

TWENTIETH REPORT
of the
PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
April 2013
Nick Pulcinella for the Committee

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter "PORC" or "the committee") evaluates and archives documentation it receives of any species or recognizable form that is on the Review List for Pennsylvania. In addition it reviews documentation for new species or new subspecies for the state. This report covers 81 records of 40 species. The 72 records accepted represent an acceptance rate of 89%. Reports were received from 22 counties. Top reporting counties were Bucks (13), Erie (12), Berks (8) and Lancaster (5).

Highlights in this report include the first record for Sandwich Tern, fourth records for Mew Gull, Northern Wheatear and Green-tailed Towhee, fifth records for Brown Pelican and Pink-footed Goose, and fifth through ninth records for Royal Tern. The passage of Hurricane Irene was directly responsible for the records of Sandwich and Royal Tern. The Sandwich Tern will be placed on the Provisional List since it was accepted with written documentation only. The Official State List now contains 427 species, 418 in the Class I category and 9 on the Provisional List.

PORC encourages observers to document their sightings with photographs, videos or sound recordings when possible, but the committee also urges observers to submit accompanying written documentation. Supporting written documentation may add details such as missing field marks or behavior notes that are not captured in some photos. The Committee continues to emphasize that the primary point of any documentation of a rare bird should be a detailed written description. There are several well written articles on documenting rare birds and observers are encouraged to consult the Committee's web pages at <www.pabirds.org/records>, Dittman and Lasley 1992, and PORC 2000.

The Committee would like to emphasize the importance of submitting documentation directly to PORC. The posting of reports including written details and photographs on listservs or social media sites may not safely be assumed to have been discovered by PORC nor be assumed to be understood as documentation of a rarity.

Documentation can be submitted to **Jan Getgood, PORC Secretary, 24 Meadowood Drive, Hummelstown, PA 17036, jangetgood@gmail.com**.

Committee News

The Committee membership and year of term expiration during this report period consisted of Ben Coulter (2013), Al Guarente (2012) (chair), Tom Johnson (2012), Geoff Malosh (2012), Cameron Rutt (2014), Dave DeReamus (2013) and Drew Weber (2014). Ramsay Koury served as an alternate member. Nick Pulcinella (2012) was the non-voting secretary. Al Guarente, Tom Johnson and Geoff Malosh rotated off the committee after serving two terms and were replaced by Devich Farbotnik (2015), Mike Fialkovich (2015) and Mike Lanzone (2015).

Drew Weber was elected chairman and Janet Getgood joins the committee as non-voting Secretary.

The Committee's web page <www.pabirds.org/records> has been updated. The site includes the Official State List, the Review List of species requiring documentation, tips for improving documentation of rarities, a form that can be used to submit reports to the committee directly online, a photo archive, and a searchable database. The site also contains information regarding the functions of the Committee.

Classification of Records

Class I: An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph or a diagnostic recording. Abbreviations are (p) photograph, (r) sound recording, (a) audiotape, (v) video, (s) specimen.

Class II: An accepted sight record documented independently by two or more observers.

Class III: An accepted sight record documented by one observer.

Class IV-A: A record for which there exists a majority of evidence in support of the observer's identification; the record is probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt.

Class IV-B: A record for which there exists insufficient evidence for evaluation.

Class IV-C: A record for which there exists a majority of evidence in favor of an identification other than what was submitted.

Class V: The identification is correct, but the bird represents or may represent an escape or an introduced bird not yet established in Pennsylvania.

Format of this Report

The taxonomic treatment and species sequence follows the 7th edition of the AOU checklist published in 1998 and subsequent supplements. The number in parentheses after the species name represents the number of accepted records, including those in this report, since the establishment of PORC in 1989. A plus sign (+) after the number signifies that there are accepted records prior to the formation of PORC. Each accepted record includes the locality, county, and date(s) when known. County names are italicized. In many cases, dates are taken from the seasonal reports published in *Pennsylvania Birds*. Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the name(s) of the observer(s) responsible for finding and/or identifying the bird, if known, followed by a semicolon, then the names of those who submitted documentation (in alphabetical order). Following the list of observers is the record's classification and the PORC record number. This is followed by the Committee's vote tally for each record. All photographs, video and sound recordings are currently being held with the Secretary.

