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Cover: **Common Redpoll** (*Carduelis flammea*). The winter of 2007-2008 will be remembered for its significant irruption of Common Redpolls into Pennsylvania. This remarkable portrait was made at Lehigh Gap Wildlife Refuge on the *Lehigh/Carbon* border 4 January 2008 (*Dustin Welch*).

Our Brave New World

This issue features a somewhat unconventional, but topical, feature article: the discovery of Pennsylvania's much-expected but no less amazing first Slaty-backed Gull. The unconventional bit is that much of the article's action took place in New York and not Pennsylvania. But the article remains relevant to this journal for many reasons. Of course, it documents a potential first state record for Pennsylvania. It also covers Slaty-backed Gull identification, and it details the growing phenomenon of Slaty-backed Gull occurrence in the US and Canada outside of Alaska, a topic about which all of Pennsylvania's gull enthusiasts are keenly aware.

But in my view, the most interesting aspect of this article is the way it so clearly demonstrates the role that digital photography, combined with the speed of the internet, now plays in the world of birding. It goes without saying that even ten years ago, not only would news of this bird spread at what now seems an impossibly slow pace, but likely it would not have come close to acceptance to the Pennsylvania state list. [An editor's note to the editorial is important here: as of this writing, the subject bird is not yet officially reviewed by PORC.]

Only by heroic feats of digiscoping in adverse conditions were photographs of the bird obtained, photographs that would have well been impossible before the advent of digital. It's not unreasonable to think that a potential state first—viewed from such great distance in relatively poor light and supported only by field notes—would not have made the grade no matter how good the notes were. And this is not a knock on the field skills of those involved, it's a plain fact: extraordinary claims often require extraordinary proof. But as more birders than ever pack digital photography equipment as standard field issue, extraordinary proof is becoming ordinary.

That this specific individual gull was so quickly recognized as the same bird appearing in three different

regions (Pembroke, ON, Ithaca, NY, and Tullytown, PA) is nothing short of revolutionary. In the past, published documentation of this bird would have been limited to a writeup and a few photos in a journal like this, and would have reached only its readers, few of whom read other regional journals extensively (and vice versa). I think very highly of *Pennsylvania Birds*, of course, but I don't think that it's read widely in Ontario or even in Ithaca. If this were ten years ago, even well after the fact when any photographs from PA, NY, and ON were published wherever they may, I think at best the New York bird would have been merely suspected to be the same as the Pennsylvania bird based on geographic proximity alone, and almost certainly, the Ontario bird would never have entered the discussion. All three might eventually have been recognized as the same bird, but only by a stroke of luck, perhaps if some reader in Ontario happened upon a back issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*, or if a photo made its way into *North American Birds*.

Today, when the light reflected by a Slaty-backed Gull standing on a garbage dump in southeastern Pennsylvania can be translated from the camera's image sensor to worldwide availability online in mere minutes, we are afforded so much more insight into and understanding of the movements of these birds than ever before. Now we can see, with a minimum of doubt, that this was a single gull wandering the northeast for a winter before heading back from whence it came.

This is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the power of digital photography, but with this new power comes an equally revolutionary dark side. The temptation to rely too heavily on the camera for the purpose of learning the basics of identification is a real danger for beginning birders. This really is a Brave New World for us birders... but that's a topic for another editorial.

Photographic Highlights

I'm pleased to be able to include an

expanded Photographic Highlights section in this issue, topped off by three full pages of winter finch images. Pennsylvania photographers did a wonderful job documenting the irruption this year, particularly the redpolls. And in keeping with the theme of this editorial, I must say it's no mystery how it happened that so many outstanding redpoll images were made this season. The irruption itself was good but certainly didn't shatter any records. It wasn't that the birds were more available and more accessible than they have been in past invasions, it simply was the first major irruption of the digital photography era, coming at a time when more birders than ever had cameras and flash cards at the ready. The top-rate photography featured in this issue is the new standard of the times, to be sure. So to all the contributors to this installment, keep the good stuff coming, and to any would-be contributors out there, please consider sharing your work with us.

Compiler News

Cameron Rutt is graduating this year, and so this season's report is his last as *Cumberland* compiler. Cameron's reports were always concise yet thoughtful, and always impeccably written. I envision great things for this young Pennsylvania birder. **Vern Gauthier** has agreed to take up the reigns for *Cumberland*, and though he has a tough act to follow, we're sure he's up to the task and look forward to continued excellence in reporting for this county. See Vern's contact information in the Local Notes. Also departing the ranks of the compilers is *Wyoming's Rebecca Lesko*, which is unfortunate not only because of the quality of Rebecca's reports, but also because this continues a trend of vacant compilerships in the northeastern counties. If you are interested in compiling for any vacant county (*Blair, Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Lackawanna, Lycoming, McKean, Northumberland, Pike, Wayne, and Wyoming*), contact the chief editor.

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A Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus shistisagus*) in Pennsylvania [... and Ontario, and New York...]

Tom Johnson

During the past few years, sightings of Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus shistisagus*) have increased across Canada and the Lower 48 United States (hereafter, the Lower 48), and finding this species has been near the front of many birders' minds in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the eastern US. The winter of 2007-2008 saw an unprecedented number of reports of Slaty-backed Gulls in North America outside of Alaska, including Pennsylvania's first documented sighting detailed in this paper. Photographic evidence suggests that the individual gull that others and I observed during its fleeting visit to Pennsylvania was actually reported before in Ontario (in November 2007) and afterward in New York (in January-March 2008).

The Pennsylvania Sighting

I was birding with Andy McGann, Justin Bosler, and Devin Bosler on 21 December 2007 in Tullytown (Bucks County), easily the best site to watch gulls in Pennsylvania and probably the entire eastern United States. Upon arriving at Franklin Cove adjacent to the Tullytown Landfill, we were all very pleased to see a large number of gulls standing on an ice sheet, and a much larger number of gulls up on the side of the landfill. A few scans through the closer gulls on the ice revealed high numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a handful of "Kumlien's" Iceland

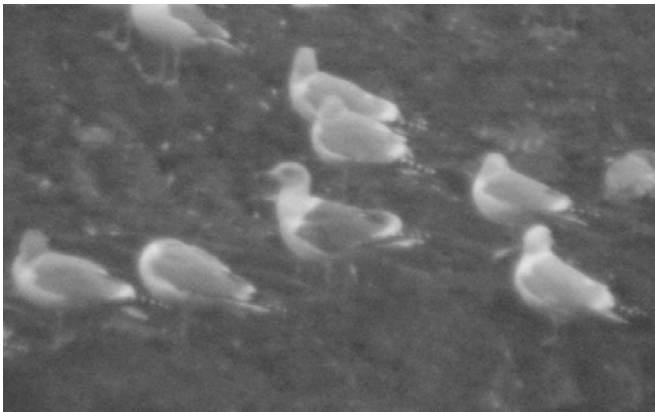


Plate 1: Slaty-backed Gull at Tullytown, PA (21 Dec 2007), in profile, showing deep-bellied structure, head smudging, mostly dark bill, spacing of primary apical spots, darker mantle relative to nearby Herring Gulls, and broad tertial crecent, all consistent with closer observations/photos from Ithaca, NY (Tom Johnson)

and Glaucous gulls among the standard legions of Herring, Great Black-backed, and Ring-billed gulls.

I began to search through the gulls resting on the side of the landfill across the cove, and soon settled on a bulky gull with dark upperparts and large white tertial crescents on the folded wing. This bird was larger than Herring Gulls around it and had dark pink legs and upperparts coloration similar to some nearby Lesser Black-backed Gulls. I recognized it as a Slaty-backed Gull. Andy, Justin, and Devin quickly got on the bird in their scopes; I took a few digiscoped photos and we all took field notes, further noting dark feathering around the eye, light head and neck streaking, and a smudgy dark bill with a pale tip. The gull obligingly stretched its wings while I was viewing it through the scope, showing off white tips and subterminal "moons" on its outer primaries. After sitting in view for about 10 minutes, the gull flew off the side of the landfill toward us, banked over Franklin Cove and showing its wings nicely, including the pale gray undersurfaces of the primaries and the broad white trailing edge to the secondaries, and landed back near where it had been sitting originally.

Other birders that came looking for the gull that day were unsuccessful in relocating it; shortly after I phoned in the report to other birders, the gull disappeared back into the swirling matrix of white, gray, and black that is the Tullytown gull flock. Fortunately, Devich Farbotnik relocated the bird the next day (22 December 2007) at a nearby lake and was able to show it to several other birders. Devich obtained video of it both on the water and taking off in flight.

I made several return visits to the Tullytown area looking for the gull without success. To my knowledge, no

one saw the Slaty-backed Gull until 16 January 2008 when I refound it at Franklin Cove. During this observation, lighting conditions were somewhat better and the bird appeared darker-mantled, but time of observation was limited. This was my last opportunity to study gulls in Bucks County before returning to college for the start of the spring semester, so I said goodbye to the Slaty-backed Gull and headed off to school.



Plate 2: Slaty-backed Gull at Tullytown, PA (22 Dec 2007), spread wing suggesting "string of pearls". (Devich Farbotnik)

The New York Sighting

However, it turned out that I had not seen the last of this Slaty-backed Gull. Two days after I returned to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York (22 January 2008), Jay McGowan discovered a Slaty-backed Gull at the university composting site. I was able to observe, photograph, and draw the gull that day at close range and many times thereafter; this bird eventually proved to be very cooperative over its one-and-a-half month stay in Ithaca (22 January – 5 March 2008). One morning I even saw the gull cruising over my apartment between its roost at the south end of Cayuga Lake and its favored feeding area at the Cornell compost site!

Due to the reduced amount of white in the primary tips, a notable amount of pale streaking in the wing coverts and tertials, and the amount of black on the bill, it is likely that the Ithaca gull was in its third plumage cycle, and after extended observation, I concluded that the Ithaca gull was actually the same individual that I found earlier in the winter in



Plate 3: Slaty-backed Gull at Ithaca, NY (27 Jan 2008), spread upperwing showing "string of pearls", gray inner vanes on primaries, wide white trailing edge of secondaries, pale brownish wash to some wing coverts. (Tom Johnson)

Pennsylvania.

This conclusion is based on documented similarities in wing condition (cleanly dark and adult-like but with pale streaking through the coverts and tertials), overall coloration (similar to *graellsii* Lesser Black-backed Gull, lighter than most adult Slaty-backed Gulls), primary pattern (evidenced by photos and sketches from PA and close-up photos from Ithaca), bill pattern (mostly dark with pale tip and mandible base), and facial pattern (dark area around/below eye and bordering the auriculars).

While trying to learn more about other Slaty-backed Gull sightings in the Lower 48 and Canada this winter, I was perusing some photos and reports online when I noticed some interesting photos of a now familiar-looking Slaty-backed Gull from Ontario, Canada taken in November 2007. Indeed, upon closer inspection, it was obvious that this was the same gull that had appeared in Ithaca, NY. The Ithaca Slaty-backed Gull showed a small aberration in wing pattern - a small white mirror on its left P9 (second outermost primary feather on the left wing) that was not present on its right P9. Comparing photos from Ithaca to the photos from Ontario shows the same quirk in primary pattern, as well as identical pale streaking through the wing coverts, and identical bill and facial pattern. Chris Michener had found the gull on 20 November 2007 at

the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre near Pembroke, Ontario, and it had remained there until 27 November 2007.

In summary, it seems that this Slaty-backed Gull turned up in Ontario in late November, traveled to Pennsylvania and was seen from late December through mid-January, and then traveled to Ithaca where it was seen from late January through early March. But perhaps most interestingly, while this one individual gull has certainly garnered a lot of attention, there is almost certainly a much broader and increasing trend of wintering Slaty-backed Gulls in the Lower 48 and Canada.

Slaty-backed Gull: Status in North America

The Slaty-backed Gull, an Asian bird, usually occurs in North America only in western Alaska. In the winter of 1983-1984, the first North American Slaty-backed Gull outside of Alaska and British Columbia showed up along the Mississippi River in St. Louis, Missouri (Goetz et al. 1986). Until recently, the species has remained an extremely rare visitor to the Lower 48 and Canada, most often in the Pacific Northwest.

Recently, however, the species' wintering status has changed. I tracked Lower 48 and Canada reports of Slaty-backed Gulls for the winter of

2007-2008, and found reports of 29 different sightings of the species (these were reports deemed acceptable by the author, not necessarily records endorsed by regional bird records committees). This total was much higher than the 11 found in winter 2006-2007 (Liff and Lovitch 2007), which at the time was a huge total. All winter 2007-2008 reports of Slaty-backed Gull in the Lower 48 and Canada were of birds found between 35 and 50 degrees north latitude. Though not particularly surprising, it is worthwhile to note that this latitude zone is mirrored in the core winter range of the species in eastern Asia (Howell and Dunn 2007).

At present, I am not aware of any particularly compelling theories that explain why Slaty-backed Gull records are increasing so dramatically in the Lower 48 and Canada. Investigation into potential population size changes and potential changes in wintering distribution, or migration phenology in Asia, would be needed to draw any solid conclusions about this phenomenon. I do suspect that, to at least some extent, a contributing factor is the ever-increasing interest in gulls among the birding community, as well as increased awareness of Slaty-backed Gull occurrence and identification.



Plate 4: Slaty-backed Gull at Ithaca, NY (27 Jan 2008), underwing showing gray/white/black tri-tone effect caused by the gray inner vanes of the primaries, "string of pearls" obvious. (Tom Johnson)

Identification

The general topic of Slaty-backed Gull identification is still not completely solved, mostly due to uncertainty regarding the status of hybridization between Slaty-backed Gull and other northern Pacific taxa such as Glaucous-winged and Vega gulls. It has been suggested that hybrids might constitute some of the records from the Eastern United States which were of fairly pale-mantled adults (King and Carey 1999). As of

this writing, I have found no references describing the variation of mantle color in subadult Slaty-backed Gull; therefore, at present I find it reasonable to consider the Ontario/Pennsylvania/New York bird a pure Slaty-backed Gull even though its mantle would be considered suspiciously pale (and thus suggestive of hybrid ancestry) if it was an adult.

Thoughts on upperparts coloration in adult Slaty-backed Gulls have varied considerably over time. Gustafson and Peterjohn (1994) suggest that the mantle shade of adult Slaty-backed Gulls varies from slightly darker than California Gull (light end) to darker than wymani Western Gull (dark end). However, more recently, King and Carey (1999) reported that they could not find significant variation in upperparts coloration of adult Slaty-backed Gulls in the field, and that paler birds observed out of range should be scrutinized carefully for signs of hybridization.



Plate 6: Slaty-backed Gull at Ithaca, NY (27 Jan 2008), in flight showing head streaking and "string of pearls". (Tom Johnson)

However, the bird in question is clearly not an adult since it shows a combination of pale-marked wing coverts and tertials, reduced apical spots on the outer primaries, blackish spotting on the tail, and a bill with considerable amounts of black. Without considerable field experience with the species, and a lack of published description of variation in upperparts coloration of subadult Slaty-backed Gulls, I find it difficult to know what to think of the Ontario/Pennsylvania/New York bird's upperparts coloration, which appeared at times slightly lighter or very similar to nearby graellsii Lesser Black-backed Gull, certainly lighter than typical adult Slaty-backed Gulls. So, though I thought the bird to be a Slaty-backed



Plate 5: Slaty-backed Gull (right) at Ithaca, NY (23 Jan 2008), profile in comparison to Herring Gull showing bulky structure with deep belly, bright pink legs (in original color photo), and fierce look; note the primary step (gap) between P7 and P8, also noted on bird at Tullytown, PA. (Tom Johnson)

Gull from the outset, I decided to be safe and take King and Carey's advice, and have studied the bird carefully for any other phenotypic signs of hybridization aside from mantle coloration.

Physical Description of the Gull

Size & structure: large; intermediate between Herring and Great Black-backed Gull with proportionately small head and large chest and belly; medium-length wings for a large gull, with 2-3 primary tips extending beyond the tail at rest.

Head: pale with dark brown smudging around eye, especially below eye; another dark smudge along frame of auriculars, and lighter brown streaking on crown and down the back of the neck; also brown streaking extending down along breast, forming breastband of spotting pointed at the center.

Bill: fairly long and sturdy without strong gonydeal angle; extensive pale horn-colored mandible base, tip of maxilla and mandible, and spotting around nares; rest of bill dark brown to blackish; at distance, appears black with pale tip.

Eye: irides straw colored, flecked with brown/black.

Legs: dark pink/purple; medium length with a short length of tibia exposed below feathering when standing.

Tail: white with several small, barely noticeable black spots near tip.

Tertials: wide white tips forming broad white crescent at rest, bases dark gray with pale mottling and small amounts of black mottling.

Upperwing coverts: dark gray streaked with low-contrast pale markings suggesting subadult plumage.

Scapulars/Mantle: uniformly clean dark gray, rear/lower scapulars tipped widely with white, forming a second crescent on the folded wing.



Plate 7: Slaty-backed Gull at Ithaca, NY (27 Jan 2008), profile showing the details of folded primaries well, including underside of left P10. (Tom Johnson)

Primaries: on folded wing, 4-5 primary tips visible beyond tertials, with a noticeable gap between the tips of P8 and P7; P5-P10 with small, isolated white tips and variable black subterminal markings, ranging from a small black subterminal band across P5 to extensive black on the majority of the outer vanes of P8-P10; inner vanes



Plate 8: Slaty-backed Gull at Ithaca, NY (27 Jan 2008), in profile showing upperparts tone, pink legs (in original color photo), wide white tertial crescent, light blotchy streaking on head/neck. (Tom Johnson)

of all primaries gray except for white/black near tips; large white mirror on P10 on both inner and outer vane; white “moons” or tongue tips on P5-P8, “forming string of pearls”; left P9 has small round white mirror, but this is absent on right P9; otherwise, primary pattern is symmetrical; underside of primaries mostly pale gray except for subterminal black and white forming obvious “string of pearls”.

Secondaries: dark gray with broad white tips clearly wider than any other local taxa (Herring, Great Black-backed, Lesser Black-backed, Ring-billed), especially obvious in flight.

Elimination of other species/hybrids:

Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) [Unrecorded in Pennsylvania]: Though mantle color is similar to paler Western Gulls, this gull had stronger head streaking and a slimmer bill than is typical for Western Gull. Furthermore, the large amount of white in the primaries eliminates Western Gull, as does the degree of gray on the underside of the primaries, where Western Gull would show much darker coloration.

Great Black-backed Gull (*L. marinus*) [A common wintering gull in eastern Pennsylvania]: The gull was noticeably smaller than Great Black-

backed Gulls in the immediate area with a significantly paler mantle than all Great Black-backed.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*) [An uncommon to locally common wintering gull in eastern Pennsylvania, uncommon on Lake Erie, and casual to accidental elsewhere in the state]: This gull was significantly larger than Lesser Black-backed Gull but had a similar mantle tone compared to birds seen in eastern North America—the western Lesser Black-backed Gull, (*L. f. graellsii*). Most adult and near-adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls show yellowish legs, though some apparently pure birds have pinkish legs (the Slaty-backed showed dark pink/purple legs). This gull showed a shorter wing point in relation to the tail, wider trailing edge to the secondaries, thicker bill, and much more white in the primaries than Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Vega (Herring) Gull (*L. argentatus vegae*) – [unrecorded in Pennsylvania; still considered by the AOU to be a subspecies of Herring Gull but regarded by many authorities to be a separate species, *L. vegae*]: Though this gull (and Slaty-backed Gull in general) has a “string of pearls” primary pattern similar to Vega Gull, its mantle is darker than found in Vega, which itself is darker than American Herring Gull, *L. a. smithsonianus*, and the bird’s

thick, deep-bellied structure is atypical for Vega.

Western Gull x Glaucous-winged Gull (*L. occidentalis* x *L. glaucescens*) [Unrecorded in Pennsylvania]: Western Gull x Glaucous-winged Gull hybrids are very common on the west coast of the United States and outnumber pure birds in some locations. Due to apparently clinal phenotypes ranging from paler birds in the north (where Glaucous-winged is common) to darker birds in the south (where Western Gull prevails), this hybrid is quite variable in appearance. Though many characters of these hybrids can approach Slaty-backed Gull in appearance (primary pattern, upperparts coloration), the combination on the subject bird of a thinner, less angular bill, deep-bellied structure, dark upperparts—darker than many Western x Glaucous-winged hybrids, and a classic “string of pearls” primary pattern showing no gray bleeding into areas that should be black, eliminates this hybrid combination.

Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gull (*L. fuscus* x *L. argentatus*) [Rare in winter in eastern Pennsylvania]: Lesser Black-backed Gull x Herring Gull hybrids are probably only safely identifiable in adult plumage. Most individuals of this hybrid combination show characters intermediate between the two parent species, with upperparts lighter than *graellsii* Lesser Black-backed Gull, and pink or pinkish legs. However, these hybrids come nowhere near matching the bulk, size (hybrids are generally smaller than Herring Gull, much smaller than Slaty-backed Gull), primary pattern, or wide white secondary bar seen on the subject bird.



Plate 9: Slaty-backed Gull at Ithaca, NY (27 Jan 2008), showing straw-colored eye (in original color photo), dusky smudging around eye and along auricular frame; also showing stout dark bill with horn-colored tip and spots. (Tom Johnson)



Plate 10: Locations of Slaty-backed Gulls in the Lower 48 and Canada during winter 2007-2008. Created using Google Maps <<http://maps.google.com>>.

Conclusion

Careful study of the subject gull in Pennsylvania and New York has convinced me that it is a pure Slaty-backed Gull and that other species and various hybrid combinations can be ruled out with a high degree of certainty. If accepted by the respective regional bird records committees, this individual would represent the fourth or fifth record for Ontario (Ian Richards, Ontario Bird Records Committee, pers. comm., 20 February 2008), the fourth or fifth record for New York (Jeanne Skelly, New York State Avian Records Committee, pers. Comm., 21 February 2008), and the first record for Pennsylvania. The photographic documentation of an individual vagrant gull at three sites in separate states/provinces is likely a novel case, and certainly highlights positive effects of modern photography and the communication of bird reports and photographs via the internet.

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FIFTEENTH REPORT

of the

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

May 2008

Nick Pulcinella, PORC Secretary, for the Committee

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter PORC or the Committee) evaluates documentation it receives of any record of a species or recognizable form that is on the Review List for Pennsylvania. In addition it reviews documentation to new species or new subspecies for the state. This report covers 143 records of 66 species. The 131 records accepted, of 61 species, represent an acceptance rate of 92%.

Highlights include the first records for Long-billed Curlew, Fork-tailed Flycatcher and Redwing; third and fourth records for Black-bellied Whistling-Duck; third through sixth records for California Gull; fourth records for American Oystercatcher and Long-tailed Jaeger; first record for "Lesser" Sandhill Crane. The Committee, at its annual meeting in July 2007, also agreed to accept Trumpeter Swan to the state list based on the fact that the species is a regular annual visitor and that states (except for NY) that have re-introduction programs accept the species as established. The addition of the four new records brings the state total to 408 species (Pulcinella 2006).

The Committee received reports from 36 counties. The top five counties reporting were Bucks (28), Erie (25), Lancaster (16), Northampton (8), and Berks (5). The Committee encourages observers to document their sightings with photographs, videos or sound recordings when possible. The advent of digital photography has greatly increased the number of definitive photographs the Committee receives. Unfortunately, these very sharp, clear images are not always accompanied by written documentation. The Committee emphasizes that the primary point of any documentation of a rare bird should be a detailed written description. Supporting written documentation may add details such as missing field marks or behavior notes.

For tips and guidelines on documenting rare birds, observers are encouraged to consult the Committee's web pages at <http://www.pabirds.org>, Dittman and Lasley 1992, and PORC 2000.

Documentation can be submitted to Nick Pulcinella, PORC Secretary, 613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380, nickpulcinella@verizon.net.

Committee News

The Committee membership during this report period consisted of Eric Witmer (chair), Al Guarente, Jonathan Heller, Tom Johnson, Geoff Malosh, Jerry Stanley and Rick Wiltraut. Nick Pulcinella is the non-voting secretary. Recent members who voted on some records in this report include George Armistead, Paul Guris and Dan Heathcote. During 2007 Stanley's term ended and Ben Coulter was elected as a voting member.

Since the last Committee report in September 2006, several changes were made to the Review List. Removed from the list were: *Great Cormorant*, *Cattle Egret*, *Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*, *Glossy Ibis*, *Whimbrel*, *Hudsonian*

Godwit, *Marbled Godwit*, *Purple Sandpiper*, *Pomarine Jaeger*, *Parasitic Jaeger*, *Franklin's Gull*, *Little Gull*, *Eurasian Collared-Dove*, *Sedge Wren*, *Blue Grosbeak* and *Yellow-headed Blackbird*. The adult-only exemption for *Thayer's Gull* was removed; PORC will review all Thayer's Gull reports. Specific county exemptions noted with the Review List were also removed.



Plate 1. Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee 22 July 2007. Left to right: Nick Pulcinella, Jonathan Heller, Al Guarente, Tom Johnson, Geoff Malosh and Eric Witmer (not pictured Jerry Stanley and Rick Wiltraut).

Also at the July 2007 PORC meeting, the Committee decided to tackle the problem of acceptance of Barnacle Goose records. Discussion revolved around whether the occurrence of this species in Pennsylvania is the result of wild birds or those released or escaped from captivity. Most reports of Barnacle Geese in Pennsylvania occur during the expected migration periods for waterfowl, and the species is often seen associating with species which occur within the Barnacle Goose breeding range (e.g., Greater White-fronted Goose). It was decided to re-review each Barnacle Goose report and make decision on acceptance on a case-by-case basis.

The Committee has a presence on the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology web site <www.pabirds.org> where PORC's pages include the Official State List, the Review List of species requiring documentation, tips for improving documentation of rarities, and a documentation form that can be downloaded. The site also contains information about the functions of the Committee.

Classification of Records

Class I: An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph or a diagnostic recording. Suffixes appended to Class I records are (p) photograph, (r) sound recording, (a) audiotape, (v) videotape, (s) specimen.

Class II: An accepted sight record documented independently by two or more observers.

Class III: An accepted sight record documented by one observer.

The Official State List must meet Class I, II, or III to be listed.

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 doubt.

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 record is correct, but the bird represents an escapee or an introduced species not established in Pennsylvania

Format of this Report

The records are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds (AOU 1998) and supplements. 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 that there are accepted records prior to the formation of PORC. Each accepted record includes the locality, county and date(s) when known. In many cases, dates are taken from the seasonal reports published in *Pennsylvania Birds*. Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the initials of the observer(s) responsible for finding and/or identifying the bird, if known, followed by a semicolon, then the names of those who submitted documentation (in alphabetical order). Following the list of observers is the record's classification and the PORC record number. This is followed by the Committee's vote tally for each record. All photographs, video and sound recordings are currently being held with the Secretary until a permanent location is established. An (*) after a species name indicates that the species is no longer on the PORC review list.

Abbreviations: CBC = Christmas Bird Count, et al. = and others, m.obs. = multiple observers Mt = Mountain, NAB = North American Birds, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, PB = Pennsylvania Birds, Res. = Reservoir, Rd. = Road, SGL = State Game Lands, S. P. State Park, Twp. = Township, WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) (4)

Four at a small farm pond near Pleasantville, *Berks*, 4-18 June 2006. (PO, RK; TA (p), PF, TJ (p), GM (p), NP, m.obs.; Class I; 102-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:143 and NAB V60:594. One at the Alcoa Marsh, *Lancaster*, 24 June – 6 July 2006. (LS; TJ (p), m.obs.; Class I; 102-02-2006). 6/0. These reports were part of an incursion of this species into the northeast and Midwest during Spring/Summer 2006.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) (6+)*

One at Neville Island, *Allegheny*, 18 February - 4 March 2005. (GM (p), MV, et al.; Class I; 110-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19: 55 and NAB V59:261. PORC will no longer review any reports after 2005.

Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*) (6+)

One male at the Alcoa Marsh, *Lancaster*, 24 January – 6 February 2006. (LC; TA (p), TJ (p); Class I; 119a-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:39. This race of the Green-winged Teal is probably a regular but rare spring migrant in the state and probably overlooked because of its similarity to Green-winged Teal. In Europe, Eurasian or Common Teal is considered a separate species from Green-winged Teal.



Plate 2. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). This bird at Pleasantville, *Berks*, 12 June 2006 (*Tom Amico*) was one of two records of this species for 2006 and part of a moderate movement of birds north and west from their southern breeding grounds.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) (19+)*

One male on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in Wayne Twp., *Clinton*, 13 March 2005. (CH, ChH; Class III; 135-01-2005). 6/0. One male at Beaver Run Res., *Westmoreland*, 25 March 2005. (DB, KB; Class III; 135-03-2005). 7/0. Another male at Lake Arthur, *Butler*, 29 October - 4 November 2005. (PH, et al; Class III; 135-02-2005). 6/0. This species continues to be annual especially in spring with multiple records each year across the state. PORC will no longer review reports of this species after 2005.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) (7+)

One immature male seen in flight as it passed Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 23 December 2006. (JMW; Class III; 145-01-2006). 7/0. All but two of the accepted records have been from Presque Isle Stet Park.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (11+)

A male and female were at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 16 December 2005. (JMW (p); Class I; 149-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V20:39 and NAB V60:229. This pair flew in and landed along the shoreline while McWilliams was doing a waterbird count. The male was described as a first winter bird.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) (4+)

One first-year bird at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 26 November 2005. (BC (p); Class I; 065-01-2005). 6/0. Another first year

in Ashland, *Schuylkill*, 19 October 2005. (Hawk Mt. Staff; Class I; 065-02-2005). 6/0. The *Schuylkill* bird was found dead on a highway and delivered to Hawk Mt. The specimen was view by the Committee during its meeting at the Hawk Mt. Acopian Center 7 December 2005.



Plate 3. Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*). This first year bird was found dead along a highway in *Schuylkill*, 19 October 2005. The committee viewed the specimen during its 2005 meeting at the Acopian Center for Conservation Learning at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (*Nick Pulcinella*).

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) (6)

One female seen soaring over the Buckingham Hawk Watch near Forest Grove Rd, *Bucks*, 19 September 2005. (MH, KM, LM, et al; Class II; 074-01-2005). 7/0. This is the first accepted fall record. One female at Exton, *Chester*, 4 May 2006. (CCh; NP (p); 074-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V 20:64. The *Chester* report is the first photographed in the state. (Chalfant 2006).



Plate 4. Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*). This female was present briefly at Exton, *Chester*, 4 May 2006 (*Nick Pulcinella*).

Cattle Egret (*Bulbulcis ibis*) (9+)*

One at Miller's Pond, *Crawford* 12-13 November 2005. (GM (p), et al; Class I; 089-01-2005). One in Tullytown, *Bucks*, 13 April 2006. (HE (p); Class I; 089-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:79. One at Maple Knoll Farms, *Bucks*, 6 November 2006. (RS, VS (p); Class I; 089-03-2006). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V20:201. The Maple Knoll

Farms bird was also unusual for its late date. PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) (5+)*

An adult at Kiwanis Park, *York*, 9 July 2005. (GM (p); Class I; 092-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19(3) cover and NAB V59:592. One immature at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 1-12 September 2005. (AM; HE (p), et al.; Class I; 092-03-2005). 6/1. Photograph published in PB V19:218. Another immature at Blue Marsh Lake, *Berks*, 3 September 2005. (JS (p); Class I; 092-02-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19: 218. One adult in Perkasio, *Bucks*, 3 May 2006. (MBP (p); Class I; 092-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:79. The Kiwanis Park bird is part of a small nesting colony there. PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (15+)*

One adult in Fayetteville, *Franklin*, 8-11 April 2005. (CG, DG (p), BK, RR (p), et al; Class I; 095-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:124. This species continues to be annual in Pennsylvania. PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.

Plegadis, sp. (*Plegadis species*) (7+)*

One immature at the Penn-Warner Club, *Bucks*, 20 July 2006. (CR (p); AM; Class I; 095a-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:144. Two observed in flight at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 27 September 2006. (KR; Class III; 095-02-2006). 6/1. The July photo shows an immature dark ibis most likely a Glossy but White-faced Ibis, a species not yet recorded in Pennsylvania, could not be completely ruled out. PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.

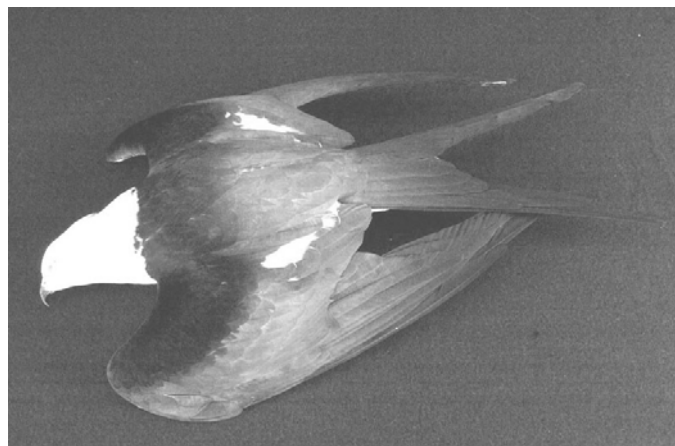


Plate 5. Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). This bird was found moribund in a field near Octoraro Creek, *Lancaster*, 13 March 2005 (*Tom Amico*). The bird succumbed and is now in the display collection at Middle Creek WMA.

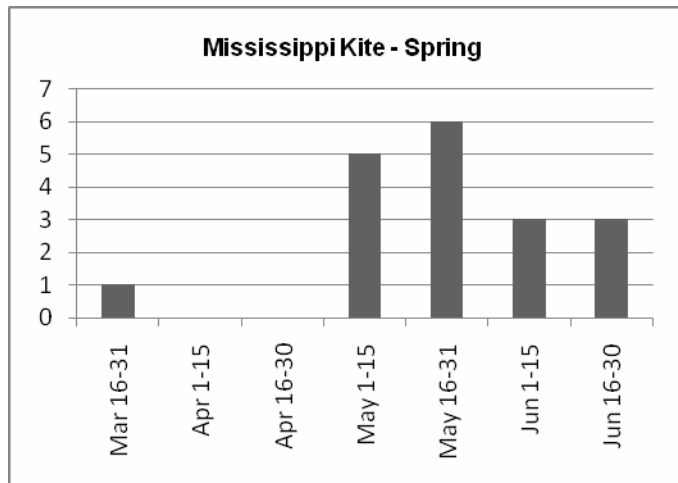
Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (8+)

One near Octoraro Creek, *Lancaster*, 13 March 2005. (CP; TA, BS; Class I; 168-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:124 and NAB V59:430. One observed in flight near Sugar Bay, *McKean*, 31 August 2005. (JF; Class III; 168-02-2005). 7/0. Price found the *Lancaster* bird moribund in a field. The bird succumbed and was given to Schutsky who in turn delivered the carcass to the staff at Middle Creek WMA. The staff was able to have the skin prepared as a display specimen, which is now in the collection at Middle

Creek WMA. The *McKean* bird was observed briefly as it flew just above the treetops.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (17+)

An adult female observed during the Pennsylvania Migration Count at Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks*, 14 May 2005. (BE; Class III; 171-01-2005). 6/0. One sub-adult observed in flight with Broad-winged Hawks over Hawk Mountain, *Berks*, 11 September 2006. (AK, KM, LM, SS; Class II; 171-02-2006). 7/0.



Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) (3+)*

One immature at Beltzville S.P., *Carbon*, 10-15 January 2005. (RRh (p); Class I; 184-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:56 and NAB V59:261. Extremely rare in winter in North America outside of south FL, the series of photographs eliminates the similar Red-shouldered Hawk. PORC will no longer review winter reports of this species after 2006.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) (4+)

One at Pine Run, *Bucks*, 31 October – 7 November 2006. (AM; DF (p), KR, et al.; Class I; 231-01-2006). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V20:201 and NAB V61:64. This species is probably a regular, rare fall migrant through the state. Because of its small size and secretive behavior, it can be frustratingly difficult to locate. This bird was photographed at night with the aid of a spotlight.



Plate 6. Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). Present at Pine Run, *Bucks*, 31 October-7 November 2006 it was photographed here at night with the aid of a spotlight (*Devich Farbotnik*).

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyula martinica*) (3+)

One immature near Macungie, *Lehigh*, 1-14 October 2006. (LLe; TJ (p), GM (p), BMo (p), CR (p), m.obs.; Class I; 242-01-2006). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V20:174-175 and NAB V61:180. Levengood who was doing some casual birding at the pond “to see if anything was around” discovered this bird at a housing development retention pond. During its stay the bird proved very cooperative allowing leisurely study and excellent photographs.



Plate 7. Purple Gallinule (*Porphyula martinica*). This immature was discovered at a housing development retention pond near Macungie, *Lehigh*, 1 October 2006 and remained there for two weeks. Photographed here 7 October 2006 (*Tom Johnson*).

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis canadensis*) (14+)*

One in Greenfield Twp., *Erie*, 30 December 2005. (JMW (p); Class I; 248-01-2005). 6/1. Photograph published in PB V20:6. The photos submitted clearly show the smaller “Lesser” Sandhill Crane in direct comparison with the larger “Greater” Sandhill Cranes. This is the first documented record of this subspecies. (McWilliams 2006).



Plate 8. “Lesser” Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis canadensis*). This bird was photographed in direct comparison with the larger “Greater” Sandhill Crane 30 December 2005 in Greenfield Twp., *Erie* (*Jerry McWilliams*) and was the first documented record of this subspecies.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (13+)

One at the Penn Warner Tract, *Bucks*, 2 April 2005. (DF (p); BE (p), et al; Class I; 261-01-2005). 7/0. One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 26-28 April 2005. (BC (p); JMW; Class I; 261-02-2005). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V19:124. One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 10-17 May 2005. (JMW (p); BC; Class I; 261-03-2005). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V19:124 and NAB V59:431. One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 28 May 2005. (JF; Class III; 261-04-2005). 7/0. The *Bucks* bird was discovered during a drenching wind-blown rain and the first county record since 1876! The three different individuals at PISP was exciting. The 10 May bird possessed a leg band.



Plate 9. Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). This bird at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 10-17 May 2005 (Jerry McWilliams) was one of three reported from this location during Spring 2005. A fourth was recorded from *Bucks* 2 April 2005.

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) (4)

One along the Delaware River in Philadelphia, *Philadelphia*, 3 September 2006. (DF (p), JH; NP, et al.; Class I; 266-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:201 and NAB V61:16. This bird was part of the fallout from Tropical Storm *Ernesto*. It spent most of its time – only a few hours - walking along the piers and docks of the Philadelphia waterfront. It was observed from the Camden New Jersey side where a clear but unobstructed view could be had.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (8+)

One was at a farm pond near Maxatawny, *Berks*, 22-23 May 2005. (BW (p); Class I; 268-01-2005). 6/0. One on the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, 27 May 2006. (TR (p); Class I; 268-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:80. These sightings fall within the 11-27 May window of previous spring records.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) (6+)

At least six at the Dunnings Creek Wetlands, *Bedford*, 26 May 2004. (TD (p); Class I; 286-02-2004). 5/2, 6/1. One that spent a few hours at Little Blue Lake, *Beaver*, 21 May 2006. (MV; GM (p); Class I; 286-01-2006). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V20:80. Both of these reports fall within the expected late May passage of this species through Pennsylvania. PORC will no longer review reports of this species after 2006.

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) (1)

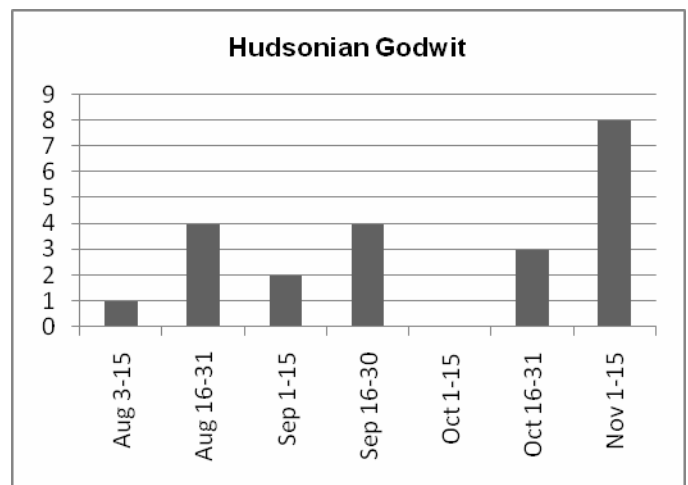
One photographed in flight as it passed Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 31 August 2005 following the passing of Hurricane *Katrina*. (JMW (p); Class I; 291-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:196. The bird was observed as it circled above Gull Point. The long decurved bill, overall buffy color, orange inner primaries and lack of head striping ruled out Whimbrel. This is a first state record. (McWilliams 2005a).



Plate 10. Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*). A first state record, this bird was photographed as it passed Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 31 August 2005 following the passage of Hurricane *Katrina* (Jerry McWilliams).

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) (19+)*

Three were photographed at Yellow Creek S.P., *Indiana*, 27 August 2005. (TS (p); et al; Class I; 293-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:219. One at Codorus S.P., *York*, 9-22 October 2006. (MW; BM (p), CR (p), m.obs.; Class I; 6/0. Photograph published in PB V20:202. The *Indiana* birds were what remained of a flock of 50 that had put down earlier in the day. PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.

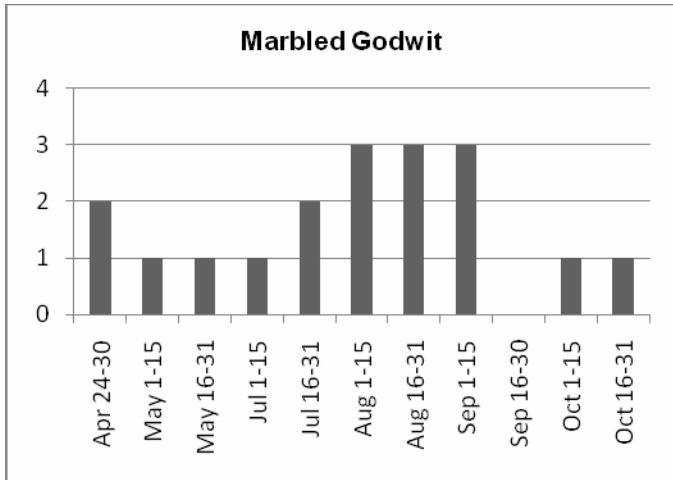


Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) (18+)*

One adult at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 28 May 2005. (JF; Class III; 295-01-2005). 6/0. One worn adult at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*, 18 July 2005. (BC (p); Class I; 295-02-2005). 6/0. One juvenile at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, 6 August 2005. (TA (p), et al.; Class I; 295-03-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:219. Another juvenile at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 27 August 2006. (BC (p); 27 August

2006; Class I; 295-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:202. PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.

PORC will no longer review this species combination after 2006.



Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) (13+) *

One sub-adult at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 17 July 2005. (JMW (p); Class I; 333-01-2005) 6/1. Photograph published in PB 19:157 and NAB V59:593. The photographs show well the small, triangular shaped head, small bill with no obvious hook, dark upperwings with no contrast between coverts and secondaries and the heaviest point of the body appears to be below the chest unlike Pomarine and Long-tailed. (McWilliams 2005). PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.



Plate 12. Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). This sub-adult was at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 17 July 2005 (Jerry McWilliams).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) (12+)

Bald Knob, *Allegheny*, 4-8 September 2005. (GM (p); et al.; Class I; 331-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:219 and NAB V60:68. An excellent discovery at this inland location, this bird was probably the result of the passing of Hurricane *Katrina* three days before.



Plate 11. Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*). This bird present at Bald Knob, *Allegheny*, 4-8 September 2005 was an excellent discovery at this inland location (Geoff Malosh) and probably the result of the passing of Hurricane *Katrina* three days before.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) (4)

An extraordinary sighting at Somerset Lake, *Somerset*, 27 August 2005. (JP (p), RP; Class I; 334-01-2005). 6/1. Photograph published in PB 19: 195. This was a nice example of how the written documentation helped to support the distant photos and clinch the identification. (Payne 2005).

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) (9+)*

One first-winter at Yellow Creek S.P., *Indiana*, 1 September 2005. (TS (p), et al; Class I; 337-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:220. Another first-winter at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, 1 September 2005. (GF; Class III; 337-02-2005). 6/1. Both birds, from widely scattered areas of the state, were probably the result of the passing of Hurricane *Katrina*. PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.



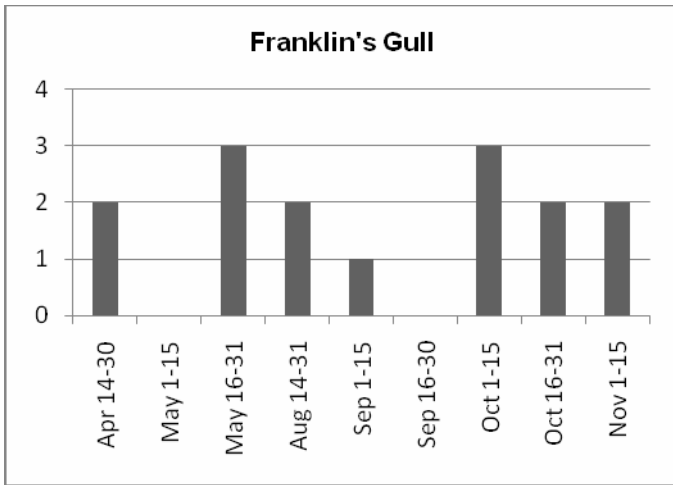
Parasitic/Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus/pomarinus*) (17+)*

One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 8 November 2005. (JMW; Class III; 332a-01-2005). 6/0. One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 22 November 2005. (JMW; Class III; 332a-02-2005). 6/0. One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 1 December 2005. (JMW; Class III; 332a-03-2005). 6/0. One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 24 October 2006. (JMW; Class III; 332a-01-2006). 6/0. One at Fort Hunter, *Dauphin*, 2 September 2006. (CR, DY; Class III; 332a-02-2006). 6/0. The Presque Isle birds were observed at too great a distance to determine specific species and the Fort Hunter bird – a waif from Tropical Storm *Ernesto* was observed too briefly for identification to species. All documentation ruled out Long-tailed Jaeger.

Plate 13. Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). This first-winter at Yellow Creek S.P., *Indiana*, 1 September 2005 (Tom Simmons) was likely the result of the passing of Hurricane *Katrina*.

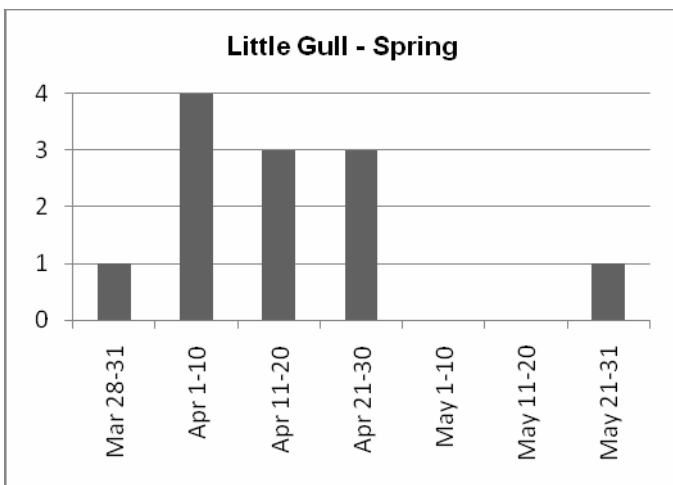
Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) (13+)*

One first-winter feeding with Ring-billed Gulls in a field in Buckingham Twp., *Bucks*, 12 November 2005. (AB (p); Class I; 338-01-2005). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V19:220. One in basic plumage at Van Sciver Marsh, *Bucks*, 8 October 2006. (DF (p); Class I; 338-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:203 and NAB V61:65. PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.



Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) (15+)*

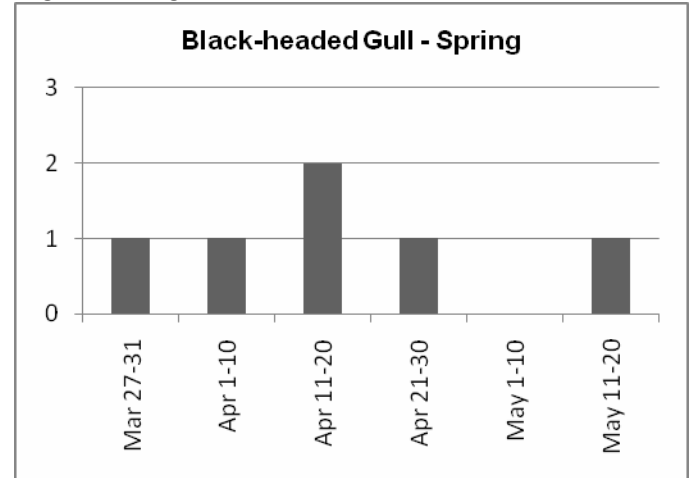
One adult in Falls Twp., *Bucks*, 8 April 2006. (DF; GD (p) et al.; Class I; 339-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:81. This regularly occurring species will no longer be reviewed after 2006.



Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (17+)

One adult in basic plumage observed feeding with Bonaparte's and Little Gulls on the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg, *Dauphin*, 27 March 2005. (TJ; Class III; 340-01-2005). 6/0. One adult in flight with Bonaparte's Gulls on the Susquehanna River, *Lancaster*, 1 April 2006. (JH; EW, et al.; Class III; 340-01-2006). 7/0. This species

may of regular occurrence at these locations and should be looked for within the large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls that migrate through here.



California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (6)

One adult on the Susquehanna River at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, 14 May 2005. (BS; FH (p), EW, et al; Class I; 346-01-2005). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V19:125. One adult at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 20 February 2006. (JMW; Class III; 346-01-2006). 6/1. One adult at Lake Nockamixon, *Bucks*, 23-25 March 2006. (GF (p); GD (p); TFH (p), AM, m.obs.; Class I; 346-02-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:81. One adult at Memorial Lake, *Lebanon*, 26 December 2006. (TJ; Class III; 346-03-2006). 6/1. This species may be of a more regular occurrence in the state and observers are now specifically looking for this species where large numbers of gulls occur. The *Bucks*, *Lancaster* and *Lebanon* sightings were respective first-county records.



Plate 14. California Gull (*Larus californicus*). This adult was on the Susquehanna River at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, 14 May 2005 (Frank Haas), part of a trend of increased sightings within Pennsylvania.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (12+)

One in basic plumaged observed flying by Sunset Point, Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, during a waterbird count 3 December 2005. (JMW (p); Class I; 357-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V20:41 and NAB V60:230.

There are two previous late fall- early winter records from this location.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (17+)

Two immatures flying along the Delaware River, Tincum Twp.; Delaware, 6 September 2006. (AGu; Class III; 360-01-2006). 7/0. These two birds were most likely the result of the passing of Tropical Storm *Ernesto* four days prior. This is a first Delaware record.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) (6+)

One believed to be either a one year old or possibly a second summer at Peace Valley Park, Bucks, 4 June 2005. (AM, CC, EC, HE; Class III; 369-01-2005). 5/2. 6/1. The age of this bird – an age group that is rare in the northeast – caused some concern within the committee but it was felt the overall description fit this species.

