

S.A.

On January 2 an oil tank rupture spilled approximately one million gallons of diesel fuel into the Monongahela River some 23 miles above Pittsburgh. The resulting oil slick flowed into the Ohio, playing havoc with the water suppliers of many towns downstream. There is apparently no good estimate of how many waterfowl perished in this event. The best guess that I have seen came from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, which estimated that as many as 5000 birds died. Most of these were Mallards and Canada Geese, but a few other species were also represented. The Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania began a rescue and rehabilitation operation and in 10 days managed to treat 81 birds, of which 75 were released. Farther downstream the slick had attenuated enough that apparently there was less mortality.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.E.S.P. = Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., Pa.; C.N.F. = Chattahoochee Nat'l Forest, Ga.; G.S.M.N.P. = Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park; K.C.P.P. = Kyger Creek Power Plant, Gallia Co., Ohio; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., Pa.; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., Pa. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — There was only one report of a Red-throated Loon, at Watauga L., Tenn., Dec. 19 (FA, CS). Common Loons were widespread but in small numbers, with the highest count being of eight at Tellico L., Tenn., Feb. 14 (JK). Horned Grebes were more common than usual with some high counts of 243 on the CBC at P.I.S.P. (JM); 64 at Huntington, W.Va., Jan. 9 (TI); and 63 at Moraine S.P., Pa., Dec. 6 (HL, JPa). The Eared Grebe reported from P.I.S.P. Nov. 30 in the autumn report remained until Dec. 29 (EK, SS, JM).

The boom in Double-crested Cormorants noted in previous reports continued with winter records in 2 locations in Pennsylvania, 2 in Tennessee, and 3 along the Ohio River. The high count was of five at Fort Loudon L., Tenn., Dec. 6 (JK).

Great Blue Herons were unusually numerous throughout the Region, with some high counts of 25 on the Warren, Pa., CBC (WH); 20 in Mason, W. Va., Jan. 10 (WA); and an average of 19 per trip at the Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan, Ky., (FB). Single Great Egrets were seen at the Clark Fish Hatchery Dec. 18 and Jan. 8 (FB). A Green-backed Heron at Roanoke Dec. 19 (MP) and a Black-crowned Night-Heron in Wood, W.Va., Feb. 21 (JB) were noteworthy.

The maximum number of waterfowl at Erie Bay, Pa., was



Eared Grebe at Presque Isle State Park, Pa., Dec. 6, 1987. The peaked crown, thin bill, and extensive black below the eye are all evident here. Photo/Ed Kwator.

3500, compared with 24,000 last year (JM). The decrease attributed in part to the presence of open water in pl L. Erie. Numbers were normal in the Knoxville, Tenn. (CN), but at Elizabethton, Tenn., both numbers of birds numbers of species were below normal (GE). At Some Pa., there was a big southbound flight Dec. 6 just freezeup, and an influx Feb. 6 suggesting the start of the bound flight (AM). At Huntington, W.Va., migration began 27 & 28 (WA).

Unusual numbers of Tundra Swans remained in the through December with 20 at Somerset L., Pa., Dec. 17 at Conneaut L., Pa., Dec. 20 (RFL, ML); 50 in Allegheny (JG); and 46 in Fayette, Pa., Dec. 30 (E & MW). Swans present all winter at Mosquito L., Ohio (CB); at Warr Tidioute, Pa. (JK); and at Linesville, Pa. (RFL). Ten P.I.S.P. Jan. 21 (LO). A Mute Swan was at Confluence, Feb. 17 (AM). A Greater White-fronted Goose (possibly the one as last winter) was present at Mosquito L., Ohio. (CB, NB). Snow Geese were reported from Pymatung Dec. 20 (ML, RFL); Mosquito L., Ohio, Dec. 20 (CB) and 31 (NB); Mahoning, Ohio, Jan. 17 (NB); Allegheny, Pa., (JH); K.C.P.P. Dec. 13 (WA); Mason, W.Va., Jan. 5; Hunt W.Va., Jan. 11 (TI); and L. Moomaw, Va., Feb. 18 (LT). Geese continue to thrive in the Region. At Pymatung 8000 were present from early December to mid-February then the number dropped to 5000 (RFL). There were other large concentrations: 744 at Huntington, W.Va. (TI); 500 at K.C.P.P. Feb. 14 (WA); and 400 at North Pa. through the period (JG). An individual of the small "Ct Goose" subspecies was seen at the Quemahoning Res. Dec. 7 (AM).