Abbreviations: Academy of Natural Sciences Philadelphia (ANSP), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), *North American Birds* (NAB), National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), *Pennsylvania Birds* (PB); Reservoir (Res.), State Game Lands (SGL), State Park (S.P.), Township (Twp.), Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Accepted Records

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (5)

One at Peace Valley Park/Pine Run Dam, *Bucks* 28 November to 1 December 2011. (August Mirabella (p); 108-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (4) inside back cover. This bird was first discovered at Peace Valley Park and later relocated at Pine Run Dam, providing the second accepted record for *Bucks*.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) (10)

One feeding with Canada Geese and a Greater White-fronted Goose at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery* 24-27 February 2011. (Martin Dellwo (p), Anita Guris; Nick Pulcinella, m.ob; 115-01-

2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:36 and NAB V65:270. This species has become nearly annual in southeastern Pennsylvania, and almost always found in flocks of Canada Geese. See Malosh and Pulcinella (2008) to review acceptance criteria established by PORC for this species.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (21+)

An immature male was Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 4 November 2011. (Jerry McWilliams, Richard Nugent, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton; 149-01-2011; Class III). 7/0. One was present on the Susquehanna River at Williamsport, *Lycoming* 20 December 2011. (Nate Fronk (p); 149-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0.

Frigatebird species (*Fregata* sp.)

One in flight over Plymouth Meeting, *Montgomery* 28 August 2011 following the passage of Hurricane Irene. (Chris Dooley (p); 075-01-2011; Class III). This report was originally submitted as a Magnificent Frigatebird. That identification was not accepted 1/6 but accepted as Frigatebird species 7/0. The bird was photographed by the stunned observer using a phone camera as he was walking across a shopping center parking lot. The photo shows an obvious soaring frigatebird but is too distant to show enough detail to eliminate other frigatebird species that have occurred in North America.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) (5)

One at Boone Res., *Washington*, 13-14 April 2011. (Kate Rodgers; Geoff Malosh (p), m.ob.; 067-01-2011; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (2) front cover and NAB V65:433. Unquestionably one of 2011's major birding highlights for western Pennsylvania was the chance discovery by Rodgers of this bird as she drove past this small municipal reservoir in the late afternoon. Fortunately, the bird remained overnight and was seen and photographed by scores of local birders. There are four previous Pennsylvania records: one at Erie Bay, *Erie* 13 July 1992, one on Lake Carey, *Wyoming* 25 September 2003 following the passage of Hurricane Isabel, one found dead 5 November 2008 at Raystown Lake, *Huntingdon*, and one at Peach Bottom, *Lancaster* 3 August 2009.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) (24+)

One at John Heinz NWR at Tinicum, *Philadelphia* 14-18 July 2011. (Frank Windfelder; Al Guarente (p), Andrew Pesthy (p), m.ob.; 093-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:162. One at Green Pond, *Northampton* 24-25 July 2011. (Jeff Greco; Joe Greco (p), Dustin Welch (p), m.ob.; 093-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:163 and PB V25(3) inside back cover. One at Core Creek Park, *Bucks* 3 August 2011. (William Keim (p), m.ob.; 093-03-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Three at the Highspire Boat Club, *Dauphin* 26-27 July 2011. (Mark Shartle (p); m.ob.; 093-04-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One along the Susquehanna River at West Fairview, *Cumberland/Dauphin* 11-28 August 2011. (Richard Williams (p), Patricia Williams; Larry Usselman (p), m.ob.; 093-05-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One at Kaercher Creek Park, *Berks* 11 November 2011 to 14 March 2012. (Ken Haas; Katrina Knight (p), Nick Pulcinella (p), Jeff Wahl (p), m.ob.; 093-06-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:218 and PB V25 (1) inside back cover. All birds were immatures. It was a banner year for this species with a record number of reports. Interestingly, the Green Pond bird was photographed next to an out-of-range Sandhill Crane. The bird at Kaercher Creek Park took advantage of mostly mild temperatures and was the first White Ibis to successfully overwinter in the state and the first to be recorded on a Pennsylvania CBC (Hamburg 12/30/2011).