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) (10+)

One adult seen in flight along the Susquehanna River at Washington Boro, Lancaster, 24 July 2005. (EW (p); et al.; Class I; 375-01-2005). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V19:220. One juvenile at Washingtonville, Montour, 31 August 2005. (DB, WL, SP; Class III; 375-02-2005). 6/1. One adult seen in the company of Black Terns on the Susquehanna River, Washington Boro, Lancaster, 2 September 2006. (CR (p), DH, BS; et al. Class I; 375-01-2006). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V20:206. The 2005 Lancaster bird could have been attempting to track back to the Atlantic Ocean after being displaced by Hurricane *Dennis* which passed through the Midwest U.S. about a week prior to the sighting. The Montour bird coincides with the passing through the area of the remnants of Hurricane *Katrina* and established a first county record. The 2006 Lancaster bird was found after the passing of Tropical Storm *Ernesto*.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) (7+)

One in flight over Williams Twp., Northampton, 9 December 2005. (AK; Class III; 382-01-2005). 6/0. A nice find for this interior locale, probably pushed inland by a strong low-pressure system that moved up the Atlantic coast the previous day and which brought 6.5' of snow to this location.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) (10)

One in Coatesville, Chester, 10 July - 10 October 2005. (LL; BM (p), NP (p), et al.; Class I; 409a-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:220. One in flight at Susquehannock S.P., Lancaster, 7 September 2005. (TA; Class III; 409a-02-2005). 7/0. One in Eckville, Berks, 16 April 2006. (DBa; Class III; 409a-01-2006). 7/0. One in Venango Twp., Erie, 13 June 2006. (CR (p); Class I; 409a-03-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:146. The Chester location also held as many as four during the observation period with breeding highly suspected but not confirmed. This species has successfully nested in Franklin for the past three years and future sightings in the state are expected. PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) (7)

One in Drumore Twp., Lancaster, 6 April 2005. (TA (p); Class I; 413-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:126. One in Palmerton, Carbon, 16 May 2005. (RRh (p); Class I; 413-02-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:126. One in Upper Makefield Twp., Bucks, 13-20

December 2005. (MR; HE (p), AM, et al.; Class I; 413-03-2005). 7/0. One in New Castle, Lawrence, 17-18 May 2006. The seven records have been from six widely scattered counties suggesting this species can turn up anywhere in the state. The Bucks bird was atypical as all previous records were from spring or early summer.

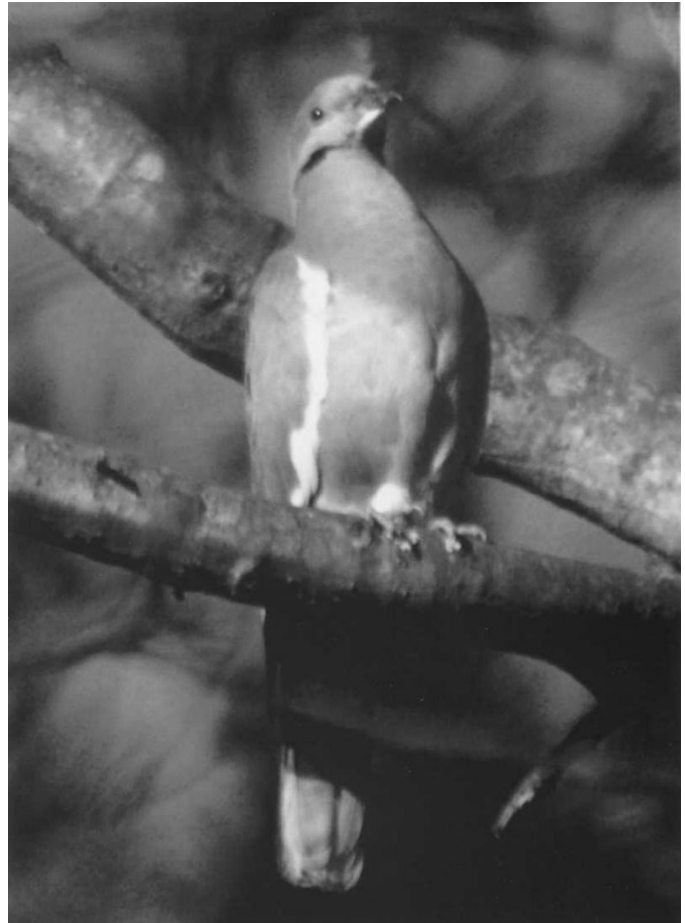


Plate 15. White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*). There were four records of this species for this report including this bird in Upper Makefield Twp., Bucks, 13-20 December 2005. This individual was atypical in the sense that all previous records were from spring or early summer. Photographed 14 December 2005 (Howard Eskin).

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) (3+)

One observed near New Greanda, Fulton, 9 October 2006. (DP, JPU, FP, RPy; Class II; 446-01-2006. The Committee was initially suspect of the date especially in a non-invasion year, but the four independent reports described this species well.

Selasphorus species (*Selasphorus*) (7+)

William's Twp., Northampton, 3 September 2005, (AK; Class III; 495a-01-2005). 6/0. The bird was not trapped for positive identification, but the written description was sufficient to accept this bird as a *Selasphorus* species. PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (17+)

One in New Jacksonville, Indiana, 28-29 July 2005. (MF, GM (p); Class I; 557-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:169 and NAB V59:689. One in William's Twp., Northampton, 30 October -6 November 2005. (AK; DD (p), et al.; Class I; 557-02-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB

19:221. Photographs of both birds clearly show a black tail with the outer rectrices edged in white. The *Indiana* sighting was a first county record.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (6+)

One adult at Ligonier, *Westmoreland*, 1 May 2005. (ML (p); et al.; Class I; 561-01-2005). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V19 (2) cover. One adult in Waynesboro, *Franklin*, 20-27 August 2005. (DG, BK, CK (p), et al.; Class I; 561-02-2005). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V19:222.



Plate 16. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). This adult was present in Waynesboro, *Franklin*, 20-27 August 2005 photographed here 20 August (Chad Kaufmann).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savanna*) (1)

One juvenile in Morrisville, *Bucks*, 4-7 June 2006. (BK; JFr, GM (p), AM, NP, JWi (p), m.obs.; Class I; 562-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20(3):128 and cover and NAB V60:525. A great find in a small patch of woods along the Delaware River, this cooperative bird provided many with close looks and spectacular photographs. The combination of molt, pale gray back, white collar and yellow in the crown suggested the Mexican subspecies *T. s. monachus*. This is the first confirmed record for Pennsylvania. (Keim 2006). A previous report of a bird collected near Philadelphia in the fall of 1873 and placed in the Princeton Museum cannot be found.



Plate 17. Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savanna*). This cooperative juvenile thrilled many observers as it fed in a small patch of woods along the Delaware River near Morrisville, *Bucks*, 4-7 June 2006 providing the first documented state record. Photographed here 6 June 2006 (Geoff Malosh).

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) (8)

Five in flight near the Kinzua Dam, *Warren*, 4 November 2005. (JF; Class III; 576-04-2005). 7/0. Three-four seen in flight over Erie, *Erie*, 9 November 2005. (JMW; Class III; 576-02-2005). 7/0. Five passing Roderick Wildlife Preserve, *Erie*, 13 November 2005. (GM; Class III; 576-01-2005). 6/0. (Malosh 2005). One at the Penn-Warner Tract, *Bucks*, 19 November 2006. (DF (p); Class I; 576-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:205. The 2005 reports were part of a large flight of this species in the Northeast that season. The *Bucks* bird was the first Cave Swallow documented by a photograph, elevating this species to the Official State List (Pulcinella 2006).

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) (26+)*

One at Martin's Creek, *Northampton*, 26 December 2004 - 20 January 2005. (RW (p); Class I; 625-03-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:29. One in Philadelphia, *Philadelphia*, 28-30 June 2005. (Che (a); NP, et al; Class I; 625-01-2005). 6/0. One at Yellow Creek S.P., *Indiana*, 26 August 2005. (CG, MH, RH (p); Class I; 625-02-2005). 6/0. One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 26-27 September 2005. (AM; DF (p), et al.; Class I; 625-03-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:222. One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 3 October 2005. (BSh; DF (p), AM, et al. Class I; 625-04-2005). 7/0. One at an undisclosed location in *Butler*, 25 June 2005. (TJ (p), CR; Class I; 625-05-2005). 6/0. One in Clintonville, *Venango*, 1-28 July 2006 (CR (p); et al.; Class I; 625-02-2006). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V20:147. One in Greenfield Twp., *Erie*, 9-17 June 2006. (CR; Class III; 625-03-2006). 7/0. One in North Shenango Twp., *Crawford*, 21-26 June 2006. (CR (p), CGe; Class I; 625-04-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:146. One at Core Creek, *Bucks*, 9 October 2006. (BK; Class III; 625-05-2006). 6/0. One at Pine Run, *Bucks*, 30 September 2006. (KR; Class III; 625-06-2006). 6/0. Another at Pine Run, *Bucks*, 14 October 2006 (CR, KR; Class III; 625-07-2006). 6/0. One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 7 October 2006. (KR; RHy (p), SK, AM; Class I; 625-08-2006). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V20:205. The *Northampton* bird was the first documented in winter (Wiltraut 2005). PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) (7+)

One at SGL 30, *McKean*, 15 January - 2 April 2005. (LG; BC (p), JF (p), MF (p), GM (p), MM (p), m.obs.; Class I; 650-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:31 and NAB V59:263. This popular bird was enjoyed by many during its extended stay (Groschek 2005).



Plate 18. Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*). This popular bird was enjoyed by many during its stay at SGL 30, McKean, 15 January - 2 April 2005. Photographed here 24 January 2005 (Geoff Malosh).

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) (2+)

One along the Conestoga Creek, Lancaster, Lancaster, 21-22 May 2005. (DL (p) (a); Class I; 654a-01-2005). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V19:127. This report was thoroughly with photographs and digital audio leaving no doubt as to the identification.



Plate 19. Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*). A difficult species to document well, this individual present along the Conestoga Creek, Lancaster, Lancaster, 21-22 May 2005 (Dan Lane) was thoroughly documented with photographs and digital audio leaving no doubt as to the identification.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) (1)

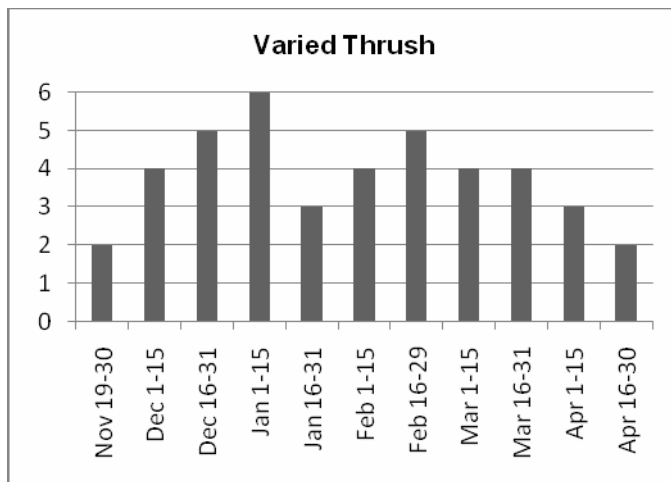
One at Peace Valley Park, Bucks, 5 February 2005. (JH, AM; BE (p), DD (p), DF (p), JF, et al.; Class I; 662-01-2005). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V19: 27-28 and NAB V59:370. An outstanding find by a beginning birder. Word of this sighting spread quickly through the birding community and several were able to enjoy it before sunset. Unfortunately, it remained only for a day much to the disappointment of the estimated 200-300 people who searched the following day. (Mirabella 2005).



Plate 20. Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*). One of the most outstanding finds ever in the state, this individual was observed by several observers during its short four hour stay at Peace Valley Park, Bucks, 5 February 2005 (Devich Farbotnik).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (19+)

One at Middle Creek WMA, Lancaster, 21 January – 6 February 2005. (TA (p), m.obs.; Class I; 666-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:58 and NAB V59:263. One found dead after striking a window in Glen Mills, Delaware, 19 November 2005. (MSt, RC (p); Class I; 666-02-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:222 and NAB V60:70. One found dead on a porch in Coffeetown, Lebanon, 29 November 2005. (RF; RM (p); Class I; 666-03-2005). 7/0. One in Boalsburg, Centre, 27 March – 30 April 2006. (AME, FME; WL (p), m.obs.; Class I; 666-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:82 and NAB V60:372.



Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) (11+)

One seen within a flock of American Robins in Degolia, McKean, 5 March 2005. (JF; Class III; 694-01-2005). 6/0.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) (11+)

One adult in Limerick Twp., Montgomery, 19 September 2005 – 4 February 2006. (SG; KC, GF, JMi (v), m.obs.; Class I; 820-02-2005). 7/0. One immature at Presque Isle S.P., Erie, 26 September 2005. (JMW; Class I; 820-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:222. One adult in Chambersburg, Franklin, 10 January – 6 February 2006. (JB; GM (p), BMo (p), m.obs.; Class I; 820-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20(1) cover and NAB V60:316.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) (7)

One at Pine Run, Bucks, 24-27 November 2006. (CR (p), TJ (p); ABi (p), HE (p), DF (p), MLy (p), m.obs.; Class I; 829-01-2006). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V20:206 and NAB V61:67. This cooperative bird provided a first county record.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) (13)*

One at Bald Knob, Allegheny, 26 September 2005. (GM; Class III; 830a-01-2005). 6/1. This report fits nicely into narrow fall window of occurrence. PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.

Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*) (5+)

One in Londonderry, Twp., Dauphin, 25 May 2005. (TJ; KK (p), PR (p), et al.; Class I; 831-01-2005). 6/0. Quick dispersal of the news of this sighting allowed several patient observers to see this exciting find during the course of the day. This was a first county record.



Plate 21. LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). This secretive but cooperative individual was seen by many at Pine Run, Bucks, 24-27 November 2006. (Mike Lynam).

White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelli*) (7+)

One at Presque Isle S.P., Erie, 4 May 2006. (JMW (p); Class I; 838a-01-2006). 6/0. Photograph published in PBV20:83 and NAB V60:375. This race of the White-crowned Sparrow is probably regular during early May at Presque Isle but overlooked.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) (10+)

One immature at Stone Church, Northampton, 18 January - 20 March 2005. (RW (p); MS (p), et al.; Class I; 839-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:59 and NAB V59:265. One adult at Willow Bay, McKean, 16-19 May 2005. (AR (p); JF; Class I; 839-02-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V19:128. One adult in Oakland Mills, Juniata, 10 December 2005 - 8 May 2006. (AT; DG (p), DR (p), m. obs.; Class I; 839-03-2005). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:43. The Northampton location also hosted an adult in winter 2003-2004.

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*) (5+)

One adult male in Tionesta, Forest, 4 February - 2 March 2006. (FMG (p); Class I; 840a-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:43. One adult male in Allen Twp., Northampton, 23 November 2006. (JFi (p); Class I; 840a-02-2006). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V20:206.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) (5+)

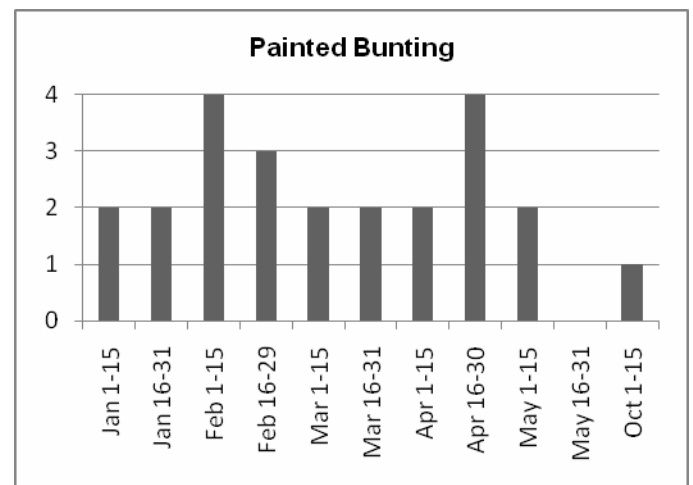
One on Bald Eagle Rd., Lancaster, 15 December 2002. (BH, FH (p); et al.; Class I; 788-01-2002). 7/0. One adult male in Williams Twp., Northampton, 13 May 2006. (AK; Class III; 788-01-2006). 6/1. The Lancaster bird was found on the Southern Lancaster County CBC (Haas 2003).



Plate 22. Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). This immature was at Stone Church, Northampton, 18 January-20 March 2005 photographed here 18 January (Rick Wiltraut). This same location also hosted an adult in winter 2003-2004.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (13+)

One adult male visited a few feeders in Northampton Twp., Bucks, 6-28 February 2005. (AM, AB (p), et al.; Class I; 794-01-2005). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V 19:59. One female in Muhlenburg Twp., Berks, 21-26 April 2006. (CD (p); et al. Class I; 794-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:83. One adult male in Nicholson Twp., Wyoming, 13 May 2006. (WR; Class III; 794-02-2006). 7/0.



Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) (6+)*

One first-year male at Mt. Pleasant Rd., *Lebanon*, 29 September – 2 October 2005. (KL, JL; RM (p), m.obs.; Class I; 859-01-2005). 7/0. One adult male in West Chester, *Chester*, 5 March 2006. (NP (p); SPu; Class I; 859-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:83. The *Lebanon* bird was a first county record and the *Chester* bird showed up at a backyard feeder with a flock of Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds. PORC will no longer review reports after 2006.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED. A number of factors contribute to a report being denied acceptance. It is very rare for a report to not be accepted because the bird was obviously misidentified. More commonly, a report is not accepted because the documentation submitted was incomplete, insufficient or too vague to properly identify the reported occurrence while eliminating all other similar species. The non-acceptance of any report reflects the opinion of the committee that the documentation, as submitted, did not meet the meticulous standards needed for adding the report to the official historical record. If the committee is unsure of a specific report, it prefers to err on the conservative side and not accept a good record rather than endorse a bad one. It is important to note that non-acceptance by no means indicates that PORC or any of its members feel the record did not occur as reported. All records—whether accepted or not—remain on file and can be re-submitted for review if additional material is presented.

Band-rumped Storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)

One on Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks*, 2-3 September 2006. Class IV-B, 052-01-2006, 0/6. Photograph published in PB V20:200 and NAB V61:14. This bird was part of the fallout from *Tropical Storm Ernesto*. The photos submitted were not sufficient to identify the bird to species. The report would have benefited from accompanying written documentation describing the upperwing pattern, rump pattern, flight style and wing shape. Email discussion regarding the photos alludes to a possible video of this bird, but no video of this sighting was made available to the committee. PORC agreed to accept the reports as a Storm-petrel species.



Plate 23. Storm-Petrel species (*Oceanodroma species*). This bird at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks*, 2-3 September 2006 was part of the fallout of pelagic birds from *Tropical Storm Ernesto*. Originally submitted as a Band-rumped Storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) the photos were not sufficient to identify the bird to species and as a result, it was accepted as Storm-petrel species. Photographed here 2 September 2006 (*Gerry Dewaghe*).

Great White Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*)

One at Green Pond, Northampton, 1 September 2005. Class IV-C, 080a-01-2005. The Committee felt the description submitted was probably either a Snowy Egret or immature Little Blue Heron.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

One in Butler, *Butler*, 17 April 2005. Class IV-A, 168-03-2005, 1/5. The Committee agreed that the observation may have been correct, but there was not enough information to adequately assess the report.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

One at the Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch, *Delaware*, 10 September 2006. Class IV-A, 171-01-2006, 2/4. This very well could have been a Mississippi Kite but because of the great distance of the sighting “bird barely visible to naked eye” there was not much information regarding plumage details and essentially it was identified by structure/shape. The possibility of White-tailed Kite was not ruled out.

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolis*)

One in flight at Hawk Mountain, *Berks*, 13 December 2003. Class IV-A, 200-01-2003, 5/2, 5/2. Committee members were confused by some details submitted that could not be confirmed in references.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*)

One at the John Heinz N.W.R., *Philadelphia*, 22 September 2005. Class IV-A, 293-02-2005, 5/2, 4/3. This is a case where written documentation accompanying the not-so-clear photos would have aided the decision making process. The report is probably of this species, but, no photograph or written description of the underwing linings was available to rule out Black-tailed Godwit, however remote that possibility is.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 10 October 2004. Class IV-A, 333-01-2004, 5/2, 5/2. The Committee felt that this was most likely a Parasitic Jaeger, but, because of the significant distance involved in the sighting contributing to the inability of observing any notable field marks, it had some difficulty accepting the record primarily on “jizz”.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

One seen briefly in flight only in Elephant, *Bucks*, 7 August 2006. Class IV-A, 409a-04-2006, 3/4. Although probably correct, the majority felt that did not feel that Ringed Turtle-Dove was adequately eliminated.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*)

One in Chalk Hill, *Fayette*, 6 July 2006. Class IV-C, 520-01-2006, 1/5. The Committee found several discrepancies in the written documentation that would suggest that this bird was a juvenile Hairy Woodpecker with yellow on the crown. Variant juvenile Hairy Woodpeckers can show yellow on the crown (Kauffman 1993). The members also did not feel comfortable that the report was written six months after the sighting.

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*)

Three juveniles near the Marietta Boat Club, *Lancaster*, 6 April 2005. Class IV-C, 571-01-2005. 3/4. The committee felt that the description submitted did not sufficiently rule out

one of the expected common swallow species especially Northern Rough-winged Swallow.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

One at Colyer Lake, *Centre*, 17 November 2005. Class IV-A, 576-03-2005. 4/3, 5/2. After two rounds of voting, the committee felt the report was probably correct given the date and the recent incursion of this species into the northeast, but the description lacked mention of the forehead and auricular color and did not rule out a first-year Cliff Swallow.

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)

One in Bell Twp., *Westmoreland*, 26-28 August 2004. Class IV-A, 625-02-2004. 4/3, 3/4. The committee felt the identification may have been correct but that the description of the song – only fleeting glimpses of the bird were obtained - was not indicative of Sedge Wren.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

One in Gap, *Lancaster*, 18-19 November Class IV-A, 829-01-2005. 3/4. The majority felt the report may be correct but the written documentation failed to effectively describe the bird and similar species were not adequately eliminated.

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The 2007-08 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania

Nicholas C. Bolgiano

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held for the 108th time from 14 December 2007 to 5 January 2008. Pennsylvania highlights included a count-week Long-billed Murrelet, which is potentially a new species for the state, irruptions of 4 species, and good numbers of many others, and a new species high for an individual site, one which never reached the top spot for any previous year. The statewide species total was 166, historically the fourth highest total, with an additional 3 count-week species.

In this report, I generally omit subspecies, hybrids, exotics, sp., and count-week species. When I cite a year, I refer to it by the year in which Christmas occurs; the 108th count is referred to as occurring in 2007.

Weather and Effort

December's weather was seasonal. Winter storms on the first two weekends affected 15 counts. A snow/ice/rain storm affected Beaver, Butler, and Washington Counties on 15 December and Buffalo Creek, Buffalo Creek Valley, Johnstown, Linesville, Pocono Mountain, Southern Lancaster County, Upper Bucks County, and Wild Creek-Little Gap on 16 December. Heavy rain fell on 23 December, affecting Elverson, Lancaster, State College, and Williamsport. For some of these counts, species numbers were lower than average.

Reports were received from all 69 active Pennsylvania sites, plus a new site, Northern Lycoming County, with Dave Ferry as compiler. The startup of this site was timely, as it produced the high count for several uncommon species. The statewide total of 5338 party-hours was about 200 hours lower than expected, probably due to the inclement weather.

Species Numbers

Harrisburg had a spectacular count, with 119 species, a new state high. The site's previous high was last year's 104. The previous record-holder was Delaware County (then called Glenolden) with 117 species in 1978. Glenolden also posted 116 species in both 1977 and 1979.

Southern Lancaster County was second with 105, and Southern Bucks

County was third with 103. All top-ten sites were from the southeast. Figure 1 shows a map of species totals.

Top 10 Sites

1. Harrisburg	119
2. S. Lancaster County	105
3. S. Bucks County	103
4. Delaware County	98
5. Elverson	97
5. Lititz	97
7. Central Bucks County	93
8. Lancaster	91
8. Lehigh Valley	91
10. Hamburg	90

Hits and Misses

A "hit" is a species found in 2007 that was unexpected (recorded in less than 40% of the years 1970-2006). A "miss" is a species not found in 2007 on count day though expected (recorded in more than 60% of the years 1970-2006). Compared to past years, the number of hits (20) was higher than average and the number of misses (4) was about average.

Hits

Ross's Goose
Brant
Trumpeter Swan
European Wigeon
Red-necked Grebe
American Bittern
Great Egret
Sandhill Crane
Lesser Yellowlegs
Ruddy Turnstone
Purple Sandpiper
Rufous Hummingbird

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Bohemian Waxwing
Orange-crowned Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Bullock's Oriole
Hoary Redpoll

Misses

Northern Bobwhite
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Osprey
Pine Grosbeak

A new species for the Pennsylvania CBC was **Blackburnian Warbler** at Lancaster.

Count-week species were **Long-billed Murrelet** at Upper Bucks County and **Blue-headed Vireo** and **Northern Parula** at Delaware County. The murrelet, if accepted by PORC, would be a first record for the state.

Waterfowl and Other Water Birds

The 95,000 **Snow Geese** and 209,000 **Canada Geese** were among the top historical tallies in the state CBC. **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Central Bucks County and Lehigh Valley, **Ross's Goose** was at 4 southeastern sites, **Brant** was at Chambersburg, and the 24 **Cackling Geese** were reported from 9 southeastern sites, including 10 at Central Bucks County.

After the usual big three duck species of Mallard, Common Merganser, and American Black Duck, the 1402 **Hooded Mergansers** and 967 **Ring-necked Ducks** ranked fourth and fifth

Table 1: Top 10 Owling Sites

	Barn	E Scr	GH	Barr	LE	SE	NSW	Total
1. Central Bucks County	0	68	36	1	5	2	0	112
2. West Chester	0	85	11	0	0	0	0	96
3. Lewistown	2	29	25	1	6	0	1	64
4. Hamburg	0	30	29	1	1	1	1	63
5. Lititz	1	22	25	0	5	4	1	58
6. Harrisburg	1	14	27	3	0	0	2	47
7. Audubon	0	32	9	0	0	0	0	41
7. Elverson	0	28	6	1	6	0	0	41
9. Delaware County	0	28	11	0	0	0	0	39
10. New Bloomfield	0	29	8	0	1	0	0	38

among ducks, as they often have in recent years. Each of the three scoters was observed at multiple sites; all three were observed at Erie, including 93 **White-winged Scoters**.

Uncommon water birds included **Red-throated Loon** at Erie and Southern Lancaster County; **Red-necked Grebe** at Dubois; 76 **Great Cormorants**, including 54 at Pennypack Valley, 21 at Southern Bucks County, and 1 at Delaware County; **American Bittern** at Harrisburg; **Great Egret** at Harrisburg and Southern Bucks County; **Green Heron** at Harrisburg; **Sandhill Crane** at Southeastern Bradford County and Wyncote; 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Delaware County; and **Ruddy Turnstone** and **Purple Sandpiper** at Erie.

Chickens

As has been the case for some time, results for chickens were mixed. The 117 **Ring-necked Pheasants** continued their downward trend and were found on less than half the counts for the first time since 1931. The 108 **Ruffed Grouse** were again low, though higher than the 81 in 2005. The 4264 **Wild Turkeys** were the second highest total, with reports from over 90% of sites for the first time.

Raptors and Vultures

Raptors that have been increasing were again observed in healthy numbers. The 240 **Bald Eagles** were a new high for the state and they were widespread as well, reported from over 70% of sites. The 469 **Cooper's Hawks** were also a new high. Ten years ago, they were concentrated in the western half of the state, but their west-to-east distribution is now more uniform. The count of 28 **Merlins** was one less than the 2005 high. Twenty-six **Peregrine Falcons** was a new high.

The number of **Northern Harriers** spiked, as happened in 1985 and 2003. The 301 harriers tallied in 2007 were a new high that was about double the usual number. They were concentrated in the central valleys and along the southern edge of the Appalachians (Figure 2). The numbers of **Red-shouldered Hawks** have increased somewhat during the past few years and this continued in 2007, with a total of 99 marking a new high. **Black Vultures** continued to be reported in good numbers, about the same as last year's high when adjusted for effort. The 47

Rough-legged Hawks were an average number.

The 10 **Barn Owls** included 4 at Lewisburg and one to two each at Curtin, Harrisburg, Lewistown, Lititz, and Williamsport. The 40 **Long-eared Owls** were a very good number and included 6 each at Elverson and Lewistown, 5 each at Central Bucks County and Lititz, and 4 at Lehigh Valley. The Long-eared tally was the third highest among the owls, but the 32 Barred Owls was a low number. I attribute that to some back roads being impassable to vehicles.

The top 10 owling sites were in the southeast and the Juniata Valley. Central Bucks County was the top individual site, with 112 total owls. The numbers of **Eastern Screech-Owls** at West Chester (85) and Central Bucks County (86) were notable.

Gulls

The gull report is devoted to the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** phenomenon in Bucks County, a North American hotspot for this species. In 2007, the 3 Bucks County sites ranked 1-2-3 among all North American CBC sites for this species.

The first Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the Pennsylvania CBC were singles in 1978 at Erie and 1979 at Southern Bucks County. Gradually, the Southern Bucks County site became a center of concentration. In recent years, large numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls have also been observed at the Central Bucks County and Upper Bucks County sites. Table 2 shows these trends.

Reports from Bucks County CBC compilers relate how Lesser Black-backed Gulls have shifted their territory and how observers count them. Robert Mercer from Southern Bucks County wrote, "Obviously, the primary attraction to gulls in Southern Bucks is the combination of the landfills and big lakes. ... I suspect that [during] the early years there were birds missed due to inexperience with the species. Rick Mellon counts the gulls as they pour into the lakes at Penn Warner at sunset. If there is a year when he is not able to do the count, the numbers will drop dramatically as no one else covering the area has the patience. Furthermore, each year he has stated that his count was an underestimation, since darkness prevents a more thorough count. ... Anecdotally, it seems like the Lesser Black-backed Gull is found in higher concentrations than other gulls on open

lawn habitat, which would also lend to over-counting. ... The observational error or bias as outlined above would not account for the growing trend."

Table 2: Lesser Black-backed Gull counts: Bucks County CBC Sites

Year	Upper	Central	Southern
1980	0	0	1
1981	0	0	0
1982	0	0	1
1983	0	0	0
1984	0	0	1
1985	0	0	2
1986	1	0	12
1987	0	0	1
1988	0	0	6
1989	0	0	2
1990	0	0	11
1991	0	0	11
1992	0	1	18
1993	0	0	16
1994	1	0	6
1995	0	0	12
1996	0	1	21
1997	0	3	26
1998	0	11	97
1999	2	7	169
2000	1	4	123
2001	5	42	192
2002	23	59	178
2003	25	101	118
2004	64	64	114
2005	36	140	87
2006	157	344	97
2007	172	140	126

Bill Etter from Upper Bucks County wrote, "I've been birding in the upper part of Bucks County for about 10 years, and have watched Lesser Black-backed Gull totals skyrocket at Lake Nockamixon. Seasonal high counts have increased tremendously from single digits in 1999 and 2000 to nearly 500 in 2007. The species has a proclivity for exploration, and this seems to be exactly what they've been up to in Bucks over the past 20 years. Originally attracted to the area around the landfills in southern Bucks, they "found" Lake Galena in the late 1990s, and then made the jump to Nockamixon a few years later. They are now being seen with increasing frequency in Northampton Co, probably drawn to the Chrin landfill near Easton. Over the past several years, totals on the Upper Bucks CBC have been afternoon roost counts from Nockamixon. It would be great to know how far the gulls travel in a given day. I suspect they bounce back and forth between Easton (Chrin landfill),

Nockamixon and Peace Valley almost daily. Maybe even Tullytown.”

Collectively, since first discovered, the Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported in Bucks County account for 93% of the total reported in the Pennsylvania CBC. They have been reported from 14 other southeastern Pennsylvania sites, and Erie and Pittsburgh in the west. Typical reported numbers are one or two. The highest totals among these sites were at Bernville, Bethlehem-Easton, Elverson, Erie, Lancaster, Lebanon County, Reading, and Southern Lancaster County.

Woodpeckers to Blackbirds

The 45 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were an average number, with 9 at Gettysburg, 7 at Chambersburg, and 6 at Erie. Only 10 **Eastern Phoebes** were reported, compared to 36 last year, when winter didn't begin in earnest until the count period ended. However, similar drop-offs didn't extend to other half-hardy species. There were more **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and **Yellow-rumped Warblers** this year than last (340 kinglets and 1230 warblers in 2007 vs. 229 kinglets and 659 warblers in

2006).

This was an irruption year for **Northern Shrikes**; the 24 were the third highest number in the Pennsylvania CBC, behind the 27 count-day birds in both 1995 and 1999 (Hess 2000). They were most widespread across the northern half of the state, though 3 of the 6 sites with multiple shrikes were in the southern half (Figure 2). A single **Loggerhead Shrike** was reported from Gettysburg.

For the third consecutive year, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was found at the Pennypack Valley water treatment plant, with 93 being tallied this year. This total is similar to other high counts from Central America, the Gulf Coast, and the southwestern U.S.

Red-breasted Nuthatches tend to irrupt when Christmas falls in an odd-numbered year and this held true in 2007. This irruption was an average-sized one, with 637 birds tallied. In comparison, 1152 were tallied in the last big year, 2005. A distribution map shows why this was just a so-so irruption—they were recorded in good numbers at Washington, Beaver, Butler County, and Clarion in the west, at Curtin in the central, at Dingman's Ferry in the northeast, and at Elverson, West Chester, and Delaware County in the southeast. In other places, however, there were few or even none (Figure 2).

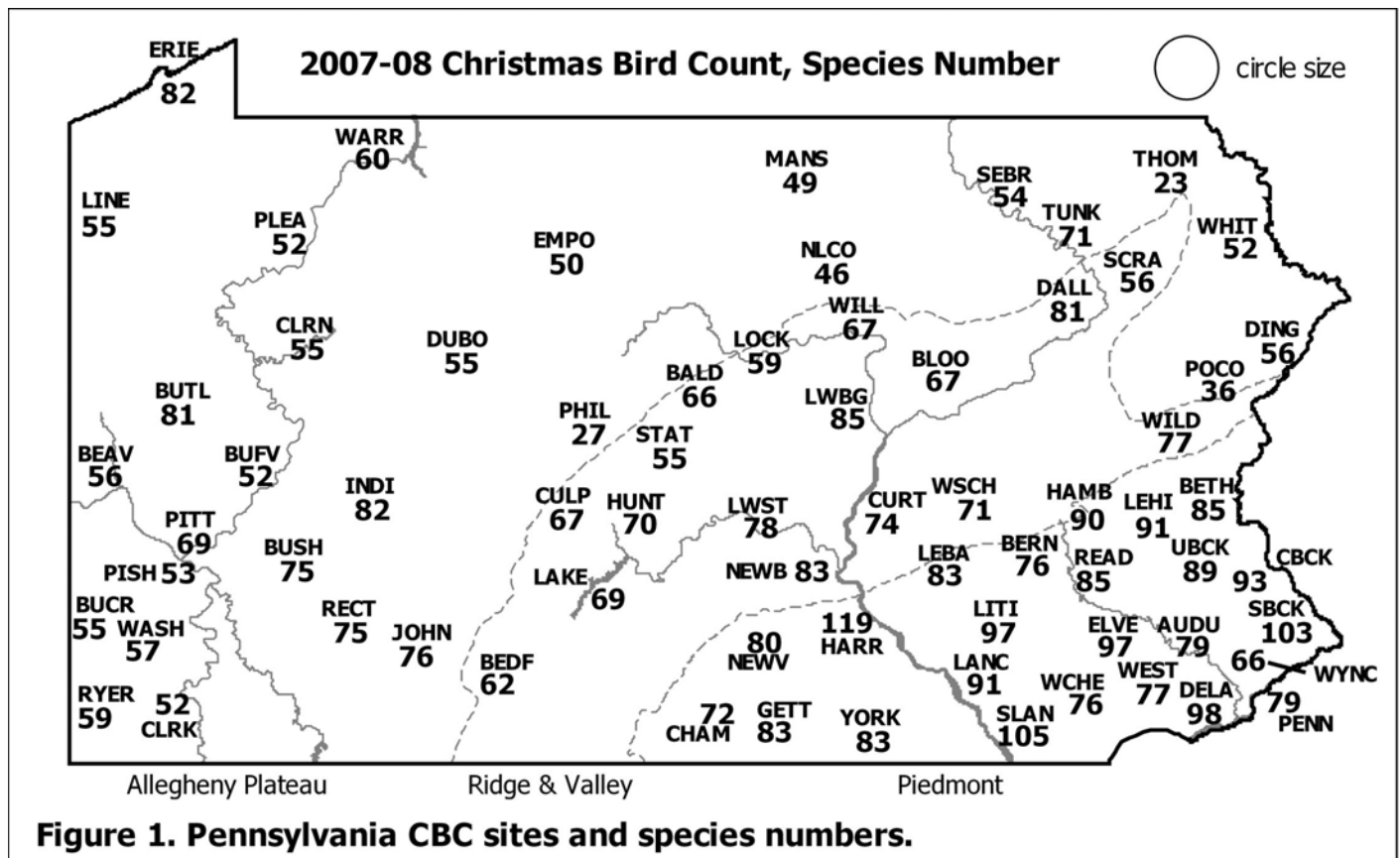
Last year, a spike in **Carolina Wren** numbers was observed, with the 6019 wrens being an increase of 53% over 2005's total. In 2007, the 3993 Carolina Wrens were back to about the same level as in 2005, though still at historically high levels, excepting 2006. The Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Survey's mean Carolina Wrens per route also increased by 49% from 2005 to 2006, though the 2007 mean wrens per route also showed a decline, although giving up just half the gains of 2006. This suggests that a remarkable cohort of young wrens was produced in 2006, but it is uncertain if a population increase was sustained for more than a year.

Bohemian Waxwings put in a rare appearance, with 15 at Mansfield-Wellsboro and a count-week report from Erie. This was just the fifth time they have been reported on a CBC count-day in Pennsylvania. **Cedar Waxwings** also were reported in high numbers, with 9900 compared to average numbers in the 4000–6500 range. This was the fifth such spike in the past 23 years.

The **Orange-crowned Warbler** was reported from Southern Bucks

Site Abbreviations

AUDU	Audubon	LWST	Lewistown
BALD	Bald Eagle S.P.	LINE	Linesville
BEAV	Beaver	LITI	Lititz
BEDF	Bedford County	LOCK	Lock Haven-Jersey Shore
BERN	Bernville	MANS	Mansfield-Wellsboro
BETH	Bethlehem-Easton	NEWB	New Bloomfield
BLOO	Bloomsburg	NEWV	Newville
BUCR	Buffalo Creek	NLCO	Northern Lycoming County
BUFV	Buffalo Creek Valley	PENN	Pennypack Valley
BUSH	Bushy Run S.P.	PHIL	Philipsburg
BUTL	Butler County	PISH	Pittsburgh South Hills
CBCK	Central Bucks County	PITT	Pittsburgh
CHAM	Chambersburg	PLEA	Pleasantville
CLRN	Clarion	POCO	Pocono Mountain
CLRK	Clarksville	READ	Reading
CULP	Culp	RECT	Rector
CURT	Curtin	RYER	Ryerson
DALL	Dallas Area	SCRA	Scranton
DELA	Delaware County	SBCK	Southern Bucks County
DING	Dingman's Ferry	SLAN	Southern Lancaster County
DUBO	Dubois	SEBR	Se. Bradford County
ELVE	Elverson	STAT	State College
EMPO	Emporium	THOM	Thompson
ERIE	Erie	TUNK	Tunkhannock
GETT	Gettysburg	UBCK	Upper Bucks County
HAMB	Hamburg	WARR	Warren
HARR	Harrisburg	WASH	Washington
HUNT	Huntingdon	WCHE	Western Chester County
INDI	Indiana	WEST	West Chester
JOHN	Johnstown	WHIT	White Mills
LAKE	Lake Raystown	WILD	Wild Creek-Little Gap
LANC	Lancaster	WILL	Williamsport
LEBA	Lebanon County	WSCH	Western Schuylkill County
LEHI	LehighValley	WYNC	Wyncote
LWBG	Lewisburg	YORK	York



County and the **Wilson's Warbler** from Harrisburg. **Vesper Sparrow** was observed at Bushy Run and Western Chester County. Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at both Lehigh Valley and Wyncote.

The last time the **Snow Bunting** tally exceeded 500 was in 1995; 1350 were tallied in 2007, including 410 at Northern Lycoming County, 241 at Erie, 200 at Lewistown, and 80 at Lock Haven-Jersey Shore. A distribution map shows their predilection for sites with extensive open areas (Figure 2).

Eastern Meadowlarks continued their steep decline, with just 23 reported. In comparison, during the 1990s, 97–277 meadowlarks were tallied each year. The **Bullock's Oriole** at Lewistown was only the second on a Pennsylvania CBC. A quarter million **Common Grackles** were reported from West Chester. Two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were at Southern Lancaster County and two **Brewer's Blackbird** were at Ryerson.

Finches

This was the first time in eight years for an irruption of finch species other than Pine Siskin. **Common Redpolls** had one of their best showings, being reported from over half the sites. The

previous irruption in Pennsylvania was in the winter of 1999-2000, the last of a string of 4 alternate-year irruptions. Many of the 1530 redpolls were concentrated at a handful of sites: 364 at Northern Lycoming County, 226 at Dallas Area, 163 at Tunkhannock, and 120 at Johnstown. Elsewhere, they tended to be found in smaller numbers (Figure 2). A **Hoary Redpoll** was reported from Wild Creek-Little Gap.

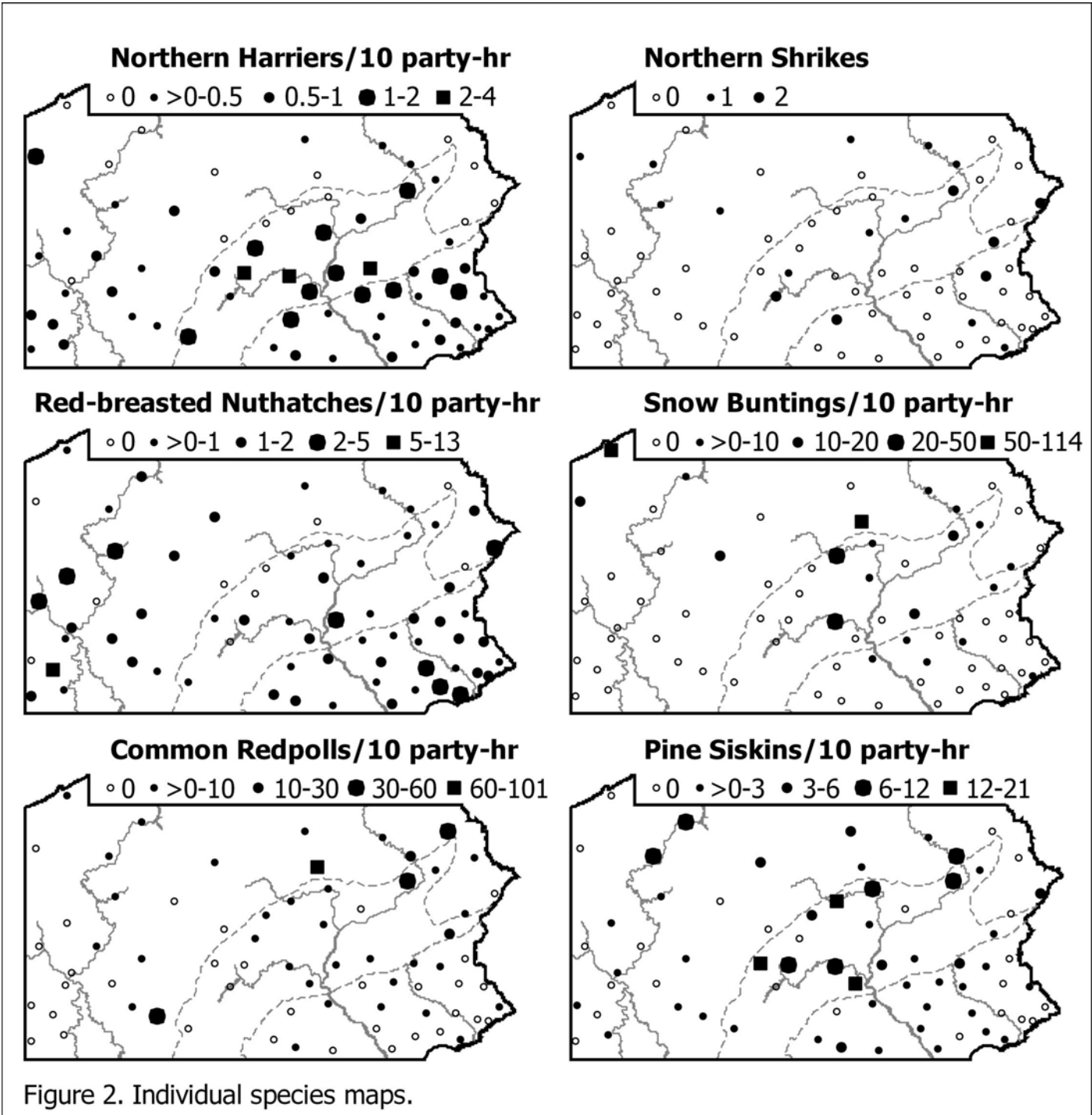
Pine Siskins also irrupted; like Red-breasted Nuthatches, they tend to irrupt when Christmas falls in an odd-numbered year. Siskins were reported from 65% of sites, with the highest concentrations in the Allegheny, Juniata, and Susquehanna Valleys (Figure 2).

Totals of 27 **Red Crossbills** were reported from 6 sites, 7 **White-winged Crossbills** from 4 sites, and 56 **Evening Grosbeaks** from 7 sites. The 14,700 **American Goldfinches** were among the higher tallies of that species.

References

- Hess, P. 2000. Pennsylvania's record high Northern Shrike invasion of 1999-2000. *Pennsylvania Birds* 14(1):2–10.

