

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 23, No. 1
Dec 2008 - Feb 2009
Issued July 2009





PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 23 Number 1 Dec 2008 - Feb 2009

Geoff Malosh, Editor-in-chief
450 Amherst Avenue
Moon Township, PA 15108-2654
(412) 735-3128 pomarine@earthlink.net
<http://www.pabirds.org>

Contents

- 1 Editorial
- 2 Sixteenth Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological
Records Committee..... Nick Pulcinella
- 9 The 2008-09 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania. Nick Bolgiano
- 26 The 2009 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania. Greg Grove
- 30 Book Review..... Gene Wilhelm
Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson
- 33 Summer Tanager in Crawford County..... Marvin J. Byler
- 34 Pennsylvania's Wintering Least Sandpiper..... Vern Gauthier
- 34 Leconte's Sparrow in Delaware County..... Al Guarente
- 35 Photographic Highlights
- 43 Summary of the Season. Greg Grove
- 45 Birds of Note: August through November 2008
- 47 Photo-Quiz #23 Answer..... Rick Wiltraut
- 48 Local Notes
Photo-Quiz #24..... Inside back cover

Seasonal Editors

Daniel Brauning
Michael Fialkovich
Greg Grove
Deuane Hoffman

Department Editors

Book Reviews

Gene Wilhelm, Ph.D.
513 Kelly Blvd.
Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145
(724) 794-2434
GeneWilhelm@aol.com

CBC Report

Nick Bolgiano
711 W. Foster Ave.
State College, PA 16801
(814) 234-2746
NBolgiano@minitab.com

Hawk Watch Reports

Laurie Goodrich
Keith Bildstein
410 Summer Valley Rd.
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
(570) 943-3411
goodrich@hawkmtn.org
bildstein@hawkmtn.org

PAMC

Bill Etter
P.O. Box 169
East Texas, PA 18046
(215) 964-3613
billetter01@gmail.com

Pennsylvania Birdlists

Peter Robinson
P. O. Box 482
Hanover, PA 17331
pabirder@hotmail.com

Photo-Quiz

Rick Wiltraut
Jacobsburg EE Center
835 Jacobsburg Road
Wind Gap, PA 18091

Data Technician

Wendy Jo Shemansky
41 Walkertown Hill Rd.
Daisytown, PA 15427
pabirdsrus@zoominternet.net

Publication Manager

Franklin Haas
2469 Hammertown Rd.
Narvon, PA 17555
fchaas@pabirds.org

Cover: **White-winged Crossbill** (*Loxia leucoptera*). Pennsylvania saw perhaps the most impressive invasion of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins in its history this season, with thousands of each species reported from every corner of the state. This female was photographed 16 Jan 2009 in Carbon County. (*Tom Johnson*)

... from the Editor

In Defense of Four-Letter Words

Email discussion lists sometimes provide fascinating studies of human psychology. For most lists, particularly ones devoted to a single, very narrowly-scoped topic (such as birds and bird sightings), calm and civil discourse is the rule. But every now and again, things get out of hand, and it is in these instances that the full range of human perceptions and interactions are on display. I think we are still as a species getting used to the concept of email, and learning to juggle the dual blessing and curse that comes with the facelessness of communicating by email. It's so easy to misunderstand, and thus to overreact and say things in email that one would never dream of saying to someone's face. But, really, that isn't the subject of this editorial.

Anyway, for this reason, a whole range of topics, when brought up on an email list meant for birding, are sure to elicit vehement responses from contributors. Among these are house cats and feral cats, hunting, whether the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is extant, and, of course, the mother of all dirty words: *politics*. Some of these topics are routinely banned from birding discussion lists, and for good reason. Generally, they just lead to lots of thoughtless insults, miscommunications, puerile flame wars, and wishing after the fact that there was a way to take it all back.

But there is one topic that occasionally draws a heated response from readers, and surprisingly so, I think: the use of "Alpha Codes".

As I type this, I hear a CARW singing outside of my window. The NOCR's have long since fledged from the yews in my front yard, and for the first time four years I don't think there is a pair of BWHAs nesting in the woods behind the yard. I did, however, hear an adult GHOW hooting back there before dawn a few days ago, with a fledgling nearby giving that unique squeaky-trumpet call of theirs—definitely a yard first!

So, was that last paragraph AGTY (all Greek to you)? If you are a reader

of *Pennsylvania Birds*, it probably wasn't. Most readers will readily recognize the standardized bird banding Alpha Codes for **CAR**olina **Wren**, **NO**rthern **CARD**inal, **Broad-Winged HAWk**, and **Great Horned OWL**, and even if you don't immediately know their translations, you probably at least know of their existence and general usage, the basic rules for decoding them, and can deduce the actual species names from the context of the paragraph.

But not everyone knows what these acronyms are, particularly beginners. And every now and again, when someone posts a list of birds to an email discussion group using these acronyms, especially in the subject line, well, fireworks can fly.

I have seen accusations of laziness, or worse, elitism, levied against the users of acronyms. Beginners on the list sometimes decry the whole hobby as too complicated or "clique-ish", with the clique presumably populated by those in the know on those dirty four-letter words.

But this always surprises me, how this acronym issue can be such a HBT (hot button topic). It surprises me especially that so many BB (beginning birders) bristle so readily at the use of acronyms. I have always seen the Alpha Codes as part of the discipline of birding, a detail to be learned like any other datum, and not something to ROOH (reject out of hand) as too difficult or esoteric to be worth my time. TFOTMI (The fact of the matter is) that acronyms are widely used by birders as common jargon and so are worth learning, even (especially?) for the BBs out there. I honestly don't think that the usage of acronyms is merely sheer laziness on the part of those who use them, cutting corners just to SAFKS (save a few key strokes). It simply is how some birders actually think when typing. The one thing it absolutely is not is some expression of high-minded, preening elitism.

Anyway, I submit that the use of acronyms should not be so HV (heartily vilified). But keep the beginners out there in mind. If you are going to use

acronyms in an email, then spell out the meaning of the acronym in parentheses upon first usage of the acronym, as I have been doing (albeit tongue-in-cheek) in the last few paragraphs. This policy certainly would go a long way in helping BBs, indeed everyone, learn and become more comfortable with this PAFOC (perfectly acceptable form of communication).

Those out there not familiar with the Alpha Codes and who are eager to learn can visit this site: <www.birdpop.org/AlphaCodes.htm>.

Crossbills!

For just about all readers, the winter of 2008-09 will be remembered as *the* crossbill year. Despite the general absence of Red Crossbills, White-winged Crossbills (hereafter, WWCB—sorry, I couldn't resist) staged what was perhaps the biggest irruption on record. To put it into perspective: by combining county reports in this issue with reports to the PABIRDS listserv, Rick Wiltraut was able to determine that WWCBs were reported in 66 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, with the only Wayne missing. And really, who believes that there were no WWCB in Wayne County this year? There must have tens of thousands, perhaps even hundreds of thousands, of WWCB in our state this winter. They were added to yard lists across Pennsylvania, and the event was documented as never before by the increasing masses of digital photographers.

So, 2007-08 was a huge redpoll year, 2008-09 brought crossbills and siskins in droves. Is it too much to ask that 2009-10 bring EVGR's back to our state? (I'll bet you can guess what that means.)

Corrigenda

In V22N4, Birds of Note and Lebanon County Local Notes, the Anhinga listed as occurring 10/13 at Second Mountain should be 10/3.

Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS (ISSN 0898-8501) is published four times a year by The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. Editorial and business offices are located at 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9730. Subscriptions, all in US\$: One year U.S.A \$28.50, Canada \$40, Foreign \$45. Library rate \$30. Single copies: \$5.50. Checks and money orders in U.S. dollars only should be made payable to PSO. Copyright © 2009 by The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NARVON, PA 17555.**
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **PSO**, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9726.

SIXTEENTH REPORT
of the
PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
May 2009
Nick Pulcinella for the Committee

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter PORC or the Committee) evaluates and archives documentation it receives of any species or recognizable form that is on the Review List for Pennsylvania. In addition it reviews documentation for new species or new subspecies for the state. This report covers 44 records of 37 species. The 34 records accepted, of 29 species, represent an acceptance rate of 77%.

Highlights include the first records for Yellow-billed Loon, Long-billed Murrelet and Scott's Oriole; third records for Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lazuli Bunting, and Bullock's Oriole; fifth record for American Oystercatcher, and seventh record for California Gull. The Committee, at its annual meeting in July 2008, also agreed to accept Barnacle Goose to the state list. The addition of the four new species brings the state total to 412 (Pulcinella 2006).

The committee received reports from 20 counties. The top three counties reporting were *Bucks* (8), *Berks* (5), and *Erie* (4). The Committee encourages observers to document sightings with photographs, videos, or sound recordings when possible. In this age of digital photography, the number of definitive photographs has greatly increased. On the other hand, the committee has noticed a sharp decline in the number of written reports submitted to support these images. 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. The Committee would like to emphasize the importance of submitting documentation directly to PORC. The posting of reports, including written details and photographs, on email listservs may not safely be assumed to have been discovered by PORC, nor be assumed to be understood as documentation of a rarity.

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, Ben Coulter and Rick Wiltraut. Nick Pulcinella is the non-voting secretary. Recent members who voted on some records in this report include Paul Guris, Dan Heathcote and Matt Sharp. During 2008, Witmer's term ended and Cameron Rutt was elected as a voting member.

Also at the July 2008 meeting, the Committee reassessed all reports of Barnacle Goose. Working with a set of criteria that included correct identification, behavior, time of year, associated waterfowl and presence of leg bands, the Committee accepted nine records and did not accept an additional eight records (Malosh and Pulcinella 2009).

The Committee has a presence on the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology web site at <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 regarding the functions of the Committee.



Plate 1. Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee 20 July 2008. Left to right: Ben Coulter, Eric Witmer, Geoff Malosh, Al Guarente, Jonathan Heller (not pictured: Tom Johnson, Rick Wiltraut). (Nick Pulcinella)

Classification of Records

Class I: An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph or a diagnostic recording. Abbreviations 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.

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 (+) signifies the existence of accepted records prior to the formation of PORC. Each accepted record includes the locality and 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 name(s) 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. An (*) after a species name indicates that the species is no longer on the PORC review list.

Abbreviations: ANSP: Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; et al.: and others; m.obs.: multiple observers; 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

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) (1)

An adult in alternate plumage on the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg, *Dauphin*, 4–7 May 2007. (Cameron Rutt (p); Chuck Berthoud (p), Jason Horn (p), Tom Johnson (p), Geoff Malosh (p), Mike Fialkovich (p), m.obs.; Class I-P; 004-01-2007). 7/0. This stunning and cooperative first-state record thrilled hordes of observers during its four-day stay. Photograph published in PB 21(2) cover and NAB 61:438 and 534.



Plate 2. Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*). This first state record was photographed on the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg, *Dauphin*, 5 May 2007 (Cameron Rutt). It remained in the area until 7 May much to the delight of many.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) (5+)

One found “in a yard” in Columbus, *Warren*, 19 February 2006. (Robert Mitchell (p); Class I-P; 065-01-2006). 7/0. Dan Brauning, biologist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, sent the record to the committee after a photograph of the bird crossed his desk 16 months after the fact. The bird originally thought to be a loon was transported to a nearby creek for it to take flight but its ultimate fate is unknown (Malosh 2007). Photograph published in PB 21:133.

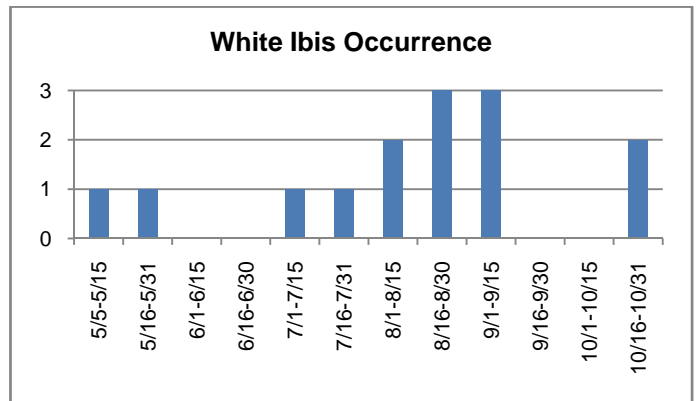
White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) (11+)

An immature in Mount Bethel, *Northampton*, 7-8 August 2007. (Barry Transue, Doris Transue; Dave DeReamus (p); Class I-P; 093-01-2007). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21:126. (Koch 2007). Another immature along the Susquehanna River at West Fairview, *Dauphin*, 8 August–12 September 2007. (Don Detwiler, W. Brad Romano; m.obs.; Class I-P; 093-02-2007). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21:127 (Detwiler 2007). The long-staying *Dauphin* bird was enjoyed by many as it fed on crayfish and perched on rocks

along the Susquehanna R.

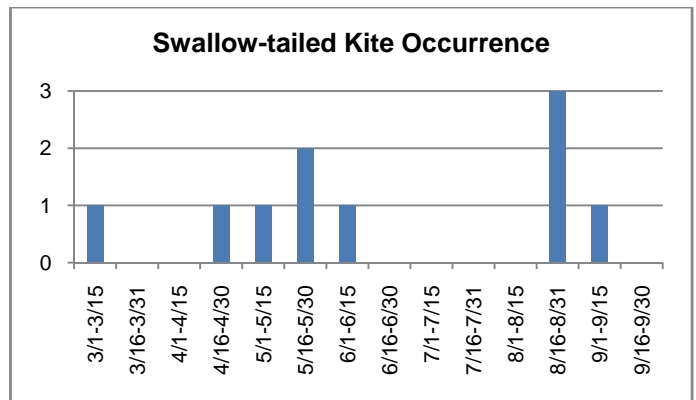
Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (16+) *

One adult at Pine Run, *Bucks*, 29 April 2007. (Thomas Ford-Hutchinson; Class I-P; 095-01-2007). 7/0. This species continues to be annual in Pennsylvania. PORC will no longer review reports.



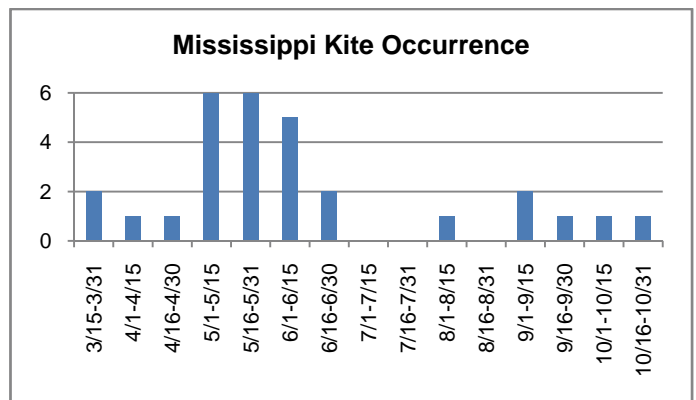
Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (9+)

One photographed as it passed Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, *Berks*, 18 August 2007. (Greg Cryer, Tracy Feldman (p), Beth Swartzentruber; Class I-P; 168-01-2007). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21:137.



Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (18+)

Two subadults at Big Cove Tannery, *Fulton*, 2–3 June 2007. (Tom Johnson (p), Dan Snell; Class I-P; 171-01-2007). 7/0. These two birds fall nicely within the pattern of occurrence for this species. Photograph published in PB V21:137.



Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) (5+)

One in Upper Allen Township, *Cumberland*, 15 March 2007. (Cameron Rutt, Adam Stuckert, Jarrod Derr; Class III; 231-01-2007). 7/0. One found injured after striking a window in Huntington Valley, *Montgomery*, 19 October 2007. (Mary Jane Stretch; August Mirabella, Howard Eskin (p); Class I-S; 231-02-2007). 7/0. The *Cumberland* bird was seen by the observers at distances of 5-10 feet for about 5 minutes. The bird would run short distances and stop allowing further observation. When the bird finally flushed the distinct white wing patches were evident. The bird was searched for the next morning during a snowfall but not found. It is difficult to say whether this bird was wintering in the area or was an early migrant. McWilliams and Brauning (2000) list one other March report, a bird at Tinicum, *Delaware*, 26 March 1963. The date of the *Montgomery* bird fits well into the fall period of occurrence for this species. The bird was subsequently taken to a rehab center where it died. The specimen was displayed at a meeting of the Bucks County Birders prior to being sent to the ANSP. Photograph published in PB V22:44 and NAB V62:68.



Plate 3. Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). This bird was injured and subsequently died after striking a window in Huntington Valley, *Montgomery*, 19 October 2007. (Howard Eskin)

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) (4+)

One at Pine Run Dam, *Bucks*, 29 April – 5 May 2007. (Devich Farbotnik (p); Tom Johnson (a), August Mirabella, Judy Mirabella, et al; Class I-R; 232-01-2007). 7/0. Diagnostic audio recording with repeating “kee kee derr” call was submitted.

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) (5)

Nockamixon State Park, *Bucks*, 19 April 2007. (Rob Fergus, Cameron Rutt (p), Fred Gagnon (p), Jason Horn (p), August Mirabella, m.obs; Class I-P, 266-01-2007). 7/0. This bird was probably the result of a nor'easter that past up the Atlantic

Coast a few days earlier. Photograph published in PB V21:90.



Plate 4. American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*). This bird was found at Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks*, following the passage of strong coastal storm 19 April 2007 (Jason Horn) providing the fifth state record.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (9+)

One on a detention pond in Fogelsville, *Lehigh*, 13-21 May 2007. (Drew Weber (p); Mike Fialkovich (p), Wayne Laubscher (p), Geoff Malosh (p), m.obs; Class I-P; 268-01-2007). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21:90 and NAB V61:439.



Plate 5. Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*). This obliging bird spent about a week at a detention pond in Foglesville, *Lehigh*, photographed here 18 May 2007. (Geoff Malosh)

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (13+)

One was seen during a Waterbird Count at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 18 October 2007. (Jerry McWilliams; Class III; 357-01-2007). 7/0. McWilliams points out that this is a very unusual date for this occurrence as most sightings at this location are from November. There are three previous records from PISP but they are from late fall and early winter.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) (19+)

One first-cycle at Tullytown, *Bucks*, 6-23 January 2007. (Devich Farbotnik; Tom Johnson (p), Cameron Rutt (p), m.obs; Class I-P; 340-01-2007). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21:45. One adult along the Susquehanna River at Fort

Hunter, *Dauphin*, 30-31 March 2007. (Cameron Rutt (p); m.obs; Class I-P; 340-02-2007). 7/0. This species continues to be regular if not annual at these locations.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) (14+) *

One first-summer bird at the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, 9-10 June 2007. (Eric Witmer (p); Class I-P; 338-01-2007). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21:139 and NAB V61:582. This is one of the very few summer records away from Presque Isle S.P. PORC will no longer review reports of this species.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (7)

An adult in Bristol, *Bucks*, 13 January 2007. (Matt Sharp (p); et al.; Class I-P; 346-01-2007). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21:45. Since 2004, this species has been annual in Pennsylvania.



Plate 6. California Gull (*Larus californicus*). This adult was at Bristol, *Bucks*, 13 January 2007 (Matt Sharp), providing the seventh state record.

Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) (1)

One at Nockamixon State Park, *Bucks*, 14 December 2007. (Jason Horn (p); Elaine Crunkleton (p), Gerry Dewaghe (p), Tom Johnson (p), m.obs.; Class I; 390-01-2007). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V22:45. This long-awaited, awesome first state record provided plenty of cheer on a cold, damp day for the lucky birders who were able to view this one-day wonder. The numerous photos clearly rule-out the similar Marbled Murrelet. Photographs published in PB V22:45.



