

Twenty-seventh Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
2020 Records
May 2022
Mike Fialkovich for the Committee

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter “PORC” or “the committee”) evaluates and archives documentation it receives of any species, recognizable form or subspecies that is on the official Review List for Pennsylvania (<http://pabirds.org/records/index.php/review-list/>). In addition, the committee reviews documentation for species or subspecies that were previously unrecorded in the Commonwealth. This report covers submissions for 2020 that include 88 records of 50 species. The 79 accepted records represented a 90% acceptance rate. Reports were received from 31 counties.

There were three documented first state records in 2020! Highlights include: the first state record of Tundra Bean Goose, five records of Pink-footed Goose, Barrow’s Goldeneye, Clapper Rail, American Oystercatcher, first state record of Pacific Golden Plover, four Black-legged Kittiwakes, Sabine’s Gull, Least Tern, Royal Tern, fourth and fifth state record of Brown Booby, White-faced Ibis, Gyrfalcon, second state records of Vermilion Flycatcher and Gray Kingbird, second state record of Violet-green Swallow, two records of Northern Wheatear, first state record of Brewer’s Sparrow, five Lark Sparrows, two records of LeConte’s Sparrow, fourth record of Seaside Sparrow, Harris’s Sparrow, two Gambel’s White-crowned Sparrows, Swainson’s Warbler, an astonishing six Black-throated Gray Warblers and two Painted Buntings.

PORC encourages observers to document their sightings with photos, video, or audio whenever possible. Even poor photos can be diagnostic and elevate a report from Class III to Class I (see definitions below). However, written documentation is also extremely important, as there have been instances where a photograph was not diagnostic, but the report was still accepted as a Class III (sight record) based on the supporting information of the observer’s written account.

Documentation can be submitted on the PORC section of the PSO Website at this address <http://pabirds.org/records/> Click on **Submit A Report**.

The Committee

Committee Members and terms for 2020 are as follows:

- Holly Merker – Chair 2nd term (2019 – 2021)
- George Armistead – 2nd term (2020 – 2023)
- Devich Farbotnik 4th term (2019 – 2022)
- Mike Fialkovich - 4th term (2019 – 2022)
- Ian Gardner – Secretary (2015 - July 2020)
- Greg Grove – 1st term (2018-2021)
- Tessa Rhinehart – Secretary (starting July 2020)
- Billy Weber -4th term (2019 – 2022)
- David Yeany II - 1st term (2020 – 2023)

The committee normally meets face to face annually to discuss committee activities, procedures, second round voting, etc. With the Covid pandemic restrictions in 2020, The Committee’s annual meeting was virtual. We continued working on ongoing business through email exchanges throughout the year as necessary.

Committee News

In February 2021 Holly Merker, after seven years, and Greg Grove, after one term, rotated off the committee. Holly, who was a voting member since 2015, also ended her four years of as PORC Chair. Their positions on committee were replaced by Julia Plummer (Centre County) and Scott Stoleson (Warren County), each for three year terms. Also, at this time, David Yeany II was elected as the new and current PORC Chair through 2022.

In January 2022 Devich Farbotnik, Mike Fialkovich and Billy Weber rotated off the committee after serving three consecutive terms. They were replaced by Amy Davis (Philadelphia/Chester Counties), Annie Lindsay (Westmoreland County) and Corey Husic (Monroe/Pike Counties). The committee welcomes the new members and thanks them for their willingness to serve the birding community in Pennsylvania.

The committee would like to thank Holly for her commitment to advancing the mission of PORC and providing exceptional leadership to this committee. Holly put the committee back on schedule after falling behind for several years, worked with Billy Weber and Ian Gardner updating the Bylaws and reinstated feedback to observers submitting records. She also felt it was vitally important to increase outreach to the birding community of Pennsylvania with regular updates from the committee. We extend gratitude to Billy, Devich, and Mike for their dedication serving the maximum number of terms, and Greg for his one term. Devich and Billy took on the long overdue job of updating the Official List of Birds for Pennsylvania in 2018, adding status and abundance codes for each species. Mike wrote the PORC annual reports from 2012 – 2020 bringing the committee reports back on schedule following several years of inactivity.