Mallards were generally fewer than normal, but American Ducks showed some improvement. Both Gadwall and Ducks wintered in higher than normal numbers, and winged Teal were reported from the Kinzua Res., Pa., (WH) and from Ripshin L., Tenn., Dec. 20, the first local record (FA, CS). There were more than the usual number Canvasback sightings. Lesser Scaup were scarce at Hunt W.Va., (WA). Eight Greater Scaup (rare in the Region) at Moraine S.P., Pa. (HL, JP). Oldsquaws were at Starbuck Dec. 2 (MB); Somerset L., Pa., Dec. 6 (AM); Latrobe Res. Dec. 6 (E & MW); and Wood, W.Va., Feb. 16 & 20 (JE). A Scoter was at P.I.S.P. Dec. 5 (JM), and up to 12 Surf Scoters were there through December (m.ob.). White-winged Scoters were at P.I.S.P. Dec. 5-Jan. 4 and Feb. 24 & 25 (JM, LM); unusual were White-winged Scoters at Donegal L., Pa., (E & MW); Parkersburg, W.Va., Feb. 16-27 (JE); and Glen W.Va., Jan. 9 (WA). Both Red-breasted and Hooded mergansers were in above-normal numbers at most places.

RAPTORS — Eighteen Black Vultures were seen at Huntington, Pa., Dec. 26, and singles were there Jan. 5 and 26 (DK). Four Black Vultures were seen in Buncombe Dec. 22 (RRz). Turkey Vultures were also seen in Centre Jan. 17 and Feb. 15 (JP, DK) and at Williamstown, W.Va. 23 (LR). Ospreys were reported from Mason, W.Va., Feb. 1 (WA); Wood, W.Va., Feb. 21 (JB); and Pleasants, W.Va. 21 (NW). It was another great winter for Bald Eagle sightings with reports of at least 45 birds from 15 locations, from Fayette in the north to Murray, Ga., in the south. The largest number was at the Clark Fish Hatchery, Ky., where up to six were seen. There were more than the usual number of winter N. Harriers. Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks continue to be reported in good numbers. The only reports of Goshawks came from Erie, Pa., Dec. 5 (JM); Waynesboro Jan. 31 and Feb. 16 (SR); and State College, Pa., Feb. 17.

Red-shouldered Hawks normally do not winter with us; this year reports came from several areas. Red-tailed Hawks were more common than usual in the Meadville, Pa., (RFL), but elsewhere they seemed to be in below-normal numbers; the lack of snow cover to concentrate them along highways may have been the reason for this. Rough-legged Hawks were in normal numbers in the north and may

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Historic Record

Species: Eared Grebe Podiceps nigricollis

Date of Sighting: 20 November 1987 to 29 December 1987

County : ERIE

Location : PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams, Ed Kwater, Sam Stull

Date of Submission: 2007

Submitted by: Historic Record

Written Description: No

Photo: Yes

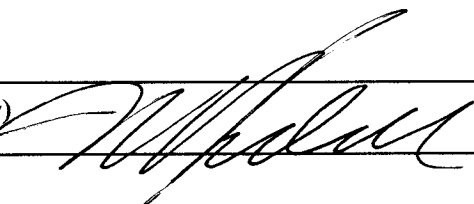
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut								
A. Guarente	x							
T. Johnson	x							
E. Witmer	x							
N. Pulcinella	x							
J. Heller	x							
G. Malosh	x							
TOTALS	6							
DECISION	x							

Comments: Reviewed at 2007 Annual Meeting. Voice Vote

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

2/24/09