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (15+)

One photographed over Newburg, *Cumberland* 30 April 2011. (Andy Markel (p); 168-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One observed in flight in Lancaster, *Lancaster* 28 May 2011. (Tom Garner; 168-

02-2011; Class III). 7/0. With the exception of 2010, this species has been recorded annually.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (25+)

One probable adult was observed passing Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Berks* 29 April 2011. (Bidur Khadka, Camille Concepcion; 171-01-2011; Class II). 6/1. One was photographed as it flew over the Harmony Hill Nature Area, East Bradford Twp., *Chester* 26 April 2011. (Holly Merker (p); 171-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:92. One was well described in Tinicum Twp., *Bucks* 24 May 2011. (Paul Cooper; 171-03-2011; Class III). 7/0. This species is now recorded annually with at least 3-4 reports submitted, though about 6-8 birds are reported yearly, mainly in spring.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (6+)

One probable dark-morph was described at Hawk Mountain, *Berks* 16 September 2010. (David Barber, Rudy Keller, Joe Jehl; 186-02-2010; Class II). 6/1.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) (5+)

One seen briefly but well described at SGL 169, *Cumberland* 16 October 2011. (Vernon Gauthier; 232-01-2011; Class III). 7/0. This represented a first county record.

Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) (4+)

One found dead on a road in Upper Gwynedd Twp., *Montgomery* 27 September 1976. (August Mirabella (p); 234-01-1976; Class I-P/S.). 7/0. Mirabella submitted the specimen to the ANSP (specimen #175380) and kindly submitted to the committee photographs taken by ANSP ornithologist Nate Rice showing side-by-side comparison with local Clapper and King Rail specimens taken at the same time of year.

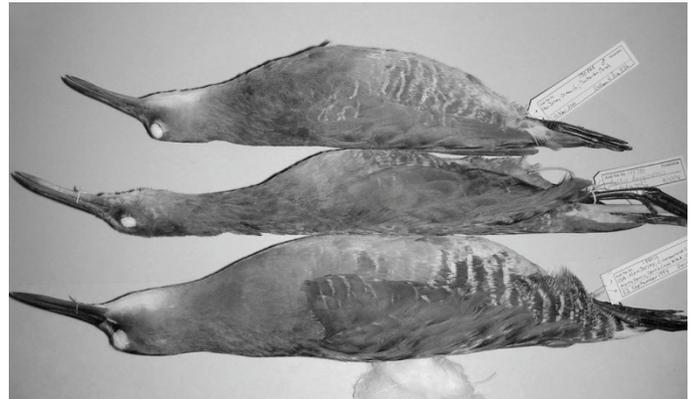


Image 1. Clapper Rail (center) collected at Upper Gwynedd Twp., *Montgomery* 27 September 1976. Specimen photographed at ANSP together with known specimens of King Rail (bottom) and Clapper Rail (top) for comparison. (Photo courtesy Nate Rice/ANSP)

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) (6+)

One especially cooperative bird spent six days on the wooded edge of a flooded field in Haafsville, *Lehigh* 26 April to 1 May 2011. (Dave Niemeyer; Matt Sabatine (p), Dustin Welch (p), m.ob.; 235-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (2) inside back cover. This was a second county record and the first in 57 years. A very vocal individual was at Embreeville Marsh, *Chester* 23-27 May 2011. (Chuck Chalfant; m.ob.; 235-02-2011. Class III). 7/0.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyula martinica*) (8+)

An adult was at Presque Isle S. P., *Erie* 30 April to 18 May 2011. (Brian Berchtold (p); m.ob.; 242-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (2) inside back cover and NAB V65:434. An immature was photographed as it climbed around a buttonbush at Presque Isle S. P., *Erie* 9 October 2011. (Brian

