

# Sixth Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (P.O.R.C.) — June 1995

by Nick Pulcinella, Chairman

This sixth report of the P.O.R.C. covers decisions made from June 1994 to June 1995. During this period, a total of 93 records was reviewed. Of these, 78 were accepted, an acceptance rate of 84%. Of the 78 records accepted, 42% made it to Class I status, a drop from 68% last report and 52% in the fourth report. Two species were added to the Pennsylvania List during this reporting period — **Pacific Loon** and **Gull-billed Tern**. This report also contains the second record for **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** and **Mew Gull** and the third record for **Barrow's Goldeneye**. The first confirmed breeding of **Sandhill Crane** also appears in this report.

We continue to encourage observers to document their sightings with photographs whenever possible. We also reinforce however, that the primary point of any documentation of a rare bird should be a written description. The photograph and the written description should be used to compliment each other. At times, the committee receives photographs that don't clearly depict the field characteristics needed to clinch the identification, whereas, supporting written documentation may add the missing field marks which at times may be subtle. We urge all observers to send there reports as soon as possible after the event, either directly to P.O.R.C. or through their county compilers. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is to have full details submitted even of well-watched multi-observed rarities, including some that have been seen by hundreds of people. Some of these record fail to get published because everyone thought that somebody else would send in the details. We feel that whenever possible details should be written by the finder(s), rather than by someone who saw the bird later.

During the past year the committee has worked on reviewing the rarity status of all bold-faced and underlined species in the State List and hopes to publish the first revision of the Official State List this year. Twenty-five species have been added to the list since it was first published in 1990.

## CLASS I

### **PACIFIC LOON**

*Gavia pacifica*

**Erie Co.** One at Presque Isle State Park 25 November 1992 (J. McWilliams, D. Darney, F. Haas). First state record.

### **EARED GREBE**

*Podiceps nigricollis*

**Lancaster Co.** One at Washington Boro 3 October 1993 (R. Wiltraut).

**Erie Co.** One at Presque Isle State Park 13 May 1994 (J. McWilliams).

### **AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN**

*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

**Lancaster Co.** One on the Conejohela Flats 22 August 1993 (E. Witmer).

### **BROWN PELICAN**

*Pelecanus occidentalis*

**Erie Co.** One at Erie Bay 13 July 1992 (L. McWilliams, F. Curtze).

### **WHITE IBIS**

*Eudocimus albus*

**Lancaster Co.** An immature bird on the Conestoga River 1 September 1980 (R. Fraunfelter).

**Chester Co.** An immature at Marsh Creek State Park 31 July 1993 (H. Lebo).

### **B L A C K - B E L L I E D WHISTLING-DUCK**

*Dendrocygna autumnalis*

**Lancaster Co.** A flock of five on a farm near Millersville 15 August 1993 (N. Pulcinella). These birds were present for several days prior to this date. No early date given. Second state record.

### **BRANT**

*Branta bernicla*

**Delaware Co.** One at Springton Reservoir from 31 October to 3 November (N. Pulcinella).

### **GYRFALCON**

*Falco rusticolus*

**Erie Co.** A dark morph individual along the Erie bay front 2 January 1994 (J. McWilliams).

### **SANDHILL CRANE**

*Grus canadensis*

**Lawrence Co.** Two adults and an

immature in Plain Grove Township from 4 August to 12 October 1993 (N. Rodgers, G. Wilhelm). A first state breeding record.

