 species of birds were found in spring 2023. This is very similar to counts from the last two springs, but well above a 10-year average of 210.6. The ever-increasing quantity of dedicated birders no doubt has much to do with the uptick. Of those 222 species were members of *five* PORC review list species (Mississippi Kite, Hoary Redpoll, LeConte's Sparrow, Summer Tanager, and Painted Bunting), plus the normal cadre of record-setters and other quality fowl.

Snow Geese had mostly moved on by the time *Mar* rolled around, with only three reports exceeding 100 this period, and none exceeding 300 (m.ob.). The resident Snow Goose at Hoy Park, at the south end of ESP, was the only "late" Snow detected this period (SS, LT, ph.). Four **Cackling Geese** were at GLP 3/8 (SS, ph.) and a single Cackler was at WWP 3/14 (RB, ph.). A continuing **Snow x Canada Goose hybrid** made a final appearance at cemetery in Worcester 3/3 (DBa). Three tardy **Blue-winged Teal** remained at GLP to 5/14 (m.ob.). More than a week later, on 5/22, Blue-winged Teal nocturnal flight calls (NFCs) were recorded over FT (SG, vr.). A group of 25 to 29 **Northern Shovelers** persisted at GLP to 4/3, *Montgomery's* second biggest Apr showing of this species, behind only the record-stomping quantities of Apr 2022. They were seen in more expected smaller numbers thereafter, to 4/20 (m.ob.). A late pair of **Gadwall** were noted at GLP 5/25-26 (ED, m.ob., ph.). The hen, at least, from this pair lingered into Jun (m.ob.). Atypically high numbers of **Green-winged Teal** were present at GLP through Apr eight (m.ob.), including 54 on 4/6 (AM) and 60 on 4/3 (KC); the latter observation represented a second place Apr high count record, 10 shy of a 1994 high count. A single drake Green-winged Teal was seen at GLP through the end of the period (m.ob., ph.).

A male **Canvasback** was at GLP 3/4 (DB, SGr, ph.), and another was reported on Schuylkill R at Pottstown Riverfront Park on the extraordinarily late date of 4/29 (SGr), pushing the county late date record out by nearly an additional month. Five **Redheads** were at GLP 3/4 (DB, SGr, m.ob., ph.), with another five at GLP on the reasonably late date of 3/30 (JF, ph.). Another *Aythya* running late this period was a drake **Ring-necked Duck** at GLP 5/13-14 (KJ). Eleven **Greater Scaup** were reported at GLP 3/4 (DB, SGr), with an additional two at GLP on 3/13 (ED, PD, ph.). A single Greater Scaup was described at Skymount Park 4/6 (AM). A late **Bufflehead** was seen relaxing on a rock in the Schuylkill at Bala Cynwyd on multiple occasions 5/29-31 (GG, JL). Up to five **Common Goldeneye** were at ND 3/4 (MR, KS, MM) and GLP to 3/16 (m.ob., ph.), and a single goldeneye was reported at Flat Rock Park 3/7 (MW). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were noted on the Schuylkill near VFNHP 3/24 (SGr).

Horned Grebes were at GLP sporadically, in mostly low single digit counts, to 4/17 (m.ob.), though one group on 3/24 numbered 10 individuals (JF, m.ob., ph.). A Horned Grebe at GLP 5/9 (LH, ph.) represented the first May observation since 2016, and one of only a handful of other May records. A single Horned Grebe spent a week at WWP 4/2-9 (JM, m.ob., ph.).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** NFC recorded over FT 4/21 (SG, vr.) defined a new county early date by six days. It was a decent spring for

Black-billed Cuckoo, with the more elusive of the two expected cuckoo species spotted in 11 locations 5/5-19 (m.ob.).

Four **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** made their presence known in Wyndmoor 4/5 (JF, vr.), Salford Twp 4/15 (WBH, vr.), McKaig Nature Education Center 4/15 (IG), and Wyndmoor *again* 4/21 (JF, vr.). The first Wyndmoor whip was our second earliest on record.

Another early-record-setting bird was a **Virginia Rail** recorded at Valley Center Park in Lower Moreland Twp 3/6 (PD, vr.). The previous arrival date record was 3/10. **Sora** were reported from six locations 4/4-5/10: four ground observations and NFC from two sites (m.ob.).

Montgomery's largest ever quantity of **Sandhill Cranes** was observed 3/16, when a group of 19 flyover cranes briefly made VFNHP resemble Nebraska (SS, ph.). The new record almost quadruples the previous high count, 5, set just two years earlier.

Record early dates abounded among the shorebirds this season. A **Semipalmated Plover** at GLP 4/30 (m.ob., ph.) inadvertently became a first Apr record-holder (m.ob., ph.). Larger-than-typical spring groups of **Killdeer** included 51 in PHF in Upper Hanover Twp 3/10, and 45 at DMP 3/7 (both SS). **Whimbrel** NFC were recorded in Wyndmoor 5/24 (JF, vr.). Another record-setting early arriver, a **Dunlin**, was at GLP 4/2-3 (DB, SGr, m.ob., ph.). The previous arrival record for this species was 4/11. Four **Dunlin** were also at GLP 4/14-17 (m.ob., ph.). A single **White-rumped Sandpiper** was seen at GLP 5/31 (SS, m.ob., ph.). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was heavily chased at DMP 4/11-16 (SSH, m.ob., ph.). Assorted solo **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were viewed at GLP 5/12-31 (m.ob., ph.), and another was at WWP 5/30-31 (RB, m.ob., ph.). Semisand NFC was recorded over FT 5/15 and 5/22 (SG, vr.) and from Wyndmoor 5/25 (JF, vr.). **Short-billed Dowitcher** was another exclusively NFC shorebird this period, with flyover records on four nights 5/18-25 from both FT (SG, vr.) and Wyndmoor (JF, vr.). WWP acquired its fifth (or maybe sixth) **Red-necked Phalarope** record in just slightly more than two years when a pair appeared on the pond 5/20 (NF, m.ob., ph.). There's obviously something particularly attractive about the site for phalaropes. The county's second earliest **Spotted Sandpiper** arrived at WWP 4/5 and remained through the typical mid-month arrival time (RM, m.ob., ph.). A **Solitary Sandpiper** or two at CROS in Douglass Twp 3/27-4/1 (NW, m.ob., ph.), represented not only a record early date, but a first Mar record. A **Greater Yellowlegs** heard at GLP 3/9 (RK) came within three days of tying the record early date.

A group of four **Bonaparte's Gulls** at GLP 3/1 (JC, ph.) and a late one at ND 5/13 (MR, m.ob., ph.) bookended an assortment of Bonaparte's reports at GLP and WWP (m.ob.). Between 25 and 40 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at GLP through 3/11 (m.ob.). The species remained present there in reduced/dwindling numbers to 3/26 (m.ob.). A single **Great Black-backed Gull** was described at GLP 3/18 (DB). While no **Caspian Terns** were seen this period, NFCs were recorded over FT 4/19 and 5/13 (SG, vr.). A **Forster's Tern** dropped in to GLP 4/30 (JFu, m.ob., ph.).

An estimated 300 flyover **Double-crested Cormorants** at GLP 4/22 combined with 20 local birds to set a new county record high count of this species (AD, ED).

It was a great season for **American Bitterns**, with 11 of them recorded between eight locations 4/4-5/14 (m.ob.). Six of the 11 came in the form of NFC. **Least Bittern** NFC was captured in FT 4/21 and 5/13 (SG, vr.). As many as 19 **Great Blue Herons** were at their ESP rookery from 3/1 (JW, m.ob.). Early **Great Egrets** were at Haverford College 3/17 (SJ) and Mont Clare 3/22 (SS, ph.). A **Snowy Egret** was at ND 5/13-14 (RB, MR, m.ob., ph.). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was another member of this season's NFC-only list, with reports at Wyndmoor 4/20 (JF, vr.), King of Prussia 5/27 (SGr) and in FT on six nights 4/11-5/7 (SG, vr.). A second year **Glossy Ibis** was found at GLP 5/16 (EZ, ph.).

Just eight **Black Vulture** counts reported this period entered double-digit territory, all below 20 save for one observation of 86 vultures congregating at a Souderton rendering plant 4/19 (WBH), a location where they've previously been counted in the hundreds. The only **Turkey Vulture** sighting of more than 30 individuals was also well over that number: 110 migrants flew over Conshohocken 3/27 (RB). An immature **Mississippi Kite**, showing mostly-adult plumage but still holding onto its youthful barred tail, was nicely photodocumented in Penn Valley 5/16 (JeC, ph., doc. submitted via eBird). A late **Northern Harrier** was at John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove 5/26 (GMH, ph.). Notable **Broad-winged Hawk** observations included 139 migrating over GLP 4/17 (SS) and 100+ at FWSP the following day, 4/18 (SB, PB).

A **Barn Owl** was recorded in FT 4/10 (SG, vr.). **Long-eared Owl** finally entered "Sensitive" status in eBird this period, meaning that eBird

will no longer display exact locations of roost sites, or broadcast those locations via alerts, thus ending the long nightmare of trying to keep specifics of those roost sites under wraps (in eBird). In keeping in spirit with that spirit of sensitivity, we'll restrict our reporting here to vague locations as well. Two Long-ears were at an annual roost site in northern *Montgomery* to 3/12 (m.ob.). Singles were located at another known spot toward the center of the county 3/24 and in a non-traditional site in the southeast 3/3-12 (m.ob., ph.). A **Short-eared Owl** was reported near GLP 3/10 (DM). Single **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were noted at PERT (PD) and in Whitpain Twp (DB) on the same night, 3/18.

Presumed migrant or wandering **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found on the Zacharias Creek Trail near ESP 4/24 (DB), in Salford Twp 5/5-8 (WBH, ph.) and Twining Valley Park 5/28 (SB). With the immense amount of ash trees dead or dying in the UCV thanks to the invasive Emerald Ash Borer scourge, it was only natural that Red-headed Woodpeckers join the other, more common local species in taking advantage. Two Red-headed nest sites were discovered in the valley, with sightings from 5/22 to the end of the period (DB, JB, VM, m.ob., ph.).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at FWSP 5/18-19 (MS, m.ob., ph.) and VFNHP 5/26 (RiK). A vocal **Alder Flycatcher** was reported at VFNHP 5/21 (KS). **Least Flycatchers** were found at seven locations 5/1-15 (m.ob.).

A few good **Blue Jay** flights were tallied this period, including 367 at GLP 4/23 (DB), which represented our second-highest ever spring count, and 154 in FT 5/1 (SG). A notably big, 70-strong **Fish Crow** flock was observed in Abington 5/15 (RM).

The winter's **Black-capped Chickadee** irruption continued through the first half of this period, with 1-2 individuals documented at 17 locations to 4/14 (m.ob.).

Although most of the **Horned Lark** reports for the period were in low single digits (m.ob.), a group of 40 was noted in PHF 3/28 (SS), the highest spring count of this species since 1974.

A rain event led to something of a swallow fallout at GLP 4/30, with **Barn Swallow** counts reportedly as high as 250 (m.ob.). Two **Cliff Swallows** were observed at Skymount Park 5/4 (JW). One was at the Fayette St. Bridge in Conshohocken 5/1 (RB), and singles were seen infrequently at GLP 4/24-5/18 (m.ob.).

There were numerous **Red-breasted Nuthatch** sightings this period (m.ob.), the latest of which was fairly late: one at ESP lingered to 5/19 (ED), the latest a member of this species has been observed since one hung on into Jun in 2016. ESP hosted the county's densest RB Nut concentration through the winter, so it stands to reason that this period's high count would also come from that location: seven were reported there 4/10 (DB), and there were several other reports of 3-6 to 4/24 (m.ob.).

A **House Wren** first found at WWP in early Dec, and occasionally re-found through the winter, was again observed 3/10 (RB).

Single **Gray Catbirds** were reported from six locations in Mar and early Apr, before migrants returned (m.ob.).

Gray-cheeked Thrush were found at 13 locations 5/4-22 (m.ob.).

Up to four **American Pipits** were at Harriet Wetherill Park in Plymouth Twp., a park with a decent-sized agricultural field in its center, 4/30-5/1 (RB, m.ob., ph.). A pipit NFC was recorded over FT 5/5 (SG, vr.).

Irruptive **Purple Finches** were present at an assortment of locations to 5/10 (m.ob.). There were two double-digit counts: 15 at SWP 4/19 (RB) and 10 at PERT 4/28 (JC). A **Pine Siskin** was photographed in Roslyn 5/14 (PS, ph.), the sole confirmed report of this barely irrupting species this period. One redpoll was documented as well, but it was not the Common that one might expect. The redpoll that made a brief visit to a bird feeder in Pottsgrove 3/11 was determined to be a **Hoary Redpoll** (MA, ph., doc submitted via eBird), a species that has not been spotted in *Montgomery* since 1974. This bird represented just a second county record, and the first photodocumented one. Unfortunately, it was merely passing through, and was not seen at the feeder again after the first sighting.

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** NFC captured over Wyndmoor 4/13 represented a new county early date by one day (JF, vr.). Other NFC Grasshoppers were at Wyndmoor 4/21 (JF, vr.) and in FT 4/25 and 5/6 (SG, vr.). Two Grasshopper Sparrows were seen at VFNHP 5/29 (KCa), where changes in park land management practices seem to be encouraging grassland species. They were also seen in the fields surrounding Graterford Prison 5/29 to the end of the period (SS, m.ob., ph.), a traditional nesting site. Hefty quantity overwintering **Chipping Sparrow** reports at PERT lasted until 3/9 (m.ob.), including 50 on 3/6

(MG). A very late **Dark-eyed Junco** was seen at Linwood Park in Ardmore 5/28 (MW). **White-crowned Sparrows**, in quantities of one and 2, were found at seven locations to 5/19 (m.ob.). **Vesper Sparrows** were spotted at six locations 4/1-19 (m.ob.), including a high of three at PERT 4/17 (PD, vt.). The **LeConte's Sparrow**, present at PERT since at least 2/25, rolled over into the spring period, continuing to 3/3 (m.ob., ph., doc submitted via eBird). Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found at ESP 5/10-12 (AD, ED, ph.), and single Lincoln's were seen in the UCV 5/12 (WBH) and VFNHP 5/20 (AW).

A pair of assumed migrant **Yellow-breasted Chats** were located at ESP 5/13-18 (KR, MSi, m.ob., ph.), while chats at two other locations set up likely breeding territory. First observed 5/2, up to four chats were noted at Heuser Park (SG, m.ob., ph.), while up to three were at VFNHP starting 5/17 (CF, m.ob., ph.). In both cases, chat presence continued through the end of the period.

For the second year running, **Bobolinks** were on territory at VFNHP at the end of May, thanks, most likely, to the aforementioned land management adjustments (m.ob.). **Rusty Blackbirds** were present at 18 locations to 5/7 (m.ob.), including big flocks of as many as 50 at CROS 4/1 (m.ob.), 34 at Whitemarsh Twp's McCarthy Park (PD) and 30 in Germantown Academy's preserved wetlands 3/30 (RB, ph.).

A **Prothonotary Warbler** was found at Central Perkiomen Valley Park near Graterford 5/23 (SS, m.ob., ph.). It continued there through the end of the period. Another Prothonotary was at VFNHP 5/29 (DS, vr.). A super-early **Nashville Warbler**, photographed in Montgomeryville 3/22 (MD, ph.), represented a new county early date by 30 days. The date is so early, it doesn't seem irresponsible to speculate that it may have overwintered somewhere in the area. **Kentucky Warblers** were detected at SWP 5/11 (TK, JN), VFNHP 5/16 (ED, vr.) and in the UCV 5/23 (WBH, ph.). Nine, possibly 10, **Mourning Warblers** were found between nine locations 5/13-23 (m.ob.), a good showing for this often-elusive species. **Hooded Warblers** had an even better showing, with 19 of them, at a minimum, spread out across 15 locations 4/23-5/23 (m.ob.), one of *Montgomery's* biggest hauls of this species in recent memory. A male **Cerulean Warbler** was described at ESP 5/7 (WS, SG). An early **Palm Warbler**, probably an overwintering bird, was seen at VFNHP 3/12 (JP). Mid-to-late May potential **Pine Warbler** nesting presence was observed at five sites (m.ob.). Single **Yellow-throated Warblers** were recorded at eight locations beginning 4/6 (m.ob.), with one at VFNHP, present since at least 5/16, continuing through the end of the period (ED, m.ob., ph.). This is a high quantity of Yellow-throated Warblers for *Montgomery*, slightly more than the big spring noted in 2022.