Morse (p), Brooke Genter; 242-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:218. These sightings were the second and third *Erie* records.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (16+)

A banded individual was found and photographed at Presque Isle S. P., *Erie* 13-14 August 2011. (Brian Berchtold; Jerry McWilliams (p), m.ob.; 261-01-2011). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (4) inside back cover and NAB V66:77. It was originally banded at Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (13+)

One on the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, *Lancaster* 7 September 2011. (Timothy Becker; 268-01-2011; Class III). 7/0. This is one of the few reports outside of the spring season.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (4+)

A female was discovered at Haafsville, *Lehigh* 20 May 2011. (Billy Weber, Dustin Welch (p), m.ob.; 321-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:93. This is the first report of Ruff in eight years and the second county record. Regrettably, it remained for only a day.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) (22+)

A dazzling breeding plumaged female delighted many during its brief stay at a sewage lagoon at Longwood Gardens, *Chester* 18-19 May 2011. (Larry Lewis; Jeffrey Davis (p), John MacNamara (p), m.ob.; 331-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:93. A female was at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 18 May 2011. (August Mirabella; Devich Farbotnik (v); 331-02-2011; Class I-R). 7/0. One female was in Tidioute, *Warren* 22 September 2011. (Kenneth Nicholson (p); 331-03-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One was at Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks* 16-17 November 2011. (August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik (p). Class I-P). 7/0. One landed near Sunset Point during a waterbird count at Presque Isle S.P.; *Erie* 28 November 2011. (Jerry McWilliams (p), Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton; 331-05-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in NAB V66:77. One injured bird was found in a cow pasture near Salona, *Clinton* 9 October 2011. (Wayne Laubscher (p), 331-06-2011; Class I-P) 6/0. Photograph published in PB V25:220. This last bird was cared for at both the Centre Wildlife Care in *Centre* and Tri-State Bird Rescue in Newark, Delaware. It was determined that the bird could not be released and it was given a permanent home in the shorebird exhibit at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, California. This was a first *Clinton* record. This was a remarkable year for this species with six documented records.



Image 2. Red Phalarope at Tidioute, *Warren* 22 September 2011. (Photo by Jeremy Nicholson)

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (27+)

One at the Marysville Boat Launch, *Dauphin* 22 March-5 April 2011. (Ramsay Koury, Andy Markel, Matt Sabatine; Lou Carpenter (p), m.ob.; 340-01-2011; Class I-P). 6/1. One was discovered associating with Ring-billed, Herring and Bonaparte's Gulls at Moraine S.P., *Butler* 10-31 December 2011.

(Shannon Thompson (v), Dave Wilton; Shawn Collins (p), Ben Coulter (p), m.ob.; 340-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. This species has been annual since 2005.

Mew/Common Gull (*Larus canus*) (4)

One seen with Ring-billed Gulls on the Ohio River in Monaca, *Beaver* 13 March 2011. (Mark Vass; Geoff Malosh (p); 344-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (2) inside back cover and NAB V65:435. This report was originally submitted as Mew "Common" Gull (*Larus canus canus*) but the subspecific identification could not be determined by the majority of the Committee. The report was accepted as a Mew/Common Gull, which is a major find in its own right. There have been three previous accepted records of Mew Gull, all thought to be Common Gulls, a rare but regular vagrant to eastern North America.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) (25+)

A first-cycle bird was well documented at Pleasant Hill Park on the Delaware River in Philadelphia, *Philadelphia* 28 November 2011. (Frank Windfelder (p); 348-01-2011; Class I-P). 6/1. Photograph published in PB V25:221.

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) (13+)

Two adults in flight at Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks* 28 August 2011. (Beth Ciuzio, Don Freiday (p), Roger Horn, Kathy Hornover; 375-01-2011; Class I-P). 6/1. Photograph published in PB V25:221. Two adults in flight at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 28 August 2011. (Ken Reiker; 375-03-2011; Class III). 6/1. One juvenile in flight at Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks* 28 August 2011. (Katrina Knight (p), Ken Lebo, Matt Wlasnewski; 375-04-2011; Class II). 7/0. These birds were all driven into Pennsylvania by Hurricane Irene, which passed just offshore New Jersey during the overnight and early morning hours of 28 August 2011. Despite Pennsylvania not being located in the usual productive northeast quadrant of a tropical storm, the state did benefit from its close proximity (Malosh 2011).