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, (V) video clip, (S) specimen.

Class II: An accepted sight record written up 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 doubts.

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 escapee from artificial aviculture or an introduced bird not yet established in Pennsylvania.

Class I-Pe*: A record accepted through the eBird expedited review process.

Format of This Report

The records in each section are arranged taxonomically following the 2017 American Ornithological Society Check-list of North American Birds. 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 (+) after the number signifies accepted historical records prior to the formation of PORC. Each accepted record includes the location, county and date(s) when known. In some cases, dates are taken from the seasonal reports published in *Pennsylvania Birds*, and from incidental information gleaned from the PABIRDS email listserv, the Pennsylvania Birders Facebook Group, various other Facebook groups, the PARBA GroupMe text message alert service, and its regional sub-groups and the eBird database. Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the name(s) of the observer(s) who submitted documentation. Following the list of observers is the PORC record number, the record's classification and the votes for/against. Records submitted from previous years are indicated in the description. All photographs, video, and sound recordings are archived on the PORC section of the PSO Website.

A Note Regarding Archived PORC Records

We are excited to announce all paper records including photographs (prints, slides, sketches) and recordings that have been housed with the PORC Secretary have been converted to electronic files that will be archived on the PSO Website. Special thanks to Frank Haas for taking on this monumental task of digitizing about 13 boxes of hard copies of PORC submissions.

Abbreviations: N (Number), PB (Pennsylvania Birds), Twp. (Township), V (Volume).

2020 ACCEPTED RECORDS

Black-bellied Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) (20)

Four in West Springfield, *Erie* 29 June – 3 July 2020 (Tessa Rhinehart (p), many observers; 102-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. The birds were frequenting a small pond in a backyard and were a first for *Erie*. There are numerous eBird entries for these birds. A photo of the group was published in PB V34:N3.

One at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 20 July 2020 (Paul Heveran (p); 102-02-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

Tundra Bean Goose (*Anser serrirostris*) (1)

One at Crum Creek Reservoir and surrounding area, *Delaware* 16-20 December 2020 (Paul Pudde, Rob Fergus Jason Horn, many observers; 107-01-2020, Class I-P). 7/0. A solid documented first state record seen and photographed by many observers. The bird traveled around the area with Canada Geese and often went missing during the afternoon. One of the few records for North America. In the weeks prior a bird was reported from four locations in Ontario and Quebec (eBird) which could have been the same individual. Photo on the cover of PB V35:N1.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser rachyrhynchus*) (23)

One at Wood's Edge Park and Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, *Lancaster* 16 and 26 February and 8 March 2020 (Pamela Fisher (p), Randall Nett; 108-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Photographed and seen by many observers. Photos were published in PB V34:N1 & N2.

One at Lower Mooreland Twp., *Montgomery* 11 January 2020 (Holger Pflücke (p); 108-02-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

