

Branch Dam (EBD), Owl's Nest (ON), Ridgway (RW), St. Marys Res (SMR).

Dave Sorg asks, "Where is global warming?" On Memorial Day there was extreme cold, with ice on the bird baths. When Sorg checked his 3 **E. Bluebird** houses 5/27, one contained 4 dead nestlings, another nest at least 1 dead and 1 still alive with the mother bird refusing to leave even with his presence. Third box, OK. On 6/6, the box with the 1 live nestling was checked and apparently it fledged. When Dave cleaned out the box, he found 3 dead nestlings (from cold?) and found that the nest was built over the bodies of 3 ad. bluebirds which presumably died from the return of winter March 11. "In spite of all these disasters, bluebird numbers appear normal."

Another cold snap centered around Father's Day and probably caused the death of the **Tree Swallow** nestlings in AH's yard and also the death of the **House Wren** found sitting on 5 eggs in LC's yard.

A very late imm. **C. Loon** was at Twin Lakes, ANF, 6/18 (DW) and had been hanging around for a couple of weeks. 3 **Horned Grebe** appeared 4/5 at CR (DW), while 13 were at SMR 4/8 (LC). JW noted a **Double-crested Cormorant** and a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 4/25 at the Ridgway Res. The **Canada Goose** with the gray neckband returned to ON for the 4th consecutive year (DW). **Oldsquaw** were abundant with at least 12 at EBD and ±65 at SMR 4/8 (LC). Near Hallton 6/28 DW watched as 2 ♀ **C. Merganser** herded a group of 20 young. An ad. **Bald Eagle** sat in a tree by the Clarion R. for 15 min. (on the outskirts of RW), then landed in another tree and sat for 5 more min., giving SB an excellent view 6/26. No **N. Goshawk** report. Also, DW expressed concern for **Red-shouldered Hawk**, as he noted no activity in areas they normally occupy, but did see them at CR 4/5, 5/17, and 6/19.

On 4/16 DS heard his first **Am. Woodcock** since 3/10 and the heavy snows. He feels they are down this year, but doesn't know if it is due to the snows or more neighborhood dogs. 5 **Bonaparte's Gull** at EBD and 7 gulls at SMR 4/8 (LC). More **Black-billed Cuckoo** noted than Yellow-billed. **Chimney Swift** returned to RW 5/1, while **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** appeared 5/8 (DW). The **E. Bluebird** pr at AH yard are nesting in the **Purple Martin** house for the second year! LC thinks the **Veery**, **Hermit** and **Wood thrushes** are in good supply this season.

No unusual warblers noted. First **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Scarlet Tanager** 5/10 Upper Mill Cr. (DW). First **Indigo Bunting** was early, 4/22 (DW). Last **White-throated Sparrow** were 4 at Glen Hazel 5/12 (LC). On 5/20 LC found a nest of 4 well-feathered **Dark-eyed Junco**. Up to 20 **Purple Finch** at BT feeder with some birds staying to nest. The last **Pine Siskin** to visit DW's feeder was 6/5! Four **Evening Grosbeak** stayed until 4/25 at BT feeder.

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## ERIE COUNTY

Jerry McWilliams

It seemed spring never really arrived until mid-May, since most of the reporting period was cold. Northerly winds persisted all quarter with few major storm systems. North winds over L. Erie prevent raptors from flying close to the shoreline and therefore are scattered over a larger migratory front. Southerly winds tend to push raptors to the south shore of L. Erie and congregate them into a narrow migratory front. With north winds prevailing through prime hawk flight periods, many of the raptors trickled through undetected as some of the daily totals seem to indicate. However, despite the negative conditions, we still managed to tally some impressive **Broad-winged Hawk** numbers.

Aside from some exceptional rarities and the expected rarities, some events are worth noting here. As I have mentioned in the past few years, **Double-crested Cormorant** have become so common that they no longer warrant special attention until this year when large numbers began arriving in mid-Apr beginning with no less than 100 birds and climbed to daily highs averaging 300 birds and peaking at 500 indiv. around 4/19. Every day until about 5/5, hundreds of cormorants (mostly adults) would gather at

Gull Point on Presque Isle SP (PI) in one or two dense packs. Fifteen years ago an observer might see a dozen cormorants in a year on PI, if (s)he were lucky! **Caspian Tern** have also increased in numbers with daily highs almost matching those of cormorants. This year's single day concentration was of 300 birds on Gull Point 4/16,17.