Plate 7. Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*). This long-predicted addition to the state list appeared at Nockamixon State Park, *Bucks*, 14 December 2007. (Gerry Dewaghe)

Chuck-will's widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) (4+)

One in Needmore, *Fulton*, 24 May 2007. (Tom Johnson (p), Ben Coulter; Class I-P; 463-01-2007). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21:92.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) (3)

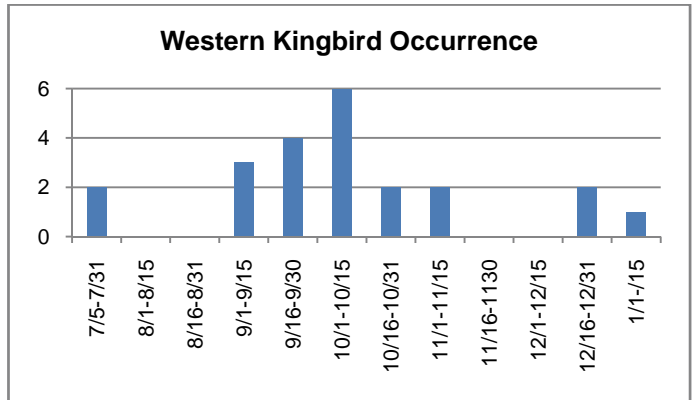
One in Lititz, *Lancaster*, 21 December 2006 – 4 January 2007. (Joyce Sheaffer (p); Tom Johnson (p), Geoff Malosh (p), m.obs; Class I-P; 545-01-2006). 7/0. Many enjoyed this very cooperative bird during its stay. Photograph published in PB V21:46 and NAB V61:261.



Plate 8. Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). This accommodating individual spent several days in Lititz, *Lancaster*, photographed here 30 December 2006. (Geoff Malosh)

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (18+)

One in Morgantown, *Berks*, 25 December 2006 – 11 January 2007. (Holly Hartshorne (p); Tom Johnson (p), Geoff Malosh (p), Cameron Rutt (p), m.obs; Class I-P; 557-01-2006). 7/0. Found during a Christmas morning walk, this bird did not stray from its favorite feeding area offering many birders great looks (Hartshorne 2007). Photograph published in PB V21:27-28 and NAB V61:262.



Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) (27+) *

Middle Creek WMA, *Lancaster*, 6-20 August 2006. (Tom Raub (p); m.obs.; Class I-P; 625-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V20:205. PORC no longer reviews reports of this species.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) (8+)

Fairview Township, *Erie*, 31 December 2006 – 3 February 2007. (Mark Anderson; Mike Fialkovich (p), Geoff Malosh (p),

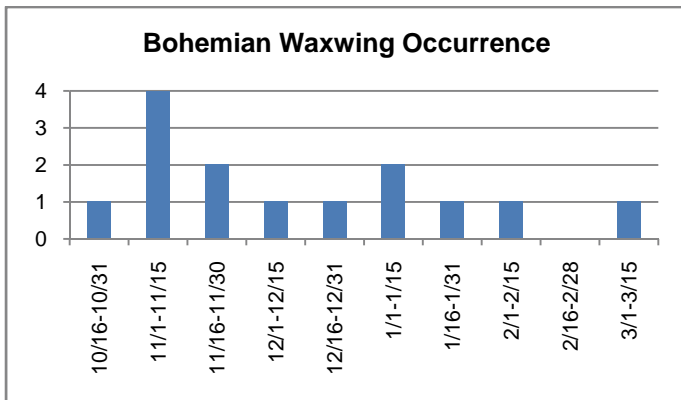
Jerry McWilliams (p), m.obs.; Class I-P; 650-01-2006). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21:46.



Plate 9. Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*). This bird was present for several weeks in Fairview Twp., Erie, photographed here 8 January 2007. (Jerry McWilliams)

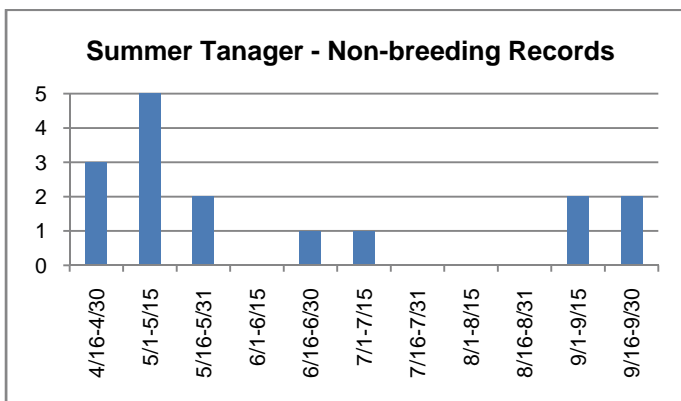
Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulous*) (13+)

One at SGL 63, Clarion, 9-10 December 2007. (Mike Weible (p); Class I; 694-01-2007) 7/0. Photograph published in PB V22:47. One at Presque Isle State Park, Erie, 18 December 2007. (Bernard Master (p); Class I; 694-02-2007). 7/0. These two reports were part of a moderate irruption of this species in the northeast.



Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)(10+)

Settler's Cabin Park, Allegheny, 12-31 May 2007. (Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough; Geoff Malosh (p); Class I-P; 756-01-2007). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21:93.



Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) (17+)

One in Edison, Bucks, 14 May 2007. (A. William Graham; Class III; 780-01-2007). 4/3, 6/1. The written report clearly benefited by the inclusion of a description of this species diagnostic call note. This record falls well within the pattern of occurrence for non-breeding reports.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) (13+)

One long-staying bird at Maple Knoll Farm, Bucks, 14 October 2006– 1 May 2007. (Richard Smith, Vicky Smith; Howard Eskin (p), August Mirabella, Hanna Smith (p), m.obs.; Class I-P: 820-01-2006). 7/0. One in Houtzdale, Clearfield, 2-17 December 2007. (Steve Belin (p); Class I; 820-01-2007). 7/0.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) (3)

One male in Red Hill, Montgomery, 4 March – 10 April 2007. (George Franchois; Howard Eskin (p), m.obs.; Class I-P; 791-01-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21:93 and NAB V61:440. This accommodating individual charmed numerous observers as it fed daily on seed scattered along the roadside. After a period of 29 years between the first two state records, this is the second record in three years.



Plate 10. Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*). This bird spent over a month feeding along a roadside in Red Hill, Montgomery, establishing a third state record. Photographed here 7 March 2007. (Howard Eskin)

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (15+)

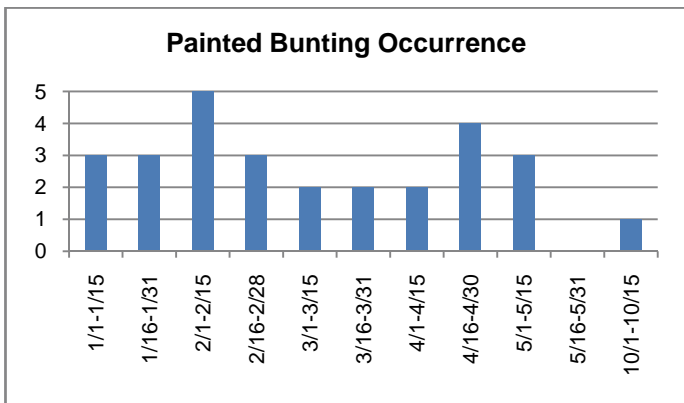
One female of immature male at John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia, 4 January – 6 February 2007. (Frank Windfelder; Howard Eskin (p), Chris Wood (p), m.obs; Class I-P; 794-01-2007). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21:46 and NAB V61:262. One adult male Meshoppen, Wyoming, 6 May 2007. (Jerry Skinner (p); Class I-P; 794-02-2007). 7/0. Both of these records fall nicely within this species' pattern of occurrence in Pennsylvania.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) (3)

One adult male in Oaklands Mills, Juniata, 23 November 2007 – 19 January 2008. (David Troyer 2008. (David Troyer; Chad Kauffman (p), Tom Johnson (p), Bob Moul (p), m.obs.; Class I-P; 874a-01-2007). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21(4):cover and V21:166-167. This dazzling male put to rest any ambivalence regarding the acceptance to the state list of this species based on previous reports of immature/female types. This backyard location continues to provide central Pennsylvania with exciting finds. (Troyer 2007).



Plate 11. Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). This female/immature male was at John Heinz NWR, Philadelphia, for a month photographed here 5 January 2007. (Chris Wood)



Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) (1)

One Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, 19 February – 8 April 2007. (Karen Atwood (p); Howard Eskin (p), Mike Fialkovich (p), Tom Johnson (p), Cameron Rutt (p), Mike Weible (p), m.obs; Class I-P; 873-01-2007). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V21(1) cover, PB V21:26 and NAB V61:364. This outstanding bird of southwestern United States thrilled many birders from throughout the Northeast as it spent six weeks hop-scotching several backyards of a small neighborhood. This is only one of a handful of eastern United States records (Johnson 2007a).

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable (Votes are listed as for/against/abstain. A vote of 6/1 or 7/0 is required for acceptance). 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 potentially good record rather than endorse a questionable 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.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

One at Kinzua Dam, Warren, 12 September 2007. Class IV-B, 074-01-2007, 5/2, 5/2. This report may have been this species but the Committee felt the description did not sufficiently rule out a soaring cormorant.

Cattle Egret (*Bulbulcis ibis*)

One in Lower Frederick Twp., Montgomery, 7 November 2006. Class IV-A, 089-02-2006. 4/3, 1/5. This report is almost certainly this species, but the description failed to mention any note of size of the bird or neck length.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

One at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, Berks, 25 August 2007. Class IV-B, 186-01-2007. 1/5. This report lacked details regarding underwing and tail patterns essential for describing this species. The Committee refers readers to Johnson (2007) for guidance in documenting this species.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

One at Presque Isle S.P., Erie, 15 March 2004. Class IV-A, 346-01-2004. 3/3, 3/3. The identification is probably correct, but the photos are distant and do not adequately show the details needed for confirmation. An accompanying written description may have been helpful.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

One in Butler City, Butler, 7 July 2006. Class IV-A, 409a-02-2006. 5/2, 2/4. The report may well be correct but the photo did not adequately show a contrast between the primaries and the body and the written description failed to mention the under-tail pattern.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*)

One at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Berks, 21 November 2007. Class IV-B, 879-01-2007. 2/5. This report may be correct, but the documentation was insufficient and lacked a description of the bill or a flight call that would have adequately eliminated similar species.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

One in Kunkletown, Monroe, 22–23 December 2007. Class IV-B, 887-01-2007. 3/4. This report could very well be a Hoary Redpoll, but the members voting against acceptance noted inconsistencies between the written documentation and the photographs submitted especially regarding the under-tail coverts.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED because they represent or may represent an escapee or an introduced species not established in Pennsylvania. IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTED.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)

One at John Heinz NWR, Philadelphia, 25 June – 24 July 2006. Class V, 132-01-2006. 4/3, 4/3. This report circulated for two rounds and the committee was not completely

satisfied that it was of wild origin. From the one photograph submitted it could not be determined if the bird was unbanded. A Cinnamon Teal, having several aviculturists' bands, was noted only week's prior in nearby *Bucks*.

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

One visiting feeder in Kempton, *Berks*, 7-23 February 2007. Class V, 892-01-2007 . 2/5. This species is commonly sold in the cage bird trade and shows no natural pattern of vagrancy to North America. Photograph published in PB 21:47.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

Historical records are reports of review list species observed prior to the formation of PORC (1989) or any recent published reports that were not previously known to the committee. During the past year both the Chairman and Secretary researched various ornithological publications for past reports. The following accepted reports, reviewed during the annual meeting, will be given a PORC record number and added to the database.

Eared Grebe: 12/06/1987, Presque Isle S.P., Erie County. *American Birds* 42:264 – photo.

Northern Gannet: 3/30/2002, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County. *Pennsylvania Birds* 16:25 – photo.

American White Pelican: 5/12/1989, Crooked Creek Park, Armstrong County. *Pennsylvania Birds* 3:60 – photo.

Mississippi Kite: 6/1/1974, Glenroy PA. *American Birds* 28:785 – photo.

Sandhill Crane: 12/17/1989, Beltzville S.P., Carbon County. *Pennsylvania Birds* 3:139 – photo.

Piping Plover: 4/30/2002, Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana County. *Pennsylvania Birds* 16:100 – photo.

Red-necked Phalarope: 10/12/1988, Green Lane Res., Montgomery County. *Pennsylvania Birds* 2:152 – photo.

Parasitic Jaeger: 7/15/1969, State College, Centre County. *Audubon Field Notes* 23:659 – photo.

Sabine's Gull: 10/15/1979, Presque Isle S.P., Erie County. *American Birds* 34:161 – photo.

Sedge Wren: 6/15/1989, Saegertown, Crawford County. *Pennsylvania Birds* 3:97 – photo.

Mountain Bluebird: 12/26/1984, Beltzville Lake, Carbon County. *American Birds* 39:152 – photo.

Varied Thrush: 1/7/1970, Newtown, Bucks County. *Cassinia*, 1970 p.36 – photo.

Dickcissel: 7/9/1988, Collinsville, York County. *Pennsylvania Birds* 2:118 – photo.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 4/11/1990, Hershey, Dauphin County. *Pennsylvania Birds* 4:66 – photo.

Acknowledgements

I thank Al Guarente, Tom Johnson and Eric Witmer for reviewing earlier drafts of this report and their instructive and informative comments.

613 Howard Road
West Chester, PA 19380
nickpulcinella@verizon.net

Literature Cited

American Ornithologists' Union (AOU). 1998. *Check-list of North American Birds, 7th ed.* Allen Press, Lawrence, KS.

Detwiler, D. 2007. White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), Dauphin County, 8 Aug 2007. *Pennsylvania Birds* 21:127.

Dittman, D. and G. W. Lasley. 1992. How to document rare birds. *Birding* 24:145-159.

Hartshorne, H. 2007. Western Kingbird – Berks County. *Pennsylvania Birds* 21:27-28.

Johnson, T. 2007. From the files of PORC: Swainson's Hawk and Mississippi Kite identification. *Pennsylvania Birds* 21:160-161.

Johnson, T. 2007a. First Record of Scott's Oriole for Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 21:26.

Koch, A. 2007. White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), Northampton County 7 Aug 2007. *Pennsylvania Birds* 21:126.

Malosh, G. 2007. Belated Report of a Northern Gannet in Warren County. *Pennsylvania Birds* 21:133.

Malosh, G. and N. Pulcinella. 2009. Acceptance of Barnacle Goose to the Official List of the Birds of Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 22:194-199.

McWilliams, G. M. and D.W. Brauning. 2000. *The Birds of Pennsylvania*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N.Y.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. 2000. Documenting rare birds: what the Records Committee needs. *Pennsylvania Birds* 14:98-99.

Pulcinella, N. 2006. Official List of the Birds of Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 20:184-189.

Troyer, A. 2007. Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) in Juniata County. *Pennsylvania Birds* 21:166-167.

The 2008-09 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania

Nick Bolgiano

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held for the 109th time during 14 December 2008 to 5 January 2009. Pennsylvania highlights included irruptions of **White-winged Crossbills** and **Pine Siskins** and new highs for a number of species. The statewide species total was 165, the sixth highest historically, with an additional 5 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 109th count is referred to as occurring in 2008.

Weather and Effort

December's weather was seasonal and Erie was the only site to report heavy precipitation, experiencing heavy morning snow. Reports were received from 70 Pennsylvania sites, minus Dingman's Ferry from last year but adding Nescopeck Mountain, with Alan Gregory as compiler, after a six-year hiatus. The statewide party-hour total of 5750 was a new high, slightly above the previous high from 1999.

Species Numbers

Southern Lancaster County reclaimed the top spot with 106 species, Harrisburg was second with 101 after their spectacular 119 last year, and Southern Bucks County was third with 100. All top-ten sites were from the southeast. The 88 species observed at Butler County was noteworthy for a site outside the southeast. Figure 1 is a map of species totals.

Top 10 Sites

1	Southern Lancaster County	106
2	Harrisburg	101
3	Southern Bucks County	100
4	Western Chester County	98
5	Lititz	97
6	Central Bucks County	92
6	Upper Bucks County	92
8	Delaware County	91
8	Lancaster	91
10	Lehigh Valley	90

Eight long-established sites set species total highs: Culp (67 tied previous high), Huntingdon (73), Lewistown (82), Pennypack Valley (84), Rector (80), Tunkhannock (74), Wild Creek-Little Gap (83), and Williamsport (73).

Hits and Misses

A "hit" is an unlikely species found in 2008 (recorded in less than 40% of the years 1970-2007). A "miss" is an expected species not found in 2008 on count day (recorded in more than 60% of the years 1970-2007).

Hits

Ross's Goose
Brant
Trumpeter Swan
Harlequin Duck
Great Egret
Sandhill Crane
American Avocet
Spotted Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Laughing Gull
Little Gull
Thayer's Gull
Blue-headed Vireo
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Wood Thrush
Nashville Warbler
Ovenbird
Henslow's Sparrow

Misses

White-winged Scoter
Loggerhead Shrike
Common Yellowthroat

New species for the Pennsylvania CBC were **American Avocet** at Erie and **Henslow's Sparrow** at Western Chester County. Species observed in 2008 but infrequently seen on a previous state CBC included 5 **Trumpeter Swans** at Erie (fourth report); **Harlequin Duck** at Warren (second report); **Spotted Sandpiper** at Lewistown (eighth report); **Least Sandpiper** at Newville (tenth report); 2 **Thayer's Gulls** at Southern Bucks County (sixth report); **Blue-headed Vireo** at Butler County (eighth report); **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at Lancaster and Pennypack Valley (fourth and fifth reports); **Wood Thrush** at Chambersburg (ninth report); and **Nashville Warbler** at Southern Lancaster County (sixth report). In the initial data entry, **Barn Swallow** was reported at Chambersburg, but this was changed to swallow sp.; details were lacking.

Count-week species were **Surf** and **White-winged Scoters** at Erie, **Prairie Falcon** at Newville, **Cave**

Swallow at Pennypack Valley, and **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Southern Bucks County. A count-week **Nashville Warbler** was also reported from Southern Bucks County.

The absence of **Common Yellowthroat** was the first miss of this species in 28 years.

Waterfowl and Other Water Birds

Canada Geese were particularly abundant, with the 306,000 being approximately 50% more than had been reported from any other year. They concentrated in the southeast with a few high counts elsewhere (Figure 2). Noteworthy were 29,000 at Lewistown and 28,000 at Southern Bucks County.

The 14 **Greater White-fronted Goose** included 12 at Bedford County and 2 at Lehigh Valley. **Ross's Goose** was at 3 southeastern sites, 17 **Brant** were at West Chester, and the 34 **Cackling Geese** were reported from 14 southeastern sites. **Tundra Swans** were common, with 1482 at Butler County, 1197 at Lititz, and 445 at Lancaster.

The 48 **American Wigeon** was the lowest tally since 1940, when there were only 16 sites covered. Although **American Black Ducks** are the third most common duck in the state CBC, after **Mallard** and **Common Merganser**, they have been in a fifteen-year decline. A distribution map shows them to be most abundant in the northwest and southeast and absent in north-central and southwest (Figure 2). The 486 **Canvasbacks** at Erie were noteworthy, while the 1075 **Ring-necked Ducks** continued a ten-year period of abundance.

Uncommon water birds included **Red-throated Loon** at Culp and Lock Haven-Jersey Shore; 62 **Great Cormorants**, including 32 at Southern Bucks County and 29 at Pennypack Valley; **American Bittern** at Harrisburg; 3 **Great Egrets** and 2 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Southern Bucks County; **Green Heron** at Harrisburg; 13 **Sandhill Cranes** at Linesville and one at Southern Bucks County; **Spotted Sandpiper** at Lewistown; and **Least Sandpiper** at Newville. Only one **American Woodcock** was reported, from Wild Creek-Little Gap.