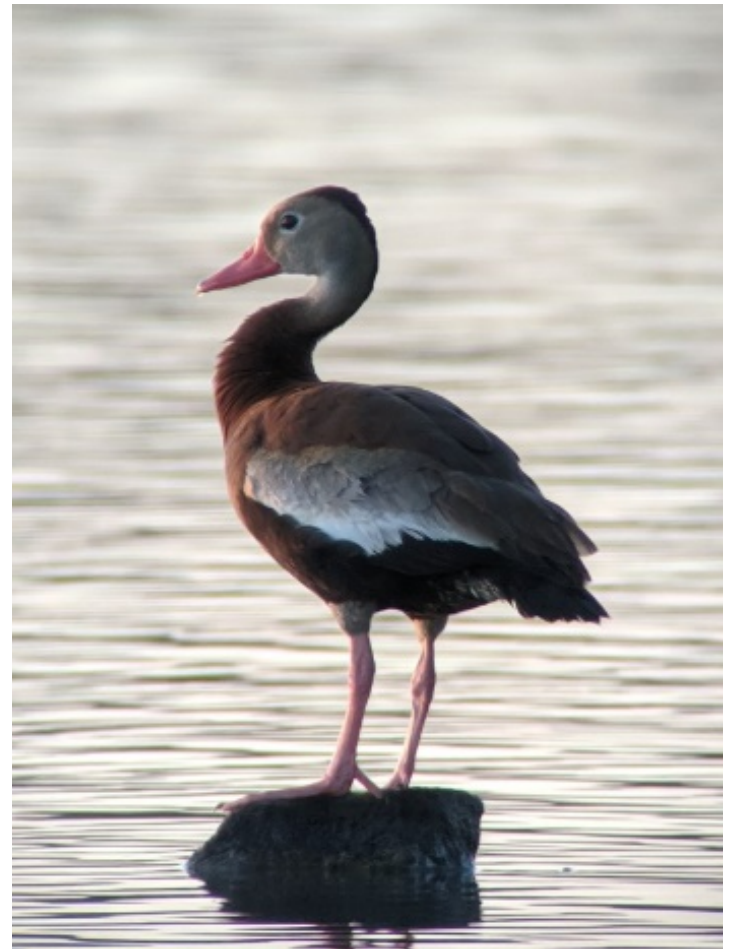


Image 1. Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Walt Road in Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* where it remained for the day. Photo by Paul Heveran.

One at Lower Mooreland Twp., *Montgomery* 11 January 2020 (Holger Pflücke (p); 108-02-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

One at Gotwals Pond, *Berks* 30 January 2020 (Mike Slater (p), Art Zdancewic, Russell Hoffman, Derek Price, Holly Hartshorne (p); 108-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

One at Fogelsville Quarry, *Lehigh* 10-11 January 2020 (Jason Horn (p), Adam Miller (p), Thomas Buehl Jr. (p), et al.; 108-04-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photographed and seen by many observers.

One at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 31 December 2020 (many observers; 108-05-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Numerous eBird checklists entered with good photo documentation.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) (41)

One at Brenner Quarry, *Lancaster* 26-28 January 2020 (Zach Millen (p), Eric Witmer, Jason Horn, Mike Epler, Jonathan Heller (p); 115-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

Common/King Eider (*Somateria mollissima/spectabilis*)

One flying past at Sunset Point, Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 1 December 2020 (Jerry McWilliams; 144a-01-2020, Class III). 7/0. It was snowing at the time of the observation which created

visibility limitations, so plumage details specific to species could not be determined.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (36)

A female/immature at Bald Eagle State Park, *Centre* 20 January 2020 (Nick Kerlin, Susan Braun, Brian Schmoke (p), Eric Zawatski (p); 149-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photo published in PB V34:N1.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) (17)

A female on the Delaware River at East Stroudsburg, and at the Shawnee Inn Golf Resort and *Monroe* 5 and 26 January 2020, respectively (Jason Horn (p), Eric Zawatski (p), Jonathan DeBalko (p); 155-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photos show the steep forehead and completely yellow bill alongside Common Goldeneyes for a nice comparison. Probably the same female that wintered at this location the previous year.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) (4)

One in New Cumberland, *York* 26 October – 15 December 2020 (Sandy Lockerman (p), Gary Lockerman (p), many observers; 492-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Captured and banded at a feeder. The bird was an immature male and photos show a few gorget feathers growing in. Photo published in PB V34:N4.

Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans*) (5+)

One along the Delaware River Trail, *Philadelphia* 19 April 2020 (Adam Zahm (p); 234-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. The bird was first observed swimming to shore. It rested on a wooden rail at the water's edge where it was photographed.