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PENNSYLVANIA'S 2007 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	35	-	-	-	5963	27244	-	-	-	-	1	309	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	9041	194	430	607	1129	17058	366	252	364	1071	402	18981	2153	1141	284	252	190	1925
Mute Swan	1	-	-	-	5	7	-	-	-	4	2	27	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	4	7	-	1	27	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	4	4	-	1	-	-	2
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
American Black Duck	31	11	5	-	7	141	28	CW	22	3	3	42	3	2	-	8	61	36
Mallard	520	9	142	52	264	912	146	81	185	277	41	614	1079	55	39	114	374	453
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	9	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	1	9
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	9	-	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	2
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked Duck	23	-	-	-	-	33	25	-	-	-	121	15	1	-	-	-	5	89
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Black Scoter	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
scoter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	78	-	-	3	-	8	-	-	3	7	23	-	-	-	-	6	2	43
Common Goldeneye	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	6	-
Hooded Merganser	3	75	1	11	-	2	-	-	35	132	18	-	-	1	-	10	-	46
Common Merganser	86	24	-	1	20	87	68	-	26	12	11	1248	-	-	3	3	34	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	1	-	3	-	4	-	-	-	-	129	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	1	-	-	1	2	10	2	-	3	-	3	-	-	3	7	5	2
Ruffed Grouse	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	9	1	-	1
Wild Turkey	3	-	56	72	2	63	221	80	31	27	84	122	26	59	19	33	188	14
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	34	8	20	5	11	30	7	-	4	7	1	24	47	2	-	3	12	4
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	21	-	-	-	7	126	-	-	-	-	-	66	1	-	-	-	15	-
Turkey Vulture	104	-	-	-	31	209	CW	3	-	-	-	129	4	-	-	-	2	-
Bald Eagle	CW	3	3	1	2	2	1	-	3	4	2	2	-	1	-	-	2	3
Northern Harrier	7	-	1	6	8	8	8	3	3	4	3	6	5	1	3	4	13	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9	3	3	-	9	16	3	2	2	5	4	12	20	7	1	6	11	2
Cooper's Hawk	7	2	2	3	2	16	1	5	2	3	2	11	15	5	3	7	10	3
Northern Goshawk	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2007 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Winter Wren	11	3	-	1	-	6	1	-	-	1	1	3	10	-	-	3	6	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	39	4	3	-	6	22	9	11	6	22	17	21	11	19	5	10	19	7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	14	-	4	-	6	15	-	-	-	2	1	12	9	-	-	-	13	-
Eastern Bluebird	207	95	31	42	196	255	194	36	36	99	65	241	83	32	68	52	178	76
Hermit Thrush	3	6	-	-	6	8	3	-	-	8	1	4	3	1	-	1	5	1
American Robin	1590	59	32	214	503	2817	46	1920	9	51	141	15855	42	82	611	70	4	31
Gray Catbird	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	100	13	4	17	94	96	30	8	1	13	2	166	260	3	31	12	69	7
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	2087	2544	826	3196	10317	5144	1925	5285	35	857	990	49319	10609	2326	7552	788	5631	949
American Pipit	-	-	-	8	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	62	3	-	-	-	-	-
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	28	266	33	-	114	179	45	104	-	26	101	84	24	177	86	21	112	33
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	72	-	12	67	21	12	-	16	-	138	3	99	2	-	27	1	1	1
Blackburnian Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	4	-	3	1	1	1	-	42	-	12	-	1	2	-	1	-	1	-
American Tree Sparrow	24	79	19	11	285	291	162	192	8	135	106	47	16	166	19	25	253	155
Chipping Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Field Sparrow	6	1	-	-	10	54	-	5	-	22	1	29	3	-	3	-	5	-
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	4	-	1	1	2	18	4	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1
Song Sparrow	469	20	44	12	176	301	55	158	34	86	39	262	141	-	26	25	171	44
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Swamp Sparrow	4	-	-	-	28	8	2	60	1	9	3	7	-	-	-	1	2	-
White-throated Sparrow	899	155	16	3	691	1293	73	178	61	227	57	669	457	33	12	64	336	81
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	1	2	83	53	3	237	-	12	1	19	118	-	9	22	64	6
Slate-colored Junco	771	307	187	450	385	1458	495	445	157	347	680	1057	1222	1341	218	176	860	300
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
Northern Cardinal	484	98	132	106	192	394	187	166	97	184	240	401	628	144	129	63	265	54
Red-winged Blackbird	32	-	-	207	-	284	6	31	-	-	21	174	-	19	-	-	-	21
Eastern Meadowlark	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	-	-	-	1	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	38	-	-	-	1	25	-	3	1	8	-	9296	25	-	-	-	5	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	6	250	-	1001	26	67	-	99	2	-	6	108	84	2	-	71	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bullcock's Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	4	7	2	8	32	19	8	-	1	14	82	188	18	31	-	2	7	3
House Finch	403	97	154	128	203	622	111	67	6	69	150	554	798	167	174	90	290	34
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	6	-	-	1	-	CW	-	6	-	-	-	-	32	-	-	1	226
Hoary Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	CW	22	-	6	2	-	-	3	-	-	7	2	35	23	2	128	38	41
American Goldfinch	401	113	193	131	790	328	74	197	53	121	267	212	539	1205	82	80	138	35
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	CW	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	102	475	417	366	409	269	313	131	25	274	122	390	1805	291	235	66	582	133
Number Species	79	66	56	62	76	85	67	55	52	75	81	93	72	55	52	67	74	81
Number individuals	22743	7323	4631	8839	39691	73979	7219	12228	1821	6613	7109	109951	26028	10936	11206	3659	15419	6649
Party-hours	138.25	52	32.5	42.25	73	130	80.5	59.5	30	72.5	72.75	135.25	150.5	76.75	40	79	74	46.5

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2007 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Snow Goose	1	-	-	1655	-	-	-	9212	1	-	-	-	-	1	152	15254	-	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Canada Goose	5702	532	1	5529	15	1158	2615	5480	2858	283	947	697	17	4231	3665	20857	2008	1124
Mute Swan	-	-	-	6	-	-	4	6	4	-	-	-	-	5	2	2	-	3
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	46	-	-	-	-	225	-	-	26	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW
Wood Duck	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	8	5
Gadwall	10	-	-	-	-	34	2	25	38	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	2	-
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	15	-	-	3	-	1	3	-	76	-	7	1	-	3	-	3	2	-
American Black Duck	443	5	-	16	-	52	19	49	87	1	16	22	10	21	4	37	16	7
Mallard	1338	16	268	529	-	376	115	611	604	51	664	177	421	448	288	1038	479	257
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	312	-	-	1	-	-	9	1	2	-	10	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Northern Pintail	831	-	4	-	-	-	7	-	1	1	10	10	-	-	-	10	6	-
Green-winged Teal	108	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	12	-	8	1	-
Canvasback	11	-	-	2	-	164	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	31	-	-	52	-	31	-	1	-	-	CW	7	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	12	-	73	-	-	1	25	1	3	-	41	22	CW	-	11	30	2	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	78	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	1	-	166	-	-	6	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	4	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
scoter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	CW	-	11	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	24	-	3	30	-	96	6	1	127	1	14	4	-	2	1	-	4	-
Common Goldeneye	10	-	-	84	-	84	2	1	74	-	1	4	3	7	-	-	1	-
Hooded Merganser	80	-	6	28	-	43	7	-	117	CW	22	83	13	5	-	7	-	-
Common Merganser	110	7	2	12	-	33	18	6	52	2	-	4	216	37	27	12	89	2
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	488	-	-	6	-	CW	1	3	-	2	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	72	-	21	50	-	4	15	-	2	-	69	184	-	-	5	-	1	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	-	-	10	1	-	4	2	2	-	3	7	1	-	-	3	1	7
Ruffed Grouse	1	7	-	-	2	-	-	1	2	2	10	2	4	-	-	-	-	3
Wild Turkey	8	79	14	18	201	38	-	60	11	40	172	14	119	1	50	97	60	188
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	1	1	-	28	-	-	1	1	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	-	1	-	18	6	2	-	-	-	1	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	3	-	3	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	1	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	46	-	-	-	-	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	55	-	-	18	1	9	10	17	107	CW	4	3	6	18	7	22	15	16
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	81	-	-	138	-	88	148	38	88	57	-	-	6	28	16	54	75	53
Turkey Vulture	142	1	-	180	-	-	236	15	135	3	-	-	-	136	47	131	25	19
Bald Eagle	7	5	-	1	1	3	-	CW	9	1	-	3	4	14	11	3	2	2
Northern Harrier	4	-	3	5	CW	-	4	8	1	12	4	1	1	1	8	13	10	27
Sharp-shinned Hawk	31	1	-	6	-	1	5	9	14	2	14	2	2	5	5	16	5	6
Cooper's Hawk	26	-	1	8	4	4	6	14	29	7	9	2	3	6	6	11	8	14
Northern Goshawk	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	7	-	-	1	-	1	5	2	2	9	5	-	2	1	3	4	-	2

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2007 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
95	10	9	47	1	16	39	155	129	23	54	4	46	23	82	157	77	125
		1	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	4	1
								1									
2		4	10		1	36	57	15	19	14	2	19	7	23	11	59	66
1			3				CW	2		1			1	1	2		
3								2		1			2	1			
23		19	85		708	1		1		494	14	67	252	43	14		
2			8		4	4		2	1					14		3	4
2																	
					1												
					1												
			3				1	3					3			10	1
					278						1						
2074	4	2	7855		8911	3	27	3228	37	8	22	304	8897	430	39	352	5
279			408		831		1	45			CW		71	580	3	10	2
					CW								1				
			1		1			2									
					1												
			29		143			52					79				
527	5	324	451	27	933	239	1177	1085	481	166	204	395	509	332	704	749	2311
671	63	54	609	271	116	541	1855	1384	214	689	179	242	312	732	1170	671	696
								1								4	2
28	15	3	28			2	30	14	16	4		11	5	20	6	14	29
11	9		6		1	3	29	27	9	3		17	5	7	6	10	25
	1			2		2		3	CW	1			2				1
			6				1		2						4		6
		1					1								1		CW
							1	2						3	2		1
17	1		19			11	13	31	3	6	1	9	14	6	19	16	7
			3		6	9	2										
148	13	3	135	6	18	58	164	288	58	72	1	48	61	83	169	48	142
17	3		19	1		8	18	38	6	8	6	3	13	6	38	4	7
186	57	20	145	22	45	37	199	262	77	102	9	88	67	95	199	86	211
50	18	8	38	10	17	13	44	42	8	24	2	17	8	7	38	13	42
49	14	1	79	1	8	23	87	103	10	40	3	25	34	32	102	12	54
17	11	3	7	10	2	6	14	23	25	20	2	32	6	5	10	14	24
								1									
									1			2			2	1	
						1											
339	118	57	310	276	111	319	542	388	313	524	62	219	88	110	536	197	355
670	155	234	711	114	90	147	1022	4159	354	965	321	649	3186	2482	2555	1847	561
12			3				4	617		CW			137	12	4		
	1	3		15		10	3	2	22	4	7	6		3		3	16
15		13	84			46	626	47	2	95	439	2	123	311	470	489	609
508			306			47		624					181	21	91		2
8	543	231	12	309	95	12	47	37	258	634	82	200	6	79	576	253	329
			108			56	686	174					37	83			
381	126	29	327	90	39	159	495	489	191	212	18	221	112	128	558	181	621
48	7	4	35	8	4	10	13	22	9	25	11	CW	3	6	20	5	5
228	40	29	175	70	40	157	227	266	120	199	18	111	39	85	279	106	212
33	4	4	12	11		3	16	44	1	15	1	2	14	4	13	8	37
203	10	1	82	7		44	147	173	31	26	2	60	86	40	133	29	168

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2007 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK
-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	32575	-	-	25	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1140	-	-	-	8
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2077	6102	678	373	120	933	-	1829	2	562	1499	532	154	8958	893	205	1508	17269
-	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	7	-	4	30
-	1680	-	-	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	9
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	12
12	447	36	-	9	23	-	480	-	-	9	4	-	225	54	-	39	256
84	826	12	24	263	422	-	403	40	271	917	33	192	1067	235	67	83	701
-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
3	-	-	-	2	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
20	CW	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	2	-	1	192
CW	-	1	CW	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	153
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	11	-	-	7	-	-	6	CW	-	-	3	-	-	77
8	CW	20	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	22
120	30	7	-	5	CW	-	1	-	6	1	2	-	12	10	-	81	-
2	250	23	150	10	4	1	4	-	-	CW	49	-	19	-	-	14	694
-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
75	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	2	14	-	36	58
-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	1
-	-	3	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
60	18	18	110	38	98	199	1	28	64	84	-	42	77	4	99	52	24
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CW	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	5	-	-	26
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	30	1	3	8	53	1	9	-	5	7	5	-	13	1	4	-	74
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	45	-	-	2	134	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	20
-	273	-	-	5	28	-	19	-	-	CW	-	-	84	20	CW	-	58
12	2	CW	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	2	-	-	1	11
2	6	CW	1	11	11	-	3	-	5	1	1	-	1	1	1	3	4
2	7	1	-	3	8	1	8	-	4	12	-	CW	5	3	4	4	18
1	13	4	2	8	10	3	11	1	12	22	2	-	3	6	3	8	13
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	5	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	3	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2007 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK	
	3	93	6	18	52	102	20	40	-	34	89	15	3	61	35	44	31	97
Red-tailed Hawk																		
Rough-legged Hawk	2	-	1	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	2	26	4	1	22	60	2	5	10	6	2	-	14	1	9	3	4	4
Merlin	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	3
American Coot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	4	-	-	-	638
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	-	CW	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	7	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	1471	481	18	156	33	903	-	1280	-	11	-	-	1457	-	-	1770	6030	
Herring Gull	7	46	CW	-	4	55	-	151	-	17	-	-	275	-	-	110	15035	
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	126
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Black-backed Gull	-	13	-	-	2	-	-	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1406
Rock Pigeon	2	1100	411	306	350	1142	191	391	43	1440	65	5	939	36	20	577	274	
Mourning Dove	64	960	226	206	385	701	114	499	29	438	525	113	22	1533	152	214	257	941
Barn Owl	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	-	22	4	-	29	9	6	6	1	15	6	-	-	17	5	3	4	19
Great Horned Owl	-	25	CW	-	8	11	6	6	1	3	1	-	-	11	4	2	-	12
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Long-eared Owl	-	5	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	4	-	-	-	CW	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	CW	-	-	-	1
Rufous Hummingbird	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	-	31	4	2	14	25	-	10	6	7	6	-	-	16	5	8	-	19
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	12	134	11	6	86	109	3	66	115	148	13	5	108	49	47	8	94	94
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	18	-	-	14	21	2	5	7	6	1	-	CW	3	5	1	18	18
Downy Woodpecker	33	165	42	27	159	95	27	120	74	186	49	14	94	60	31	52	153	153
Hairy Woodpecker	10	29	3	7	28	20	6	18	17	39	13	6	14	16	9	14	26	26
Yellow-shafted Flicker	7	54	4	1	61	94	-	35	36	54	6	8	46	11	25	4	124	124
Pileated Woodpecker	-	9	7	2	33	5	4	1	16	15	16	3	1	13	22	5	-	-
Eastern Phoebe	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	67	571	118	173	359	251	155	51	245	289	395	47	275	135	132	147	227	227
American Crow	31	1281	230	528	1177	366	362	107	459	5928	145	232	678	423	290	1881	466	466
Fish Crow	-	20	-	-	-	8	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	561
Common Raven	-	4	7	6	6	5	36	-	-	2	3	-	-	9	6	4	-	-
Horned Lark	7	501	20	38	245	641	103	-	-	-	-	-	1714	-	4	-	-	1
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	-	126	-	-	27	245	-	290	118	176	-	-	-	82	122	-	-	333
Black-capped Chickadee	80	215	91	177	549	96	215	12	7	138	409	71	62	602	9	385	4	4
Chickadee sp.	-	109	-	-	-	14	-	-	269	247	-	-	190	-	-	-	-	22
Tufted Titmouse	36	274	77	29	376	217	50	151	6	367	98	54	159	209	104	91	248	248
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	16	1	2	9	1	-	13	15	20	4	7	5	13	4	1	7	7
White-breasted Nuthatch	18	166	53	24	161	142	47	98	122	162	143	22	93	125	65	63	114	114
Brown Creeper	-	17	2	6	31	15	3	12	5	9	7	1	11	6	-	1	24	24
Carolina Wren	2	122	11	-	126	149	-	82	76	112	7	4	77	20	19	8	162	162
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2007 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK
-	16	-	-	12	11	-	9	-	-	5	-	-	6	3	1	-	6
-	19	4	-	57	4	11	10	3	29	22	30	3	11	47	7	10	15
-	21	6	-	10	8	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	12	1	-	-	21
2	240	46	28	298	274	29	19	7	53	40	29	135	117	73	82	40	46
-	19	1	-	23	5	-	-	-	-	2	10	-	22	CW	-	-	8
1	283	1	-	90	176	12	442	-	2577	1715	51	5	447	29	5421	84	1575
-	3	3	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	18
-	88	3	1	85	136	4	45	-	10	25	-	1	50	-	4	14	123
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	6695	1289	651	2896	3512	973	1974	160	6433	2299	124	60	5946	904	6919	1442	9489
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	95	10	9	68	124	83	5	-	152	778	222	312	19	8	74	97	216
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	19	3	-	20	24	-	10	-	9	3	-	-	8	6	9	-	98
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	46	-	-	3	3	-	8	-	10	2	-	-	1	-	3	-	5
207	325	91	247	167	251	147	37	15	14	16	44	7	88	32	33	135	50
-	-	-	-	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
-	70	-	-	14	10	-	18	-	-	1	-	-	11	4	5	-	38
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	14	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	-	-	13
-	15	-	-	1	2	-	11	-	2	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	20
5	490	16	8	128	209	6	93	-	113	222	6	CW	131	53	45	14	360
9	11	-	-	4	9	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	1	2	6	-	17
6	1083	54	13	432	1055	5	383	2	98	232	13	8	659	31	19	28	1380
12	60	3	-	19	121	-	-	-	6	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	3
128	1112	510	417	1291	778	550	373	67	311	472	304	193	710	283	292	426	781
-	1	CW	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	2	80	71	380	429	51	157	7	342	500	60	35	281	161	136	113	369
6	-	-	-	28	10	-	76	-	3	1	-	-	94	-	-	-	99
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
-	7	-	2	3	-	-	10	-	-	1	-	-	107	-	-	1	177
-	105	-	8	1	2	16	1	-	33	-	-	-	4	-	824	-	11
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	32	6	-	26	39	-	-	16	-	2	1	7	4	9	7	-	21
44	321	85	45	188	218	65	218	27	155	243	23	30	197	166	75	200	316
-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	364	-	-	-	CW	36	1	-	2	-	53	75
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	34	68	12	150	-	9	-	-	-	9	38	CW	5	21	-	8	-
48	245	157	97	177	124	63	117	2	326	432	162	35	185	213	160	188	275
-	-	-	6	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-
12	1303	262	105	226	1026	79	405	61	428	571	206	36	597	134	558	636	395
55	97	59	49	83	80	46	79	27	53	69	52	36	85	75	59	56	103
4951	63166	4946	4134	11744	15826	4442	10937	762	14331	20230	3534	1771	29407	5413	16468	10687	63575
13	137	35.5	39.5	74	93	36.25	82	10	185	186.5	42	16	90	73.25	37.5	96	146.75

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2007 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	1010	-	-	CW	-	1	-	-	203	1	-	35	1	300	-	-
Ross's Goose	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	9072	853	79	-	548	7544	937	289	9054	14229	130	755	304	861	3188	3472
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	-	9	4	2	-	3	-	2	-	-	1	6
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	96	-	-	-	-	CW	CW	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Wood Duck	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	4
Gadwall	24	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	565	15	5	-	15	59	3	1	35	52	1	7	3	14	2	42
Mallard	1108	32	553	-	185	622	361	62	217	471	58	312	198	37	448	455
Blue-winged Teal	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	7	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	CW	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	4	4	-	2	-	-	-	3
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	34	-	1	-	25	4	-	-	30	50	6	6	-	-	2	14
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
scoter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	9	-	-	-	2	5	46	-	-	22	14	5	7	-	-	6
Common Goldeneye	12	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	54	-	-	-	23	72	79	-	19	33	6	5	-	-	56	35
Common Merganser	4133	42	-	-	197	120	248	-	47	113	80	10	26	-	2	26
Red-breasted Merganser	10	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	50	31	-	27	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	-	1	-	1	3	CW	-	-	-	-	-	1	CW	-	3
Ruffed Grouse	-	5	-	-	4	-	6	-	-	-	2	1	CW	1	-	-
Wild Turkey	-	146	12	119	339	47	19	50	5	-	145	19	69	6	-	2
Red-throated Loon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	3	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Horned Grebe	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	57	3	CW	-	1	12	7	1	12	22	-	-	3	4	8	35
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	193	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	72	116	-	-	-	6	16	25
Turkey Vulture	245	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	137	245	-	-	-	-	34	97
Bald Eagle	47	6	-	-	7	1	14	-	2	4	5	1	2	1	-	7
Northern Harrier	8	2	7	-	3	15	-	1	1	7	2	1	1	13	1	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	4	1	-	7	9	2	2	7	16	2	3	2	6	7	6
Cooper's Hawk	12	5	6	-	6	5	6	1	6	13	2	1	3	2	5	17
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	3	-	12

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2007 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
86	70	36	2	57	34	15	5	53	95	7	13	13	48	40	59
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
37	6	10	-	3	3	CW	1	15	3	-	-	9	27	1	20
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	CW	-	-	-	1
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
3	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
6	-	-	-	-	CW	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21285	-	-	-	21	1457	121	-	113	207	1558	4	4	4	32	1806
125	-	-	-	11	113	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	-	172	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
90	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
773	444	805	32	454	188	393	87	521	259	191	18	638	235	244	555
994	234	343	103	367	640	316	188	871	438	65	135	369	160	476	1229
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
4	1	4	1	24	14	1	-	26	85	-	9	16	9	11	3
2	1	CW	CW	9	3	1	-	11	11	2	2	5	4	1	6
-	-	CW	CW	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	2	6	-	3	8	8	-	10	17	1	3	9	6	8	9
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
142	22	16	2	36	55	29	28	107	169	6	24	25	14	106	61
14	1	2	-	12	13	2	4	6	34	10	1	1	2	16	10
105	26	38	23	63	91	100	33	79	140	22	39	73	47	101	86
26	15	11	13	21	14	14	6	12	36	10	12	8	4	25	8
134	17	10	-	16	51	12	10	42	69	-	11	22	8	52	52
5	9	3	CW	14	1	4	7	5	3	2	-	2	5	4	-
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	1	CW	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
510	108	158	33	206	231	504	62	287	491	87	116	197	137	176	312
510	547	2405	169	588	459	230	56	411	1368	273	237	707	491	187	935
1	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	11	32	-	CW	-	-	-	-
-	15	5	CW	6	-	10	-	-	4	5	2	3	2	-	-
386	-	-	-	77	296	-	-	4	4	32	55	-	472	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
322	-	-	-	-	267	-	-	176	318	-	-	-	-	344	130
1	238	116	136	323	24	505	49	6	-	217	178	199	-	9	5
24	-	-	-	66	-	54	-	-	58	-	-	-	145	-	63
236	73	62	23	170	213	125	58	146	321	38	80	149	96	241	80
23	1	-	-	3	12	13	16	3	42	4	6	3	2	12	3
101	61	59	28	103	96	177	29	105	221	41	34	59	56	108	70
22	2	1	-	2	3	5	1	2	9	3	3	5	8	13	2
156	18	15	CW	23	60	3	12	52	131	1	21	25	16	89	53
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2007 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
17	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	2	6	-	2	7	2	13	2
38	19	9	-	5	8	13	12	9	31	1	20	25	22	12	14
19	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	2	4	1	3	2	2	8	3
277	105	103	CW	200	180	10	13	159	231	45	60	89	42	25	283
26	-	1	-	3	24	-	2	5	21	-	20	1	6	1	4
319	8	118	1	92	638	2	535	90	1110	6	108	47	1	1184	20
3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	5	-	1	1	-	-	1
129	-	28	-	10	43	-	2	94	130	-	22	6	22	39	99
5439	1189	1422	45	1386	5357	1467	96	2458	14443	83	611	2049	978	1188	2075
80	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	-
178	136	168	-	32	620	130	27	-	155	15	409	92	46	33	274
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
49	-	-	-	1	67	-	10	-	16	-	3	8	-	4	147
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	-	-	-	4	-	-	3	8	27	-	-	1	-	3	4
20	84	92	52	266	39	124	-	126	28	48	167	96	239	7	14
-	-	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	1	CW	-	2	6
41	-	1	-	1	7	-	1	43	24	-	8	-	5	24	17
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	-	4	-	1	-	1	-	2
11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
521	25	30	-	103	164	22	18	197	424	1	71	29	72	184	186
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
63	-	1	-	7	6	3	-	3	8	-	6	-	8	5	21
1672	45	96	-	151	484	50	30	285	787	10	256	105	242	677	327
199	-	2	-	13	-	-	5	28	4	-	6	-	12	-	11
1161	255	290	62	659	962	871	112	503	926	138	466	669	855	526	655
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	2	-	-
-	40	-	-	41	-	20	-	-	-	-	18	3	87	-	-
548	77	75	19	195	266	233	51	269	454	17	103	192	117	256	190
10554	-	-	-	1	16	-	5	4	891	-	-	4	6	45	440
10	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15542	-	1	-	-	116	-	3	5	247214	-	-	-	-	81	5
13267	-	-	-	1	4	15	15	3	152	-	-	7	-	-	541
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
48	1	1	22	6	95	CW	28	16	9	5	9	15	8	2	1
188	84	94	41	172	260	229	149	105	387	39	99	184	173	208	174
-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	1	26	163	CW	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	87	5	20	-	-
17	2	CW	CW	83	-	105	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
194	188	156	22	267	136	277	75	97	298	48	119	166	82	229	108
-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
495	140	141	19	305	133	274	88	297	83	23	27	162	372	396	170
105	54	55	23	71	89	60	57	76	77	52	77	67	71	66	83
94107	5467	7615	993	8135	22870	8196	2438	17799	287896	3509	4923	7190	6691	11232	15659
135.5	50.75	49	8	76	83	88	12.75	64	136.5	23.75	40	61	48.75	72	153.75

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS SUMMARY

	NO. OF		HIGH	NO. OF		HIGH	NO. OF		HIGH
	TOTALS	COUNTS		TOTALS	COUNTS		TOTALS	COUNTS	
Gr. White-fronted Goose	3	2	2	47	5	5	43	24	HARR
Snow Goose	95129	24	32575	2	1	1	7830	69	512
Ross's Goose	4	4	1	962	62	73	355	46	29
Brant	1	1	1	28	17	5	51330	67	15855
Cackling Goose	24	9	10	26	15	4	73	28	18
Canada Goose	208568	68	20857	3062	27	708	3182	59	260
Mute Swan	160	28	30	2	2	1	5	5	5***
Trumpeter Swan	2	1	2	102	25	14	248740	70	49319
Tundra Swan	2197	15	1680	2	1	2	185	14	80
Wood Duck	70	23	8	1	1	1	15	1	15
Gadwall	191	17	38	1	1	1	9900	64	778
Eurasian Wigeon	1	1	1	54	17	10	1	1	1
American Wigeon	171	16	76	5	5	1	1230	46	147
American Black Duck	3621	58	565	305	5	278	7189	69	391
Mallard	23796	67	1338	94705	51	21285	62	22	9
Blue-winged Teal	4	3	2	18481	35	15035	3	2	2
Northern Shoveler	374	11	312	6	3	4	700	43	70
Northern Pintail	945	22	831	460	11	172	1	1	1
Green-winged Teal	181	19	108	2	2	1	300	42	46
Canvasback	182	6	164	2040	13	1406	153	25	32
Redhead	99	9	52	33594	70	2311	9289	66	632
Ring-necked Duck	967	35	192	34407	70	1855	458	45	63
Greater Scaup	98	7	78	10	6	4	24769	69	2023
Lesser Scaup	357	14	166	10	6	4	1807	46	249
Black Scoter	8	4	3	766	59	85	44774	70	2498
Surf Scoter	2	2	1	431	56	36	17	8	4
White-winged Scoter	2	2	1	32	23	3	1350	21	410
Long-tailed Duck	15	4	11	14	8	4	15699	70	711
Common Goldeneye	710	37	127	24	16	3	17429	38	10554
Hooded Merganser	293	24	84	14	8	4	23	11	10
Common Merganser	1402	43	132	578	59	31	2	1	2
Red-breasted Merganser	8516	53	4133	45	15	9	361	20	200
Ruddy Duck	522	14	488	4626	69	288	281153	36	247214
Ring-necked Pheasant	870	30	184	10	6	4	17362	42	13267
Ruffed Grouse	117	34	16	24	18	2	4	2	2
Wild Turkey	108	31	12	1	1	1	1	1	1
Red-throated Loon	4264	64	339	17182	70	674	1	1	1
Common Loon	2	2	1	1	1	1	1071	58	188
Pied-billed Grebe	59	17	28	58740	70	5928	14339	70	887
Horned Grebe	102	24	26	275	41	36	27	6	9
Red-necked Grebe	48	16	10	9688	45	1714	7	4	3
Double-cr. Cormorant	134	8	51	1	1	1	1532	37	364
Great Cormorant	76	3	54	1488	21	617	1	1	1
American Bittern	1	1	1	275	41	36	1	1	1
Great Blue Heron	906	57	107	93	1	93	7	4	3
Great Egret	2	2	1	93	1	93	1532	37	364
Green Heron	1	1	1	5989	33	624	1	1	1
Black Vulture	1681	31	193	12419	67	638	1	1	1
Turkey Vulture	2817	32	273	12188	70	621	1256	46	150
Bald Eagle	240	50	47	637	60	48	14680	70	1205
Northern Harrier	301	56	27	7315	70	279	56	7	38
Sharp-shinned Hawk	401	61	31	585	64	44	23088	70	1805
Cooper's Hawk	469	67	29	3993	66	245	166	118	HARR
Northern Goshawk	5	5	1	4	3	2	1510570	287896	WEST
Red-shouldered Hawk	99	36	12	289	47	36	5338	186	PITT
Red-tailed Hawk	3467	69	157	1172	65	69			

*** 1: HARR, LEBA, LITI, SLAN 2: BALD, BLOO, LEBA, NEWW, WHIT 3: BLOO, HAMB, JOHN, READ, YORK 4: DALL, DING, LAKE, NEWW, WILD 5: DELA, HARR, LITI, PITT, BUCK 6: DUBO, HARR, LANC

The 2008 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania

Greg Grove

Introduction

The 8th Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) was conducted from 19 January through 24 February 2008, with 141 routes run in 62 of the state's 67 counties. The WRS is a roadside survey with simple but specific guidelines (Grove 2006). All raptors and vultures are recorded, and data are also collected on sex/age/color form if identifiable. Cumulative county-by-county results from 2001-2006 were summarized previously (Grove 2006).

Effort and Weather

In 2008, 504 hours of observation were expended, covering 8078 miles. These totals were consistent with effort of the previous four years (Table 2).

The winter of 2007-08 saw seasonal weather during December and the first half of January. There was little snowfall across much of the state, with the usual exception of the western "lake-effect snow" areas. At State College, the mean December temperature was 2°F above normal. January averaged 5°F above normal, with most of the warm days occurring before the beginning of the WRS period (source: Accuweather). Relatively average winter conditions set in around January 19, coinciding with the first weekend of WRS. February temperatures were nearly normal and in general; the weather for this winter season was essentially average.

WRS Results – 2008

The total number of each raptor species is in Table 1. Record high counts were established for Northern Harriers and Black Vultures, as well as Red-shouldered Hawks and Merlins among the less common species. Numbers of each raptor species by county are presented in the appendix. The data for most abundant species have been normalized as birds/hour to permit comparisons across years and between counties.

Red-tailed Hawk. As usual, the number of Red-tails in 2008 far exceeded the sum of all other raptors excluding vultures (Table 1). The total of 2390 was second highest in the eight

years of WRS. The number of Red-tails per hour statewide was 4.74, the second highest ever, but fairly consistent with values of most years (Figure 1). Of 1783 Red-tails aged, 236 (13%) were immature, within the range of previous years (9–16%).

The greatest concentration of Red-tails was in central and southern counties of the Susquehanna Valley (Figure 2). Routes in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montour, and Northumberland counties averaged over 7.5 Red-tails per hour of observation. Elsewhere, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Westmoreland also topped 7.5 Red-tails per hour. The greatest numbers of Red-tails on a single route was 92 in Westmoreland, followed by 81 in Juniata.

Table 1. WRS species counts from 2008, and high counts 2001-2008

Species	2008 Total	High Count (Year)
Bald Eagle	56	81 (2006)
Northern Harrier	133	133 (2008)
Sharp-sh. Hawk	42	43 (2007)
Cooper's Hawk	73	82 (2004)
Northern Goshawk	1	5 (2004)
Red-sh. Hawk	39	39 (2008)
Red-tailed Hawk	2390	2610 (2005)
Rough-leg. Hawk	88	341 (2004)
Golden Eagle	1	3 ('03, '07)
American Kestrel	510	511 (2007)
Merlin	6	6 (2008)
Peregrine Falcon	4	7 (2007)
Black Vulture	610	610 (2008)
Turkey Vulture	1681	1863 (2006)

American Kestrel. In 2008, Kestrels ranked as the second most abundant raptor. The total of 510 was the second highest, just one less than in 2007. The number observed per hour was 1.01, essentially equal to the two previous years (Figure 1). Of 420 Kestrels sexed, 60% were males, consistent with previous years (range = 59–66%).

The greatest concentration of wintering Kestrels was in the central and lower Susquehanna and Juniata River counties (Figure 2). Ten counties with at least four hours of effort

reported 2.0 or more Kestrels per hour, all in the aforementioned region: Adams, Bedford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Northumberland, and Union.

In the far southeastern counties, however, Kestrel counts were low, as they have been since the 2004 WRS (Figures 1, 2). Collectively, these counties (Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, Bucks, Northampton, and Lehigh) had a total of only 22 Kestrels in 76.5 hours of effort, a rate of 0.29 Kestrels per hour, far below the statewide rate of 1.01.

During the first three years of the WRS, the number of Kestrels per hour in the far southeast was nearly identical to the statewide rate (Figure 1). In 2004, a year with severe winter weather, the Kestrel rate was low across the state. Since 2004, the Kestrel rate outside the southeast has rebounded (although not quite to the level of 2001 and 2002) while the rate in the six southeastern counties has remained low for unknown reasons. The Red-tailed Hawk numbers in those counties are high (Figure 2), so the explanation for the Kestrel decline is not explained simply as a decline of habitat conducive to raptors. It is possible that West Nile Virus played a strong role in the decline of Kestrels in the southeast (A. Wilson, pers. comm.).

Rough-legged Hawks. In 2008, a total of 88 Rough-legged Hawks were recorded, one more than in 2007. The number of Rough-legs per hour was 0.17, essentially identical to the previous two years (Figure 1). As seen in the map, Rough-legs were found primarily in northern counties (Figure 2). The highest count in 2008 was 13, recorded on a Warren route on February 11. Elsewhere, 11 Rough-legs were recorded on a route in Centre, and 9 on a Tioga route. By color morph, 78% were light, a higher proportion than in any previous year (60–71%).

Northern Harriers. The number of Harriers recorded in 2008 was 133, the highest yet for the WRS, as was the per-hour rate of 0.26, both topping previous highs from 2007 (Table 1, Figure 1). This continues a trend of increasing numbers of wintering harriers in the state. Possible

explanations for this upward trend include a positive effect of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), a land set-aside program initiated since in the first year of the WRS, and a series of years with overall milder than average weather beginning in 2005 (A. Wilson, per. comm.). The WRS observations were similar to the recent Christmas Bird Count, when harrier numbers reached a new statewide high (Bolgiano 2008).

Table 2. WRS Effort 2001-2008

Year	Hours	Miles
2001	253	4560
2002	313	5119
2003	391	6036
2004	514	8290
2005	494	8007
2006	478	7930
2007	505	8523
2008	504	8078

High counts of harriers were reported from various parts of the state, although most came from southeastern and south-central counties (Figure 2). The highest count came from Washington County, where 18 were observed in late afternoon, possibly gathering at a communal roost. On a farmland route in western Juniata County, 15 harriers were counted. Other counties with at least 5 harriers were Northumberland, Bucks, Perry, Chester, Dauphin, and York.

Vultures. The two vulture species had another good year, presumably due to a winter that was mild during the first half of the season. For the third consecutive year, Black Vultures established a new high, with 610 recorded this year. Turkey Vultures fell short of their record count set in 2006, but nevertheless the total of 1681 recorded was the second highest thus far (Figure 1).

The three contiguous counties of Chester, Lancaster, and York again constituted the core of the vultures' wintering range, reporting a combined total of 894 of both species, 39% of all in the state (Figure 2). Northampton counters tallied 317 vultures, including a state high 98 Black Vultures. Juniata had 244 vultures; 86 were Black.

The upward trend in vultures the last three years (Fig. 1) is likely a reflection of generally mild winter weather beginning in 2005, and the general northward expansion of both vulture species (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). However, at this time there remains no indication that vultures have begun to winter in significant numbers outside of the southeastern counties (Figure 2).

Other raptors. Numbers of other raptors recorded in 2008 are shown in Table 1. The Red-shouldered Hawk and Merlin totals were the highest thus far. The lone Northern Goshawk was in Jefferson and the lone Golden Eagle in Pike.

Shrikes and Owls. Five Northern

Shrikes were recorded. Owls recorded were: one Northern Saw-whet, 11 Long-eared, 11 Short-eared, and 2 Eastern Screech.

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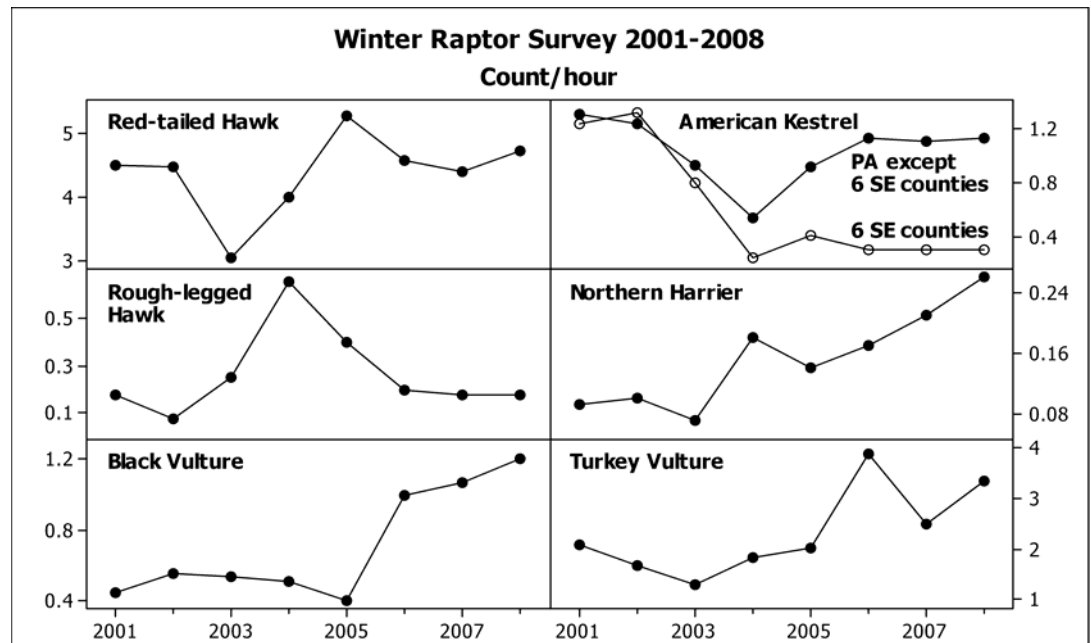
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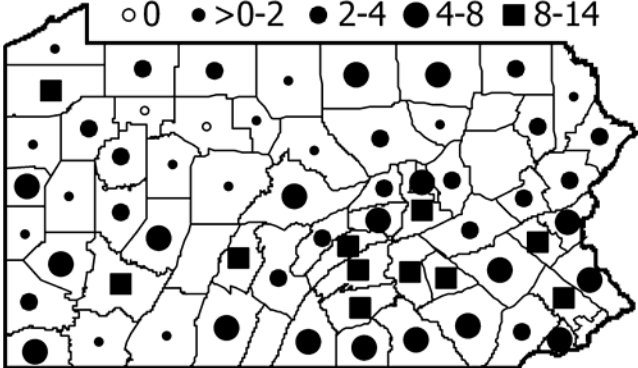
Figure 1: Pennsylvania WRS results for six species from 2001-2008. Results are expressed in birds/hour. American Kestrel results are shown for two portions of the state. The southeastern counties shown as a separate region are Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton.



Winter Raptor Survey 2008

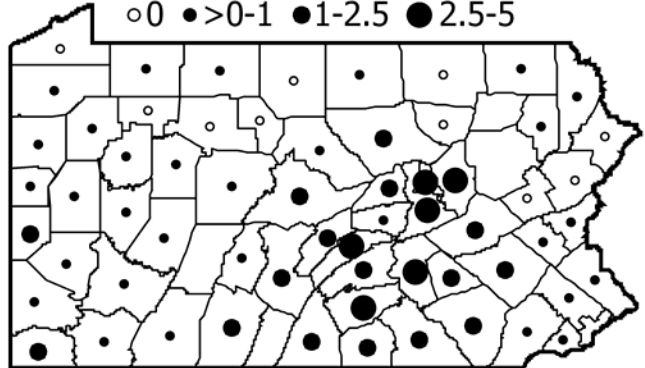
Red-tailed Hawks/hr

○ 0 ● >0-2 ● 2-4 ● 4-8 ■ 8-14



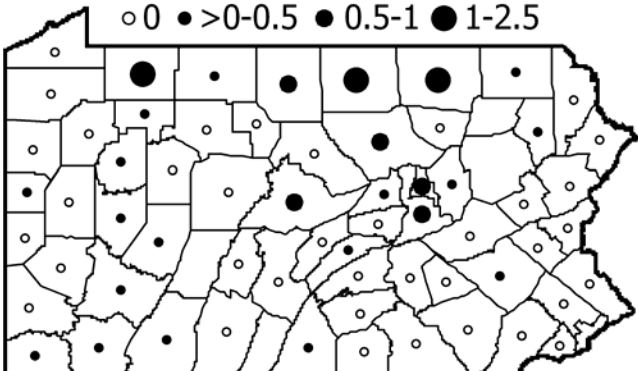
American Kestrels/hr

○ 0 ● >0-1 ● 1-2.5 ● 2.5-5



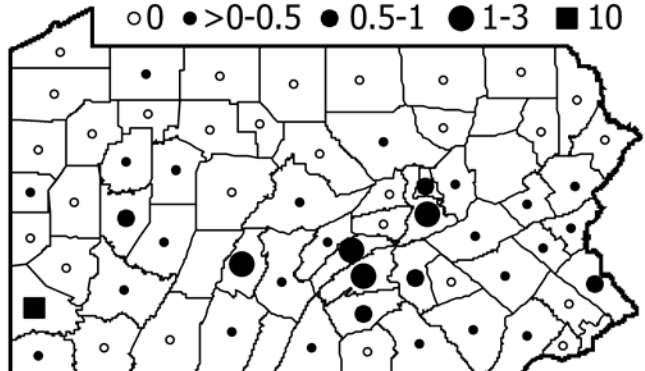
Rough-legged Hawks/hr

○ 0 ● >0-0.5 ● 0.5-1 ● 1-2.5



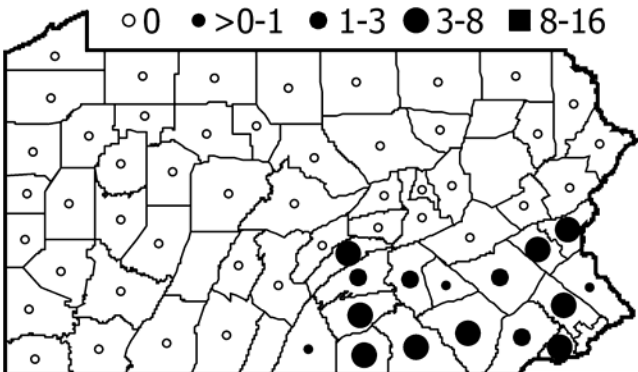
Northern Harriers/hr

○ 0 ● >0-0.5 ● 0.5-1 ● 1-3 ■ 10



Black Vultures/hr

○ 0 ● >0-1 ● 1-3 ● 3-8 ■ 8-16



Turkey Vultures/hr

○ 0 ● >0-1 ● 1-3 ● 3-8 ■ 8-22

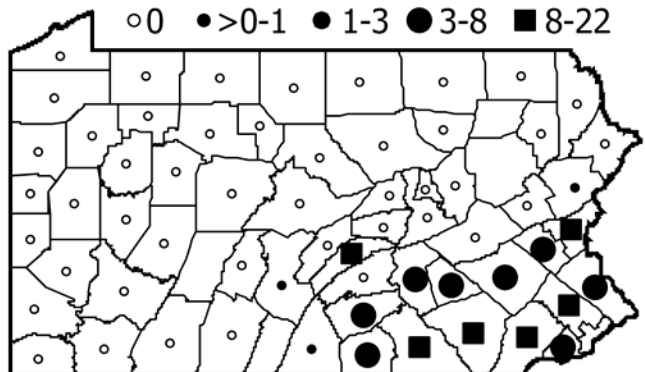


Figure 2: Pennsylvania WRS results by county. Data from all routes in a given county were combined and calculated as birds/hour.

2007 Winter Raptor Survey Results

County	Hrs	Mi	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TV	BV
Adams	5	75				1			39			11			34	16
Allegheny	2.5	57				1			12			1				
Armstrong	5.5	85		3		1			12	1		5				
Beaver	2.25	25	4						4			3		1		
Bedford	4.5	136		2		2			27			9				
Berks	20.25	271	1	1	1				126	1		24			83	39
Blair	2.5	37		3					20			2				
Bradford	4	70							18	4						
Bucks	12.25	122		8	2	4		1	68			4			65	12
Butler	3	107			1			1	4			2				
Cameron	2	65							1							
Carbon	8	169		1	1			1	18				1			
Centre	23.25	284		5	1	2			108	12		32				
Chester	14.5	300		5	3			2	53			5			243	37
Clarion	14.75	211		3		4			31	6		10				
Clearfield	10	204						1	8			1				
Clinton	5.25	125			1	2			7			1				
Columbia	2.75	64		1	1	3			10	1		8				
Crawford	2.75	58	2			2		1	37			1				
Cumberland	4.5	54		3	1	2			50			16			23	17
Dauphin	7.75	139		5	3	3			73			35			55	11
Delaware	9.75	164	5		4	1		2	66			2		1	74	48
Elk	2.75	80				1										
Erie	2	33							3							
Fayette	10.5	186				3		3	6	1		7				
Forest	5	72								1						
Franklin	14.75	226		1	1	1		1	68	2		29	1	1	7	6
Greene	10.25	172		4					49	1		13				
Huntingdon	16.5	305	1	3		1		5	47			26	1		2	
Indiana	12	180		2	3	1		1	59	1		5				
Jefferson	18	267		1	1		1		19			2				
Juniata	12.5	165	1	17	1	8		4	135	1		35			158	86
Lackawana	5.25	100				3		1	12	1		1				
Lancaster	14	204	18	1	1	4			109			23	2	1	305	92
Lawrence	7	85		2		1		2	36	3		4				
Lebanon	10.75	127				1			101			23			79	10
Lehigh	11.25	126		2	2				106			3			82	57
Lycoming	8.25	134		3				1	32	6		16				
McKean	5	85							10	2		4				
Mercer	8.75	153	10			1		4	12			6				
Mifflin	11.75	137		2	5	1			36			25				
Monroe	11.25	191	1	1	1	1			36						2	
Montgomery	7.75	95	2		2	5		1	82			5			71	26
Montour	3.5	56		2		1			15	2		14				
Northampton	21	372	1	4	2	1			93			3			219	98
Northumberland	8	141	2	12					91	4		23				
Perry	2.75	21		7		1			26			5				7
Pike	3.25	30	2						9		1					
Potter	4.5	49							4	3						
Schuylkill	9.75	184		3		1			25			16				
Snyder	3	70							23			2				
Somerset	5.25	102							4	1		2				
Sullivan	4.5	100							4							
Susquehanna	6	48			1				12	1		1				
Tioga	8.75	133	3						39	14		3				
Union	5	71							10	2		10				
Venango	8	147	2			1		1	24			1				
Warren	10	151		1		1		1	25	15		2				
Washington	1.75	30		18					5			1				
Wayne	1.5	40							2			1				
Westmoreland	12.25	180		2	2	1			150	2		9				
York	12.75	208	1	5	1	6		5	79			18	1		179	48
TOTALS	503.8	8078	56	133	42	73	1	39	2390	88	1	510	6	4	1681	610

Not Reporting: Cambria, Fulton, Luzerne, Philadelphia, Wyoming

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Greater White-Fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). Dorney Pond, Northampton, 11 December 2007. (Dustin Welch)



Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*). This season brought Ross's Geese to two Pennsylvania counties where they do not usually occur. This bird represented the second record for Cumberland at East Pennsboro Twp. 15 December 2007. (Tom Johnson)



Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). Snow Geese are unusual enough in western Pennsylvania but "Blue Geese" are downright rare. This individual spent about two weeks in Findlay Twp., Allegheny, here 8 December 2007. (Mike Fialkovich)



Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*). These two birds were part of a group of three that wandered northern Allegheny for a month beginning 7 January 2008 (here 19 January at North Park), providing a third county record. (Ross Gallardy)



Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*). North Park, Allegheny, 12 January 2008. (Geoff Malosh)



Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). One of two Harlequins found this year by Pennsylvania birders, this first-year male was present on the Allegheny River at Warren, Warren, 2 to 6 February, photographed here on the day of its discovery. (Derek Farr)



Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). This first-year male was present on the Beaver River at New Brighton, Beaver, 28 February to 4 March 2008, photographed here on Leap Day. Careful scrutiny of all available photos showed this was not the same bird that appeared in Warren nearly a month earlier. (Geoff Malosh)



Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). Kutztown, Berks, 3 February 2008. (Jeff Schmoyer)



Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). A species on an upward trend in Pennsylvania, Merlins were reported in 18 Pennsylvania counties this season. This bird was photographed at Washington Cemetery, Washington, 9 February 2008, near the end of its two-month stay at that location. (Ross Gallardy)



Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). This bird, found on a Winter Raptor Survey near the beginning of January, was still present near Strasburg, Lancaster 28 January 2008, when this photo was made of the bird with prey. (Tom Raub)



Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). This window-killed rail was found in Huntington Valley, *Montgomery*, 19 October 2007. This portrait of the beautiful but sadly unfortunate bird was made 15 December 2007. (*Howard B. Eskin*)



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). This bird appeared at Ethel Lake, *Westmoreland* 20 December 2007 and remained though the period. Many outstanding photographs were made of this cooperative crane, such as this taken 3 February 2008. (*Cris Hamilton*)



Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*). This leucistic Killdeer was photographed at Corderus State Park, *Adams*, 17 December 2007 (*Bob Moul*).



Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). *Allegheny* birders were stunned by the appearance of at least 3 Glaucous Gulls in downtown Pittsburgh in February 2007, which were the county's first. But this bird which appeared there with southbound Ring-billed Gulls and an Iceland Gull 18 to 19 December 2007 was perhaps even more surprising. The bird was photographed here in a parking lot adjacent to Heinz Field on the morning of 19 December (*Scott Kinzey*).



Probable Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). This first-winter bird shows all the expected characters of Thayer's, but the problem of separating Thayer's from darker variations of Kumlien's Iceland in the eastern US remains a thorny problem, so much so that PORC has again placed all age groups of Thayer's on the state's review list. This bird was photographed at Tullytown, Bucks, 16 January 2008. (Tom Johnson)



Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*). This amazing bird representing a first for the state (if accepted by PORC) was a one day wonder at Lake Nockamixon, Bucks, 14 December 2007. The bird spent most of the day resting on the lake as above, and was seen by dozens of birders. (Gerry Dewaghe)



Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides kumlieni*). Tullytown, Bucks, is clearly the gull hotspot in Pennsylvania in January and February. This neatly marked Kumlien's Iceland Gull was photographed there 16 January 2008. (Tom Johnson)



Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*). Photographed in flight by the bird's discoverer on 14 December 2007, showing the clean division between dark upperparts and white underparts that extend from throat to vent. (Jason Horn)



Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). A nice portrait at Tullytown, Bucks, 7 January 2008. (Tom Johnson)



Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*). Lake Nockamixon, Bucks, 14 December 2007. (Elaine Crunkleton)



Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*). This wonderful capture was made during a foggy start to the Wild Creek CBC in Carbon 23 December 2007. (Dustin Welch)



Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*). This fine image was made on private property in Luzerne 19 January 2008 (Chris Bohinski).



Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). Patton, Cambria, 25 January 2008. (Rory Bower)



Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). Pennsylvania had its second-best irruption of Northern Shrikes in its documented history this winter, bested only by the outstanding invasion of 1999-2000. This bird was photographed at Prince Gallitzin State Park, Cambria, 7 January 2008. (Rory Bower)



Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*). Following the superior flight of this species in the fall of 2007, it was somewhat surprising that winter reports of this species were not more widespread. This bird was photographed at Birmingham Twp., Chester, 2 February 2008. (Sharon Pulcinella)



Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*). Providing an amazing first winter record for Pennsylvania, this bird was present in Washington Boro, Lancaster, from 23 December 2007 to 10 February 2008 (here 20 January). It disappeared only after an especially harsh cold snap. (Eric Witmer)



American Robins and European Starlings. This image captures only a small fraction of the mind-boggling frenzy in the skies over Collier Twp., *Allegheny*, in late December and early January, where an estimated 100,000 Robins and Starlings gathered to roost in a relatively small area on a hillside above Carnegie. Observers reported clouds of birds swirling around the area every dawn and dusk, with a peak in the first week of January. This image was made at dusk 7 January 2008, during a 45-minute avalanche of bird activity overhead. (*Cris Hamilton*)



Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*). It was a good season for this species in the state. This bird was at SGL 63, *Clarion*, 9 December 2007. (*Mike Weible*)



Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). One of at least eleven lingering individuals of this species this season, this bird was photographed at Salisbury Twp., *Lancaster*, 18 December 2007. (*Frank Haas*)



Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). 10 December 2007 at Houtzdale, Clearfield. (Steve Belin)



House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). This bird showing an excess of red pigmentation initially caused some discussion when photos were first posted to the internet, but in the end proved to simply be an aberrant House Finch. It attended a feeder in Adams in January and February, photographed here 31 January 2008. (Bob Moul)



Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*). This bird provided a very unusual February record at Gap, Lancaster, photographed here 24 February 2008. (Pamela Fisher)



Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). Large flocks of this species were recorded in several locations across the state this season. This bird was at Gravers Hill, Northampton, 23 February 2008 (Dustin Welch)



Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*). This female was part of a duo that attended a feeder in Houtzdale, Clearfield, for much of the season. Photographed here 7 January 2008. (Malcolm Harter)

REDPOLL GALLERY



Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*). Male at Houtzdale, Clearfield, 1 January 2008. (Steve Belin)



Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*). Houston, Washington, 22 January 2008. (Cris Hamilton)



Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*). Strattanville, Clarion, 24 January 2008. (Ron Montgomery)



Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*). After their best showing in over a decade during the fall of 2007, reports of this species unfortunately tapered off into the winter season. Birds attending feeders regularly were rare, but this individual did just that in Buck Hill Falls, Monroe, for much of the season, here 4 January 2008. (Ed Kendall)



Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*). Bushy Run Battlefield, Westmoreland, 2 February 2008. (Geoff Malosh)



Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*). This single was part of a flock that spent the winter at an undisclosed location in *Mercer*, here 10 March 2008. (Scott Kinzey)



Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*). Strattanville, *Clarion*, 24 January 2008. (Ron Montgomery)



Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*). This previously banded bird was seen attending feeders in Oakland Mills, *Juniata*, which prompted a successful recapture attempt 29 February 2008. As of this writing the original banding location was still not determined. (Wayne Laubscher)



Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*). In a season in which several maddeningly intermediate redpolls left observers wondering whether they had seen an actual Hoary, this adult male at a feeder in Franklin Twp., *Susquehanna*, in February and early March left no doubt. Photographed here 7 March 2008 (Herb Flavell)



Probable Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*). An example of an intermediate bird, this individual which attended feeders at Bushy Run Battlefield, *Westmoreland*, in January and February (here 2 February 2008) was probably good for Hoary, but left some reasonable minds wondering. (Under PORC Review.) (Geoff Malosh)



Common Redpolls. Seed socks laden with these ephemeral visitors from the north, like this one in Buck Hill Falls, *Monroe*, were a special treat for many feeder watchers across the state this season. (*Ed Kendall*)

Summary of the Season – December 2007 through February 2008

Greg Grove

The winter of 2007–08 brought two potential new state records, both in *Bucks*. A **Long-billed Murrelet** made a one-day appearance in mid-December, and a **Slaty-backed Gull** found in late December. Both will probably be accepted as the first fully documented for the state. There were two notable phenomena, both involving northern visitors. **Northern Shrikes** staged a major invasion, probably the second largest documented for the state; and winter finches irrupted in modest but welcome numbers, the best in about a decade. Other headliners were **Harlequin Duck**, a **Least Sandpiper** apparently wintering in *Cumberland* for the third straight year, **Varied Thrush**, **Bohemian Waxwings**, **Lark Sparrow**, **Harris's Sparrow**, and a **Bullock's Oriole**, staying over from the fall season.