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) (1)

One adult in basic plumage feeding with Common and Forster's Terns independently seen by two observers who were watching for birds deposited by Hurricane Irene along the Delaware River waterfront in Philadelphia, *Philadelphia* 28 August 2011. (George Armistead, Matt Sharp; 366-01-2011; Class II). 7/0. This is an overdue storm-related species and a first state record. Since the report lacks documentation by specimen, photograph or recording, Sandwich Tern is placed on the Provisional List.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) (9)

One observed in flight at Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks* 28 August 2011. (Geoff Malosh; 364-01-2011; Class III). 7/0. One basic plumaged adult seen feeding in direct comparison with two Caspian Terns at Core Creek Park, *Bucks* 28 August 2011. (William Keim; Devich Farbotnik (p); 364-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One immature seen and photographed in flight over the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, *Lancaster* 28 August 2011. (Eric Witmer (p), Jerry Book; 364-04-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Three were photographed on the water at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks* August 28, 2011. (Devich Farbotnik (p); 364-05-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:221. One adult in basic plumage photographed in flight over the Delaware River at Bristol, *Bucks* 28 August 2011. (Gerard Dewaghe (p); 364-06-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (4) inside back cover. The fallout of Royal Terns from Hurricane Irene was astounding and the full extent will never be known (Malosh 2011). Prior to these reports, there were only four records for Pennsylvania since 1955. Undocumented but credible sightings during Irene, some of multiple birds, were reported from Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks*, Struble Lake, *Chester*, and along the Delaware River in *Delaware*.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) (12+)

One observed pursuing a Ring-billed Gull at Presque Isle S.P.; *Erie* 6 November 2011. (Jerry McWilliams; 332-01-2011; Class III). 7/0. One dark morph observed in flight and on the water at Presque Isle S.P.; *Erie* 7 November 2011. (Jerry McWilliams; Ben Coulter, Cory DeStein; 332-02-2011; Class III). 7/0.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) (16+)

One seen in flight at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 10 November 2011. (Jerry McWilliams; 333-01-2011; Class III). 7/0. One seen in flight at Presque Isle S.P.; *Erie* 18 November 2011. (Jerry McWilliams; 333-02-2011; Class III). 7/0. Both birds were observed by McWilliams while he was conducting a waterbird count at Sunset Point.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) (10)

One was digiscoped as it perched at Gull Point, Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 16 October 2011. (Shannon Thompson (p), Dave Wilton; Ben Coulter; 413-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (4) inside back cover and NAB V66:78. This is a species that may show up anywhere. The ten accepted records are from eight counties sprinkled across the state.

Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) (7+)

One very vocal and probably returning individual was once again at Fort Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon* 1 May to 16 July 2011. (Timothy Becker (a); Gary Kinkley (a); 463-01-2011; Class I-R). 7/0. One was recorded in Pike Twp., *Berks* 15 May 2011. (Jeff Zehr (a); 463-02-2011; Class I-R). 7/0.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) (5+)

One long-staying and cooperative bird was at Maple Knoll Farm, *Bucks* 13 December 2011 to 28 February 2012. (Richard Smith (p), Vicky Smith; Devich Farbotnik (p), August Mirabella (p), Ed Norman (p); 542-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB:V26 (1) inside back cover. This first for *Bucks* could dependably be found feeding around a large, steaming mulch pile that supplied the bird with food.