A "pickitucking" **Summer Tanager** was recorded in Wyndmoor 5/7 (JF, SB, SGr, vr., doc submitted via eBird). **Blue Grosbeak** NFC was captured in Huntingdon Valley 5/13 (JC, vr.), not too terribly far from Lorimer Park, where a pair were observed 5/17 through the end of the period (LW, m.ob., ph.). Blue Grosbeaks were also observed at VFNHP and DMP in May, locations where they have nested in multiple recent years (m.ob.). A vibrant male **Painted Bunting** visited a Gilbertsville feeder 3/31 (JH, ph., doc submitted via eBird). While it didn't stay for very long, it was enough to add it to the record books, representing a third overall county record, and first Mar record. **Dickcissel** NFC was noted from Wyndmoor 5/12 (JF, vr.) and FT 5/13 (SG, vr.).

EXOTICS: A pair of **Black Swans** appeared suddenly at GLP, with a **Mute Swan**, on or near 5/6 (JF, m.ob, ph.). The three swans then disappeared just as suddenly, with no further reports after 6/4. Where these swans came from and what fate may have befallen them is unknown.

Observers: W. Brian Henderson, Salford Twp., PA, wbhenderson@gmail.com, Mike Anderson, Douglas Baird (DBa), Dave Belford, Jeff Belford, Carrie Bell, Redmond Brubaker, Peter Burns, Sara Busch, Kayann Cassidy (KCa), Josh Cooper, Jessica Coss (JeC), Kevin Criley, Matthew Danihel, Andrew Dolan, Edward Dolan, Paul Driver, Jason Fehon, Camille Fieseher, James Funk (JFu), Ian Gereg, Scott Godshall, Gregg Gorton, Mike Grubb, Steve Grunwald (SGr), Jason Hartley, Len Hillegass, Kristen Jensen, Sheryl Johnson, Travis Kaye, Rudolph Keller, Rick Keyser (RiK), John Lemonick, Vicky Mahmoud, Jack McBrearty, Megan McCulloch, August Mirabella, Dennis Miranda, Gareth Morris-Hale, Robert Mottershead, Jill Noll, Joseph Payne, Mike Rosengarten, Katie Ruth, Martin Selzer, Susan Sherman (SSh), Kiehl Smith, Martina Singer (MSi), Daniel Sloan, Sam Stuart, Walter Stutz, Paul Smith, Linda Tomeo, Marshall Walthew, John Ward, Linda Widdop, Amanda Williams, Nicholas Wilson, Eric Zawatski.

Montour County

Location: Montour Preserve (MP).

In waterfowl news, all from MP, **Greater White-fronted Geese** were present 3/8 -12 (m.ob.) with a max of nine on 3/12. A **Cackling Goose** was reported 3/3-16 (m.ob.), and a **Trumpeter Swan** was there 5/11-20 (AK). Two **White-winged Scoters** dropped in 3/7 (AK), with one 3/10 as well (TS). A high count of 30 **Common Goldeneye** 3/7 (AK, KP) more than quadrupled the previous eBird county high.

A **Sandhill Crane** hung out at the Fry Wetlands 2/26-3/25 (m.ob.). A high count of 25 **Wilson's Snipes** were on Cotner Rd 4/6 (ErH, NF). Sightings of **Merlin** at MP started 5/2 and continued into June, indicating a likely nesting attempt. Terns were scarce: the season's only report was of two **Caspian Terns** 5/8 at MP (AK). Most springs see only one or two **Red-throated Loons**, so a report of six at MP 4/21 was particularly notable (AB).

In passerine news, a **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen (not erroneously suggested by the Merlin app!) 5/11 at MP (EH, KP, BP). Snowy open-field birds made a good showing in Mar on Shady Hill Rd with **Lapland Longspur** reports from 3/1-20 (max of three), and **Snow Bunting** reports from 3/1-11 (max of three) (m.ob.). A **Golden-winged Warbler** 5/8 at MP (AK) was the season's most notable warbler among the 28 species reported.

Observers: Evan Houston, evanhouston@gmail.com, Andrew Bechdel, Norwood Frederick, Eric Hartshaw (ErH), Andrew Keister, Karol Pasquinelli, Tom Shervinskie.

Northampton County

Location: Minsi Lake (ML).

Other than a few rainy days in April and early May, we had a very dry spring. There were no good fallouts during migration, but birding was good anyway. A somewhat late **Ross's Goose** was in a Snow Goose flock on Nazareth Quarry 3/5-6 (DD). The high count for **Tundra Swan** was 38 at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 3/2 (AM). To the delight of many diehard local birders, an adult male **Eurasian Wigeon** (third county record) was seen at ML 5/4 (JS). A male **Bufflehead** lingered at Martins Creek through June (MS). Two **Common Gallinules** were found at ML 5/6 (AM). At least one **Common Gallinule** continued through 5/21. Thanks to info from a local resident, two **Sandhill Cranes** were photographed at Green Pond 3/5 (DD). Some heavy rains in early May flooded many farm fields, creating some shorebird habitat. The Monacacy Creek along Steuben Rd flooded into a corn field and as result, a birder found a nice number of shorebird species that included four **White-rumped Sandpipers** 5/2-8 (AM). This location also attracted two **Glossy Ibis** 5/3-4 (MS). An early sighting of a **Solitary Sandpiper** was at the W. Greinar Rd retention pond 3/25 (AM).

Likely the result of unsettled weather on 4/16, **Caspian Tern** was reported at Housenick Memorial Park (E&O) and at ML (MS,CCS). **American Bittern** was at ML 4/15-16 (JM). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported from ML 4/14 (DD) and Bear Swamp Park 4/16 (GDB). **Glossy Ibis** was observed at Green Pond 5/1 (AM) and flying over ML 4/16 (MD,SK,JM). On 3/5, an adult **Golden Eagle** was photographed flying over Richmond Rd in Lower Mt Bethel Twp (MS).

A great migration trap in the county is part of a section of the Delaware Water Gap NRA which traverses a narrow section of the county at its northeastern border. Birding is along National Park Rd and several trails off this road. On 5/13, birders found an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** here (AM,SS, JeM). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was found along this hot spot 5/7 (MS,CCS). Another **Golden-winged Warbler** was found at nearby Mt Bethel Fens 5/7 (AS). At Jacobsburg SP, there was an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/12 (JY) and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 5/21 (AM). The first **Purple Martin** to return at ML was on 4/12 (SL).

It was an amazing spring for **Prothonotary Warbler** in the county. This species is at the northern end of its range here. I'm not sure what this year's above-average sightings might mean. On 4/27-29, a **Prothonotary Warbler** was found along the D&L Trail by Nagy's Landing (JK). Another was found along the Saucon Rail Trail in Hellertown 5/10 (JY). A third **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen just south of Fry's Landing 5/17-18 (AS). **Mourning Warbler** was seen on several occasions along National Park Rd 5/13-21 (AM,SS,JM,AS).

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Northumberland County

Locations: Adam T. Bower Dam (ATBD), Amish Pond (AP), Natalie Trail System (NTS), Warrior Run Wetlands (WRW), Watsonstown Memorial Park (WMP), Weiser State Forest (WSF).

Spring weather was warm and abnormally dry. Most of the rarer species reported in the county came early in the season before the drier weather set in.

A high count of 84 **Northern Pintail** was reported from AP 3/10 (TS).

Probably the best bird of the season was a **Red-necked Grebe** reported at ATBD 3/7 (KP, BP, WD).

The season's only **American Coot** was a single bird reported from WRW 3/23-27 (m.ob.). I believe this is the first time **American Coot** has been reported at this location.

A total of five **Sandhill Crane** were seen flying out of AP 5/2 (AK), not to be refund.

The only notable shorebird was an **American Avocet** photographed on the Susquehanna River at WMP 4/17 (BF).

Two **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were found at WRW 4/25 (BP, KP). These are the first reports of this species at this location.

The season's only report of **Barred Owl** was a single bird calling at NTS 3/9 (KP).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was found in WSF 4/21 (BP).

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Pike County

Locations: Delaware State Forest (DSF), Lake Wallenpaupack (LW).

Pike County had an ample number of highlights during the spring period. A family group of five **Trumpeter Swans** was seen at Promised Land SP 3/25 (BW) and 4/14 (EP) and at LW 4/7 (AN). A single **Trumpeter Swan** was at Nyce Lake 4/1 (BW). A **Northern Shoveler** and four **Blue-winged Teal** were at Pecks Pond 3/26 (BW). Also on 3/26, eight **Northern Shovelers** were at LW (RJ, BW). A **Redhead** was seen at Pecks Pond 3/18 (MS). There were seven **Long-tailed Ducks** at LW 3/29 (CF), and a lone **Long-tailed Duck** was at LW 4/17 (RJ, BW). **Dunlin** was reported at LW 5/11-12 (CF, AN). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** could be seen at LW 3/12-4/9 with a high count of 10 on 3/15 (RJ). Two **Great Black-backed Gulls**, which are rare in the county, were at LW 3/12 (CF,BW) and 3/23 (RJ). In Dingmans Ferry, a high count of 33 **Common Nighthawks** was tallied 5/22 (BW). On 4/20, a **Common Tern** was observed at LW (RJ). A high count of 28 **Common Loons** was from LW 4/5 (CF).

Lake Wallenpaupack was not the only bird magnet for the county. On 3/12, a birder had a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on Standing Stone Rd, DSF (BW). There was a **Red-headed Woodpecker** in a yard in Milford 5/15 (PG). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen on Hay Rd, DSF 5/20-25 (RJ, BW). **Evening Grosbeak** was seen at a feeder in Hawley 5/12 (PS). There were two **Evening Grosbeaks** seen at Promised Land SP 4/11 (RJ). A **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder at Little Teedyuskung Lake/Lodge 3/26-28 (RJ). A high count of 15 **Rusty Blackbirds** was from Pecks Pond 4/8 (RJ). Last, a **Mourning Warbler** was found at the Toms Creek Trailhead, DWG, on 5/18 (MT).

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Potter County

Locations: Austin (AUST), Bush Hill Rd, Austin (BHR-AUST), Rte 144 at Birch Still Hollow (BIRSH), Cherry Springs SP (CSSP), Colesburg (COLE), Coudersport (COUD), Cross Fork (CRFO), East Branch Coleys Run, Cowley Hill Road (COHRD), Billy Lewis Road, Denton Hill (BLR-DH), PA Lumber Museum, Denton Hill SP (PALM-DHSP), Galetton (GALE), Button Hollow Road, Galetton (BHR-GALE), Galetton Lake (GALA), Gross Hollow Road, Sweden (GHR-SW), Joerg Road (JOERG), Shephard Road- Keeny Hollow (SR-KH), Lake Lloyd, Genesee-Mills Road (LLGMR), Leach Hollow Beaver Pond (LEHBP), Long Toe Vista (LTVI), Lyman Run Road, Galetton (LRR-GA), Lyman Run SP (LRSP), Marvin Hill, Sweden (MH-SWED), North Fork Dam (NOFD), Nelson Run Road: logging road (NERUR), Oleona (OLEN), Ole Bull SP (OBSP), Ole Bull SP-Beaver Swamp (OBSP-BS), Patterson SP (PASP), Phoenix Run Road, SGL 64 (PRR-SGL64), Pipeline Hollow-Rte 44 (PLH-R44), Shinglehouse (SHINGL), Sinnemahoning SP-Potter (SINSP-P), Sizerville SP: Potter (SIZSP-P), Sweden Hill Road and Marvin Hill Road (SHR-MHR), small marsh on SR 1002 near Sweden (MAR-SWED), Sweden Hill-Green Forest Road (SWHI-GFR), Sweden Hill Road (SWHIRD), 1st Fork Rd and Cherry Tree Lane, Sweden Valley (SWVA), Dry Run Road, Sweden Valley (DRR-SWVA), Sweden Valley Grange, Rte 44 (SWVA-GR), Trout Run Road (TRRD), Ulysses (ULYS), Wharton (WHAR).

Data for notable sightings reported below were obtained from 45 locations, submitted by 32 observers, and listed after checking the overview data page, bar charts, and species maps from eBird. A total of 158 species were listed for the county. Migrating waterfowl species and numbers of individuals were low, as expected. **Tundra Swans** were reported from three **Location:** LEHBP 3/1, two at Honeoye Creek, SHINGL (ph.) 3/3, and two flyovers at SHINGL 4/3 (SL, KE). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were seen at LRSP 3/25 (KRi). **Northern Shovelers** were seen on GALA 3/25 and at LRSP 4/12 and 3/28 (m.ob.). **Gadwalls** were reported from LRSP 3/28 (KC, KR, SM) and from LLGMR 4/1 (KRe). Three **American Wigeons** were observed at LRSP 3/26 (KRi). Six **Green-winged Teal** were at NOFD 4/1 (KRe) and one **Canvasback** was noted at SIZSP-P 4/16 (BG). **Ring-necked Ducks** were observed at NOFD, GALA, LRSP, and Lyman Run Rd, 3/5–4/19, as well as a high count of 29 at LLGMR on 4/1 (KRe, m.ob.). **Greater Scaups** were on GALA or at LRSP 3/26–4/17 (m.ob.) while five observations of **Lesser Scaup** came from GALA and LRSP 3/22–4/12 with a high count of 14 from LRSP 4/12 (MSc). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were at LRSP 3/2 and 3/26 (SSc, KRi). **Buffleheads** were reported from GALA and LRSP 3/1–4/17 (m.ob.). Notable observations of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were from Lyman Run Road, GALE 3/15, and LRSP 3/17 (KRi, SSc).

Wild Turkeys were seen at 13 locations, with a high count of 20 birds at SWVA 3/18 (MD, m.ob.). There were 17 reports of single **Ruffed Grouse** from 11 locations and two individuals reported from Brookland Road near ULYS 4/28 (KRi, m.ob.). **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported from two locations, with eight observations from LRSP 3/26–4/12 and three at SWVA 4/9 (m.ob.). **Horned Grebes** were reported from GALA 4/19, LRSP 4/8 (KRi) and LLGMR 4/1 (KRe).

Cuckoos have been reported infrequently since 1985 and mostly as single bird sightings scattered throughout the county, with most of the reports in eBird occurring since 2010. Since 2020, three to seven birds per spring have been reported to eBird. This year **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported from four locations (1–2 birds per site): Northern Potter Rd, ULYS 5/27, NERUR 5/28, JOERG 5/15 and 5/22, and Hemlock Campground north of WHAR 5/30 (m.ob.). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported as single birds from six **Location:** Bush Hill Rd, AUST 5/15, SIZSP-P 5/11 and 5/20, CSSP 5/23, JOERG 5/12 and 5/23, TRRD 5/29 and COUD 5/30 (m.ob.). This increase in sightings might be due to recent spongy moth outbreaks.

There were only two records of **Common Nighthawk**, and both were from COUD as single birds on 5/23 (ES). One **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was reported from JOERG 5/12 (SL). **American Woodcocks** were reported from just four locations with one at JOERG 3/27 and 5/12, two at OBSP-BS 5/9 (SL), one at Baker Hollow Rd, COLE 4/4 (RE) and two at CSSP 4/22 (SSc). Migrating **Solitary Sandpipers** were observed at GALA 5/9 and OBSP-BS 5/8 (SL), and two each at SIZSP-P 5/11 (MSc) and MAR-SWED 5/11 (RS). A single **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported from GALA 3/25 and two were there 4/19 (KR).