The winter of 2007-08 was seasonal during December and the first half of January with little snowfall across much of the state. At State College, the mean December temperature was 2°F above normal. January averaged 5°F above normal, with most of the warm days occurring early in the month. Relatively average winter conditions began in mid-January and continued into February.

Periods of early warmth led to an abundance of waterfowl reports. **Cackling Goose** reports continue to increase, coming from at least 11 counties, clustered mostly in the southeast but with western records in *Allegheny*, *Clarion*, *Venango*, and probably *Washington* as well. **Greater White-fronted Geese** and **Ross's Geese** were found in six counties each, again mostly in the southeast. A count of 100,000 **Snow Geese** came from Lower Mt. Bethel Twp., *Northampton*, 30 December. The wintering flock of **Tundra Swans** at Middle Creek reached at least 3000 on 11 February. The only **Brant** report came from the Chambersburg CBC. The 12 **Mute Swans** at Nockamixon SP in *Bucks* were viewed as possible harbingers of an ominous range expansion.

The highest single species numbers among ducks were of **Common Mergansers**. In *Bucks*, a count of 3200 occurred at Peace Valley Park 12 February, and 5000 was a conservative count from the Penn Warner Tract 26

January. In *Berks*, 1600 were at Lake Ontelaunee 17 February. No other species approached those numbers; a few other notable counts included 190 **Lesser Scaup** in *Bucks*, 143 **Ruddy Ducks** in *Indiana*, and 300 **American Black Ducks** in *Bucks*. All three scoters were found, with *Erie* the only county to host each of the three. Top rarities of the season included single **Harlequin Ducks** in *Warren* and *Beaver*, both in February; **Eurasian Wigeon** in *Bucks*; and **Common Teal** (a.k.a. Eurasian Green-winged Teal, still considered conspecific with American Green-winged Teal by the AOU) in *Lancaster* and *Philadelphia*. Our least cold-tolerant duck, **Blue-winged Teal**, was found only on the Southern Lancaster CBC.

Red-throated Loons and **Red-necked Grebes** appeared in five and four counties respectively, with most reports of each falling in December and early January. *Bucks* and *Erie*, at opposite ends of the state, hosted both species. There was the usual scattering of **American Bittern** (one), **Great Egret** (five), **Green Heron** (one), and **Black-crowned Night-heron** (two), occurring mostly in December and early January, but one of the Night-Herons at West Fairview 26 February was a possible early returnee.

It was another strong season for vultures and raptors. Results for these species on the Christmas Bird Counts and Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) are detailed elsewhere in this issue. Following are additional highlights for both species. An impressive **Turkey Vulture** roost at Harleyville, *Montgomery*, contained an estimated 300 birds 18 January. Though winter vultures remain largely confined to the southeast, of note elsewhere were 3-4 **Black Vultures** in *Westmoreland*. A hint of possible winter expansion by **Turkey Vultures** comes from Bob Leberman in *Westmoreland*: "As has been the case for several years now, a few **Turkey Vultures** successfully wintered in the Ligonier Valley."

It was an excellent winter for **Northern Harrier**. A record number were recorded on the WRS and over the entire season, harriers were reported from at least 40 counties. The great majority of harrier reports were from the southern two-thirds of the state.

At least nine **Northern Goshawk** reports were received, of which three referred to adult birds and five to immatures. Seven records were clustered 17 December – 2 January during the CBC season. Of these reports, four in the southeast came from *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Cumberland*, and *Delaware*; one was from *Centre*; three were from *Allegheny* and *Washington*; and only one from the north, *Warren*. Among **buteos**, **Red-shouldered Hawk** numbers were above average on both the CBC and WRS, and **Rough-legged Hawks** were near average in number; both, of course, were dwarfed by **Red-tailed Hawks**.

The news on **American Kestrels** remains mixed. In much of the state, their WRS numbers are holding steady. The Newville CBC in *Cumberland* tallied a healthy 60 kestrels, the highest total since 1997. But counts in southeastern counties remained depressed, quite evident from WRS data. *Delaware* compiler Dave Eberly commented on overall low numbers there, including the count of only two on the Glenholden CBC, which has a 48-year average of 25 kestrels.

Merlins are far fewer than kestrels, but unlike kestrels, their trend is upward. They were reported in 18 counties, 11 of these clustered from *Dauphin* and *Cumberland* east to the Delaware River. Another cluster occurred in west central counties. Only two were in the north, in *Erie* and *Bradford*. The most unusual raptor was the *Cumberland Prairie Falcon*, but not likely to be accepted because of uncertain origin. See compiler Cameron Rutt's summary of the history of this mysterious situation.

Sandhill Cranes were reported in four counties, but only *Lawrence* had them in number, with a high of 15 on 18 January. The only rail report was of a **Virginia Rail** on New Year's Day in *Bucks*. Shorebird reports of note included **Purple Sandpiper** and **Ruddy Turnstone** at *Erie* in mid-December. Remarkable was the return for the third year of what is presumably the same **Least Sandpiper** to *Cumberland*, where it was reported into February again this year.

As usual, *Bucks* was the center of gull news, reporting ten species, not

including hybrids. The headliner was a **Slaty-backed Gull** found 21 December by Tom Johnson, Andy McGann, and Devin and Justin Eby-Bosler at Tullytown, a potential first fully documented state record. This bird was part of a modest influx of Slaty-backs into ne. North America, with reports also from New York, Massachusetts (3), and Newfoundland (2) (Retter and Block 2008).

A **Mew Gull** at Tullytown 27 December would be the third *Bucks* record if accepted. **Glaucous Gulls** were noted in *Allegheny*, *Crawford*, and *Erie* as well as *Bucks*. A **Laughing Gull** in *Bucks* on 3 December was notably late, and a rough count of 1000 **Bonaparte's Gulls** in *Montgomery* was thought to be a record high there. In the northwest, McWilliams reported gull numbers at Presque Isle, *Erie*, were low this winter. Finally, see the CBC report for a historical perspective on **Lesser Black-backed Gull** occurrence; *Bucks* continues to be the North American winter hotspot for this species, Reports also came from five other southeastern counties and *Erie*.

Another potential state first in *Bucks*, and the bird of the season depending on your view of gulls, was a **Long-billed Murrelet** at Nockamixon State Park, found and photographed 14 December by Jason Horn. It proved to be a one-day wonder, and was not seen after the 14th.

Long-eared Owls and **Short-eared Owls** were widely reported. Long-ears were found in 13 counties, mostly in December. Twelve of the 13 reporting counties were in the Piedmont or Ridge and Valley regions in the southeast and south central portions of the state, *Huntingdon* and *Union* providing the most northwesterly reports aside from the one outlier in *Warren* in the far northwest. Short-ears were more widespread, reported from at least 27 counties. Not surprisingly, the only regions without Short-ears were the forested north central and northeast. The healthy number of Short-ears paralleled the strong showing of harriers, hopefully an indication of improving habitat for these grassland specialists. The one and only **Snowy Owl** report received was not even of a live bird: a

dead Snowy was found in *Adams* 19 December.

Six **Rufous Hummingbirds** were found, two in *Washington* and one each in *Berks*, *Dauphin*, *Lancaster*, and *York*. All reports were from southerly counties as might be expected. Four of the six were seen only in December, one was found dead 4 January, and the latest seen was the Fawn Grove bird in *York* 14 January.

Perhaps the most notable statewide event of the season was a major invasion of **Northern Shrikes**. At least 80 different birds were reported during December through February, from a minimum of 39 counties. This appears to be the second greatest documented **Northern Shrike** invasion of the state. Paul Hess (2000) compiled about 137 reports from 47 counties for the winter of 1999-2000. The high count before 1999 was about 50 shrikes in 1995-96. Of course, previous large incursions presumably went undocumented, with fewer observers in the field and far slower communication among birders.

In fall 2007, prior to 1 December, at least 15 shrikes had already been reported in the state, the earliest in *Centre* on October 18 (Malosh 2008). On Pennsylvania's CBCs, 24 were tallied, the third highest number ever, following the 27 recorded on CBCs in both 1995 and 1999 (corresponding to the invasion years mentioned above). Of all shrikes recorded this year, over half were first found during (or before) December.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of 80 reports from around the state.

Clarion, in the northwest, led the way with at least 13 individuals tracked by compiler Carole Willenpart. From the map, one can discern three areas of clustered records: se. counties, the Susquehanna drainage system in the center of the state and nw. counties, a pattern was also evident in Hess's 1999-2000 compilation.

As was also the case in 99-00, relatively few shrikes were found in the southwest and the northeast. Why the contrast of more shrikes in the southeast and northwest and fewer in the southwest and northeast? Shrikes entering the heavily forested northeast from New York may continue south until they reach the open country of the southeast, where many were found, but note also that birder coverage is very good in the southeast. But the southwestern part of the state contains vast areas of open land and birding coverage there is also fairly good, so the relative scarcity of shrikes in the southwest might be explained by shrikes entering western Pennsylvania (again, from New York) encounter an abundance of open country in northwestern counties, and therefore have no need to continue south.

Black-capped Chickadees moved south into **Carolina Chickadee** country, with notable numbers reported in *Bucks* and *Montgomery*. However, they were below average on the Glenholden CBC in *Delaware*. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** arrived in good numbers in the fall and into the early winter. On the state CBCs, 637 were counted, a good but not spectacular total. Some compilers noted

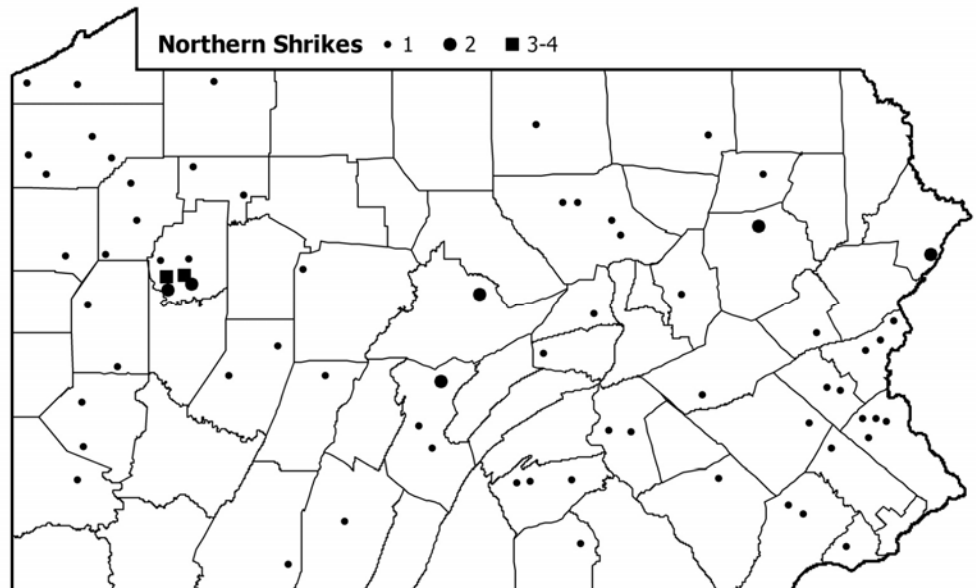


Figure 1: Northern Shrike reports after 5 January 2008

above average numbers during the winter but in *Bucks*, *Cumberland*, *Somerset*, and *Washington*, compilers commented that numbers dwindled after the strong fall flight.

American Robins stayed in the state in high numbers, the most spectacular report being the *Allegheny* roost that reached an estimated 100,000 in early January. Roosts counts of thousands of birds were also reported in *Bucks*, *Centre*, and *Greene*. A **Varied Thrush** was in *Berks* January 7. Flocks of **American Pipits** were 100 in *Chester* and 300 in *Bucks*.

Early in the season, it looked like Pennsylvania might be set to receive a substantial invasion of **Bohemian Waxwings**. December reports came from *Clarion*, *Erie*, *Monroe*, and *Tioga*. However, the invasion fizzled with no later reports; nevertheless four reports was a good showing for the state.

Only six warbler species were reported, down from the ten last year, with **Yellow-rumped Warblers** leading the way of course. The ten **Pine Warblers** reported was high, with at least seven present in January and February, most visiting feeders. There were four **Orange-crowned Warblers**, all in the southeast, two in December and two in February. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** in *Bucks* February 29 was apparently wintering successfully. The warbler rarity of the season was a splendid male **Blackburnian Warbler** found and photographed by Jason Horn, seen December 23 through February 10 in *Lancaster*, but not re-found after an ice storm in mid-February.

Among sparrows, notable were a **Harris's Sparrow** in *Fulton*, a **Lark Sparrow** in *Clearfield*, and a **Grasshopper Sparrow** in *Crawford*. In *Delaware*, a male **Indigo Bunting** attended a feeder throughout the season. Good **Snow Bunting** counts were 250 in *Crawford*, 200 in *Juniata* (Lewistown CBC), 240 on the *Erie* CBC, and 400 on the inaugural Northern *Lycoming* CBC.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in *Chester* and *Lancaster* and **Brewer's Blackbird** in *Chester*, *Lancaster*, and *Greene*. About 11 **Baltimore Orioles** were reported from four counties, down slightly from last winter. The *Juniata* **Bullock's Oriole** from the fall was seen regularly until 19 January. At that time a harsh blast of cold and ice storms moved across Pennsylvania, and the bird was not seen thereafter.

Table 1. Number of counties reporting selected half-hardy species, comparing winter 2006-07 to 2007-2008.

SPECIES	06-07	07-08
Wilson's Snipe	15	10
Yellow-bell. Sapsucker	17	17
Eastern Phoebe	9	8
Blue-headed Vireo	0	1
House Wren	1	0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9	10
Hermit Thrush	22	14
Gray Catbird	6	6
Brown Thrasher	2	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	15	11
Common Yellowthroat	2	0
Eastern Towhee	15	13
Field Sparrow	17	7
Eastern Meadowlark	11	8

Winter finches staged a modest irruption this winter, the best in several years in fact, but that's not saying much considering how little we've seen of winter finches so far this millennium. With the exception of redpolls, much of the excitement occurred early in the winter following on a promising end of the fall season. The one and only **Pine Grosbeak** report came from Longwood Gardens in *Chester* 16 February. **Red Crossbills** were reported from at least 14 counties and were rather well distributed across the state. Most reports came in December and consisted of just one or a few birds. **White-winged Crossbills** are less often reported in the state and that was true this season, with reports from just seven counties, all in the east except for a single in *Erie*. Most notable were the 80 counted at Hawk Mt, *Berks*, 12 December. By far the best showing among the winter finches was by **Common Redpolls**. I compiled reports from 48 counties, in other words almost every county for which a seasonal report was received. In most cases, numbers were low, an exception being the flock that reached about 200 birds at Oakland Mills, *Juniata*, where some who came for the Bullock's Oriole enjoyed this redpoll bonus as well. Not surprising, given the widespread Commons, were several reports of **Hoary Redpolls**, of which some were certainly correct, but identification of this species is usually anything but straightforward. Twenty years ago, Pennsylvania birders expected flocks of

Evening Grosbeaks approximately every other year. That has not been the case since the early 1990s however. This year's influx was the best in a decade, but nevertheless still pales in comparison to the past. Some **Evening Grosbeaks** began filtering in during the fall and it was evident that many Pennsylvania birders would have their best chance in years to see this showy northern finch. However, the invasion quickly fizzled. Specifically from December through February, reports were made from just 13 counties, over half of these from December. Western counties were somewhat favored over eastern and central counties.

Finally, for those interested in birds that stay north when most members of their species go south, I have again this year compiled a list of selected "half-hardy" species that were reported *after* the CBC season which ends each year on 5 January (Table 1). The numbers represent the number of counties (not individuals) reporting and, again, are reports from what we might consider mid-winter, which I define somewhat arbitrarily as beginning 6 January. In general, the number of half-hardies attempting to winter appears to have been somewhat lower than last year. Most such species are of course found in southern counties, but some brave (or foolish) birds show up in colder areas as well, for example, an **Eastern Phoebe** in *Warren*, a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** in *Tioga*, and a **Gray Catbird** in *Erie*.

Acknowledgments: I thank Nick Bolgiano for creating the map of Northern Shrike observations.

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Birds of Note – December 2007 through February 2008

This report summarizes unexpected species reported in Pennsylvania for this period. As a general rule birds must have been recorded in five or fewer counties to qualify for inclusion here, but rare species recorded more frequently, or irregular species exhibiting an unusual seasonal occurrence, are also included.

An * denotes species on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) Review List. Details or descriptions that are submitted for species on the PORC Review List will be reviewed by the committee. The term “no doc” refers to a Review List species for which no supporting documentation was submitted, or we are unaware of such a submission at this time. The PORC Review List can be found at the PSO web site <<http://www.pabirds.org>>.

Birds in *Italic* typeface are uncommon or rare, but occur during this time period in most years.

Birds in Underlined typeface occur at least 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

Birds in *Italic and Underlined* typeface occur fewer than 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

Birds in **Normal Bold** typeface are noteworthy for rarity, but are recorded annually.

Greater White-fronted Goose – *Berks, Bucks, Chester, Lancaster, Lehigh, Northampton.*

Ross’s Goose – *Allegheny, Beaver, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Northampton.*

Brant – *Franklin:* One on Chambersburg CBC 12/15.

Trumpeter Swan – *Forest:* Two at Tionesta, 12/30 (Pleasantville CBC) including an adult banded in Canada and an immature (Gary Edwards, Russ States).

Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal* – *Lancaster:* One at Octoraro Lake, 2/29 (Tom Amico, *no doc.*). *Philadelphia:* One at Tincum, 12/15 (Todd Fellenbaum, *no doc.*).

Eurasian Wigeon – *Bucks:* Male at Bristol, 12/15–25 (Bob Mercer, Doug Filler).

Blue-winged Teal – *Lancaster:* Two on the Southern Lancaster CBC, 12/16.

Harlequin Duck* – *Beaver:* Male at New Brighton, 2/28–3/4 (Mark Vass), first county record (ph. Geoff Malosh, Scott Kinzey, Mike Fialkovich, *doc submitted*). *Warren:* One male on the Allegheny R. in Warren, 2/2–6 (ph. Cara and Derek Farr, *doc submitted*); second county record.

Surf Scoter- Beaver: First winter male at Rochester, 2/12 (Mark Vass). *Bucks:* Two at Core Creek Park, 12/3 (Bill Keim); two at Nockamixon SP, 12/9 (Devich Farbotnik). *Erie:* Female at Presque Isle SP, 1/22–29 (Jerry McWilliams). *Indiana:* Yellow Creek SP, 12/18 (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamar). *Lancaster:* Susquehanna R. between Rt. 30 and 462 bridges, 2/2 (Bruce Carl, Eric Witmer).

White-winged Scoter – *Beaver:* Up to 8 present 2/12–13 (Mark Vass, Geoff Malosh). *Chester:* Two at Chamber’s Lake, 2/24 (Rick Robinson, Pam Fisher, Nick Pulcinella); one at Marsh Creek SP, 2/25–29 (Janet Crawford, Barry Blust). *Dauphin:* On Susquehanna R., mid-Feb. (m. obs.). *Erie:* A total of 93 on the Erie CBC, 12/15; one at Presque Isle SP, 1/25–27 (Jerry McWilliams). *Somerset:* One on Quemahoning Reservoir, 12/8 (Anthony Marich).

Black Scoter – *Erie:* Three on Erie CBC, 12/15. *Westmoreland:* One on Donegal Lake during Rector CBC, 12/22.

Red-throated Loon – *Bucks:* One at Peace Valley Park, 12/1 (August Mirabella). *Cambria:* One at Prince Gallitzin SP, 2/13 (Rory Bower). *Dauphin:* “A number” downed on Susquehanna River during ice storm, 12/16. *Erie:* Present on Erie CBC, 12/15. *Lancaster:* One on Southern Lancaster CBC, 12/16.

Red-necked Grebe – *Berks:* One at Lake Ontlelaunee, 12/27 (Rudy Keller). *Bucks:* Nockamixon SP, 1/7 (Bill Etter); Delaware River at Tincum Twp., 1/12 (Howard Eskin, August Mirabella). *Carbon:* One at Beltzville SP,

12/27 (Dustin Welch). *Clearfield:* One on Dubois CBC (12/29). *Erie:* At Sunset Point, Presque Isle SP; two on 12/2 and one on 12/17 (Jerry McWilliams).

Great Cormorant – *Bucks, Delaware, Philadelphia.*

American Bittern – *Cumberland:* One at Trout Run Preserve, Harrisburg CBC, 12/15 (Chris Rebert).

Great Egret – *Bucks:* At least three reports through 12/17; plus one on 1/26 at the Penn-Warner Tract, the second county record of a “wintering” individual (Devich Farbotnik). *Dauphin:* One at Wildwood Lake, Harrisburg CBC, 12/15 (Cliff Tooker). *York:* One at Seven Valleys, 1/7 (Bruce Fortman, Matt Schuchart, Steve Wildasin).

Green Heron – *Cumberland:* One on Conodoguinet Creek, Harrisburg CBC, 12/15 (Dan Ream).

Black-crowned Night-Heron – *Bucks:* Up to four at Bristol until 1/15 (Billy Weber, Devich Farbotnik, Bill Keim). *Cumberland/Dauphin:* One at West Fairview on the Susquehanna River, considered an early migrant, 2/26 (Cliff Jones).

Virginia Rail – *Bucks:* One heard at Quakertown Swamp, 1/1 (Devich Farbotnik).

Sandhill Crane – *Bradford:* One at Gowan Swamp near Evergreen, on Southeasten Bradford County CBC, 12/29 (Trudy Gerlach, Carol Parker). *Lawrence:* Eight on 12/28 and 15 on 1/8 (Linda Wagner). *Philadelphia:* One on Wyncote CBC, 12/15. *Westmoreland:* One at Ethel Lake in Derry from 12/20 through the season (Steve Manns).

Lesser Yellowlegs – *Delaware:* Two at Darby Creek, 12/15 (Skip Conant).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Erie:* One at Gull Point, Presque Isle SP, 12/15 (Ben Coulter).

Least Sandpiper – *Cumberland:* Found for the third consecutive winter—possibly the same bird each year—at Big Springs (last winter also at Stoughstown Pond), 2/2–24 (Vern Gauthier, Andrew Markel).

Purple Sandpiper – *Erie:* One at Gull Point, Presque Isle SP, 12/14–16 (Jerry McWilliams, Ben Coulter).

Laughing Gull – *Bucks:* One at Bristol, 12/3 (Bill Keim).

Mew Gull* – *Bucks:* One photographed at Tulleytown for a third county record, 12/27 (Ben Coulter, *doc submitted*).

Thayer’s Gull* – *Bucks:* Probable birds at Tulleytown, 12/22, 12/28, 1/19, and at Nockamixon SP, 1/20 (Ross Gallardy, Bill Keim, Devich Farbotnik, Bill Etter).

Iceland Gull – *Allegheny, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Erie, Lancaster, Montgomery, Northampton.*

Slaty-backed Gull* – *Bucks:* Found on 12/21 at Tullytown for a first state record, pending acceptance (Tom Johnson, Andy McGann, Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, *doc*

submitted); presumably the same bird was seen again 12/22, 12/27, and 1/16 (Devich Farbotnik, Ben Coulter).

Glaucous Gull – *Allegheny*: A first winter bird on the Allegheny River in Pittsburgh, 12/18 (Dan Yagusic). *Bucks*: Present beginning 12/21 at Tullytown (Tom Johnson). *Crawford*: One reported 12/15 on PABIRDS listserv. *Erie*: Four or more present 12/15 through the season at Presque Isle SP and Lake View Landfill (Jerry McWilliams, Ben Coulter).

Long-billed Murrelet* – *Bucks*: A one-day (12/14) visitor to Nockamixon SP, found and photographed by Jason Horn. Pending acceptance, this is **a first state record**.

Eurasian Collared Dove* – *Franklin*: At the established location in Shady Grove (Dale Gearhart).

Barn Owl – *Dauphin*: One on Harrisburg CBC, 12/15. *Juniata*: Two on Lewistown CBC, 12/15. *Lancaster*: One on Lititz CBC, 12/30.

Snowy Owl – *Adams*: One found dead on a farm, 12/19 (Mike O'Brien).

Rufous Hummingbird – *Berks*: A female, banded by Scott Weidensaul, present from the fall until 12/20 (Angela Wright). *Dauphin*: One present from the fall until 12/3 in West Hanover Township (Peggy and Rick Price). *Lancaster*: A fall holdover at a private residence, recorded on the Lititz CBC, 12/30. *Washington*: The McDonald bird found in the fall of 2006 and banded in January 2006 in Mississippi, was present this year until 12/6 (Kim Sartori). A second in the county was a female present from the fall in Burgettstown, found dead 1/14 (Patti Briggs). *York*: One present from the fall until 1/14 at Fawn Grove (Frank Linardi).

Loggerheaded Shrike – *Adams*: One or possibly two in the area of Pumping Station Road and McGlaughlin Road, throughout the period (m. obs.).

Blue-headed Vireo – *Delaware*: Two at Ridley Creek SP, 12/11 (Andy McGann).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – *Philadelphia*: Found again on the Pennypack Valley CBC at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant, a total of 93 (12/15).

House Wren – *Bucks*: One at Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Township until at least 12/2 (Richard Smith).

Marsh Wren – *Bucks*: One (probable) at Buckingham Wetlands, 2/18 (Ray Hendrick). *Northampton*: One near Martins Creek, 12/30 (Adam Smith, Billy Weber, Brandon Miller, Joe Yuhas, Mike Burchette).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – *Bucks*: One at Nockamixon SP, 12/12 (Bill Etter).

Brown Thrasher – *Allegheny*: One in East Liberty until 12/24 (Dan Yagusic); another was at Beechwood Farms during the Pittsburgh CBC, 12/29 (Brian Shema). *Bucks*: At least five reports though the season.

Swainson's Thrush – *Franklin*: One along Stillhouse Hollow Rd. (no details) (Bob Keener).

Varied Thrush* – *Berks*: Bloody Spring Rd., Bethel, 1/7 (Steve Brady).

Bohemian Waxwing* – *Clarion*: One in SGL 63 was photographed, present 12/9–10 (Mike Weible). *Erie*: One photographed at Presque Isle SP, 12/18 (Bernard Master). *Monroe*: One on 12/16 (Corey Husic, *no doc.*). *Tioga*: A flock of 15 on the Mansfield-Wellsboro CBC, 12/15 (Rich Faber, Terry Faber, *no doc.*).

Orange-crowned Warbler – *Bucks*: One visited a suet feeder in Langhorne, 12/10–1/5 (Gerry Dewaghe); one at Honey Hollow, Solebury Twp., 12/29 (Bob Friedmann).

Delaware: One feeding on a stale bagel in Prospect Park, 2/29 (John Miller). *Lancaster*: One at the Lancaster Area Sewage Plant found first 2/10 and again 2/16, 2/24, and 3/1 (Eric Witmer).

Blackburnian Warbler – *Lancaster*: One at the Lancaster Area Sewage Plant found 12/23 and re-located on 1/1, 1/19 (photographed), and finally seen last on 2/10 prior to an ice storm (Jason Horn, Eric Witmer).

Pine Warbler – *Allegheny, Bucks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Schuylkill, York*.

Palm Warbler – *Allegheny*: One in Ohara Twp, 12/4 (Paul Brown). *Lancaster*: In early winter, one-two each of both the “yellow” form and the duller “western” form; at least one “yellow” form present throughout the season (Eric Witmer, et al).

Yellow-breasted Chat – *Bucks*: One at Churchville Reservoir Park, 2/28 (Bill Keim).

Vesper Sparrow – *Chester*: Found on the West Chester CBC, 12/15. *Lancaster*: Along Umbertown Rd., 1/6 (Pamela Fisher). *Westmoreland*: Found during the Bushy Run CBC, 12/15.

Savannah Sparrow – *Bucks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Juniata, Montgomery, York*.

Grasshopper Sparrow – *Crawford*: One present in Meadville from fall until at least 12/21 (Marcia Carone).

Lark Sparrow* – *Clearfield*: One at Houtzdale, 12/2–13 (Steve and Mary Ann Belin, *doc submitted*).

Lincoln's Sparrow – *Lehigh*: Two on the Lehigh Valley CBC, 12/15. *Philadelphia*: Two on the Wyncote CBC, 12/15.

Harris's Sparrow* – *Fulton*: A first year male was at a feeder in Waterfall, 12/6–7 (James and Delores Purnell, *no doc.*), a probable first county record.

Indigo Bunting – *Delaware*: A male at a feeder in Swarthmore from early Dec through the period (Beth Soch, Alice Severeid, Dave Eberly).

Yellow-headed Blackbird – *Chester*: Two in a large blackbird flock in West Sadsbury Twp, 1/17 (Deuane Hoffman). *Lancaster*: Found on Solanco CBC, 12/16; also, near Gap, a male and a female (Deuane Hoffman); and one in a mixed flock near Quarryville, 1/27 (Tom Raub).

Brewer's Blackbird – *Chester*: One in a large blackbird flock in West Sadsbury Twp, 1/17 (Deuane Hoffman). *Greene*: Reported at Paul Braddock's farm, 12/18 (Jerry Howard). *Lancaster*: A male near Gap in a mixed flock (Deuane Hoffman).

Baltimore Oriole – *Bucks*: Up to six different birds, some from the fall, the latest report was 2/2 (Suzanne Meyers, Dave Horne, Doug Filler, Paul Lehman, Harry D'Allessandro, Tony Matijasick). *Chester*: Three reported on PABIRDS in the county on 12/9, including one in a Marshalltown yard that hosted one last winter (Dave Kruel). *Lancaster*: One visited a feeder in Narvon until at least 1/5 (Frank Haas, Esther Petersheim). *Washington*: One at a feeder in Daisytown, 12/4 (*fide* Andy Berchin).

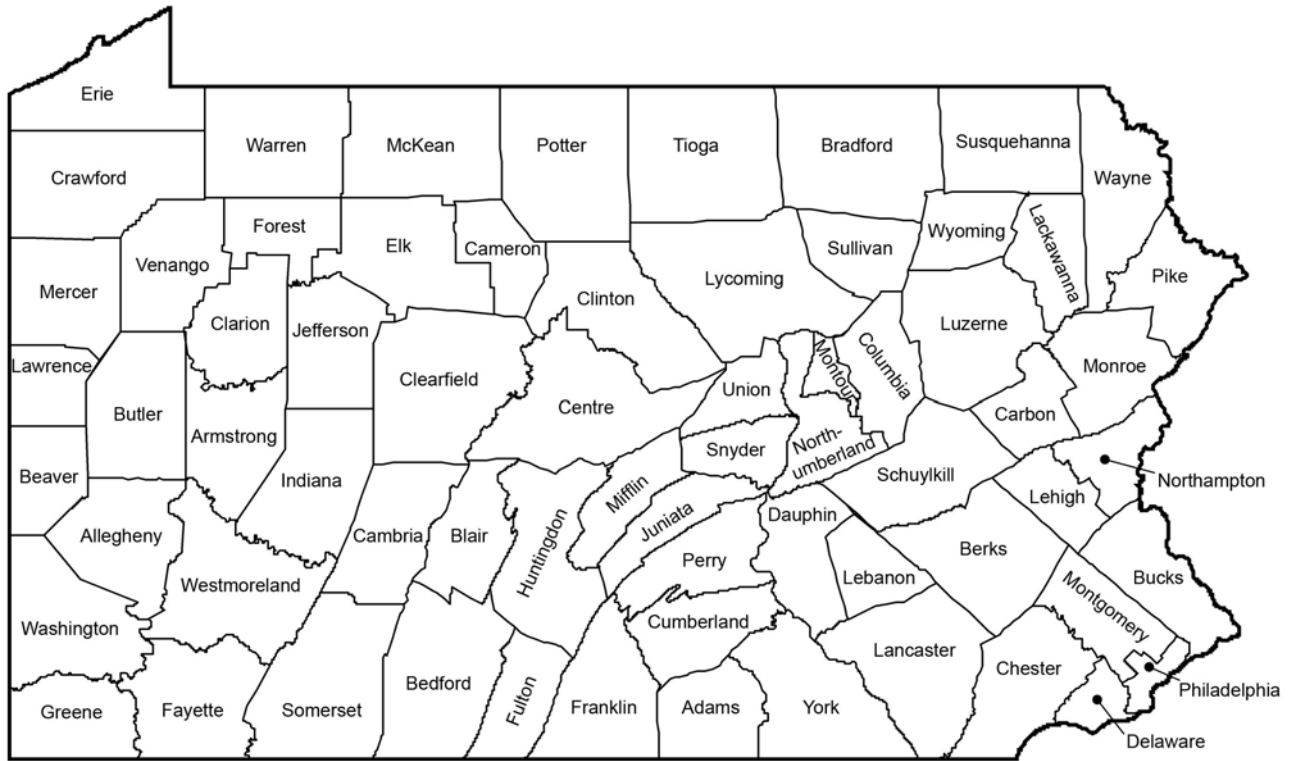
Bullock's Oriole* – *Juniata*: The male from the fall at the Lost Creek Shoe Shop and nearby Troyer homes near Oakland Mills continued until last seen 1/19, when the weather turned harsh (Troyer family, *doc submitted*).

Pine Grosbeak – *Chester*: One at Longwood Gardens, 2/16 (Sheryl Johnson).

White-winged Crossbill – *Berks, Chester, Delaware, Erie, Luzerne, Monroe, Schuylkill*.

Hoary Redpoll* – Reports were received from *Clarion, Cumberland, Erie, Monroe, Susquehanna, Tioga*.

Local Notes – December 2007 through February 2008



ABBREVIATIONS

B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey	max	maximum	Res.	Reservoir
C.A.	Conservation Area	min	minimum	Rte.	Route
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count	m.obs.	many observers	S.F.	State Forest
C.P.	County Park	Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain/Mountains	SGL	State Game Land
Cr.	Creek	N.A.	Nature Area or Natural Area	S.P.	State Park
et al.	and others	N.F.	National Forest	S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant
Ft.	Fort	N.M.	National Monument	subad(s)	subadult(s)
G.C.	Golf Course	N.P.	National Park	Twp.	Township
G.P.	Game Preserve	N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge	vr.	voice recording
Hwy.	Highway	ph.	Photographed	vt.	videotape
imm(s.)	immature(s)	Pt.	Point	W.A.	Wildlife Area
Jct.	Junction	R.	River	W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
juv(s)	juvinal [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.A.	Recreational Area		
L.	Lake	R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert		

Adams County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Fairfield (FFLD), Freedom Township (FRDM), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Mountain Rd. (MTN), Pumping Station Rd. (PSRD), SGL 249 (SGL).

There were 90 species reported during this season, compared with 100 species for 2007 and 80 species reported during the 2006 winter season. Although there was little frozen water, the 16 species of waterfowl was 5 less than the 2007 winter season. The 22 people who participated in the Christmas Bird Count 12/15 found 83 species, better than the 72 species for 2006 and the 74 species found in 2005.

The sixteen species of waterfowl reported included a **Cackling Goose** 12/19 among a large flock of **Canada Geese** in a pasture near Bonneauville (PJR), 4 **Mute Swan** on the 12/15 CBC, and a flock of

Tundra Swans in corn stubble along Germany Road from 1/19 to the end of the period, with a high count of 120 on 1/16 (PK). The 2 **Common Goldeneyes** on the 12/15 CBC was a good record for the county. **Ring-necked Pheasants** are no longer seen very often in the county. The only two reports of were four on the 12/15 CBC, and one 2/3 along Rt. 30 (PK)

One **Bald Eagle**, 4 **Northern Harriers**, and one **Rough-legged Hawk** were seen during the 12/15 CBC. Another **Northern Harrier** was seen 2/24 along Rt. 94 (PK). Two **Eastern Screech Owls** and 3 **Great Horned Owls** were found on the 12/15 CBC. Another **Great Horned Owl** was calling 2/28 in East Berlin (PK). A **Snowy Owl** was found dead 12/19 at a farm in the county (MOB). Two **Barred Owls** were found on the 12/15 CBC. The only **Short-eared Owl** report was one 1/10 at GNMP (PJR).

The 12/15 CBC tallied 9 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** and 8 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**. Another **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen 1/4 at MTN (RDS). Both Shrike species were recorded. The **Loggerhead**

Shrike was seen on PSRD throughout the period by several observers. A **Loggerhead Shrike** sighting 12/31 on MeGlaughlin Rd. was very interesting because it was about two miles from the PSRD location. Is the PSRD bird foraging two miles away, or is there a second site? A **Northern Shrike** was found 12/25 at SGL (MW) and was seen there again 1/6 (DF). The 12/15 CBC reported 10 **Common Ravens**—a good number for the county. Three **Common Ravens** were in FFLD 1/3 (MOB), one was in Ortanna 1/3 (DEB), and one was at SGL 1/12 (PJR).

Ten **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found during the 12/15 CBC, and two came to a FRDM feeder all February (ANK). The 12/15 CBC **Winter Wren** was the only one reported. Five **Hermit Thrushes** were reported for the 12/15 CBC, and another one was found 2/24 at the SGL section along Rt. 94 (PK).

American Tree Sparrows were reported throughout the period: 28 were found during the 12/15 CBC, along with 8 **Chipping Sparrows**. Six **Field Sparrows** were at MTN 12/18 (RDS), and three were seen 2/24 at the SGL section along Rt. 94 (PK). A single **Lapland Longspur** was on Germany Rd. 1/27 (BM). At a FRDM feeder there were 15 to 25 **Purple Finches** throughout the period (ANK). The county participated a little in the state's **Common Redpoll** invasion; three were seen on the 12/15 CBC, and three were in Ortanna 2/2-3 (PB). Small numbers of **Pine Siskins** were in the county throughout the period. No Evening Grosbeaks were found.

Observers: **Peter Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462, pabirder@hotmail.com** (PJR); Peter Bugler, Devin Eby-Bosler, Devich Farbotnik, Brett Keener, Phil Keener, Art & Nonie Kennell, Ben Leese, Bob Moul, Mike O'Brien, Ann Pettigrew, Ralph & Deb Siefken, Mike Weible, Dave Yeany.

Allegheny County

Locations: Findlay Township (FT), Imperial (IMP), Pittsburgh Christmas Bird Count (PGH CBC).

Flocks of **Tundra Swans** continued to move through in early Dec. A flock of 94 flew over Etna 12/1 (DY), 150 flew over FT 12/8 (MV), a flock was heard flying over Penn Hills 12/8, but were not visible (MF), and two large flocks flew over Plum Borough 12/9 (AH, PM). There were no further reports until 2/16 when they were heard (but not seen) flying over FT (DY).

We had quite a season for rare geese in *Allegheny*. The blue morph **Snow Goose** from last season continued at a pond on Moody Road in FT to 12/9 (MV, MF, GM). A white morph **Snow Goose** was with a flock of Canada geese at Neville Island 1/5 (MV) where it remained until 1/27 (m. obs.). We had our third record of **Ross's Goose** when 3 birds were found at Hampton Twp. Community Park feeding in a soccer field 1/7 (DN). The birds remained in the area for weeks allowing many birders to enjoy viewing and photographing them. They commuted between Hampton Twp. and North Park, where they apparently roosted on the park's lake. As colder weather set in, the lake froze and the birds resourcefully moved to the Allegheny River to roost in Sharpsburg near a small island, where they accompanied flocks of Canada Geese 1/21 (DY). The birds would fly out in the morning to feed at Hampton Twp. Community Park and were last seen flying over Sharpsburg 2/8 (DY). We are fortunate to see single snow geese in the county so two individuals were exciting and the previous two records of Ross' Goose were single birds. A **Cackling Goose** was observed flying over Beechwood Farms with **Canada Geese** 1/9 (BSh); probably a first county record.

The large pond on Moody Road in FT attracted a good variety of waterfowl in Dec, including a female **Gadwall** 12/1 (MV) and 12/8 (MV, MF). **American Black Ducks** were present through the month with a maximum of 16 on 12/27 (MV). A male **Northern Shoveler** 12/8 (MV) and a female **Ruddy Duck** 12/8 (MV, MF) and 12/14 (MV) were nice additions to the list. A great count of 10 **Northern Pintail** were there 12/18 (RG), which were probably part of a flock reported in nearby Beaver County a few days prior. The flock included a single female with 9 males. A single

Ring-necked Duck was present 12/21 (MV) and a **Lesser Scaup** was there 12/14-26 (MV); two were there 12/31 (MV) and 2 **Hooded Mergansers** were present 12/1 (MV, MF). Two male **Northern Pintail** were at IMP 12/15 (MV) and a female was there 1/1 (MV, MF). A **Gadwall** was at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela River 2/17 (KSJ). A **Green-winged Teal** stayed in a marsh at Harmar Twp. from 12/23 (TBy) to at least 12/29 (JV) and provided a rare record for the PGH CBC (*fide* JV). A bird on the Allegheny River at Cheswick 2/16 (AH, PM) was likely the same individual since the marsh became frozen by the new year, prompting the bird to move to the open water on the river which is less than a mile from the marsh.

As the winter progressed, waterfowl were on the rivers and any other water that remained free of ice. The season's first **Wood Duck** was at Leetsdale 2/17 (DW) and 2 **American Wigeon** were at Duck Hollow that day (KSJ). The following species were reported from various locations: **American Black Duck, Canvasback, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, and Ruddy Duck**. A nice count of 13 **Common Mergansers** were on the Allegheny River at Blawnox 1/26 (AH, PM).

A late or over-wintering **Turkey Vulture** was a surprise in Homewood Cemetery 12/26 (MVV, MF). One was in Frazier Twp. 1/31 (DH) and one was in Leetsdale 2/6 (MV). There were several **Bald Eagles** reported including an adult along the Allegheny River at Etna 12/1 (DY), a first year bird in Ohara Twp. 12/8 (DY), one in Sharpsburg 12/13 (TBy), and an adult along the Monongahela River 12/22 in West Homestead (JS, SS). An adult found during the PGH CBC 12/29 along the Mon. River in Greenfield (KSJ) was probably the same individual and only the second record for the PGH CBC (*fide* JV). Reports of single birds continued into January with an adult seen flying over Ross Twp. 1/18 (MK), one perched in a tree at Harrison Hills Park 1/18 (AT), a third year bird at Neville Island 1/27 (OM) and an adult at that location 1/28 (DW). Two reports of **Northern Goshawk** provided the raptor highlight of the season; an immature was in a backyard in Harmar Twp. 12/17 (JV), and another flew over IMP 1/2 (RG). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at IMP 12/26-27 (MV) and a light morph was there 2/16-24 (DY, MV, MF). A **Merlin** was found at Duck Hollow 12/22 (JS, SS), and Natrona Heights 1/26 (PH). As of this writing, **Merlins** have not been seen at the roost site in Schenley Park this winter.

A late **Killdeer** was at North Park during the PGH CBC 12/29 (BVN). One was in FT 2/16 (DY) and IMP 2/22 (MV); probably returning migrants. For the second year in a row, up to 2 **Wilson's Snipe** were wintering in a small drainage pond at IMP (MV, JM, KM, DW).

Gulls took center stage at the point in Pittsburgh for a brief period in Dec, a pleasant reminder of the past winter when we had an unprecedented variety of species. Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were present 12/11 (DY), an uncommon winter visitor. A second winter **Iceland Gull** and a first winter **Glaucous Gull** were discovered among a growing flock of **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls** at dusk 12/18 (DY). Both birds were present the following morning and were viewed at length (DY, DW). More searching turned up a possible **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 12/19 (SK) but viewing conditions prevented a positive identification. This gull show was short-lived, however, and by 12/20 it was over, with only a few of the expected species remaining. Gull numbers were very low through the end of the month with the onset of milder, calm weather. Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were along the Allegheny River at Fox Chapel 2/2 (BSh), and one was at the ponds on Moody Road in FT 2/12 (MV).

A **Barred Owl** was found in Indiana Twp. 12/29 during the PGH CBC (JV, SSn). **Short-eared Owls** continued from November at IMP with one 12/8 (MF) and two 12/27-2/18 (MV, MF).

The **American Crow** roost in the East End of Pittsburgh continues to raise questions. The birds were present through Dec at the same location as last winter in the Homewood section of Pittsburgh. In Jan, the birds moved towards Oakland and were observed gathering in enormous flocks in that area at dusk. The new roost location was never found. Two **Common Ravens** were present around the McKees Rocks Boat Dock 12/1 and 12/28; one was present 12/8 (MV). Two found during the PGH

CBC 12/29 (JG, OM) at Wood's Run were the first ever recorded on the count, despite being present for the past few years. This is the most reliable location for this species and they are often found around the (currently closed) Western Penitentiary building, a stone building that may resemble a rocky cliff in the eyes of the birds. One was seen on Neville Island 2/16 (MV).

Northern Shrike is a rarity in this county so reports of two birds were fantastic. One at Harrison Hills Park captured and killed a **Tufted Titmouse** 12/24 (KK). Another was at IMP 12/30 (DW). A **Carolina Chickadee** with a white tail visiting a feeder in Churchill 12/16 has been present for at least a year (WS, DS). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported the entire period from 13 locations. Two **Winter Wrens** were found during the PGH CBC 12/29: one in Shaler Twp. (JH) and one in Fox Chapel (BSh).

Hermit Thrush reports were good with single birds at North Park 12/19 (BVN), Sewickley Heights Park 12/28 (MV), Beechview 12/29 and 1/22 (JM, KM), Franklin Park 12/29 (PGH CBC), Collier Twp. 1/7 (GM), and Moon Twp. 1/28 (DW). These were welcome reports for this species that probably winters in the county annually, but isn't always detected. The **Brown Thrasher** reported in Nov in East Liberty continued to 12/24 (DY). Another late **Brown Thrasher** was found at Beechwood Farms during the PGH CBC 12/29 (Bsh).

S.A.

American Robin Roost. An amazing roost of **American Robins** was discovered in Collier Twp. 12/23 (SK). By 12/31, a total of 7,158 birds were counted flying to the roost (SK), however the exact location was unknown. Further searching in January led observers to a vantage point on a small hill that overlooked the roost area. Estimates of 75,000 birds were made and this incredible spectacle was enjoyed by many local birders. The sky was filled with clouds of birds at dawn and dusk. **American Robins** were observed flying past in enormous flocks for 45 minutes to an hour, almost nonstop. **European Starlings** were also roosting here and gathered in trees and exploded into the air by the thousands. Amid the hordes, a few **Common Grackles** were detected 1/5 (DY, MF, GM, DW, et al.). A single male **Brown-headed Cowbird** was mixed with a flock of several hundred **European Starlings** (two of which had white central tail feathers) 1/5 (MF). A **Hermit Thrush** (mentioned above) was heard calling as it flew over 1/7 (GM). Up to 50 **Common Grackles** were at the site 1/30 (SK). The roost was short-lived, though, and by the middle of Jan the number of birds (particularly robins) was greatly reduced. We are left with several questions. What was the attraction at this location? Why did the birds move on when they did? How long were the birds present prior to the discovery? We also wondered if the roost has been at this site for many years and only discovered by birders this year.

An **American Pipit** at the McKees Rocks boat dock 12/8 (MV) was unexpected for that location. A bird was at IMP (an expected location) 1/4-27 (MV). This is another species that is not usually present this time of year (last year one was found in Feb which was unusual). Five were at IMP 2/22 (MV). **Cedar Waxwings** have been common this fall and winter due to the abundance of fruit available, particularly wild grapes. A great total of approximately 452 were found in Harmar Twp. during the PGH CBC 12/29 (JV, SSn), and the total of 778 was the third highest ever recorded during the count (JV). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** reports were few, with just single birds in West Deer Twp. 12/1 (DY), East Liberty 12/27 (DY) and Harmar Twp. 12/29 (JV, SSn). Two were at North Park 12/29 (PL), 6 were at Franklin Park 1/12 (OM) and 6 were at IMP 1/21 (JM, KM). A **Pine Warbler** was an unusual visitor to a feeder in Oakland (photos submitted) from at least 2/16-26 (*fide* NN). An extremely late **Palm Warbler** was in Ohara Twp. 12/4 (PB) and has to be the latest fall record in the county.

A few **Eastern Towhees** lingered into the winter season again this

year. One was at East Liberty all of December to 2/24 (DY) and 2 were at Sewickley Heights Park 12/28 (MV). Single birds were found in Ross Twp. (BM, MK) and Shaler Twp. (JH) during the PGH CBC 12/29. One was at North Park 1/5 (BM), Boyce Park 2/5 (EH), and 2 were in FT 2/15 (MV). Single **Chipping Sparrows** visited feeders in Leetsdale 12/8 (BS), and Pine Twp. 12/30 (PL, SL). Single **Field Sparrows** were in FT 12/8 (MV) and Ohio Twp. 1/29 (PB). A few late (or perhaps wintering) **Fox Sparrows** were found including one at East Liberty 12/1 (DY), one in the West End of Pittsburgh 12/2 (JR), one at North Park 12/19 (BVN), and one at Sewickley Heights Park 12/28 (MV). Single birds were found at Harrison Hills Park 1/25 (KK), Boyce Park 2/5 (EH), and one stopped at the feeders at Beechwood Farms 2/27 (BSh). A few **Swamp Sparrows** were found, including 2 at Harrison Hills Park 12/15 (PH), 2 at Fox Chapel 12/29 (PGH CBC) at a reliable wintering location, and one at North Park 1/13 (MV). Eight **White-crowned Sparrows** were present in FT 1/1 at the traditional wintering site (MF). Three Rocky Mt. Race (*cismontanus*) **Dark-eyed Juncos** were reported, all at feeders. One 12/29 at Harmar Twp. remained through the season and was photographed, one visited Natrona Heights 1/17 (PH), and one was at Beechwood Farms 1/16-17 (BSh). A **Dark-eyed Junco** with white patches on its head and a single white primary on the right wing visited a yard in Penn Hills 1/19-26 (MF).

