

794-02-1996

A Red-throated Loon was a good find on Beaver Run Reservoir 4/14 (Ken Byerly), and a rather late Red-necked Grebe was at Donegal Lake 4/30 (Bob Leberman). A Cattle Egret at Turner's Pond, near Slickville 4/14 was one of very few county records (KB, Dennis Lauffer). The Greater White-fronted Goose, that had appeared in the Ligonier area in March, was last seen on a small pond at Laughlinton 4/1-2 (H. Moore).

There was a major fallout of waterfowl in the Laurel Highlands 4/5. Every lake, reservoir and farm pond was "peppered" with ducks and grebes. At Donegal Lake, for example, Leberman estimated at least 4500 ducks--including 200+ Canvasback, 2500 Lesser Scaup, 200+ Oldsquaw, 350+ Bufflehead, and 600+ Ruddy Duck. There were two White-winged Scoter on Donegal that day; when Bob Mulvihill also found 2 White-wings on nearby Greenlick Dam and 2 on Mammoth Lake. A Black-bellied Plover on Beaver Run Reservoir 4/27 (DL) was an exceptional spring record for this region. A high count of 15 Forster's Tern was made at Donegal Lake 4/30 (KY Dick Byers); and a late Black Tern was there on 6/3 (BL). A back yard Northern Saw-whet Owl surprised Louise Carroll on 4/17 at Greensburg.

DL estimated 50 American Pipit at Slickville 4/11. Mary Shirland found a Brewster's Warbler at Murrysville 4/27; and a male Brewster's banded at Powdermill 5/30 was apparently a breeding bird that was recaptured 6/8. Another highlight of the PNR banding program was a Lawrence's Warbler 5/19. The only Orange-crowned Warbler was netted at PNR 5/9.

The bird of the season, however, was a Painted Bunting. A second-year bird in green plumage (but probably male based on measurements), was trapped and banded at PNR on 5/5 when it had no fat and weighed just under 14 g; it was rehandled several times through the 13th, when it was found to have very large fat deposits, and weighed just over 18 g. During this period the bird was seen by at least 50 observers. This was the first confirmed record of a wild Painted Bunting for southwestern Pennsylvania. Another regional rarity, a Clay-colored Sparrow (second year male), was banded at PNR 5/15 and retrapped the next day. Helen Schmidt gave a good description of 2 Pine Grosbeak at her feeding station near Ligonier 4/17.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

Date of Sighting: 5 May 1996 to 13 May 1996

Location: POWDERMILL NATURE RESERVE

County: WESTMORELAND

Observer(s): Robert Leberman

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Robert Leberman

Written Description: YES Photo: YES Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
N. Pulcinella	X							
E. Kwater	X							
R. Ickes	X							
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe	X							
S. Feldstein	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

J. C. Haas

Date:

2-22-97