Gallinaceous Birds

The 123 **Ring-necked Pheasants** were on par with last year's low count. The 158 **Ruffed Grouse** continued a modest rebound after the low of 81 in 2005. The 4681 **Wild Turkeys** were among the higher tallies and were reported from 90% of sites for the second consecutive year.

Raptors and Vultures

The 335 **Bald Eagles** shattered last year's record of 240 and included 69 at Southern Lancaster County, 50 at Linesville, and 18 at Western Chester County. The 2093 **Black Vultures** were well above the previous high of 1790 set in 2006. The 32 **Merlins** and 32 **Peregrine Falcons** also set new highs.

The 290 **Northern Harriers** were a high number for the second consecutive year. **Red-tailed Hawk** numbers, when adjusted for effort, were on par with other recent high levels. During the last several years, **Red-shouldered Hawks** have been observed more frequently in recent years. Their highest concentrations were in the northwestern and south-central parts of the state (Figure 2). The 43 **Rough-legged Hawks** were an average number. **American Kestrel** reports showed the same geographic pattern as has been appearing in the Winter Raptor Survey: highest in the central valleys, but low in the southeast corner (Figure 2).

The 7 **Barn Owls** included 2 each at Curtin, Hamburg, and Lewistown. The 25 **Long-eared Owls** and 25 **Short-eared Owls** were both average numbers.

The top 10 owling sites were in the southeast and the central valleys, as shown in the below table. Upper Bucks County was the top individual site, with 239 totals owls, including an astonishing 190 **Eastern Screech-Owls**, the second highest North American count of this species and the most screech-owls recorded on a Pennsylvania CBC.

Gulls

Bucks County was once again a North American winter gull hotspot. Southern Bucks County was North America's top site for **Herring Gulls**, with 61,000 and was second for **Great Black-backed Gulls**, with nearly 3700. Among top North American sites for **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** counts, Central Bucks County ranked first with 230, Southern Bucks County was second with 188, and Upper Bucks County was fourth with 141. At Southern Bucks, 2 **Laughing Gulls**, 2 **Thayer's Gulls**, 16 **Iceland Gulls**, and 8 **Glaucous Gulls** were also reported.

Woodpeckers to Blackbirds

The thirty-one **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was an average number, but it included 20 at Gettysburg, one of their primary winter refuges in the Northeast. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were abundant for the second consecutive year. The 20 **Eastern Phoebes** was an average number. The 13 **Northern Shrikes** was an above average number and included 3 at Linesville.

For the fourth consecutive year, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

was found at the Pennypack Valley, with 75 being tallied this year. A single **Rough-wing** was observed at Lancaster.

There was a spike in **Fish Crow** numbers, while **Common Raven** numbers continued to increase. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** numbers were generally low except at two sites: 83 were tallied at Southern Lancaster County and 75 at State College. The **Carolina Wren** count of 5221 was the second highest but still 800 below 2006's phenomenal count. **Eastern Bluebird** numbers set a new high, even when adjusted for effort. The **Ovenbird** at Tunkhannock represented the fifth year out of six for this species being reported on the state CBC.

American Tree Sparrow numbers have been steadily declining; the 4375 birds established a new effort-adjusted low. The 5 **Lincoln's Sparrows** included 2 at Rector. For the second consecutive year, **Snow Buntings** were abundant, with highest numbers at more northern sites: 201 at Williamsport, 200 each at Bald Eagle State Park and Dubois, and 187 at Mansfield-Wellsboro.

Lehigh Valley was the top North American site for **Slate-colored Juncos**, while Southern Lancaster County, Lehigh Valley, and Harrisburg ranked among the top 10 in **White-throated Sparrow** counts. Southern Lancaster County was also among the top 10 site for **Northern Cardinal** counts.

There were nearly a quarter million blackbirds, predominantly **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** at Southern Lancaster County.

Finches

White-winged Crossbills irrupted for the first time since the winter of 1997-98. They were particularly widespread, at 44% of sites, but their numbers were not high at any one site. The highest numbers tended to be at sites of higher elevation (Figure 2). During the 1997-98 irruption, **Red Crossbills** accompanied **White-wingeds**, but only 7 **Red Crossbills** were reported from across 3 sites in 2008.

According to CBC data, the **Pine Siskin** irruption was the largest on record in Pennsylvania. They started appearing at fall hawk watches in October. In the State College area, siskins appeared en masse at feeders

Top 10 Owling Sites

	Barn	E Scr	GH	Barr	LE	SE	NSW	Total
1. Upper Bucks County	0	190	42	1	3	0	3	239
2. Southern Lancaster Co.	0	58	28	4	3	0	7	100
3. Western Chester County	0	66	15	2	0	6	1	90
4. Elverson	0	46	16	1	6	0	1	70
5. Lake Raystown	0	25	33	1	0	0	0	59
6. Lewistown	2	35	18	2	0	0	0	57
7. Central Bucks County	0	33	11	0	2	0	0	46
7. Hamburg	2	24	20	0	0	0	0	46
9. Reading	0	18	25	1	0	0	0	44
10. Bloomsburg	0	17	21	0	0	0	1	39
10. Delaware County	0	31	8	0	0	0	0	39
10. West Chester	0	34	5	0	0	0	0	39

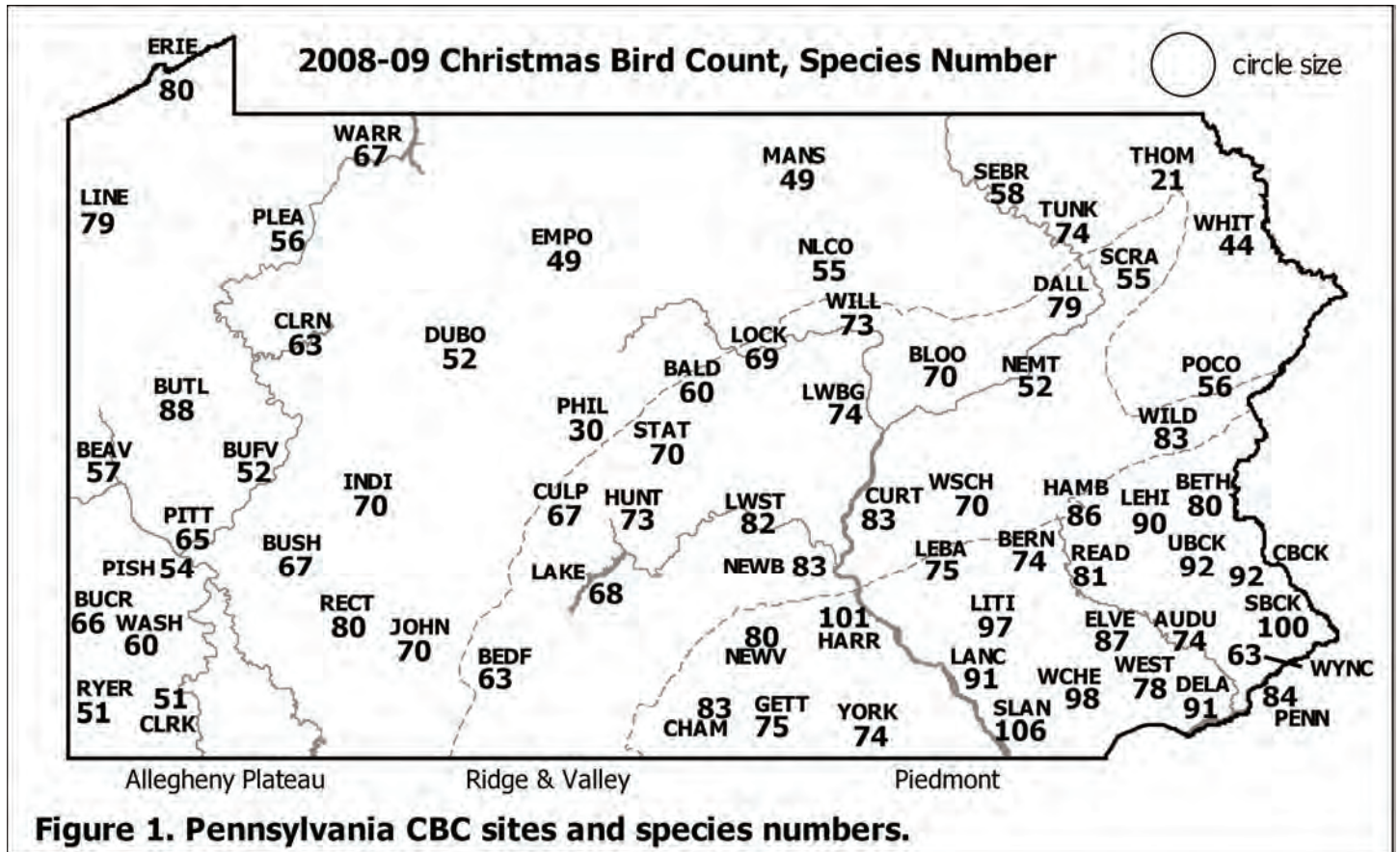
after an ice storm 10-11 December that affected much of the Northeast. They were sufficiently widespread as to be observed at 68 of 70 counts. As with siskins, the highest concentrations tended to be at sites of higher elevation (Figure 2). According to CBC data, the most notable prior irruption occurred during the winter of 1987-88; this year, effort-adjusted siskin numbers were 64% higher than the previous peak. The total number of siskins tallied was 11,600, which included 1964 birds at Warren, the fourth highest total among North American sites. (Omitting the Warren tally, this year's effort-adjusted siskin count would still be 45% higher than the previous record.)

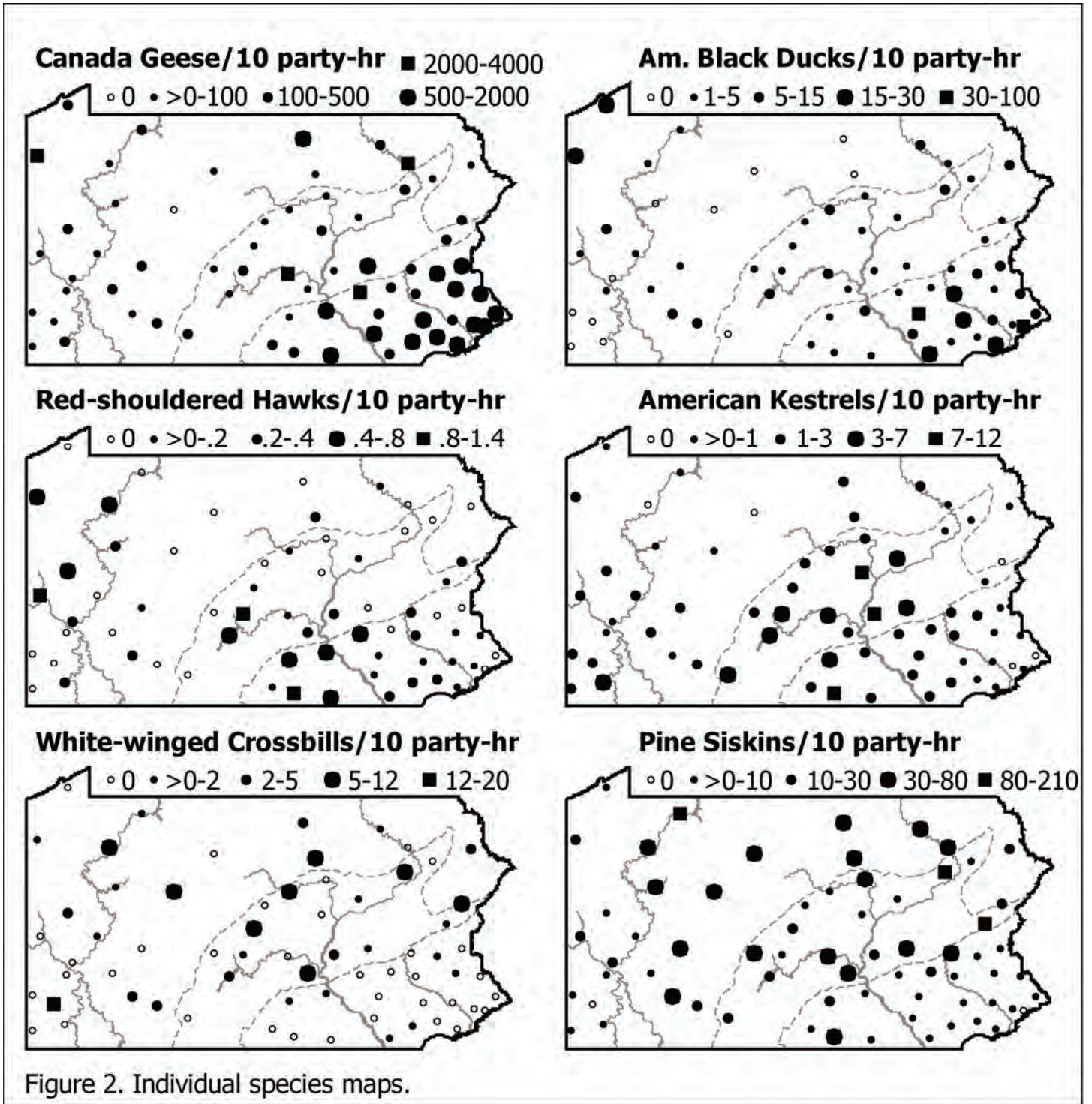
The 22,800 **American Goldfinches** also set a new high; when adjusted for effort, this number was roughly double the average. After last year's **Common Redpoll** irruption, there was a small rebound flight, with 181 birds at 9 sites. There were 9 **Pine Grosbeaks** at Chambersburg and 28 **Evening Grosbeaks** reported from a total of 4 sites.

711 W. Foster Ave.
State College, PA 16801
nboldgiano@pennswoods.net

Site Abbreviations

AUDU	Audubon	LINE	Linesville
BALD	Bald Eagle S.P.	LITI	Lititz
BEAV	Beaver	LOCK	Lock Haven-Jersey Shore
BEDF	Bedford County	MANS	Mansfield-Wellsboro
BERN	Bernville	NEMT	Nescopeck Mountain
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
DUBO	Dubois	SLAN	Southern Lancaster County
ELVE	Elverson	SEBR	Southeastern Bradford County
EMPO	Emporium	STAT	State College
ERIE	Erie	THOM	Thompson
GETT	Gettysburg	TUNK	Tunkhannock
HAMB	Hamburg	UBCK	Upper Bucks County
HARR	Harrisburg	WARR	Warren
HUNT	Huntingdon	WASH	Washington
INDI	Indiana	WCHE	Western Chester County
JOHN	Johnstown	WEST	West Chester
LAKE	Lake Raystown	WHIT	White Mills
LANC	Lancaster	WILD	Wild Creek-Little Gap
LEBA	Lebanon County	WILL	Williamsport
LEHI	Lehigh Valley	WSCH	Western Schuylkill County
LWBG	Lewisburg	WYNC	Wyncote
LWST	Lewistown	YORK	York





PENNSYLVANIA'S 2008 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	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	48	-	-	-	2470	10324	-	-	23	-	23	205	-	-	-	-	-	CW
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	6847	119	233	923	3404	12052	1430	361	213	1145	869	20823	2857	853	457	484	24	864
Mute Swan	6	-	CW	-	7	8	1	-	2	2	CW	31	-	-	-	-	3	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	51	4	-	-	5	-	-	1482	-	62	-	26	7	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	CW	-	-	10	-	-	4	4	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	124	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
American Wigeon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Black Duck	83	4	12	-	2	61	14	-	4	5	110	69	12	-	2	15	60	
Mallard	456	9	178	120	194	870	168	18	106	216	118	576	1084	70	91	124	247	450
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	CW	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	11	-	-	2	-	68	-	-	-	-	13	-	2	-	8	1	21	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bufflehead	67	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	1	7	49	14	6	-	-	15	15	-
Common Goldeneye	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	5	2	-	-	2	32	10	-
Hooded Merganser	26	2	7	3	-	2	-	-	32	77	1	-	-	-	2	-	86	-
Common Merganser	87	132	1	9	51	70	16	-	4	44	-	690	-	2	-	14	23	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	1	-	-	8	-	2	1	6	-	1	339	2	-	-	1	-	3	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	-	2	1	21	4	-	4	4	2	1	1	4	15	10	1
Ruffed Grouse	-	8	2	2	-	-	-	1	4	4	1	-	-	10	10	2	1	-
Wild Turkey	-	252	15	7	1	56	103	124	44	76	66	6	77	34	32	164	91	53
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	69	-	1	-	1	-	2	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	42	12	8	4	11	21	10	4	4	5	5	31	65	1	5	3	25	3
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	11	-	-	39	7	31	-	-	-	-	-	239	4	-	-	91	-	-
Turkey Vulture	62	-	-	-	53	55	1	8	-	-	-	269	2	-	8	-	59	-
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	2	7	-	1	2	1	3	-	3	8	8	6	-	1	-	-	3	2
Northern Harrier	3	4	-	2	3	7	24	3	3	4	4	9	1	19	2	-	14	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	2	1	1	6	8	5	2	3	3	3	15	9	5	4	8	5	5
Cooper's Hawk	8	2	1	1	5	11	6	7	3	7	4	10	13	5	6	7	3	3
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	2	2	3	1	-	2	-
Red-tailed Hawk	58	17	18	17	123	75	99	52	14	87	46	93	68	63	47	32	133	25
Rough-legged Hawk	-	1	-	-	1	2	CW	2	-	-	CW	CW	-	3	-	1	1	1

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2008 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
American Kestrel	4	7	6	15	20	4	59	15	5	19	12	6	27	9	21	13	70	3
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	2
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	3
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	3	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	191	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
American Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	1	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	205	59	167	7	9040	748	20	-	5	CW	312	1482	-	-	-	-	78	61
Herring Gull	-	4	20	1	304	10	8	-	5	-	39	205	-	-	-	-	5	18
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	230	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	87	-	-	-	-	2	-
Rock Pigeon	534	250	295	570	782	795	1056	276	256	260	691	549	1425	303	239	317	679	137
Mourning Dove	629	319	161	205	485	742	554	760	133	324	702	493	1155	537	216	76	511	15
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	25	3	-	-	8	10	17	8	4	2	9	33	3	1	1	10	9	8
Great Horned Owl	11	2	-	-	9	9	21	2	-	1	6	11	11	1	2	7	8	4
Barred Owl	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	5	-	1	-	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	2	5	-	-	2	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	31	4	6	4	7	17	13	15	3	1	1	16	19	2	7	9	9	3
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	180	16	42	35	59	96	42	199	20	63	82	98	121	30	35	33	66	21
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	18	5	1	-	5	27	2	21	-	5	3	16	10	1	2	3	7	-
Downy Woodpecker	258	31	58	47	87	188	88	136	37	62	111	101	161	83	27	69	78	50
Hairy Woodpecker	42	7	7	8	16	23	19	21	8	17	38	28	27	20	5	10	6	17
Yellow-shafted Flicker	111	11	12	11	33	94	26	70	9	44	14	45	60	5	43	8	29	4
Pileated Woodpecker	11	3	5	7	-	4	18	33	4	21	25	8	17	13	13	13	17	4
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Blue-headed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	252	85	127	133	67	271	302	320	88	139	258	228	268	358	119	64	67	72
American Crow	422	363	123	263	1873	6478	1079	973	139	502	200	463	177	854	951	200	959	541
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	3	14	7	-	-	-	-	59	2	-	-	-	2	-
Common Raven	-	9	1	20	-	-	-	6	8	-	1	-	3	1	3	9	3	1
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	530	508	52	44	-	7	117	79	253	-	-	24	451	-
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	642	-	29	-	-	-	-	393	3	24	-	272	19	-	82	-	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee	2	129	83	121	29	376	334	12	125	58	421	32	242	571	-	124	111	209
chickadee sp.	-	-	98	-	121	-	-	-	23	108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	416	89	135	99	134	421	281	183	54	144	167	302	210	117	54	101	252	132
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	-	-	1	5	2	1	1	1	5	11	2	6	2	2	-	14	15
White-breasted Nuthatch	163	61	60	60	75	142	139	182	30	56	102	98	124	84	37	69	71	57
Brown Creeper	20	-	2	2	5	15	11	11	4	8	12	6	10	4	1	6	10	12