A **Snow Bunting** was spotted flying over IMP with a small flock of Horned Larks 1/2 (RG). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was there 12/27 (MV). A **Rusty Blackbird** was a fine visitor to a feeding station at Beechwood Farms 12/17 and was spotted in the area again 1/3 (BSh). This species is proving to be more regular in winter than previously thought, although it is still rare at this time of year. Irregular in winter, a few **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were present this season. One was with a small flock of **Red-winged Blackbirds** at IMP 12/8 (MF), 2 visited a feeder in Pine Twp. 12/17 (PL, SL), one was in Pleasant Hills 1/4 (SSn), a pair visited a feeder in Pine Twp. 1/9 followed by two males 1/24-25, and a single bird 2/12-15 (PL, SL).

A **Purple Finch** was at Harrison Hills Park 12/15 (SG) and 2 visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 12/19 (JV). Two were at Indiana Twp. (JFo) and Harmar Twp. 12/29 (JV), one visited a feeder in Natrona Heights 1/2 (PH, DH) and 3 were at North Park 2/2 (BM).

The northern finch movement in November seemed to dissipate by Dec, however a few notable sightings continued. A **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder in Ross Twp. 12/17 (BVN), and 9 were found in Hampton Twp. 12/29 (PGH CBC). While siskin and grosbeak observations declined, **Common Redpoll** sightings began in Dec and were welcome visitors to a few locations. A flock of 10 were in Moon Twp. 12/9 (GM) where they were feeding on birch catkins, and 6 birds at Harrison Hills Park 12/15 were also feeding on birch (PH). A single bird visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 12/19 (JV) and 4 were at Sewickley Heights Park 12/28 (MV). A flock of 37 were feeding on birch catkins on Moody Road in FT 12/30-1/13 (GM, et al.). One was in Hampton Twp. 12/30 (DN), 6 were at Harrison Hills Park 1/8 (KK), 7 flew over Beechwood Farms 1/9 (BSh), one visited a feeder in Plum Borough 1/13 (AH), 2 visited a feeder in Beechview 1/15 followed by 3 on 1/16 (KM, JM). A flock visited a feeder in Pine Twp. 1/27 where 21 were counted. A high of 50 were there 2/6, and smaller numbers remained through February (PL, SL). A single bird returned to a feeder in Harmar Twp. 2/2 (JV).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Rosston (RT), Rural Valley (RV), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS), Yatesboro (YB).

Canada Goose maxima included 78 at Manorville 12/1 (JV, JVa) and 247 at KR 12/30 (MH, RH). Two **Mute Swans** were noted at RT 1/31 (JV, JVa). A **Tundra Swan** stopped at KR 12/2 (MH, RH), the lone report. **American Black Duck** maxima included 24 at KR 12/30 (MH, RH) and 8 two miles below Mosgrove 1/21 (DY). Top **Mallard** counts were 18 at Manorville 12/1 (JV, JVa), 41 at KR 12/30 (MH, RH), and 52 at Manorville 1/25 (JV, JVa). The only **Green-winged Teal** were 2 at KR 12/2 (MH, RH). Five **Ring-necked Ducks** at KR 12/2 (MH, RH) were last. Lingered **Buffleheads** included 18 at KR 12/30 (MH, RH) and 2 at KT 1/21 (RH, DY). KR yielded good numbers of **Hooded Mergansers** including 43 on 12/2, 19 on 12/23, and 34 on 12/30 (all MH, RH). Top **Common Merganser** reports included 36 at Crooked Creek Park 1/1 (JV, JVa), 55 at RT 1/25 (JV, JVa), and 65 at RT the following day (DY). A single **Ruddy Duck** at KR 12/23 (MH, RH) was the only one reported.

A flock of 23 **Wild Turkeys** visited a RV feeder almost daily through 2/29 (LU). KR yielded the last **Common Loon** 12/23 and 12/30 (MH, RH) and 3-5 **Pied-billed Grebes** 12/2-30 (MH, RH). Ten **Horned Grebes** were present 12/2 (MH, RH) at KR where one lingered until 12/30 (MH, RH).

An adult **Bald Eagle** was observed along Plum Creek 1/4 (BR). A WRS in *Armstrong* produced 3 **Northern Harriers**, 12 **Red-tailed Hawks**, and 5 **American Kestrels** on 2/16 (MMc). An **American Coot** remained at RT 1/26 (DY). **Ring-billed Gulls** included 30 at RT 12/1 (JV, JVa), 20 at KR 12/2 (MH, RH), and 7 at RT 1/31 (JV, JVa). The only **Herring Gulls** listed were 6 at KT 1/21 (DY).

One **Short-eared Owl** near West Lebanon 1/1 (MH, RH) was across the *Armstrong* line. The WRS yielded the only report of **Common Raven** 2/16 (MMc). **Horned Lark** reports included at least 500 south of Worthington 2/16 (MMc). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** included 2 at YB (PB) throughout the period. **American Robins** wintered locally in small numbers with many reports (v.o.).

A single **White-crowned Sparrow** visited a YB feeder 2/12 (ED). Two **Snow Buntings** accompanied the large flock of larks south of Worthington 2/16 (MMc). First **Red-winged Blackbird** arrived at RV 2/29 (LU). Up to 10 **Common Grackles** visited feeders at YB 1/10-2/29 (PB) while a RV feeder hosted one or two between 1/20 and 2/17 (LU). **Brown-headed Cowbird** reports included 3 near Ford City 12/7 (JV, JVa) and 7 at RV 12/25 (LU); a singleton lingered at the RV feeder through 2/17 (LU).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@alltel.net**, Patty Barnett, Erma Dovenspike, Roger Higbee, Mark McConaughy, Bob Ramsey, Lorraine Uplinger, Joe Valasek, Josie Valasek, Dan Yagusic.

Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Beaver River (RB), Independence Marsh (IND), Little Blue Lake (LBL), Ohio River (OR), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

A **Snow Goose** was reported to MV by SM at Economy 2/4, and *Beaver's* second **Ross's Goose** was found at IND 2/8 (MV, ph. GM). Snow Goose is rare in winter, and Ross's is a true regional rarity, but notably both species were also seen in nearby counties after 1/1. A large flock of 100 **Tundra Swans** was seen headed south over Ellwood 12/8 (DK).

The season was by no means abnormally warm, but there were a few warm spells, so the complete lack of **Wood Duck** reports was a bit surprising. **Gadwalls**, on the other hand, were reported better than usual, with one to 5 birds reported from four separate locations in Feb. An **American Wigeon** on the BR 2/29 was the first of the season (GM). **American Black Ducks** are a successful wintering species in *Beaver*; this

year the peak count of 28 was made at AR 2/8 (MV). Forty-two **Northern Pintail** (4 at IND, 38 at LBL) made for a nice fallout 12/14 (MV). Two more were on the BR 12/16 (ER) but were absent for the rest of the season thereafter. **Canvasback** were reported in small numbers in early Dec and again in early Feb before returning in force 2/13, when 20 appeared at RCH (GM, MV). Up to 25 were counted in the general area of the BR to the end of the season. Twelve **Redhead** at RCH 2/25 and 2 at New Brighton 2/29 (GM) were the only reports. **Ring-necked Ducks** were reported sporadically 1/26-2/27. A **Greater Scaup** took up residence on the BR 2/14-27, and was joined by a second bird on 2/29 (MV).

Without a doubt, the bird of the season was a first-winter male **Harlequin Duck** found at New Brighton 2/28 (MV), one of two first-winter male Harlequins found in western Pennsylvania this season. It was photographed the next day at the New Brighton Boat Launch (GM, SK) and remained in the area until 3/4 (SK). Photos and a description of this first *Beaver* record were forwarded to PORC by GM. A first-winter male **Surf Scoter** appeared at RCH 2/12 (MV) and stayed until 3/3, probably the longest-staying individual of this species in *Beaver's* known history. On the evening of 2/12, it was in the company of a female **White-winged Scoter** (MV); on 2/13 the count of **White-winged Scoters** at RCH increased to 8 birds (GM). They were gone by the next day, but another **White-winged Scoter** was seen at RCH 2/17 (MV). Interestingly, MD reported one **White-winged Scoter** and 21 **Canvasback** 2/13 on the OR near Yorkville, Ohio, indicating a small regional fallout of both of these species that day. **Bufflehead** were scattered across county rivers and reservoirs throughout Jan and Feb. A **Common Goldeneye** at AR 1/1 was notable, and the best count was of 16 on the BR 1/26 (MV). They were recorded through 2/29. Thirty-nine **Common Mergansers** on the OR 2/3 was the high count (MV).

Mid-winter **Pied-billed Grebes** were 2 on the BR 1/4, and 3 there 1/26-2/1 with one continuing to 2/22 (MV). A nice group of 5 **Horned Grebes** was on the OR 2/13 (MV, GM), and another was on the BR 2/14 to the end of the season.

The first **Turkey Vulture** was a bird over RCSP 2/9 (OM). **Bald Eagles** continue to winter around the BR and OR in significant numbers. As many as 6 birds were seen throughout the season (SG, m. obs.), particularly in the vicinity of the mouth of Raccoon Creek on the OR. Very interesting was the observation of talon-locking and aerial displays made by two adult **Bald Eagles** at Montgomery Lock and Dam 2/11 (SG), however, no additional evidence of local breeding was reported by the end of the season. A **Northern Harrier** was reported out of place, flying up the BR 12/7 (MV). Otherwise the only reports came from known locations in Greene Twp. A light-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted in Marion Twp. 1/5 (MV), providing the only report. A **Merlin** was seen at New Brighton 12/17 (SG), and another—possibly the same bird—was seen at Beaver 1/6 (KG). The **Peregrine Falcon** pair returned to the East Rochester Bridge in Monaca again this season, and behaviors indicative of another nesting attempt were observed in Feb (SG).

Between 7 and 13 **American Coots** spent the month of Feb on the BR at New Brighton. This has proven to be a good location for this species in winter. The first **Killdeer** was found at IND 2/10 (MV), and a **Wilson's Snipe** was found in Independence Twp. 2/22 (MV).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** found on the Beaver CBC 12/15 was a count first. Singles and small groups were seen on the BR and OR 1/20-2/19 (MV). A few hundred **Ring-billed Gulls** spent Dec and the early part of Jan on the BR (m. obs.), but the best count was 750 on the OR 2/13 (GM). A few dozen **Herring Gulls** were also periodically noted throughout the season.

A road-killed **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found on the side of PA-68 at Industry 2/3 (BS, SM). The bird was unbanded. GM called up 9 **Eastern Screech-Owls** in the vicinity of RCSP 1/1. The Beaver CBC's 12/15 tally of 37 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** was a new high. Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were also found on the CBC but were the only reported for the season.

Two **Common Ravens** were thrice seen in the vicinity of the rail bridge over the BR in RCH in Feb (GM, MV), perhaps investigating a nesting location? Thirty **Horned Larks** in Independence Twp. 1/27 (MV)

were the only report of this curiously under-reported species in *Beaver*. Continuing from a great fall flight, 14 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** on the Beaver CBC 12/15 was also a high count for that CBC. Up to 3 persisted at feeders throughout the county through the season. Notably late were 4 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** on the Beaver CBC 12/15. An **American Pipit** in Independence Twp. 2/22 (MV) was the only reported. Similarly, 12 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** on the Beaver CBC were also the only reported.

An **Eastern Towhee** attended a feeder in Economy 1/13 to the end of the season (SM). A **Fox Sparrow** on the Beaver CBC 12/15 was the first record for the CBC. **White-crowned Sparrows** were found at a reliable wintering site in Greene Twp. again this season (MV).

A large flock of blackbirds at Madden Run Marsh 1/6 contained at least 200 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 18 **Rusty Blackbirds** (MV).

Pine Siskins were reported thinly this winter at a feeding station in Hopewell Twp (BW). The only other winter finch for the season was an **Evening Grosbeak** at a feeder in Chippewa Township during the CBC count week in Dec. It did not linger.

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Bedford County

No Report.

Compiler: **Tom Dick, 123 Hummer Lane, Cairnbrook, PA, 15924, (814) 754-5727, Thomasd102@aol.com**

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), L. Ontelaunee (LO), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), Reading CBC, 12/22/07 (RCBC), Bernville CBC, 12/29/07 (BCBC), Hamburg CBC, 12/30/07 (HCBC).

Another fairly mild winter froze lakes and ponds only intermittently. Severe storms were few, but one of the heaviest ice storms in decades occurred 12/16.

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at LO among **Canada Geese** 1/21 (MW). **Snow Geese** were again numerous on CBC's, followed by a Jan hiatus. The first large spring migrant flock of 10,000 was at LO 2/17 (RK). A **Cackling Goose** was with the Snows at LO 2/24 (MS). **Tundra Swans** were typically scarce; the high count of 5 was at LO 1/27 (MS). A solitary juvenile **Trumpeter Swan** with a gray neck and pale chocolate brown wings was briefly at BML 12/21 (JS). Birders reported 19 duck spp. for all or part of the winter. Like Snow Geese, many ducks are here through Dec, largely disappear in Jan, and slowly reappear in Feb. As usual, at least one **Mallard X American Black Duck** hybrid drake was at LO with its conspecifics all winter (RK). Two late **Blue-winged Teal** were at LO 12/4 (RK). A small flock of 5-9 **Redhead** drakes was at LO or nearby most of the winter (RK, MW). A **Long-tailed Duck** was at LO 12/20 (RK). **Common Mergansers**, a characteristic late winter feature of open, fishy lakes in southeastern PA, reached a seasonal high count of 1600 at LO on 2/17 (RK). A small flock of **Ruddy Ducks** wintered with **American Coots** and other waterfowl at Breneman's Quarry, Spring Twp. A **Red-necked Grebe** was at LO 12/27 (RK).

Both vulture spp. wintered widely, with a concentration of 32 **Black Vultures** and 21 **Turkey Vultures** at a chicken farm near Hamburg 1/26 (MW). Easy carrion pickings at this farm also attracted an adult **Bald Eagle** 1/25 and 24 **Red-tailed Hawks** 1/26 (MW). The nesting **Bald Eagles** at LO were often seen during the period. **Northern Harriers** were a bit more widely reported than usual, especially in good vole breeding habitat like the large, uncut grass fields at Hottenstein Rd., Kutztown and Stricker Rd. near Robesonia. Approximately 4 **Northern Harriers** wintered at the latter site, a gamebird farm (fide RK). Single **Rough-legged Hawks** were

occasionally seen at both places (RK,SS,MW). A juvenile **Northern Goshawk** was at BML 12/20 (JS). **Merlins** were intermittently seen at BML (JS), Jefferson Twp. (AM) and LO (MS) from Dec through 2/7. Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** pair was in residence all winter (BU).

A **Ruffed Grouse** seen on the HCBC was the only one reported this season. Single **American Woodcocks** were found on the RCBC and HCBC. Two first winter **Iceland Gulls** were among thousands of **Ring-billed Gulls** at BML 2/3 (RK, JS). Only one or two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were seen at intervals this winter, as were up to 6 **Great Black-backed Gulls** (RK, JS, MW). A few **Long-eared Owls** were found near Maxatawny on the Lehigh Valley CBC 12/15 (TW) and one was found on the HCBC. About 5 **Short-eared Owls** wintered at the gamebird farm near Robesonia (fide RK), two or three were at Hottenstein Rd., Kutztown 2/3-4 (RK, SS, MW), and one was found on the HCBC. Single **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were found on each CBC, and a bird tooted three times in Bern Twp 2/4 (JS). Likely many more were present after last fall's record migration.

Red-headed Woodpeckers wintered at traditional locations near Oley and Bowers (RK, MW). An **Eastern Phoebe** was near Leesport 2/18 (DK). A **Northern Shrike** was seen near Topton on the LVCBC 12/15 (PS). A **Common Raven** was seen and heard twice in Pike and District Twps. in late Jan and early Feb (RK), two were at Hottenstein Rd., Kutztown 2/10 (PO), and one was at LO 2/24 (MS), adding to the recent trend of sightings south of the Kittatinny Ridge. Irruptive **Black-capped Chickadees** were numerous into Feb, when numbers at feeders began to decrease. True numbers of this sp. on CBC's were again masked by the use of the designation 'chickadee sp.' here in the hybrid zone. HMS recorded 398 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** during the fall 2007 season. Low counts on CBC's indicate that most of these birds moved on, but one to three were reported from several feeders all winter. A **Winter Wren** wintered at the headwaters of Oysterville Cr. in District Twp. through March (RK).

A **Varied Thrush** was seen in a woodlot off Bloody Spring Rd. near Bethel 1/7 (SB). The observer thought it was an adult male based on the blackness of the breastband and facial pattern. He also noted a strong blue cast to the gray back and the heavy bodied, short-tailed look of the species. His identification was reinforced for him by a photo of a Varied Thrush sent to him by his son, who had hosted one at his feeder in Wisconsin. The bird was solitary and was not found on later visits, probably because there were no berry-bearing shrubs in the vicinity.

A flock of 25 **American Pipits** was near Lyons 2/24 (MW). Feeders attracted an **Eastern Towhee** near Reinholds 2/24 (AW) and a **Chipping Sparrow** in Hamburg 2/9-10 (KG). Three **Lapland Longspurs** were in a Horned Lark flock near Lyons 1/27 and 2/24 (MW); on the latter date, a small flock of **Snow Buntings** fed nearby (BW). The season's only **Eastern Meadowlark** report was of two birds at BML 1/7 (JS). HMS recorded 2,025 **Purple Finches** during the fall 2007 season, most of which apparently kept moving. CBC counts were low, and a few feeders attracted up to a dozen birds through the winter. Crossbills were, as usual, a HMS specialty, where three **Red Crossbills** and one **White-winged Crossbill** were found for the HCBC. **Common Redpolls**, actually common in some places north of the Piedmont, reached *Berks* only in small numbers. A few feeder watchers reported single visits of one to three birds in Feb (HL, RK, DR, LS, MS), and two flocks were reported, one of about a dozen birds at BML 1/3 (JS) and the other of 18 birds at Flying Hills 2/16 (KJ). **Pine Siskins** were more regular if uncommon, with feeder reports of up to 25 birds all winter at some places (RK, HL, PO). **American Goldfinches**, dishwasher common and mostly ignored, attracted a little attention this season. A noteworthy 3,647 passed North Lookout, HMS last fall, and the great majority of the 790 tallied on the BCBC were in a single unharvested sunflower field.

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Blair County

No Compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: Compiler's farm near New Era (FNE), Southeast Bradford Co. Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

Once again, winter started out rather mildly, with somewhat sparse snow and cold coming later in the season.

There were plenty of **Bald Eagles** around this winter: on 12/20 one was at Browntown (HS, JS), 6 were observed on the CBC 12/29; 5 adults and 5 immatures were seen 1/11 on the Bradford Co. Bald Eagle Survey (DA, BF, IF, TG, RG, TL, BM), and one was seen 2/27 on the Chemung River from Wilawanna Rd. (MZ). Two **Northern Harriers** were present 12/29 on the CBC (SG, JH, RK, BT, BW); one was at Peck Hill 2/7 (AV, GV). A few wintering **Rough-legged Hawks** were located: 4 (3 light, one dark) 2/14 on the NW Bradford Co WRS (BL); and one 2/27 on Rt. 220 by the Sayre exit (MZ). A **Merlin** was seen on Peck Hill 2/17 (AV, GV).

The most surprising find on the CBC 12/29 was a **Sandhill Crane** walking along the melted edge of a frozen pond and on top of a beaver lodge at Gowan Swamp near Evergreen (TG, CP). Sandhill Cranes have begun breeding in the general area (Dushore, Sullivan Co. and Near Hollenback) in recent years. What has become a yearly sighting of **Bonaparte's Gulls** occurred 1/30 with around 50 flying south over the Susquehanna River behind the court house in Towanda (FI). Not common, an **Eastern Screech-Owl** was observed 12/29 on the CBC (SG, BW), and one was calling 2/8 at Peck Hill (AV, GV). A **Northern Saw-Whet Owl** was found 12/29 on the CBC (DG).

Once again, **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were seen during the winter in areas where they weren't present during the winter before the last few years. On 12/14, one was at Browntown (HS, JS), and singles 12/27 and 2/18, both at FNE (TG). Seventeen **Northern Flickers** were observed 12/29 on the CBC, a much larger number than has been recorded on any previous CBC here.

A **Northern Shrike** was seen 12/29 on the CBC (JL, RL). There was a single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** present 12/29 on the CBC (DG). On 12/20 a **Northern Mockingbird** was found at Peck Hill (AV, GV). On 12/14 a mixed flock of **Snow Buntings** and **Horned Larks** totaling about 100 birds was seen on Sopertown Rd. in western Bradford (BL). Twenty **Snow Buntings** were in the Edinger Hill area 12/27 (EW), and 40 were seen 12/29 on the CBC (DG). Three **Red Crossbills** were found 12/29 on the CBC (DG).

Our area hosted some of the great influx of **Common Redpolls** this winter. On 12/9 there were 4, 10 on 12/17 and 36 on 12/21 at Peck Hill (AV, GV); 2 at a feeder in Sayre on 12/16 (RS); 2 at feeder in Sayre on 12/24 (MZ); 29 on 12/27 at Ridgebury Lake (BB, LB); 39 on 12/29 on the CBC (DG, RK, JL, RL); 36 on 12/20 at FNE (TG); many on 1/1 at Peck Hill (AV, GV); on 1/3 at New Era (FS); 2 females on 1/3 at Holleback feeder (MaB, NB); one on 1/6 on Wood's Rd. (CM, GM); 36 on 1/12 at Peck Hill feeder (AV, GV); 12 on 1/17 at Holleback feeder (MaB, NB); 2 on 1/23 at Woods Rd. feeder (CM, GM); 70 on 2/2 at Peck Hill (AV, GV); 50 2/8-14 at Hollenback feeder (MaB, NB); and one on 2/20 at Woods Rd. feeder (CM, GM). Surprising considering the number of Redpolls, there were only a few scattered sightings of one or 2 **Pine Siskins**: 2 on 12/29 on the CBC (DG); one at a Hollenback thistle feeder 1/2-1/3 (MaB, NB); and 2/20 at a Woods Rd. feeder (CM, GM).

Observers: **Trudy Gerlach, RR2, Box 228, Wyalusing, PA 18853, 570 746-9270, tgswoods@epix.net**, Dick Allyn, Marvin Baker, Nancy Baker, Bruce Boselli, Lee Boselli, David Buck, Melody Buck, Mark Catalano, Joe DeMarco, Bob Fowles, Ingrid Fowles, Sandy Goodwin, Doug Gross, Rich Gulyas, Jim Hoyson, Frank Innes, Rick Koval, Bruce Launius, Tony Liguori, Joe Lesko, Rebecca Lesko, Bill Madill, Charlene Miller, George

Miller, Carol Parker, Franz Schmitt, Harry Schulze, Jane Schulze, Richard Shelling, Alan Thatcher, Bruce Troy, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Bob Wasilewski, Ellen Whipple, Marsha Zwierlein.

Bucks County

Locations: Bedminster Twp. (BET), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Central Bucks CBC (C-CBC), Churchville Reservoir Park (CVP), Core Creek Park (CCP), Maple Knoll Farms-Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Rohm & Haas, Bristol (RHS), Southern Bucks CBC (S-CBC), Tullytown (TYT), Upper Bucks-Montgomery CBC (U-CBC).

The season was generally uneventful weather-wise, with only short cold spells and very little snow, well under 10 inches in most areas. Lakes were iced over for only short periods. January and February were somewhat mild at 3°F and 2°F above average, respectively. Rainfall was above average in December and February and overall for the period. The anticipated numbers of some of the more unusual irruptive species didn't materialize, being represented by only a few individuals or not at all. The more regular cyclical irruptive species were more dependable. In general, counts of many duck species were not noteworthy, probably due to the lack of prolonged cold or ice cover. The huge numbers of gulls in our area in winter take up the slack for birders lacking other attractions. The occurrence of half-hardy species was a mixed bag, as usual, with any conclusions being based on data that are probably insufficient.

The weather was mostly good for two of our Christmas Bird Counts, but the U-CBC suffered from freezing rain most of the day, and a layer of ice covered all vegetation over much of the area. Despite the weather, the 40th U-CBC 12/16 still produced a very respectable 89 species and 22,934 individuals. The species count was slightly below recent averages. There were two new high counts, and one new species added to the cumulative count list. There were many well below average counts due to the weather, which made year-to-year comparison of the totals from the three CBCs less meaningful this year. Thus, most comparisons discussed below are based only on the other two counts. The 42nd C-CBC 12/30 had an above average 93 species and 109,591 individuals. The high number of individuals was due mostly to large European Starling and American Robin roosts, plus a large Common Grackle flock. There were 11 new high counts. The 61st S-CBC 12/15 recorded an above average 103 species and 55,917 individuals. There were 6 species with new high counts.

As usual, historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* (1998) by Ken Kitson, and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Weather statistics are from NOAA data collected at nearby Trenton, NJ. Christmas Bird Count data were supplied by the following individuals: Bob Mercer: S-CBC; Diane Allison: Central CBC; and Bill Etter: U-CBC.

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported at PVP 12/8-12/24 (AM, RFe). Two on the C-CBC 12/30 from nearby adjacent areas (CC, EC, DH) were probably 2 of the same birds. Another was at Upper Makefield Twp. 1/26 (DFa), and one was at Silver Lake Park 2/10 (LR). There were more reports than normal of flocks of 50-250 **Snow Geese**, mostly in late Dec from CCP, PVP, NSP, and RHS (BK, BE, CR, AM). The real show was in the Riegelsville area, where a few thousand were regular in fields during mid-Jan into Feb (ABr, AK). **Cackling Goose** provided new C-CBC and S-CBC high counts with 10 and 2 respectively. A count of 12 **Mute Swans** at NSP 1/22 is indicative of the expansion into the northern part of the county (BE). Consistent with low numbers here in winter, a total of 10 **Tundra Swans** were reported at 5 sites, most in Dec, with one each in Jan and Feb (m.obs.). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was found at RHS for the S-CBC 12/15 (BM, DFi) and continued to be reported through 12/25 (BK, DFa). This was the fifth report for the S-CBC and sixth for the county. The **American Black Duck** flock near Mudd Island grew to 300 by 1/3 (BK), exceeding last year's high report there. About 300 were also noted at NSP 1/6 (BE). **Mallards** repeated last year's peak count at NSP, with about 1000 on 1/6 (BE).

Scarce here, **Canvasbacks** were reported on 6 dates at PVP 12/2-

2/28, with none in Jan and a peak of 4 on 12/24 (m.obs.). CVP had one or two 12/15-12/16 (NZ, MD), and one was at PWT 1/5-1/26 (DFa). A **Redhead** at RHS repeated last year's appearance on the S-CBC 12/16 (DFi), and was seen through 1/12 (BW, BK) for the only report. **Lesser Scaup** furnished a new high count for the second year in a row on the S-CBC 12/15, with 153 reported. A single site count of 190 near Falls Twp. Community Park 1/9 surpassed that (BK). Two **Surf Scoters** at CCP 12/3 (BK), and 2 at NSP 12/9 (DFa) were all later than the previous fall late date, but there is one historical Jan report. A **White-winged Scoter** stopped at PVP 12/18 (AM). Straggling **Long-tailed Ducks** were at CCP 12/3 (BK), PVP 12/4 (RFe) and 12/16 (AR), and PWT 12/22 (DFa). The single site high-count report for **Common Goldeneye** was a very low 21 at Morrisville 12/15 (BK). Better but still low, the single site **Hooded Merganser** high-count report was 66 on 12/17 at RHS (BK). **Hooded Merganser** was well above average on the CBCs with 72 on the U-CBC, 81 on the S-CBC, and a new record-high 18 on the C-CBC. **Common Merganser** counts at PVP grew through Dec to a peak of 1575 on 12/20, with numbers there resulting in a new C-CBC high-count of 1248 on 12/30 (AM). After a period of ice cover, they increased again to an unprecedented estimated total of 3200 on 2/12 (RFe). Numbers remained high there through the end of the period. A conservative estimate of 5000 was noted at PWT 1/26 (DFa), NSP had 900 2/9 (BE), and 910 was the peak count at CCP 2/26 (BK). A **Red-breasted Merganser** at PVP 12/30 provided the second C-CBC record (AM, KK), the first being last year. Another was at NSP 12/16 for only the ninth occurrence on the U-CBC (BE). Scattered reports occurred through the winter, which reflects the increased reporting of this species here in winter (RFe).

A paltry 7 **Ring-necked Pheasants** were tallied for all 3 CBCs, some or all of which were probably "poultry" released for target practice. Thirteen at NSP 2/5 were believed to be in that category (BE). The 24 **Wild Turkeys** on the S-CBC furnished only the sixth occurrence for that count, all since 1993. A **Red-throated Loon** was at PVP 12/1 (AM). There was a mini-fallout of about 15 **Common Loons** at NSP 12/12 (BE). Eight on the CBCs was unusually high. The usual handful of reports was received for the rest of the winter. Two **Horned Grebes** lingered at NSP to set a new record high for the U-CBC 12/16 (BE), and one at PVP 12/14-12/30 was only the sixth for the C-CBC (KK, AM). Two were at Falls Twp. Community Park 12/28, and another was noted at PVP 2/2 (KK) after a strong cold front. **Red-necked Grebe** reports came from NSP 1/7 (BE) and on the Delaware River at Tinicum Twp. 1/12 (AM, HE). Unusual for the upper county were one or two **Double-crested Cormorants** lingering at NSP to at least 12/22 (BE). One there 12/16 was only the fourth ever on the U-CBC. Five were tallied on the S-CBC 12/15, and probable wintering birds were at TYT 1/8 (MS) and Mudd Island 1/31 (BK). The S-CBC count of 21 **Great Cormorants** broke the former high count recorded last year by one. A **Great Egret** was found for only the fifth time on the S-CBC 12/15, one was at RHS 12/4 and 12/17 (BK), and one continued at PWT to at least 1/26 (DFa), and thus was the county's second reported wintering individual of this species. Up to 3 adult and one immature **Black-crowned Night-Herons** remained at RHS through at least 1/15 (BW, DFa, BK) but were missed on the S-CBC.

Surprising to me is the fact that in the 61-year history of the S-CBC, **Black Vulture** has only been recorded 8 times, all but one in the past 10 years. Last year had a high count of 26 followed by 20 this year. In contrast, the C-CBC and U-CBC to the north, with much shorter histories, have recorded this species 22 and 26 times, with historical high counts of 192 and 104 respectively. **Bald Eagle** was widely reported but no unusual single site high counts occurred (m.obs.). **Northern Harrier** was above average on all three CBCs. A total of 15 was almost triple the long-term average on the U-CBC 12/16, and in general, they were conspicuous this winter (m.obs.). Although there was only one on the CBCs, an unusual number of **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported across the county, with increased numbers in late Jan. and continuing through Feb (m.obs.). Most were young birds. The peak report was from NSP, where 5 birds were seen on two days in late Feb, with at least 6 different individuals (HE). The all white, but not albino, **Red-tailed Hawk** wintered at Milford Twp., where

it has returned for at least 6 years (BL). **Rough-legged Hawk**, increasingly rare here, was reported at Tinicum Twp. 12/27 (DFa), TYT 1/16 (TJ), and CVP 1/19 (JMa). After 2 county fall reports of **Golden Eagle**, NSP had an adult 12/15 (EW) and a second year bird 12/19 (ML, MH), providing a well above average year for reports and a new fall late date. A total of 11 **American Kestrels** on the two fair weather CBCs represented only 24% of long term averages, reflecting the decline of this species regionally. **Merlin** was reported from several sites in Dec, with a few in Jan and Feb, but only the C-CBC could find one on count day (m.obs.). An assumed late migrant **Peregrine Falcon** was at MKF 12/2 (RS, VS). A pair was noted regularly at the Scudders Falls Bridge and may be a new nesting pair there (BK, DL).

One **Virginia Rail** was heard at Quakertown Swamp 1/1 (DFa). The 638 **American Coots** on the S-CBC 12/15 were half last year's count, but still twice the long-term average. A relatively high 13 **Wilson's Snipe** were reported from 6 sites between 12/16 and 2/18 (RH, CW, DFa, GJ, RS), with 6 of those on 1/1 in Warminster Twp. (GJ). **American Woodcock** was reported 12/14 from both PVP (RFe) and NSP (DFa).

A **Laughing Gull** at RHS 12/3 was the last report for the fall (BK). Unusual for the late date, 190 **Bonaparte's Gulls** arrived at NSP 1/30 with a strong cold front (BE). Otherwise, only 5 others were reported between 12/1 and 1/31 (BE, AM). A **Mew Gull** was reported at TYT 12/27 (BC-photos), providing only the third county report. A possible first year **Thayer's Gull** "looked pretty good" at TYT 12/22 (RG), and another first year bird there 12/28 "looked good" for that species (BK). More unequivocal was one reported there 1/19 (DFa). A first winter bird at NSP 1/20 "appeared to be...the best candidate" there to date (BE). A peak count of 8+ **Iceland Gulls** was made at TYT 12/21 (TJ). **Iceland Gulls** again were fairly regular away from the TYT landfill this winter, with regulars at NSP (BE, ABr) and CVP (BK), but reports also came from PVP (CC, AM). Good counts of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** included 250 at NSP 1/20 (BE) and 180 at PVP 12/17 (RFe). A U-CBC record high 172 was recorded (BE).

An adult **Slaty-backed Gull** at TYT 12/21, if accepted, will be the first documented Pennsylvania record (TJ). A bird believed to be the same bird was observed in the area again 12/22, 12/27, and 1/16 (DFa, BC, TJ). The distance to the bird, the distant photos, and the complexity of so many closely related gull species and their hybrids, make this a difficult species to confirm, especially for a first state record. An indication of the potential number of dark-backed hybrids in the county were the 3 presumed **Lesser Black-backed Gull X Herring Gull** hybrids at NSP 1/13 among 3500 gulls (BE). One of these was banded, probably a return of one seen last year. Others were reported from PVP and TYT. A presumed **Great Black-backed X Herring Gull** hybrid at PWT (DFa) is the first identified locally to my knowledge. Two **Glaucous Gulls** at TYT 12/21 were the first of the season (TJ) and were reported subsequently. A first winter **Nelson's Gull** hybrid was reported at TYT 12/21 and thereafter (SKa, m.ob.), with a second winter bird at NSP 1/13 (BE). More unusual was an "apparent" third year bird at NSP 1/20 (BE). The following table shows this year's CBC gull numbers. Gull numbers were way above average for the U-CBC and C-CBC, which continues the upward trend for those counts in recent years.

Species	U-CBC	C-CBC	S-CBC	TOTAL
Ring-billed Gull	1457	2753	6030	10,240
Herring Gull	113	178	15,035	15,326
Iceland Gull	0	0	4	4
Lesser Bl.-backed Gull	172*	140	126	438
Glaucous Gull	0	0	1	1
Great Bl.-backed Gull	2	48	1406	1456
Total	1744	3119	22,062	27,465

* Record High

A **Long-billed Murrelet** was very cooperative at NSP 12/14, and would be a first state record if accepted (JH). The regular appearance locally of rarities such as this never ceases to be amazing.

There were no reports for **Barn Owl**. A **Barred Owl** at Doylestown Twp. 12/20 (DH) provided only the third occurrence on the C-CBC. **Long-eared Owls** wintered at PVP again, with a peak report of 11 on 1/29 (AM). Birder disturbance to this site continues to grow. Up to 2 **Short-eared Owls** were in BET again this winter, with the first report 12/26 (CR). One of these and one at Pine Run Dam, were both tallied for the C-CBC 12/30 (BS, CC, EC). Two more were reported at Richland Twp. 1/28 (BE). Despite the banner year for **Northern Saw-whet Owl** migration, one on the S-CBC at CVP was the only CBC report and only the eighth ever for that count. Two road kills were reported; one at Nockamixon Twp. 1/1 and another in Feb at Tincum Twp. (DFa), making a total of 3 such reports this fall/winter. There were a few other reports but no large numbers (DFa, BE). At least one **Red-headed Woodpecker** wintered at the usual State Game Land #157 site (DFa). **Red-bellied Woodpecker** provided a record 176 counted on the C-CBC, which is 3 times the long term average. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** counts were high, with 13 on the U-CBC despite the weather, a 3 times average 19 on the C-CBC, and a record smashing 18 on the S-CBC. Reports continued through the season (m.obs.). An **Eastern Phoebe** was in BET 12/26-1/12 (CR, Dfa). Following the one fall season report in Tincum Twp., it was a very good year for winter **Northern Shrike** sightings. There were 3 different birds based on plumage reported at NSP 12/9-1/15 (DFa, BE, BL). Another was at BET 12/18 (BE), with the same or another bird at a different BET site 12/26 (CR). **Fish Crow** has been recorded on the C-CBC more frequently in recent years with 22 this year being a new high-count, although only 14 were in Bucks. A **Common Raven** just north of New Hope 1/3 and another at NSP 2/26 (both Dfa) made the total reports for this fall/winter come to 6, making this a very exceptional year for this species locally.

Horned Lark was also in very exceptional numbers, with high counts up to 400 at MKF through the period (RS), 100 near Newtown 12/6 (BK), 250 at Richland Twp. 12/16 (DFa), 280 in Hilltown Twp. 12/30 (BE), and 250 in BET 12/30 (CC, EC). These large numbers contributed to a record high 576 for the C-CBC 12/30, and 296 on the U-CBC 12/16, with both counts being several times the long-term averages. The good **Black-capped Chickadee** irruption was comparable to two years ago, as indicated by 123 on the C-CBC. The early **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption did not leave exceptional numbers in our area. The counts of 17 on the C-CBC and 7 on the S-CBC are less than remained after the irruption two years ago. The perception of an unusually high number of **White-breasted Nuthatches** this fall/winter was confirmed by a record high count 191 on the C-CBC, and a good 114 on the S-CBC, both over double the long-term averages. Also well above average, **Brown Creeper** counts of 17 on the C-CBC and 24 on the S-CBC were tallied. **Carolina Wren** broke CBC high-count records, with 280 on the U-CBC and 152 on the C-CBC, both several times the long term average. The S-CBC count of 162 was 4 times the average. A **House Wren** lingered at MKF until at least 12/2 (RS). After three high years, including record highs last year, **Winter Wren** CBC counts crashed. Discounting the U-CBC due to the bad weather, the other two counts yielded only 9 compared to 39 last year. A probable **Marsh Wren** was heard at Buckingham Wetlands 2/18, where this species was found last winter (RH). At least through the early winter, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** seemed more common, as confirmed by an almost double the average CBC total of 46. Post CBC reports were scarce, as they were for **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, also. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was spotted at NSP 12/12 (BE), for only our 2nd winter report.

The C-CBC **American Robin** roost site provided a record high 15,855. After only 5 **Gray Catbirds** last year on the CBCs, the total bounced back to 23 this year, 18 of which were on the S-CBC. A Lower Makefield Twp. bird (BK) and up to 2 at NSP (BE) were reported through the period. A **Brown Thrasher** was at NSP for the U-CBC 12/16 (BE). Others were at CCP 1/2 (BK), PWT 1/5 (DFa), L. Makefield Twp. 1/16 (BK), and Warminster 2/24 (GJ). **European Starling** set a new high-count record for the C-CBC, with 49,319 due to a large roost. **American Pipit** had exceptional counts. MKF had birds through the period with as many as 300 through the end of Jan (RS). By the end of Feb, only 30 remained. A record high 14 were recorded on the U-CBC 12/16, and a well above average 62, mostly from 2 sites, were tallied on the C-CBC. Only 3 were on the S-CBC where they are rarely reported. The U-CBC 12/16 yielded a well above average 580 **Cedar Waxwings** even with the bad weather. S-CBC was also double the average with 216. However, visions of **Bohemian Waxwing** faded as these large numbers vacated our area by early Jan. Rarely reported here, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** visited suet

in Langhorne 12/10-1/5 (GD), providing only the fifth occurrence on the S-CBC. Another was at Honey Hollow, Solebury Twp. 12/29 (BF). The C-CBC count of 99 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was almost 3 times the long term average. Likewise, a count of 98 on the S-CBC was 5 times the long-term average and furnished a new high count. They could be found relatively easily throughout the period. A **Pine Warbler** visited a feeder in Perkasio in early Dec (Delaware Valley Rare Bird Alert), and one stopped at suet in Langhorne 12/17-1/1 (GD-photo). Another was first noticed 2/9 at Levittown feeders and was shortly joined by a second, with both remaining through the period (TM-photo). A dull bird was also seen there that might have been a third. Now sadly rare here anytime, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was first discovered 2/28 at an infrequently visited part of CVP (BK). This is only our second winter report.

Eastern Towhee was again below average on the CBCs, with a total of 10 reported. One wintered through the period at MKF (RS, VS). **Chipping Sparrow** was a surprising miss on all three CBCs, but at least 2 wintered in Buckingham Twp. (MR). A single site count at Tyler State Park of 20 **Field Sparrows** 1/25 is good for mid-winter (BK). Forty **Savannah Sparrows** in one group at BET 12/26 (CR) is a very noteworthy winter count here. Since the area observed was only a small part of a large area of excellent habitat, the observer fantasized about the total that might be there. Add a count of 20 near PVP 2/16 (AM) to other smaller reported numbers, and one can assume they wintered in above average numbers. **Fox Sparrow** was scarce in most of the county, but a count of 20 on the S-CBC was 3 times the long-term average. Northward movement of this species was detected at feeders, after a warm front during the third week of Feb. A **Lapland Longspur** at Richland Twp. 12/16 (DFa, JH) provided the first ever for the U-CBC. Two were at MKF 2/22 (RS). Scarce here most winters, a **Snow Bunting** was at NSP 12/8 (DFa), and up to 5 were at Warminster 1/1-2/29 (GJ,BK). A count of 15 **Eastern Meadowlarks** at Tyler State Park 12/7 (BK) was reported from one of the very few dependable sites left in the county. One **Eastern Meadowlark** on the C-CBC was the only CBC report. **Rusty Blackbirds** again wintered at Quakertown Swamp, with approximately 75 there 1/1 (DFa). Other scattered reports occurred through the winter (GJ, BE, BK). The male **Baltimore Oriole** that arrived in New Hope in Oct, continued its winter stay there for the fourth year in a row (SM). It and another at New Britain Covered Bridge Park were tallied on the C-CBC 12/30 (DH). Two lingered for the S-CBC 12/15 (DFi,PL). Another was at Robin Run Dam 1/27 (HD), and one was seen briefly at a Levittown feeder 2/2 (TM). **Purple Finch** was a highlight of the winter, with a record high 188 on the C-CBC, 6 times the long-term average. Surprisingly, the S-CBC had only 21, which was average. One or two **Common Redpolls** were reported from only 5 locations throughout the county (CG, PR, Dfa, LS, JH), with higher counts being 18 at Perkasio 12/18 (RFe) and 75 on the S-CBC at PWT 12/15 (DFa). This was only the fourth occurrence on the S-CBC and the highest count ever on any of the 3 CBCs. **Pine Siskin** was reported at NSP 12/9 (DFa), and 2 were on the C-CBC 12/30. One to 2 birds were at MKF 1/1-14 (VS, RS). Another was at PVP 1/26 (RFe). Apparently, they did not stay in numbers in our area. As usual, the **Evening Grosbeak** irruption fizzled. After the few fall birds, one was reported 12/7 at Warwick Twp. (RFe) for the only report.

Exotics: An **Egyptian Goose** was at PVP 12/8 (KK) and 2 were at BET 12/29-1/12 (AM, HE, SH).

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Butler County
No Report.

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Cambria County

Locations: Patton(PA), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG).

Waterfowl present at PG included **Canada Geese, Mute Swan, American Black Ducks, Mallard, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Red Breasted Merganser, and Ruddy Ducks**. Unusual was a **Red-throated Loon** 2/13 (RB). **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Horned Grebes** were seen throughout the period. The lake at PG had pockets of open water for most of the period and some waterfowl were always present.

Three **Bald Eagles** showed up at PG in late February (RB, JS). **Northern Harriers** were present at PA during the period. Up to 3 **Short-eared Owls** were at PT from late Jan to mid-Feb (RB, DG, JS).

A single **Northern Shrike** was at PG in early Jan (RB, JS). **Horned Larks** were seen in several locations in good numbers. One **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at PT was the lone report (DG). Several flocks of **Snow Buntings** were seen during the period at PA (DG). **Lapland Longspurs** were mixed in with the **Horned Lark** flocks. **Pine Siskins** and **Common Redpolls** made appearances at feeders throughout the period.

On another note, this is the last report for Rory Bower as he will be leaving PG to become the manager of another state park. Rory worked hard at PG in creating new nesting programs, bird lists, and habitat improvement. He will be missed. The nesting totals for this season (2007) at PG are as follows: Bluebird boxes 100 with 202 Eastern Bluebirds fledged, and 257 Tree Swallows fledged. Eight Kestrel boxes yielded one nest with 4 birds fledged.

Observers: **Dave Gobert 287 Beech Rd. Patton, Pa 16668, (814)674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net, Rory Bower, John Salvetti.**

Cameron County
No Compiler.

Carbon County
No Report.

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Centre County

Locations: University Park Airport, Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Boalsburg, Brush Valley Rd, Centre Furnace Duck Pond (DP), Centre Hall, Colyer Lake (COL), Indian Ln, Julian, Millbrook Marsh (MM), Penn State stadium, Penns Valley, Pine Grove Mills, Scotia Barrens (SCB), Sinking Creek, State College (SC), Stormstown, Toftrees Gamelands or Pond (TOF), Tusseyville, Unionville, Wagner Rd.

More information about some of these locations is available at www.scbirdcl.org. Almost all of the species information for this report comes from postings to the State College Bird Club listserv list <scbirdcl@lists.psu.edu> during this period. All data for the CBC may be seen at <www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html>.

The State College Christmas Bird Count was held 12/23 after being delayed a week by bad weather. The delay meant fewer teams in the field. Furthermore, on the 23rd, hard rain began at 11:00 a.m. and had a negative effect on the final numbers somewhat. Nevertheless, 55 species and 7,615 individuals were recorded. Both numbers are below those of recent years. Notable species were **Common Redpoll, Field Sparrow, and Chipping Sparrow**. Notable misses were Great Blue Heron, Ruffed Grouse, and Wilson's Snipe.

Some odd-looking geese were observed among a small flock of **Canada Geese** at BESP 12/26 (MN), but their identity was never confirmed. Two **Black Scoters** were spotted at BESP 12/30 (CK). Four male and one female **Canvasbacks** were observed and photographed at Pleasant Gap Fish Hatchery pond next to Rt. 144 between Bellefonte and Pleasant Gap 2/21 (MA), 2/24 (MN), and 2/23 (JD). A female **Northern**

Shoveler was seen at the DP 12/14 (NAB) and 12/30 (JV). A **Northern Shoveler** drake not quite in breeding plumage was found at DP 2/24 (TB).

Two first-of-the-season **Turkey Vultures** were seen flying east along Rte 45 toward Pine Grove Mills 2/23 (BF). A 12/3 visit revealed the **Bald Eagle** nest at BESP to be nearly complete, but neither adult was around (BS), however, **Bald Eagles** were seen on the nest at various times 2/7-2/20 (BS). On 2/20, a **Bald Eagle** was seen sitting on the nest, another adult was observed near the marina, and perched near that one was a 4-yr old eagle that was about 2/3 as big as the adult, with a mostly-white head but with a dark stripe through the eye (NB). An immature **Bald Eagle**, probably a third-year bird, was photographed while perched in a tree next to the bridge in Howard 2/23 (BS).

Northern Harriers of all ages were seen around the county this period: a female was coursing the fields just to the north of Stormstown 12/1 (DAB); a female was patrolling the fields in typical harrier fashion on Wagner Road 12/2 (JD); a juvenile, female, and male near Tusseyville 12/23 (NB); probable immature male TOF 12/26 (CG); a juvenile at Pleasant Gap (HB); a female near Sinking Creek Rd. near Rte. 144 1/20 (RF, AF, TF); a female during a Winter Raptor Survey on Sinking Creek Rd near route 144 1/27 (RF, NAB, DG); a male near Marsh Creek 2/2 (DB, JD, NEK); a juvenile or female harrier was seen twice in within a week flying the corn fields near the airport 2/4 (DAB); one was seen near COL 2/9 (JC). A **Northern Goshawk** was seen at BESP 1/1 (JC). Several **Rough-legged Hawks** were observed this period: one soaring over a yard in Boalsburg 12/10 (TP); one that was photographed in TOF 12/15 (CG); one at BESP 12/15 (JC); a juvenile light-morph near Tusseyville 12/23 (NB); one near Pine Grove Mills 1/20 (RF, AF, TF); one during a Winter Raptor Survey on Sinking Creek Road (close to Rte. 144) 1/27 (RF, NAB, DG); six light phase adults and five dark phase adults were seen during a WRS (four observed at once!) 2/23 (SH, BH, DS).

A **Wilson's Snipe** was seen at MM 12/24 (JV). A **Short-eared Owl** was spotted and photographed at TOF 12/15 (CG). A **Barred Owl** was heard calling near the Village at Penn State, near Toftrees, 1/6 (MR). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** and two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard during an owling field trip to SCB 2/22 (DB).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was spotted on Indian Lane 1/20 (RF, AF, TF). On 1/25 at Pleasant Gap, a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was observed pecking weep holes in three Virginia Creeper vines, and then making a regular circuit drinking from the weep holes (E). A **Northern Shrike** was briefly observed at the BESP Marina 12/3 (BS); another **Northern Shrike** was clearly seen at Upper Greens Run at BESP 2/20 (NB), and perhaps the same one was seen at the same location 2/23 (JD). Large flocks of **American Crows** and **Fish Crows** were observed in the downtown area of SC close to Penn State by numerous residents and birders during this period. The crows arrived at dusk and dispersed to places unknown after roosting for the night. They fascinate some, but infuriate others with droppings that collect underfoot and bless unwary passersby. A **Common Raven** nest was observed at Beaver Stadium at Penn State 1/22 (MB). A flock of 30 **Horned Larks** was encountered in a field near Tusseyville, and several more flocks of **Horned Larks** and a single **Snow Bunting** were seen close by on Stone Mill Road 2/10 (CK).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited feeders at Boalsburg 12/1 (TP), at an office window at PSU 2/11 (JL), at feeders in Boalsburg 2/11 (JA), and at feeders in SC 2/11 (SLW). Two **Winter Wrens** within a short distance of one another were spotted at DP 2/3 (NAB). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen at TOF 12/30 (JV). Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were observed at the East Launch at BESP 1/1 (JC). A **Hermit Thrush** was found at TOF 2/16 (NK). **American Robins**, numbering 600, were seen in trees and flying over Ridge Avenue SC 1/13 (NK). One to two thousand **American Robins** were observed streaming west from Innovation Park SC 1/19 (SLW, JL), and a flock of 800 was seen on Ridge Ave SC 2/16 (NK). A male **Eastern Towhee** was seen feasting on sunflower seeds on a feeder in SC 2/9 (HB).