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus pallatus*) (12)

One at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, *Philadelphia* 29 March 2020 (George Armistead (p), Liam Hart; 266-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. The bird was spotted in flight and a few photographs were taken as the bird flew off.

Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) (1)

One at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin* 20 July 2020 (Will Zook (p), Wilmer Zook; 255-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. This bird was observed and photographed by many observers and there were numerous eBird submissions with detailed descriptions and photos. This is a difficult identification that requires good views and a good description of the plumage, length of wings, bill size, etc. An exciting first state record and careful observation led to acceptance. A photo is published in PB V34:N3.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) (68)

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 26 August 2019 (August Mirabella (p); 331-01-2019; Class I-P). 7/0. Record submitted 18 August 2020. Photos show the thick bill and neck compared to Red-necked.

Two at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks* 13 September 2020 (Bernie Carra Druckenmiller (p); 331-01-2020). Photos posted on a facebook page. Record submitted by August Mirabella.

One at Williamsport Dam, *Lycoming* 29 October 2020 (Bobby Brown (p), Deb Brown; 331-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photographed in flight.

One at DuBois Reservoir, *Clearfield* 2-6 November 2020 (Tim Schreckengost (p), Joe Verica (p), John Forcey (p), Carol Light (p), Matthew Schenck (p); 331-04-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 15-17 November, 2020 (Jerry McWilliams (p), Robert Scribner, Matthew Sabatine (p), Jason Horn; 331-05-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photographed on the water off Sunset Point 15 November and in flight off Vista One 17 November.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) (7)

One found dead at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 24 September 2020 (Robert Scribner (p); 334-01-2020; Class I-S). 7/0. The specimen was in good enough condition to be identified and the photos submitted show characteristics of Long-tailed Jaeger.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (21)

A juvenile at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 27 October 2020 (Jerry McWilliams; 357-01-2020, Class III). 6/1. Described well in eBird with comments regarding the wing pattern, black tipped tail, black ear spot and black collar. Also described as larger than nearby Bonaparte's Gulls.

A juvenile at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 16 November 2020 (Matthew Sabatine (p); 357-02-2020, Class I-Pe). 7/0.

A juvenile at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 2 December 2020 (Jerry McWilliams; 357-03-2020, Class III). 7/0. Similar description as above.

One at Bald Eagle State Park, *Centre* 13-14 December 2020 (Jordan Hillsley (p), Ryan Hillsley (p), Julia Plummer, Brian Schmoke (p), Allie Causey, many observers; 357-04-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (18+)

One at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 10 October 2020 (Paul Heveran; 360-01-2020; Class III). 7/0. A juvenile described in the eBird checklist.

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 18 September 2020 (Eric Hall (p); 360-02-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. A juvenile discovered resting on the beach.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) (44)

A first cycle bird at Pennypack on the Delaware, *Philadelphia* 30 March 2020 (George Armistead (p); 344-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0.

Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) (31)

An adult at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 1 September 2020 (Meredith Lombard (p); 372-01-2020; Class III). 7/0. Details were difficult to see in the photos submitted but the sighting was supported by a detailed description that included the yellow bill, white forehead and small size. This is a good example of the importance of a written description.

An adult at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks* 4 August 2020 (Andrew Harrington (p); 372-02-2020, Class I-Pe). 7/0.

A juvenile at Pennypack on the Delaware, *Philadelphia* 4 August 2020 (George Armistead (p), Liam Hart (p); 372-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) (17)

One at Governor Printz Park, *Delaware* 29 May 2020 (Al Guarente (p); 364-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Photos show the orange bill, and the lack of black in the upper primaries was noted, separating from Caspian Tern.