Black Vultures were not reported in eBird for the county before 5/15/2021 when a single bird was seen at CSSP by

John Mattie. None were reported during spring 2022, but a single bird was observed at SIZSP-P on 5/13 this year (MD). Since BLVUs are expanding into *Centre*, it would be interesting to see if this species extends its range into *Potter* during the spring and summer, and if it does, will it stay through the winter?

Ospreys were observed at eight locations including GALA, MAR-SWED, LRSP, SWVA-GR, SWVA, COUD, OBSP, and OBSP-BS (m.ob.). Two northbound **Golden Eagles** were observed from SIZSP-P 3/12 (MD). Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported from six locations that were located on or N of Rte 6 in Apr and May: SWVA 4/9, SWHI-GFR 4/21, BLR-DH 5/5, LRR-GA 5/9, GHR-SW 5/14, COUD 5/30 (m.ob.). One early sighting of RSHA in Mar came from the S part of the county at JOERG 3/13 (SL). **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported as single-bird sightings from eight locations scattered over the county: JOERG 4/13 and 5/9, OBSP 4/29, SHINGL 5/8, GALA 4/23, BHR-AUST 5/1 and 5/15, CSSP 5/18 and 5/23, DRR-SWVA 5/8 and COUD 5/22 (m.ob.).

One **Great Horned Owl** was noted at BHR-GALE 5/19 (KR). One to two **American Kestrels**, a species in decline, were reported from seven **Location:** OLEN 3/15, CSSP 3/22 and 4/11, SWHIRD 3/27, SHR-MHR 4/25, SHINGL 3/27, MAR-SWED 3/29 and PRR-SGL64 on 4/26 (m.ob.). Three locations reported **Merlins:** SHINGL 4/1 and 4/3, GALA 4/17 and GALE 5/26 (KE, SL, MSc).

One **Acadian Flycatcher** was observed at TRRD 5/29, and three **Alder Flycatchers** were seen at NERUR 5/28 (LG, LW). A **White-eyed Vireo** was at OBSP-BS 5/26 (SL). Single **Yellow-throated Vireos** were observed at PASP 5/7 and SWHI-GFR 5/19–20 (KC, RS). Just one **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was reported for the county at SWHI-GFR 5/19 (RS).

One **Swainson's Thrush** was found at CSSP 5/19 (MS), and a single **Vesper Sparrow** was seen at a bird feeder in SHINGL 4/5 (KE). There were three reports of single **Savannah Sparrows** from LTVI and MH-SWED both on 5/13, and from BHR-AUST 5/15 (RS, BB).

One **Yellow-breasted Chat**, a bird only reported three previous times in *Potter*, according to a search of "all years" on eBird, was seen at SWHI-GFR 5/20 (RS). There were two reports of **Rusty Blackbirds** from SHINGL 4/20–21 (KE).

Louisiana Waterthrush was found at eight locations, predominantly as single birds and mostly in the S part of the county. This includes: 1981 Lodge, AUST (Merlin App detected the song) 4/12, 4/15 (BR), SIZSP-P 4/16 (BG), TRRD 5/29 (LG, LW), PLH-R44 4/1, OBSP-BS 5/26, and JOERG 4/17 (SL). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was noted in two locations north of Rte 6: at Brookland Rd, ULYS 4/28 and PALM-DHSP 4/12 (KE SSc). A **Northern Waterthrush** was seen at LRSP 5/7 (KC). **Blue-winged Warblers** were observed as single birds at CRFO 5/7, BIRSH 5/9, SWHIRD 5/9, PRR-SGL64 on 5/12, COHRD 5/18, and BHR-GALE 5/19 (m.ob.). Migrating **Tennessee Warblers** were reported from COUD 5/13, Ridge Rd, AUST 5/16, SIZSP-P 5/17, SR-KH 5/18 and BHR-GALE 5/19 (m.ob.). Single **Cape May Warblers** were observed at BHR-AUST 5/15, SIZSP-P 5/17, SINSP-P 5/11, and BHR-GALE 5/19 (MSc, BB, TD, KRi). One **Bay-breasted Warbler** was found at SINSP-P 5/17 (KC), and single **Blackpoll Warblers** were reported from SINSP-P 5/11 and COUD 5/13 (MSc, JC). Single **Palm Warblers** were reported from SHINGL 4/20, SWHIRD 5/8 and GHR-SW 5/14 (KE, TK, KRe). **Wilson's Warbler** was noted as "present" from two locations in proximity along SWHI-GFR 5/7 (RS).

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Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Lake Wynonah (LW), Landingville Dam and Marsh (LVD), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Still Creek Reservoir (SCR), Swatara State Park (SSP), South Tamaqua Desilting Pond (STDP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tumbling Run (TR).

Schuylkill does not have any large water bodies that attract good numbers of waterfowl. The lakes we have range from farm ponds to modest-sized municipal reservoirs. The reservoirs are in steep valleys

so they generally lack extensive shallow zones which would support aquatic vegetation. With some minor exceptions, what waterfowl we do get are low in numbers and range from uncommon to occasional to rare. Waterfowl that are relatively easy to locate include **Canada Goose**, **Mute Swan**, **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, and **Common Merganser**. Occurrences of waterfowl not seen every year and/or seen in small numbers are discussed below.

Three or four **Northern Shovelers** were seen at LVD 3/7 (KH, RR), and another pair was spotted at APWS 4/22 (JoD, JD). **Northern Pintail** showed up at four locations this season: three were reported at SAL 3/28 (BR), five at LVD 3/6 (AA, HMJ), up to four were seen at STDP during the first two weeks of Mar, and a pair spent quite a bit of time at APWS from 3/17-4/11 (m.ob.). A pair of **Greater Scaup** were seen at LW 3/14, and three more 4/17 (KH). **Bufflehead** were seen at three locations this spring in small numbers: LLSP from 3/6-3/13 (JoD, TB) and a late one 4/21 (TJ); at LW up to five individuals were reported 3/7, 3/11, 4/9 and 4/17 (KH, BS); and a single bird was spotted at APWS 4/1 (JoD, BeR). **Red-breasted Mergansers** are becoming more regular in the spring with a single bird being seen this spring at SAL 4/5 (DD). Three **Ruddy Ducks** were seen 4/17 at LW (KH). A **Horned Grebe** was seen at SCR 3/31 (DK) and 4/1 (RR). Other sightings this spring were at LLSP 3/31 (DK, TJ, TB) and 4/17 at LW (KH).

Normally common in small numbers, two **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported this season at STDP 5/13, and an impressive flock of 11 was present 5/17 (DKn). In addition, small numbers were found at LVD 5/9-5/12 (RR, KH, DKn, TJ, TB). For the third year in a row, a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was seen at LVD 5/9 (TB). For the second consecutive year, a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was spotted 4/30 at LVD (DK), only the second spring report in at least eleven years. A **Bonaparte's Gull** was found standing on the mud flats at LVD 4/17 (DR). Single **American Bitterns** were spotted at LVD 4/15 (DH), 4/21 (TJ), and 5/9 (TB).

It was another good spring for **Red-headed Woodpeckers**. A pair was seen along Coal Mountain Rd 4/25-5/9 (LG, RR, DKn), and a second pair was seen on Church Rd 3/10-5/26 (BeR, JoD, TB, DR). Pairs were seen at both locations last year, and there is a good possibility these pairs will attempt to breed. **Savannah Sparrow** was found along Flat Hill Rd 5/2-5/20 (m.ob.) while others were found in New Ringgold 5/13 (JoD, JD) and in McAdoo 5/13 (JD). **Bobolinks** were unexpectedly found in three locations this season: along Flat Hill Rd 5/18 (TB) and 5/20 (KH), along Spancake Rd 5/26 (DKn), and near Friedensburg 5/10 (KH). The warbler count for the season was thirty different species, most coming and going as expected. Some notable sightings included a **Prothonotary Warbler** at LDV 5/11 (TB), a **Kentucky Warbler** at Weiser SF 5/27 (KF), and a **Cerulean Warbler** at SSP 5/16 (KH) and at TR 5/9 (DK) and 5/20 (DR). These last three species are not found most years.

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Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Middleburg Lake (ML), Walker Lake (WL), State Game Lands 188 (SGL188), Bald Eagle State Forest (BESF).

For the spring season, 199 species were recorded in *Snyder*, which is well above the previous seven-year average of 155 species. This is the second highest record for *Snyder*; 2019 topped this by five species when *Snyder* was in focus for an eBird challenge.

A **Trumpeter Swan** was reported on ML 4/22-23 (m.ob.) giving the county its second record for this notable species. Local residents reported that it had been present for at least a week before this. A Trumpeter Swan was then seen at FL 4/25-27 (m.ob.), likely the same individual that had been at ML. A **Surf Scoter** on FL was found 4/19 and continued until 5/13 (m.ob.) It seemed likely this scoter was in some manner incapacitated because of the length of its stay and its seeming inability to lift far off the water when distressed. **Long-tailed Ducks** were observed in good numbers 4/1 in central PA with 10 sighted on FL (JS). **American Coots** were present at FL most of Mar and Apr with a high

count of seven. More remarkable, though, was a **Common Gallinule** observed along the thick lily pads at FL 5/26 (JK, JS, EH).

Our state bird, the **Ruffed Grouse**, had an encouraging representation in BESF this spring. Along Shade Mt Rd, five were recorded on 4/8 (AK), and two on 4/15 (AH, EH, JS). Other observations included one in SGL188 on 5/11 (DK), one along Hunter Rd 5/13 (JS), and one near Mount Pleasant Mills 5/12 (DB).

While becoming more widespread in PA, reports of **Sandhill Cranes** in *Snyder* are still quite few. One was found at FL 4/11 (JS) and seen again briefly 4/12 (AH, EH). **Caspian Terns** have occurred every few years in the past, but this spring two were at WL 4/20 (DK), two at FL 4/20 (DB, LM), and seven at FL 4/27 (JK, JS, AH, EH). More local birding activity plays a part in this increase because these terns typically are quick to move on, no doubt sometimes unnoticed. More unusual, a **Common Tern** was at FL 4/28 (MP, TP, JS) providing the first entry in eBird for *Snyder*. Photos clarified it as Common Tern opposed to the more likely occurring Forster's Tern (MP).

While **Common Loons** are annual visitors to FL, more unusual were four **Red-throated Loons** on FL 4/18 (RM) and another on 4/20 (m.ob.) Usually a challenge to find, an **American Bittern** posed nicely for a photograph at WL 4/15 (RM), and another sighting was added 5/7, also at WL (DK).

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** flew over Middleburg 5/9 (MB, ph.) All other PA observations this spring were in the southeast part of the state, leaving this as the only sighting for central PA. *Snyder* has one previous record from 2017.

There were six entries of **American Pipits** with 47 along Middle Creek Rd 4/7, providing a new high count for the county (AH). Yet another new record in eBird for this season was a **Red Crossbill** found near some suitable habitat on Shade Mt 4/8 (AK).

The highlight for the warblers this spring was a **Prothonotary Warbler** which made a stunning appearance with its bright plumage and sweet song along Produce Rd. It was recorded frequently between 5/18 and 5/29 (m.ob.). Another seldom-found warbler was a vocal **Kentucky Warbler** in SGL188 on 5/13 (RM, AH, TR, RyM). Six **Prairie Warblers** were observed 5/13 in a large clearcut in SGL188 (AH, TR, RyM).

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Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Bluebird Hill Farm (BHF), Confluence Area (CA), Flight 93 National Memorial (FLT 93), High Point Lake (HPL), Kimberly Run Natural Area (KRNA), Laurel Hill State Park (LHSP), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Stonycreek Lake (SCL), Somerset Lake (SL).

After an open and warm winter, we experienced a cold early spring with rain and some snow until early May when precipitation abruptly stopped. Somerset Lake was fully refilled after dam rehabilitation and was very productive due to extensive flooded vegetation including much more soft and woody emergent vegetation than before being drained. This resulted in great waterfowl migration stopover conditions with birds staying to feed and included marsh bird sightings such as rails, coots, American Bittern and the first-in-a-decade Least Bittern. Field birds are getting harder to find as field succession, tree-planting projects, and modern agricultural practices eliminate their needed habitat.

A **Trumpeter Swan** was closely observed (BF, JP) and photographed by neighbors on a small pond near Garret 3/23. **Tundra Swans** moved through in decent numbers with a high of 92 at SL 3/7 (AS) and the latest being a bird 4/27 at FLT 93 (MM). **Blue-winged Teal** topped out with 24 birds at SL 4/30 (CP, JP, RP) and persisted there until 5/13 (PhL). **Northern Shovelers** are usually in small numbers, so a high of 12 at SL 3/4 (JP) was nice; they were detected through 4/30 (CP, JP, RP). Up to 20 **Gadwall** were reported at SL several times with six remaining on 4/30 (CP, JP, RP). **American Wigeon** topped out at 41 on 3/2 (AD) and two were a bit late 4/30 with other ducks (CP, JP, RP). **American Black Duck** was rather uncommon this year with four reports of one to two birds at three locations from 3/11-19. Eleven **Northern Pintails** at SL 3/5 (JC, BS) was a high number, with the last report on 3/9. The mud at drawn-down SCL attracted a nice high of 60 **Green-winged Teal** 3/19 (CP, JP), and they were reported at SL until 4/8. **Canvasback** were in a narrow window with a respectable 40 at QR 3/7

(SE); the last report was 3/9. **Redheads** had many nice counts of 50 to 77 but best was 106 at QR 3/8 (SE); birds persisted there until 3/31. **Ring-necked Ducks** were very numerous this year on all lakes with multiple counts of 300-350 but best by far were the 600 at SL 4/15 (MD). They were spotted there until 5/5 (LG). **Greater Scaup** put in a good showing with 124 at SL 3/25 (JP); a couple long-staying birds were last seen there 5/13 (PhL). **Lesser Scaup** were also numerous visitors with 175 at HPL 3/8 (SC) and 225 on 3/29 (JP) at SL, where some were present through 5/6 (GR). Three **Surf Scoters** touched down at SL 4/22 (JP, JSe). **Long-tailed Ducks** were found twice on 3/7, QR had 36 (LG) and Hidden Valley Golf Course had three (SC). **Bufflehead** topped out at 114 on 3/30 at QR (LG) and were a bit late there 5/4 (LG). **Common Goldeneye** had five records of 1-5 birds at SL (AS) and QR. **Hooded Mergansers** topped at 50 on 3/16 at HPL (DB) with the last report 4/29, but a few usually stick around to breed in Wood Duck boxes. There were many records of up to 26 **Common Mergansers**; the species breeds near Confluence and occasionally on smaller streams in the county. **Ruddy Duck** reached a max of 170 on 3/29 at QR (BSt), but most interesting was a pair at SL to 5/31 (and beyond).

Ring-necked Pheasants were mainly seen near sites where they are released in fall, such as FLT 93 and KRNA. However, an occasional male was seen in an area of discontinued pheasant reintroduction, far from normal release sites, and may represent a small persisting population. **Ruffed Grouse** reports were up slightly, after many dismal quarters, with six total reports. At least in this county, it is the opinion of this reviewer that there should be a pause in hunting seasons of this species to allow any remnant reservoirs of birds to possibly repopulate and spread back to the covert islands where they are presently extirpated. **Wild Turkey** flocks were widely reported and appear to be doing very well.

Pied-billed Grebes had a high count of 14 at QR 3/7 (SE), but most interesting was their persistence through the end of the period at SL – exciting reports will be forthcoming next period. **Horned Grebes** had a nice showing of 25 at QR 3/19 (CP, JP) and were last seen 5/6 at SL (GR). There were six reports of one to two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**, but surprisingly, **Black-billed Cuckoos** beat that with 17 reports. The only **Common Nighthawks** detected were two 5/18 at SL (JP). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were at Fairhope 5/17 (JP) and in BA 5/30 (TM). **Chimney Swifts** returned 4/22, and **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** seemed a little tardy with the first reports 5/6.