A **Lapland Longspur** was spotted in Brush Valley 2/23 (SH, BH, DS). A flock of **Snow Buntings** flushed off the side of the road to the North side of Whitehall Rd near SC, and a large all white bird flew West along the along the tree line but its identity was never confirmed 2/15 (KE). Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen in Brush Valley 2/23 (SH, BH, DS). A flock of about 1000 **Brown-headed cowbirds** was seen in SC 1/24 (NB). Nine **Purple Finches** were seen at TOF 2/23 (DF), and over twelve at TOF 1/6 (NK). A yellow-variant **House Finch** made several visits to a feeder in SC during January (JC).

Common Redpolls became more common visitors this year: one was the first in over 12 years at a deck feeder in Julian 12/4 (DP); one at a thistle feeder was a lifer for the observer in SC 12/6 (CG); a lode redpoll

was seen on a thistle sock with a group of **Pine Siskins** in Unionville 12/9 (DO); one at a feeder in Pine Grove Mills 12/13 (TF); one on Upper Brush Valley Road 12/23 (JD, DB, SF, HF); the feeders of (BS) had the following visitations: after 13 years of no Redpolls a lone female showed up 12/16; four visited 1/6; a flock of eight males and female visited feeders 12/13, one was photographed 1/22, eight showed up 2/3, and six visited 2/10 (BS). About ten **Common Redpolls** were observed at feeders in Pine Grove Mills 2/26 (JB).

Observers: **Bob Fowles, 814 238-1990, P.O. Box 266, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, rbf@psu.edu**, Matt Adams, Jean Aron, Diane K. Bierly, Joe Bishop, Tanja Bode, Nick Bolgiano, Hillel Brandes, Don Bryant (DAB), Margaret Brittingham, Nan Butkovich (NAB), Jack Cochran, Jim Dunn, Kurt Engstrom, David Facey, Steve Feldstein, Hannah Feldstein, Alice Fuller, Roana Fuller, Ted Fuller, Steve Hass, Bob Hass, Chet Gottfried, Debra Grim, Chad Kauffman, Nancy Ellen Kiernan, Nick Kerlin, Jennifer Lee, Mark Niessner, Donna Preskitt, Dan Ombalski, Tom Pluto, Mike Rothkopf, Don Sheehey, Bob Snyder, Joe Verica, Sandy Lynn Welch.

Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Preserve (BTPR), Chamber's Lake (CHLA), Coatesville Res. (CORES), Marsh Creek S.P. (MCSP), Struble Lake (STLA).

There were three reports of **Tundra Swans**, a rare winter visitor. Nineteen were seen over Exton 12/19 (JC); two were noted flying over West Goshen Twp. 12/25 (NP) and one was at MCSP 1/10 (HM). A good find was a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at CORES 1/6 (AH). **Snow Goose** numbers were higher than normal with birds present throughout the winter. A high count of 850 was recorded at a pond in Highland Twp 1/5 (DB, JB). Single birds were on the West Chester CBC 12/15 (DW, TS) and in Westtown Twp. 2/11 (NP). Northbound birds were over West Goshen Twp. 2/17 (NP). **Cackling Geese** were in Landenburg 1/3 & 2/9 (AL) and 3 were noted in Highland Twp. 1/5 (DB, JB ph). **Canada Goose** numbers were unusually high this season probably due to the lack of an extended freeze. It was not unusual to drive around the county and find multiple flocks of 200-300 birds.

Five **Wood Ducks** were recorded on the West Chester CBC 12/15 (DD, HM, et al). A pair was at BTPR 1/6 (NP) and 2 were at CORES 1/10 (HM). Eleven **Northern Pintails** at BTPR was the season's high (JS). **Gadwalls** were present at MCSP 12/28-1/4 (BB). A high of 20 **American Wigeons** were at MCSP 2/29 (BB), and 4-7 **Northern Shovelers** were there 1/4-1/10 (BB, NP).

Canvasbacks were present at all the various county lakes. High counts included 7 at CORES 1/10 (HM) and 22 at MCSP 2/29 (BB). There was only one report of **Redhead** and that was of 7 at CHLA (LL). **Ring-necked Ducks** were in good numbers at most lakes with a high count of 116 at MCSP 1/10 (HM). **Greater Scaup** were present from 2/15 both at MCSP (BB, HM) and CHLA (NP). A few **Lesser Scaup** remained through the winter with a high of 4 at Somersett Lake 2/20 (AL). The waterfowl highlight of the season was **White-winged Scoter** with two at CHLA 2/24 (RR, PF, NP) and one at MCSP 2/25-2/29 (JCr, BB). Four female **Common Goldeneyes** were at MCSP 12/29-2/15 (BB, et al.). **Buffleheads** were at most lakes but not as numerous as in previous winters with a high of only 16 at MCSP 2/15 (HM). **Hooded Mergansers** carried over in good numbers from the fall with 26 at MCSP 2/15 (HM) growing to 46 by 2/29 (BB). **Common Mergansers** arrived in earnest 12/9 (NP) and remained throughout the season. A high of 36 was recorded at BTPR 1/5 (JS). By far, **Ruddy Ducks** are the most common diving duck during the winter. Counts of 30-40+ birds are not uncommon at most lakes. At least 100 were at MCSP 12/29 (BB).

Wild Turkeys continue to thrive in the northern part of the county highlighted by 24 in North Coventry Twp. 2/22 (SK).

A **Common Loon** was found at MCSP 12/23 as part of the Elverson CBC (JR). Small numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes** were at MCSP all winter (NP, BB). The only **Horned Grebe** was a single bird at CHLA 2/24 (NP).

A single light-phased **Rough-legged Hawk** visited CHLA 12/12 (RR) and 2/26 (LL). Single **Merlins** were reported from various locations throughout the county all winter (m.obs.), a consistent pattern in recent years. **American Coots** winter at MCSP in good numbers; this year's high count was 130 on 1/10 (NP). An **American Woodcock** was seen in flight in Willistown Twp. 1/18 (SJ). Single **Iceland** and **Great Black-backed Gulls** were reported on the Elverson CBC from STLA 12/23 (LL).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was present at Valley Creek Park, East Whiteland Twp. 1/19-1/20 (NP, SP, m.obs). Another was at the

Birmingham-Lafayette Cemetery, Birmingham Twp. from 2/2 (NP, SP, m.obs). Wintering **Long-eared Owls** at STLA were in good numbers this year with at least 12 observed (m.obs). **Short-eared Owls** were in West Marlborough Twp. beginning 1/16 with at least 3 noted several times (KF, m.obs). Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were back at their traditional Honeybrook Twp. location after being absent for several years.

An **Eastern Phoebe** was found at Waterloo Mills, Willistown Twp. 12/29 (KF); there were no reports thereafter. **Chester** hosted two **Northern Shrikes**. One was discovered at STLA 12/23 (CC) and was present to at least 2/29 (m.obs.). Another was in East Fallowfield Twp. 2/18-2/27 (LL). Small numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were noted throughout the season with a single observer high count of 6 at Longwood Gardens 12/27 (NP, SP). **American Pipits** were found sporadically in Honeybrook Twp. with a high of at least 100 on 1/7 (CC). A few **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found at scattered locations all winter (m.obs).

Chipping Sparrows were noted until at least 12/15 but none thereafter, which has been typical for *Chester*. Each winter huge flocks of blackbirds roam the western portions of the county. Sometimes these flocks, which are made up mostly of Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds, contain a stray blackbird or two from western North America. This year one flock in West Sadsbury Twp. 1/17 contained 2 **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** and a **Brewer's Blackbird** (DH). A single **Baltimore Oriole** was seen in a Marshallton yard 12/9 (DK). This yard also hosted this species last winter.

The large numbers of **Purple Finches** which were obvious in the fall dropped off dramatically during the winter, with only a scattering of birds observed. The invasion of boreal finches barely touched the county with few widely scattered reports. A female **Pine Grosbeak** was noted feeding quietly at Longwood Gardens 2/16 (SJ). Longwood also hosted a single **Red Crossbill** and 11 **White-winged Crossbills** 12/27 (NP, SP). **Pine Siskins**, which were frequent in late fall, wintered in only one known location in North Coventry Twp., where 5-7 birds could be found 12/8-2/2 (SK). **Common Redpolls** barely made an appearance. A single bird was found at STLA 12/23 (LL); a flock of 10 was seen in flight over Devon 2/8 (JD); finally one or two birds frequented a feeder in Downingtown beginning 2/12 and remained through the end of the season (JH).

Observers: **Nick Pulcinella, 613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380, 610-696-0687, nickpulcinella@verizon.net**, Barry Blust, Devon Bosler, Justin Bosler, Chuck Chalfont, Joshua Clapper, Janet Crawford (JCr), Dave Davis, Jeff Davis, Pam Fisher, Kevin Fryberger, Jennifer Harned, Deuane Hoffman, Ann Hurst, Sheryl Johnson, Susan Killeen, Dave Kruel, Andrew Leidig, Larry Lewis, Holly Merker, Sharon Pulcinella, Rick Robinson, Jim Russell, Joe Sebastiani, Tim Sterrett, Dan White.

Clarion County

Locations: Curllsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mt. Airy (MA), Mt. Zion (Piney Tract) (MZ), Shippenville (SV), Strattanville (ST).

The winter of 2007-2008 proved to be a good one for *Clarion*—and much of Pennsylvania— with the presence of increased numbers of northern finches and shrikes, as well as some excellent raptor and owl sightings for the area.

In an unusual report for *Clarion*, one **Cackling Goose** as well as 1000+ **Canada Geese** were found at KL 1/16 (JS). For the first part of Dec, open water on KL also provided a safe spot for **Scaup sp.** numbering 25 on 12/1, 8 **Bufflehead** 12/17 and small numbers of **Ruddy Ducks** from 12/1-12/12 (WF).

Northern Harriers are sometimes scarce with deeper snow in winter. Five birds were noted in a single outing 12/30 in southern *Clarion* (CW), but all other reports were of single birds in Dec and Jan from ST, MZ, and Leatherwood (RM, WS, CW). On 1/5 near KL, a leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was found. It was mainly white overall with only some rust color in the tail feathers to clinch the ID. No reports followed (WF). **Rough-legged Hawks** were present in only small numbers this winter with records from KL, MZ, Dutch Hill, Leatherwood and Clarion area (ML, MW, CW). A single report of a **Bald Eagle** was received beginning 2/2 along open water on the Clarion River at SV near I-80 (PC). Another sighting of a **Merlin** in winter this year on MA 1/6 continues reports of this species over the past several years (MW).

Short-eared Owls remained present through the winter on both reclaimed strip mines and agricultural areas, including 3 on MA 12/20 (CW). At least one was seen several times through Feb at MA, three birds were also noted at MZ 12/12, and 2 were interacting and "barking" in that

area 2/7 (WF, CW). **Northern Flickers** are usually absent during winter but were encountered in several areas this year including 2 at CV through mid-Feb, 2 near Leatherwood and one near SV in mid-Feb (MW, CW).

One of the big winter birds for *Clarion* this year was **Northern Shrikes**, helped by the large amount of suitable habitat present, especially in the southern part of the county. Sightings were received from 5 observers with a minimum of 12 different locations and at least 12 different birds. These observations started on 10/29 and continued regularly through Feb with locations including CV, ST, MA, MZ, and KL (ML, RM, WS, MW, CW).

Red-breasted Nuthatches remained present at CV through the end of Feb in numbers sometimes 4+, a big change from the previous two winters (CW). **Carolina Wrens** were noted braving winter weather in Jan/Feb, from observers in SV, Knox, and East Brady (WF, MW, PW).

One of the big events for *Clarion* this winter featured a **Bohemian Waxwing** found on SGL 63 near SV 12/9 with a large flock of **Cedar Waxwings**, in mixed apple/crabapple/hawthorn stands on the gamelands. The bird was relocated for only one more day but was photographed to document this great county record (MW). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was noted at KL 1/16, certainly not a regular winter resident to this area (JS). The usual scattered reports of **Snow Buntings** were received as present on various local fields, but the most interesting record came of one photographed on 2.12 visiting a local feeder located next to barns and agricultural fields (MB, WF, MW). Several sightings of **Eastern Meadowlarks** in separate areas of southern *Clarion* in both Jan and Feb provide a rather unusual winter record for this region (MW, CW).

Common Redpolls were noted in various numbers, present by the start of Dec and continuing through the end of Feb, in what proved to be an outstanding year in *Clarion* for this beautiful northern finch. Birds were seen both at feeders and in undeveloped areas, most frequently on birch trees. Flocks of 200+ were seen on birch stands at MZ and ~150 near ST (SG, RM, MW). Smaller flocks of 2 to 20 or more were noted at feeders from CV, SV, ST, and Fryburg (PC, RM, MW, CW). A single report of a possible **Hoary Redpoll** within one of these flocks near Fryburg would be an exciting county record if well documented (PC). **Pine Siskins** also were noted in higher numbers by various observers starting in early Dec and continuing just through late Jan, with flocks of up to 27 in SV (ML, RM, MW). Only 2 confirmed sightings of **Evening Grosbeaks** were received but several secondhand reports were obtained, and likely numbers were higher than noted. The two definite sightings were of one or two birds at feeding stations in SV 12/1 and ST 12/5 (MB, RM).

Observers: **Carole Willenpart, 159 Moggey Rd., Sligo, PA 16255, (814)745-3818, cwillenpart@windstream.net**, Margaret Buckwalter, Paulette Colantonio, Walter Fye, Steve Gosser, Mike Leahy, Ron Montgomery, Walt Shaffer, Jerry Stanley, Mike Weible, Paul Winslow.

Clearfield County

No Compiler.

Clinton County

Locations: Lock Haven (LH), Susquehanna River (SR), Swisssdale (SW), Woolrich (WR).

As expected for the period, waterfowl reports were few. A small number of **Tundra Swans** and **Common Goldeneyes** were seen on the SR at LH 1/20 (JS). On 2/26, the first significant waterfowl fallout of the year occurred on the SR at LH with several species of ducks and also **Horned Grebes** (JS, DR).

On 1/20 a **Northern Harrier** was seen in a field a few miles west of LH (JS) and another in a field in SW 1/27 (BO). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was observed sitting on a road the evening of 1/28 in SW (WL). It was apparently uninjured, since it flew away when it was approached. A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was reported visiting feeders at a WR residence throughout the period (B&DB). A single **Lapland Longspur** was seen along River Rd. east of LH 2/16 (JS).

The northern finch eruption continued through the period with **Common Redpolls** being reported in WR into early Jan (C&CH), then at feeders in SW from mid-Jan through Feb (WL). The numbers varied daily from single birds to flocks of 20-30 individuals. **Common Redpolls** were also reported in the Tamarack area during the period (KF, JW). Small numbers of **Pine Siskins** were reported from both SW and WR throughout the period (C&CH, WL). No other unusual finches were reported.

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher (WL), 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock**

Haven, PA. 17745-8153, 570-748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnet.org, Beth and Don Brobst (B&DB), Kristina Franklin (KF), Carol and Charles Hildebrand (C&CH), Bill Oyler (BO), David Rockey (DR), Jeff Schaffer (JS), and John Wasserman (JW).

Columbia County

No Report.

Compiler: **Doug Gross, 144 Winters Road, Orangeville, PA, 17859, (570) 458-4568, douggross@sunlink.net**

Crawford County

Locations: Custards (C), Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Sugar Lake (SL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

This was a cold winter with a moderate invasion of finches, deep snow, long cold spells, and less open water (with a few exceptions) from Dec 22 to the end of Feb.

A **Red-necked Grebe** was found at CL 2/6. Three **Horned Grebes** were counted at PC 12/8. One was seen at CL 12/22 (RCL). A few **Pied-billed Grebes** were counted at CL in Dec (MV). RFL had 2 **Common Loons** along PC 12/1, and they were last seen 12/11. Late **Great Blue Herons** were noted through 12/30. An estimate of 7,757 **Canada Geese** at Pymatuning 12/28 was well below normal numbers. Two **Snow Geese** were seen at PGMA 1/8 (SK). A few **Tundra Swans** came into the area in Dec, perhaps because Lake Erie had frozen over. Fourteen were seen at PS 12/1, 40 were over Meadville 12/17, 35 at PGMA 12/10 (TM), and 6 at PC 12/30. Thirty **Lesser Scaup** were found at CL 12/21 (RCL). A total of 128 **Ring-necked Ducks** was made at CL 12/21 (RCL) and 36 were at CM 12/30 (MV). **Common Goldeneyes** were found in small numbers (one or two) throughout the period. **Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, and Hooded Mergansers** numbers were also down. Approximately 750 **Common Mergansers** were counted at Pymatuning 12/10 (SK) and 160 were there 1/13. Three **Wood Ducks** were found at CLO 12/4 (TM). The count of **Mallards** at CL and PA went from 400 on 12/8 to 24 on 2/23. The best count of **Gadwalls** was 29 on 12/3 (SK) at PC. One **Green-winged Teal** was reported at C 12/19 (RE). Eight **Northern Shovelers** were found at CM on Marsh Road 12/13 (TM), as well as 23 **Northern Pintails** (TM). A lone **American Wigeon** was along the PC 2/16 and 15 **Canvasbacks** were at CL on 12/20 (RCL). **Redheads** reports included 5 at CL 12/15, 20 at CL 12/20 RCL, 12 there 12/8 (MO) and 4 at NM 2/24 (MB).

Single **Northern Harriers** were tallied at Pymatuning 12/24 and 2/23 (SK) and at HM 1/17 and 1/22 (MB). A Dark-eyed Junco was taken by a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at RFL's feeders 1/23. Single **Cooper's Hawks** were noted at CL, Pymatuning, CM, and SL in Dec (MO). Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen at HM 2/24 (MB) and from one to 4 **Rough-legged Hawks** were found at ENWR and Pymatuning (SK, FMcG, MO). **Bald Eagles** (one to 4) remained in WRCO most of the period.

At Conneaut Lake the usual gathering of **American Coots** resulted in 300 on 12/20 (RCL) and 325 there 1/13. A **Barred Owl** at PGMA 12/22 was a good find (RCL). Single **Northern Shrikes** were recorded 12/15 at PGMA, ENWR 12/10 (RE), Pine Road HM 1/2 (MB) and again there 1/9, and one north of Meadville 2/3.

A **Carolina Wren** was at RFL's feeders 12/20 at Meadville and one was near SL 2/23 (RE). The only report of a **Brown Creeper** was one at C (MV) 12/30. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were regulars in Meadville up to 2/16. Ten **Eastern Bluebirds** were seen at WL 2/9 and 12 **American Robins** were noted at Mead 2/23. A lingering **Fox Sparrow** was seen at C 1/27, and 65 **Cedar Waxwings** were sighted at PA 12/24 (SK).

Snow Buntings were found at Pymatuning and Hartstown Marsh in small numbers (m.obs.). The best total was the 250 at a cornfield near Espyville 12/18 (FR, BM). One **Lapland Longspur** was seen at PGMA 12/22 (RCL) and 4 at Espyville 12/18 (FR, BM). A good find was an **Eastern Meadowlark** near SL 12/10 (RE). A lone **Common Grackle** was noted at Wayland 1/10.

The finch invasion was interesting but short lived; lots of reports but very small numbers. Three **Purple Finches** were seen at CL 12/30 and 2 were at HM 2/19 (MB). **Common Redpoll** reports were 25 at Springboro 1/1 (TCN), 30 at Sparansbug 1/2 (IF), one at Hartstown Marsh 1/13 (LB), one at Hartstown Marsh 2/21 (LB), 8 at Sugar Lake 2/10 (RE), and 19 at the Pym Causeway 2/10 (SK). The 25 **Evening Grosbeaks** at Meadville

1/5 were the only reported.

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Road, Meadville, Pa. 16335, (814) 724-5071**. Lena Byler, Marvin Byler, Richard Eakin, Ike Field, Scott Kinzey, Robert C. Leberman, Flo McGuire, Tony Marich, Bernie Master, Thomas C. Nicolls, Forrest Rowland.

Cumberland County

Locations: Big Springs (BGS), Boiling Springs (BLS), Conodoguinet Creek (CC), Lamb's Gap (LG), Messiah College (MC), Mud Level Road (MLR), Running Pump Road (RPR), Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch (WG), West Fairview Boat Launch (WF).

The seventeenth annual Newville CBC held 12/29 came up with 80 species—approximately equal to the count's average of 81—and above average numbers for total individuals (15,826 vs. the average of 14,759). Two new species and 7 high counts were amassed with **Common Loon** and **Red Crossbill** becoming the 127th and 128th species to be added to the cumulative Newville CBC list. High counts were obtained for the following species with this year's new high count followed by the previous high count in parentheses: **Turkey Vulture** (28: 27), **Red-tailed Hawk** (102: 100), **Wild Turkey** (98: 35), **Ring-billed Gull** (903: 545), **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (21: 14), **Northern Flicker** (94: 82), and **Carolina Chickadee** (245: 134).

A **Double-crested Cormorant** was early 2/17 at SGL 169 (AM), perhaps representing an early migrant or possibly a first wintering record for *Cumberland*. Even more out of place was an **American Bittern** flushed from Trout Run Preserve during the Harrisburg CBC 12/15 (CR). This individual furnishes only the second winter record for the county—the only previous winter bittern was found on the Newville CBC, 3 Jan 1998. A **Green Heron** neglected the urge to migrate south, being recorded on the Harrisburg CBC along the CC 12/15 (DR). This is at least the second time this species has shown up on the *Cumberland* portion of the Harrisburg CBC.

A **Common Loon** made a surprise landing in the middle of Big Spring Road 12/16 (VG). The bird was rescued and released the following day at BGS, where it remained until 1/1, sticking around for a first count appearance on the Newville CBC 12/29. An adult **Ross's Goose** was found loitering with a flock of **Canada Geese** along the CC in East Pennsboro Twp 12/15 (TJ, AS) for a second county record (the first was sighted 4-5 Jan 2004). Both *Cumberland Ross's Geese* were seen hitchhiking with **Canada Geese** instead of their more concealing **Snow Geese** congeners. A **Northern Pintail** flew over MC 12/15 (CR) for the only winter report. **American Wigeon** resided at BLS throughout the winter season with a peak count of 73 on 12/19 (CR, AS). **Northern Shovelers** were also likely winterers at BLS with 2 or 3 birds seen in both Dec and Feb (CR, AS, RK). Additionally, a single bird was near Williams Grove 12/15 for the Harrisburg CBC (CR). Unusual waterfowl sightings also took the form of a male **Redhead** along Creekview Road 12/27 (AM) and 3 **Ring-necked Ducks** on the Newville CBC 12/29. This represents only the third year (the other two being 1991 and 1992) where the latter species was recorded on the Newville CBC.

For the first time since 1994 and 1995, a **Northern Goshawk** participated in the Newville CBC 12/29. Aside from WG and the aforementioned bird, two **Northern Goshawks** were reported from the western part of *Cumberland* this winter (RK, AM). A rare dark or intermediate morph **Red-tailed Hawk** was reported from along BGS 1/12 (VG). After 6 **Rough-legged Hawks** were tallied migrating past WG in Dec, only one was found the remainder of the season, a single bird north of Carlisle 2/19 (RF). **Bald Eagle** reports were plentiful in *Cumberland* during the winter. The only sighting of multiple birds, however, was of two adults high over MC 12/20 (CR). Others were seen along LeTort Spring Run (HW), Big Spring (VG), and Creek Road (RF) in Jan and Feb. The presence of a single bird on the Newville CBC 12/29 made for the third count in the past four years with a **Bald Eagle** on the list. A **Golden Eagle** was also noted winging past Tower Road 12/15 for the only non-WG sighting (DH).

The 60 **American Kestrels** tallied on the Newville CBC 12/29 represents the highest number reported for this species since 64 were counted on the 1997 CBC, and above the average of 51. A few **Merlins** graced *Cumberland's* borders with singles from East Pennsboro Twp 12/15 (TJ, AS) and 1/4 (RK) and a pair in the vicinity of MLR 2/24 (AM, DF). However, the most exciting Falconidae of the season was certainly the adult **Prairie Falcon** discovered along MLR 2/23 (RF, PF), continuing

through the end of the month. The bird could often be seen in the farmlands surrounding the greater MLR region and was noted flying into a quarry along Rte 533, presumably its nighttime roost. Interestingly, this is the third straight winter with a **Prairie Falcon** sighting in western *Cumberland*. The other two sightings come from 1-8 Dec 2005 and 30 Dec 2006, so potentially this could be the same individual seen in three consecutive winters. Even more intriguing was another **Prairie Falcon** reported from MLR on 23-24 October 1990. As **Prairie Falcons** are held by falconers, the provenance of this individual stirred up considerable controversy among local birders. Due to the possibility of a questionable origin, it seems unlikely that this species will be added to the state list in the very near future.

The only **Ruffed Grouse** report was of a pair flushed from LG 1/21 (CR). A single **American Coot** was at BLS in late Feb (CR, RK, AS). For the first time in three years, there was no **Least Sandpiper** tallied on the Newville CBC. Amazingly, however, a single bird was observed from BGS 2/2 (VG), one day earlier than when it was first observed at BGS last winter, following a stay at Stoughstown Pond. This year, the **Least Sandpiper** was seen only a couple times before being last observed at BGS 2/24 (AM). Although improbable, it appears that this may be the same individual back to tough it out through its third straight *Cumberland* winter. **Wilson's Snipe** was only recorded from LeTort Spring Run starting 2/8 (HW).

Long-eared Owls were found roosting in conifer stands at three different locations starting 12/29 for the CBC. After the CBC, **Long-eared Owls** were discovered 1/6 at SGL 169 (RK), with a peak of 4 there 1/12 (VG). Lastly, a single bird was located at Opossum Lake 2/17 (RK, CR). Single **Short-eared Owls** were found count week for the Newville CBC near Blosserville (JS)—lingering to at least 1/19 (VG)—with another perched atop a tree along Brick Church Road (CR, RK, AS). As mentioned in the fall report for the county, it was an exceptional year of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** banding at King's Gap. The final sum of 224 owls (banded 10/8–12/1) set a record for that site, which has been in use since 2000. The high count of 21 owls netted 11/1 also marked a record daily effort for the site (SW).

Eastern Phoebes were observed in every month of the winter season with most sightings coming from BGS. A single bird was present at this location 12/1 and 2/2 with a pair in attendance 1/5 (VG). Although **Eastern Phoebes** are encountered on approximately half of the Newville CBCs, a single bird on the count 12/29 is still of note. Three different **Northern Shrikes** reached *Cumberland* in Dec. The first was found 12/5 at SGL 230 (PL) followed by two birds 12/25, one at the intersection of Whiskey Run and Creekview Road and the second at the intersection of Brandy Run and Roxbury Road (AM). Although the SGL 230 bird was a one day wonder, the Whiskey Run bird was last recorded 1/1 (RK, AM) while the Brandy Run bird only remained until the Newville CBC 12/29. In fact, both of these latter birds were recorded on the Newville CBC, only the second time (the previous being 1991) where this species has been seen on the count. A single **Common Raven** was noted to be out of place 1/3 over New Cumberland (RK) as was a pair 2/16 over MC (RS). A flock of 5 **Fish Crows** was said to be present throughout the period at BGS (VG). Otherwise, there seemed to be an increase in **Fish Crow** sightings starting in mid- to late Feb (RS, CR, RK, AM).

After an incursion of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** this fall, reports were few for the winter period. For the Newville CBC 12/29, only a single bird was found. Four **Golden-crowned Kinglets** became the new low count for the Newville CBC 12/29, besting the previous low of 20 set six years prior. This number is well below the average of 51 and the 2007 count marks the first time that **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** (with 8 individuals) out-represented **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in the 17 year history of the Newville CBC. The only **Gray Catbird** and **American Pipits** were found at BGS this winter, the catbird 12/6 (VG) and the pipits in mid- to late Feb (VG). A **Pine Warbler** was a pleasant winter surprise at deer tallow placed at a home in Enola (DS). The bird was photographed 12/17 after being added to the Harrisburg CBC 12/15. This first winter record for *Cumberland* also visited the Enola backyard 1/19, but was not seen after the end of Jan.

A few **Eastern Towhees** were found in late Dec and early Jan (RK), quite possibly remaining throughout the season. Nine **Chipping Sparrows** on the Newville CBC 12/29 was a nice count for the late date. **Savannah Sparrows** were registered at multiple locations throughout Dec (VG, CR, AS), but then went unreported until 2/17, when a single bird was found along MLR (CR, RK). **Lapland Longspurs** were first reported 12/19 with 4 birds present along Duncan Road and RPR (CR, AS). Small numbers continued to be found until 2/24 (AM) in the MLR and RPR agricultural

fields. A county high count of 17 was totaled 2/23 between MLR and RPR (CR, RK), besting the previous high of 15 from 13 Dec 2004. **Snow Buntings**, which are typically less abundant than longspurs, were also found on multiple occasions Dec through Feb, mostly from Duncan Road, RPR, and MLR. Approximately 15 were noticed from Tower Road 12/15 (DH) with the second highest sum of 9 sighted 2/17 from MLR (RK, CR). Small numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** were a nice find at SGL 169 in early Jan (AM, RK), with a high of 20 on 1/12 (VG). No further **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed until 2/12, when the species arrived at BGS, only to be seen a number of times during subsequent Feb visits to that location (VG).

Unfortunately, the predicted large finch invasion did not reach the southern tier of Pennsylvania in strong numbers. After three different reports in Nov, the 3 **Evening Grosbeaks** on the Newville CBC 12/29 were the only sightings for the winter season. The last time this species was recorded on this count was 1997. Few **Purple Finch** reports were received from Jan and Feb, however the 39 found on the Newville CBC 12/29 was exceptional, above their average of 15 and the second highest tally ever for this species on the Newville count. Three different **Red Crossbill** sightings were a welcome addition to the *Cumberland* wintering avifauna. The first was a single bird that joined a group of finches at a Carlisle feeding station 12/9 (PL). A half dozen were found on the Newville CBC 12/29, adding another species to the growing Newville CBC cumulative list. Lastly, another 6 **Red Crossbills** were reported flying over SGL 169 1/12 (VG). The first **Common Redpoll** of the season was a single at WF 12/15 (TJ) followed by a group of 7 on 12/16 in Southampton Twp (JW). The highest total came from WG 12/28 when a flock of ~50 **Common Redpolls** were seen in birches along the ridge (RF). Among them was a bird that was suggestive of a **Hoary Redpoll** (RF). **Pine Siskins** were scarce this winter with only two reports: a flyover at MC 12/2 (AS), and 4 on 1/5 from SGL 169 (AM).

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Dauphin County

Locations: BM - Blue Mountain, DAU - Dauphin, DCWR - Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue, EHT - East Hanover Twp., FCV - Fishing Creek Valley, HACC - HBG Area Community College, HBG - Harrisburg, HER - Hershey, HIBA - Hershey Important Bird Area #45, HUM - Hummelstown, LPT - Lower Paxton Twp., SCV - Stony Creek Valley, SHT - South Hanover Twp., SHB - SR from HBG, SMV - SR from Marysville, SR - Susquehanna River, SWF - SR from West Fairview, WHT - West Hanover Twp, WL - Wildwood Lake

The only large flight of **Snow Geese**, 5000–10000, was reported 1/16 along Rt. 322 near the *Dauphin/Lebanon* line (TJ). A **Ross's Goose** was found with one Snow Goose and a number of **Canada Geese** 12/26 in a field along Hersheypark Dr. (PW & RW). In the absence of an extended hard freeze, many water compounds remained ice free for much of the quarter. As a result, WL played host to a variety of dabblers, including **Wood Duck**, **American Black Duck**, and **Gadwall** all season (CRb, et al.). Even **Northern Shoveler** made midwinter appearances 1/8 (CRb) and 1/20 (BHT). The SR hosted its usual over-wintering species including **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Hooded Mergansers** and **Common Merganser** (many). By mid-Feb, **Northern Pintail**, **American Wigeon**, **Greater Scaup**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Redhead**, **White-winged Scoter**, **Ruddy Duck**, and **Horned Grebe** were noted from SWF to SMV (RK, CRT, RW). Of interest was the increasing numbers of **Redheads** beginning with 4 on 2/15 (RK), 30+ on 2/18 (RW), and more than 100 by 3/1 (RK, CRT, TJ).

The ice storm of 12/16 forced a number of **Common Loons** and **Red-throated Loons** down in *Dauphin* and surrounding counties. DCWR was directly or indirectly responsible for the rescue and release of many of these ice bound loons. Of note was a **Red-throated Loon** found in the Middletown area and later released in the Swatara Creek near Union

Deposit (JC, AS) (photos submitted). A **Great Egret** lingered at WL long enough to be counted on the HBG CBC 12/15 (CT). This is the latest record for this species in the county. An early **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was observed, possibly on the *Cumberland* shoreline, 2/26 SWF (CJ). Another "earliest" record for the county was the return of **Double-crested Cormorant** on 2/25, when three were seen flying near Clarks Ferry (TR).

Both **Black Vulture** and **Turkey Vulture** were regularly observed south of BM all winter, and both species again used a roost in Laurel Woods south of HER (GB). More notable were reports of **Black Vultures** north of BM, including those counted on the Curtin CBC 12/27 (PF, N&CJ), 39 soaring near HAL 12/22 (MB), and 7 in SCV 2/7 (BH).

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed along Early's Mill Rd. in EHT on a few occasions from 12/8–1/19 (GK), and another was noted in a cove of trees along Old Jonestown Rd. in LPT from 1/7–2/1 (P&RW). **Rough-legged Hawk** made the Curtin CBC 12/27 (CK, AT, et al.) but the only one reported south of BM was 1/4 in HIBA (PW & RW). **Bald Eagle** sightings were again numerous and included one at Union Deposit along the Swatara Creek 12/2 (AS) to sightings at Clarks Ferry 1/9 and at Millersburg 1/14 (BB). A **Golden Eagle** was noted 12/15 over the SR for the HBG CBC (DH), while another report came 12/28 near the HBG International Airport on Rt. 283 (NB), and again 12/30 near the HBG East entrance to the Turnpike (EM). A **Merlin** returned again to the property on BM where it was first noted in late summer (M&RB), with sightings this season 12/12 and 1/20. Another **Merlin** was observed at SWF 1/4 (RK), and there were three or more sightings of a Merlin in Feb along Hoernstown Rd. in SHT (PQ).

American Coot was present at WL for much of the winter (CRb) with specific sightings 1/13 (JR) and 1/20 (BHT). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was recorded on the SR south of DAU for the HBG CBC 12/15 (DH), and four were counted near the same location with dozens of **Greater Black-backed Gulls** for the GBBC 12/16 (LR).

At least three **Short-eared Owls** were flushed in a field along Red Top Rd. in SHT 12/21 (BCa & JH) and two or more frequented fields near Gratz for most of season (MB). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found—unharmd—along the berm of Sandbeach Rd. near HER 1/15 (JC), and DCWR received more than a half dozen calls regarding Saw-whets in Jan., the most ever received in mid-winter (BCa, JC). The **Rufous Hummingbird** first noted 10/26 visiting a WHT home continued to 12/3 (P&RP). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** remained all season. They were counted on both the HBG 12/15, and the Curtin CBC 12/27. Reports also came in from SCV 1/22 (BHm), from The Hotel Hershey grounds 2/14-15 (GK), and from Swatara Twp. 2/17 (LU). Although **Northern Flicker** remains all winter, regular drives through the HIBA throughout the season recorded unusually large concentrations, often exceeding 20 birds, in one particular brushy field along Swatara Rd. (P&RW).

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported in HER 12/5 (GB), and one or more were regular visitors to feeders in EHT (NC), in SHT (P&RW), and in the pine stand near The Hotel Hershey (GK). **Hermit Thrush** was tallied for the Curtin CBC 12/27 and later sightings included one in EHT 2/10 (NC) and one from the HIBA 2/24 (P&RW). A **Northern Shrike** was reported in Clarks Valley 1/3 (RK, JR) and another was noted at a property in EHT 2/23 (NC). A **Pine Warbler** paid a visit to a FCV feeder 12/13 (JD), and another was found at Ft. Hunter Park 1/3 (RK). One of the highlights of the HBG CBC was a **Wilson's Warbler** on the HACC campus 12/15 (S&BB, LU, RW). This is one of the later sightings of this species in the state.

Two **Lapland Longspurs** were found in the HER farms along Rt. 322 12/13 and one was noted here 12/20. **Snow Bunting** was also found at this location during the same time period with a high count of about 100 on 12/18 (TJ). **American Tree Sparrows** and **White-crowned Sparrows** were common in the HIBA throughout the quarter (P&RW). Although found for the Dec CBCs, the first **Fox Sparrow** of the new-year was reported 2/28 in EHT (CZ). A **Savannah Sparrow** was noted in the Hershey farms along Rt. 322 on 12/13 (TJ), and a **Field Sparrow** made a visit to feeders in Pillow 1/10 (MB). The only **Rusty Blackbird** report came from the Curtin CBC 12/27 (CK, et al.). A few **Red-winged Blackbirds** may have spent the winter at WL but their return in numbers was noted 2/1 (CRb). **Common Grackles** may have also stayed the winter. They were included on the Curtin CBC 12/27 (RK, et al.), on a WRS route south of BM 1/24 (BCT), and were throughout the area by early Feb.

Purple Finch reports were sporadic, and included two at feeders near HER 12/5 (GB), and one near the village of Union Deposit 2/18 (JR). Two **Common Redpolls** were reported from Pillow 12/13 (MB), and at least one was visiting feeders in FCV 12/17-22 (JD). The only location that

reported redpolls more consistently was from near the top of BM where one or two showed up almost daily through Jan and Feb. However, by the last week of Feb, flocks of 50-100+ became regular (M&RB). Among this late Feb invasion was a possible Hoary Redpoll (RB & DH). Although ID is inconclusive, documentation and photos have been submitted for review. The only **Red Crossbill** report was of a single individual also from this BM location 1/2 (M&RB). **Pine Siskins** were reported from various locations through the quarter. The two most consistent sites were from Laurel Woods, near HER, where on some days 40-50 were counted (GB); and from the BM property where a high count of 100+ was noted 1/14 (M&RB).

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Delaware County

Locations: Crum Reservoir (CR), Darby Creek (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Glenolden CBC 12/15 (CBC), Haverford College (HC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Tyler Arboretum (TY), Winter Raptor Survey: East 1/26; West 2/2 (WRS).

The weather this winter was remarkable perhaps only for its dreariness. Temperatures were near or somewhat above average as was precipitation, which fell mostly as rain. Our only accumulating snowfalls were one-inch snowfalls in Dec and Jan and a single 3.2 inch snowfall in Feb. Due to the lack of sustained cold spells, lakes and ponds froze only intermittently. Birding highlights of the season included our first post-DDT era **Bald Eagle** nest, our first over-wintering **Indigo Bunting**, and our participation in the winter finch and **Northern Shrike** irruption.

The 86th Glenolden CBC was held 12/15. This includes most of *Delaware* and parts of *Philadelphia* at John Heinz NWR (Tinicum). The reported data is not always separable by county. This report attempts to indicate when data may cross over.

The only report of **Snow Goose** this winter was of 120 flying overhead at RCSP (BB). A healthy number of 1500 **Canada Geese** were observed heading north in Media 2/24 (DM). The 46 **Tundra Swans** seen on the DR 12/15 were a bit above the average count of 34 (NP). Ducks, although not plentiful, provided a typical sampling. A group of 5 **American Wigeons** on a small pond in a residential area of Upper Providence Twp was a fun find 2/10 (SD). **American Black Ducks** were seen in small groups at various locations throughout the season, including 16 on Brinton Lake accompanied by a single **Green-winged Teal** 2/2 (AG, JL, DW, DE). A lone **Northern Shoveler** was at TI 1/18 (AG). The total of 11 **Canvasbacks** found on the DR in Chester was a CBC 48-year average count, but these are found on less than half of our CBCs (NP). Single **Ring-necked Ducks** were at SR 12/15 and DC 1/26 (AG). On 1/18, 8 **Greater Scaup** and 2 **Lesser Scaup** were found on the DR (AG). Six **Buffleheads** were reported at Earle's Lake 1/18 (JL). **Buffleheads** were also found on the DR in small groups: 2 on 12/15, 6 on 1/18 and one 2/1 (AG). Sixty **Hooded Mergansers** were on CR 12/7 (BB). This species was also seen in smaller numbers at various locations through the season. **Common Mergansers** were observed regularly; the highest concentrations reported were 40 at TI in Jan (DE) and 38 at SR 12/15 (AG). The only reports of **Ruddy Duck** were from SR with 30 on 12/15 and 22 on 1/26 (AG).

Twenty **Wild Turkeys** were seen on Little Tinicum Island, a small uninhabited island 1/3 mile off the DR shore adjacent to PHL 2/1 (AG). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at DT (AG), a location where this species was also seen in Nov (DE, NP, AG et al). There are no known game farms in that immediate area, an increasingly necessary fact to note when reporting pheasants in this county. A **Common Loon** was located on the DR 1/26 (AG, JL, DE, DW). The only grebe reported this winter was a **Pied-billed Grebe** at SR, seen twice (AG, WRS group). A **Great Cormorant** on the DR was a good find 12/15 (NP). These winter residents have been found on

14 of our CBCs, all since 1986.

Black Vultures continue to thrive. A total of 48 were counted on the WRS over 2 successive weekends and 81 were seen on the CBC, all but one or two in *Delaware*. A mixed roost of 72 vultures estimated at 60/40 **Turkey/Black Vulture** was in Media 1/29 (DM). One of the 7 **Bald Eagles** reported on the CBC was observed sitting next to a nest (AG). The WRS team observed 2 adult **Bald Eagles** at this same nest, in addition to mating on the nest 1/26 (AG, JL, DW, DE). This was the first confirmation of a **Bald Eagle** nest in *Delaware* in post-DDT times. We have been told of this species nesting near the same location in the 1940s. Also 1/26, 3 **Bald Eagles** (2 ad, 1 imm) were seen in the DC watershed by the WRS team. There were three additional reports of single **Bald Eagles**, adult and immature, throughout the season at various locations (NP, TR, DM). Four **Northern Harriers** 12/15 were less than half the CBC average of 9. **Northern Harrier** was found in Jan at DT, PHL and RCSP (AG). Good news on accipiters: **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Cooper's Hawks** were reported frequently through the season and CBC totals were well above the 48 year average (m.obs.). The immature **Northern Goshawk** first found at DT in Nov was seen on several occasions until mid-Dec (fide NP). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found by several observers in locations throughout the county. The last report of this species was the last day of the season, 2/29, near RCSP (NP). **Red-tailed Hawks** were out in force for the WRS; a total of 63 individuals were observed (JL, AG, DW, DE). A CBC count-week **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen hunting open marshes TI (TC).

Despite good numbers being reported state-wide, the fact that only two **American Kestrel** were seen on the CBC is indicative of their continued decline in our area. The 48-year average on Glenolden CBC for this species is 25. One of those seen on 12/15 was at PHL (AG). Two were counted on the WRS 1/26 including one near PHL (JL, AG, DW, DE). I received two additional reports of single **American Kestrel**: one in Jan (JL) and another in Feb (NP). Both were at separate locations from those previously reported. For the fourth consecutive year, a CBC count-week **Merlin** was seen roosting on the same location in Chester Park and continued to be seen through the season (NP). A **Merlin** was also seen occasionally from a dorm window on the Swarthmore College campus by a student and avid birder (JS). A **Peregrine Falcon** at DC on the WRS 1/26 was in the same area of at least one of 3 reported on the CBC.

The count of only 2 **Killdeer** on 12/15 was far below the 48-year CBC average of 44. One of those was at SR (AG). SJ heard her first-of-the-season **Killdeer** 2/15 at the high school in Concord Twp where she teaches and another was at DC 2/24 (DE). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** at DC 12/15 (SC et al) was an uncommon find.

The common owls were out in expected numbers. The **Eastern Screech-Owl** tally included 4 at TY 12/15 (TR). There were two occupied **Great Horned Owl** nests reported; the first 2/20 in Secane (RW, SW) and the second 2/25 at TI (RW, SW). **Barred Owl**, frequently found in Riddlewood, was not located this year, but JZ heard a **Barred Owl** calling on 3 dates in Feb in Fox Valley, Glen Mills. We did share in this year's **Northern Saw-whet Owl** invasion with one seen in Dec at TI (DM).

Woodpeckers continue to do well. The **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **Downy Woodpecker** and **Hairy Woodpecker** counts on the CBC were at record or near-record highs. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported in all three months and *Delaware* had a record high **Pileated Woodpecker** count of 17 on the CBC (previous high 9 in 1977; avg. 3). An **Eastern Phoebe** was found at Williamson Trade School 12/15 (AG) and a mid-winter **Eastern Phoebe** was reported in Media 1/28 (DM).

The **Northern Shrike** at DT first found 11/25 continued and was cooperative enough to appear on 12/15 for the second CBC record (JDa). The only other CBC record was at RCSP in 1978. The **Northern Shrike** was last reported 1/10 (DE). An unexpected find was 2 **Blue-headed Vireo** at RCSP 12/11 (AM), four days before the CBC. There has been only one previous CBC record of this species, 2001.

American Crows were in good numbers in the Media area with 119 counted 1/20 (JL) and at least 9 **Fish Crow** were recorded in the county 12/15 (AG, DE, MK et al). Crows appear to continue their rebound from the effects of West Nile Virus. Fifteen **Horned Larks** were at PHL 12/15 where they are found in winter with fair consistency (AG).

Eight **Black-capped Chickadees** on the CBC were well below the average count. At least 4 of the eight were found in *Delaware* on that day (2 by NP and 2 by MK, DE et al). I received two other reports of single birds of this species, one at TY 12/19 (TR) and the other at DT 2/2 (BB). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were plentiful in this irruption year. It seemed as if just about everyone had at least one at their feeders and those who didn't were feeling left out. As many as 24 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were

counted at TY 12/15 (TR). **Carolina Wrens**, **Winter Wrens**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were plentiful. **Ruby crowned Kinglets** were sighted with above average frequency and as late as 1/26 SR (AG).

Eastern Bluebirds were also plentiful all season. Our county bluebird-monitoring program deserves kudos for continued success thanks to Bob Bodine, Alice Severeid, and all of the other participants. A count of 29 **Hermit Thrush** was a new CBC high, and regular reports of this species were received through Jan (m.obs.). A remarkably white leucistic **American Robin** standing out in a large flock was photographed at TY 2/20 (SBN). **Gray Catbirds** were reported at several locations through the season and as late as 2/8 in Media (DM). Reported as scarce last year, the 617 **Cedar Waxwings** counted on the CBC were nearly twice the average and included 250 by one observer in *Delaware* (AG).

Thanks to it being a leap year we had a late winter instead of early spring **Orange-crowned Warbler**. It was observed feasting on a stale bagel at a feeder at the observer's home in Prospect Park 2/29 (JM). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported on a regular basis; otherwise no other warblers were reported. **Eastern Towhees** were present through the winter at the expected locations. BB "heard them everywhere" when he counted 20 individuals during a 1.5 hour New Year's Day walk along the Bridle Path at RCSP. Sixteen **American Tree Sparrows** were found 12/15 (AG). Other reports of this species were mostly by shrike hunters at DT from 12/1 (DB) to 2/2 (BB), and dates in between (NP, AG, DE). **Field Sparrows** were also regulars in the expected locations. Shrike hunters at DT were responsible for most of the reports. The only **Savannah Sparrow** report was of 2 on the CBC (AG).

Purple Finch seemed to be everywhere in this irruption year (m.obs.), including 8 on 1/5 at RCSP (NP) and 5 on 2/28 at DT (DE, JS). Although no Red Crossbills were reported there were 2 **White-winged Crossbills** seen at RCSP 12/15 (SP). We did share in the excitement over **Common Redpolls** this winter. Thirty were found in a small park along the DR in Trainer just south of Chester (NP). Other reports were of 5 flying over DT 1/10 (AG), one at RCSP 1/12 (AG), and 10 flying over a parking lot in Devon 2/8 (JD). Despite the winter finch irruption, 22 **Pine Siskins** on the CBC was about average; this species has been reported on 32 of the previous 48 counts. Reports of **Pine Siskins** ceased for a while until a member of our local birding club reported that one had been coming to her feeder in Rosemont since mid-Mar (MP).

S.A.

A male **Indigo Bunting** was first seen coming to a feeder in Swarthmore in early December. It was photographed 12/8 (BS). The photo did not circulate and the bird's identity was not confirmed until early Feb (DE), so it was missed on the CBC. It continued to come to the same feeder daily into March (BS, AS, DE). My research indicates this is the first reported winter **Indigo Bunting** for *Delaware*, the tenth for the state, and probably the fourth documented to survive into Feb/March in Pennsylvania.

Observers: **Dave Eberly**, 112 S. Princeton Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081 (610) 543-3499 david.eberly@gmail.com, Debbie Beer, Sarah Boucas-Neto, Brian Byrnes, Skip Conant, Tony Croasdale, John Damico, Susan Damico, Jeffery Davis, Al Guarente, Sheryl Johnson, Maryellen Krober, Jim Lockyer, Andrew McGann, Doris McGovern, John Miller, Mariana Pesthy, Sharon Pulcinella, Nick Pulcinella, Alice Severeid, Beth Soch, Jacob Socolar, Tom Reeves, Dave Washabaugh, Rick West, Sharon West, Janis Zane.

Elk County

No Compiler.

Erie County

This was an off and on, open and closed winter. An arctic storm would pass through the region and put ice on lakes and ponds, then within a week a warm front would pass and everything would open up again. This pattern held through most of the winter. In fact, Presque Isle Bay never really remained frozen for more than just a few days until after mid-February.

Many passerines remained into January with a few species surviving through the period. Some invasive plants like Oriental bittersweet have

spread rapidly across Presque Isle State Park, which provided food through the winter for a large number of **American Robins**. **Common Redpolls** invaded the northwestern portion of the state, with some feeding stations hosting as many as 100 birds. As expected, at least a couple **Hoary Redpolls** were reported from a feeder in Edinboro and another possible one or two in Union City.

The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

A single white **Snow Goose** was with several thousand **Canada Geese** on Edinboro Lake 12/31 (SW). A very interesting looking male **Mallard X Northern Pintail** was in Presque Isle Bay 12/9 (JM). A male **Northern Pintail** was found at the channel on the late date of 1/31(PH). A female **Surf Scoter** was present off Beach 11 and in the channel 1/22-29 (JM). More expected in winter was a **White-winged Scoter** that was also present off Beach 11 and in the channel 1/25-27 (JM). A rather late female **Long-tailed Duck** made a brief visit in the channel 1/25 (JM). A couple **Red-necked Grebes** flew past Sunset Point on the waterbird count 12/2 (JM) and another 12/17 (JM).