Image 3. Say's Phoebe at Maple Knoll Farms, *Bucks* 14 December 2011. (Photo by Devich Farbotnik)

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (21+)

One was photographed in Wellsboro, *Tioga* 5 June 2011. (Benjamin Israel (p); 557-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One was photographed at Church Farm Lake, *Chester* 26 October 2011. (Jeff Loomis (p); 557-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. The *Tioga* bird is the first June occurrence, and the *Chester* bird fits nicely into the fall occurrence pattern.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (8+)

One was nicely photographed sitting on a fence at Hawk Valley

Farm, *Berks* 20 May 2011. (Jim Brett (p); 561-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) (4)

One in Lickdale, *Lebanon* 7-10 October 2011. (Steve Patterson; Alex Lamoreaux (p), Richard Williams (p), m.ob.; 646-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (4) cover and NAB V66:78. This obliging bird spent most of its time, to the enjoyment of many, foraging for insects in the parking lot of the Days Inn where it was discovered by visiting birder Patterson.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) (4+)

One male at Middle Creek WMA, *Lancaster*, 30 March to 15 April 2011. (Sid Hostter, Evelyn Koppel; Jeffrey Davis (p), Devich Farbotnik (p), Mike Fialkovich, Al Guarente (p), Geoff Malosh (p), Randy Miller (p), m.ob.; 649-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:94 and NAB V65:436. This bird was loyal to an area near tour stop #3 where it could be observed feeding with Eastern Bluebirds, though at times it would disappear for hours.

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) (3+)

One calling overhead at night over Elkins Park, *Montgomery* 3 October 2010. (Paul Driver (a); 654a-01-2010; Class I-R). 5/2, 7/0. The submitted documentation consisted of audio files and sonograms. During first-round voting some committee members did not feel confident interpreting the sonograms and requested the report be reviewed during the committee's annual meeting. During that meeting, members Johnson, Lanzone, and Weber discussed and interpreted the sonograms and there was unanimous acceptance of the report.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (24+)

Liberty Twp., *Mercer* 10-21 December 2011. (Linda Lenz (p), Henry Lenz, Suzanne Butcher; 666-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0.

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) (4)

One at Blue Marsh S.P., *Berks* 20 November 2011 to 31 March 2012. (Jody Hey; Howard Eskin (p), Holly Merker (p), m.ob.; 799-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:223 and PB V26:39. This bird faithfully attended a small area beneath a red cedar that was replenished daily with bird seed by many satisfied observers. It was also recorded on the Bernville CBC.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) (14+)

One was seen in the company of White-throated Sparrows in Newville, *Cumberland* 24 November 2011. (Vern Gauthier; 839-01-2011; Class III). 6/0. This was a first for *Cumberland*. One in first-winter plumage was at Kempton, *Berks* 26 November 2011 to 28 March 2012. (Peter Schoenberger, Susan Rogers; Nick Pulcinella (p), Dustin Welch (p), m.ob.; 839-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V26 (1) inside back cover. Initially, sightings of this bird were sporadic but became more regular once bird seed was scattered in the area. This bird was recorded on the Hamburg CBC.

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) (9+)

One male visited a feeder at Shuey Pond, Fort Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon* 11 January to 1 February 2011. (David McNaughton (p); Jason Derr (p), m.ob.; 840a-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) (23+)

One male was in Levittown, *Bucks* 14-15 May 2011. (Doug Filler; Devich Farbotnik (p); 780-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. A male was photographed at Frick Park, *Allegheny* 9 May 2011. (Michael David (p); 780-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One female was well described in East Fairmount Park, *Philadelphia* 27 October 2011. (Matthius Feuersenger; 780-03-2011; Class III). 6/1.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (18+)

A male visited a feeder in Milroy, *Mifflin* 6-7 March 2011 providing a first county record. (Dwayne Shirk, Fran Shirk (p); 794-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. A well-described male visited a feeder in Pittsburgh, *Allegheny* 27 April 2011. (Chris McNamara; 794-02-2011; Class III). 7/0. A probable juvenile male, in Washington Boro, *Lancaster* 31 December 2011 to 16 January 2012. (Justin Bosler (p); Tom Amico (p), Nick Pulcinella (p), m.ob.; 794-03-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V26 (1) inside back cover. This bird was discovered during the Lancaster CBC and remained in the area for many to see.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) (11+)