For the second time in Pa., **Ring-billed Gull** attempted to nest at Gull Point (the first in 1983) with at least 7 nests containing eggs and 100+ scrapes (JGS,DD). The eggs suddenly disappeared, all subsequently destroyed by unknown predators. The nesting colony was abandoned soon afterwards.

By far the most exciting discovery was of a territorial ♂ **Piping Plover** at Gull Point. It was found by RS, JM, and EK and photographed 5/13 and remained until 6/5. It was frequently seen driving off **Semipalmated Plovers** in an area approximately 100' long and 30' wide. In this area it was also observed nest scraping. Many times it would fly off not returning for hours at a time, but always returned to this same area. It called often when driving away intruders and on the wing, especially when it was flight displaying. Although a mate was never found, nesting behavior has not been reported here since this sp. last successfully nested in the mid-1950s. With every Piping Plover seen on PI, local birders believe that that indiv. will be the last of its race ever to be seen here again.

The following compilation is of the most noteworthy sightings of the spring. All sightings from PI unless otherwise noted.

A **C. Loon** 6/22 (JM) was the latest spring record by about 20 days. An **Am. White Pelican** 4/21,22 (JGS,JHS,ph.GR) was the 3rd modern record in the Co.



**Am. White Pelican, Presque Isle SP, 4/22/92. Photo by Geoff Robinson.**

A total of at least 20 **Am. Bittern** 4/4+ (EK,JM). Up to 4 **Least Bittern** early May to 6/18 (BGr,BS,EK,JM). A pr of **Great Blue Heron** constructed a nest on PI which later was abandoned. Despite excellent habitat, this sp. has never been reported to have attempted to nest here (*fide* JHS). Possibly as many as 30 **Great Egret** 4/8-5/17 (m.ob.). An ad. **Little Blue Heron** 4/30 (JM). 1 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 6/11 (LM). Up to 2 ♂♂ **Eurasian Wigeon** 3/29-4/18 (†EK,ph.JM,JGS) for 12th record. Up to 8 **Ls. Scaup** to at least 6/30 (JM). Scoters: 1 **Black** 4/1,5 (JHS); up to 3 **Surf** to 5/7 (JM,DS,JHS); 8 **White-winged** 4/4 (EK) and 5 4/5 at L. Pleasant (CK). A **Bufflehead** 6/11 was the latest spring record by 6 days. 1 **Red-breasted Merganser** at Edinboro L. 6/9 (*fide* DS) and 1 6/22,23 (JM,JGS).

Away from the hawk watches, **Bald Eagle** were reported from PI and Northeast, and up to 8 different **Merlin** were seen on PI from 4/11-5/16 (JM,EK,JHS). Single **Peregrine Falcon** 4/11 (DS) and 4/20 at Roderick WR (RWR) (JHS,JGS). 3 **Sandhill Crane** at Fairview (ph.JM), 1 5/18 (BM) and 1 in Millcreek Twp 5/21 (JP).

Shorebirds: 1 **Ls. Golden-Plover** 4/30 (JM) and 1 5/23 (BS) were 2nd & 3rd spring records. The **Semipalmated Plover** 4/24 (JM) was earliest by 11 days. An **Am. Avocet** 4/22 (†JM) was the 3rd spring record. Single **Willet** 6/23 (JGS) and 6/24,25 (JGS,JM). 1 or 2 **Whimbrel** 5/25,28 (EK,GR) and 23 5/30 (BS). 35 **Red Knot**

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **American White Pelican**  
 Date of Sighting: **22 April 1992 to 22 April 1992**  
 Observer(s): **Geoff Robinson**  
 Date of Submission: **1992 Erie**  
 Submitted by: **Geoff Robinson**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater	X						
B. Haas	X						
F. Haas	X						
R. Ickes	X						
G. McWilliams	X						
S. Santner	X						
J. Skinner	X						
TOTALS	7						
DECISION	X						

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Date: 7/2/93