### **PIPING PLOVER**

*Charadrius melodus*

**Erie Co.** One bird present at Presque Isle State Park 4-5 September 1993 (J. McWilliams, R. Wiltraut).

### **AMERICAN AVOCET**

*Recurvirostra americana*

**Erie Co.** Four birds at Presque Isle State Park 19 July 1993 (J. McWilliams).

**Mercer Co.** One at Lake Wilhelm on 14 August 1994 (B. Dean).

**Cambria Co.** Five birds at Prince Gallitzen State Park on 14 August 1994 (D. Gobert).

### **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**

*Limosa haemastica*

**Montgomery Co.** A single bird at Green Lane Reservoir on 6 November 1988 (R. Wiltraut).

### **MARBLED GODWIT**

*Limosa fedoa*

**Lancaster Co.** One bird on the Conejohela Flats on 2-11 September 1993 (R. Wiltraut).

### **RED KNOT**

*Calidris canutus*

**Lancaster Co.** A juvenile on the Conejohela Flats 4 September 1993 (R. Wiltraut).

### **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**

*Tryngites subruficollis*

**Mercer Co.** One at the Shenango Reservoir on 28 August 1993 (M. Fialkovich).

### **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE**

*Phalaropus lobatus*

**Mercer Co.** One at the Shenango Reservoir on 28 August 1993 (M. Fialkovich).

### **RED PHALAROPE**

*Phalaropus fulicaria*

**Indiana Co.** One at Yellow Creek State Park on 10 November 1990 (G. Lamer).

**Cambria Co.** One at Prince

Gallitzin State Park on 7-10 November 1993 (D. Kyler, D. McLintock, J. Salvetti, G. Lamer).

#### THAYER'S GULL

*Larus thayeri*

**Erie Co.** An individual at Presque Isle State Park on 18 February 1994 (J. McWilliams).

#### BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

*Rissa tridactyla*

**Montour Co.** An individual in first-winter plumage at the PP&L Plant on 3-7 November 1993 (W. Laubscher, R. Wiltraut).

#### SABINE'S GULL

*Larus sabini*

**Lancaster Co.** A bird in juvenile plumage on the Conejohela Flats 23-24 September 1989 (D. and L. Heathcote, E. Witmer, J. Book).

**Cambria Co.** A juvenile at Prince Gallitzin State Park on 27 September to 2 October 1993 (G. Lamer, P. and G. Schwalbe).

#### BOHEMIAN WAXWING

*Bombycilla garrulus*

**Erie Co.** One at the Roderick Wildlife Reserve on 5-7 November 1993 (J. McWilliams, F. Haas). Found again on 30 November.

#### SUMMER TANAGER

*Piranga rubra*

**Bucks Co.** A female trapped and banded in Middletown Township (R. Hendrick).

#### DICKCISSEL

*Spiza americana*

**Lawrence Co.** Photos were submitted on two individuals, but several birds nested in reclaimed strip mines near Perry Swamp. An excellent breeding record (B. Dean).

**Venango Co.** One bird on Coast Road on 2 July 1994 (B. Dean).

#### CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

*Spizella pallida*

**Erie Co.** An individual photographed at Presque Isle State Park 15-19 May 1994 (J. McWilliams).

#### LECONTE'S SPARROW

*Ammodramus leconteii*

**Lancaster Co.** One bird on a grassy island below Bainbridge on 24 October 1993 (E. Witmer).

#### HOARY REDPOLL

*Carduelis hornemanni*

**Lancaster Co.** An individual that frequented a feeder in Caernarvon Township 1-14 March 1994 (B. and F. Haas).

#### CLASS II

##### MEW GULL

*Larus canus*

**Bucks Co.** One bird was observed intermittently at the Core Creek County Park and the Penn Manor area from 18 December 1993 to 11 January 1994 (H. Rufe, C. Dooley, and D. Allison).

##### TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE

*Myadestes townsendi*

**Berks Co.** One at North Lookout of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary on 15 October 1989 (J. Bouton, H. Fink).

##### VARIED THRUSH

*Ixoreus naevius*

**Lebanon Co.** A female at State Game Lands 145 on 9 January 1994 (R. Miller, J. Heller).

**Lancaster Co.** A first-year female near Manheim 11-12 March 1994 (R. Miller, M. A. Sherer).

##### YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

*Dendroica coronata*

**Erie Co.** A bird of the race *D. c. auduboni* at Presque Isle State Park on 7 May 1994 (J. McWilliams, E. Kwater).

#### CLASS III

##### EARED GREBE

*Podiceps nigricollis*

**Erie Co.** One at Presque Isle State Park 14-30 November 1993 (J. McWilliams) and another there on 14 April 1994 (J. McWilliams).