One at Hog Island, *Delaware* 11 August 2020 (Al Guarente (p), Rob Fergus (p); 364-02-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

One at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, *Philadelphia* 21 October 2020 (Rebecca Syring (p); 364-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photo clearly shows the orange bill and underside of the primaries that separate this species from Caspian Tern.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (17)

One at Rose Valley Lake, *Lycoming* 21 May 2020 (Eric Hartshaw (p), Bobby Brown; 002a-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. One in breeding plumage with a few Common Loons for comparison. The photos show the gray head and neck, black chin and throat, thinner black bill and smaller size (compared to the Common Loons it was with). Rare to see one in this plumage in the state.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) (5)

An adult at Van Sciver Lake in Tullytown, *Bucks* 13 June 2020 (Steve Throne (p); 063-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. This bird was resting on the lake at close range, allowing for excellent photographs. Amazingly, this is the second record of this species at this location.

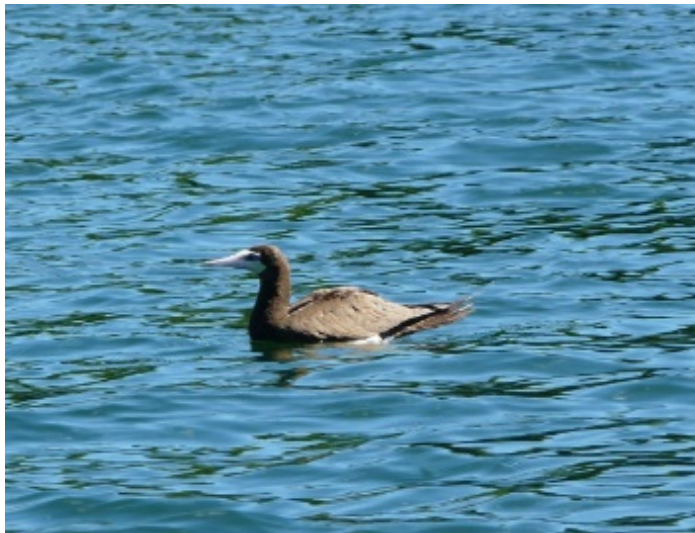


Image 2. Brown Booby, Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks* 13 June 2020. Photo by Steve Throne. A very cooperative rarity and undisturbed by nearby boats.

An immature at the Army Corps of Engineers Compound, *Philadelphia* 22 August 2020 (Liam Hart (p), Patrick McGill (p); 063-02-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. The bird was observed and photographed in flight.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) (12)

One in East Lampeter Twp., *Lancaster* 23 October 2020 (Pamela Fisher (p), Zachary Millen (p); 065-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. A juvenile found in a Con Agra Foods parking lot, following a foggy night and presumed to have crash landed due to disorientation. Workers moved the bird out of the parking lot to a nearby field to keep it safe from truck traffic. A wildlife rehabber was contacted to capture the bird.



Image 3. Northern Gannet, East Lampeter Twp., *Lancaster* 23 October 2020. Photo by Zach Millen. This juvenile rested in a field until captured by a wildlife rehabilitator.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) (4)

One at a retention pond on Nulton Avenue, *Northampton* 1 May 2020 (Bill Etter, many observers; 096-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Photos clearly show the complete white border around the face and the description includes the eye color, facial skin and leg color.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (119)

One at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Schuylkill* 12 May 2020 (David Barber; 171-01-2020; Class III). 7/0. A very good detailed description was submitted.

One in the city of Indiana, *Indiana* 15 May 2020 (Mike Fialkovich (p), many observers; 171-02-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. First discovered 5/13 perched in a tree in a yard, and seen by many observers for several days hunting over the neighborhood up to 5/16. Many photos taken of this cooperative bird were submitted to eBird. A photo was published in PB V34:N2.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) (9+)

A dark morph at Keystone Aggregate Products Quarry and Seiple's Farm Pond, *Northampton* 7 and 17 January 2020 (Bill Etter (p), Ian Gardner; 200-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Believed to be the same bird that spent the previous two winters in the area.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) (2)

One at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, *Philadelphia* 9 October 2020 (Daniel Kalamarides (p); 543-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photo published in PB V34:N4. The first state record was in 1991 so it's been a long wait for the second to be recorded.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (32+)

One along Hog Island Road, *Delaware* 22 August – 19 September 2020 (Debbie Beer (p), Jason Horn (p), Al Guarente (p), Adrian Binns (p), Victoria Sindlinger (p), many observers; 557-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photo published in PB V34:N4. Initially seen 22-23 August but then relocated 19 September.