Virginia Rails were detected more than usual with eight reports from three locations and up to three at SL 5/18 (JP). **Sora** was reported on four dates at SL with two present 5/13 (PhL). **American Coots** loved the flooded vegetation at SL and was seen until at least 5/18 with up to 45 present 4/22 (EG). Shorebirds were generally very sparse with few suitable mud areas. There were two **Dunlin** in BA 4/21 (JP), single **Least Sandpipers** at BHF 5/3 and 5/18 (PL) and one 5/13 at FLT 93 (PhL). **Spotted Sandpipers** were more widespread and up to 13 were at SL 4/30 (CP, JP, RP). There were six reports of **Solitary Sandpipers**, **Greater Yellowlegs** were at four locations, and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were reported seven times at six locations.

A nice flock of 48 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at SL 4/8 (AL, JS) and was last reported there 4/20. There were a moderate number of records of **Ring-billed Gulls** with one nice group of 100 at QR 3/7 (LG). A single **Forster's Tern** was visiting SL 4/22 (JP, EG, JSe, DY); no other terns were found. Eight **Common Loons** at QR 4/23 (LG) was the max count, with other numerous low counts and the last report from SL 5/18. **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen throughout the period with the highest count being 30 at SL 5/18 (JP).

An **American Bittern** was found in the extensive flooded vegetation at the north end of SL 5/5 (LG) and perhaps the same bird was spotted again on 5/18 (JP). It has been over 10 years since **Least Bittern** has been seen in the county so one at SL 5/5 (JP, BF) was a pleasant surprise. **Great Blue Heron** nests in *Somerset* but **Great Egret** is just a visitor; two were at BHF 3/28 (FL) and one at SL 4/18 (JP, SE).

A **Black Vulture** was found nesting in an abandoned house near Johnsonburg in early April (BF), and the observer helped delay demolition of the house until after fledging. Only four other reports were received for this generally uncommon local bird. Sixteen **Osprey** reports were tallied 3/28–5/28. **Northern Harrier** singles were found in six locales, mostly appearing to be migrants. Of the smaller accipiters, there were eight reports of **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and 12 reports of **Cooper's Hawks**, all singles and doubles. No **Goshawks** were found. **Bald Eagles** are generally doing well with about six nest sites in *Somerset*. A sad tale, however, was the nest near SL that blew down in a windstorm at the very

end of Mar, killing one nestling and destroying the one egg near hatching. It appears the adults started rebuilding for next season. **Red-shouldered Hawk** singles were reported 11 times while **Broad-winged Hawks** in singles and pairs were reported 18 times from 4/15 to the end of the period. **Barred Owls**, 10 reports of up to three birds, and a single **Short-eared Owl** near LHSP 3/11 (AuH) were the only owls reported.

Red-headed Woodpeckers may be experiencing a bit of an upswing as they were mentioned on 10 reports. All other woodpeckers were well-represented. **American Kestrels**, with 20 records of singles and pairs, are holding steady but not increasing. One **Merlin** 3/26 near New Baltimore (BJ) was the only report of this species. Likewise, a single **Peregrine Falcon** 4/26 at BHF (PL) stood alone. Other than **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** with no reports, the *Empidonax* flycatchers were well-represented. Noteworthy were 10 **Least Flycatchers** on one list from a 3-mile hike on Laurel Mt (KB). **White-eyed** and **Yellow-throated Vireos** had four reports each; **Warbling Vireo** had 12 reports of up to three birds. Not often detected in spring, **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported twice near LHSP 5/12 (JH, GC) and 5/13 (AuH). **Blue-headed** and **Red-eyed Vireos** are both common in spring.

Purple Martins are slowly regaining ground and were reported in four locations. **Bank Swallows** do not presently have any known county breeding locations but had six reports in five locations during migration. The other swallows all breed in the county.

Winter Wren was recorded eight times in the period and breeds at higher elevations. A **Marsh Wren** was seen and heard at SL but not found on subsequent visits (BF). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** are common migrants and a sparse breeder. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** are a common migrant and were seen up to 5/13.

On a bird walk at KRNA 5/13 (JP *et al.*), observers spotted a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** being as cooperative as this species can be. **Veery** first appeared 5/2 and this localized breeder was especially prevalent in CA as demonstrated by 10 on an eight-mile drive 5/29 (JM). Migrant **Swainson's Thrushes** were detected at three locales. **Hermit Thrush** is another local breeder, with five found on **Laurel Summit** 5/12 (ASH, AP). **Wood Thrush** returned 4/23 along with **Gray Catbirds**. An earlier arriving breeder is **Brown Thrasher**, first found 4/5. **Northern Mockingbird** is uncommon in *Somerset* and was mentioned only six times. About 25 **American Pipits** flew over SL during a Duck ID Walk at SL 3/19 (CP *et al.*), and a single was noted there 5/5 (LG).

Eight **Evening Grosbeaks** at a feeder in *Somerset* 4/22 (AH) were a great find. **Purple Finches** started visiting feeders 3/12, and then were seen through the period. **Grasshopper Sparrows** appeared on four reports starting 5/17. **American Tree Sparrows** departed by 4/6. **Fox Sparrows** had 11 reports including seven at Markleton 3/9 (LA) and a late bird up to 4/23. **Dark-eyed Juncos** are very common at feeders into April, then low-density breeders at higher elevations. **White-crowned Sparrows** appeared 3/5 and stayed until 5/17 in decent numbers but were outnumbered by plentiful **White-throated Sparrows** through 5/27. **Vesper Sparrows** garnered four reports from three locales. There were nine reports of one to four **Savannah Sparrows**, but this species seems to be declining over the past decade when they previously could be found in many farm fields. There was only one report of **Lincoln's Sparrow** 5/13 near Jennerstown (PhL). **Swamp Sparrow** is a breeder in appropriate habitat and was especially numerous at SL.

Yellow-breasted Chat was found in three locations. **Bobolinks** arrived 4/30 with most reports from FLT 93. This field bird is also in decline locally as old fields and strip mines go through succession; even government managed land such as FLT 93 and the Babcock division of Forbes SF, which are refugia for field birds, could be lost if not managed for field habitat. **Orchard Orioles**, an early successional specialist, seemed to be reported more frequently with seven mentions this season. **Rusty Blackbird** migrants were detected six times with a nice high of 32 in BA 3/13 (AS).

Thirty species of warblers were found this season. The following are some arrival dates, number of records, and/or high counts. **Ovenbird** arrived 4/23 and then was very common. **Worm-eating Warbler** was reported at QR 5/12 (LG). **Louisiana Waterthrush** arrived 4/6 and then was locally common. **Northern Waterthrush** was found only at KRNA, where it breeds, and at SL. There were two **Golden-winged Warblers** in CA 5/14 (JP) and two at QR 5/23 (LG, DP, BSt). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was found 5/14 in CA (JP). **Black-and-white Warbler** arrived 5/24. Migrant **Tennessee Warblers** passed from 5/8-21 and **Nashville Warblers** from 4/29-5/12. One **Mourning Warbler** was at SGL 228 on 5/19 (JK, AR). **Hooded Warbler** arrived 4/22 and then was fairly common. **Cape May Warbler** single migrants were seen 5/8-20.

Cerulean Warbler arrived 5/10 and then was a local breeder, **Northern Parula** arrived 4/21 and then was common, **Magnolia Warbler** arrived 5/8 and then was a low-density breeder. There were 10 records of migrant **Bay-breasted Warblers** from 5/12-19, **Blackburnian Warbler** arrived 4/29 and then was an uncommon spruce breeder, **Yellow Warblers** were here from 4/22 on, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** showed up starting 5/6 with a high count of 20 5/12 in 1.6 miles on Laurel Summit (ASH, AP). **Blackpoll Warbler** migrants were around from 5/12-17, **Black-throated Blue Warbler** had a 5/2 arrival and then bred, with high count of 15 5/12 (Ash, AP), four migrant **Palm Warblers** were recorded from 4/13-5/7, **Pine Warblers** were reported starting 4/29 with a few breeders remaining, numerous migrant **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen from 3/30 to 5/27, there were four reports of **Yellow-throated Warblers** from three areas with sycamores, **Black-throated Green Warblers** arrived 4/16 then bred and are especially numerous at KRNA, **Canada Warblers** arrived 5/8 then were an uncommon breeder, and there were two reports of migrant **Wilson's Warblers** 5/12 (JH, GC) and 5/13 (LG) at LHSP.

Scarlet Tanagers arrived 5/6 and were then a common breeder, **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** came 4/29 and then were reasonably common, and last, **Indigo Buntings** arrived 5/10, then were abundant.

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Sullivan County

Locations: Beaver Pond (BP), Celestial Lake (CL), Conklin Run Wilderness Area (CRWA), Deer Lake (DL), Dushore (DSH), Dutch Mtn (DM), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), Forksville Area (FVA), Hillsgrove (HG), Jamison City Road (JCR), Kettle Creek Bog (KCB), Lake Makoma (LM), LaPorte (LAP), Litzelman Rd Cherry Township (LR), Loyalsock State Forest Coal Mine Rd (CMR), Loyalsock State Forest High Knob (HK), McCarroll's Corner (MCC), SGL 13 Splashdam Pond (SDP), SGL 66 Shady Nook (SN).

Poor weather conditions on most March weekends kept the author from getting to the county. Those same conditions may have contributed to some very good waterfowl sightings for people able to visit. The month of April seemed very normal. By the end of May it had become obvious that the weather had turned unseasonably dry with reports indicating it was the 15th driest May on record. The author tallied 87 species on International Migration Day. It was a very good season with quite a few excellent finds. Observations are by Rob Megraw except where noted. All observations not made by the author were taken from eBird.

Sixteen **Tundra Swan** were at EML 3/10 (SS). Three **Northern Pintail** were also noticed at EML 3/10 (SS). March 26 was the best day for waterfowl according to eBird records with some good finds and reports from multiple locations. Highlights from the day included 14 **Green-winged Teal** found at SDP (JD). There were four **Horned Grebe**, a **Pied-billed Grebe**, and a **Red-breasted Merganser** on LM (JD). Nine **Redhead** were a good find on EML(JD) along with two **Gadwall** and a **Lesser Scaup** (JD). A **Greater Scaup** was found on BP (JD), and two **Mute Swans** were seen on CL (SS).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was present at SN 5/13. One **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found at KCB 5/16 (SS). A **Common Nighthawk** was flying over DM 5/26 with two more seen flying over the same location 5/28. A pair of **Sandhill Crane** was observed at LR 3/26 (JD). Nesting was confirmed at this location 5/13 with one colt seen with two adult cranes. **American Woodcock** was first observed at MCC 4/6. Two **Wilson's Snipe** were seen along LR 4/7. Three **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present at SDP 4/9.

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was seen at EML 3/25 (SS), and likely the same bird was still present 3/26 (JD). Three **Ring-billed Gulls** were at EML 3/13 (SS). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** were at BP 3/28 (SS). An **American Bittern** was heard calling on DM 5/13 and was one of the first three species found on International Migration Day along with **Ruffed Grouse** and **Eastern Whip-poor-will**. **Bald Eagle** were nesting near HG with one young seen in the nest on multiple dates. Two **Barred Owls** and three **Great Horned Owls** were heard calling on DM 4/8.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was documented in the FVA 5/20 (JM). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found along JCR 5/22 (JL). One **Yellow-throated Vireo** and one **Philadelphia Vireo** were reported near LAP 5/13 (SS). A **Horned Lark** was seen at SDP 3/26 (JD). **Cliff Swallow** was found again this year near HG on 5/29. **Northern Mockingbird** has become more regular in the county with one present near DSH 3/26. A lone **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was a very good find near DL 5/13. A **Swainson's Thrush** was reported near LAP 5/22 (SS). A male **Evening Grosbeak** was observed on DM 5/6. An **American Tree Sparrow** was reported near LAP 4/20 (SS).

A total of 27 species of warbler were reported during the period. A highlight was a **Worm-eating Warbler** at HK 5/20 (JM). **Tennessee Warbler** and **Bay-breasted Warbler** were seen at CRWA 5/7 (SM). **Mourning Warbler** was documented on several dates at HK, first seen 5/16 (SS). Two **Hooded Warbler** were singing near DL 5/13. A **Cerulean Warbler** was observed singing near DL 5/29. **Blackpoll Warbler** was found along CMR 5/18 (SM). Two **Pine Warblers** were reported near DSH 4/8 (SS). One **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported at HK 5/16 (SS).

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Susquehanna County

Locations: Big Elk Lake (BEL), Elkdale Road Wetland (ERW), Glemboski Farm Fields (GFF), Hollister's Dump Pond (HDP), State Game Lands 236 Central (SGL236C).

Spring weather can be quite temperamental in *Susquehanna*, but this year we were blessed with early open water. Area birders were delighted that waterfowl and mud-loving birds were found across the area in many places.

Social media were instrumental in adding a new species to *Susquehanna's* collective eBird list when a photo of eight **Trumpeter Swans** was circulated on Facebook. After a little detective work, the location was found and several folks from the local birding community were able to see these lovely birds on 4/2 at Stone Pond (EM, LN, TN, NV). It is interesting to note that there were two reports in late Mar of eight **Trumpeter Swans** 15 miles south of this location in nearby *Wyoming*.

A nice variety of waterfowl was reported but one species stood out from the rest. Although **Ring-necked Ducks** are common migrants, their numbers were quite uncommon. A high count of over 100 was seen on BEL 3/20 (JC) and again 3/21 (JS).

Wilson's Snipe was another species with unusually high numbers; they were seen at five different locations as compared to two locations in 2022 and one location in 2021. An impressively high count of eight was tallied at ERW 4/27 (CF). A **Semipalmated Plover** was discovered at HDP 5/19 (TB) and remained until the following day (m.ob.). It had been three years since this species had been a spring visitor here.

Another *Susquehanna* first was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** that was heard as it flew over Place Rd near Auburn 4/9 (TB). A few weeks earlier, on 3/20, the only **Golden Eagle** of the season was also reported at this location (TB).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited bird feeders for a single day at a private residence on Chipmunk Rd 5/11 (SS, BS, GS). Range maps indicate that *Susquehanna* is on the fringe of this species' breeding grounds, but they are rarely seen and are only reported during migration.

Thrushes that migrate through our area were quite stingy with their appearances. A single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen 5/10 at a private property near New Milford (NV). A week later, a lone **Swainson's Thrush** was reported 5/18 at SGL 236C (CF).

Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were photographed and their songs recorded 5/29 at GFF (CF) and another two were located an hour later on nearby Polovitch Rd. (CF). It had been four years since this species was reported here.

A **Louisiana Waterthrush** placed third in the warblers' race back to *Susquehanna*. He was heard singing in a creek along Salt Springs Rd 4/4 (EM). Second place was awarded to a **Black-and-white Warbler** at a private residence near Hop Bottom 3/11 (GP). And the winner, by a mere 24 hours, was a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** that arrived on a cold and snowy day to a suet feeder near Great Bend on 3/10 (BS, GS). This

season, a total of 27 warbler species were reported, the same as last year's number.

ADDENDUM. The winter report noted that on 1/30 a dead **Peregrine Falcon** had been found on private property near Phillips Rd. The Pennsylvania Game Commission took possession of the bird, and a necropsy has determined that it had collided with a power line.

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Tioga County

Locations: Cavanaugh Access at Tioga State Forest (CAV), Cowanesque Lake (COWL), Hills Creek Lake Road (HCLR), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Marsh Creek (MAR), "The Muck," State Game Lands 313 (MSG), Nessmuk Lake (NELA), Pine Creek Rail Trail (PCRT); Darling Run Access (DAR), Webster Road (WEB); Tioga-Hammond Lakes (THL); Ives Run Recreation Area (IRRA), Route 287 Osprey Wetlands (OW), Railroad Grade Trail (RT).