**Westmoreland Co.** One at Trout Run Reservoir 6-7 April 1994 (R.C. Leberman) and another at Bridgeport Reservoir on 15 April 1994 (R. and S. Gerrish).

##### BRANT

*Branta bernicla*

**Bucks Co.** One at Peace Valley County Park from 31 December 1993 to 26 March 1994 (A. Mirabella).

##### GREEN-WINGED TEAL

*Anas crecca*

**Bucks Co.** A male of the Eurasian race *A. c. crecca* seen intermittently at Peace Valley County Park from 31

December to 20 February 1994 (A. Mirabella).

#### EURASIAN WIGEON

*Anas penelope*

**Erie Co.** A male at Presque Isle State Park on 26 March 1994 (J. McWilliams).

#### BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

*Bucephala islandica*

**Erie Co.** A male at Presque Isle State Park on 23 March 1994 (J. McWilliams).

#### GYRFALCON

*Falco rusticolus*

**Erie Co.** A gray morph individual at Presque Isle State Park on 1 January 1994 (J. McWilliams).

#### KING RAIL

*Rallus elegans*

**Lancaster Co.** One at Alcoa Marsh on 8 May 1993 (R. Miller).

**Butler Co.** Two adults and two juveniles at Moraine State Park from 25 May to 7 July 1993 (G. Wilhelm). An excellent breeding record.

#### SANDHILL CRANE

*Grus canadensis*

**Erie Co.** An adult in Fairview Township on 22 March 1994 (J. McWilliams).

#### PIPING PLOVER

*Charadrius melodus*

**Erie Co.** An individual, probably a juvenile, at Presque Isle State Park on 11 August 1993 (E. Hall).

#### BLACK-NECKED STILT

*Himantopus mexicanus*

**York Co.** Two birds on Brunner's Island on 12 May 1994 (A. Spiese).

#### AMERICAN AVOCET

*Recurvirostra americana*

**Erie Co.** Three birds, probably juveniles, at Presque Isle State Park on 20 August 1993 (J. McWilliams).

#### RUFF

*Philomachus pugnax*

**Delaware Co.** A juvenile at John Heinz NWR at Tinicum on 5 September 1992 (K. Lebo).

#### RED PHALAROPE

*Phalaropus fulicaria*

**Centre Co.** One at Bald Eagle State Park on 5 November 1993 (T. Floyd, J. Zurovchak).

**JAEGER SP.**

*Stercorarius sp.*

**Erie Co.** A juvenile seen in flight at Presque Isle State Park on 11 December 1993 (J. McWilliams).

**LITTLE GULL**

*Larus minutus*

**Dauphin Co.** One bird near Harrisburg on 3 April 1994 (D. Henise).

**York Co.** One at Long Arm Dam 13-17 April 1994 (P. Robinson, K. Lippy).

**THAYER'S GULL**

*Larus thayeri*

**Erie Co.** One in basic definitive plumage at Presque Isle State Park on 26 December 1993 (J. McWilliams).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**

*Larus fuscus*

**Bucks Co.** One at Peace Valley County Park from 26 March to 2 April 1994 (A. Mirabella).

**GULL-BILLED TERN**

*Sterna nilotica*

**Lancaster Co.** A meticulously described individual on the Conejohela Flats 11 August 1994 (J. Book). A first accepted state record.

**LEAST TERN**

*Sterna antillarum*

**Philadelphia/Delaware cos.** One in first winter plumage at John Heinz NWR at Tinicum on 1 September 1994 (N. Pulcinella).