Turkey Vultures are appearing earlier every year, so it wasn't a surprise to have one passing over Harborcreek 2/13 (LK). **Northern Harriers** and **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported more frequently this winter than usual across *Erie* and northern *Crawford* (m. obs.). A **Merlin** was spotted rocketing over the Tom Ridge Environmental Center 2/13 (JM). The only **Peregrine Falcon** for the season was at Gull Point 12/19 (JM).

The four **Killdeer** found on the CBC near the entrance of Presque Isle 12/15, was a good species to add to the list for this late in the season. Totally unexpected was the **Ruddy Turnstone** also found on the CBC at Gull Point 12/15 (BC). The annual, but rare, **Purple Sandpiper** was found on Gull Point and the breakwaters from 12/14 to 12/16 (BC, JM). Gull numbers were low around Presque Isle, so it wasn't a surprise to have fewer white-winged gulls and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** reported. A total of three **Iceland Gulls** were observed at the Lake View Landfill and Presque Isle on 12/13, 1/12, and 2/11 (JM). Only three **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** could be found this season with singles on 12/15, 1/7, and 2/6 (JM). A season total of four or five immature **Glaucous Gulls** were at the Lake View Landfill and Presque Isle from 12/15 through the period (BC, JM). A **Short-eared Owl** was reported sitting on a fence post in Greene Twp. 2/14 (GF, *vide* RS).

Northern Shrikes were widely reported with a total of six across *Erie* and *Crawford* from 12/15 through the period (TW, JD, JM). Three **Common Ravens** were identified circling and calling over a Union City residence 1/21 where they have recently become annual (DP). **Winter Wrens** are rarely reported in *Erie* and northern *Crawford* after the first of the year, so one found 1/26 was notable (DS). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** along Pine Tree Trail 1/3 was later than usual (JM). Formerly unheard of in winter was a **Gray Catbird** 2/3 (RS). This species has been seen in winter several times in recent years. **Northern Mockingbirds** are expected from spring through fall, so it was a little surprising to see one in *Erie* 12/4 (JM) and another in McKean Twp. 12/15 (RS). A good find was a **Bohemian Waxwing** that was photographed with a few **Cedar Waxwings** near vista two at Presque Isle 12/18 (BM).

Unexpected was a **Grasshopper Sparrow** observed for several weeks and subsequently photographed at a feeding station at Seton School in Meadville, *Crawford* from late fall to at least 12/21 (MC). **Fox Sparrows** are rare after Nov, so one at a feeding station in Girard from 12/31 to at least 1/2 (JB) was interesting. A **White-crowned Sparrow** was at a feeder in Fairview 1/17 (JM). **Lapland Longspurs** are very rare in winter in *Erie* so the single bird found at Gull Point 1/7 (JM) was noteworthy. **Common Redpolls** were common throughout the county from 12/11 through the period. Some feeder watchers were reported as many as 100 or more redpolls at times (m. obs.). Not surprising were reports of **Hoary Redpoll** among the Common Redpolls, with a single female at an Edinboro feeder 1/4 (DS), and a single male at the same site 2/4 (DS). There were also two pale birds at a Union City feeder that were believed to be Hoary Redpolls, but details were not given. Despite all of the redpolls in the area, there were few **Pine Siskins** reported. Two **Pine Siskins** were in *Erie* 12/22 with a single there 2/16 (JDe) and a single in Fairview 12/24-25 (PH).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams**, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com, Jim Baxter, Marcia Carone, Ben Coulter, Julie Dell (JD), JDe-John DePaul (JDe), Gretchen Froelich, Pat Howell, Linda Kierstein, Bernard Master, Donna Peters, Don Snyder, Ruth Swaney, Susanne Winterberger, Tom Wasilewski.

Fayette County

Common Mergansers were reported along the Youghiogheny River during the season. Two were at Confluence 1/27 (MB, EH), and 12 were in Perry Township 2/3 (KSJ). Three **Red-shouldered Hawks** and a light phase **Rough-legged Hawk** were found during a Winter Raptor Survey in the western part of the county 2/3 (MMC).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found along the Yough River Trail in Perry Township 2/3 (KSJ). A **Hermit Thrush** was a nice find in Elliottsville and a single **Cedar Waxwing** was also in the same area 1/27 (MB, EH). A **Purple Finch** was in Elliottsville 1/27 (MB, EH) and a few **Evening Grosbeaks** visited a feeder near Ohioptyle in the early part of the season (OS).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Mark Bowers, Eric Hall, Mark McConaughy, Kate St. John, Olive Scarlett.

Forest County

Locations: Buzzard Swamp (BS), Tionesta (TI)

Highlights of winter in Forest County included multiple **Bald Eagle** sightings, **Trumpeter Swans**, and **Common Redpolls**.

Two **Trumpeter Swans** were found near TI on the Pleasantville CBC 12/30: a wing-tagged adult and an immature (GE, RS). The adult had been wing-banded in Wye Marsh in Canada. An **American Black Duck** was spotted near TI 12/30 on the CBC (GE, RS), and 5 were reported 2/2 (MB, TB).

Seven **Bald Eagles** were reported from the TI area 12/30: 2 adults and 5 immatures (GE, RS). **Bald Eagles** were seen several times at BS: 3 adults and an immature 1/11; 2 adults and 2 immatures 1/18; 3 adults and one immature on 1/19; 4 adults and 2 juveniles 2/2 (TB). On the **Bald Eagle** survey 1/2-16, 7 immatures and 3 adults were seen in the TI area (RD et al.). Two adult **Bald Eagles** were spotted near TI 2/5 (FM, JM).

A **Rough-legged Hawk** at Redbrush was the highlight of the *Forest* WRS 2/2. Thirty-seven **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen on the river near TI 1/30. A **Northern Shrike** was seen near Neilltown 12/30 (FM, JM). A high of 24 **Common Ravens** was reported at BS 2/2 (TB).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were regular throughout the period at feeders near TI. A single **Snow Bunting** was spotted at Whig Hill 2/2. At feeders near TI, three **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were seen 12/8 and 12/9, and a high of 8 **Purple Finches** 2/10. **Common Redpolls** were regular throughout the period, with a high of 31 on 12/29. **Pine Siskins** were also regular throughout the period, in small groups of 2 or 3. Two **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen 1/3 and a single 2/4 (FM, JM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672 fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Margaret Buckwalter, Ted Buckwalter, Rodney Daum, Gary Edwards, Jim McGuire, Russ States

Franklin County

Locations: Conococheague Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Shady Grove Area (SGA), Chambersburg Area (CA).

A mild winter made for a different birding season this winter. A total of 91 species were reported to me for the county. Feeders were not always busy as usual for this time of the year but still we had birds that have not been regular visitor to many feeders, **Common Redpolls** and **Pine Siskins** being the prime examples.

Warm weather allowed lots of waterfowl to stay around into Jan. The Greencastle Reservoir Area produced **Canada Geese**, **Mallards**, **Buffleheads** and **Greater Scaup** as well as **Killdeer**, **Ring-billed Gulls**, **American Pipits**, **Horned Larks**, **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, **Common Ravens**, and **Eastern Bluebirds**. A record number of **Wilson's Snipe** (20) was observed at CA 2/26.

On 2/5, **Bald Eagles** were observed south of Greencastle. They were present for about 10 days feeding in a field and perching in trees. Various sightings of **Bald Eagles** have been reported in the county during the winter, which is unusual. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** made their presence known at many feeders, much to the dismay of some bird watchers. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was present east of CA for several weeks in Dec.

The Greencastle Reservoir Area produced **American Kestrels** and a **Merlin**.

Eurasian Collared Doves still maintain residency in Shady Grove and Greencastle with as many as 7 being observed at one time at various locations in each area. BK watched a **Swainson's Thrush** at the western edge South Mountain along Stillhouse Hollow Road.

CG observed a **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Brown Creeper** at his feeder as well as a **Fox Sparrow** (CA). **Lapland Longspurs**, **Snow Buntings**, **Pine Siskins** and a large number of **Cedar Waxwings** in the CA made for good birding. **Savannah Sparrows** were reported, not common for this time of year. **Common Redpolls** were first reported by DH (near Mont Alto) 12/17, and were subsequently reported numerous times throughout the winter at various locations.

Observers: **Dale Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256 (717) 860-5799, dlgearhart01@comcast.net**, Valerie Barnes, Carl Garner, Joan Duffield, Donna Hocker, Bob Keener, Bill Oyler

Fulton County

A first-year male **Harris' Sparrow** visited the feeders of J&DP in Waterfall 12/6-7. To my knowledge, this constitutes a first county record.

Observers: **Dan Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, 717-530-8313, dan_snell@hotmail.com**, James and Delores Purnell.

Greene County

Locations: Cumberland Township (CT); East View (EV); Franklin Township (FT), Kern Farm (KF); Last Chance Ranch (LCR); Lake Wilma (LW) in Wayne Township; Perry Township (PT), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF)

Many folks who maintain bird feeders have asked, "What has happened to all the redbirds (**Northern Cardinal**) this winter?" Others have commented many times about the abundance of **American Robins** in their yards. There may be one explanation for both statements: locally there were abundant crops of wild grapes and poison ivy berries. **American Robins**, **Cedar Waxwings**, and **Blue Jays** have been observed gorging on wild grapes in a noisy, confrontational group. The **Northern Cardinals** and others may have had plenty of wild food available and were not coming to feeders. Likewise, local **American Robins** as well as those coming from the north found plentiful food and so stayed the winter instead of moving further south. Joan Pattison, who spends winters in Florida, states she did not see any **American Robins** this winter compared to the large flocks she saw last winter in the same area.

A **Horned Grebe** visited the creek at EV 2/3 and stayed for three days (MH). One **Hooded Merganser** was found in Dunkard Creek near Mt. Morris 2/24 (KK). The Wisecarver water dam in FT hosted 19 **Mallards** 2/7 (JH). On 2/4 four **Ring-Necked Ducks** were spotted at LW (MH). While **Canada Geese** are seen throughout the winter, RKB watched 55 fly over RBF going due south 12/5 and 208 were found at the soccer field at EV 2/12 (MH). In keeping with the influx of gulls in the area in late February, one **Ring-billed Gull** was noted in FT 2/26 (MH). The earliest **Killdeer** was reported 2/26 near Hunting Hills Road in Monongahela Township (SS). Multiple sightings of **Killdeer** were reported 2/27 with one reported on Oak Forest Road (JH), and another on Goslin Road in Jefferson Township (KK). A **Great Blue Heron** was seen near Big Shannon Run in PT 2/9 and again 2/22 (MLP). **Wild Turkeys** continue to flourish with 25 noted 2/16 at LCR (MLP).

From 1/20 through 2/18, a **Golden Eagle** was seen near Oak Forest (Tracy Tustin et al). The 2 **Golden Eagles** reported in a local newspaper were a good find. The white tail noted in the photos would indicate an immature bird (RKB). On 1/4, MLP heard a noise in the basement and upon investigation found a **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** flapping at the window outside just like **American Robins** do in the spring. Another **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** was seen 2/13 at EV (JH). At RBF, a dead hatch year **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** was found 2/9 (RKB). He states it was a plump bird and had probably hit a window or power line or another obstruction, since it appeared healthy otherwise. A **Red Shouldered Hawk** was noted at EV 2/12 (MH) and 2/14 (JH). Also 2/14, a **Cooper's Hawk** visited EV (JH). Two **Northern Harriers**, one adult female and one juvenile, were seen in Morgan Township skimming over a large hayfield, and another was found sitting on a large hay bale in CT 2/12 (KK). One **Rough Legged Hawk** was found in CT 12/29 by MH and seen again 2/2 (KK).

A **Belted Kingfisher** was seen near LCR 1/12 and 2/9 (MLP), and

one was spotted at LW 2/4 (KK). At RBF, **Northern Flickers** and **Pileated Woodpeckers** were seen or heard most days throughout the period by RKB. A lone **Common Raven** was noted 2/14 at EV (MH). One **Brown Creeper** was noted 1/19 and again 2/18 at EV (MH). The **Red Breasted Nuthatches** that arrived very early this year stayed around, with several observers reporting them at their feeders all winter.

Eastern Bluebirds were found feeding on the wild grape crop at LCR 12/30 and again 2/16 (MLP). As previously mentioned, **American Robins** were plentiful this winter. A flock of over 5000 were spotted in Jackson Township as they headed to roost in a pine grove 12/15 (CM, MM). At LCR 1/13 they were reported "hopping around in the pasture" (MLP). A flock of 200 or more were seen at RBF 2/10 eating holly berries on what was very windy day (RKB). Every year RKB has **Yellow-Rumped Warblers** roosting in these holly trees for the winter; this winter he counted 21 for the CBC 12/29. However he suspected most left for other sleeping quarters after the robins started coming in for the holly berries. He also reported one **Chipping Sparrow** at his feeder throughout the period. **White-Throated Sparrows** were reported by several observers. RKB had at least 10 at the feeders all winter. A **White-Crowned Sparrow** was found 12/14 at EV (JH). Roberta Boyd reported a **Fox Sparrow** at her feeder in FT all season. She first noted it 12/23 and it was sighted frequently during Jan and nearly every day in Feb. It frequently came to the feeders with **White-throated** and **Song Sparrows**. Another **Fox Sparrow** was found at RBF 12/6 (RKB). **Dark-Eyed Juncos** were around this winter, but like other species, not in large groups as were noted last winter.

Northern Cardinals were reported in lower numbers than usual by most observers. One **Red-winged Blackbird** and one **Rusty Blackbird** were reported 1/2 in Garrison by Jeanne Williams. Ten **Red-winged Blackbirds** showed up at the feeders at KF 2/17 (KK). A group of over 100 mixed blackbirds including **Rusty** and **Brewer's Blackbirds** were reported at Paul Braddock's farm in Aleppo Township 12/18 (JH). One **Rusty Blackbird** was noted at KF 1/26 and 1/27 (KK). At the feeder at EV, four **Brown-Headed Cowbirds** were seen 12/10, and one was noted at the feeder at RBF 12/17 and 2/11 (RKB).

A one-time-only sighting of two **Common Redpolls** at a feeder was a real treat at LCR 12/29 (MLP). **House Finches** were seen at feeders at RBF all winter by RKB, who remarks that their numbers seem to be slowly coming back from the low that was caused by a conjunctivitis outbreak in the species a few years back. He banded 21 individuals throughout 2007, which was considerably more than the 4 he had banded in 2004. A female **Purple Finch** was seen 2/10 and again 2/14 at EV (MH) at EV. MLP reports **American Goldfinches** were the most numerous species at the feeders at LCR this winter. Though 2/3 was a bit early, a sure sign of spring was a **House Sparrow** carrying strands of dried grass into a Blue Spruce where they usually nest at KF (KK).

Observers: **Kathy Kern 322 Kennel Road, Waynesburg, Pa. 15370 Phone 724.627.5376 n3xsj@alltel.net**, Ralph K. Bell, Jerry Howard, Marj Howard, Mary La Plante, Carroll McVay, Mick McVay, Sally Sisler.

Huntingdon County

Locations: Huntingdon (HU), Lake Raystown (LR), McAlevy's Fort (MF), Old Crow Wetland at Huntingdon (OC), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SC), Stone Mountain Hawkwatch (SM), Tussey Mountain Hawkwatch (TMH).

A roost near HU hosted 87 **Black Vultures** 12/14, the third year these birds have been observed at this site. The annual winter count conducted by boat 1/11 on LR tallied 7 adult and 6 immature **Bald Eagles**, continuing a general upward trend for the 19-year survey (RC). TMH began its season 2/24 with a **Rough-legged Hawk** and 4 **Golden Eagles** (NB, TM). Fields near MF proved a reliable site to find winter raptors. A **Short-eared Owl** was observed 12/23 (GG), 1/12 (DK), and 2/3 (JK). As many as 5 **Northern Harriers** were spotted 12/23 (GG) and continued to be observed in lower numbers through the count period (GG, DK, JK, DW, AW). **Rough-legged Hawks** were also regularly spotted beginning 12/22 (GG) and continuing until DK last recorded a pair 2/19. GG also recorded a **Merlin** near MF 1/26 as part of the annual WRS.

The county's combined CBCs had record highs for 14 species. The HU CBC 12/22 reported 12 **Northern Harriers**, 7 **Cooper's Hawks**, 9 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 16 **Eastern Screech Owls**, 58 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, and 16 **Hermit Thrush** (DK). The count day also included an unusual find of 2 **Long-eared Owls** near MF (DW). The LR CBC 1/5 reported high counts of 421 **Mallards**, 216 **Common Mergansers**, 67

American Coots, 395 **Rock Pigeons**, 242 **Mourning Doves**, 48 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, 133 **American Robins** and 455 **House Sparrows**. Participants also tallied second-best numbers of 119 **Wild Turkeys**, 46 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 19 **American Kestrels**, 304 **Ring-billed Gulls**, 219 **Blue Jays**, 649 **American Crows**, 221 **Tufted Titmice**, 111 **White-breasted Nuthatch**, 6 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, 133 **American Robins**, 25 **Northern Mockingbirds**, 1736 **European Starling**, 146 **White-throated Sparrows** and 229 **Northern Cardinals**. Species of note included a **Gray Catbird**, **Eastern Towhee**, and 2 **Northern Shrikes**.

The count also posted a new species with 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** (GG). A **Northern Shrike** was recorded in Upper Trough Creek Valley 1/6 (DK). DK recorded a late season **Swamp Sparrow** at OC 12/11, and two on 1/7. A small flock of 7 **Eastern Meadowlarks** was found in fields near MF 12/31 (JK), and continued to be reported in smaller numbers for the remainder of the count period (DK, DW).

Pine Siskins were regular visitors at feeding stations throughout the count period with a high of 55 near MF 1/22 (GG). The earliest report of **Common Redpoll** was 1/2 at SC (DW), and later recorded in HU 1/12 (DK) and near MF 1/27 (DG, GG).

Observers: **Doug Wentzel, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, 814-863-2000**, Nick Bolgiano, Rob Criswell, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Jon Kauffman, Tom Magarian, Andy Wilson.

Indiana County

Locations: Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TL), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Yellow Creek Lake had frozen completely toward the end of January. A small spot of open water on 1/22 concentrated the remaining waterfowl, making them difficult to count. Two Lick Reservoir, which is much deeper, remained open a little longer, but it too eventually froze.

Canada Goose maxima included 530 at TL 1/5 (GC, MH, RH) and 216 at YC 1/15 (LC). **Tundra Swan** reports mentioned 100 near Penn Run 12/14 (TF) and last report of 4 at TL 12/29 (MH, RH).

Single **Wood Ducks** were listed on Crooked Creek 12/26 (BB, TB). Eight **Gadwalls** lingered at YC 12/6 (LC, MH). Last **American Wigeons** were 2 at TL 1/5 (GC, MH, RH) and 3 at YC 1/7 (LC). **American Black Duck** maxima included 47 at TL 12/29 (MH, RH) and an estimated 30 at YC 1/22 (LC, MH). Top **Mallard** counts were 664 on the CBC 12/26 (v.o.) and 346 at TL 12/29 (MH, RH). First **Northern Pintail** arrived 12/6 at YC; high count was 9 at YC 12/26 (GL, GS) while one lingered at TL 1/14 (LC). A single **Green-winged Teal** at YC 12/26 (GL, GS) was the lone report. Forty-four **Canvasbacks** arrived 12/6 (LC, MH) at YC where one remained through 1/15 (LC). Single **Redheads** were noted 12/23 (MH, RH) through 1/15 (LC) at YC. The IN CBC yielded 41 **Ring-necked Ducks** 12/26 (v.o.) while last report included 6 at TL 1/6 (LC). Two **Greater Scaup** at YC 12/6 (LC, MH) were the only ones noted; no **Lesser Scaup** were reported. A **Surf Scoter** was a good find at YC 12/18 (LC, MH, GL). Lingered **Buffleheads** included 3 at YC 1/15 (LC). First 2 **Common Goldeneyes** arrived at YC 12/26 (GL, GS); last noted was a single bird at YC 1/15 (LC). Top **Hooded Merganser** count was 20 at YC 12/6 (LC, MH) and 12/26 (SC, MH, RH, GL, GS). A **Common Merganser**, observed on Mahoning Creek 2/22 (PS), was the lone report. The only **Red-breasted Mergansers** noted were 3 at YC 12/23 (LC). **Ruddy Ducks** were spotted on many YC trips with high count of 143 on 12/23 (LC); TL yielded 23 on 1/6 (LC).

December 26 yielded 10 **Ruffed Grouse** for the CBC (v.o.) in addition to another near Dilltown (TR). The largest flock of **Wild Turkeys** was observed almost daily north of IN with high of 126 on 1/24 (SB). Top **Pied-billed Grebe** counts were 16 at YC 12/26 (GL, GS) and 1/22 (LC, MH). YC's last **Horned Grebes** were 2 on 12/26 (GL, GS). Only one **Great Blue Heron** was noted after 1/1: a single bird at the IN mall 2/25 (CG).

Northern Harriers were found near J.S. Airport 12/8 (BF, TF), near Dilltown 12/26 (TR), at YC 1/15 (LC), near LV 2/6 (MC), and near Home 2/16 (JT); in addition, 4 were noted on the CBC (v.o.); 2 WRS routes in Indiana yielded one 2/10 (MH, RH) and a second 2/24 (MH, RH). Both **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Cooper's** were well-reported, including 14 Sharp-shins and 9 Cooper's located for the CBC (v.o.). Besides the 5 **Red-shouldered Hawks** spotted on the CBC, the only reports included singletons at YC 1/5 (GC, MH, RH) and near Five Points 2/10 (MH, RH). Light-morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were nice finds near Marion Center 1/27 (MH, RH) and near Gipsy 2/24 (MH, RH). Two, one dark and one

light, and possibly a third bird were observed near Elders Ridge 2/28 (MF). WRS produced 2 **American Kestrels** in northern Indiana 2/10 (MH, RH). A **Merlin** was a good find in IN 12/26 (JT) and another was at Dilltown 12/29 (TR).

The high **American Coot** count this season was 546 on 12/23 (MH, RH); last noted included an estimated 125 in the last puddle of open water at YC 1/22 (LC, MH). Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** stopped at YC 1/14-15 (LC). Last **Ring-billed Gulls** included 16 at YC 1/15 (LC); one near IN 2/26 (CG) was an early arrival. An **Eastern Screech-Owl**, wintering in a nest box near SH, was present through 2/29 (MH, RH); another was heard at Nolo 12/13 (AB), and the CBC yielded an additional 2 (v.o.). After few reports in recent years, **Great Horned Owls** were noted at 10 locations this winter (v.o.). A **Barred Owl** on RH 12/26 (PJ) was the lone report. The West Lebanon area yielded at least 2 **Short-eared Owls** 1/1 (MH, RH).

Among many reports, **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** included 2 north of IN 1/21 (SB); in addition, a bird sporting a red nape visited Marjorie Peterson's yard in IN 12/27 (MH, MP). A **Northern Shrike** stopped at LV 2/15 (MC); another was found near Gipsy 2/24 (MH, RH). A **Fish Crow** was heard in IN 12/24 (RW). **Common Ravens** continue to be widespread with 9 reports this season (v.o.).

Horned Lark reports included 12 near Tunnelton 12/7 (DC), 86 near Edgewood 12/26 (DC, MC), 374 near Marion Center 2/10 (MH, RH), and 50 near Rexis 2/15 (LC). A **Carolina Chickadee** continued near LV throughout the winter (MC). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were widespread with numerous reports. The only **Winter Wrens** noted were 2 on the CBC 12/26 (LH, LHe, LM, TP, MSa) and another the same day near Strongstown (TR). A single **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and 2 **Hermit Thrushes** at YC 12/26 (SC, MH, RH) were the lone reports for these species. **American Robins** wintered locally in good numbers with many reports (v.o.). Eighteen was a fine **Yellow-rumped Warbler** count 12/26 (LM, TP, MSa) near IN; a singleton visited MP's backyard 12/27 (MH).

Wintering **Eastern Towhees** included singletons at YC (LC, MH, RH), near LV (MC), and in IN (MP); another was seen near Home 2/17 (JT). Three **Field Sparrows** were found at YC 1/5 (GC, MH, RH), the last report. A **Fox Sparrow** stopped at a Penn Run feeder 1/3, 5 (BF). Last **Swamp Sparrows** occurred 1/5 (GC, MH, RH) at YC. An amazingly large flock of 29 **White-crowned Sparrows** was a nice bonus for the CBC 12/26 (LH, LHe); a **Gambel's White-crowned** appeared near SH 1/20 (MH, RH) and remained through the end of the period. An all-time high of 142 **Dark-eyed Juncos** was reached at a SH feeder 2/12 (MH, RH).

Last **Red-winged Blackbirds** were 4 near IN 12/29 (MH, RH). A late **Eastern Meadowlark** appeared near IN 12/26 (BM, KM, CW, PW). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** still lingered at YC 12/26, one on the north shore (JD, ED, SD, MSt, JT) and one on the south shore (MH, RH). **Common Grackle** reports included 3 in IN (DR) and 2 at PR (IT, ST) 12/26 and 2 n. of IN 2/10 (SB). A flock of 150 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** appeared near LV 1/24 (MC).

It was an exciting season for winter finches. **Purple Finches** were found across the region in small flocks. **Common Redpolls**, unreported in our county since 1998, began appearing at feeders at the beginning of the period. Reports included one near LV (DC, MC) and 38 on RH (PJ) 12/8. The LV bird was last seen 1/12 (MC). The RH flock grew to 60 by 12/10 (PJ) with last report of 2 on 1/14 (PJ). The Morgans-Sarver-Pearson crew eked out one redpoll for the CBC while the Cunkelmans found a flock of 24 near IN, and PJ counted 38 of hers that same day. At least 11 **Pine Siskins** continued near IN through the end of the period (CG); not too far from CG's feeder 4 visited HM's feeders 12/26. Two **Evening Grosbeaks** were a nice surprise in IN 12/2 and 12/6-7 (SBu); 2 females briefly visited a feeder near SH 11/7 (MH).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@alltel.net**, Alice Beatty, Bill Betts, Tom Betts, Sid Blair, Sandra Burwell (SBu), Lee Carnahan, Roger Carnahan, Susan Comfort, Greg Cook, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Jim Dearing, Ed Donley, Sue Donley, Gary Ferrence, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Cindy Gardiner (CGa), Carol Guba, Len Hess, Linda Hess (LHe), Roger Higbee, Pat Johnner, Linda Jones, Gloria Lamer, Mary A. Little, Howard Mandigo, Beth Marshall, Ken Marshall, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Marilyn Moore (MM), Lauren Morgans, Tom Pearson, Marjorie Peterson, Bob Ramsey, Tom Roberts, Don Rogers, John Salvetti, Matt Sarver, Patrick Snickles, John Somonick (JSo), Mark Strittmatter (MSt), Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Ila Tuorinsky, Steve Tuorinsky, Chris Williams, Paula Williams, Ray Winstead.

Jefferson County

No Report.

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Juniata County

Locations: Cedar Spring Road (CSR), Cuba Mills Road (CMR), Cunningham Road (CR), Lost Creek Shoe Shop (LCSS), Metz Road (MR), Mifflintown River Access (MRA), Muskrat Springs River Access (MSRA), Oakland Mills (OM), Port Royal (PR), Red Rock Road (RRR), Van Wert (VW).

Highlights of the local CBC (Lewistown) on 12/2 included: **Common Redpoll** (KM), 2 **Barn Owls** (MM, GR, AR, BM), **Ruddy Duck** (ThP, TjP), **Northern Saw Whet Owl** (HP), 200 **Snow Buntings** (AT, et al). We had 83 species on the count including 2 new species and 13 high counts.

On 2/23, 2 **Redheads**, 247 **Common Mergansers**, 3 **Hooded Mergansers**, one **Scaup sp.**, 4 **Wood Ducks**, one **American Coot** and one **Snow Goose** were all on the Juniata River, MSRA (ThP).

Two adult **Bald Eagles** were seen 12/2 (PR, DD). On 12/21, two adult **Bald Eagles** were seen feeding on carrion (PR, CK). A single adult **Bald Eagle** was located near Denholm (BM). Seven **Northern Harriers** were seen roosting together 1/12 at CR (CK, AS). On 1/5, a **Northern Goshawk** was at LCSS (AT). A **Rough Legged Hawk** was seen in Oakland Mills 12/19 (JH). On 2/16, 4 **Rough Legged Hawks** were located around the county (OM, CSR, CR, CK, DT, ST).

Wilson's Snipe were reported 12/16 and 1/18 at MR (CK). A field trip on 2/9 around CSR was rewarded with a **Barn Owl**. On 12/9, 8 **Long Eared Owls** were found in the county (CK). A single **Short Eared Owl** was spotted 2/2 at LCSS (ST). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was found 1/9 at MR (CK, AS). On 1/21, a single **American Pipit** was seen for several days as well as a **Brown Thrasher** at LCSS (CK, DT, AT, ST, et al.)

On 2/9, 75 **Horned Lark**, 2 **Snow Buntings**, 2 **Lapland Longspurs**, 5 **Wilson's Snipe**, and 7 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were counted (CK, AT, HP, AnT, DH). Fifty **Horned Lark** and 80 **Snow Buntings** were seen 1/6 at OM (PR). On 2/24, a **Savannah Sparrow** of the Ipswich form was seen in a backyard MSRA (ThP). A male **Bullock's Oriole** continued from the fall around LCSS (AT, DT, LT, et al.). The last day of the **Bullock's Oriole** was 1/19; it had been seen almost every day since 11/23/07.

On 1/4, 200 **Pine Siskins** (and on 1/14, 185) were counted at LCSS (AT). On 1/3, two hundred **Common Redpolls** were counted at LCSS (AT).

Addendum – missed from last report: On 8/28 a **Tricolored Heron** was found and documented with picture at MRA. It was viewed the next day as well, and while searching for it, an immature **Little Blue Heron** was also found downriver (CK, AT, CC).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, HCR 63 Box 65 Mifflintown, PA 17059, 717-436-8257, 717-436-6465, chadkauffman@earthlink.net**, Chuck Chalfont, Deb Dumm, Deuane, Hoffman, Jeff Holmes, Ramsay Koury, Andy Markel, Butch McCahren, Michael McCahren, Ken McMillan, Elmer Petersheim, Henry Petersheim, Toby H. Petersheim, Toby J. Petersheim, Andy Renno, Gideon Renno, Paul Renno, Art Schiavo, Dave Stoner, Jim Stoner, Raymond Swarey, Aden Troyer, Andy Troyer, David Troyer, Leroy Troyer, Marvin Troyer, Mary Troyer, Steven Troyer, Dusty Weidner, and Linda Whitesel.

Lackawanna County

No Compiler.

Lancaster County

Locations: Susquehanna River (SR), Middlecreek WMA (MCWMA), Muddy Run (MR), Octoraro Lake (OL).

This year winter temperatures in *Lancaster* were slightly above average and snowfall was far below average.

The Southern Lancaster Christmas Bird Count (Solanco CBC) was held on 12/16, and 45 observers recorded a respectable 105 species in fairly difficult weather. The highlights included **Ross's Goose**, 4 **Cackling Geese**, 2 **Blue-winged Teal**, **Red-throated Loon**, **Merlin**, **Peregrine Falcon**, one **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, 2 **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, 48 **Purple Finch** and 17 **Pine Siskins**.

This year the Lititz Christmas Bird Count was held on 12/30, and 42

participants identified a very respectable 97 species. A **Rufous Hummingbird** was a new species for the count. Other highlights included **Ross's Goose**, **Cackling Goose**, 3 **Merlin**, **Peregrine Falcon**, 6 species of owls including **Barn Owl**, 5 **Long-eared Owls**, 4 **Short-eared Owls** and **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, 4 **Eastern Phoebe**, 32 **Purple Finch**, 34 **Pine Siskins** and 6 **Common Redpolls**.

The Lancaster Christmas Bird Count was held on 12/23, and 23 participants identified 91 species in rainy, foggy and windy weather. A **Blackburnian Warbler** was a new species for the count and very unusual in the eastern United States during the winter. Other highlights were **Merlin**, 2 **Peregrine Falcons**, **Iceland Gull**, **Palm Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, 2 **Purple Finch** and 2 **Pine Siskins**.

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at the Greenfield Industrial Park 12/18 (FH). Another was at MCWMA 12/28. Nearly 30,000 **Snow Geese** were reported on the Lititz CBC and by the end of Feb that total had risen to about 80,000 (m.obs.). These **Snow Geese** included several **Ross's Geese**, as usual. One was reported 12/30 on the Lititz CBC. Others sightings at MCWMA were 2 on 12/29 (RM, KM), one 2/24 (RM) and 2/28 (m.obs.). **Tundra Swans** were present all winter at MC, with nearly 3000 reported 2/11. The two **Blue-winged Teal** seen on the Solanco CBC were unusually late 12/16. A **Eurasian (Common) Teal** was seen among the waterfowl at OL 2/29 (TA), but it was not reported after that date. Many of the usual ducks such as **Gadwall**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail** and **Hooded Merganser** were present at MCWMA much of the winter. A **Surf Scoter** was on the Susquehanna River between the Rte. 30 and Rte. 462 bridges 2/2 (BC, EW) and another on 3/2. There were also 25 **Gadwall**, 3 **Canvasbacks** and 350 **Common Goldeneye** on the river between the bridges and SRCF. A **Long-tailed Duck** was seen calling 1/9 in the lower Susquehanna River's Conowingo Pond near the Pennsylvania/Maryland border (BS). The lone **Red-throated Loon** on the Solanco CBC was notable because this species is rarely reported in the county during the winter months.

There were large vulture roosts present in the Mount Gretna area just north of Lancaster County. JH saw them frequently but did not take the time to count them. On 2/27 RM & KM saw 126 **Black Vultures** fly over their home in the northern part of Rapho Township. **Bald Eagles** were present in very solid numbers all season as usual. By early Feb some pairs were beginning to incubate eggs including the pair on the nest on Piney Island in the lower Susquehanna River near Holtwood Dam. A total of 15 eagles were seen on the river between the Rte. 30 bridge and SRCF 2/2. Other sightings included a pair perched in a tree along the Pequea Creek where it crosses Rte. 897 on 2/2 (CC), a pair on the nest in the New Holland area (m.obs.), and a pair performing courtship displays over the Susquehanna River between Marietta and Columbia. As many as 4-5 **Northern Harriers** were present most of the winter at MCWMA. A dark phase **Red-tailed Hawk** was present at MCWMA for much of the winter (m.obs.). **Merlins** were reported from several locations this winter in addition to being reported on all of the CBCs. This species is becoming regular during the winter even though it is still quite rare. **Peregrine Falcons** were also seen on all the counts and were present all season as well. Reports came from a winter raptor survey 1/26 (BS) and MCWMA in early Feb (m.obs.).

A first winter **Iceland Gull** was found at SRCF 12/23 and recorded for the Lancaster CBC (JH). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at SRCF 2/2 (BC, EW). Owls put in a good appearance on the Lititz CBC. The **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was the first one reported from that count in quite a few years. **Long-eared Owls** and **Short-eared Owls** were also reported in healthy numbers and the **Short-eared Owls** continued to be enjoyed by many through the end of the period. The **Rufous Hummingbird** on the Lititz CBC was a holdover from last fall and was seen at a private residence in northern Lancaster County.

This winter, many **Northern Shrikes** were reported all over Pennsylvania, and Lancaster did have at least one of these northern visitors at MCWMA 1/5, along trail behind the visitor's center (RK), and 2/24-25 at Willow Point (DF, CI). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present in small numbers most of the season in various locations throughout the county.

Vesper Sparrow was observed 1/6 along Umbletown Road just west of Hoffmeier Road (PF). **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were found on the Solanco CBC along Rte. 272 between Little Britain and Wakefield. Later in the winter a male and a female were seen again approximately 3 miles east of Gap (DH). A male **Brewer's Blackbird** was seen in the same flock. Finally, another (or the same) **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was in a mixed flock of **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** 1/27 along Camargo Road on the northern edge of Quarryville Boro (TR). Nine **Rusty**

Blackbirds were at MCWMA 2/9 (RM). The **Baltimore Oriole** continued to visit feeders in the Narvon area through at least 1/5 (FH, EP).

S.A.

Over the years, the Lancaster Area Sewer Authority Plant in Washington Boro has produced many unusual reports of lingering songbirds. This year this location received significant coverage thanks to many visits by Eric Witmer and others from 1/1 to early March. The location is within 1000 yards of the Conejohela Flats. It is an area of approximately 20 acres of deciduous woodland containing some heavily brushy areas that are bisected by the water outflow from the sewer treatment facility, which terminates into the Susquehanna River. The warmer water discharge is favorable for insect life in the colder months and this seems to be the primary attractor for the wintering songbirds. The area has a history of harboring lingering and over-wintering warblers, gnatcatchers, and good numbers of more common species such as both kinglets, Brown Creeper, various woodpeckers including Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, etc. This area is private property and it is fenced in for security reasons, and consequently is not readily available for visiting birders. The area became more of a focal point when a **Blackburnian Warbler** was found on the Lancaster CBC 12/23 (JH). It was re-found again 1/1 (EW), photographed 1/19, and seen multiple times up until 2/10. Severe cold and ice occurred 2/11-12 and it is believed that the bird perished during that time (EW). On 2/10 an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was located at the same location (EW). It was relocated 2/16 (EW, m.obs.), seen again 2/24, and photographed 3/1. The birds seemed to be very bright yellowish and had a minimal grayish cast to the upperparts. Some people who have seen the bird and the photographs suggest that it is the *lutescens* form and not the more expected *celata* (EW). In late Dec and early Jan, nearly 50 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were present. This is a high number even for this area. In addition, earlier in the winter there were one or two **Palm Warblers** of the western form, with one or two of the brighter yellowish individuals present throughout the winter (EW, m. obs.).

This was the best year in recent memory for winter finches; unfortunately most did not make their way into Lancaster. **Purple Finches** were reported from many locations in Dec and were recorded on all three CBCs. By mid-Jan, many of the reports began to thin out. Six **Common Redpolls** were seen at MCWMA 12/30, a single bird was at a feeder in Holtwood 1/20 (JS), and 16 were at the Speedwell county park 1/12 (TG). **Pine Siskins** were also seen on all the CBCs, but their numbers also thinned out by mid-Jan. After several sightings this fall, no additional reports of Evening Grosbeaks were received.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller, 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042, jonathan.heller@comcast.net**, Tom Amico (TA), Jim Binder (JBi), Jerry Book (JB), Devin Bosler (DB), Justin Bosler (JBo), Bruce Carl (BC), Chuck Chalfont (CC), Dave Ferry (DF), Pamela Fisher (PF), Tom Garner (TG), Frank Haas (FH), Deuane Hoffman (DH), Chris Inch (CI), Tom Johnson (TJ), Ramsay Koury (RK), Kate Miller (KM), Randy Miller (RM), Esther Petersheim (EP), Tom Raub (TR), Bob Schutsky (BS), Jim Smith (JS), Drew Weber (DW), Eric Witmer (EW)

Lawrence County

No Report.

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Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand (CS), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Memorial Lake SP (MLSP), Second Mountain Hawk Watch (SM), SGL 80, SGL 145, SGL 211.

One of the highlights of the quarter was a possible female **Magnificent Frigatebird** that flew over SM 12/25. The bird flew west toward the Susquehanna River (DS, GL).

The Lebanon Christmas Count held 12/15 had new high counts for

Snow Goose (152), **Bald Eagle** (11), **Cooper's Hawk** (6), **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (83), **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (8), **White-breasted Nuthatch** (85) and **White-crowned Sparrow** (36). They also added 3 new species: **Ross's Goose**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, and **Peregrine Falcon**.

Snow Geese at MC were only at ~40,000 at the end of the quarter. The **Tundra Swan** count was ~1500 (staff report). A **Ross's Goose** on 12/15 at FIG sent a new early date (RCM). A **Cackling Goose** was found 12/30 on the Lititz Christmas Count flying out of *Lebanon* (KM, RCM). Up to 6 **Gadwalls** were reported at MLSP all quarter (m. obs.). **Redheads** were reported from MLSP from 12/15 (RCM) to the end of the quarter (m. obs.). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found at MLSP 12/15 for the only report (RCM).

A flock of 100 **Wild Turkey** at FIG 2/4 set a new high count (MC). Most of Dec was covered on SM, which included some snow and ice cover early in the season. Some of the season totals were **Northern Harrier** (214), **Cooper's Hawk** (433), **Northern Goshawk** (42), **Red-tailed Hawk** (1334), **Bald Eagle** with (161, a new high count), and **Golden Eagle** (74). **Bald Eagles** were reported in good numbers throughout the quarter. Many adult pairs were seen, we hope scouting for a new nest site (m. obs.). Up to five **Northern Harriers** were reported from MC all quarter (BC, m. obs.). A **Golden Eagle** was seen hunting fields at Swartara SP 2/27 (BW). There were two **Merlin** reports: 12/15 at Union Canal (FH, LCC), and at Stoever's Dam (GK). On 12/15, an adult **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at Marquette Lake at FIG chasing a **Common Raven**. When the falcon was spotted, an adult **Bald Eagle**, one of two which had been eating a Canada Goose carcass, came flying over the lake to chase it away (RCM).

Gull numbers peaked at MLSP in late Dec, which is a month later than other years. On 12/24 there were approximately 2000 **Ring-billed Gulls** and approximately 1400 **Herring Gulls**. There was a second-winter **Iceland Gull** and an adult **Lesser Black-Backed Gull** in the group (RCM). An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen 1/6 with 10 **Herring Gulls**, all flying south over SGL 80 (KM, RCM).

A **Eurasian Collard Dove** was on SGL 145 on 1/21. They are more common on SGL 211 (JH). **Long-eared Owls** were found roosting at two locations on SGL 145. Four were found 1/21 and one 2/4 (JH). Up to 4 **Short-eared Owls** were found at MC all quarter (m. obs.). There were 3 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at MLSP 12/15 (RCM). A **Northern Shrike** was reported from FIG on 12/20 but was not found again (TJ).

A **Brown Thrasher** 12/30 at CS was a good find (SW). Another on 1/21 at SGL 145 was a first Jan record. Sparrow numbers were low this quarter. **Fox Sparrows** were reported all quarter from many feeders (m. obs.). Only one **Lapland Longspur** and 3 **Snow Buntings** were found on the LCC 12/15. No other reports came in. **Purple Finches** were in low numbers throughout the county. **Pine Siskins** were seen all quarter with 40 seen 12/8 at SGL 145 (RCM). **Common Redpolls** were seen 12/30 at MC with 6 (CC) and up to 4 coming into feeders at Mt. Gretna all quarter (SH).

Observers: **Randy C. Miller 607 Woodland Dr., Manheim, PA 17545, (717) 664-3778**, Chuck Berthound, Gerry Boltz, Randy Brenner, Stephanie Butler, Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfont, Mary Croomer, Morris Cox (MC), Mike Epler, Pam Fisher, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Sid Hostetter, Tom Johnson, Gary Kinkley, Gary Koppenhaver, Gayle Lawrence, Richard Light, Scott Lincoln, Kate Miller, Mike O'Brian, Richard Pohner, Steve Rannels, Art Schiavo, Dave Schwenk, Rosemary Spreha, Brian Weaver, Susan Wheeler, Fred Wilcox, Angie and Chris Wright.

Lehigh County

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** (TW) was seen at the Dorney Pond 12/8. Along with the goose were **American Wigeon**, **Gadwall**, **Mallards**, **American Black Ducks** and numerous **Canada Geese**. A **Cackling Goose** (JH) seen at a pond at Helfrich Springs 2/9. Other birds seen in the area included a pair of **Hooded Mergansers**, a huge flock of **Common Grackles**, about a hundred **Horned Larks**, a **Snow Bunting**, and a **Rusty Blackbird**. A male **Wood Duck** (JL) was seen on the Little Lehigh in Lower Macungie Township 2/7. Also in Lower Macungie Township a **Northern Harrier** (JL) was observed 12/21. Another **Northern Harrier's** (BM, PM) were also seen 12/1 in Brienigsville and 12/17 in Alburtis. One more **Northern Harrier** (AC, JG) was seen 12/3 along Smith Lane along with at least 500 **Horned Larks**, 3 **Snow Buntings** and one **Lapland Longspur**.

On the winter raptor survey by BH, JHs, FD, and JE, the following raptors were observed 1/27: 14 **Turkey Vultures**, 3 **Black Vultures**, one **Northern Harrier**, one **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 64 **Red-tailed Hawks** and

3 **American Kestrels**. A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** (BH) was seen near the PPL building in downtown Allentown 2/7. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (BM, PM) was at a feeder in Lower Milford Township all winter.

A **Northern Shrike** (AK, SS) was found on the Allentown Christmas Count 12/15 in Lower Macungie Township. A **Palm Warbler** was also seen. Another **Northern Shrike** (FD) was seen 1/26 at Leaser Lake. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** (BM, PM) was a regular at a feeder in Lower Milford Township from 12/1 to 12/23. Other birds seen by Bernie and Pauline at their feeders was a **Brown Creeper** seen all winter, a **Pine Siskin** 1/17, **Purple Finch** 12/13, 12/23, 1/17, and a **Fox Sparrow** 12/18. A flock of 10 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (FZ) were seen at Rodale Park on 2/25 along with a **Great-horned Owl**.

Observers: **Jon Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Macungie, Pa. 18062, (610) 366-9996, levinjl1@yahoo.com**, Andy Curtis, Frank Dickman, Jamie Eastland, Jeff Hopkins, Joe Greco, Bob Hoopes, Arlene Koch, Bernie Morris, Pauline Morris, Steve Smith, Todd Watkins, Fred Zahradnik.

Luzerne County

No Report.

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Lycoming County

No Compiler.

McKean County

No Compiler.

Mercer County

Locations: Coolspring Church Rd. (CC), Lake Latonka, (LL), Sandy Lake (SL), Shenango R. Res.(SRR), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Williamson Rd.(WR).

Mixed with a flock of **Canada Geese** was a probable **Cackling Goose**, distinguished by its prominent smaller size. It was observed over WR in Jan (NT). **Tundra Swans** hung around until 12/15, and **Northern Pintails** until 12/23. Four **Common Mergansers** were SL 2/5 (SK). **Great Blue Herons** were present all period where ever there was a bit of open water.

There were **Bald Eagle** sightings at SL, and a pair was on the established nest near the W. Lake Rd. (SSR) Headquarters Building 12/30. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was located at SL 12/25 (SK), and **Rough-legged Hawk** at WR 1/19-2/9. **Ring-billed Gulls** and **Herring Gull** frequented SRR all period. A notable find was a **Long-eared Owl** at Rattlesnake Swamp (in the southern part of Mercer) 12/27 (AT, ET).

Belted Kingfisher was found all period near a bit of open water at LL, and **Northern Flicker** stayed put also. Fifteen **Horned Larks** were along Hopper Rd. 12/21. **Carolina Wrens** and **Eastern Bluebirds** somehow survived the cold and snowy Feb and appeared in record numbers after the Mar thaw (NT). A **Hermit Thrush** was found in SGL 130 on 12/1, as were two lingering **Eastern Towhee** at CC 12/8.

The first **AmericanTree Sparrow** was noted 12/20 at SRR. One **White-crowned Sparrow** was spotted 12/25 at SL. A flock of **Snow Buntings** was seen beginning 12/9 throughout the rest of the quarter at WR. **Common Redpoll** sightings began 12/3 in the SL area, grew in numbers to 56 on 1/19, then diminished to 25 by 2/4-5 (SK). They also showed up at WR until 1/15. One **Pine Siskin** was at SL 12/4 (SPC, DH), and one at WR 12/2. A single flock of **Evening Grosbeaks** was heard 12/8 at TL (NT), the first hint of their presence in the county for a long time.

Observers: **Marty McKay, 841 E. Lake Rd., Transfer, Pa. 16154, 724-962-7476**. Deb Holmes, Scott Kinzey, Allen Troyer, Enos Troyer, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Neil Troyer, Ruth Troyer.

Mifflin County

Totals from two Mifflin county Winter Raptor Survey were 2 **Northern Harriers**, 5 **Sharp-Shinned Hawks**, one **Coopers Hawk**, 36 **Red-Tailed Hawks**, and 25 **American Kestrels** 2/2 and 2/6 (BF, LP, JS, SS). A red-phase **Eastern Screech Owl** looking out of a hole was found in Big Valley. Six **Red-Headed Woodpeckers** were found at 5 different sites 2/2-3 (CK, BF, LP, JS, SS). Birders on a State College Bird Club field trip on 1/12 found **Red-Headed Woodpeckers**, **Horned Larks**, **American**

Pipits, and Snow Buntings (JC, JD, DG, GG, DK, DP, et al.).

Observers: **Gregory and Deborah Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg Pa. 16669, 814 667 2305, gwg2@psu.edu, dsq4@psu.edu,** Jack Cochran, Jim Dunn, Bob Fowles, Chad Kauffman, Donna Kempf, Donna Preskitt, Louie Peight, Jesse Swarey, Stephen Swarey.

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC).

The coldest temperatures and largest amounts of snowfall during the period occurred in Dec. The bird event of the season was the return of northern finches. The 28th Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count (PMCBC) was held 12/16 and was marred by snow, sleet, and rain. A total of 36 species was recorded with some highlights to follow.

A single **Gadwall** was found on Shawnee Lake 12/22 (PF, BH, MT). The pair of **Peregrine Falcons** returned to DWGNRA's Mt. Minsi cliffs for another winter, with the first sighting there 12/21 (BH) followed by other reports of both birds through the period (AA, GR, JT). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were widespread this winter with 3 found 12/22 in DWGNRA (PF, BH, MT).

The **Cedar Waxwing** total for the 12/16 PMCBC was 312, the seventh highest count for this species, and the 135 **Eastern Bluebirds** was a second all time high for the count. Only a third count record and the first since 1992 were the 16 **Snow Buntings** found in Paradise Valley (DS).

PMCBC recorded its first **Common Redpoll** since 1999 with a single bird at a Cresco feeder (JR). Feeders at a private residence near Cherry Valley attracted a nice selection of finches in Dec including 20+ **Purple Finches**, a pair of **Red Crossbills** 12/19-30, 6+ **Common Redpolls**, and several **Pine Siskins** (EC, BH). Other **Common Redpoll** reports included one at the MCEEC feeders 12/7 (BH), a flock of 45 in gray birches in Tobyhanna 12/12 (JS), a large flock at a Marshalls Creek feeder in Feb (PF), and several visiting a Mt. Pocono feeder through the period (PF, MT). The MCEEC feeders had a high of 3 **Pine Siskins** 12/20 (BH). The only **Evening Grosbeak** report was a single bird visiting a Buck Hill Falls feeder 1/3-4 (WK).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net,** Allan Ambler, Elizabeth Cortright, Pat Fellion, William Kendall, Jenifer Rituper, George Rowe, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Megan Taylor, Jim Thomson.