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2008 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Carolina Wren	327	21	20	20	58	151	68	144	12	63	31	105	88	4	58	39	118	26
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	17	1	1	-	2	10	4	1	-	-	2	2	7	-	-	6	5	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	38	7	12	12	33	28	24	66	11	23	25	17	14	8	3	20	41	21
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	18	3	-	-	10	5	-	2	-	-	CW	8	10	-	-	1	4	-
Eastern Bluebird	285	97	33	78	191	202	266	192	24	89	230	175	108	71	67	106	245	42
Hermit Thrush	6	6	-	-	3	5	4	-	1	5	1	-	9	1	-	2	4	4
Wood Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
American Robin	622	13	8	8	539	1266	37	85	7	11	101	516	32	122	65	4	8	32
Gray Catbird	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	88	8	11	14	75	80	98	43	4	21	5	96	157	1	35	20	78	7
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	1397	3148	1084	2167	9143	3847	4255	2019	629	2205	1274	2643	4264	1883	747	1198	4309	2420
American Pipit	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	32	72	97	32	23	147	118	64	38	-	44	48	6	343	22	18	24	36
Nashville Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	100	-	4	8	5	10	CW	22	-	13	4	37	3	-	16	2	3	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	2	-	-	1	3	-	-	9	1	4	1	1	3	2	-	-	1	-
American Tree Sparrow	30	62	12	4	86	72	172	57	12	40	243	31	14	275	11	45	47	74
Chipping Sparrow	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	CW
Field Sparrow	48	-	-	-	18	3	2	10	-	1	2	11	13	-	-	-	22	-
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	-	-	-	-	-
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	3	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-
Song Sparrow	571	10	51	2	123	213	93	300	40	47	67	181	139	4	19	29	143	45
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	6	1	-	-	2	1	3	14	-	3	4	15	4	-	-	2	4	4
White-throated Sparrow	1026	119	20	12	508	1073	126	134	37	53	118	541	360	19	14	98	265	29
White-crowned Sparrow	2	-	1	5	64	25	8	121	-	4	-	17	127	1	-	4	53	-
Slate-colored Junco	1037	201	315	458	547	1293	738	404	230	232	678	533	1014	1035	108	357	495	293
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	200	-	-	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12	-	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	474	96	205	82	272	430	206	375	113	187	319	286	474	128	117	122	308	64
Red-winged Blackbird	316	-	-	3	-	46	4	-	-	-	21	454	5	94	-	-	120	CW
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	56	-	-	3	200	338	2	2	-	1	27	58	4	1	1	-	12	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	10	-	3	30	8	3	1	-	11	44	28	23	-	-	-	50	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	1	-	22	5	3	7	5	-	-	84	8	11	27	-	1	5	1
House Finch	362	61	96	84	247	544	203	46	29	112	162	325	527	146	56	217	172	104
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	2	-	28	-	-	6	-	-	17	41
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	31	9	41	56	156	4	79	27	28	32	68	8	103	613	7	366	72	492
American Goldfinch	341	353	121	254	227	372	549	294	231	168	260	208	484	687	59	264	458	335
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	145	318	769	485	438	339	463	691	142	415	498	198	2214	354	468	307	557	115
Number Species	74	60	57	63	74	80	70	66	52	67	88	92	83	63	51	67	83	79
Number Individuals	19231	6849	4830	6638	33081	45317	13603	9414	2971	7265	11449	34658	18867	9917	4393	5285	11964	7298
Party-hours	140.75	58.75	30.25	43	84.5	107	172.25	116	39	70.5	75	110.75	149	94.25	41.5	56.25	61.25	50.5

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2008 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DELA	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST	LINE
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Snow Goose	1856	-	314	-	-	-	10465	345	-	-	-	-	146	3171	23732	-	19	2
Ross's Goose	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brant	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Canada Goose	15880	CW	7067	57	637	2603	5147	13115	841	2081	1245	80	7686	15987	16805	878	28724	11268
Mute Swan	-	-	9	-	5	3	13	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	1	-	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	44	-	1	-	86	-	8	132	-	CW	-	-	445	-	-	-	426	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	5	2	4
Gadwall	10	-	-	-	4	-	10	78	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
American Wigeon	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-
American Black Duck	472	-	217	-	79	2	21	157	1	16	34	28	29	4	106	24	62	103
Mallard	525	503	786	-	411	96	632	1041	42	156	784	87	472	278	702	688	272	450
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2
Northern Pintail	11	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	12	CW	-	-	6	-	35	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	65	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	486	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	7	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	12	-	6	8	28	2	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	309	-	-	-	-	CW	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	5	-	115	1	-	7	-	7	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	7
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bufflehead	23	-	CW	-	132	-	-	44	5	3	4	-	8	3	3	30	-	5
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	142	-	-	17	15	1	-	3	34	1	1	3	-	57
Hooded Merganser	14	-	2	-	19	2	2	78	7	6	16	11	3	2	2	6	-	15
Common Merganser	165	-	3	CW	29	6	46	42	8	2	-	102	41	26	25	134	44	10
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	43	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Ruddy Duck	30	-	47	-	7	10	-	-	-	8	167	-	1	-	-	-	1	5
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	1	2	1	CW	-	2	1	-	-	8	-	-	1	1	1	6	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	2	1	22	-	-	8	2	10	9	1	3	-	-	-	3	2	1
Wild Turkey	2	60	93	56	61	38	158	36	243	250	-	52	1	55	92	102	101	62
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pied-billed Grebe	CW	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	1
Horned Grebe	CW	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	38	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	17	-	27	-	8	18	24	57	6	2	4	7	32	16	21	13	27	6
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	144	-	123	-	-	91	4	21	9	-	-	-	44	15	38	2	119	-
Turkey Vulture	226	-	95	-	-	111	5	61	4	-	-	-	85	9	35	-	6	-
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	13	1	CW	-	-	-	2	4	1	-	-	3	14	2	2	8	5	50
Northern Harrier	-	-	10	-	-	17	6	2	8	6	2	1	-	6	8	4	5	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	1	6	1	2	8	12	8	1	2	5	1	1	4	15	3	8	1
Cooper's Hawk	8	3	10	2	4	3	16	13	5	3	5	2	8	7	6	10	3	1
Northern Goshawk	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	-	2	-	-	9	5	5	7	1	-	2	1	4	-	-	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	74	7	58	8	11	43	123	88	40	70	50	19	50	73	102	102	82	28
Rough-legged Hawk	-	6	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3	2	1

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2008 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DELA	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST	LINE
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	3	3	12	-	1	52	34	17	18	20	15	16	13	23	13	79	49	7
Merlin	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	22	-	97	-	626	-	-	2	-	8	8	10	12	53	8	-	-	33
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Killdeer	-	-	2	-	-	2	3	10	5	-	-	-	3	5	-	3	19	-
American Avocet	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	8	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Gull	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	719	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	5
Ring-billed Gull	1435	-	4728	-	4523	282	165	4426	76	31	CW	584	5005	130	130	148	5	832
Herring Gull	308	-	244	-	1264	-	39	79	-	-	-	1	150	5	8	4	-	18
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	49	-	4	-	187	-	3	37	-	-	-	-	182	1	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	279	255	417	54	436	232	1046	592	323	176	963	236	533	841	482	641	2289	81
Mourning Dove	560	139	496	233	79	327	1273	726	184	625	262	178	403	379	1389	395	494	99
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	31	-	46	3	-	-	24	13	11	3	1	25	2	10	3	13	35	-
Great Horned Owl	8	1	16	-	1	3	20	16	8	2	1	33	2	4	13	6	18	2
Barred Owl	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	3	-	CW	1	1	-	-	2	-	2	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	7	2	22	-	1	5	11	27	6	5	3	1	19	7	13	16	15	8
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	100	9	138	8	10	116	121	112	28	51	14	44	75	78	113	39	125	39
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5	1	20	5	-	12	14	16	11	3	-	7	24	4	26	1	16	1
Downy Woodpecker	116	46	152	27	51	81	223	177	59	71	23	104	77	99	191	79	208	75
Hairy Woodpecker	38	15	46	8	10	26	42	22	9	18	7	24	10	10	31	12	40	24
Yellow-shafted Flicker	41	1	107	3	5	49	100	79	11	19	1	23	36	45	97	24	67	27
Pileated Woodpecker	8	8	13	11	-	9	12	17	19	24	7	35	1	5	8	18	33	8
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Northern Shrike	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Blue-headed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	202	111	336	244	79	220	242	134	91	286	199	64	73	80	161	79	203	134
American Crow	569	344	569	133	172	116	691	3629	283	3275	528	340	1354	1549	1254	1286	699	177
Fish Crow	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	434	-	3	-	-	70	3	4	7	-	-
Common Raven	-	8	-	20	-	11	5	2	20	3	14	7	-	4	-	3	24	-
Horned Lark	-	6	479	-	9	65	340	37	70	6	198	-	152	171	613	21	278	2
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	308	-	189	-	-	267	-	396	-	-	-	-	265	5	54	-	2	-
Black-capped Chickadee	4	316	10	326	130	87	342	29	199	401	248	188	2	75	366	136	188	291
chickadee sp.	-	-	35	-	-	59	152	138	-	-	-	-	22	38	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	270	52	400	76	19	282	476	212	172	172	68	187	135	128	364	202	519	59
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	5	1	7	2	1	1	6	32	5	2	15	2	-	19	6	1	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	116	54	146	76	26	132	142	112	90	103	39	100	46	66	150	88	191	65
Brown Creeper	15	3	10	4	2	2	15	22	3	5	2	13	17	10	14	11	31	7

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2008 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DELA	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST	LINE
Carolina Wren	109	2	189	14	1	66	197	166	28	24	10	65	106	45	122	26	180	8
House Wren	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	10	-	6	2	-	1	2	17	-	1	1	3	5	4	6	1	21	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14	6	29	13	18	9	42	57	25	22	6	28	37	7	51	18	140	25
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10	1	9	-	-	5	18	21	-	2	18	1	9	3	14	-	1	-
Eastern Bluebird	94	3	299	22	-	127	399	261	73	122	50	89	95	232	167	258	257	84
Hermit Thrush	10	-	20	2	4	1	9	7	11	1	-	3	5	5	6	2	7	-
Wood Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Robin	1295	55	375	1	38	23	84	116	10	16	4	37	65	4	573	20	9	11
Gray Catbird	-	-	3	4	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	2
Northern Mockingbird	77	-	136	-	1	76	162	93	18	10	5	17	39	52	124	50	102	1
Brown Thrasher	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	1650	418	6340	131	752	4492	7126	5275	1410	2746	1434	1928	3696	4042	2771	3951	4572	913
American Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	10	-	4	-	2	32	2	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	9	6	78	24	6	27	32	194	57	11	9	14	18	1	15	50	45	1
Nashville Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	4	-	4	-	121	12	15	17	6	2	-	1	5	6	31	-	29	3
Pine Warbler	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	18	-	3	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	4	-
American Tree Sparrow	17	91	68	23	197	7	170	27	73	184	102	71	2	26	52	34	93	248
Chipping Sparrow	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	4	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	31	-	53	-	-	-	43	9	4	2	-	6	5	1	14	20	12	-
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	13	-	2	-	-	-
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	5	-	3	-	-	1	3	4	-	CW	CW	-	1	-	2	-	1	-
Song Sparrow	522	21	412	48	7	91	307	387	62	71	28	42	345	100	451	40	199	29
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	17	-	35	-	1	4	6	6	-	4	12	4	5	-	10	-	-	8
White-throated Sparrow	1022	4	731	28	6	283	664	1772	49	-	46	70	689	389	1933	102	406	8
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	17	-	-	89	44	42	19	47	7	1	45	52	76	45	86	2
Slate-colored Junco	832	418	617	948	52	710	1404	727	731	713	220	384	228	808	4858	426	1021	232
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Snow Bunting	-	200	1	-	45	-	2	9	2	100	1	-	-	-	51	-	10	-
Northern Cardinal	444	72	427	82	71	287	450	689	127	202	107	167	224	170	692	180	410	108
Red-winged Blackbird	591	-	1124	-	-	43	176	57	7	77	1	-	-	35	6	4	6	-
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	4	-	5	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
Rusty Blackbird	62	-	105	-	-	-	6	2	1	CW	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-
Common Grackle	1246	-	16305	-	-	-	688	2	-	-	21	-	93	-	-	-	1	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	26	9	18	-	-	-	41	5	-	2	2	-	30	-	15	1	1	1
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	9	11	41	3	-	35	6	26	23	35	3	13	1	-	3	3	9	-
House Finch	304	63	317	28	21	429	494	231	36	313	63	29	222	200	349	192	236	45
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Crossbill	-	55	-	-	2	68	CW	19	2	CW	17	17	-	-	6	-	-	3
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	8	263	36	252	44	355	623	113	55	375	84	109	2	40	44	20	366	108
American Goldfinch	350	210	347	202	16	205	719	439	204	637	234	444	95	509	371	317	954	122
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	340	159	220	109	177	176	740	622	358	670	494	167	318	414	365	449	689	215
Number Species	91	52	87	48	79	75	86	101	73	70	70	68	91	75	90	74	82	79
Number Individuals	33322	4036	46028	3334	12773	13161	36954	39322	6404	14329	7937	5759	24419	30684	60495	11555	45351	16335
Party-hours	220	52.75	120	58.25	45.5	73	130	117	57	115.25	60	48	52.5	79.25	116.5	83.75	77	47

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2008 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEMT	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	7297	-	57	-	-	-	-	259	-	-	-	-	-	1826	-	-	200	861
Ross's Goose	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Canada Goose	4971	552	3145	754	238	826	1	3736	120	822	1415	511	807	2126	270	233	812	27579
Mute Swan	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	15	4	-	4	66
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	1197	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Wood Duck	3	6	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	CW	-	1	1
Gadwall	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	1	-	-	100
American Wigeon	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
American Black Duck	797	48	-	9	18	7	-	472	-	2	-	24	10	221	52	-	8	110
Mallard	1542	630	2	62	270	548	6	218	2	450	540	27	362	862	72	91	54	899
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Northern Shoveler	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	32
Northern Pintail	6	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Green-winged Teal	1	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	25	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	554
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	52
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	1	-	-	2	11	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	119
Common Goldeneye	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	9
Hooded Merganser	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	90
Common Merganser	82	3	-	12	34	8	CW	103	-	-	1	77	-	218	-	-	7	2077
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Ruddy Duck	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	1	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	165
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	11	-	-	1	-	5	-
Wild Turkey	77	86	23	127	118	56	18	14	31	79	110	48	103	57	35	112	64	-
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-throated Loon	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	1	-	-	CW	-	-	6
Horned Grebe	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Great Blue Heron	40	1	-	1	18	85	-	4	-	9	19	1	1	18	3	6	1	66
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Black Vulture	53	-	-	-	-	88	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	134	6	-	-	28
Turkey Vulture	136	1	-	-	3	53	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	167	38	-	-	24
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	6	2	1	-	2	-	2	3	-	-	2	6	1	2	-	-	1	5
Northern Harrier	6	4	2	4	2	12	11	4	-	-	CW	-	-	4	1	-	1	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	CW	1	2	4	15	2	6	1	2	8	3	2	10	3	2	2	7
Cooper's Hawk	13	8	2	-	3	12	3	6	1	4	20	3	3	8	1	8	5	13
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1	-	1	2	5	1	-	-	-	6	4	1	3	3	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	78	28	27	19	53	107	11	15	1	42	113	29	21	101	62	38	19	126
Rough-legged Hawk	1	2	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2008 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEMT	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK	
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	28	6	5	3	15	44	4	1	1	9	6	-	-	19	2	11	2	-	-
Merlin	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	5
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	274
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Killdeer	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
American Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	9	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Little Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	241	17	-	20	942	-	1424	-	-	-	583	-	181	934	-	-	1019	7568	-
Herring Gull	37	-	2	10	24	-	53	-	-	-	24	-	3	118	-	-	12	61091	-
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	188	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Great Black-backed Gull	4	-	-	13	-	-	-	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3688
Rock Pigeon	625	642	328	65	590	1239	147	438	130	238	829	21	223	861	28	26	1066	282	-
Mourning Dove	575	238	425	86	551	522	117	619	53	434	847	179	58	890	184	394	287	659	-
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	15	-	-	13	11	12	1	3	-	1	7	7	6	18	9	-	1	11	-
Great Horned Owl	16	CW	-	18	12	-	1	4	-	4	8	1	1	25	4	1	3	3	-
Barred Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	CW	1	4	-	-	-	-
Long-eared Owl	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	30	4	1	1	15	18	-	13	-	12	11	4	3	15	2	11	1	18	-
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	79	19	16	15	114	138	5	44	1	112	171	14	34	82	66	66	12	87	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	6	1	-	12	12	12	3	6	-	12	6	-	4	16	9	3	1	9	-
Downy Woodpecker	107	47	41	19	158	141	15	65	3	126	189	37	77	108	92	52	69	137	-
Hairy Woodpecker	24	3	10	4	28	29	3	13	3	16	53	16	20	22	27	10	14	19	-
Yellow-shafted Flicker	61	6	1	3	73	85	1	18	-	29	65	1	15	49	18	33	-	107	-
Pileated Woodpecker	12	9	1	2	38	14	2	1	-	22	22	15	6	3	18	18	4	-	-
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue-headed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	145	112	185	45	169	212	173	55	14	124	385	210	97	129	173	173	175	184	-
American Crow	899	406	311	154	979	389	396	29	33	453	10260	142	262	736	531	361	11341	1377	-
Fish Crow	23	-	-	2	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3420
Common Raven	1	3	8	1	3	4	47	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	11	6	-	-	-
Horned Lark	44	173	57	9	250	602	125	-	-	-	-	-	-	81	-	3	-	125	-
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	144	-	-	51	158	-	-	179	-	207	149	-	-	69	4	88	-	283	-
Black-capped Chickadee	117	125	213	79	318	97	171	-	40	6	225	386	395	6	462	2	367	10	-
chickadee sp.	98	-	-	-	19	10	-	-	-	307	274	-	-	247	-	26	-	2	-
Tufted Titmouse	187	123	59	47	427	317	38	94	8	211	517	98	242	196	285	106	99	174	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	-	1	11	20	-	-	-	4	5	13	7	7	10	2	2	-	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	102	54	40	29	147	155	19	75	7	141	204	124	92	117	115	2	69	64	-
Brown Creeper	12	3	2	1	26	32	2	6	-	15	4	10	11	9	18	2	-	13	-