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) (2)

One at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks* 2 October 2020 (Mark Gallagher (p); 559-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Observed briefly and fortunately photographed before it flew off. Photo published in PB V34:N4. Only the second record in the state, unlike the first that remained for several days.

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) (2)

One at Philadelphia International Airport, *Delaware* 29 October 2020 (Matthew Sabatine, Jason Horn; 571-01-2020, Class III). 6/1. The observers described the distinctive rump patch and noted the white cheek on the bird. Second state record.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) (13)

One at the Penn State University Arboretum, *Centre* 26 October 2020 (Joe Gyekis (p); 576-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photo published in PB V34:N4. The first state record was in August 1995 (McWilliams and Brauning).

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) (9)

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 18 September 2020 (Nathan Hall (p); 646-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. A first for *Erie*, this bird was seen only long enough for a few photographs to be taken and it was never relocated. Photo published in PB V34:N4.

One at Shoemakersville, *Bucks* 10 – 15 December 2020 (Joe Spilde (p), Mark Vass; 646-02-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. One of the few that lingered for a few days. There are numerous eBird entries with photographs. A photo is published in PB V35:N1. The last record in the state was 2012.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) (9)

Two (a male and female) in Karthaus, *Clearfield* 20 November 2020 (John Forcey (p); 649-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photo published in PB V34:N4. First record in the state since 2015.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) (17)

One at Caledonia State Park, *Franklin* 12 November – 27 December 2020 (Gavin Anderson (p), Chris Payne (p), Rebecca Payne (p), Zach Millen (p), Nina Wolf (p); 650-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. A very cooperative bird that spent over a month at this state park allowing many to enjoy it.

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) (1)

One banded at Powdermill Avian Research Center, *Westmoreland* 4 September 2020 (Annie Lindsay (p), Mark Vass, Mike Fialkovich (p); 817-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. A completely unexpected first state record and a surprise find in the mist net by the banders. Documented in the hand as well as in the field by many birders following the discovery. There are only seven records in eastern North America (Birds Of The World Online). Photo on the cover of PB V34:N4.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) (33)

One in Manheim, *Lancaster* 1 January 2020 (Pamela Fisher (p)(v), many observers; 820-01-2020; Class I-P). 6/0.

One at Twining Valley Park, *Montgomery* 10 February 2020 (Michael David (p); 820-02-2020; Class I-P). 6/0.

One at Mill Hall Community Park, *Clinton* 22 August 2020 (Matt Schenck (p); 820-03-2020; Class I-P). 7/0.

One at Francis E. Walter Reservoir, *Luzerne* 31 August 2020 (Paul Nale (p); 820-05-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

One at Maple Knoll Farms, *Bucks* 24 September 2020 (Vicky Smith (p), Richard Smith (p); 820-06-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*) (22)

One on the John Bartram Trail in Hamburg, *Berks* 9 March 2020 (Kerry Grim (p); 829-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. First seen by another observer 17 February 2020 but not submitted to PORC or eBird. This elusive species is always an exciting find. This individual was very cooperative for photographs.

One at Bradford Reservoir Recreation Area, *Bucks* 10 October 2020 (Dennis Hallman (p), Kevin Hallman (p); 829-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Another of this species with excellent photographic documentation.



Image 4. LeConte's Sparrow, Hamburg, *Berks* 9 March 2020. Photo by Kerry Grim.