The warm winter season was followed by a long, cool, early spring. In April, warmer temperatures arrived early, prompting some trees and plants to bud a little early. This was followed by a frost near the end of May that damaged new leaves and growth on sensitive plants and trees. Some waterfowl species, possibly prompted by the extended spring season, were present in higher numbers than usual and lingered long after arriving in the area. As usual, data were obtained primarily from eBird and a few personal communications; eBird shows that 201 species and 22 other taxa were reported this season.

It was a good year for **Snow Geese** with reports of single birds or flocks from many locations in the county (m.ob.). One individual with an injured leg visited a large pond along S Calahan Rd for several days in late Mar (m.ob.). It may have been the same bird this observer saw at Montour Preserve in *Montour* a few days earlier. A large flock of **Snow Geese**, estimated at 400 individuals, was observed going S over HCLA ahead of stormy weather 3/11 (LD); on 3/16 a smaller flock was observed flying N (LD) as the weather improved. A **Trumpeter Swan** was identified with the Merlin App at MSG 4/5 (BN). The first **Tundra Swan** was at NELA 3/1 (BN), followed by reports across the central part of the county primarily during the last half of Mar (m.ob.). One trio lingered in the wetlands between Rte 6 and MAR from the end of Apr until at least 5/1 (m.ob.).

Blue-winged Teal were observed in the MAR Valley, IRRA, and the Hills Creek area (m.ob.). Reports began with one bird at RT 3/20 (LD) and ended with five at MAR area 4/24 (LD). **Northern Shovelers** stopped 3/30 at HCSP (KC) and MSG (LD), then two visited IRRA 4/3 (LD, MS). **Gadwall** were present at each of the prime lake and wetland birding locations. The earliest report was four at HCSP 3/1 (BN). The final observation was a lone bird in a large upland beaver swamp seen from Swamp Rd 4/9 (LD). **American Wigeon** were also present at local lakes and wetlands in good numbers. (m.ob.). A flock at HCSP lingered 3/8-4/8 (m.ob.). A pair made a late appearance at OW 5/13 (LD). **Northern Pintail** was reported at many locations during Mar. The high count was 12 at RT 3/2 (SM). The last observation was at MSG 4/1 (JC). **Green-winged Teal** were present at expected locations in the central and northern parts of the county during Mar and Apr (m.ob.); none were reported in May. Two **Canvasback** were observed at IRRA 3/2 (JC). As many as six were present at HCSP 3/8 (BN, SM). As many as four **Redheads** enjoyed HCSP 3/6-4/12 (m.ob.), but at no other locations.

Ring-necked Ducks, present in large numbers as usual, were reported last at MSG 5/4 (JF). A flock of nearly 40 **Greater Scaup** were at IRRA 3/25 (KC, LD). The last report was a single bird at HCSP 4/23 (GT). The final observation of **Lesser Scaup** was of two at MSG 4/19 (LD). **Long-tailed Ducks** passed through from the end of Mar into the first week of Apr (m.ob.). The high count was four at IRRA 3/25 (KC, LD). Two were located at Sugar Branch L, a seldom observed location, 3/26 (KC, AW). The final **Bufflehead** was spotted at MSG 5/4 (JF). One **Common Goldeneye** was reported at NELA 3/2 (MS), 3/15 and 3/22 (KC). Later on 3/22, two were observed (BN). A smattering of **Red-breasted Mergansers** was observed (m.ob.). The last two were located at DAR 4/23 (MS, SS). **Ruddy Duck** were present at Nessmuk L, Hills Creek L, Tauschers Pond, and the Ridge Rd Ponds in Apr and May

(m.ob.). A late bird was admired by those enjoying the Audubon Bird Walk at Hills Cr L 5/27 (m.ob.) and 5/28 (MS).

Wild Turkeys were reported throughout the county (m.ob.), as were **Ruffed Grouse**. It is heartening that they have been present, although in reduced numbers. A **Ring-necked Pheasant**, possibly a holdover, was observed in the Niles Valley area 5/14 (PD).

Pied-billed Grebes and **Horned Grebes** were present at the usual areas (m.ob.). The **Pied-billed Grebe's** affinity for wetland areas led to their being present in more locations (m.ob.). They also stayed longer, with the last report at MSG 5/5 (JF). Spongy moth numbers are still quite high this year. Possibly in response, both cuckoo species have also been relatively easy to locate. The first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was near Rexford 5/11 (KR) near the western border of the county. Many returning songbird species have been first reported in this area. **Black-billed Cuckoo** did not get the memo about arriving on the W border first, with the first records occurring in central and N locations. Two were at COWL 5/10 (TH, SO), and one was near HCLR 5/10 (LD).

Joining bug-eating species returning and passing through the county, **Common Nighthawks** were observed at MSG 5/14 (LD) and then six there 5/19 (m.ob.). The final report was of one bird in Wellsboro 5/21 (MS). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, believed to be breeding in the area, were heard on Landrus Rd 5/29 (KC, EW). This observer also received private communication from an experienced birder that one was heard on the lower portion of Baldwin Run Rd about a week earlier. An attempt to relocate this bird was unsuccessful. **Chimney Swift** reports became quite common in May (m.ob.) This observer has heard comments that **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** numbers seemed reduced this year. The eBird map shows that observations began in May with reports at 32 locations (m.ob.).

The return of some wetland denizens is much anticipated by local Observers. The first record of a **Virginia Rail** was on private property at the N end of the MSG 5/2 (LD). A **Sora** was first located at WEB 5/2 (KC), quickly followed by another near the blind at MSG 5/2 (LD). A single **American Coot** was observed at MSG 5/4 (JF) 5/5 (KC, JF) and 5/16 (KR). It is unknown if these were the same bird. One fortunate observer was at the MSG bird blind when a **Sandhill Crane** passed through 5/12 (KR).

Much like last year, shorebird sightings were slow this season. Most notable was a **Ruddy Turnstone** that rested and fed at HCSP 5/27 (m.ob.), entertaining those enjoying the Audubon Bird Walk in the morning. This observer admired it the same evening. Some good quality pictures were taken and posted to eBird. **Least Sandpiper** observations were very low with just one reported along MAR Rd near MSG 5/12 (KR). Reports of **Wilson's Snipe** began in Apr along the MAR corridor and at MSG (m.ob.). The last observation of **Greater Yellowlegs** was at a farm near Nauvoo 5/13 (BN). The last observation of **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at WEB 5/21 (MS). A **Common Tern** was admired at COWL 4/17 (KC). No other terns were reported this season. **American Bittern** were first observed at WEB 5/1 (KC, KR), then one was found at MSG 5/8 (LS). One **Least Bittern** was apparently flushed by a dog on private land along MAR near Straight Run 5/2 (JC). Single **Great Egrets** were located at HCSP 4/22 and 4/23 (m.ob.), Hamilton L 4/29 (CC, KC and KR), and MSG 5/13 (MS).

The last **Northern Harrier** report was along Bullock Rd 5/25 (KC, EtW). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen throughout the county (m.ob.) The first **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed near HCLR 4/7 (LD). The last **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported near the northern border of the county and state at COWL Dam Spillway Area 3/16 (KC). **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were recorded at a residence near HCLA 3/11 (LD) and at a residence along MAR 5/20 (JC).

The first report of a **Northern Flicker** was PCRT's MAR Access 3/5 (MS). Looking back, a few were present at different locations in Feb. Of notable falcon species, **Merlin** was present in the S and central portion of the county (m.ob.). Several of these are suspected of breeding in the area. One **Peregrine Falcon** was detected near Wellsboro 3/8 (MS), then one was reported at a farm near Nauvoo 3/12 (BN); it is unknown if these were different birds.

The seven typical flycatcher species all returned to the county by May (m.ob.), but notably no Olive-sided Flycatchers were observed this season. Six vireo species were present; two are rare here. A **White-eyed Vireo** was recorded at NELA 4/24 (MS). Another was heard and seen at RT 5/23 (KC). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen and described at the Landrus Bird Blind 5/23 (KC).

Eight **Fish Crow** reports were evenly spread in the county. The locations may mostly reflect where observers focus their efforts. The

only **Horned Larks** reported were two at MSGL Railyard Area 3/22 (BN). Notable among swallow species, **Purple Martins** were observed at MSGL 4/16 (KC) and 5/9 (KC, KR), at NELA 5/8 (MS) and 5/10 (SM), and at CAV 5/14 (KR). **Marsh Wrens** returned in late Apr with the first heard on the Muck Rd end of MSGL 4/28 (LD). **Swainson's Thrush** passed through in mid-May at MSGL 5/16 (KC, LD, KR), along MAR Rd 5/12 (KR), on Goodall Rd 5/16 (KC, LD, KR), and near Rexford 5/19 (KR). Two **American Pipits** were spotted at a farm near Nauvoo 4/7 (BN). **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported from mid-Apr to mid-May as they returned north (m.ob.). A **Red Crossbill** was heard at the N end of HCSP 4/14 (KC). **Pine Siskin** were reported at eight locations in Apr and May (m.ob.).

Thirteen sparrow species were present, and three rare species were located. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** visited a private residence in Wellsboro 4/23 (MS, SS). **Vesper Sparrows** were spotted at NELA 4/7 (KR), in Wellsboro 5/10 (BN) and at CAV 5/14 (KR). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was discovered at CAV 5/14 (MS).

Yellow-breasted Chats were observed along MAR Rd 5/12 (KR), at CAV 5/14 (KR) and on Elk Run Rd near Gaines 5/31 (KR). **Bobolink** returned and spread out across the county in May (m.ob.). **Orchard Orioles** were observed at two locations in the southern part of the county and at eight locations in the central part (m.ob.).

Thirty-two species of warblers were observed during the season. Highlights begin with a **Worm-eating Warbler** seen along the PCRT near Blackwell 5/30 (MS). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was observed along MAR Rd near Asaph 5/4 (KR). A **Golden-winged/Blue-winged** was reported along the Lambs Cr Hike and Bike Trail 5/30 (MS, SS). **Cape May Warblers** were reported at DAR 5/22 (MS, SS), at two locations along MAR near Straight Run 5/13 (KC, KR) and 5/14 (JC), and in Roseville 5/13 (BS). A single **Cerulean Warbler** was along PCRT near Blackwell 5/19 (JR). **Wilson's Warblers** appeared near HCLR 5/8 (LD) and along MAR near Straight Run 5/13 (JC). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** returned in returned in Apr (m.ob.). **Indigo Buntings** waited until May to return to the county (m.ob.).

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Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Barkeyville Fields (BF), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Franklin (FR), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP), Sandy Creek Bike Trail (SCBT), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP), Venus (VE).

It was a fairly quiet season with mild temperatures and low rainfall, especially in May. Migration was slower than normal. There are normally southwest winds at this time of year but these never materialized, and I think many migrants just slipped through rather than dropping down in numbers.

Waterfowl migration was light; many species had few reports. **Tundra Swan** passed in a very small window 3/7-13 with a high count of 103 on 3/9 at KL (JS). **Northern Shoveler** had a high of 110 at KL 3/6 (JS). **Northern Pintail** were only reported at KL, with 17 counted on 3/17 and others 3/22 (JS). **Long-tailed Ducks** were observed 3/6-23 at both TMRP and KL with highs 3/7 of 12 at TMRP (RS) and 40 at KL (JS).

A report of the scarce **Ruffed Grouse** came from the N end of OCSP 5/30 (DR). The only **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports were from BHNS 5/13-29 (KG, JS). **Common Nighthawk** was first observed 5/14 in FR (DH, JH). There were a couple of reports for **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, both at SGL 45, with five 5/20 (JH) and one 5/22 (RS). Three **Chimney Swifts** first appeared in FR 4/21 (JH).

A few shorebird species were reported, all from TMRP: two **Semipalmated Plover** 5/2 (RS), **Least Sandpiper** 5/27 (CH), **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/1 (RS), eight **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/26(RS), and **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/20-5/1(RS) as well as from KL (JS).

Ring-billed Gulls were seen at AR 3/2-10 as well as **Bonaparte's Gull** from 3/26-4/18 (LC, WP) with 14 on AR (RS). No terns were reported this season.

Northern Harrier had one sighting at KL 4/4 (JS). A **Great Horned Owl** was reported near PLE 5/27 (WG) and another at OCSP the same date (JM).

Eastern Wood-Pewee was first seen at FRA 5/11 (NB), and **Least Flycatcher** 5/16 in VE (DS). A **Willow Flycatcher** was observed singing at TMRP 5/21 (RS), **Great Crested Flycatcher** was first noted 5/28 (NB) at FR. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was sighted 5/9 on SCBT (GV) and another at BHNS 5/17 (KG, JS). **Horned Lark** was observed at KL from 3/2-13 with a high of four 3/13 (JS). **Cliff Swallow** nest numbers continue to decline. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found at VE 5/9 (RH).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was observed 5/17 at VE (DS) and 5/18 at TMRP (RS). The only **American Pipit** report was near KL 3/15 (JS). **Veery** numbers were decent this season.

Evening Grosbeak, a sighting always good to receive, was at a feeder FRA (NB). **Pine Siskin** was sighted 5/9 at VE (RH). Sparrow highlights are **Grasshopper Sparrow** 5/23 at BF (JH), **Fox Sparrow** from 4/2-14 FRA (NB), and **White-crowned Sparrow** 5/8-16 FRA (NB). **Orchard Oriole**, scarce in *Venango*, was reported from BHNS 5/12 (JS, KG). **Rusty Blackbird** was observed 3/28 at BHNS (JS, KG) and 4/17 at FR (JH).

Twenty-seven species of warblers were reported. **Worm-eating Warbler** was at BHNS 5/13-29 (JS, KG). A **Northern Waterthrush** was at OCSP 5/19 (RS). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was observed 5/17 at BHNS (KG, JS) and another at OCSP 5/28 (JM). **Mourning Warbler** was found 5/29 at BHNS (JS, KG) and **Cerulean Warbler** 5/14 at OCSP (JH). **Northern Parula** was reported 5/16-18 at BHNS (JS, KG). **Blackpoll Warbler** was at FR 5/22 (JH, DH), **Pine Warbler** at VE 4/15 (DS), and **Yellow-throated Warbler** at BHNS 5/17 (JS, KG). **Prairie Warbler** was at BHNS 4/23 (JS, KG), and **Canada Warbler** at OCSP 5/14 (JH).

Scarlet Tanager was first reported 5/16, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 4/24, and **Indigo Bunting** 5/8.

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Warren County

Locations: Akeley Swamp (AS), Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Big Four Road (B4), City of Warren (CW), Chapman State Park (CSP), Clarendon (CL), Davey Hill Road (DH), Dew Drop Campground, ANF (DD), Economite Rd (ER), Forestry Sciences Lab, Irvine (FL), Four-Mile Road (4M), Game Lands 86 (GL), Henry's Mills (HM), East Hickory Creek (EHK), Hillside Acres Tidioute (HA), Ice Cream Hollow banding site (IC), Kinzua Dam (KD), Kinzua Point (KP), Minister Creek Trail (MC), Minister Road (MR), Old State Road (OS), River Road in Starbrick (RR), Russell (RU), Sugar Grove (SG), Tanbark Trail nr Dunham Siding (TDS), Tidioute River Trail (TT).

Spring in *Warren* came in like a [sea]llion (cold and wet), but that's normal for here; the weather went downhill from there with way-below-normal precipitation. April received only 60% of our average rainfall and May just 46%. The drought conditions delayed leaf-out for many trees, which may have affected bird numbers, food, and visibility.