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2008 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEMT	NEWB	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK
Carolina Wren	119	27	3	11	220	146	4	76	2	118	274	9	19	141	54	23	12	140	
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	9	-	-	13	8	8	1	9	9	-	3	2	-	4	5	-	-	8	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	21	5	3	2	104	85	11	6	1	36	5	20	33	38	65	10	2	22	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	-	-	11	19	19	2	4	4	1	2	1	1	10	1	1	-	22	
Eastern Bluebird	147	68	4	25	357	357	64	6	4	93	37	11	143	230	98	58	25	39	
Hermit Thrush	7	-	-	13	3	3	-	1	-	1	-	6	2	5	4	-	-	6	
Wood Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Robin	14	9	1	15	29	56	28	201	-	198	1020	6	56	24	12	55	65	584	
Gray Catbird	3	1	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Northern Mockingbird	76	13	-	3	106	181	3	34	-	26	47	1	8	75	10	5	8	102	
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
European Starling	3146	986	377	244	6839	4535	698	1061	141	2921	2864	349	175	5506	512	908	2623	5758	
American Pipit	33	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	40	
Cedar Waxwing	7	2	77	17	43	109	201	-	-	59	87	CW	27	23	24	60	28	2	
Nashville Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	
Myrtle Warbler	3	-	-	9	37	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	12	3	4	-	81	
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Eastern Towhee	25	-	-	1	3	3	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	2	CW	5	-	3	
American Tree Sparrow	117	94	36	36	35	103	96	5	1	12	20	87	7	27	98	9	33	18	
Chipping Sparrow	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Field Sparrow	24	1	-	19	6	6	-	22	-	9	3	-	5	1	4	-	-	33	
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Savannah Sparrow	12	-	-	1	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	8	
Song Sparrow	356	8	1	19	172	206	6	139	-	168	331	11	23	146	83	46	15	330	
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	
Swamp Sparrow	9	-	1	3	11	-	-	4	-	1	5	-	-	4	18	1	-	27	
White-throated Sparrow	744	88	5	15	554	1095	6	519	-	122	139	34	35	592	148	23	12	1621	
White-crowned Sparrow	29	-	-	42	146	-	-	1	-	8	-	-	-	11	1	1	-	1	
Slate-colored Junco	451	683	261	137	996	749	456	273	44	494	549	514	716	669	681	322	550	941	
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Snow Bunting	-	11	187	-	-	25	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	37	-	-	1	
Northern Cardinal	310	154	66	46	647	503	26	132	9	470	829	106	71	299	239	213	113	437	
Red-winged Blackbird	428	-	4	1	-	9	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	272	22	-	-	1153	
Eastern Meadowlark	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	
Rusty Blackbird	5	-	-	2	-	5	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	1	
Common Grackle	165	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	3	-	3	441	
Brown-headed Cowbird	53	-	10	-	1	37	10	CW	-	2	-	-	-	25	2	-	-	3	
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Purple Finch	10	5	2	-	19	21	9	-	3	-	1	14	2	7	18	10	1	-	
House Finch	341	186	86	33	172	378	89	113	17	145	450	37	24	413	97	46	140	205	
Red Crossbill	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
White-winged Crossbill	-	49	15	-	60	3	24	-	-	-	-	38	46	-	22	-	-	-	
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	
Pine Siskin	42	24	248	25	257	147	183	-	120	41	206	406	119	9	562	2	23	3	
American Goldfinch	276	184	219	39	801	557	243	116	33	245	650	379	251	375	282	210	173	310	
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
House Sparrow	49	69	55	46	301	824	125	551	13	274	828	97	185	451	347	576	455	491	
Number Species	97	69	49	52	83	80	55	84	30	54	65	56	56	81	80	51	55	100	
Number Individuals	27777	6506	6629	2298	16697	17443	3708	11549	840	9411	25539	4163	5035	19952	6106	4504	20025	125803	
Party-hours	127	59.75	41	13	66	88.5	36.25	50.5	11	152	195.5	58	49	99	76	46.75	90.75	188.5	

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2008 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	327	-	2	-	23	97	-	-	396	8957	-	-	-	406	535	1
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Canada Goose	5027	1805	558	-	8138	10870	1149	229	14670	14554	84	1365	301	4133	6750	3734
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	CW	-	-	-	100	-	120	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	2	2	-	-	1	3	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Gadwall	23	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Black Duck	243	53	14	-	13	94	1	-	28	45	16	15	3	4	4	25
Mallard	758	49	464	-	129	633	412	78	497	282	41	162	323	127	327	941
Blue-winged Teal	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	21
Canvasback	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	6	-	1	-	12	23	-	-	11	209	-	2	-	-	3	32
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	23	-	-	-	-	3	126	-	CW	18	-	4	2	-	-	15
Common Goldeneye	4	-	-	-	1	5	29	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	12	-	-	-	20	28	55	-	12	33	-	45	-	-	18	23
Common Merganser	579	75	1	-	60	168	254	-	48	38	8	27	37	12	99	10
Red-breasted Merganser	1	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	30	31	-	12	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	2	-	5	5	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	8	4	5	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	-	200	57	42	77	25	62	48	1	-	64	154	73	57	-	-
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Pied-billed Grebe	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	55	2	13	CW	1	19	4	1	22	21	-	7	3	2	16	15
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	235	-	-	-	-	83	-	-	217	143	-	8	-	-	17	46
Turkey Vulture	378	-	-	-	-	289	-	-	359	231	-	2	-	-	32	158
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	69	5	-	-	15	8	17	-	18	4	4	2	5	2	1	8
Northern Harrier	9	1	2	-	1	4	-	-	11	1	1	8	2	8	2	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	25	3	6	CW	2	11	6	-	7	7	-	1	2	1	8	3
Cooper's Hawk	20	6	9	-	2	15	4	2	22	5	1	5	6	1	3	6
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	4	4	-	1	-	-	1	3
Red-tailed Hawk	101	53	51	CW	43	139	26	11	158	87	11	59	33	40	23	69
Rough-legged Hawk	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2008 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
Golden Eagle	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	31	7	10	-	3	9	1	7	24	1	1	1	15	18	CW	15
Merlin	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	1	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	14	-	3	-	2	-	1	4	2	3	-	-	-	-	2	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	12	-	2	-	-	1	-	4	6	13	-	-	-	1	-	1
American Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	156	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	8498	-	CW	-	7	1599	41	-	2997	308	133	37	260	6	70	2515
Herring Gull	340	-	-	-	7	159	1	-	341	3	-	5	12	-	8	5
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	-	-	-	-	141	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	60	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Rock Pigeon	1321	799	852	26	281	570	330	129	969	120	157	224	1039	163	130	330
Mourning Dove	736	338	338	74	312	1279	321	219	825	365	65	345	290	340	670	221
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	58	8	5	-	7	190	2	-	66	34	-	17	16	-	-	-
Great Horned Owl	28	5	4	CW	2	42	3	-	15	5	3	4	4	1	-	1
Barred Owl	4	-	2	CW	2	1	1	-	2	-	-	1	2	1	-	-
Long-eared Owl	3	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	7	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	45	2	3	-	4	10	3	3	11	15	-	8	4	1	11	11
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	222	39	39	5	31	171	22	51	165	103	4	27	31	20	74	46
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	29	6	8	-	7	26	-	8	12	11	-	3	6	1	12	5
Downy Woodpecker	195	95	75	28	60	211	68	65	138	110	26	47	60	34	98	47
Hairy Woodpecker	35	15	22	17	16	38	33	12	15	25	11	10	11	5	11	12
Yellow-shafted Flicker	207	31	15	-	14	164	4	19	73	65	2	23	18	8	47	36
Pileated Woodpecker	7	15	11	CW	8	17	10	12	9	4	3	4	12	7	-	2
Eastern Phoebe	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Blue-headed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	442	187	162	44	78	599	437	127	286	322	63	55	169	58	88	51
American Crow	689	934	2333	22	398	1642	187	109	720	1007	264	689	1336	405	133	880
Fish Crow	25	-	21	-	-	3	-	-	31	3	-	-	1	3	-	-
Common Raven	-	7	12	CW	6	-	4	-	-	-	-	5	9	5	-	-
Horned Lark	553	-	-	-	10	-	1	-	113	158	-	87	3	207	-	15
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	537	-	-	-	-	532	-	28	251	201	-	-	-	-	260	152
Black-capped Chickadee	1	407	270	104	185	49	452	65	1	-	219	193	211	-	4	2
chickadee sp.	1	-	-	-	-	62	-	62	-	82	-	-	-	84	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	500	123	168	24	105	576	105	109	242	198	69	139	168	93	164	98
Red-breasted Nuthatch	83	16	75	CW	3	12	3	19	1	5	1	4	11	2	1	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	163	120	135	11	59	206	105	70	149	132	69	31	49	21	68	47
Brown Creeper	54	7	21	CW	5	11	8	5	4	11	3	14	9	3	4	4

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2008 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
Carolina Wren	282	39	37	-	27	208	11	37	125	117	2	30	33	24	73	67
House Wren	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	33	12	1	-	1	8	-	1	7	6	-	5	2	3	5	7
Golden-crowned Kinglet	77	24	60	-	35	37	12	4	15	14	-	25	18	12	11	8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	25	-	-	-	-	12	-	1	3	7	-	5	3	1	6	7
Eastern Bluebird	436	152	169	-	84	485	-	11	319	198	51	159	97	56	19	238
Hermit Thrush	60	1	4	-	1	10	-	1	9	7	-	9	2	6	5	1
Wood Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Robin	260	64	8	-	265	724	5	85	189	1659	1	464	273	7	905	17
Gray Catbird	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	198	-	51	-	3	183	-	10	167	121	-	44	17	26	29	71
Brown Thrasher	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	2848	2174	3979	1	2753	7709	1980	479	8818	6182	555	618	3934	872	1493	2811
American Pipit	174	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	63	47	27	CW	94	143	-	21	25	19	3	49	76	-	-	16
Nashville Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	115	-	2	-	-	162	-	2	12	8	-	2	4	-	-	11
Pine Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	20	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	6	4	-	-	1	1	-	2
American Tree Sparrow	42	99	88	39	160	22	71	11	22	5	3	80	65	54	-	8
Chipping Sparrow	1	-	3	-	1	-	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	37	-	-	-	5	30	-	5	47	16	-	22	6	5	5	5
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	2	-
Song Sparrow	698	58	32	-	54	328	43	45	410	291	3	66	41	62	77	96
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	23	3	3	-	3	35	-	2	6	4	-	3	1	5	CW	-
White-throated Sparrow	2616	39	200	1	51	633	38	25	579	485	-	130	110	80	353	248
White-crowned Sparrow	173	-	4	-	-	49	1	1	32	4	-	4	3	9	-	9
Slate-colored Junco	974	414	527	104	379	989	822	229	819	671	131	617	431	1076	609	341
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	30	-	-	62	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	201	8	-	-
Northern Cardinal	996	148	158	11	101	573	188	140	357	397	15	83	111	107	205	159
Red-winged Blackbird	128603	-	-	-	21	460	-	5	5030	2532	-	27	7	1	111	-
Eastern Meadowlark	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	85	-	-	-	-	30	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	1
Common Grackle	120080	-	2	-	-	145	1	10	19980	16852	-	-	-	330	5	16
Brown-headed Cowbird	10000	56	12	-	104	30	1	31	337	211	-	-	-	5	2	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	13	37	6	12	1	27	6	28	13	15	28	4	22	1	4	2
House Finch	231	167	236	20	115	575	163	139	336	326	41	100	172	47	188	140
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
White-winged Crossbill	8	4	53	-	-	3	5	50	1	-	8	6	-	5	-	-
Common Redpoll	26	-	-	30	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	117	183	113	95	208	9	1964	-	70	19	53	602	453	195	4	9
American Goldfinch	598	282	586	89	147	426	595	138	234	277	150	503	691	425	176	121
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	24	-	-	1	-	-
House Sparrow	698	453	714	-	166	360	238	458	642	64	54	61	194	397	353	148
Number Species	106	58	70	21	74	92	67	60	98	78	44	83	73	70	63	74
Number Individuals	296229	9934	12855	799	15098	35294	10574	3476	62667	58533	2448	7606	11567	10120	14342	14181
Party-hours	146.25	53.25	96	2.5	39	199	94.5	25	156	116.25	29.5	50	80.5	42	55.25	63

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2008 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS SUMMARY

SPECIES				TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT	SPECIES				TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT
Gr. White-fronted Goose	14	2	12	BEDF	6	5	2	EMPO	Carolina Wren	5221	69	327	AUDU		
Snow Goose	74387	30	23732	LEHI	983	64	79	LWBG	House Wren	8	6	2	JOHN,SLAN		
Ross's Goose	3	3	1	**1	32	20	4	WCHE	Winter Wren	293	51	33	SLAN		
Brant	17	1	17	WEST	32	17	5	SBCK	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1771	68	140	LWST		
Cackling Goose	34	14	8	SBCK	1	1	1	UBCK	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	293	43	25	SLAN		
Canada Goose	306344	68	28724	LWST	1446	25	626	ERIE	Eastern Bluebird	9368	67	485	UBCK		
Mute Swan	207	28	66	SBCK	14	2	13	LINE	Hermit Thrush	309	52	60	SLAN		
Trumpeter Swan	5	1	5	ERIE	111	27	19	LWST	Wood Thrush	1	1	1	CHAM		
Tundra Swan	4266	20	1482	BUTL	1	1	1	ERIE	American Robin	13511	68	1659	WEST		
Wood Duck	74	25	10	BETH	1	1	1	NEWV	Gray Catbird	38	19	4	EMPO,SLAN		
Gadwall	404	17	124	BUTL	64	15	20	SLAN	Northern Mockingbird	3422	62	198	SLAN		
American Wigeon	48	14	23	HARR	1	1	1	WILD	Brown Thrasher	6	5	2	SBCK		
American Black Duck	4144	57	797	LITI	2	1	2	SBCK	European Starling	188528	70	9143	BERN		
Mallard	24880	68	1542	LITI	1	1	1	ERIE	American Pipit	332	15	174	SLAN		
Blue-winged Teal	2	1	2	SBCK	900	7	719	ERIE	Cedar Waxwing	3110	62	343	CLRN		
Northern Shoveler	92	9	46	DELA	64079	48	9040	BERN	Nashville Warbler	1	1	1	SLAN		
Northern Pintail	81	19	12	HUNT	64994	42	61091	SBCK	Myrtle Warbler	952	45	162	UBCK		
Green-winged Teal	163	17	65	DELA	2	2	2	SBCK	Pine Warbler	8	5	3	WCHE		
Canvasback	550	7	486	ERIE	21	6	16	SBCK	Palm Warbler	3	1	3	PENN		
Redhead	54	4	29	BUTL	575	13	230	CBCK	Ovenbird	1	1	1	TUNK		
Ring-necked Duck	1075	31	554	SBCK	10	2	8	SBCK	Eastern Towhee	145	37	25	LITI		
Greater Scaup	328	8	309	ERIE	4398	18	3688	SBCK	American Tree Sparrow	4375	69	275	CLRN		
Lesser Scaup	254	17	115	ERIE	34508	70	2289	LWST	Chipping Sparrow	37	20	4	LEHI,PENN		
Harlequin Duck	1	1	1	WARR	30114	70	1389	LEHI	Field Sparrow	640	44	53	ELVE		
Black Scoter	3	1	3	ERIE	7	4	2	**2	Vesper Sparrow	3	2	2	HAMB		
Long-tailed Duck	11	5	6	ERIE	879	53	190	UBCK	Savannah Sparrow	140	13	40	PENN		
Bufflehead	777	33	132	ERIE	478	60	42	UBCK	Henslow's Sparrow	1	1	1	WCHE		
Common Goldeneye	419	27	142	ERIE	53	29	5	CLRN	Fox Sparrow	59	25	9	SLAN		
Hooded Merganser	798	40	90	SBCK	25	10	6	ELVE	Song Sparrow	9603	68	698	SLAN		
Common Merganser	5864	53	2077	SBCK	25	10	5	CLRN	Lincoln's Sparrow	5	4	2	RECT		
Red-breasted Merganser	102	16	43	ERIE	22	12	7	SLAN	Swamp Sparrow	347	47	35	ELVE,UBCK		
Ruddy Duck	903	31	339	BUTL	1	1	1	HARR	White-throated Sparrow	24094	67	2616	SLAN		
Ring-necked Pheasant	123	32	21	BLOO	622	64	45	SLAN	White-crowned Sparrow	1533	47	173	SLAN		
Ruffed Grouse	158	37	22	EMPO	31	8	20	GETT	Slate-colored Junco	43916	70	4858	LEHI		
Wild Turkey	4681	63	252	BALD	4583	70	222	SLAN	Lapland Longspur	19	8	7	BUTL		
Northern Bobwhite	8	1	8	CLRK	526	58	29	SLAN	Snow Bunting	1254	27	201	WILL		
Red-throated Loon	2	2	1	CULP,LOCK	6371	70	258	AUDU	Northern Cardinal	17586	70	996	SLAN		
Common Loon	110	14	69	BUTL	1313	70	53	PITT	Red-winged Blackbird	141880	39	128603	SLAN		
Pied-billed Grebe	42	14	8	LAKE	2655	67	207	SLAN	Eastern Meadowlark	59	17	10	SLAN,WSCH		
Horned Grebe	13	8	5	LOCK	761	64	38	NEWB	Rusty Blackbird	352	21	105	ELVE		
Double-cr. Cormorant	123	8	39	SBCK	20	13	3	BUCR,NEWV	Common Grackle	177118	37	120080	SLAN		
Great Cormorant	62	3	32	SBCK	13	10	3	LINE	Brown-headed Cowbird	11291	41	10000	SLAN		
Great Blue Heron	998	63	85	NEWV	1	1	1	BUTL	Baltimore Oriole	3	3	1	**3		
Great Egret	3	1	3	SBCK	12084	70	599	UBCK	Pine Grosbeak	9	9	9	CHAM		
Black-cr. Night-Heron	2	1	2	SBCK	74335	70	11341	SCRA	Purple Finch	742	58	84	BUTL		
Black Vulture	2093	31	239	CBCK	4151	26	3420	SBCK	House Finch	13033	70	575	UBCK		
Turkey Vulture	3028	34	378	SLAN	324	41	47	NLCO	Red Crossbill	7	3	5	DALL		
Osprey	1	1	1	SCRA	7128	44	613	LEHI	White-winged Crossbill	619	31	60	NEWB		
Bald Eagle	341	49	69	SLAN	76	2	75	PENN	Common Redpoll	181	9	68	GETT		
Northern Harrier	290	55	24	BLOO	6243	33	642	AUDU	Pine Siskin	11600	68	1964	WARR		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	332	64	25	SLAN	11499	66	571	CLRN	American Goldfinch	22821	70	954	LWST		
Cooper's Hawk	431	68	22	WCHE	2068	23	307	PISH	Evening Grosbeak	28	4	24	WHIT		
Northern Goshawk	9	8	2	DUBO	13193	70	576	UBCK	House Sparrow	26779	69	2214	CHAM		
Red-shouldered Hawk	110	41	9	GETT	506	60	83	SLAN	Number Species	166		106	SLAN		
Red-tailed Hawk	3889	69	158	WCHE	6343	70	206	UBCK	Number Individuals	1544936		296229	SLAN		
Rough-legged Hawk	43	25	6	DUBO	654	66	54	SLAN	Party-hours	5750		220	DELA		

**1: CBCK,DELA,LITI

**2: CURT,HAMB,LWST

**3: CBCK,LWST,SBCK

The 2009 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania

Greg Grove

The ninth Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) was conducted from 15 January through 22 February 2009, with 156 routes run in 65 of the state's 67 counties. WRS is a roadside survey with simple but specific guidelines (Grove 2006). All raptors and vultures are recorded, with data also collected on sex/age/color form as applicable, if determined. Cumulative county-by-county results from 2001-2006 were summarized previously (Grove 2006).

Effort and Weather

In 2009, 542 hours of observation were recorded, the highest total ever and slightly more than the range of 478-514 hours of the previous five years. The 8487 miles surveyed was the second highest total ever.

The weather for the 2009 WRS season was somewhat colder than in recent years, but overall, temperatures were not significantly below normal. At State College, according to the Accuweather website, the mean January temperature was 2.0° C below normal with most of the cold period occurring during mid- and late month, coinciding with the first half of the survey period. By the beginning of February, the cold snap ended and February averaged 1.8° C above the long term mean at State College. Most of the state avoided major snowfall during the winter period, except for the northwest and northeast corners. For most counts, there was at least a bit of snow cover; however, in the northwest, many surveyors reported depths of a foot or more.