Seaside Sparrow (*Ammospiza maritima*) (10)

One at FDR Park, *Philadelphia* 9 May 2020 (Charles Homler (p), many observers; 831-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. A surprising find and the observer was fortunate to obtain good photographs. The bird was seen by several other observers the following day. Extremely rare away from the coast.



Image 5. Seaside Sparrow, FDR Park, *Philadelphia* 9 May 2020. Photo by Charles Homler.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) (38+)

One at a feeder in Bensalem, *Bucks* 15 February 2020 (Anne Edwards (p); 839-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. The bird remained through the winter.

White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's) (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) (13+)

One at Bucktoe Creek Preserve, *Chester* 15 January 2020 (Ian Stewart (p); 838a-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Photographed in the hand at a banding site showing the orange bill and pale lores. Notes mentioned the bird was smaller in all dimensions measured compared to several eastern subspecies that were measured.

One at a feeder in McCandless Twp., *Allegheny* 6 May 2020 (Steve Gosser (p); 838a-02-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo shows the pale lores.

One in Kennett Square, *Chester* 26 December 2020 (Ian Stuart (P); 838a-03-2020; Class I-P). 7/0.



Image 6. White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow, McCandless Twp., *Allegheny* 6 May 2020. Photo by Steve Gosser.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) (52)

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 17 August 2020 (August Mirabella; 859-01-2020; Class III). 7/0.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*) (25+)

One in Conemaugh Twp., *Indiana* in June and July 2020 (Mike Fialkovich (p)(r), David Yeany II (p)(r); 756-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. This bird was present most of the summer following the discovery in early June and sang persistently along a bike trail. It was often visible when it would take a high perch to sing, sometimes right next to the trail. Seen and heard by many observers; numerous eBird entries.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*) (13+)

One on Clear Spring Road in Annville, *Lebanon* 4 January – 26 March 2020 (Ted Nichols II, Nate Felty (p), many observers; 737-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0.

One in Easton, *Northampton* 9 January 2020 (Arlene Koch, Jason Horn (p); 737-02-2020; Class I-P). 7/0.

One at FDR Park, *Philadelphia* 20 October 2020 (Jack Smallwood (p); 737-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

One at Marilla Reservoir, *McKean* 4 November 2020 (Tessa Rhinehart; 737-04-2020; Class III). 6/1.

One at Clear Spring Road, *Lebanon* 15 September – 5 November 2020 (Nate Felty (p), many observers; 737-05-2020; Class I-Pe).

7/0. Apparently the same individual that was present the previous winter (see above).

One in McConnellsburg, *Fulton* 4 November 2020 (Tracy Moseby (p); 737-06-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. This male was only seen for 30 minutes at a private residence.



Image 7. Black-throated Gray Warbler, Easton, *Northampton* 9 January 2020. Photo by Jason Horn.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) (50)

One in Hermitage, *Mercer* 9 May 2020 (Mimi Hoffmaster (p); 780-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. A first spring male was visiting a feeder.

One in Lower Merion, *Montgomery* 8 May 2020 (Rob Bierregaard; 780-02-2020; Class III). 5/2.

One at Green Lane Reservoir, *Montgomery* 12 September 2020 (Jason Hall (p); 780-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. A female with good photographic documentation.

One at Gettysburg National Military Park, *Adams* 16 September 2020 (Callan Murphy (p) (r); 780-04-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. A male photographed with a clear recording of the chattering calls.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (26)

One in O'hara Twp., *Allegheny* 20-21 January 2020 (Mark Vass, Michael David (p), many observers; 794-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. An adult male visited a feeder at a private residence daily where it remained to April 20.

One in Brecknock Twp., *Lancaster* 8 and 12 February 2020 (Michael David (p), Pamela Fisher (p), many observers; 794-02-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Another adult male visiting a feeder. Photo published in PB V34:N1.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established.

