

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Neal G. Thorpe



*Locations: Barnes Arboretum (BA), Green Lane Res. (GLR), Fort Washington SP (FWSP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge Nat. Historic Park (VFNP).*

It was a beautiful, mild fall, mostly sunny, with strong northwest winds in Oct. to bring on migrants. Several observers, however, noted the scarcity of robins, waxwings, sparrows, and goldfinch and the total absence of Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Siskin. The Valley Forge CBC was held 12/31.

Four Red-throated Loon were at FWSP 10/12 and 2 on 10/23, the latter with 3 Common Loon; also 60 Tundra Swan were there 11/14 (W&NM). Double-crested Cormorant and Snow Goose numbers were down at GLR, with only one sighting of each, the single cormorant 11/6 (GLF) and the lone Snow Goose flying in with Canada Geese 12/11 (NT). Wood Duck continued to do well at UPVP, with a max. of 40 there 10/2 (GLF). Dabbling ducks seemed in customary numbers. Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, and Common Merganser were either low in numbers or late in all waters, but Bufflehead were abundant. A single Canvasback was at VFNP 12/17 (RG). At GLR an early Oldsquaw turned up 11/12, 2 on 12/11 and a rare Red-breasted Merganser was present 10/30 (GLF). Two Greater Scaup were in a pond just e. of Evansburg SP 12/31 (CG); but 47 Lesser Scaup at GLR 10/26 was a good count (RW). Hooded Merganser were in good numbers at UPVP from 11/21+, with a max. of 20 by 12/11.

The newly organized Militia Hill hawk watch report is elsewhere in this issue. Elsewhere, an ad. Red-shouldered Hawk was seen 11/25 at UPVP, where they have been scarce in recent years (GAF), and an imm. Golden Eagle was at VFNP 10/8 (RG).

Merlin reports are particularly interesting. The FWSP sightings were in October. JH reports from Hatboro that on 12/28 he found a Merlin perched in a tree bordering the soccer field of Pennypack Elem. School, just across Pennypack Cr. from his house. This was exactly the same date on which he saw a Merlin on the same perch in 1987. That Merlin intermittently visited the soccer field through March '88. The current Merlin was back again 12/31. The bird(s) of both years stays put for as long as an hour, occasionally flying to and from several perches, and seems undisturbed by the approach of a human with binoculars. He is most often found in the afternoons. And also on 12/31 Dan Brauning, doing the Valley Forge CBC, saw a Merlin over Norristown. Could the same bird be haunting the PA Tpk corridor between Hatboro and Norristown? What JH calls his birding "turf" around the school and creek seems to attract other good birds as well. A Sharp-shinned Hawk took a Starling near his feeder 12/9, a Great Horned Owl was both heard and seen 12/23, an Am. Woodcock came through 10/28, and a Winter Wren 10/30.

A very late Osprey was at GLR 11/13 (KC). A Cooper's Hawk was at BA 11/15 and 1 at GLR 11/24-26. A N. Goshawk was at GLR 11/24 (GAF). GLF counted 30 Ring-necked Pheasant at GLR 11/25, commenting, "One last stronghold!" Shorebird reports were all from GLR: A very late Semipalmated Plover 10/29-30 (GLF.KC); two different Hudsonian Godwit, 1 on 10/8-9 (GAF, GLF) and 1 on 11/5-6 (m.ob) for only the 3rd and 4th records; 2 juv. White-rumped Sandpiper 10/15 and 2 late 11/4-7 (m.ob.); a good count of 18 Pectoral Sandpiper seen 11/6 (RW) and 7 still there 11/16 (RW); 1 lingering Dunlin 11/17 (KC); a late Stilt Sandpiper 10/25 (RW.KC).

A Red-necked Phalarope was at GLR 10/12 (RW.ph.); at one point it swam to within 3 ft of the observer. Two Bonaparte's Gull were there 12/11 (NT). W&NM were surprised to see a Great Black-backed Gull at FWSP 11/6 in view of the absence of water there. A Common Barn-Owl was seen in the Red Hill area 12/7 (GAF), and the Barred Owl at VFNP, reported in March as a 1st record for the park, obliged the CBC 12/31 (RG). Chimney Swift were still being seen in the area as late as 10/19 (DT). A Pileated Woodpecker was found in the upper UCV 12/18 (GLF), where 4 pair bred this summer (WNM).