Results from 2009

The total number of each raptor species is shown in Table 1. For the fourth consecutive year, a record high count was set for Black Vultures, 826, easily topping the 610 in 2008. Highs were also established for Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon. Results from each county are presented in the appendix. The data for some species have been normalized to birds/hour to permit comparisons across years and between counties (Fig 1, 2).

Red-tailed Hawk. As usual, with a total

of 2275, the number of Red-tails in 2009 far exceeded the sum of all other raptors excluding vultures (Table 1). The detection rate of 4.20 per hour was down somewhat from recent years, but not substantially so (Fig 1). Of 1750 Red-tails aged, 161 (9.2%) were immature (2001–2008 range was 9% to 16%).

The greatest concentration of Red-tails was in southern central and southeastern counties (Fig. 2), where the average detection rate was over five per hour, led by *Northumberland* (11.4/hr), *Lancaster* (8.1/hr) and *Dauphin* (7.9/hr). In the southwest, *Washington* (7.4/hr) and *Westmoreland* (8.5/hr) also hosted good numbers of Red-tails, as did most counties along the Ohio border. The highest number of Red-tails on a single route was 75 in *Schuylkill*. By contrast, only three Red-tails were recorded for 212 miles and 9.75 hours in *Clearfield*, and a 50 mile, 1.75 hour route in *Cameron* turned up no Red-tails at all.

American Kestrel. Kestrels again ranked as the second most abundant raptor but the total of 465 was well below the 511 and 510 of the previous two years, despite increased hours. The statewide detection rate of 0.86 per hour was correspondingly down, about 15% less than the two previous seasons. Of 379 Kestrels sexed, 58.4% were males, consistent with previous years (range: 59%-66%).

As now well established from previous WRS years (Grove 2006), the greatest concentration of wintering Kestrels was in the counties of the central and lower Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers (Fig 2). Leading counties were *Juniata* (34), *Cumberland* (31), *Northumberland* (31), *Huntingdon* (27), and *Franklin* (25). This same pattern is evident from 2008-09 Christmas Bird Count results (Bolgiano 2009).

In the southeast, as in recent years, Kestrel counts were again low (Fig 1), in contrast to the healthy Red-tailed Hawk numbers in those counties (compare Kestrel and Red-tail patterns in Fig 2). Collectively, the far southeastern counties (*Bucks*, *Chester*, *Delaware*, *Lehigh*, *Montgomery*, and *Northampton*) had a total of only 25 Kestrels in 73.75 hours of effort, a rate of 0.34 per hour, compared to 0.94 in

the remainder of the state. In sharp contrast to the aforementioned six southeastern counties, observers in adjacent *Berks*, *Lancaster*, and *Schuylkill* tallied 62 Kestrels in 50 hours, a combined rate of 1.24 per hour (see Fig 2).

Table 1. Pennsylvania WRS Species Counts for 2009 and High Counts from 2001-2009.

Species	2009	High Count
Bald Eagle	72	81 (2006)
Northern Harrier	105	133 (2008)
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	55	55 (2009)
Cooper's Hawk	79	82 (2004)
Northern Goshawk	1	5 (2004)
Red-sh. Hawk	31	39 (2008)
Red-tailed Hawk	2275	2610 (2005)
Rough-legged Hawk	157	341 (2004)
Golden eagle	4	4 (2009)
American Kestrel	465	511 (2007)
Merlin	4	6 (2008)
Peregrine Falcon	8	8 (2009)
Black Vulture	826	826(2009)
Turkey Vulture	1707	1863 (2006)

Rough-legged Hawk. In 2009, a total of 157 Rough-legged Hawks were recorded, only the third time this species has numbered in the triple digits for on the Pennsylvania WRS. Following three low years, the Rough-leg count was third highest ever, but well below the 341 in 2004 and 201 in 2005. The number of Rough-legs per hour was 0.29, the third highest hourly rate (Fig 1). By color morph, 66.7% were light (2001-20008 range: 60%–78%).

As seen in Fig. 2, Rough-legs were found primarily in northern-tier counties, and the counties of the central Susquehanna River basin. With more Rough-legs the state this year, the species pushed somewhat further south than in most years, and in fact the highest counts came from central counties rather than northern tier counties. The highest counts on individual routes were the 14 recorded in *Montour* (7 Feb) and nine in *Clearfield* (24 Jan). Seven each were recorded on routes in *Centre* (22 Feb) and *Perry* (13 Feb).

During the 2008-09 Pennsylvania Christmas Bird Count, the number of Rough-legs was about average in comparison with the last decade (Bolgiano 2009). The relatively high WRS count suggests therefore that many Rough-legs did not enter Pennsylvania until January.

Northern Harrier. After three years of sharply increasing numbers, the 2009 Northern Harrier count declined, although the year's total still ranked as third best since 2001 (Fig 1). The upward trend since 2005 may have resulted from a positive effect of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), a land set-aside program initiated since the first year of WRS, and also a series of years with overall milder weather (A. Wilson, pers. comm.). Perhaps the colder weather this winter contributed to a slight reversal of the recent upward trend. The highest counts were in *Northumberland* with 12 and *Adams, Centre, Juniata, and Perry* with eight each. Similar to Kestrels, Harriers were concentrated in the central and south-central counties (Fig 2).

Vultures. For the third consecutive year, Black Vultures established a new high with 826 recorded. The hourly rate of 1.52 was also easily a new high (Fig 1). Turkey Vultures fell short of the record level of 2006 (Fig 1), but the total of 1707 recorded was the second highest thus far.

Over 45% of vultures counted in the survey were in *Lancaster* and *Chester* counties (Fig 2). *Lancaster's*

498 Turkey Vultures was tops followed by 370 in *Chester*. The high Black Vulture count came not from the southeast, but from *Juniata* with 327, followed by 196 in *Chester*. Many of the Juniata Black Vultures were from a single roost location, apparently supported by local poultry farms (C. Kauffman, per. comm.).

Other raptors. Numbers of other raptors recorded in 2009 are shown in Table 1. The Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon totals were the highest thus far. Among highlights: *Pike* and *Lancaster* reported 15 and 14 Bald Eagles respectively; single Golden Eagles were in *Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, and Pike*; the lone Northern Goshawk was in *Bucks*. A Prairie Falcon of unknown provenance was recorded on the *Cumberland* route in an area where an individual of this species has been recorded in recent winters.

Shrikes and Owls. Four Northern Shrikes were recorded (*Carbon, Indiana, Somerset, Venango*). Snowy Owls were found in *Clarion* and *Cambria*. Other owls included one Eastern Screech, two Great Horned, 7 Long-eared, and 16 Short-eared.

Acknowledgements

I thank Nick Bolgiano for comments on a draft of this article and for again creating the figures. And of course thanks go to the well over 100 birders and companions who gathered the data across the state.

4343 McAlevys Fort Road
Petersburg, PA 16669
gwg2@psu.edu

Literature Cited

- Accuweather.
<<http://www.accuweather.com/index-forecast.asp?partner=accuweather>>
- Bolgiano, N. 2009. The 2008-2009 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Birds (in preparation).
- Grove, G. 2006. The 2006 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania with a Summary of Results from 2001-2006. Pennsylvania Birds 20:24-34.

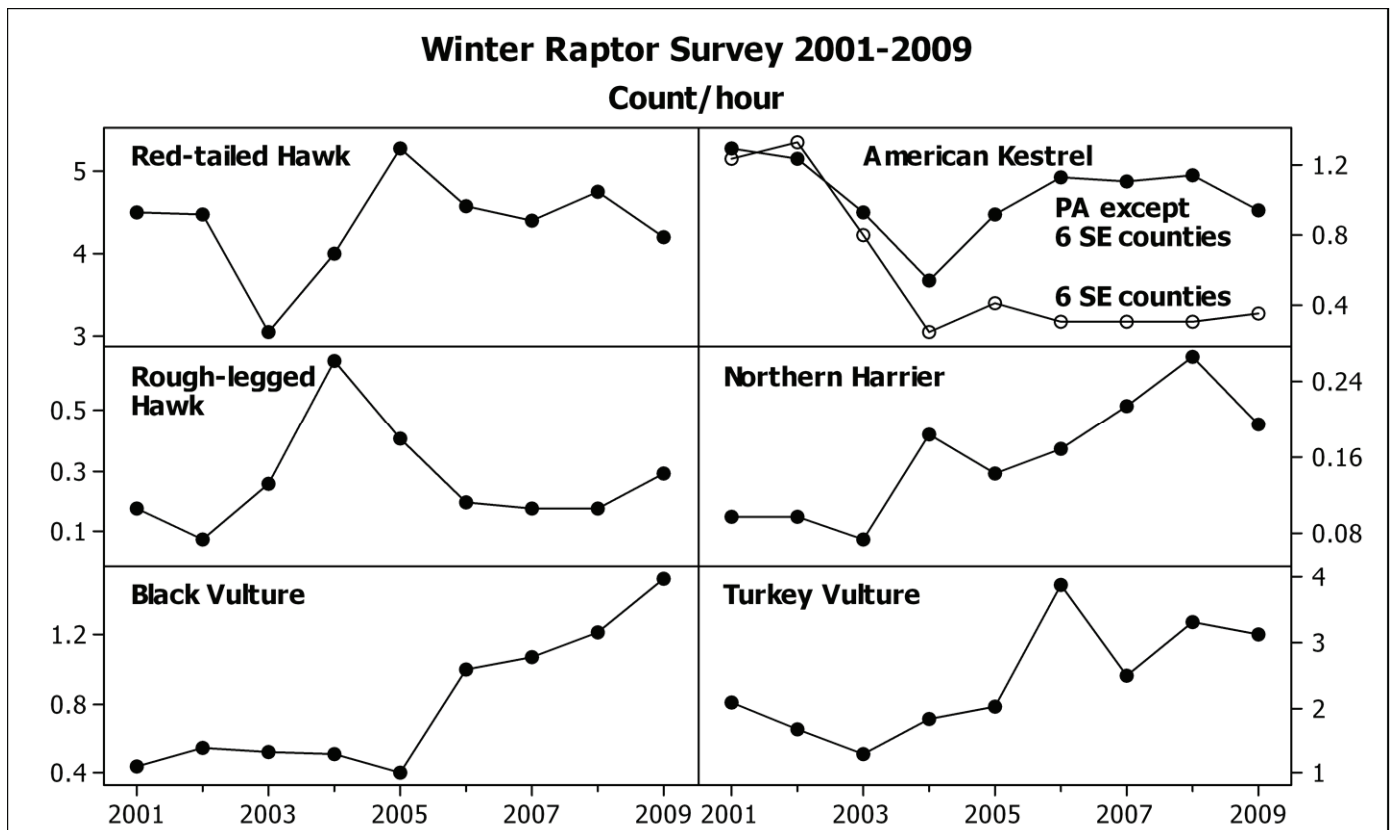
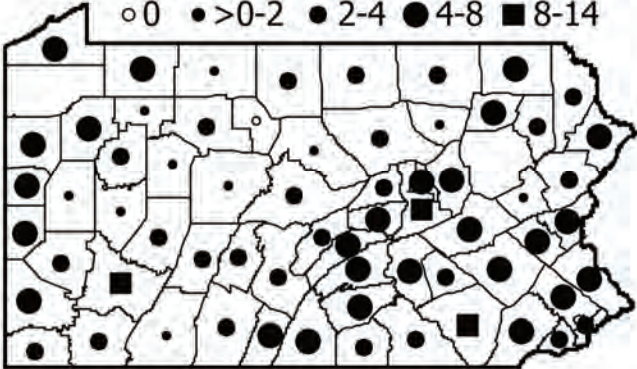


Figure 1: Pennsylvania WRS trends, 2001 – 2009. Results are expressed in birds/hour. American Kestrel results are shown for two portions of the state, the six southeastern counties including *Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton*.

Winter Raptor Survey 2009

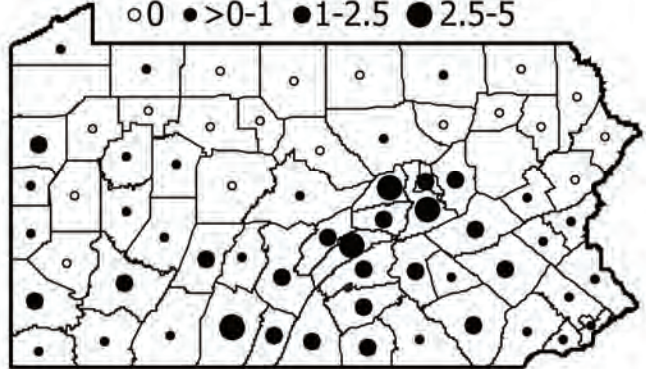
Red-tailed Hawks/hr

○ 0 ● >0-2 ● 2-4 ● 4-8 ■ 8-14



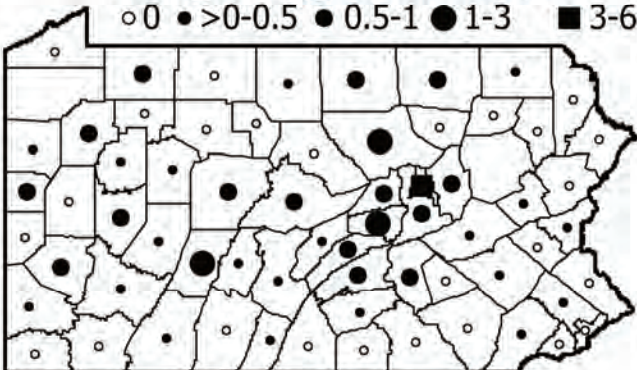
American Kestrels/hr

○ 0 ● >0-1 ● 1-2.5 ● 2.5-5



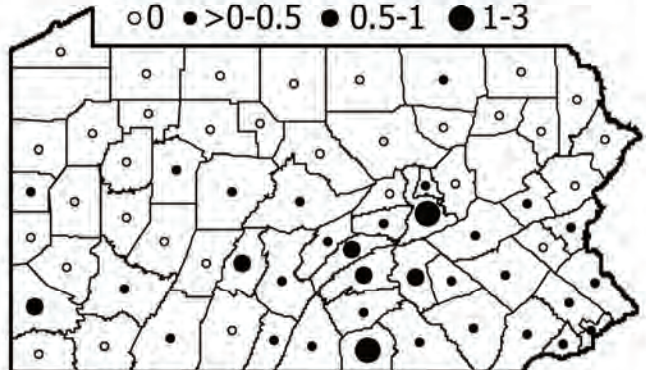
Rough-legged Hawks/hr

○ 0 ● >0-0.5 ● 0.5-1 ● 1-3 ■ 3-6



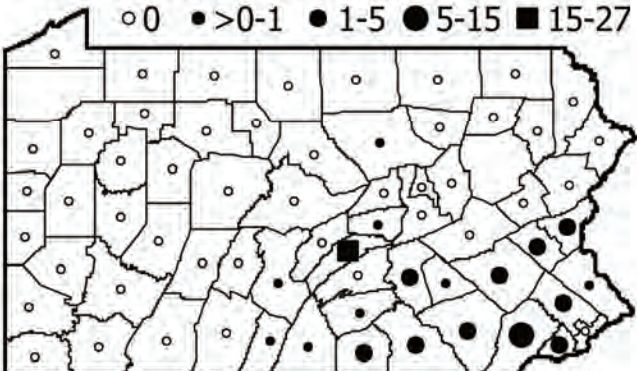
Northern Harriers/hr

○ 0 ● >0-0.5 ● 0.5-1 ● 1-3



Black Vultures/hr

○ 0 ● >0-1 ● 1-5 ● 5-15 ■ 15-27



Turkey Vultures/hr

○ 0 ● >0-1 ● 1-5 ● 5-15 ■ 15-34

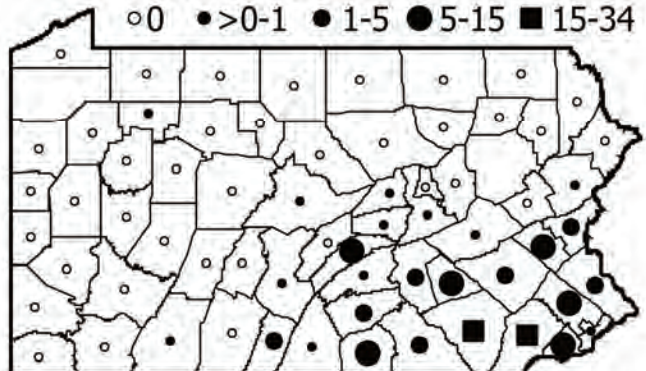


Figure 2. Pennsylvania 2009 WRS results by county. Data from all routes in each county were combined and calculated as birds/hour.

2008 Winter Raptor Survey Results

County	Hrs	Mi	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TV	BV
Adams	4.25	73		8		1			13			10			47	19
Allegheny	3.25	58							7	2						
Armstrong	4.5	97				1			5	3		3				
Beaver	2.5	23	1						13			1				
Bedford	1.75	39							5			6	1			
Berks	19	311	1	4	1	4			92	2		22		1	91	31
Blair	3.25	67		3					12	1		3				
Bradford	7.25	110	1	1					27	5		5				
Bucks	10.5	140	6	2	3	1	1	1	49			3			44	8
Butler	3	105			1				1							
Cambria	2	42							6	2		2				
Cameron	1.75	50														
Carbon	7.5	47	3	2	1				9	1		1				
Centre	26.5	332		8	1	4		1	81	14		21		1	3	
Chester	21.25	359	8	4	7	4		3	135	2		8		1	370	196
Clarion	19	236							59	9		12	1			
Clearfield	9.75	212		1		1			3	9						
Clinton	4	67				1			2					1		
Columbia	3.75	77	2			2			17	3		7				
Cumberland	25.5	334		9	6	8		1	119	1		31			79	22
Dauphin	7.75	128		4					61	6		18			16	20
Delaware	9.25	157	2	1	3				32			2			61	28
Elk	3	88			1			1	8							
Erie	2	58				1			11			1				
Fayette	10.25	188				1		2	21			2				
Forest	4.25	71							2						1	
Franklin	13.5	227		6	4	1			67			25			5	7
Fulton	7.5	93	3	1	1	2		1	38	1	1	11			31	6
Greene	11	165							38			6				
Huntingdon	15.5	270		1	2			2	56	3	1	27			1	2
Indiana	14.75	191			3	4		2	48	2		7				
Jefferson	11	161		1				1	11	1		1				
Juniata	12.25	156	3	8		3			89	8	1	34			138	327
Lackawana	6	110				1			16							
Lancaster	14.75	204	14	1	3	4		1	120			19	1	3	498	62
Lawrence	7.75	102		1		3			42	4		3				
Lebanon	10.25	99		1		1			36			7			53	3
Lehigh	9	141			4	2			47			2			70	23
Lycoming	13	199	2			1			42	14		5				1
McKean	2.5	58			1			1	1							
Mercer	3	55	1			1		1	12	1		4				
Mifflin	12.5	152	1	1	1			1	32	2		15				
Monroe	11.5	164						2	35						4	
Montgomery	9	95	2	4	2	3			55	2		6			72	12
Montour	2.5	46		1		2			10	14		4				
Northampton	14.75	280		1	3	6			65	2		4			73	31
Northumberland	9	145	4	12					103	5		31			1	
Perry	14	185	1	8	2	3		1	71	7		18			9	
Philadelphia	4.5	69		1		1			15			1			2	
Pike	4.5	23	15			1			21		1		1	1		
Potter	3	58				1			7	1						
Schuylkill	16.5	267		1					109	4		21			5	
Snyder	5	70		1	1	1			34	5		7			1	1
Somerset	9.5	142		1		1		1	15	3		5			1	
Sullivan	5	106							4							
Susquehanna	6.25	55							27	3						
Tioga	5.25	92				1			11	3						
Union	4	78							13	2		19			1	
Venango	6	145				1		1	28	4						
Warren	5.5	105	1			3			29	4		1				
Washington	5.25	65		4					39	1		7				
Wayne	1.5	57							3							
Westmoreland	6.25	126		2	1				53	1		9				
Wyoming	1.5	65							6							
York	10.75	197	1	1	3	3		7	37			8			30	27
TOTALS	542	8487	72	105	55	79	1	31	2275	157	4	465	4	8	1707	826

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

BIRDWATCHER: THE LIFE OF ROGER TORY PETERSON by Elizabeth J. Rosenthal with 28 photographs, acknowledgments, over 100 personal interviews, chapter notes, further readings and index; 437 pp., published 2008 by The Lyons Press, Guilford, CT, hard cover, \$29.95 USD, <www.petersonbird.com>.