(Votes are listed as for/against. A vote of 6/1 or 7/0 is required for acceptance).

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkia*)

One at Lake Somerset, *Somerset* 2 November 1997 (010-01-1987; Class IV-A). 2/5. Record submitted in 2020. Some committee members thought the detailed description by the experienced observer was good to accept this record, while others thought the characters were not definitive for either grebe species, suggesting a possible hybrid. This record went through two rounds of voting with

extensive comments by the committee. The observer was uncertain regarding a definitive conclusion for either species of grebe considered due to the facial pattern, bill color that did not match either species and the flank color. Other concerns include the lack of a photo submitted (photos were taken at the time but did not show details—this was years before digital photography, and not in possession of the submitter) and the submission long after the observation for acceptance of a first state record. This record was discovered in the observer's files and submitted to add it to PORC's database.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

One in Windslow Twp., *Jefferson* 5 June 2020 (232-01-2020; Class IV-A). 3/4. This submission went through two rounds of voting. A bird was seen briefly during a survey but details lacked in the description and some members of the committee felt more solid documentation was needed for an elusive and rare species such as this.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

One at Merion Station, *Montgomery* 2 June 2020 (171-03-2020; Class IV-A). 1/6. The bird was observed overhead in flight. While this may have been identified correctly, details were lacking in the description for acceptance.

Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*)

One at a private residence in Downingtown, *Chester* 7 April 2020 (511-01-2020; Class IV-C). 1/6. This bird generated a lot of discussion among the committee as well as the birding community in general. Photos were sent to those more familiar with this species and hybrids between this and Yellow-bellied. In the end an identification to species could not be determined due to the variation in the plumage characters between the two, namely the facial stripes, amount of red bleeding into the black malar, pattern of white spotting on the back, etc. The overall consensus is this individual showed characteristics of both species and is probably a hybrid.

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)

One at Evanburg State Park, *Montgomery* 27 February 2020 (195-01-2020; Class IV-A). 4/3. Many committee members thought the identification was correct. One of the two observers is experienced with this species but hesitated to submit it to eBird due to the lack of a photograph for documentation. The observation was very brief and the bird was seen flying away from the observers.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)

One in Karthaus Twp., *Clearfield* 16 May 2020 (201-01-2020; Class IV-B). 1/6. The observer came to a conclusion regarding the identification afterwards when consulting a field guide. It may have been a Prairie Falcon but the evidence was not sufficient for a second state record, unfortunately.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*)

One at Bald Eagle State Park, *Centre* 11 October 2014 (829-02-2014; Class IV-C). 0/7. Record submitted 10/27/2020. The submission went through two rounds of voting and a lot of discussion among committee members. The main concerns were the quality of the photo that many committee members found inconclusive and the submission several years following the actual observation. The plumage characters and structure that could be seen in the photo were discussed in detail and some committee members felt the bird could have been a Nelson's Sparrow.

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*)

One at Raccoon Creek State Park, *Beaver* 1 April 2019 (840a-02-2019; Class IV-C). 2/5. Record submitted 17 February 2020. A photo was submitted showing a female or immature junco. Some committee members noted the lack of sharp contrast between the edges of the hood on the breast and mantle. Female juncos do show less contrast but on this bird the contrast did not appear to be enough for Oregon. Others felt the bird could be one of the *Cassiar* group, while some thought it was good for a female Oregon. This shows the difficulty of assigning some of these intergrade birds to specific subspecies with certainty.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

One at State Game Lands 156, *Lancaster* 11 November 2020 (782-01-2020; Class IV-B). 1/6. While committee members recognized the experience of the observer, the majority thought a description of the call was not enough documentation for a rarity.

The PORC would like to thank all the observers for submitting rare bird documentation to the committee for review.

Now that I have rotated off the committee, this is my final PORC Report. I've learned a lot and enjoyed preparing the reports and look forward to reading future reports. Thanks for reading!

References

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