Montgomery County

Locations: Delaware Valley College (DVC), Fort Washington (FW), Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Gwynedd Preserve (GP), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Norristown Riverfront Park (NRP), Palm Pennsburg (PP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Riverbend Environmental Education Center (REEC), Unami Creek Valley (UVC), Upper Gwynedd Township (UGT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The winter season was somewhat uneventful in *Montgomery*. Ice-cover on area lakes was sporadic much of the season, and non-existent by the end of the quarter. As a result, waterfowl numbers were low overall. Though hopes were high for a good irruption of northern birds, most of the birds seemed to bypass the county, or stop just to the north of our region.

Waterfowl variety was fairly good at 20 species, but numbers of individuals were below average. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** first found in Nov at Church Road, GLR remained until at least 12/1 (AC, m. obs.). **Cackling Goose** was represented by a single bird at Church Road throughout the period (m. obs.). A sizeable flock of 3,000 **Snow Geese** was seen flying *south* on the heels of our only real snow storm of the winter 2/23 (KC), and a group of 1,000 was on the water at Walt Road, GLR 2/24 (GAF). Dabbling ducks of note included 2 **Northern Shovelers** at Church Road 12/2 (m. obs.) and 6 at Norristown Farm Park 12/22 (SK). Two **Green-winged Teal** were at Walt Road, GLR 12/1 (GAF). Most surprising among the dabblers was a **Blue-winged Teal** at Norristown Riverfront Park 1/6-2/9 (SKa).

Diving ducks had a nice showing at Walt Road, GLR with a **Canvasback**, 6 **Common Goldeneyes**, 21 **Lesser Scaup**, 21 **Ring-necked Ducks** and 1 **Ruddy Duck** (GAF, AC, JG). Another single

Canvasback was there 1/26 (GAF). **Hooded Mergansers** reached a high of 34 in the UCV 12/16 (A&JM). **Horned Grebes** reached a high of 19 birds at Walt Road 12/2 (GAF, AC, JG). A cormorant (species unknown) was at the GLR dam breast 12/15 (GAF). Subsequent attempts to relocate the bird failed.

Raptors of note included a high of 4 **Northern Harriers** at Gwynedd Preserve 1/20 (SK). Others were seen at GLR, Delaware Valley College, and Palm (GAF, AJM, SKa). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were observed at GLR and Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (GAF, AJM, SKa).

A **Wilson's Snipe** at NFP 2/22 was a good find (SKa). Returning **Killdeer** were right on schedule 2/20+ (m. obs.). A group of 8 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Walt Road 12/2 was a good find, but a *record high count of roughly 1,000* birds there 1/30 was remarkable (GAF)! **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** reached a high of 7 at Church Road, GLR 2/17 and were accompanied by our season's only **Iceland Gull** (GAF).

Owls of note were few this season, but did include a **Short-eared Owl** and 7 **Long-eared Owls** 1/27 (location and observer deleted). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** reports were received from numerous locations, including UCV, GLR, Haverford College, Upper Gwynedd Township and Norristown (m.obs.). An immature **Northern Shrike** was seen briefly near Church Road GLR 12/28 (CM, photos). The bird could not be relocated after that date.

For the third year in the past four, **Black-capped Chickadees** made a good showing, with reports from throughout the county. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** also lingered in numerous locations, including UCV, GLR, Upper Perkiomen Valley Park, Upper Gwynedd Township, and others (m. obs.). **Brown Creepers** were found at most of the same locations (m. obs.). **Winter Wrens** were observed in the Unami Creek Valley, Haverford College, Lower Merion Township, and Fort Washington (AJM, Sheryl Johnson, SKa). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were located at GLR and Riverbend Environmental Education Center (GAF, SKa). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were also found in low numbers throughout the period (m. obs.).

Three **Eastern Towhees** were in the UCV 12/16 (AJM), and singles were found at GLR 12/27 (GAF) and PERT 1/27 (SKa). Sparrows made a good showing overall, with 8 species reported. **American Tree Sparrows** hit a high mark of 12 in Pennsburg 2/12 (GAF), and were also observed at PERT, Gwynedd Preserve, and UCV (SKa, SK, AJM). **Field Sparrow** reports came from NFP and PERT (SKa). A season-high count of 6 **Savannah Sparrows** was recorded at NFP 2/24, and smaller numbers were reported from GP, GLR, and Palm (AJM, KC, SKa). **Fox Sparrows** were observed at PERT, GLR, and Riverbend EEC (SKa). **Swamp Sparrows** were noted in Pennsburg 12/30 and 1/6 (GAF). **White-crowned Sparrows** reached a maximum of 6 at a Pennsburg feeder 2/19, with smaller numbers present there all quarter (GAF). Several observers noted extremely low numbers of **White-throated Sparrows** during the period. Perhaps the mild winter induced many of them to remain to our north. A **Rusty Blackbird** near Church Road, GLR 2/16 was another unusual winter find (SKa, PG, AC).

After good indicators of a substantial influx of irruptive winter finches, the season was a big disappointment. An exception to the dearth of birds was a high of 60 **Purple Finches** at a feeder near UPVP much of the period (PAG, m. obs.). More modest numbers were observed elsewhere. The aforementioned feeding station produced our only **Common Redpoll** of the period from 1/27 through 2/4 (PAG). **Pine Siskins** were fairly widespread in the fall of 2007, but winter brought only singles in the UCV 12/1 (KC) and near UPVP 2/8-17 (PAG).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, PO Box 100, Sumneytown, Pa. 18084, (215) 234-6867, KCRILLEY@mail.montcopa.org,** Andrew Curtis, George A. Franchois, Joe Greco, Paul and Anita Guris, Sheryl Johnson, Steve Kacir (SKa), Steve Kerr, Carrie McCarthy, August and Judy Mirabella, Chris Mullaney, Diana Rudloff.

Montour County

Waterfowl migration continued through Dec until lakes and ponds iced over. **Rough-legged Hawks**, **Northern Harriers** and two **Peregrine Falcons** frequented a farm in the northwestern part of the county through most of Jan, with the hawks still present through Feb. Ice-melt occurred in early Jan and waterfowl returned almost immediately. **Snow Geese** began trickling in by the end of the first week in Jan, building to 500 by mid-month and dwindling by the end of Jan. By early Feb, as ice began to melt, **mergansers**, **Snow Geese**, and **Tundra Swans** began returning. Small flocks of **Horned Larks** frequented fields in the northern part of the county in early Feb.

Northampton County

Locations: Martins Creek Environmental Preserve, Martins Creek Quarry, Washington Twp

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** of the Greenland race was at the MCEP 12/8 (RW). Over 100,000 **Snow Geese** were counted in Lower Mt Bethel Twp during the Merrill Creek CBC 12/30. With large numbers of **Snow Geese** wintering in the area, it is not surprising that a few **Ross's Geese** were located. Sightings of **Ross's Goose** at Nazareth Quarry occurred 1/13 (MS), 1/28 (BW), and 2/16 (BW). **Cackling Goose** was reported quite a few times; patience searching through **Canada Goose** flocks would usually yield a **Cackling Goose**.

A dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** wintered along Gravel Hill Road north of MCEP. Other **Rough-legged Hawk** sightings came from WT (AS), RT33 (ASm), and Martins Creek (AS). **Iceland Gull** made a good showing during the period. It was at MCEP 12/8 (RW) and 12/30 (CBC), Minsi Lake 2/10 and 2/24 (AS), and at Dutch Springs Quarry 12/21 (MS). The flyash basin at MCEP had a **Glaucous Gull** 2/29 (RW). This area is still off limits to the public. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** numbering 20-30 could be found daily at Dutch Springs Quarry in Jan/Feb (MS).

Six species of owls were seen or heard during the period. **Long-eared Owls** were found at Jacobsburg State Park 2/3 (DB) and at MCEP 12/29 (MS). The latter remained through the period. Six **Short-eared Owls** were found during the 12/30 CBC at MCEP; other **Short-eared Owls** were seen in WT (AS) and along Gravel Hill Road (MS, BW, CC), each on private property.

An **Eastern Phoebe** spent a few weeks along the canal at the Bethlehem Boat Club 2/2-24 (JY, MS). **Northern Shrike** sightings were of an imm bird by the MCQ 12/30, and along Copella Rd 12/23 (RW, DD) during the Wild Creek CBC. There was a **Marsh Wren** by Little Creek Rd near Martins Creek 12/30 (AS, MB, BM, JY, MBu). A **Gray Catbird** was heard at MCQ 12/30 and at Echo Lake 2/10 (AS). A **Chipping Sparrow** was at a feeder in Danielsville 12/8 (DW). Graver's Hill near Pt Phillips continues to be reliable for Longspurs and Snow Buntings. The season's first **Lapland Longspur** was located 12/22 along with a few **Snow Buntings** (MS). A high count of 75 **Snow Buntings** were found 1/7 (RW). There were an impressive 600 **Horned Larks** at Graver's Hill 12/8 (DW).

The Finch invasion in the county was respectable. Most notable were **Common Redpolls** and some **Pine Siskins** visiting feeders. **Common Redpolls** at feeders were found in Danielsville (BS), Lower Saucon Twp (JY), WT (AS), and Williams Twp (AK). Redpolls were also seen at Bear Swamp 1/6 (AS, MB). High counts of 40 **Pine Siskins** on 12/18 and 37 on 2/23 visited feeders in WT (AS). There was only one report of **Evening Grosbeaks**, 8 flyby's at Graver's Hill 12/7 (DW).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, 610-737-5275, mdtschall@yahoo.com**, Mark Boyd, Mike Burchette, Doug Burton, Corinne Campbell, Dave DeReamus, Arlene Koch, Brandon Miller, Adam Sabatine, Brad Silfies, Adam Smith, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut, Joe Yuhas.

Northumberland County

No Compiler.

Perry County

No Report.

Compiler: **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA 17111, (717) 564-7475, corvuscorax@comcast.net**

Philadelphia County

No Report.

Compiler: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media PA, 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**

Pike County

No Compiler.

Potter County

No Report.

Schuylkill County

Locations: Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), Landingville Dam (LVD), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Swatara State Park (SSP), Western Schuylkill CBC (SCBC).

Snow Geese began arriving in early Jan, continuing through Feb and Mar, with a fairly high count of over 2000 at Lake Wynonah 2/19 (DKL). Although having a relatively mild winter period with lakes remaining unfrozen in many areas, waterfowl numbers remained unusually low.

Ruffed Grouse noticeably remain at seemingly low numbers, with few reports throughout the period. Raptor counts were significant, especially in the western sectors of the county. **Northern Harriers** were found in very nice numbers during forays to the western county CREP fields (DK NK, MW). **Rough-legged Hawks** remained north this year, with very few reports, but there was a dark-phase bird near the HMS Acopian Center 12/9 (LG), and another dark-phase near Tremont during the SCBC 12/15. A female **Merlin** was seen on a fairly regular basis near the Acopian Center from 2/1 through 2/18 (LG, JS). The adult **Bald Eagle** pair, presumably from the Auburn Reservoir nest site, continued to visit the LVD throughout the period (TC).

A **Long-eared Owl** was observed near the village of Summit Station, about 1/15 (DS, SS), and a deceased bird was found along Rt. 895 near Molino 1/15 (LG). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen in the western sector CREP fields area during the SCBC 12/15 (DK), and at least one or more were reported from that location throughout the period. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was banded 12/8 at a well-known Wayne Township banding station (SW).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported in seemingly higher numbers than usual during the period (TC). A **Northern Shrike** was seen in the Summit Station area 2/10 (DS, DS, SS). **Common Ravens** were reported from various county areas, with a nesting site eventually being discovered at the end of the period, and later confirmed in Mar, at a quarry in the Summit Station area (DS, DS, SS).

Winter Wrens were reported in various locations during the period, including Deer Lake 1/1 (LG), LVD 1/19 (TC), and SGL-106 2/8 (TC). A **Pine Warbler** visited a Deer Lake feeder from 1/31 through 2/10 (LG). **Lapland Longspurs** were reported on two occasions, one in the western county sector during the SCBC 12/15 (DK, NK), and another at the same area 2/23 (DK, NK).

A rather significant influx of northern finches began in late Nov and continued throughout the winter. **Common Redpolls**, in particular, were recorded in double-digit numbers at various locations, well above 20 in northern sectors. A very nice flock of **Evening Grosbeaks** arrived at HMS 11/28, as did several smaller flocks of **Pine Siskins** and **Common Redpolls** 11/28 (LG, staff). **Common Redpolls**, **Pine Siskins**, and **Purple Finches** were observed in the Pottsville area throughout Dec, and a **White-winged Crossbill** was at SSP during the SCBC 12/15 (TC).

Observers: **Tom Clauser, P.O. Box 531, Pottsville, PA 17901, (570) 294-9760, runner01@comcast.net**, Amy Beres, Roland Bergner, Brian Clauser, Jonathan DeBalko, John DeBalko, Denise Donmoyer, Laurie Goodrich, Doris Klint, Kerry Grim, Sue Guers, Barb Jucker, Dave Krueel, Nancy Krueel, Ann Marie Liebner, Jeremy Schievert, Dan Schwartz, Devin Schwartz, Sandy Schwartz, Lee Simpson, Mike Ward, Scott Weidensaul, Doug Wood, Sue Wolfe.

Snyder County

Locations: FL - Faylor Lake

Some early waterfowl, including five **American Black Ducks**, one **Wood Duck**, six **Redheads**, three **Ring-necked Duck** and both **Hooded Mergansers** and **Common Mergansers**, were noted on a pond near Selinsgrove along Rt. 15 on 2/14-15 (DB). A **Northern Shrike** was first reported 1/20 in the fields just west of FL (CK), and found again at this location 1/25 (BO). This is the fourth year of the past eight that a Northern Shrike has spent part or all of the winter season here.

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Dan Brauning, Mick Brown, Chad Kauffman, Bill Oylar.

Somerset County

Locations: Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (CBC); Berlin Area (BA); Buffalo Creek (BC); High Point Lake (HPL); Payne Property (PP); Somerset Lake (SL); Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

It was overall a mild winter with more rain than snow, and periods of snow and cold temperatures were followed closely by warming spells. Most lakes stayed open at least partially until mid-Feb when a short freeze up lasted until early Mar and spring migration took over. Some sporadic winter finches were found in Dec, half hardy lingerers well into Jan, and **Bald Eagles** were present from beginning of period well into Jan.

Twenty-two waterfowl species were present during the period including 18 on the CBC when most water was uncharacteristically open. Several flocks of **Canada Geese** wintered in the county with approximately 1500-2000 birds total throughout the period. The last **Tundra Swans** recorded were 10 at HPL 12/18 (AM). Two **Wood Ducks** were late at SL 12/2 (CP, LP). Two **Gadwalls** were on the CBC and one was at BC 1/22 (JP). Two **Green-winged Teal** were at BC until 12/30 (JP). One **American Widgeon** was at QR for the 12/16 CBC (TF). **Northern Pintails** were found throughout the period with the largest number being 6 at Stoneycreek Lake for the CBC. **Northern Shovelers** were late at SL 12/4 with 3 present (AM). Two **Canvasbacks**, 7 **Redheads**, one **Greater Scaup**, one **Common Goldeneye** and several **Ring-necked Ducks** were in one flock at Indian Lake 12/16 for the CBC. Fifteen **Canvasbacks** were at QR 2/15 (AM). Four **Lesser Scaup** were frequenting a different part of QR from the mixed flock 12/16. Two **Long-tailed Ducks** first detected at QR 12/4 (AM) may have been the same birds present for the CBC 12/16 (TF). All three mergansers were found for the CBC: 4 **Common Mergansers** at QR (TF), 83 total **Hooded Mergansers**, and one **Red-breasted Merganser** at Indian Lake. The 184 **Ruddy Ducks** counted on the CBC was second only to the 697 **Canada Geese** for total numbers of waterfowl and eclipsed the 177 **Mallards** and 23 **American Black Ducks**. The only scoter was a **White-winged Scoter** at QR 12/8 (AM).

Wild Turkey flocks totaling 75+ birds were in BA throughout the period. Four **Common Loons** were at QR 12/16 (TF) and the latest reported was at SL 12/25 (AM). Twelve **Pied-billed Grebes** at SL 12/11 was the highest report with 4 still present 12/16 at QR (TF) while 2 **Horned Grebes** were present at Indian Lake the day (JP et al).

Three **Bald Eagles** 12/16 was an excellent count for the CBC; 2 birds (one adult and one near adult) first found at SL 12/2 (AM) were seen throughout the month and a full adult plumaged bird was still present 1/13 (JP, CP, LP, JM, MM). **Rough-legged Hawks** were present in BA in Jan with at least one light-morph bird 1/22 (LP) and one dark-morph 1/15 (JP). **Red-tailed Hawks**, though present, were unusually scarce through the period. Unusual for the county was a **Killdeer** 1/19 (JP) and mid-Feb (LP) in BA. Also late was an **American Woodcock** 12/16 for the CBC. Fifty **Ring-billed Gulls** and 4 immature **Herring Gulls** 1/13 at SL were late. A mid-winter **Short-eared Owl** 1/22 at BC was nice (JP, LP). One **Belted Kingfisher** 1/18 near Boswell (AM) was the latest report.

Six **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** and 3 **Northern Flickers** were good counts for the CBC. Large flocks of hundreds of **Horned Larks** were in BA throughout the period. There was only one report of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 12/16, after the big early fall invasion. No **Winter Wrens** were reported but 2 **Carolina Wrens** were found for the CBC. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found up to 1/8 at PP (LP) then went unreported. **Eastern Bluebirds** wintered in good numbers with 22 on the CBC, two in Glencoe 1/15 (JP) and a few through the season near Laurel Hill State Park (MM, JM). Two **Hermit Thrushes** near Glencoe 1/15 (JP) and one scratching below a feeder at PP 2/22 (LP, CP) was an excellent number of wintering birds for the county. Twenty **Cedar Waxwings** stayed for the CBC but were not seen after. Unexpected 2/3 at Confluence was a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (MM, JM, CP, LP, JP).

One **Eastern Towhee**, 47 **American Tree Sparrows**, an excellent 6 **Fox Sparrows**, 37 **White-throated Sparrows** and 52 **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported for the CBC 12/16. Three **Field Sparrows** were near Glencoe 1/15 (JP). Considerable scoping of larks paid off with one **Lapland Longspur** 12/16 (JP, CP) but no **Snow Buntings** were found for the period. A brave **Eastern Meadowlark** was at BC 2/15 (JP) before the longest freeze of the winter. A nice flock of 120 **Red-winged Blackbirds** was at Boswell 1/26 (AM) and a **Rusty Blackbird** was at BC 1/22 (JP, LP). A big flock of 30 **Rusty Blackbirds** were near Shanksville for the CBC.

The hoped for big invasion of finches never developed but 2 **Pine Siskins** in the CBC circle and 2 **Evening Grosbeaks** near Shanksville that

day were better than the last few years. The spectacle of over 120 **Common Redpolls** feeding on stunted paper birch tree catkins in a strip mine area 12/16 (JP, LP, CP, MM, JM) made enduring the nasty weather of the 12/16 CBC worthwhile!

Corrigenda: After the compiler studied the 2000 Sibley Guide, which was published before the recent split of Cackling Goose from Canada Goose, last year's winter report cautioned care in identifying Cackling Geese because two geese from a flock of about 15 that were sent to the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences were small and short-billed. They were identified there as "Richardson's" goose which is one subspecies Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*. The classification of "Richardson's" as a Cackling Goose was not known to the compiler until a new copy of the National Geographic Guide was studied. He regrets the error but gladly adds the species to the *Somerset* list!

Observers: **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Tom and Sally Dick, Tim Fox, Anthony Marich, Jim and Meg Moses, Chris Payne, Lauretta Payne.

Sullivan County

The only winter reports for *Sullivan* were gleaned from the Great Backyard Bird Count results.

There were 3 reports from Lopez. I do not have info to indicate who filed the reports but I suspect the same individual submitted a separate report for each day. A total of 11 species were observed: 7 **Ruffed Grouse**, 21 **Wild Turkey**, 4 **Turkey Vulture**, 2 **Mourning Dove**, 2 **Downy Woodpecker**, one **Hairy Woodpecker**, 43 **American Crow**, 22 **Black-capped Chickadee**, 5 **Tufted Titmouse**, 28 **Dark-eyed Junco**, and 8 **House Sparrow**. One additional report was filed for Forksville that listed 12 individuals of both **European Starling** and **Black-capped Chickadee**.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**.

Susquehanna County

No Report.

[Editor's Note: A large flock of up to 100 **Common Redpolls** visited a feeder in Franklin Twp. through the season (Herb Flavell). Among them in late Feb and early Mar was a stunning male **Hoary Redpoll**, large and frosty white, with completely streak free rump and undertail. As Tom Johnson commented on the PA Birds listserv after seeing the photos, the bird was "a real snowball". Indeed, in a season in which several reports of Hoary Redpoll were made, many of which were probably correct but which referred to birds that were too intermediate for definitive identification, the *Susquehanna* bird truly left no doubt. The bird is under PORC review.]

Compiler: **Jerry Skinner, Woodburn Preserve, RR 6 Box 6294, Montrose, PA 18801, (570) 278-3384, jskinner@epix.net**.

Tioga County

Locations: Hammond Lake/Ives Run Recreation Area (HL), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Muck/Marsh Creek Important Bird Area #27 (Muck), new section of Pine Creek Rail Trail at Rte 287/Marsh Creek Road (henceforth Marsh Creek Rail Trail or MCRT), Pine Creek Gorge Important Bird Area #28 (PC).

Despite temperatures in the teens and six inches of fresh snow on the ground, 21 local birdwatchers ventured out to survey *Tioga's* wintering bird population for the 108th Annual Christmas Bird Count held this year 12/15. *Tioga* has only one count circle with its center in Whitneyville and with Mansfield and Wellsboro on its periphery, thus including Tioga-Hammond Lakes, Marsh Creek and the Muck, Nessmuck Lake, Arnot, and Canoe Camp. Of real interest for this year's count was the irruption of seed-eating birds normally found in Canada in the winter, including 7 **Common Redpolls**, 12 **Pine Siskins**, 6 **Evening Grosbeaks**, and 15 **Bohemian Waxwings**. The **Bohemian Waxwings** may be a first for the Mansfield-Wellsboro CBC (see below for more details on the sighting). Although many lakes and streams were frozen over, there was enough water to keep a fairly large number of water-associated birds in the area, including 373 **Canada Geese**, about 150 **Common Mergansers**, around 150 **Ring-billed Gulls**, 24 **Mallards**, 3 **Great-Blue Herons**, and a couple

of **Belted Kingfishers**. Local birders racked up a total of 4,134 individual birds of 51 species compared to 4,085 birds and 59 species last year. Highest species counts were **European Starlings** (651), **American Crows** (528), and **Dark-eyed Juncos** (417). Other uncommon or rare birds seen included a **Northern Shrike**, a **Rough-legged Hawk**, 6 **Bald Eagles**, 28 **Horned Larks**, and a **Northern Mockingbird** (unusual this far north in the winter). County residents were happy to see that at least 28 **Eastern Bluebirds** decided to spend the winter locally. Participants in this year's count were Sue Amundson, Larry Biddison, Arlene Brown, Austin Brown, Larry Brown, Martha Copp, Rich Faber, Terry Faber, Charlotte Goldsmith, Phil Krajweski, Anita Kump, George Kump, Linda Lawton, Joan Mason, Ken Meyer, Nancy Redell, Kathy Riley, Gary Tyson (compiler), Nick Tyson, Ann Vayansky, and Beth Walker.

Two winter raptor surveys were conducted this winter. The first was on 1/19 and covered an 88-mile route in the northwestern part of the county. The observer recorded 16 **Red-Tailed Hawks** (15 adults, 1 immature), 9 **Rough-legged Hawks** (6 light, 3 dark), 3 **Kestrels**, and a pair of **Bald Eagles** (JH). The second survey took place 2/12 in the northeastern part of the county and covered a 45-mile route. The observer reported 23 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 4 **Rough-legged Hawks** (3 light, one dark), and one adult **Bald Eagle** (BL). In addition to the raptor surveys, three **Northern Harriers** and a **Cooper's Hawk** were seen 1/3 near Millerton (AB, LB).

Several species of owls were reported in the Millerton area, including 3 **Great-Horned Owls** 1/3, 2 **Screech Owls** 1/3, and a **Barred Owl** 1/7 (AB, LB). A pair of **Short-eared Owls** was seen three days in a row 2/13-15 (AB, LB).

Three **Brown Creepers**, 10 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, and 6 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen 1/7 near Millerton (AB, LB). A flock of 6 **American Robins** was seen 2/5 on a farm near Pine Creek Gorge. Most leave the area when there is significant snow on the ground, which is often from late Dec through mid-Mar (JH, RH). A couple of weeks later a much larger flock of 70 **American Robins** showed up 2/25 at HCSP, bringing hopes for an early spring that were subsequently dashed by sub-zero temperatures and a series of snow and ice storms (GT).

Perhaps the most significant sighting of the winter was a flock of 15 **Bohemian Waxwings** seen 12/15 at HL during the Christmas Bird Count (RF, TF). According to the observers, "the birds we saw had white and yellow feathers along their wings and no white on their rumps under the tail, which is why we classified them as Bohemians" (RF, TF). A flock of 78 **Snow Buntings** was seen 1/19 in the northwestern part of the county (JH).

The flocks of **Common Redpolls** that arrived in Nov continued to be seen in various locations in the county throughout the reporting period, including at HL and in backyards in Mansfield and Mainesburg (GT, RF, TF). Flock sizes seemed to grow as the winter progressed, from a half dozen birds in Nov to as many as 75 later in the winter. A possible **Hoary Redpoll** was seen 2/6 in a flock of around 75 **Common Redpolls** in Mainesburg. Photographs show a whitish bird with little streaking on the flanks and no streaking on the rump. It is hard to make a determination about bill size from the photographs because it has a sunflower seed in its mouth (RF, TF). **Evening Grosbeaks** were also encountered at various times 12/15 at HL (RF, TF), 1/27 in Mainesburg (RF, TF), and 2/3 at MCRT (GT).

Observers: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA 16901 (570) 724-5789, gnats3@ptd.net**, Arlene Brown, Larry Brown, Rich Faber, Terry Faber, June Hill, Roy Hill, Jeff Holbrook, Bruce Launius.

Union County

Dec was a particularly exciting month in *Union* birding history. Starting off the month, 67 **Black Vultures** were spotted near Mifflinburg 12/8 (BH). About a dozen **Tundra Swans** were seen flying over Lewisburg 12/10 (JS). The Seven Mountains Audubon Society based in Lewisburg had a record breaking Christmas Bird count this year. They broke the 1983 record of 81 species with 84 species 12/15 (AS). DN discovered 35 **Horned Larks**, two **Snow Buntings**, and two **Lapland Longspurs** 12/18 in rural Lewisburg. A pair of **Long-eared Owls** was flushed during an intense search 12/24 on Dale's Ridge outside of Lewisburg (AS).

Thirty **Common Redpolls** were found 1/4 at R.B. Winter State Park outside of Mifflinburg (AS). Nearby on Sand Mountain Road an immature **Bald Eagle** and **Common Raven** were discovered 1/14 (RH).

Observers: **Christy Bowersox, 968 Furnace Road, New Columbia, PA 17856, (570) 538-5814**. Rolf Helbig, Bob Holman, Dick Nickelsen, Allen

Schweinsberg, Joanne Schweinsberg.

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP).

A total of 83 species was reported during the winter period. The highlight was a **Cackling Goose** at KL 1/16-18 (GE, JS, RS, KG). It was with about 500 **Canada Geese** but was cooperative enough to be photographed before the lake froze 1/19. Other waterfowl included **Pied-billed Grebe** present at various locations prior to 12/20, then returning to the AR 2/25. **Horned Grebe** returned 2/13. **Green-winged Teal** were first seen 2/21 (JS, RS). **American Black Duck** was present in small numbers on the AR throughout the period. The only **Northern Pintail** record was from the AR on 2/29 (JS, RS). **Canvasback** and **Redhead** returned to the AR on 2/15 (GE, JW). As usual, **Common Goldeneye** wintered on the AR between Oil City and Franklin in good numbers, but not in record numbers. The high count for the period was 140 on 1/27 (GE, JW). All three mergansers were recorded. **Hooded Merganser** was present on the AR after 1/4. **Red-breasted Merganser** was first recorded 2/28 (JS, RS). The season high of 80 **Common Merganser** was recorded 2/28.

An early **Turkey Vulture** made a brief appearance at BHNS on 2/9 (KG, JS). At least two **Bald Eagles** began nest-sitting 2/29 (JS, RS, GE). There were five **Red-shouldered Hawk** records during the period, and two **Rough-legged Hawk** records, one 12/22 and one 1/3 (ML, JS), indicating a poor rough-leg winter. **American Coot** was present on the AR 12/20 and 2/11 (GE, JS). A single **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found on 14 occasions at BHNS (KG, JS).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found along the bike trail between Oil City and Franklin 2/3-4 (GE, JW). An unusually high number of **Northern Flicker** records indicated more stayed north this year than usual. **Horned Lark** flocks were sporadic at KL, however that may be partly attributed to the sporadic coverage of the area.

Northern Shrike was recorded on seven occasions (KG, JS), a slightly higher number than usual, but down from last year's total of nine. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited a feeder in Seneca throughout the period (GE). A single **Northern Mockingbird** was recorded near Utica 2/22 (KG, JS). Several **Hermit Thrushes** were at OCSP 12/26 and 12/30 (NB, KG). Mimicking the waxwings, **American Robin** was more numerous than usual and large flocks were found almost daily in front of Joy Manufacturing Co. **Cedar Waxwing** usually leaves the area around 1/1 and sometimes isn't recorded again until late Apr or May. This year a flock of over 100 could be found feeding on ornamental fruit in front of Joy Manufacturing Co. in Franklin almost daily (JS).

One late **Field Sparrow** visited a feeder at BHNS 12/29 (KG, JS). **Fox Sparrow** returned 2/18 and was still present at the end of the period (NB). A single **Lapland Longspur** was found at KL 12/20 (JS) and small numbers of **Snow Bunting** were recorded in the same vicinity from 2/15-2/18. **Common Redpoll** visited the BHNS feeders throughout the period (KG, JS). Small numbers of **Pine Siskin** also were present throughout the winter (NB, KG, JS).

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd., Apt. 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net**, Nancy Baker, Kathie Goodblood, Mike Leahy, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Jim Wilson.

Warren County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Kinzua Dam (KD).

A **Trumpeter Swan** was on the AR near Tidioute for several days in Jan. It was a tagged bird, a female hatched in 2006 in Ontario and banded in Sep the same year. Another **Trumpeter Swan**, an unbanded juvenile, was in the same area on 2/16 (LAR). A **Harlequin Duck**, first seen and photographed by C&DF, was on the AR in Warren 2/2-6. It was last reported by MT. The bird was a first-winter male. Our only other *Warren* record was 11 to 13 February 1967 by Harris Johnson and colleagues.

A new **Bald Eagle** nest was discovered near Starbrick (JS). We now have approximately five active nests in *Warren*. Fourteen **Bald Eagles** were reported at KD 1/8 (JF). At least eight **Rough-legged Hawks** were in the Lander area Jan through Feb (C&BM, SS, DW). Two **Long-eared Owls** were reported to be in the parking lot of Warren Area High School

1/8 (JF). Two **Short-eared Owls** were near Lander 1/18 (DW). A **Red-Headed Woodpecker** was seen from 1/28 throughout period near a breeding site discovered in the second PBBA (H&PA, DW). It was a juvenile transitioning to adult plumage.

Winter visitors from the north were better than have been seen in several years. Reports were first received in late Nov and birds remained throughout period. High counts of 100+ **Evening Grosbeaks** and 50+ **Common Redpolls** visited feeders south of Warren (H&PA). Around 40 **Pine Siskins** were in North Warren (C&BM).

Observers: **Don Watts, 163 Crestview Blvd., Warren, Pa. 16365-3310, (814) 723-9125, watts_3@yahoo.com**, Herm & Paula Atwood, Cara & Derek Farr, John Fedak, Corky & Bonnie Miller, Lee Ann Reiners, John Schultz, Scott Stoleson, Matt Tenny.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond near Canonsburg (AMD), Buffalo Creek IBA (BC), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Robinson Township (RT), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

A bird suggestive of *hutchinsii* **Cackling Goose** was present in RT 12/21-26 (MV, ph DY, ph MF). The bird's overall size and "lankiness" suggested that the bird may have had some *parvipes* Canada Goose lineage, but the bill size and shape were good for *hutchinsii*. These small-billed but lanky white-cheeked *branta* geese are increasingly reported in w. Pennsylvania, but identification of many individuals is probably best treated as equivocal due to the largely unknown extent of *hutchinsii* and *parvipes* interbreeding. Two swans (one wearing a yellow neck band) located at Ginger Hill 2/18 during a snowstorm were believed by the observer to be **Trumpeter Swans**, but distance and poor conditions precluded a final identification (AB). They were not relocated.

Otherwise, waterfowl reports were mostly limited to AMD until about mid-Feb. Highlights from this location were as follows. A **Wood Duck** 2/11 was a nice find for early Feb (MV). Two **Gadwalls** were present 1/3, and three were there 2/20-21 (MV). One to 3 **American Wigeons** were present through much of Jan (m. obs.). **American Black Ducks** were present in varying numbers through Jan and Feb, with a peak of 13 on 1/28 (MV). At least 300 **Mallards** used the pond for a roost site throughout the winter. One to 4 **Northern Pintails** were reported in Jan and the first week of Feb (m. obs.). Two **Green-winged Teal** there 1/21 (RT) were the only reported for the season. Two **Canvasbacks** were present 2/4-27, and single **Ring-necked Ducks** appeared 2/4 and 2/27. One **Ruddy Duck** was also found 2/27 (MV).

Away from AMD waterfowl reports were sparse until mid-Feb. A **Wood Duck** on Ten Mile Creek 1/5 was a great Jan find (AB). **American Wigeons** appeared at R4 on 2/21 (LC) and peaked at 13 birds 2/23 (RG). A female **Northern Pintail** was present at Washington Cemetery 12/26, where a female has wintered for several years; however this year she was not reported after 12/26. Singles were also reported at GCW 2/10 (MC) and R4 on 2/16 (LC, MV). Nine **Canvasbacks** were at R4 on 2/16 (MV, LC), with 7 still there the next day (RG). Up to 13 **Ring-necked Ducks** were also present at R4 those two days. Two **Lesser Scaup** at R4 2/16-23 were the only reported for the winter season. A single **Common Goldeneye** was at R4 12/26-29 (MV), and two were on the reservoir 2/16 (LC, MV). Single **Hooded Mergansers** were reported throughout the season at various locations. A **Common Merganser** was reported near BC in the third week of Dec, the only report for the season (*vide* LH). Eight **Pied-billed Grebes** at R4 on 12/26 was a nice count.

Northern Harriers were widespread, but no location was better than Donaldson Road in RT, where GM counted 21 at a roost site 12/31. MV had 18 at the same location 2/8. A juv. **Northern Goshawk** that flew across the county line into RT 1/2 (RG) was a superb find. RG's WRS through central *Washington* netted 27 **Red-tailed Hawks**, a nice tally. Two **Rough-legged Hawks** (one light, one dark) were reported in RT in Dec and Jan. A **Merlin** first found at Washington Cemetery 12/29 (MV) was present at least 2/16.

Two **Killdeer** returned to Eighty Four 2/9 (AB), which was a bit early. AB counted an impressive 160 **Mourning Doves** on a farm in Eighty Four 2/2. RT hosted a good population of **Short-eared Owls** again this year, with up to 7 reported though the season. Two **Barred Owls** were calling back and forth to each other in central *Washington* 2/17 (MD).

The return **Rufous Hummingbird** in McDonald wearing band number N-71927 was last reported 12/6 this year (KS). Sadly, the other *Washington* **Rufous** continuing from the previous season in Burgettstown

was found dead 1/4, clinging to a house wall near an outdoor light fixture (PB). The specimen was sent to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (*vide* Rob Protz).

Four **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported on the BC CBC 12/16, and singles were at California 1/17 (JaT) and at Eighty Four 1/19 (AB). An **Eastern Phoebe** near Avella 12/31 was very late (JB). A **Northern Shrike** was reported near BC in the third week of Dec (*vide* LH). AT reported hundreds of **American Crows** using a roost site near Coal Center in late Feb. Three **Common Ravens** were reported on the BC CBC 12/16.

Central *Washington* is home to large flocks of **Horned Larks** in mid-winter. Highlights this year included 60 at BC 12/16 (AT), 75 at BC 2/2 (MD), and 60 sw. of Hickory 2/23 (RG). Likely this only scratches the surface with regard to the numbers of this species present in the county at this season.

Red-breasted Nuthatch reports tapered off heading into Dec following the strong flight this fall, but 7 were at Washington Cemetery 1/12 (MV), and one or two were present in Houston in Feb (CH). **Brown Creeper** reports at BC were of one 12/16 during the CBC, and several there 1/26 (W&DS). Two **Hermit Thrushes** at BC 1/26 were notable (W&DS), as was a **Gray Catbird** found on the BC CBC 12/16. A flock of up to 20 **American Pipits** was reported sw. of Hickory 2/23-24 (RG), and a single was in Washington 2/23 (LC, CH). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** wintered in a few locations; a group of 6-10 was in RT 12/21-2/4 (MV, m. obs.) and 16 were found on the BC CBC. A single was at Eighty Four 1/19 (AB).

Sparrows continue to be reported widely and in great numbers in *Washington*. A solid total of 42 **Eastern Towhees** was turned in for the BC CBC 12/16. BC CBC counters also reported 60 **Swamp Sparrows**, 237 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 178 **White-throated Sparrows**, 158 **Song Sparrows**, and 3 **Fox Sparrows** 12/16. A **Field Sparrow** at Bentleyville 2/23 was the first reported for the spring away from wintering areas (AB). A **Fox Sparrow** attended a feeder in se. *Washington* 2/23-27 (*vide* AT).

Among a flock of **Horned Larks** sw. of Hickory 2/23 were 3 **Lapland Longspurs** (RG). They were sporadically reported into March. Fifteen **Snow Buntings** were seen flying across the county line into RT 1/2 (RG).

Last **Rusty Blackbirds** were in RT 12/26 (MV), and the first returners were found 2/15, with a peak of 35 in **Eighty Four** 2/16 (AB). A large flock of blackbirds in Bethlehem Twp. 1/12 contained over 1000 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** and 100 **Common Grackles** (MV). Lesser flocks of both of these species, along with **Red-winged Blackbirds**, were reported in central *Washington*, primarily around Eighty Four, in Jan and Feb (AB). A **Baltimore Oriole** was reported at a feeder in Daisytown 12/4 (*vide* AB).

Washington largely missed out on the winter finch invasion this year, but a flyover **Red Crossbill** near Burgettstown 12/8 was a great find and one of only a few of this species reported this season in Pennsylvania. **Common Redpolls** in Houston 1/22 (CH) were the only reported. Three **Pine Siskins** were reported on the BC CBC 12/16, and another was in Houston 12/17 (CH).

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Wayne County

No Compiler.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Trout Run Reservoir [Latrobe Reservoir] TRR.

Two **Greater Scaup** were listed on the Bushy Run CBC 12/15 (*vide* DB). A **Black Scoter** on Donegal Lake 12/22 during the Rector CBC (*vide* L&LH) was an exceptionally good winter find for this region. A late **Bufflehead** was at Delmont 1/9 (KB). Seven Hooded Mergansers were at Beaver Run Reservoir 1/12 (KB). A small strip of open water allowed 5 **Common Mergansers** to put down on Donegal Lake 1/7. One was still on Trout Run Reservoir 1/9 (RCL) and one at Livermore 1/12 (KB). Six **Ruddy Ducks** were on TRR 12/28 (RCL). Five **Pied-billed Grebes** were listed

from BRR 12/14, and 4 were there 1/12 (KB).

As has been the case for several years now, a few **Turkey Vultures** successfully wintered in the Ligonier Valley (m. obs.). Unusual were 4 **Black Vultures** along Slater Rd. south of Ligonier 1/5 (ML, TM), and 3 were seen nearby along Rt. 711 on 2/18 (L&LH). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were listed on a WRS route in *Westmoreland* 2/11 (L&LH) and one wintered just north of Ligonier much of the season (ML, m. obs.). A **Golden Eagle** spent much of the winter near BRR (ML), one wintered on/near PNR this season (ML), and another was at Oak Grove north of Ligonier 2/21 (L&LH). Three **Northern Harriers** were a good find near Lycippus 2/21 (L&LH).

A **Sandhill Crane**, first found at Ethel Lake in Derry 12/20 by SM, remained there through the rest of the winter period, where it was seen and photographed by many local observers. A **Killdeer** had returned to Old Distillery Rd. near Stahlstown by 2/15 (L&LH). A wintering **Common Snipe**, unusual for *Westmoreland*, was seen at PNR from 1/2 through the end of the period (RCL). Three **Ring-billed Gulls** on DL 12/28 were rather late for that area (RCL).

Single **Short-eared Owls** were found 1/24 near Stahlstown and Lycippus 2/22 (L&LH). Seven **Northern Flickers** made for a good mid-winter count at Delmont 1/17 (KB). A lone **Eastern Phoebe** appeared in the Hess's yard along Old Distillery Rd. near Stahlstown 1/10. The 50 **American Robins** that flew over PNR 1/5 (RCL, ED) represented a good sized wintering flock for the Ligonier Valley; 33 were listed at Delmont 1/28 (KB). A mid-winter **Eastern Towhee** was a nice find at Rector 2/3 (*fide* BM). A single **Snow Bunting** flew over PNR 1/10 (ML). A **Chipping Sparrow** was still at Delmont 1/4 (KB). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were a nice mid-winter find along Old Distillery Rd., Stahlstown 1/9 (L&LH).

There were scattered reports of **Common Redpoll** throughout the county, including 4 at Don Stitt's feeder just north of Donegal 1/3; singles at Stahlstown 1/1 and 1/18 (L&LH); and a small flock at Keystone Park most of the season (Mark McConaughy, m. obs.); one was at Delmont on both 12/30 and 1/28 (KB). A **Red Crossbill** was a good find on the Bushy Run CBC 12/15 (*fide* DB).

Observers: **Robert C. Leberman, 1847 State Route 381, Rector, PA 15677, (724) 593-6021, rcleberm@winbeam.com**, Ken Byerly, Dick Byers, Emma DeLeone, Len & Linda Hess, Mike Lanzone, Steve Manns, Mark McConaughy, Trish Miller, Bob Mulvihill.

Wyoming County

No Report.

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York County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Lake Redman (LRED), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Sheppard-Myers Reservoir (SMR).

There were 104 species reported during the winter season, including 22 waterfowl species. For the 2007-8 winter period there were 102 species reported, including 17 waterfowl species. The 29 participants in the 12/15 Christmas Bird Count tallied 83 species, 7 more than last year.

The only **Snow Geese** reported were at different locations on the same day (1/26): one at LAR (BF, MS) and one at Shrewsbury (BF, MS). Six **Mute Swans** were found during the 12/15 CBC, four were at SPGR throughout the period (PK), and four were at the Rt. 94 quarry ponds 2/8 (PK). Fourteen **Tundra Swans** were seen on the 12/15 CBC, five were at LAR 2/25 (BP). Four **Wood Ducks** stayed for the 12/15 CBC. Uncommon in the county were the **Canvasback** at GPSP 2/29 (CR), the **Redheads**: one 2/16 at SMR (PJR), one 2/29 at SPGR (PK), nine 2/29 at GPSP (CR), and the **Common Goldeneye**: 2/29 at GPSP (CR). **Common Mergansers** were quite common, with high estimates of 200 at LAR 2/8 (PK) and 300 at LAR 2/25 (BP).

Ring-necked Pheasants are not very common now. The only reports were three found on the 12/15 CBC and one along Rt. 94 north of East Berlin 2/26 (BK). Two **Wild Turkeys** were spotted on the 12/15 CBC, and a nice flock of 48 was in an apple orchard at the corner of Siddonsburg and Lewisberry Rds. 1/26 (CR). Twelve **Great Blue Herons** returned 2/26 to a rookery at SPGR (PK), and a brave **Great Egret** was still in the county at Seven Valleys 1/7 (BF, MS, SW).

Bald Eagles were seen throughout the period at CSP and LAR.

From one to five **Northern Harriers** were also seen throughout the period. Single **Merlins** were at LAR 12/15 (SW), CSP 1/26 (BF, MS), and GPSP 2/17 (CM). A Jan fish kill that generated lots of Shad along the Lake Marburg shoreline attracted far more gulls than normal. A second year **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found at CSP 1/17 (AM), and was seen there again 2/8 (PJR). They have become common in winter along the Delaware River, but there is probably only one previous record for York. There were more **Great Black-backed Gulls** than usual at CSP: 6 on 1/26 (BF, MS), 8 on 1/27 (PJR), and 5 on 2/16 (PJR).

Two **Short-eared Owls** were found 1/10 (PK) at the corner of Lake and Ruth Farm Rds.; they were seen through the end of the period. At another site on Althouse Rd., a former landfill that is now grassland, one to 4 **Short-eared Owls** were seen from 1/15 through the end of the period (RP).

A **Rufous Hummingbird** that arrived Labor Day weekend at a home near Fawn Grove stayed until 1/14 (FL). The day before it left, it was seen "draining" all of the sugar water from the small tube feeder that it had been using. Four **Red-headed Woodpeckers** and 10 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen on the 12/15 CBC. A few other Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found throughout the period.

Two **Common Ravens** flew over Monaghan Twp. at the northern edge of the county 2/17 (RS), probably the first sighting in that location. There were a few reports, but not many, of **Red-breasted Nuthatches**: 3 on the 12/15 CBC, one 1/7 in York-New Salem (MS), 2 at CSP 1/13 (BF, MS), and one all winter at Pinetown Rd. (JP). The only **Brown Creeper** sightings were 2 on the 12/15 CBC and one 12/19 at the New Salem SGL. Two **Winter Wrens** were reported 12/15 for the CBC, one was at LRED 12/24 (AS), and another one was at CSP 1/13 (BF). There was a rather high count of 7 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** at CSP 1/13 (BF), and a nice high count of 283 **Eastern Bluebirds** during the 12/15 CBC. Four **Hermit Thrushes** were located during the 12/15 CBC, one was at CSP 1/17 (AM), and one was in Dillsburg 2/8 (CR). A wintering **Gray Catbird** was found on the 12/15 CBC, and there was one on LRED 12/24 (AS). The single **American Pipit** along Biesecker Rd. 1/15 (BF) was the only one reported. **Pine Warblers** reported were one along Biesecker Rd. 12/7 (BF, MS), and one 1/13 at CSP (BF, MS).

Four **Eastern Towhees** stayed for the 12/15 CBC. Participants on the 12/15 CBC had good success finding Sparrows, with 14 **American Tree Sparrows**, 6 **Chipping Sparrows**, 17 **Field Sparrows**, and 2 **Savannah Sparrows**. The only **Fox Sparrow** reported was one 2/19 at a Hanover feeder (BP). A **Lapland Longspur** was found at the corner of Lake and Ruth Farm Rds. in a flock of about 150 **Horned Larks** 2/25 (BF). The 12/15 CBC tallied 541 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, and a single came to a feeder in Dillsburg 1/22 (CR).

Purple Finches were scarce, as usual, with one on the 12/15 CBC, 5 at GPSP 12/25 (BJH), and one all winter at a Dillsburg feeder (CR). The county participated a little in the state's **Common Redpoll** invasion, with one that showed up at a feeder on Marburg Rd. for one hour 12/17 (DSB), and one at a Pinetown Rd. feeder one day mid-Jan (JP). Only small numbers of **Pine Siskins** were seen throughout the period, with the exception of the 50 reported 1/6 at GPSP (BM). There were no Evening Grosbeak reports.

Observers: **Peter Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462, pabirder@hotmail.com** (PJR), Doug & Steff Brudhecker, Christmas Bird Count, Dick Cleary, Bryan Erb, Bruce Fortman, Carolyn Hoffman, Barry & Jenni Horton, Geogia Kagle, Brett Keener, Phil Keener, Frank Linardi, Chris Malachowski, Andy McGann, Henry McLin, Bob Moul, Ann Pettigrew, Jeff Pheasant, Randy Phillips, Beth Pugliese, Chris Rebert, John Rupert, Matt Schuchart, Rich Stevick, Adam Stuckert, Steve Wildasin.

Answer to Photo Quiz 19

Rick Wiltraut

Many readers who have enjoyed the experience of a pelagic trip know that shearwaters are often found resting on the water and flush ahead of the boat as it approaches. Often the only view one gets is of the upperparts as the bird is flying straight away from the boat. Only if the bird goes into a glide and banks can one look for other field marks as well.

In the western North Atlantic off the coast of eastern North America, pelagic birders can regularly expect to see 5 species of shearwaters: Greater, Cory's, Sooty, Audubon's and Manx. Of these, the Manx and Audubon's are often referred to as "small black-and-white shearwaters". Both species are dark above and white below. In addition, another small black-and-white species, the Little Shearwater, has been recorded several times off our coast, one as recently as 25 August 2007 approximately 60 miles south of Nantucket, Massachusetts (subspecies *baroli*).

Manx is the largest and is blackish above (including ear-coverts) and white below with fairly long wings and white undertail coverts. Its flight is a series of rapid, shallow beats followed by a long glide. Audubon's Shearwater is similar to Manx but is smaller, stockier, and usually browner above with shorter wings and a longer tail. Audubon's has a lighter face than Manx and dark undertail coverts. The underwings have conspicuous broad smudgy-brown margins. The wingbeats of Audubon's are quicker than Manx and consist of a rapid flutter and a glide. Little Shearwater is the smallest of the three with blackish upperparts, shorter bill, and distinct white face (subspecies *baroli*). Except for white face, it looks like a miniature Manx. Upperwings of Little have a diffuse pale area on inner wing and appear two-toned. Of the three, the Little Shearwater has the quickest wingbeats. Little is also very similar to Audubon's and some consider them conspecific.

Note the rather long tail on this bird. This Audubon's Shearwater was photographed by Alan Brady off Hatteras, North Carolina on 5 August 2007. Audubon's Shearwaters are common in late summer in the warm waters of the Gulf Stream off Virginia and the Carolinas, when single day counts can reach in excess of 1500 (Harrison 1983). Closer to home, Audubon's can be seen in late summer off the coast of Delaware and New Jersey when water temperatures are warm. Unlike some other pelagic birds, Audubon's is rarely reported inland after tropical storms or hurricanes. There is one hypothetical record for Pennsylvania, a bird reported on the Delaware River near Tinicum, Philadelphia on 2 August 1953. Interestingly, the first record for New Jersey was one at Cape May on 2 August 1926.

Reference:

Harrison, P. *SEABIRDS: An Identification Guide*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1983, p. 267.



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PHOTO QUIZ #20

Can you identify this bird? Answer in the next issue.



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<u>Issue</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
Dec-Feb	May 31	July
Mar-May	Aug 31	October
Jun-Jul	Oct 31	December
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