One was found with Common Redpolls at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 17-31 January 2011. (Jason Berry (p); Jerry McWilliams (p), Mike Weible; 887-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Another was also with Common Redpolls at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 23-25 January 2011. (Jerry McWilliams (p); 887-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:41

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established. (Votes are listed as for/against. A vote of 6/1 or 7/0 is required for acceptance). A number of factors contribute to a report being denied acceptance. It is very rare for a report to not be accepted because the bird was obviously misidentified. More commonly, a report is not accepted because the documentation submitted was incomplete, insufficient, or too vague to properly identify the reported occurrence while eliminating all other similar species. The Committee again stresses the importance of taking field notes either while the bird is under study or immediately afterwards. It is worth noting that written reports prepared entirely from memory weeks, months, or years after the sighting are rarely voted on favorably. The non-acceptance of any report reflects the opinion of the committee that the documentation, as submitted, did not meet the meticulous standards needed for adding the report to the official historical record. If the committee is unsure of a specific report, it prefers to err on the conservative side and not accept a good record rather than endorse a bad one. *It is important to note that non-acceptance by no means indicates that PORC or any of its members feel the record did not occur as reported.* All records whether accepted or not remain on file and can be re-submitted for review if additional material is presented.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

One at Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks* 13 April 2011. Class IV-B; 010-01-2011. 0/7. The description was suggestive of this species but there was insufficient detail to rule out either cormorant species or Red-necked Grebe.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

One soaring over Lansdale, *Montgomery* 20 May 2011. Class IV-A; 074-01-2011. 0/7. The description was too brief to safely rule out a cormorant. One in flight over Bucktoe Preserve, *Chester* 24 October 2011. Class IV-C; 074-02-2011. 2/5. The photos submitted appear to be of a Double-crested Cormorant. One described as a female observed over Stone Mountain Hawkwatch, *Huntingdon* 25 October 2011. 074-03-2011. 3/4. This report may well be correct but the description lacked a few details to safely rule out a cormorant.

Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*)

One in flight over Walnutport, *Lehigh* 16 May 2011. Class IV-B; 188-01-2011. 0/7. The description submitted was too brief and the observer based most of the identification on flight style, which is not diagnostic for this species. For such a rarity to be accepted, a detailed description, sketch or photo is imperative.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

One first-cycle bird at Muddy Run Boat Launch, *Lancaster/York* 18 December 2011. Class IV-B; 348-02-2011. 0/7. The committee did not feel the description ruled out first cycle Iceland Gull.

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolis*)

One seen in flight while the observer, without optics, was stopped at a traffic light in Springfield, *Delaware* 18 November 2011. Class IV-A; 200-01-2011. 3/4. Though the description was compelling, some committee members felt that the circumstances surrounding the sighting (especially that no optics were used) did not allow the observer to sufficiently rule out a hybrid or escaped falconer's bird. One seen sitting on a hay bale and in flight in Klinesville, *Berks* 30 December 2011. Class IV-A; 200-02-2011. 3/4. This record was supported by another compelling description and sketch. Once again, several committee members did not feel the documentation ruled out a hybrid or escaped falconer's bird. This bird was unsuccessfully searched for by multiple birders for several days after word of the sighting reached the birding community.

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*)

One recorded in flight at night over Elkins Park, *Montgomery* 3 October 2011. Class IV-A; 654a-01-2011. 0/7. The documentation consisted of an audio file and sonogram. The report was discussed in depth at the committee's annual meeting in 2012 and most members felt both the audio and sonogram were not completely definitive for this species.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

One in Landisburg, *Perry* 24-25 November 2010. Class IV-A; 780-02-2010. 5/2, 5/1, 0/7. This was a difficult report. Photos submitted were not conclusive for Summer Tanager and in some respects, but not conclusively, resembled a Western Tanager. The report was discussed in depth at the 2012 annual meeting and it was agreed that the bird could not be positively identified from the photos submitted.

Acknowledgements

I thank Drew Weber for reviewing an earlier draft of this report.

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