Water birds were not noticeably affected. Three **Trumpeter Swans** were reported from TT 3/9 (EN, KN). A high count of 27 **Wood Ducks** were spotted at AS 4/13 (TS). **Blue-winged Teal** showed up only at AS, with a max of six seen on both 4/22 and 4/25 (DM). **American Black Ducks** are increasingly rare locally, so six seen at AS 4/9 was a good sighting (SD). Up to 20 **Green-winged Teal** hung around AS for many weeks, that high count occurring on 4/22 (DM). Other high counts from AS were 50 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/21 (SH), 30 **Lesser Scaup** 4/9 (SD), and 12 **Hooded Mergansers** 3/21 (SH). A high count of 13 **Common Mergansers** was reported from RR 3/16 (EN); it's likely many of these stuck around to breed. The sole report of **Red-breasted Mergansers** came from CSP 4/11 where 11 were spotted (DM). As in much of the state, **Ruffed Grouse** seemed sparse this past spring; a report of 11 flushed from several harvest areas in GL was encouraging (TS). A calling **Pied-billed Grebe** 5/6 probably represented a breeding bird (GB) at AS, where they appear to breed annually.

Only two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported from the county this spring (TS), quite a change from 2021 when they showed up in large numbers in response to a spongy moth outbreak. **Black-billed Cuckoos**, normally the commoner cuckoo here, were equally sparse, perhaps due to the drought. **Common Nighthawk** numbers have been declining nationally for decades, like many aerial insectivores, so a report of four together 5/25 at DH was encouraging (JP). Also encouraging was

the report of one or two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** at IC consistently from 5/16-31 (DD, CW); in recent years they have been sporadic at best in *Warren*. A high count of 15 **Chimney Swifts** was spotted in CW 5/1 (TS). Like other aerial insectivores their numbers have plummeted.

Rails tend to breed only at AS in *Warren*; as many as four **Virginia Rails** and two **Sora** were recorded there 4/25 (EN). As has become the norm in the past decade, **Sandhill Cranes** were seen repeatedly at AS. Three adults seen 4/13 hint that more than one pair may be involved this year (TS). Though not uncommon across *Warren*, multiple counts of five **American Woodcock** from 4/2-5/9 at MJ Rd is noteworthy (EN). Four **Spotted Sandpipers** seen at TT 5/18 was an exceptional number for such a solitary species (EN). Shorebirds in general tend to be rather scarce in our beachless county; a nice exception was three **Greater Yellowlegs** at AS 5/4 (DM). A remarkable 40 **Bonaparte's Gulls** passed by TT 3/31 (EN). **Common Loons** pass through the area in migration, with the latest reported on the Conewango Creek at RU 5/17 (SA).

The last two known active territories of **American Goshawk** in *Warren* appeared to consist of single, unmated individuals on the ANF (SHS, DW). This species was state-listed as endangered last year because of poor reproduction, high adult mortality from West Nile Virus, fisher predation, and continued northward contraction of their range; unfortunately the goshawk's future in the state is not looking good. In contrast, **Bald Eagles** continue to increase and expand, with a new nest in a residential backyard pine near 4M (DW). Though quite common locally as a breeding bird, **Northern Saw-whet Owls** are extremely cryptic and completely nocturnal; a calling bird responded to playback at IC on 5/16 and 5/22 (DD, CW). Again this year, at least one and probably more pairs of **Merlin** have been seen throughout CW, especially around older neighborhoods with large spruce trees; a pair was seen 5/12 (TS).

A high count of four **Acadian Flycatchers** was noted along 2.2 miles of the TDS 5/23 (CW). Acadians are near the northern limits of their range here. Normally fairly solitary, a group of five **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was seen at AS 5/6, as were two **Bank Swallows** (GB). Early migrants are often dominated by **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**: high counts of six were seen at TT 4/20 (EN) and at GL 5/5 (SHS). A high of 12 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** was spotted cavorting among the spruces at CSP 4/2 (JW). Though **Brown Creepers** are relatively common in *Warren*, a count of seven at MC 4/15 was impressive even for here (CW). Rare locally because of limited habitat, a pair of **Marsh Wrens** were seen at AS 4/25 (EN). **Northern Mockingbirds** have usually been considered accidental in *Warren*, but this spring at least five were reported around the county, mostly in towns (m.ob.).

Perhaps the most notable observation this spring was a lingering group of **Evening Grosbeaks** at a private feeder on MR well into May. They wandered locally quite a bit, with the max seen in one day being 71 on 4/26 (TS); this flock included at least one individual color-banded by David Yeany in nearby *Forest*. A single **Red Crossbill** was found singing in a pine stand at HM 4/11 (JK). No evidence was found of breeding, although the species has bred recently in *Warren*. A pair of another irruptive finch, **Pine Siskins**, attended a feeder in CW 5/8-9 (TS); they often breed in the area. **Fox Sparrows** migrate through during a narrow window of time in early spring; one birder was fortunate to be at the right place at the right time to record 16 on 4/1 outside CL (RK). **White-crowned Sparrows** pass through in numbers, but usually a few at a time amidst the more common **White-throated Sparrows**, so a group of eight at a feeder at FL on 4/25 (SHS) was unusual. Grassland-loving **Savannah Sparrows** tend to be sparse in heavily forested *Warren*, so four seen in a field outside SG 5/28 (NM) was noteworthy, especially as the late date clearly suggested breeding. Similarly, **Bobolinks** require large, healthy tracts of grassland to survive; they are declining across their range like most grassland obligates. Eight seen in fields along ER 5/25 (CV) were a testament to the quality of the grassland habitat there. **Orchard Orioles** are rare and irregular in *Warren*, in part because they prefer fairly open areas and in part because they are primarily a southeastern species near the northern fringes of their range here. Two were reported from farms this spring: one at HA 5/9 (EN), the other on OS 5/13-14 (VV).

Warblers in general seemed sparse this spring. Hopefully this reflects the weird weather rather than major declines in even common species. Only two **Blue-winged Warblers** were reported, both from timber harvest areas at GL on 5/25 and 5/27 (TS, SHS). This species has experienced steep population declines, but to date has received little of the conservation efforts its congener **Golden-winged** has garnered. **Tennessee Warblers** tend to be common migrants in May and this year was no exception; a high count of seven was seen and heard at KP 5/17

(SHS). **Cerulean Warblers** tend to be virtually invisible except on their breeding grounds; a group of four singing males and a nest-building female were recorded 5/17 at KP, their usual hotspot in *Warren* (SHS). Like several other regular migrants, **Bay-breasted Warblers** seemed unusually rare this spring; the sole exception to scattered single birds was a group of four at CSP 5/15 (BK). Data from the second Breeding Bird Atlas revealed *Warren* to have the highest estimated population of **Blackburnian Warblers** of any county in the state; a count of 17 along TDS 5/23 is consistent with this fact (CW). Very few **Blackpoll Warblers** were detected this spring: two single birds were reported in eBird (CW, SHS). Only two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were reported from *Warren*: one in sycamores along Conewango Creek at B4 on 4/13 (TS), the other 5/8 in pines in CL (CE). This area is one of the northernmost breeding sites for this southeastern warbler. Another southerner, **Prairie Warbler**, was equally scarce: two seen were at KD 5/17 (JC) and HA 5/21 (EN). A remarkable five **Canada Warblers** were seen and photographed deep in the backwoods, far off any beaten track, at EHK 5/16 (TS). Only a single **Wilson's Warbler** was spotted, at DD 5/17 (JC).

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Washington County

Locations: Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Ginger Hill area ponds (GHP), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Hillman State Park (HSP), Mingo Creek County Park (MC), Peters Lake (PL), City of Washington (WASH), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

Reports of **Tundra Swan** included 18 at Eighty Four 3/8 (DM) and one at GHP 3/19 (GG). **Blue-winged Teal** were exceptionally widespread, with 55 total records across at least eight locations. They were a fixture at CL 3/31-5/7, where the max count was eight during that time (m.ob.). **Northern Shoveler** was limited to reports of two birds at both Trax Farm 3/8 (JF) and near Finleyville 3/8 (DM). Scattered reports of small numbers of **Gadwall** were made through the end of Mar, topped by five at R4 on 3/30 (RI). Five **American Wigeon** were at GHP 3/8-23 (JF) and four were at R4 on 4/3 (RI). What turned out to be the only report of **American Black Duck** (see below) was one at GHP 3/1-7 (JL), and the only **Northern Pintail** was one at CC 3/19 (RI).

Washington was host to a potential state first this season, and certainly one of the most unexpected birds ever found in the county. At CL 5/13, the same day when a group of rare shorebirds was also discovered there, a duck was present that was initially identified as American Black Duck (MJ). But the finder of the bird had doubts about it, thinking it might have been a **Mottled Duck**, a species never reported in Pennsylvania. These suspicions were confirmed when the photos of it were reviewed in eBird about a week later. Word was spread the morning of 5/23 that the bird was a Mottled Duck and happily, a short search for the bird later that morning was successful (DM). It remained through the end of the period and was reported daily throughout May and into the summer. It showed no overt signs of captivity. If accepted by PORC, it would be the first for the state. Interestingly, this bird was part of a small incursion of Mottled Duck into the mid-Atlantic and Midwest this spring. Mottled Ducks appeared in North Carolina and New York in Apr, and several more appeared in May in Iowa, Illinois, Tennessee, and Virginia. One wonders if this invasion will be a one-time thing, or if wandering birds will soon become more regular north of their typical range in the same way Black-bellied Whistling-Duck has in the past decade or so.

Bay ducks had a good showing, though Canvasback went unreported. **Redhead** appeared in three locations, including eight at PL 3/7 (JuL) and as many as six at R4 from 3/19-30 (RI). Counts of **Ring-necked Ducks** were impressive, topped by 210 at GHP 3/8 (JF) and as many as 80 still there 3/20, and 160 at R4 on 3/30 (RI). The 65 still at R4 on 4/3 provided a very nice high number for Apr (RI). Three **Greater**

Scaup were at R4 on 3/19, with one still there 3/30 (RI). The top count of **Lesser Scaup** was 38 at R4 on 3/8, and 12 were still there at the end of Mar (RI). Second-best among waterfowl were two **Surf Scoters** at CC 3/20 (RI). A few **Bufflehead** were here and there in Mar, but one male at a farm pond near Canonsburg 5/25-26 and possibly beyond was very unusual (ZM, MV). A **Red-breasted Merganser**, the only one reported, was at GHP 3/16 (JL).

For the first time in quite a while, **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported as often as **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, though in this case because of many fewer reports of Yellow-billed than usual. Each species was reported from three different locations and a total of eight to nine times; in the case of Black-billed, at SGL 117, MC, and HSP beginning 5/9 (m.ob.). It's not clear why Yellow-billed was underreported given that birder coverage this spring was solid. Two **Common Nighthawks** comprised the spring flight, including one in WASH 5/27 (SG), late enough not to be an obvious migrant. As many as four **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were noted at HSP in May (RT *et al.*), as usual. GCW had both expected rail species again this spring, with **Virginia Rail** noted 4/20 (RI) and **Sora** on at least eight dates 4/7-5/27 (RI, JO, SG *et al.*).

Exposed mud at CL provided the only shorebird habitat of any consequence, but several nice birds were found there. Reports at CL included the following: up to 10 **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/13-22 (MJ, JO *et al.*), a beautiful **Stilt Sandpiper** in breeding plumage 5/13 (MJ), **Dunlin** 4/30 (JF, LF) and 5/14-17 (DM), as many as 30 **Least Sandpipers** 5/13-28 (MJ *et al.*), 12 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/13 (MJ) among which was the Stilt Sandpiper, a great count of 15 **Solitary Sandpipers** 5/13 (MJ), up to 14 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/25-5/16 with the max of 14 on 4/30 (MD, MU), and as many as four **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/20-5/22. The only shorebird of note away from CL was another **Semipalmated Plover** near Eighty Four 5/25 (DM). Another dowitcher at CL 4/26 (FK) was inconclusive as to species from photos but looked more like Long-billed in this author's opinion.

One or two **Common Loons** were periodically reported at CC 3/20-4/13 (DG, GGr, RI, FK) and one was at PL 5/10-12 (GG). Very nice were reports of **American Bittern** at CL 4/19 (AN) and at GCW 4/30 (JPO). The first **Great Egret** appeared at CL 3/29 (AN); they were reported 14 more times there through 5/5. It sounds like a lot, but this was still fewer records than used to occur here in spring about a decade ago. **Black Vulture** was once again reported multiple times, including one along US-19 near Canonsburg 3/17 (JP) and one near Bentleyville 4/25 (JL). The first **Osprey** was near Coal Center 3/22 (FK); they were found at nine other locations by the end of the period. The last **Northern Harriers** on the wintering grounds near Midway on the Panhandle Trail were noted 3/7 (GG). The CL **Bald Eagle** nest had three hatchlings as of 5/10 (AN). Sadly, a Bald Eagle was shot near Hickory in mid-May, with authorities looking to press charges over the matter. Early **Broad-winged Hawks** were noted at Bentleyville 4/2 (JL) and at MC 4/4 (FK). The same grasslands on the Panhandle Trail mentioned for harrier above were also a winter home for **Short-eared Owl**, where the last of the season were three on 3/28 (RB). **Red-headed Woodpecker** has been increasing in *Washington* in recent years but exploded this spring with reports in at least eight locations (m.ob.). A **Merlin** at Canonsburg 3/1 (DM) was the only one for the season. A **Peregrine Falcon** was again seen at Speers on the Monongahela River 5/29 (FK, AN), but this was overshadowed by the confirmation of a nest nearby, on the Lane Bane Bridge (US-40) in Brownsville 5/27 (MV). At least three eggs hatched at this site, which will be further detailed in next season's report.

An **Alder Flycatcher** was a nice find at Peterswood Park 5/12 (GG), as was a **Philadelphia Vireo** at MC 5/8 (RI). **Common Raven** found its way onto 97 eBird checklists this season, with the top count of seven at Meadowcroft Museum in Avella (MFe). It was unclear whether that count included nestlings, but the species has nested there in the past. A **Bank Swallow** was at CL 4/30 and 5/1 (MD, MU), and **Cliff Swallow** was also there the same two days (JF, LF) and at Trax Farm 5/1 (JF). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** remained at about 10 locations through Apr or early May and was present at HSP into the summer as usual. An early **Veery** was described at MC 4/13 (JL), and **Swainson's Thrush** was noted about 10 times around the county beginning 5/12 (m.ob.). Gray-cheeked Thrush was not reported.

Purple Finches appeared at five locations through 5/17, but **Pine Siskin** was limited to a single bird at a feeder near Bentleyville 5/6 (JL). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was frequently reported at Ciaffoni Rd beginning 4/22 (FK *et al.*) as well as at a few other locations. Interestingly, Ciaffoni Rd was the only location where the more common **Savannah Sparrow** was reported all season. **Henslow's Sparrow** was found in an

impressive seven locations, including still at their long-standing summer grounds in Robinson Twp (RI, MF). **Fox Sparrows** included one at a WASH feeder 3/4 (RI), as many as three at MC 3/20-28 (JF, FK, AN), and one at CL 4/7 (FK). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found in as many as eight locations in May, a nice showing for them. Ciaffoni Rd was also ground zero for **Bobolink**, where frequent double-digit counts of up to 20 (DM) were made beginning 5/1 (FK, m.ob.). Boone Reservoir was the spot for **Rusty Blackbirds** throughout Mar, where the max of 50 was counted 3/10 (JF). Singles were also noted variously elsewhere through early May.