Red-necked Phalarope, Green Lane Res., 10/12/88. Photo by Rick Wiltraut.

Quite a few remarkably late birds were seen in the quarter, probably because of the mild weather. The CBC turned up three: 1 E. Phoebe, a House Wren, and a Brown Thrasher, all in VFNP 12/31. At GLR another House Wren was seen 11/25 and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 11/13 (GLF). Winter Wren were in good number: as well as JH's in Hatboro 1-2 were reported from GLR, BA, the river at MC, VFNP, and Perkiomenville, with dates from 10/7 to 12/21. An early Water Pipit was at GLR 10/1 (RW) and last seen 11/13 (GLF). A Red-eyed Vireo was at BA "among some of the last of the green leaves" 10/27 (RK), a Nashville Warbler was near Lansdale 11/16 (RG), while DT watched 4 Black-throated Blue gorging on aurelia berries for half an hour at FWSP 10/11, and a Black-throated Green was seen in JH's remarkable Hatboro schoolyard 10/14.

The max. 20 Savannah Sparrow at GLR were low (GAF). A Lincoln's Sparrow was at GLR 10/9 (GAF), plus 1 along the river near MC 11/7 (NT). DT writes, "At my feeder I have only an occasional single White-throated Sparrow." Ten to 15 Bobolink were at GLR 10/1 (RW). High count of Rusty Blackbird was 30 at GLR 10/15 (RW). Winter finches were nonexistent.

OBSERVERS: Kevin Criley, George A. Franchois, Gary L. Freed, Ron Grubb, Jeffrey Herbst, Rudy Keller, Bernie L. Morris, William & Naomi Murphy, Neal Thorpe, Box Q, Mont Clare 19453, Dale Twining.

## MONTOUR COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg



The 12/18 Bloomsburg CBC included Mute Swan, 685 Canada Geese, 2 Snow Geese (1 of each phase), 945 Mallard, 687 Am. Black Duck, 1 Mallard x Black hybrid, 2 Am. Wigeon, and 2 N. Pintail at Montour Preserve and the PP&L ash basin (DU). Earlier, on 11/26, 5 Gadwall were found at Montour Preserve. Barred Owl were reported near Chillisquaque Cr. in Nov. (DC).

OBSERVERS: Dave Conrad, Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Dave Unger.

## NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut



*Locations: Little Gap Bird Observatory (LGBO) for all raptors. The Wild Creek-Little Gap CBC was held 12/18.*

WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS. An early flock of 75 Snow Geese was observed flying over Williams Twp near Easton 10/4 (AK) and 225 Brant (an incredible number for PA.EDS.) were counted flying past the LGBO 10/29 (SB).

Four Black Vulture at LGBO 10/9 was good for that spot (RW.GY). It was a disappointing year for the Sharp-shinned Hawk; the best day was 145 on 10/11 (SB)! Nineteen Cooper's Hawk were seen 10/13 (SB), but N. Goshawk were again down in numbers, with a peak of only 3 at LGBO 10/30 (GY). Boyce counted 333 Red-tailed Hawk 11/17 and Yoder had a light-phase Rough-legged Hawk 10/21. A good count of 3 Golden Eagle was noted on the early date 10/7

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation – Historic Record**

Species: Red-necked Phalarope Phalaropus lobatus

Date of Sighting: 12 October 1988 to 12 October 1988

County : MONTGOMERY

Location : GREEN LANE RES.

Observer(s): Rick Wiltraut

Date of Submission: 2007

Submitted by: Historic Record

Written Description: No

Photo: Yes

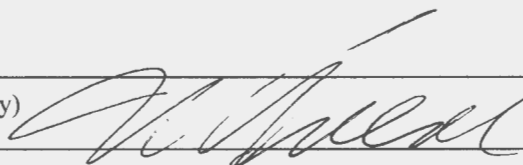
Specimen: No

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:

2/2/08