**SEDGE WREN**

*Cistothorus platensis*

**Lancaster Co.** One in Washington Boro on 13 November 1993 (J. Heller).

**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE**

*Myadestes townsendi*

**Butler Co.** One seen in flight at Moraine State Park on 18 December 1993 (G. Wilhelm).

**VARIED THRUSH**

*Ixoreus naevius*

**Chester Co.** A male frequented a feeder in Downingtown from 6-15 January 1994 (M. Hearn).

**Lebanon Co.** A male at State Game Lands 145 on 8 January 1994 (R. Miller).

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING**

*Bombycilla garrulus*

**Allegheny Co.** Three birds at Natrona Heights on 27 October 1993 (P. Hess).

**Erie Co.** One bird 5-6 January 1994 (M. Nodes).

**LAWRENCE'S WARBLER**

**Crawford Co.** One individual of the recessive hybrid between Blue-winged/Golden-winged warblers three miles east of Geneva on 30 April 1994 (J. Baker, I. Field).

**BREWSTER'S WARBLER**

**Beaver Co.** One individual of the dominant hybrid between Blue-winged/Golden-winged warblers at Crows Run on 12 June 1993 (S. Santner).

**KIRTLAND'S WARBLER**

*Dendroica kirtlandii*

**Franklin Co.** One at Little Cove on 14 May 1994 (K. Gabler, D. Purnell, C. Brightbill, R. Carmack).

**SUMMER TANAGER**

*Piranga rubra*

**Montgomery Co.** One at Fort Washington State Park on 6 September 1988 (B. Murphy).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**

*Spizella pallida*

**Erie Co.** One at Presque Isle State Park on 9 May 1994 (E. Kwater).

**LARK SPARROW**

*Chondestes grammacus*

**Allegheny Co.** One in a reclaimed strip mine in Findlay Township on 30 April 1994 (P. and D. Hess).

**SHARP-TAILED SPARROW**

*Ammodramus caudactus*

**Lebanon Co.** One near Reistville on 26 September 1993 (R. Miller).

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW**

*Zonotrichia leucophrys*

**Erie Co.** One of the race *Z. l. gambelii* at Presque Isle State Park on 29 April 1994 (J. McWilliams), and another *gambelii* there on 9 May 1994 (E. Kwater).

**HOARY REDPOLL**

*Carduelis hornemanni*

**Montgomery Co.** One at a feeder in Perkiomenville on 30 January 1994 (R. Grubb).

**Crawford Co.** One at a feeder in Meadville on 19 March 1994 (R. Leberman).

List of Records Not Accepted

**Pacific Loon**—30 October 1993 at Marietta, Lancaster Co. Details did not conclusively rule out Arctic Loon. Accepted as Class III Arctic/Pacific Loon.

**Glossy Ibis**—30 March 1994 at Peace Valley County Park, Bucks Co. Details did not rule out the possibility of White-faced Ibis.

**Trumpeter Swan**—15-23 March 1994 at Acme dam, Westmoreland Co. Details did not rule out other swan species, and "wild" origin of the birds is in question.

**Barnacle Goose**—13-17 March 1994 at Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery Co. Possibility of escape from captivity not ruled out.

**Gyrfalcon**—26-29 September 1993 at Fisher, Clarion Co. Details did not rule out the possibility of Northern Goshawk or Peregrine Falcon.

— 23 March 1994 near Lawrenceville, Tioga Co. Details did not rule out Peregrine Falcon.

**Curlew Sandpiper**—2 October 1992 at Octoraro Lake, Lancaster Co. Details did not completely rule out Dunlin or Stilt Sandpiper.

**Ruff**—4 June 1994 at Lake Ontelaunee, Berks Co. Details too brief.

**Thayer's Gull**—26 March 1994 at Woodcock lake, Crawford Co. Details were too brief.

**Gull-billed Tern**—19 August 1992 at Tinicum NWR, Delaware Co. Details were too brief.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**—16 April 1994 in Crawford Co. Details were too brief.

**Hoary Redpoll**—26 February 1972 in Bath, Northampton Co. Details did not conclusively rule out Common Redpoll.

— 28 February 1994 at Jobs Corners, Tioga Co. Details did not conclusively rule out Common Redpoll. ♀