The warbler migration seemed to be hit or miss, despite what appeared to be good birder coverage. A remarkable count of 26 **Ovenbirds** was made during a survey of HSP 5/5 (KD, KS), one of the highest counts for the county on record. A **Northern Waterthrush** was at CL 5/23 (AB) and again 5/27. **Tennessee Warbler** was the most frequently reported passage migrant, probably owing to its distinctive song that it repeats incessantly on migration, but it was not noted after 5/22. A **Kentucky Warbler** was at Washington Park among 10 or so migrant species 5/8 (RI). Kentucky has been seen at Washington Park in six of the past 10 years in spring, but there is only one summer record there in that time, from 2016. An eager **American Redstart** was back at Buck Run by 4/20 (RI). **Cape May Warbler** was noted twice in a WASH yard 5/7 and 5/19 (LC) and was reported just one other time for the entire season, also in WASH 5/15 (JuL). Only **Blackpoll Warbler** came close to the frequency of Tennessee among pass-through migrants, and probably for the same reasons, with many reports from 5/15-31. **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was mysteriously reported just once, at MC 5/6-7 (JP), in line with what was also a curiously bad showing in *Beaver*. Two late **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found at MC 5/23 (JPO), and a **Canada Warbler** singing near Eighty Four 5/8 (FK) was the only one reported. A somewhat early **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visited a feeder in WASH 4/21 (RI).

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Wayne County

Locations: Hankins Pond (HP), Lake Wallenpaupack (LW), White Oak Pond (WOP).

A **Trumpeter Swan** was reported at Van Scott Nature Reserve 3/2 (RJ). Two **Red-necked Grebes** were spotted off Shuman Point at LW 3/26 (RJ, BW). **Virginia Rail**, **Sora**, and **Common Gallinule** returned to their respective breeding grounds, including HP and WOP, at the end of Apr (m.ob.). Two **Sandhill Cranes** were heard vocalizing at a cattail marsh near the Varden Conservation Area 4/19 (RJ). This may be the same pair that has bred annually near the Avoy and Eisenhower Rds area nearly six miles away. The first eBird record of **American Avocet** in *Wayne* was reported at Gouldsboro SP 4/17 (JM). One **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, a county rarity, was photographed at LW 3/12 (CF, BW). Vocalizations of up to four **Least Bitterns** were recorded at WOP 5/13-30 (CF). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported at their breeding grounds near LW's Caffrey Recreation Area 5/11 (CF).

Twenty-eight warbler species were tallied. A singing **Worm-eating Warbler** was heard near the Delaware R Narrowsburg Access 5/7 (CF, RJ). **Mourning Warblers** were reported at a few locations county-wide, including SGL 310, a known location for this species (CF, RJ).

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Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir at Route 380 Overlook (BRR), Chestnut Ridge outside of Derry (CRD), Donegal Lake (DL), Henslow Hill near Kecksburg (HH), Kuehl Property in Murrysville (KP), Latrobe Reservoir also known as Trout Run Reservoir (LR), Mammoth Park (MP), Morosini Reserve (MR), Murrysville Community Park Wetland (MCP), Pleasant Valley Park (PVP), Powdermill Nature Reserve and Banding Station (PNR), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB), St. Vincent Lake

and Reclamation Ponds (SVL), Westmoreland Heritage Trail through the MAWC Beaver Run Reservoir property (WHT), from Delmont to Trees Mill (WHT-D).

Significant effort provided reporting for the Spring migration season in *Westmoreland*. Recently Mammoth Park drew attention as the prime location for shorebirds and waterfowl. Donegal Lake was also worth the visit. Pleasant Valley Park also attracted observers, paying off with reports of targeted warbler species. The 5/13 Global Big Day effort by the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club, organized by Steve Manns, contributed to extensive reporting. The Powdermill Avian Research Center's banding station adds to the documentation of migrating species. Many of the eBird checklists included excellent photos, which made this compiler's job so much more enjoyable for writing this season's narrative. One such checklist provided a photo of a species unreported since 2005.

A photo in an eBird checklist at DL 3/2 (RC) provided a comparison of a **Trumpeter Swan** and **Tundra Swan**, providing a report of one Trumpeter and two Tundras. Assumed to be the continuing **Trumpeter Swan**, one large swan with an all-black bill was subsequently reported at DL 3/16 (CM) and 3/27 (ZWM). Evidence of significant numbers of migrating **Tundra Swan** was reported of 13 at the WHT 3/1 (KB) and of 32 at SVL 3/7 (RC).

Wood Duck was widely reported for the season, and in significant numbers at WHT with 11 on 3/16, 14 on 4/9, and 10 on 4/28 (all KB). **Blue-winged Teal** was also widely reported with MP being the most productive location, beginning with four on 4/3 (RC) and continuing to two on 5/13 (AB). **Northern Shoveler** was reported at three locations: at DL with early season reports of two on 3/4 and 3/7 (KyB) and the latest report at that location of seven on 4/18 (KyB, AB), six at ESL on 4/7 (AM) and the high count of the season with 10 at WHT 4/2 (JLK, TK). DL was the most productive location for **Gadwall**, especially in Mar, which included reports of 30 on 3/8 (EH) and 50 on 3/27 (ZWM), and for **American Wigeon**, with the earliest report 3/19 also being the high count of nine (RH, SM), and reports continued to 4/22. **American Black Duck** was lightly recorded and, excepting the 15 at DL 3/16 (CM), reported in single digits. There were just a few reports for **Northern Pintail**, and never more than four, at Mannitto GC 3/9 (KB). Much the same went for **Green-winged Teal**, found in single digits at several locations, with never more than the five at HP 3/7 (MM).

Not unusual was the modest reporting of diving ducks. **Canvasback** had seven reported at SVL 3/7 (RC) and one at SVL (AM, SMi). **Redhead** was reported in Mar at two locations: at DL 3/2-18 with the high count of 24 on 3/8 (EH) and at ESL 3/7 (AM, SMi). There were many reports at well-scattered locations for **Ring-necked Duck**. DL was productive with estimated counts topping out at 250 on 3/8 (EH), 3/9 (SW) and 3/26 (JLK, TK, MM). There was light reporting for **Greater Scaup** that included 10 at DL (ZM) with more significant reporting for **Lesser Scaup** with high counts at DL, including 38 on 3/8 (EH), 70 on 3/17 (EH), and 30 on 3/27 (ZWM). The only Scoter reported was of one **Surf Scoter** at Keystone SP 3/5 (ph: JC, BS). No Long-tailed Ducks were reported for the season. **Bufflehead** was widely reported, mostly in Mar with DL as a productive location, although the high count was at MP with 15 on 3/30 (RC). DL was most productive for **Hooded Merganser** with the high number of 27 on 3/20 (AL) and for **Common Merganser**, with the high count of 30 on 3/16 (CM). **Red-breasted Merganser** was at six locations with the high count of nine at BRR 4/5 (MM) and two drakes at the unusual location of SFB 3/19 (AS), although with its many wet spots it does on occasion attract some unexpected species. There were just a few reports in modest numbers for **Ruddy Duck** excluding the more substantial reporting at DL with the high count of 14 on 3/27 (ZWM).

Wild Turkeys were widely reported, but no Ruffed Grouse were recorded for the season. There was light reporting of **Pied-billed Grebe** with low single digits at several locations, and no higher count than of six noted at DL (ZWM). Much the same went for **Horned Grebe** with the high count at DL of seven on 3/17 (EH). Unusual was that, while reporting of **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at a modest level, it was more extensive than reporting of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**. Most reports were in active birding locations while two **Black-billed Cuckoo** (MB) SBL 296 near Smithton were a location for which eBird reports have not been routine. The only report for **Common Nighthawk** was an incidental eBird checklist for Vandergrift 5/26 (LB, AG). Late evening drives on Weaver Mill Rd between PNR and Rector provided two reports for **Eastern Whip-poor-will**: two on 5/11 (AL, JS) and one 5/31 (AL vr.). Global Big Day on CRD provided a report of three whip-poor-wills 5/13 (RH, SM).

The first of several reports for **Virginia Rail** at MCP was on 4/18 (SMm), and at PNR the first was made 4/19 (GM). **Sora** were at MCP,

where one was heard 5/10-13 (SMi). Very modest reporting for **American Coot** now seems to be the new normal at it was reported in low numbers at several locations and high count of four at DL 3/26 (JLK, TK, MM).

Semipalmated Plover was only reported at MP: a first report of two on 5/7 (AL, JS), the high count of six on 5/18 (RC), and the final report of two on 5/26 (RC). One **Dunlin** was reported at MP 4/16 (RC) and at DL 5/13 (AB). Many reports for **Least Sandpiper** in May at MP included the high count of 13 on 5/7 (AL, JS), with one **Pectoral Sandpiper** which continued to 5/8 (RC). The MR was productive for **American Woodcock** with the earliest report of two on 3/4 (AB) and the high count of six on 3/8 (AB ph.). MP was most productive for **Wilson's Snipe** with the earliest report of two on 3/6 (SW), high tally of 15 on 4/16 (RC), and latest of one 5/10 (RC). **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Solitary Sandpiper** were widely reported, and the extensive effort at MP provided many reports for both species. Strange reporting for **Greater Yellowlegs** with many reports at MP beginning 3/30 (RC) to 5/28 (RC), never more than just one on any report, and the only other reports for the season of one at NMP on 4/19 (MVT) and an incidental report of two at Cloverleaf GC in Delmont 4/27 (TK, MM). Limited reporting for **Lesser Yellowlegs**, excepting at MP with many low-count reports from 4/17 (one by RC) and concluding with a latest report of two on 5/23 (RC).

Unusual were reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** at several locations and two reports in significant numbers: 26 at DL 3/28 (RC) and 33 at LR 4/9 (EH, SMi, DW). **Ring-billed Gull** reports were also made at several locations, including at DL where the season's high count was of eight on 3/5 (JC, BS). The only **Herring Gull** was of one at Twin Lakes Park 4/2 (PC). During their peak migration time, **Forster's Tern** was reported at two locations: one at BRR 4/18 (RH) and one at MP 4/20 (RC).

Common Loon was rare for this season with reports of one at LR 3/19 (RH, SM) and again one at that location 4/3 (AL). **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported at many locations, however only in single-digit numbers during the season with no higher count than four at LR 4/20 (AM). The Galando Rd rookery was active this season with at least 27 **Great Blue Herons** on-nest 4/29 (JLK, TK), and 21 reported 4/30 (MM). There was one **Great Egret** at MP 4/29 (RC), at Youngwood Swamp 5/16 (PF), and at SVL 5/16 (RC).

There were six scattered reports of just one **Black Vulture** in the Ligonier Valley and just west of Chestnut Ridge. The high count of two was from the Loyalhanna Gorge 5/2 (AL). There were scattered reports of **Osprey** with one at the long-time DL nest first reported 3/17 (EH). The latest report 5/27 confirmed breeding with one adult and chick seen on the nest while another adult was fishing unsuccessfully. The extensive spring effort at MP led to regular reports of one or two Osprey (m.ob.), with the earliest 3/31 and latest 5/18 (RC). One **Northern Harrier** was observed in Delmont 3/25 (KB), and one of the four eBird reports of one **Northern Harrier** was at DL 3/27 (ZWM).

There were a few scattered reports for **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, and **Cooper's Hawk** was widely reported. **Bald Eagles** were widely reported. Quite a show put on by six immature **Bald Eagles** was photographed at BRR 3/1 (MM). At KP one or two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were first reported 3/1 (JLK, TK), then seen or heard on many days including the season's final day 5/31. Most notable among the scattered reports for **Broad-winged Hawk** was a kettle of 15 spotted at Rte 119 and Cameo Lane near Twin Lakes Park (KJ).

Three owl species were reported. One **Eastern Screech-owl** was poking out of a tree cavity on the West Penn Trail at Conemaugh River L area 4/11 (JLK, TK). The WHT-D and WHT sections provided several **Barred Owl** reports. An eBird checklist provided a photo 4/12 (RC), a strange vocalization provided for finding a perched one on 4/28 while the vocalizations likely explained why a **Broad-winged Hawk** flew from the proximity of the **Barred Owl** to a more distant perch, and an eBird checklist provided a recording of one of the two **Barred Owls** heard 5/10 (LH). The earliest of what would be many reports of one **Great Horned Owl** on 3/1 on what would become a celebrity nest on the WHT-D where at least one fledged (KB).

The many reports for **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** reflected wintering at lower elevations, such as one at SF 3/5 (KB) and the breeding of the species in the Laurel Highlands, such as two in LRSP 5/19 (DP, BS). I picked up a bit of excitement in this email report of one **Red-headed Woodpecker** in Murrysville 4/20 (DM): "Hey Tom, We just had a red-headed, repeat, red-headed woodpecker outside our kitchen window taking suet. That's the first I've seen on our hill in the 48 years we've been here. Had to go to Georgia to get this guy." In addition, an adult

Red-headed Woodpecker visited feeders at a home near Scottsdale 5/23 (SP ph.).

One **Merlin** was at St. Vincent University off Rte 130 on Chestnut Ridge 5/14 (RC). Photographs of one **Olive-sided Flycatcher** (on a snag – go figure!) was on a 5/24 eBird checklist for PVP (EH), and one was a capture at PNR 5/18 (AL). The only report for the season of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was of one heard-only at PVP 5/20 (SMi). In addition to captures of Traill's Flycatchers at PNR 5/13, birding provided for Ligonier Valley reports of **Alder Flycatcher** on Two Mile Run Rd and near Wilpen (AM); however, there were no late-season reports that appeared to be at a possible breeding location. Much the same happened with **Least Flycatcher**, which was captured at PNR, with the other reports in scattered low-elevation locations where they would not be expected to be on breeding grounds. **Great Crested Flycatcher** was reported in the Laurel Highlands, and there were also several reports at lower elevations. The most productive location was PNR where captured birds provided the earliest report 5/7 and the latest 5/31.

There were many well-scattered reports of **White-eyed Vireo** and **Yellow-throated Vireo**, and as expected the significant reporting of **Blue-headed Vireo** was concentrated in higher elevations. In addition to captures of **Philadelphia Vireo** at PNR, it was exciting to see several field reports including one with photos for PVP 5/21 (EH). The substantial effort at MP provided many reports 5/16-28 of **Warbling Vireo** (RC). Called "Mammoth Park **Northern Shrike**," it was seen 3/5 (AK), and several other reports followed to the final one submitted 3/26 (MF).

Unusual for *Westmoreland*, one **Fish Crow** was reported at a Vandergrift home with two on 3/26 and one on 3/28 (MC). **Common Raven** was extensively reported in both high- and low-elevation locations in *Westmoreland*. Farmland in the Pleasant Unity area provided one **Horned Lark** 5/7 (AL, JS), and 5/13 Global Big Day (RH, SM) resulted in three in the farmland on Segar Drive N of Derry and not far from LFA. Among the high counts for **Purple Martins** at the BRR house, with reports 4/7-5/29, were 16 on 4/18 and 5/2 (RH, SM), and at the house at MCP, with reports 3/22-5/17, the high count there was 22 on 5/17 (SMi). There were no reports for Bank Swallows and just a few reports for **Cliff Swallows**, including four at MP 5/13 (AB).

There were many captures at PNR as well as many scattered reports for both **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** during this migration season. SFB continues as productive for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** where 5/13 Global Big Day provided a report of two (RH, SM). Evidence of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** migration at lower elevations was of a new KP yard bird (JLK, TK). It visited feeders first 4/22, tooted in the yard 4/26, and was then last seen 4/28. The many pines and spruces at Cloverleaf GC has been an attraction as one tooted at the Clubhouse and a second was heard on the course 4/27 (TK, MM). **Brown Creeper** was reported in Apr at several sections of the WHT (m.ob.); the high-count was at Cedar Creek CP 3/26 (JLK, TK, MM). Four **Winter Wrens** were found in a traditional breeding area in LRSP 4/25 (JLK, TK). As is often the case, the only report for **Marsh Wren** was a capture of one at PNR 4/22 (GM, JS).

One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was captured at PNR 5/14 and 5/20, and in the field one was reported at the RIDC Park in Mt. Pleasant 5/30 (MF). Captures of **Swainson's Thrush** were made at PNR, and field reports included six in the CFA because of 5/13 Global Big Day (MM). Among other scattered reports Global Big Day 5/13 provided for one **Hermit Thrush** at SFB (RH, SM) with two reports for **American Pipit**: one a heard-only flyover in New Stanton 4/30 (JG) and three in the Wilpen area 5/13 (AM).