This is a remarkable book about an extraordinary yet complex human being who was often called the second John James Audubon: Roger Tory Peterson. The year 2008 marked the centennial birth of Peterson, and *Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson* by Elizabeth J. Rosenthal was one of two books celebrating this important anniversary.

Writing always has been Rosenthal's passion and, understandably, she is bewitched by birds. Her publishing credits include birding articles in New Jersey Audubon magazine and Snowy Egret. Rosenthal's birding interest led her to the subject of Roger Tory Peterson and the enticing prospect of writing his definitive biography. Definitive, indeed, because this book, with its 6 parts, 19 chapters, 28 enhancing photographs and over 100 personal interviews with family members, colleagues, protégés, friends, and benefactors of Roger, is a meticulously detailed portrait of a man who did so much good for art, science, conservation, and environmental education. Three years in the making, Rosenthal calls her book the most daunting yet rewarding project she has ever undertaken.

Roger was born in Jamestown, New York, on 28 August 1908, to two immigrants, a Swede named Charles Gustav Peterson and his German-Polish wife, Henrietta Baden. The middle name honored his Uncle Tory of Oil City, Pennsylvania. With an alcoholic father, Roger was not a happy youngster and thus escaped outdoors as often as possible. Skipping school didn't help matters either, having been spanked for truancy more times than anybody else in school. Fortunately for Roger and us, a sympathetic seventh grade teacher, named Miss Blanche Hornbeck, had her students join for ten cents the Junior Audubon Club, a program of the National Association of Audubon Societies (now National

Audubon Society). The Society felt that one positive way to fight the mass destruction of wild birds by over-hunting, so common at the beginning of the 20th century, was to educate school children in hopes they would become future conservationists. About the same time, Roger experienced a personal awakening at the age of eleven. "I remember very vividly my first field trip on Saturday morning, April 8, 1920," said Roger. "Carl Hammerstrom, who lived up the street, and I climbed up Swede Hill to a grove of trees near the reservoir where we discovered a flicker, sleeping on a tree trunk about four feet from the ground, probably tired from migration. But I thought it was dead. I reached out, poked its back with my finger and instantly this inert thing exploded into life, jerked its head around, looked at me wildly, then took off in a flash of gold." That incident was truly a resurrection for Roger and it had a profound effect on his life. Henceforth he believed that birds were the most vivid expression of life. Being a Junior Audubon Club member allowed him to copy bird art from experts like Louis Agassiz Fuertes. At first, his painting was credited to a female classmate who sat next to him. But truth quickly prevailed and Miss Hornbeck was impressed with his interpretation of a Fuertes' Blue Jay. "I carefully painted the jay's blue feathers highlighted with white and black, its jaunty crest, and downy-gray breast," he said. Over time his passion changed from a boyish hobby to a mature intellectual pursuit. He saved his money for a Primo No. 9 camera and within four years his obsession with birds led Roger to other subjects and aspects of nature, starting with butterflies and moths, then amphibians, mammals and finally plants. No such field guides existed during Roger's youth for identifying any of these life forms.

After graduating from high school in 1925 at the age of sixteen, Roger worked in Jamestown decorating lacquered Chinese cabinets. Within a few months he had enough money to make his first trip to New York City to attend a meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union at the American Museum of Natural History. There he met people who greatly influenced his future: Ludlow Griscom, wildlife artist

Francis Lee Jaques, ornithologist Arthur Allen of Cornell, Frank Chapman and Roger's paramount artistic role model, Louis A. Fuertes of Ithaca, New York. He also met two high school lads who would become lifelong friends: Joseph Hickey and Allan Cruickshank. They were members of the Bronx County Bird Club that they and seven other Bronx fellows founded a year earlier. In January 1927, Roger moved to New York City, painted furniture most mornings and spent afternoons in classes at the Art Students League and later the National Academy of Design. The Bronx boys' policy was to admit only Bronx residents to their club (Roger lived in Brooklyn) but Roger was such a pest "they had to let me in," Roger said. However, of all Roger's acquaintances, William Vogt, a nature columnist for several Westchester County, New York, newspapers, was the most essential person to the fulfillment of his dreams. It was Vogt, while on a birding trip along the Hudson River with Roger and others in 1930, who became ecstatic in seeing Roger's avian sketches with arrows pointing to diagnostic field mark differences in similar species for field identification. He strongly urged his friend to create a field guide. After considerable discussion, Roger agreed to do the project.

It took Roger four years to complete. Bill Vogt personally tried to persuade four presses to accept the manuscript, but in the end it was Roger himself who convinced Houghton-Mifflin of Boston to do so. Houghton-Mifflin planned to print 2,000 copies but Roger was told: "It's an expensive book (\$2.75) with four color plates. Therefore we can give you no royalty on the first 1,000." Of course, the *Field Guide to the Birds* with the Peterson field mark system was designed for the average outdoors person. It was an instantaneous success because of its functional illustrations and its succinct descriptions. "The magic of Roger was he was able to simplify things," says Peter Alden. "He prided himself being a true word artist..." The guide sold out in two weeks and ushered in a new world for Roger and birdwatchers everywhere. It was Roger's window of opportunity for quick recognition that he was not only a mini-celebrity of

rising ornithological prominence but also an outstanding naturalist, teacher and conservationist. In 1934, he was appointed head of the Audubon's education department by then executive director John H. Baker. His responsibilities included reorganizing the service (sales) department, revitalizing the Junior Audubon Club by writing and illustrating new environmental education leaflets for teachers and students, fifteen meaty pamphlets in a series titled Nature Study for Schools and wrote his second book titled *The Junior Book of Birds* (1939). Finally, he recharged outdoor natural history interpretation and introduced up to date ecological and conservation concepts at the Hog Island Audubon Summer Camp in Maine. By the end of the decade Roger was able to boast being a continuous Audubon counsel to authors, editors and writers of radio scripts. In 1938, he became *Life's* bird artist, a position he held through the war years. "Given *Life's* gargantuan readership," Rosenthal states, "Roger became, in effect, the birds' ambassador to America." Houghton-Mifflin published Roger's revised second edition of the eastern guide in 1939 and his *A Field Guide to Western Birds* in 1941. In that same year, Roger was author of the bulk of another book titled *The Audubon Guide to Attracting Birds* that clearly illustrated his writing, photographic and painting skills. He finally left Audubon because he was drafted by the U.S. Army in World War II and never returned at war's end. Roger could now be his own boss and focus on what he loved the most: writing about and painting birds. He received the William Brewster Memorial Award, his first major ornithological recognition, from the American Ornithologists' Union in 1944. He completely rewrote the 3rd edition of his eastern guide in 1947, included 60 plates of which 36 were in color and added for the first time Roadside, Flight and Shore Silhouettes on the inside covers of the guide. In 1948, Roger published *Birds Over America*, the first book completely illustrated by his own fine photography. Roger's foreword began with a byproduct of birding, keen interest in conservation, a theme that became central focus of his lectures and interviews until the time of his death. Then, in 1950, he received the annual John Burroughs Medal from the John Burroughs Association for exemplary

nature writing. By age 42, Roger had come into his own as scientist and nature writer.

In 1949, Roger met British naturalist Guy Mountfort on Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania. Within two hours or so of pleasant conversation, the two gentlemen had decided to produce an equivalent European version of Roger's guide. It took five years, but *A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe* was published in 1954 and included 1,250 paintings. It was the first guide to include range maps and the longest at 318 pages. Translated into fourteen languages, it also was the first truly international Peterson, and not just because it covered European birds. Each species description included not only the English name but also the name of the species in Dutch, German, French and Swedish. The field guide soon became the absolute bible in Europe and Roger was universally declared the best bird illustrator ever. Next, Roger met James Fisher in 1950, a likeminded English ornithologist and natural historian. Although their personalities were different, Fisher being an extravert and Peterson an introvert when in a social milieu, they ideally complemented each other and never stopped talking about birds. This close, intellectual relationship culminated in a book titled *Wild America* with a conservationist thread running through it. The tome became an inspiration for many of today's naturalists, such as Kenn Kaufman, Gus Yaki, and our own Pennsylvanian, Scott Weidensaul, who in 2003 decided to reexamine the wilds of North America on the golden anniversary of Wild America in 1955. What he found was that the wilds evidenced victories as well as defeats for conservation, yet at its core, America is still wild and wonderful. One collaboration, however, hit a bump in the publishing road. Called *The World of Birds*, it took five years to complete (1969). James wrote the first draft of the book. Then, Roger and he argued over its details, especially whether the human species was the cause of almost all of the seventy-eight avian species that became extinct in the past three centuries, as Roger believed, or just half of that number, as James thought. Finally, the disagreement was compromised by stating in the book that definite human causes led to half of the birds' extinction and suggesting that at least some of the remainder "may... have

been driven to rarity and extinction by the competition of better-adapted species introduced into their habitats from elsewhere." Nevertheless, disagreements such as this one were rare and always friendly. They talked about birds, their mutual obsession, from early morning until late at night. Such discussions bonded them until the untimely death of James Fisher. As a review about *The World of Birds* exclaimed in *The Auk*: "If anyone still doubts that James Fisher and Roger Tory Peterson are more addicted to birds... than anyone else in our time, with this book these two—with the happy and rarely equaled abandon of a pair of drunken sailors on shore leave—seem to have proved it for all time."

There was, however, another side of Peterson, what Rosenthal calls "Hidden Roger," that far fewer people experienced. Even family members admitted openly that Roger was moody, reclusive, and withdrawn, and often would go off by himself at parties and even at home. Once he initiated a project, Roger would work day and all night until the task was completed. Even then, being a perfectionist, he would recheck, correct, or redo parcels until totally satisfied. Such behavior made it extremely difficult on other family members, as illustrated by two divorces from wives Mildred and Barbara over the years. In fact, most close friends said that Roger was fortunate to have married two women who totally took care of all home chores, children and even financial matters, thus allowing him to indulge totally in his obsession with birds. Further, Roger was never a team player and lacked business skills. He disregarded bureaucracy. Although in his later years Roger often said he planned to live to 110 because of all the books and paintings he still wanted to do, he feared death and talked about it more often as he grew older.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Roger was very active in so many ways. Besides his numerous writing, photographic and painting ventures, he also was active in numerous scholarly, scientific, social, artistic and conservation organizations. Roger became more than ever the spokesperson for national and international conservation causes. However, he was "a behind the scenes player in conservation rather than a table pounder," emphasizes Rosenthal. "His knowledge was so universal and so detailed that... he was the voice on the

board representing the world of flight,” said Francis Kellog in Roger’s help in founding the World Wildlife Fund. He personally played a crucial role in preserving international sites and the wildlife of the Coto Donana area in Spain, Lake Nakuru in Kenya, the James Flamingo in the high Bolivian Andes, the Laysan Albatross on the Midway Atoll, Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego in Argentina, the Galapagos Islands and Antarctica, Roger’s favorite wild place in the world and home to his infatuated family of birds—penguins.

Many past and present citizen and professional scientists, artists and others owe their interest in birds and nature to Roger or his field guide or both. “Worldwide Progeny,” in Rosenthal’s book, proves this point. Such luminaries as Paul Spitzer, Thomas Lovejoy, William Burt, Noble Proctor, Robert Hernandez, Fleur Ng’weno, Lee Allen Peterson, Edward O. Wilson, David Allen Sibley, Peter Alden, Pete Dunne, George H. Harrison, Victor Emanuel, Kenn Kaufman, Lars Jonsson and Kent Ullberg tell their inspiring stories about the Peterson relationship.

I do not claim to be in the same category as the previous individuals, but I do want to share my personal experience with Roger. I was born and raised in Saint Louis, Missouri, and lived with my parents and younger brother. One evening my mother read an announcement that the public was invited to attend a free Audubon Screen Tour in one of the local high school auditoriums the next evening. It happened that Roger Tory Peterson was the guest speaker, who was presenting a film on Patagonia, Argentina. Actually, at the age of eight, I was not impressed by the speaker’s name, his far away program destination, or his artistic abilities mentioned in the announcement. Instead, what really excited me was that an individual could travel the world, taking movies about nature and receive lucrative compensation for showing a film to audiences across the country. My mother wisely insisted, however, that I buy a copy of Roger’s Field Guide to the Birds, with my father’s money, of course, introduce myself and get the book autographed. Reluctantly, I stood in a long line, gave a lady \$4.00 and presented the book to Roger for his autograph. “What do you want me to write in the book, young fellow?” asked Roger. “I don’t know,” I responded. “How about ‘Best Wishes

for Good Birding,” he replied.

Years later, as Vice President of Education, National Audubon Society, I showed Roger that same autographed guide. He simply smiled and said: “You know, Gene, this is a collector’s item.” Seven years later, again visiting Saint Louis as an Audubon Screen Tours lecturer, Roger wanted to photograph and sketch the European Tree Sparrow (now Eurasian Tree Sparrow), an exotic species brought from Germany in the 19th century, liberated and found even today only in and near Saint Louis. Fortunately, a friendly neighbor in University City had a pair nesting in their birdhouse, so I arranged Roger’s visit that lasted nearly three hours. He took numerous photographs, made several sketches and even recorded the species vocalizations. At the end of his stay, he said to me: “O.K. Gene, I owe you one. What bird would you like to see?” Jokingly, I responded: “Hudsonian Godwit.” The month was early May and spring rains made physical conditions promising for migrating shore birds. Early the next morning four members of the Audubon chapter, Roger and I scoured the Missouri River bottomlands for water birds. Suddenly, Roger exclaimed: “Gene, look 100 yards to the right at the mudflat. I believe you will see not one, not two, but four Hudsonian Godwits in full breeding plumage.” “Oh my,” I responded, “that is a life bird for me.” The amazing thing was the species had not been recorded in Saint Louis for decades. Of course, the incident reinforced my belief that Roger was my bird guru for life.

“The 1970s were a tumultuous time for Roger Tory Peterson,” Ronsenthal contends, “as his life went through major changes.” The first blow was the death of his most intimate friend James Fisher in a car accident at the age of fifty-eight, a tragedy he never got over. Bill Vogt had passed away in July 1968 at sixty-six and this was followed by Allan Cruickshank’s death in 1972 at sixty-seven years of age. Then, in 1977, came news of the drowning death of Roger’s first wife, Mildred, in a Maine boating accident. But what really upset him and hurt him to the quick was the negative reaction of many ornithologists, who Roger called friends, to his 4th edition of Field Guide to the Birds published in 1980. Roger had said: “This one is a completely new book; every illustration new and twice as many of them; plus hundreds of range maps. . . . My goal

has been to make the new eastern guide the most critically accurate and effective field guide yet produced on any region in the world.” But the new “experts” who were expecting an advanced sort of guide revision to solve difficult identification problems were sadly disappointed. As Tom Davis stated, “While the new Peterson is superior to other current American guides it falls woefully short of fulfilling this burgeoning group’s desires.” Even Kenn Kaufman curtly remarked: “If only the book reflected current knowledge of field identification... If only the expert birders of North America had looked at the book before publication...” Roger reminded his critics of what he had been trying to do from the beginning: teach people who do not know how to identify birds, how to do so, while striking a balance between those who want “even simpler abstraction” and those who prefer “infinite detail,” in other words, simplification not amplification. “Within the limits of a field guide,” he warned, “one cannot devote a full page—let alone three, four or six—to a single species. Then it’s a manual.” Later, Kaufman apologized to Roger and, in 1990, wrote *Advanced Birding in the Peterson Field Guides Series*. Roger graciously wrote the Editor’s Note in the book for Kaufman.

On becoming Vice-President of Education, National Audubon Society in New York City, one of my first visitors was Roger who remembered me from Saint Louis days. He was excited to learn that I was appointed to establish a new youth program, called Audubon Adventures, inaugurate a communication outreach using the TV medium and revitalizing the dead eco-travel program. He said: “You know, Gene, I’d like to be remembered most for being an artist and an educator.” The last time I saw Roger was in late August 1983 at the National Audubon Society Convention in Estes Park, Colorado, when I had the privilege of introducing Roger to a packed auditorium of hundreds of people. The topic of his lecture was “The Evolution of Birding” and, as always, he presented a humorous and enlightening presentation. I still cherish a taped copy of his lecture. At the end of the meeting he conveyed that he was especially concerned about his eyes (cataracts), walking (diabetes), and acuteness of hearing. “Gene, I’m afraid I’ve lost it. The good old days are over,” he exclaimed. In parting our

ways, he quickly added: "By the way, you still haven't visited Ginny and me in Old Lyme. Remember?" "I'll try, Roger," I responded, but never made it.

In 1985 the Roger Tory Peterson Institute (RTPI) of Natural History was incorporated and the following year Jamestown's Gebbie Foundation granted \$2.5 million in startup money, guaranteeing that the RTPI would be in Jamestown. This pleased Roger very much because it meant that at least a large part of him, his multi-works of art, photography, education and science, would be lodged in his original hometown. Roger's health gradually deteriorated through the early 1990s, including a mild stroke, but he still worked at a slower pace revising the 5th edition of the eastern guide. "Roger's struggle to paint his final birds is evident," Ginny wrote in a preface to the 5th edition. By then, he had completed most of it. He died at his home in Old Lyme, Connecticut, in 1996 at the age of eighty-seven. The 5th edition of the eastern field guide was finally published in 2002, a year after Ginny's own death.

Unquestionably, Roger Tory Peterson was one of the most influential Americans in the 20th century. He received almost every major award and honor in the fields of art, ornithology, natural history, wildlife conservation and public service in this and many European countries in his lifetime. Self taught, he was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in the 1980s and received twenty-two honorary degrees from American institutions of higher learning. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian award, for his cultural contributions to America. Perhaps former President Carter said it all: "Roger Tory Peterson has achieved distinction as a consummate painter, writer, teacher and scientist. As an unabashed lover of birds and a distinguished ornithologist, he has furthered the study, appreciation and protection of birds the world over. And he has done more. He has impassioned thousands of Americans, and has awakened in millions across this land, a fondness for nature's other two-legged creatures."

There is no doubt in my mind that the copious researched details found in this definitive biography by Elizabeth J. Rosenthal will never be surpassed. It is my sincere wish that every follower of Roger Tory Peterson have

opportunity to read how this remarkable artist, conservationist, scientist, and teacher changed the world for good.

513 Kelly Blvd.
Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145
genewilhelm@aol.com

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*), Crawford County

Marvin J. Byler

The Chester Miller residence is located on Adamsville Road approximately two miles east of the small town of Adamsville, which itself is just south of the southern end of Hartstown Marsh. It was on 23 November 2008 that one of the family noticed a strange-looking bird feeding at a sunflower seed feeder outside of an upstairs window. More of the family observed the bird, but had no idea what species it might have been. The following week they did not see it, and in fact did not have much time to look because of other duties. They notified me the day after the sighting, and I kept in touch with them as to how frequently it came back to their feeders. About the second week of December, the bird began to appear regularly, and eventually, it could be depended upon to feed heavily just before dark. After feeding it always flew the same direction into the woods.

On the afternoon of 17 December, I finally succeeded in seeing the bird as it fed on the suet feeder and on the ground. I immediately recognized it as a tanager, and a female at that. It had an immense bill. Given the time of year, it occurred to me that it could be any of the tanagers, even a Western. However, it had no wing bars, so that ruled Western out. I began to think it was either a Summer Tanager or a Scarlet Tanager.