It was unusual to have so many scattered reports for **Purple Finch** with five on WHT-D 4/12 (KB), one **Purple Finch** that sang at KP 4/20 (K) and, with perhaps the best evidence of an unusually strong migration, a 5/6 report of a feeding flock of 14 at PVP (EH). There was one report of a **Pine Siskin** on WHT-D 5/4 (KB), while there were no crossbills reported this season.

Four **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported at Allen Rd and Rte 381 on 5/12 (OM). The Laughlin Farm Rd area has been a productive location for grassland birds and provided several reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow** for the season including two on 5/13 (RH, SM). One Grasshopper Sparrow was reported on another productive grassland location of Airport Rd in Latrobe 5/19 (RC). Despite the warm winter, six **American Tree Sparrows** were still at MR on 3/18 (AB). While a single report of one **Fox Sparrow** was at PNR Banding Station 3/29, there were substantial field counts of **Fox Sparrows** with five at DL 3/19 (BR) and 10 in the Laurelville area 4/7 (DY, LY). Though no large counts were noted, there were many scattered reports of **White-**

crowned Sparrow. The only reports of a **Vesper Sparrow** and four **Henlow's Sparrows** were at HH 4/15 (MtS, MyS). For **Savannah Sparrow** there was an earliest report of one at Airport Rd in Latrobe 4/16 (RC), one at the McBroom Farm W of Rte 219 N of Derry 5/13 that was part of the Global Big Day (RH, SM), and one on Brouwer Rd near Latrobe 5/23 (JK). There were no field reports for **Lincoln's Sparrow**; however, reports of PNR Banding Station captures of one were made 5/11-12 and of two on 5/20.

Yellow-breasted Chat was first reported at the MR with one 5/14 (AB), then two first reported at the MR 5/18 (PC, PF), and the last report there was of two on 5/26 (PC, PF). Three **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at HH 5/21 (MtS, MyS). Significant effort provided for reports of **Bobolink** at many of the most productive *Westmoreland* farmland/grassland areas for the season. Bobolink counts were made by PBS Workshop participants near the Allen Rd and Rte 381 area, reporting 18 on 5/12, and 13 on 5/13. CFA and Laughlin Farm Rd area provided substantial reporting of **Eastern Meadowlark**. Reports for **Rusty Blackbird** included high counts of three at YS 3/9 (MMt), two at DL 3/17 (EH), two on the WHT-D 3/22 (KB), two at PNR 4/16 (GM), seven at Ligonier Valley Trail 4/25 (AL, JS), and five on the West Penn Trail just in from the Westinghouse facility 4/27 (MS, JT).

There were 35 warbler species, including one hybrid, reported for the season. There were two reports of the season for **Worm-eating Warbler**: an incidental eBird checklist of one at PNR 4/26 (JK) and a report of two on CRD 5/13 (RH, SM). Several reports for **Northern Waterthrush** that were not captured at PNR included one at DL 5/15 (EH) and one on the WHT from the Sarah Steel Trailhead to Saltsburg 5/29 (KB).

The only reports for **Golden-winged Warbler** were at PVP 5/7 (LH ph., m.ob.). More reporting of **Blue-winged Warbler** included five at PVP 5/7 (MD, MU) and one at PVP 5/9 (LH ph.). One **Brewster's Warbler** was captured at PNR 5/10. Notable, though no longer unexpected for southwestern Pennsylvania, was one **Swainson's Warbler** captured at PNR 5/11. A high of 25 **Tennessee Warblers** were tallied on 5/13 in 70 minutes for Global Big Day on CRD (RH, SM). In addition to captures at PNR, one **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at PVP 5/13 (EH, SMi, DW), and one was there 5/20 (SM). It was not usual for spring migration that no Connecticut Warblers were reported for the season. PVP was the most productive location for **Kentucky Warbler** with earliest report of one 5/5 (LH), the high count of three on 5/13 (EH, SMi, DW), and a latest report of one 5/29 (EH).

Migrating **Cape May Warblers** and **Bay-breasted Warblers** were hard to find this season; however, both species were tallied as part of 5/13 Global Big Day. For **Cape May Warbler**, there were two on CRD (RH, SM) and two on Two Mile Run Rd near Ligonier (AM); for **Bay-breasted Warblers**, there were three on CRD (RH, SM) and one on Two Mile Run Rd near Ligonier (AM). There was limited reporting of **Blackpoll Warblers** with non-captures at PNR, one at DL 5/15 (EH) and one again on DL 5/29 (AL, JS). There were limited reports, including at the PNR Banding Station, of **Palm Warbler**; one was at Love Hollow-Ligonier 4/20-21 (AM), and one was at MP on 4/24, 4/26, 4/27 and 5/12 (RC ph.). There was one **Pine Warbler** at PVP 4/22-23 (SMi) and another at LR 5/13 (RH, SM). The only report of **Prairie Warbler** was of three at HH 5/21 (MtS, MyS). **Wilson's Warbler** was captured at PNR on many of the days 5/6-21; the only field reports were of one on the WHT-D 5/8 (KB) and at St. Vincent Ridge 5/14 (RC).

Blue Grosbeak was photographed at a home near Scottsdale 5/20 (MBM). In eBird, checklists from 1974 and 1976 indicated reports four miles south of Ligonier (in *Westmoreland* data) and a report noted as "near Blairsville" in 1992 with no details provided in the WB&NC *Westmoreland* list that was largely compiled by Dick Byers. Bob Leberman's "The Birds of the Ligonier Valley," that was updated by Annie Lindsay in 2022, credits the 1974 record to Josh and Joseph Van Buskirk, reported a female seen at PNR 6/18/1982 by Bob Leberman, and another one spotted at PNR by Mike Lanzzone and Trish Miller 5/27-28/2005. Based on available information, the 5/20 sighting would be the sixth report of Blue Grosbeak in *Westmoreland*.

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York County

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Susquehanna Riverlands State Park (SRSP).

This spring's 196 species is the first time in the past five years that the county failed to break 200 species in this reporting period. Lack of shorebird variety was the main reason for the reduced count. However, waterfowl variety and especially flock size were below average as well. Warbler variety with 33 species was typical.

A single **Cackling Goose** was at CSP 3/9-15 (EB, BR). A **Trumpeter Swan** appeared at GPSP 3/29 (MS, JT). **Northern Shovelers** were found at six sites, but the high count was limited to four birds. Duos of **American Black Ducks** were seen at HTP, Gut Rd, and LR 3/15-4/19 (CE, BR, NW, WW). The sole **Northern Pintail** report was an octet at Green Lane Farms 3/2 (RSc). A decent **Redhead** count of up to 12 came from GPSP 3/20-4/22 (m.ob.). The sole report for **Common Goldeneye** was a single at CSP 3/1 (RS). Up to 11 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were seen at GPSP 3/20-4/19 (m.ob.). Seven **Pied-billed Grebes** were at GPSP 3/29 (MS, JT) with GPSP also producing up to seven **Horned Grebes** 3/2-4/3 (m.ob.). CSP produced high counts with 15 **Horned Grebes** 3/26 (RSt), 56 **American Coots** 4/8 (BF), and 31 **Common Loons** 4/14 (ASc).

A calling **Northern Bobwhite** along a GPSP trail 5/23 (AS) was unexpected. Ring-necked Pheasant was a miss. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** continued to receive steady reporting this period, while Black-billed Cuckoo went undetected. **Common Nighthawk** reporting was limited to only three reports, none exceeding two birds. Two sites shared the **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** first-of-year arrival date of 4/23. Single **Virginia Rails** were found at Nixon C.P. 4/4 (BR) and HTP 5/9 (SM). A pair of **Dunlins** were at CSP 5/8 (PZ), and a single was first detected at Long Arm Res 4/17 (BP) and increased to four on 4/24 (BP). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was early at LR 3/27 (CE), and a **Greater Yellowlegs** at LR 3/4 (BR) was decidedly early. **American Woodcock** and **Wilson's Snipe** both generated four reports. Woodcock high count was limited to three birds, while a nice 11-snipe count came from HTP 3/15 (BR). An impressive **Bonaparte's Gull** count of 72 birds came from CSP 3/30 (EV). Up to four **Herring Gulls** were at CSP 3/27-4/18 (SMi, BR), and SRSP produced a 10-count on 3/21 (CG). Up to seven **Great Black-backed Gulls** were over Wrightsville 3/3-19 (MC, CE). A strong **Caspian Tern** 27-count came from CSP 4/18 (BR). The Kiwanis L rookery saw a 48-count of **Great Egrets** 4/11 (DH) and 14 **Black-crowned Night Herons** 4/15 (JDe).

Northern Harrier reporting was at typical levels. However, five of the nine reports involved May birds, which is unusual. Up to two **Short-eared Owls** were seen at HTP through 3/24 (m.ob.). **Red-headed Woodpecker** reporting was widespread, but no counts exceeded 3. A

Merlin was at LR 4/24 (BR) and single **Peregrine Falcons** were at Seven Valleys 3/8 (AS) and SGL 242 on 4/29 (RK).

A **White-eyed Vireo** at LR 4/5 (EB) was early. A nice 8-count for **Yellow-throated Vireo** came from GPSP 5/11 (TC, RK). **Cliff Swallow** reports came from three sites with an established colony at CSP and a suspected colony at LR. The strong **Black-capped Chickadee** reporting from the winter continued into the spring with the latest report 5/2. A 10-count for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was deemed conservative at L Williams 3/5 (BR). A strong **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** count of 17 came from GPSP 5/5 (TC, RK). Reports of single **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** came from RRCP 5/14-19 (FB, AWy, EW). Three sites reported **American Pipit** 3/18-5/3 (all BR), but no report exceeded two. **Purple Finch** reporting continued through 5/21. The Coffeetown area provided the only **Pine Siskin** report of one 3/17 (SV).

Up to six **Grasshopper Sparrows** were seen at HTP after 4/27 (m.ob.). Single **American Tree Sparrows** were at LR and GPSP 3/20-30 (CB, MC, ZR). A nice **Fox Sparrow** count of six birds came from the Dover area 3/10 (DCa). Four sites held **Savannah Sparrow**, with HTP producing the high count of four birds. Good spring finds were **Lincoln's Sparrow** at LR 5/18 (BR) and SGL 242 on 5/15 (TC, RK). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found at five sites starting 5/8 (m.ob.). The sole **Bobolink** report was a single along County Line Rd 5/25 (TO). As is typical, HTP produced the **Eastern Meadowlark** high count with up to 16 birds. A lofty 16-count for **Baltimore Orioles** came from GPSP 5/13 (TC, RK). Nine sites reporting **Rusty Blackbird** was a positive, but the high count was limited to five birds.

The warbler group was paced by a **Golden-winged Warbler** sighting at RRCP 5/3 (FB). Four of the five sites reporting **Prothonotary Warbler** were "riverside" while GPSP produced the off-river report. **Mourning Warbler** singles were at Niles Rd 5/9 (CM) and RRCP 5/18 (FB, DK). Single-visit double-digit counts were reported of 10 **Black-and-white Warblers**, 28 **Common Yellowthroats**, 18 **American Redstarts**, 11 **Northern Parulas**, 13 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, 70 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, and 10 **Black-throated Green Warblers** generated during visits to SGL 242 and GPSP 5/8-11 (TC, RK), to SRSP 5/10 (EB), and to RRCP 5/7-11 (AW). Two reports at RRCP 4/30-5/11 (FB, AW) produced a single **Cerulean Warbler**. Four **Kentucky Warblers** came from Hellam Hills Nature Preserve 5/27 (DA, JC, BF, EV). **Yellow-throated Warblers** and **Wilson's Warblers** had unusually high detection levels with five sites producing Yellow-throateds and four sites hosting Wilson's. Single **Blue Grosbeak** reports came from HTP 5/7-28 (m.ob.), GPSP 5/8 (JC) and Susquehannock SP 5/14 (AN).

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We welcome submission of feature articles, research notes and field observations, artwork, or photographs that focus on any aspect of Pennsylvania ornithology, birds, or birding.

- Submissions of all materials other than photos (see below) and county compiler reports should be sent as email attachments to Mark Bonta at markabonta@yahoo.com / In the email, please explain 1) the scope of the submission and 2) for which issue it is intended.
- The editors reserve the right to accept or reject submissions; submissions may or may not be reviewed externally; authors may or may not receive proofs to review prior to publication.

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS – DETAILS

Consult the Chief Editor and/or previous published submissions for further guidance.

- Bibliographies should contain only references to works cited; cite references in text parenthetically, in alphabetical order (Jones 2021, Smith 2023); check that all citations correspondent to REFERENCES section entries.
- REFERENCES: alphabetical order; older refs. first; same year: 2023, 2023a, 2023b, etc.
- **Basic reference ex. 1:** Smith, G. and C. Jones. 2023. *Title of Book in Caps and Italics*. Publisher, Place. / **Basic reference ex. 2:** Smith, G., M. Williams, and C. Jones. Title of Article in Caps but not Italics. *Journal Title Spelled Out*. 3(233-245). [“3” is vol. #; there is no need for issue #].
- Draft text submissions of feature articles and similar written content must be in MS Word (*.docx preferred) and include author contact info, references as necessary; at the end, list captions of all tables and figures.
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- Figures, which include maps, should be submitted as separate files, one figure per file, as jpegs or other common graphics formats at the highest resolution possible, and the corresponding author should retain editable map files for requested edits to fig. content.
- Editors may reduce figure and table dimensions, edit style,

and/or condense data / **Please do not submit tables as Microsoft Excel files.** Submit all tables as separate Word files / Tables should use Arial font, small type size. Small tables should fit on one column while large tables should be legible at a width of 7.3 inches; **all tables should be in Portrait (vertical) alignment.**

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The photo editor posts solicitations for photos for each journal issue to e-mail lists and social media.

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- Horizontal images (preferred) MUST be able to be cropped to 1050px x 700px with a resolution of 300 px/in and vertical images MUST be able to be cropped to 1050px x 1313px at 300 px/in.
- Images *will not* be enlarged/upscaled; high-resolution images are requested during initial submission.
- Submissions must also include pertinent information for captioning: species, location of photograph; county of photograph; date of photo; any other significant information / Editors crop or adjust photos for color, brightness, or contrast, as required, without notice to photographer / Photos with copyright or signature text visible in the image will not be accepted.
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Issue	Sightings due to Compilers	Articles due to Editor	Pub. Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 Mar	1 May	Jul
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 Jun	1 Aug	Oct
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 Aug	1 Oct	Dec
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 Dec	1 Feb	April



This **White-winged Dove** showed up at a private residence in Transfer (*Mercer*) on 11 May and stayed through the next day. It was the first county record of this species. (*Kim Springer*)

**United States Postal Service
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	(4) Other Classes	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4))		353	358
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	(1) Outside-County	0	0
	(2) In-County	0	0
	(3) Other Classes	0	0
	(4) Outside the mail	1	1
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c. Total Print Distribution (15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (16a)		487	523
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 Franklin C. Haas, Treasurer, 08/17/2023
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IN FOCUS – VIREOS



White-eyed Vireo is the most restricted in range of Pennsylvania's five breeding vireos; this White-eye was at Spring Valley County Park, York 3 May. (Bob Reiter)



Yellow-throated Vireo at Lesser Lake, Lehigh 19 May. (Liz Brensinger)



Blue-headed Vireo launching into flight at Linn Run SP, Westmoreland 19 May. (David Poder)



Philadelphia Vireo at Pleasant Valley Park, Westmoreland 21 May. (Eric Hall)



Red-eyed Vireo at Northwest Lancaster County River Trail, Lancaster 10 May. (Darla Shank)



Warbling Vireo at East Great Bend Swamp, Susquehanna 16 May. (Barb Stone)