It was more yellowish - orange under the throat and tail and the rest of the body, but there was no contrast between the wings and the surrounding body. It often sat with its tail raised slightly, and

also showed a slight crest at times, both characteristic of Summer Tanager. Most noticeable of all was the large, heavy bill. I decided it had to be a Summer. I notified a few friends right away. Henry Miller was able to see the bird two evenings later and agreed that it was a Summer Tanager.

Beginning the weekend of 20 December, the temperature dipped down to single digits for several nights in a row. It was quite windy and several inches of snow accumulated. But the family told me that the bird was surviving anyway. On Christmas Day, we had a family gathering a few miles away, and the birders in my family all made the short trip and were rewarded with good looks at the tanager. On 27 December, Gene and Suzanne Butcher brought Neil Troyer and my brother Edward, both from Mercer County. Temperatures were around 50F that day with no snow on the ground. Around 2:00pm, we all got a good look at the tanager. It was very active, perched near the top of a tree where it would sally out as if catching flying insects like a flycatcher. Gene and Suzanne were able to photograph the bird and forward the pictures to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee.

The weather remained fair through the beginning of 2009. On the afternoon of 4 January, the family saw the tanager feeding as usual. On 5 January, a sunny day with temperatures in the 50s, they watched for it all day, but it did not appear, and was not seen again after that.

5814 Atlantic Lake Road
Hartstown, PA 16131



Summer Tanager near Adamsville, Crawford, 27 December 2008. This female became the first Summer Tanager in the state's history to remain in Pennsylvania into the month of January. (Suzanne Butcher)

Notes from the Field

Pennsylvania's Wintering Least Sandpiper Vern Gauthier

Spending their summers breeding in subarctic tundra and far northern boreal forest, Least Sandpipers, like many other species of the more northern climes, prefer to spend their winters in South and Central America, the southern United States, with some staying even a little farther north along the coasts (to coastal Oregon and New Jersey) where the weather is tempered by the oceans. That is, except for this particular sandpiper, which prefers to spend at least part of its winter in cow ponds and trout streams in south-central Pennsylvania.

This bird (it has been assumed it is the same individual) has spent part of the past four winters in Cumberland County. First located by Ramsay Koury on the 2005/06 Newville Christmas Bird Count (CBC) at "Stoughstown Pond" (a farm pond that regularly has bovine species wading through it), this hardy little individual has been found each winter since, just south of Newville either at Stoughstown Pond or a mile away on the Big Spring, one of Pennsylvania's historic limestone trout streams.



Least Sandpiper at Stoughstown Pond, Cumberland, 25 December 2008. (Andy Markel)

Needless to say, this is a little unusual, considering that apart from this bird, only 10 individuals on 8 different CBC's have been seen over the last 60 years, with the first sighting not occurring until the 47th annual CBC and the last sighting on the 107 annual count. (CBC data, <www.audubon.org/bird/cbc>)

What makes this bird even more unusual is the company that it keeps. While interspecies flocks are common among shorebirds and other avian species during migration and even in

the winter, this particular Least Sandpiper seems to have developed an attachment to a local Killdeer. Over the last three winters it has been noted that the Least Sandpiper never shows up without its Killdeer escort. Take for example that neither a Least Sandpiper nor Killdeer had been seen on or around the Big Spring until New Year's Day, 2009 when they both showed up within five feet of each other. Which bird initiated this apparent bond and for what reason remains can only remain speculation, since without banding, we cannot be certain even it is the two same individuals. But the bond seems readily apparent to those who have observed the two birds together.

So the next time the short winter days, or biting winter cold has you longing for summer, think about this representative of the smallest species of shorebird in the world, which forgoes a place in the southern sun for a cow pond and a bubbling spring in south central Pennsylvania.

111 W. Big Spring Avenue
Newville, PA 17241
pabirder@gmail.com

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) in Delaware County Al Guarente

The 2009-year was shaping up well with irrupting White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins reported statewide. Rough-legged Hawks and even Snowy Owls were appearing in many counties. Indeed, even a Henslow's Sparrow was found to be wintering in Chester County. So on 25 January, I decided to repair to the Darlington Tract in Middletown Township and try to add a few birds for the year, in particular, I was searching for the widespread American Tree Sparrow.

As I entered the field, where I have found many sparrows in the past, I directed myself to a large shrubby area at the back end of the field. I began "pishing" and as soon as I did, about a dozen Field Sparrows erupted and started filling the thickets. I raised my binoculars and started scanning the birds as they bounded from bush to bush. Suddenly I saw a small, delicate sparrow with a bright yellowish-orange

head and breast.

I instantly knew the feathered creature was a LeConte's Sparrow by the finely streaked breast and the bright orange supercilium. I immediately started backing away from the area and started making calls to the local birders. Within half an hour, Dave and Andrew Eberly and Sharon and Nick Pulcinella arrived and we headed back to the field. The LeConte's was quickly relocated and cooperated nicely by perching in a small copse for about five minutes.



Leconte's Sparrow at Darlington Tract, Delaware, 30 January 2009. (Jim Lockyer)

Viewing conditions were ideal and many photos were taken to document the bird's presence. Photographs show the orange supercilium, the white crown stripe, fine breast streaking, purple nape with very fine chestnut stripes and bright white eye ring.

As of 12 February the Le Conte's Sparrow was still present. It was a very cooperative bird and often posed in the upper to middle level branches of the thicket. It habitually fed with other sparrows in the area, locating the flock was usually all that was necessary to detect the LeConte's.

This sighting represents the first county record of LeConte's Sparrow. So obviously, this was quite an experience for me. Meeting all the other birders and helping spot the sparrow was also a real thrill for me. Although I never managed to get a decent photograph myself, I was sent some magnificent shots taken by Howard Eskin who I would like to thank again for sending those pictures. Also, I would like to thank all the other photographers, including Jim Lockyer, whose photo accompanies this article, for making their images available on the PABRIDS listserv.

421 S. Old Middletown Road
Media, PA 19063
owlguarente@yahoo.com

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). This group of four appeared in Findlay Twp., *Allegheny*, 31 December 2008, amazingly, in the company of four Cackling Geese and four Snow Geese, two of which were "blue". These represented the third record for *Allegheny*, and stayed until 14 January, shown here 4 January. (*Shannon Thompson*)



Mallard x Northern Pintail. This unique individual returned to Green Pond, *Northampton*, again this year, reportedly the fourth in a row. Photographed here 27 February 2009. (*Dustin Welch*)



Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). Appearing with the Greater White-fronted Geese shown above, these four were present in Findlay Twp., *Allegheny*, 31 December to at least 12 January, here 9 January. (*Mike Fialkovich*)



Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*). It was a banner year for this species at the mouth of the Beaver River, *Beaver*, where this female, one of a (locally) staggering 112 present 10 February 2009, was photographed. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). A wing-tagged individual at Harvey's Lake, *Luzerne*, 10 January 2009. (*Jonathan Debalko*)



Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*). Dorney Pond, *Lehigh*, 1 February 2009. (*Dave DeReamus*)



White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). This bird was one of two or three to visit the mouth of the Beaver River in *Beaver* this season, photographed here with three Canvasback and one Redhead 7 February 2009. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). Providing a long-overdue first state record and a delight for birders from across the state was this grebe on the Conodiguinet Creek in Mechanicsburg, *Cumberland*, 14 to 21 February 2009, here 17 February. (*Malcolm Harter*)



Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). Found stranded in a Tamarack (*Clinton*) yard 11 February 2009, this bird was captured and released in good health on the Susquehanna River, where the image above was made. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) with Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). The Western Grebe, present 14 to 21 February 2009 on the Conodiguinet Creek in *Cumberland*, was accompanied by a Red-necked Grebe from 14 to 17 February; the two were photographed together here 16 February. (*Bob Moul*)



Leucistic Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). This stunning bird was photographed in *Bucks* 3 February 2009. (*J.L. Ritter*)



Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). This graceful buteo was photographed from short range at Bald Knob, *Allegheny*, 21 February 2009, as it hunted the shoulder of a highway on-ramp. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). This bird, apparently a victim of electrocution, was found and photographed in *Lawrence* 22 November 2008, providing rare physical evidence of this species' southbound migration though western Pennsylvania west of the Allegheny Mountains. (*James Donatelli*)



American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). Quite unexpected and very late was this avocet found and photographed on the Erie CBC 20 December 2008 at the mouth of Cascade Creek. It was possibly the same individual reported earlier in December at Grand Island, New York and in late November at Ajax, Ontario. (*Jerry McWilliams*)



Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). One of two present at Washington Cemetery, *Washington*, this winter, this adult was photographed 19 January 2009. (*Cris Hamilton*)



Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*). Very rare in Pennsylvania is the combination of a Baird's Sandpiper and accumulated snow in the same field of view, but that precise image was captured at Leaser Lake, *Lehigh*, 7 December 2008. (*Dustin Welch*)



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). A fine in-flight portrait made at Tarentum, *Allegheny*, 17 January 2009. (*Steve Gosser*)



Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). A nice portrait made at Doe Run, *Chester*, 31 January 2009. (*John MacNamara*)



Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*). Two snowies present near Patton in *Cambria* this season delighted birders throughout January, February, and March. This bird, the much whiter of the two, was photographed 27 March 2009. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). This bird was present at a private residence in Allentown, *Lehigh*, though much of February. (*Peter and Denise Reinhart*)



Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). This wonderful illustration of the origin of this species' common name was made at the Volant Strip Mines, *Lawrence*, 24 January 2009. (*Steve Gosser*)



Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*). One of two late Nashville Warblers found in *Bucks* in December was this bird photographed in Warrington 14 December 2008. (*Tena Kellogg*)



Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). Perhaps a bit overlooked during the mega-invasion staged by crossbills this year was a good showing of Northern Shrikes in the state. This bird was photographed at Beltzville State Park, *Carbon*, 14 December 2008. (*Dustin Welch*)



Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*). One of two orange-crowns photographed in Pennsylvania this January, this bird was at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant in *Philadelphia* 3 January 2009. (*Todd Fellenbaum*)



Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*). The second orange-crowned photographed in the state this winter was this bird in West Chester, Chester, 28 January 2009. (John MacNamara)



Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). Certainly the most well-documented of Pennsylvania's few records of this species was provided by this cooperative bird that spent several weeks at the Darlington Tract, Delaware, following its discovery in late January, photographed here 31 January 2009. (Howard B. Eskin)



Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*). A cooperative bird that was seen by many at Dorney Pond, Lehigh, photographed here 16 January 2009. (Tom Johnson)



Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*). A fine portrait made at Peace Valley Park, Bucks, 9 December 2008. (Howard B. Eskin)



Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). Providing an amazing winter record for the state was this bird at Londonderry Twp., Chester, 3 January 2009 to at least 20 February, photographed here 20 February. (Howard B. Eskin)



Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*). As late as any other Lincoln's in the state's history was this bird at a feeder in Curlsville, Clarion, found during the Clarion CBC 3 January 2009, where it remained to 13 January, photographed here 9 January. (Carole Winslow)



Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). Rounding out an outstanding winter for unusual sparrows in the state was *Clinton's* first Harris's at Beech Creek 7 January to 24 February 2009, shown here 20 January. (Wayne Laubscher)



Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*). As with Snow Bunting, it was a good season also for longspurs in Pennsylvania this winter. This portrait was made at East Allen Township, *Northampton*, 31 January 2009. (Dustin Welch)



Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). It was a superb winter for this species in Pennsylvania, with large flocks frequently reported from many regions, particularly in January and February. These birds were part of a flock at the Volant Strip Mines, *Lawrence*, 24 January 2009. (Steve Gosser)



Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). It is hard to make a nicer portrait of a ground-dwelling songbird than this image of a Snow Bunting at Bath, *Northampton*, 16 January 2009. (Dustin Welch)



Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*). In a season in which perhaps hundreds of thousands of Pine Siskins made their way to Pennsylvania, it wasn't unexpected that some odd plumages were noted. This leucistic bird with a white head (and a white primary, hard to discern against the bright background) was photographed at Buck Hill Falls, *Monroe*, 7 January 2009. (Ed Kendall)



Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*). Again considering the immensity of their irruption this season, it is not surprising that a number of “green morph” siskins were reported among the hordes, such as this probable “green siskin” at Moon Twp., Allegheny, 17 January 2009. (Geoff Malosh)



Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*). With hundreds at a turn crowding backyard feeders across the state, “perfect” portraits of this charming species were not hard to come by. Houston, Washington, 3 January 2009. (Cris Hamilton)



Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*). Siskins delighted feeder watchers and photographers alike with their aggressive antics throughout the long cold months of January and February. Moon Twp., Allegheny, 17 January 2009. (Geoff Malosh)

(Editor’s Note: It was truly a season for the ages, marked by the astounding invasion of Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills to Pennsylvania. As was the case in 2007-08, which featured a huge irruption of Common Redpolls to the state, this season’s crossbill irruption was the first crossbill year of the “digital age”, allowing photographers across the state to document the invasion with top-of-the-line digital cameras and equipment. Surely more crossbill images were made in Pennsylvania this winter than in all previous winters combined, and of unparalleled quality among Pennsylvania burgeoning army of amateur and semi-pro photographers.)



White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). Allegheny Cemetery, Allegheny, February 2009. (Malcolm Harter)



White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). Grandview Cemetery, Lehigh, 10 February 2009. (Dustin Welch)



White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). Allegheny Cemetery, Allegheny, 28 February 2009. (Geoff Malosh)



White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). Williamsport, *Lycoming*, 11 January 2009. (Wayne Laubscher)



White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). Large flocks such as this one at Cooks Forest State Park, *Clarion*, initially caused much excitement among birders before becoming almost expected everywhere one went looking among conifers. 20 December 2008. (Geoff Malosh)



White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). Washington Cemetery, *Washington*, 18 January 2009. (Cris Hamilton)



White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). Allegheny Cemetery, *Allegheny*, 1 February 2009. (Scott Kinzey)



White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). Allegheny Cemetery, *Allegheny*, 15 January 2009. (Geoff Malosh)



White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). Springhill Cemetery, *Cumberland*, 22 January 2009. (Bob Moul)

Summary of the Season: Winter 2008-2009

Greg Grove

As anyone reading this column already knows, the big story this winter was the **White-winged Crossbill** invasion, the largest in a decade, providing hundreds of Pennsylvania birders a rare chance to see these elusive northern finches. Along with the crossbills came enormous numbers of **Pine Siskins**, no doubt causing a spike in sales of nyger seed. The other winter highlight was the discovery of a **Western Grebe**, fully documented for the first time in the state. Also of note, a **Least Sandpiper** wintered in *Cumberland* for the fourth straight year. Following last year's big influx, **Northern Shrikes** were again reported widely.

The weather this winter was colder than in recent years, although at State College, only January was below the long-term average, by 3.5°F. A period of intense cold occurred in mid-month with sub-zero (F) low temperatures in much of the state. December's temperatures were essentially average while February was well above average at +3.2°F. Most of the state experienced below average snowfall, however the opposite was true in the north and northwest, which experienced extended lake effect snow and cold temperatures.

Among rare waterfowl, there were a good number of **Greater White-fronted Goose** sightings. Usually reports of this wanderer, presumably most often from Greenland, are concentrated in southeastern counties. However, four reports this year were from western counties, including a first record for *Beaver*; another unusual location was *Centre*. Reports were clustered before 5 Jan and after 9 Feb. Of a half dozen **Ross's Goose** reports, all came from the east except one in *Lawrence*, a possible first county record. A **Barnacle Goose** was seen twice in *Bucks*. The status of this goose, often suspected of being an escapee when seen in the "wild", has been re-evaluated by P.O.R.C., and nine state records previously rejected because of uncertain origin have now been accepted (Malosh and Pulcinella 2009). The most notable **Brant** numbers came from the Hawk Mt. watch where 510 were counted in passage through Dec, with a high of 295 on 12/8. The peak **Snow Goose** count was 80,000 at Middle Creek, *Lancaster* 2/19. A flock of 275 **Tundra Swans** was considered

"superb" in *Washington* 12/5.

Duck reports were routine, coming as usual largely from the mild southeast and from the Allegheny drainage in the west. A count of 117 **Canvasbacks** in *Beaver* 2/10 was exceptional. Other high numbers were 88 **Ruddy Ducks** 1/4 and 42 **Hooded Mergansers** 2/23, both in *Chester*. A **Harlequin Duck** was found for the *Warren* CBC 12/20 and a **King Eider** was found in *Erie* 12/30. **Blue-winged Teal** were in *Bucks*, *Cumberland*, and *Philadelphia*. A **Eurasian Teal** was found in *Bucks* 12/20.

Four **Eurasian Wigeons** were found this year, an unusually high number. All four were in the southeast and all in mid-Feb: Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks* 2/22, Brunton Lake, *Delaware* 2/16, Octoraro Lake, *Lancaster* 2/21, and Codorus State Park, *York* 2/15.

The individual "bird of the season" was no doubt the **Western Grebe** in *Cumberland*, found on the Conodoguinet Creek 2/14, seen by many and photographed. The last reported date was 2/21. For the first few days, the Western Grebe was kept company by a **Red-necked Grebe**. At least five other Red-necked Grebes were reported, four in the southeast and one in *Allegheny*. A **Red-throated Loon** found grounded in northern *Clinton* 2/11 was released in good condition on the Susquehanna West Branch. The only other Red-throated Loons were singles in *Montgomery* and another in *Clinton* for the Lock Haven – Jersey Shore CBC.

An **American Bittern** was at Tinicum, *Philadelphia* 1/4. Three **Great Egrets** and two **Black-crowned Night Herons** stayed in *Bucks* late enough to be counted on the Southern Bucks CBC 12/20. Even deeper into the season was another **Great Egret** at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 1/11.

Perhaps most notable among raptors was a well-above average incursion of **Rough-legged Hawks**. **Northern Goshawk** reports were higher than in the last few years, with a minimum of 16, of which nine were from CBCs. Most were found in northern or mountainous counties, but exceptions were birds in *Berks*, *Lancaster*, *Northampton*, and *Philadelphia*. A Shartlesville chicken farm in *Berks* attracted lots of

scavenging **Red-tailed Hawks**, with a remarkable high of 100 on 1/24. For the second year in a row, the enigmatic **Prairie Falcon** made an appearance in *Cumberland*; its origin remains in question.

A large flock of **Sandhill Cranes** wintered in *Lawrence*, as many as 66 counted in Jan. *Bucks*, *Crawford*, *Chester*, and *Mifflin* also reported cranes. Four **Virginia Rails** hung on in *Bucks* until at least 1/4. An impressive 600 **American Coots** were at Yellow Creek, *Indiana*, 12/2.

Notable shorebirds included an **American Avocet** on the *Erie* CBC 12/20 and a **Spotted Sandpiper** in *Juniata* for the Lewistown CBC 12/20. A **Purple Sandpiper** was at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* in mid-Dec, nearly annual there at that time of year. But once again, the most remarkable shorebird was the *Cumberland* **Least Sandpiper**, back for its fourth winter, first seen this year on New Year's Day and staying into Feb.

With the exciting gull species now reported each winter, it is rare that **Ring-billed Gull** rates even a mention. However this winter, three different Ring-bills that had been banded and tagged were found, two in *Bucks* and one in *Berks*. All three had been marked during the preceding fall and early winter as part of a study of the habits of winter gulls at reservoirs in central Massachusetts. *Bucks*, as usual, provided the lion's share of unusual gulls, including **Laughing**, **Thayer's**, **Iceland**, and **Glaucous**. Among other southeastern gulls, a **Glaucous Gull** in *York* provided a possible first county record. At the opposite corner of the state, *Erie* hosted a **Little Gull** in Dec and a **California Gull** in late Feb, while a **Black-headed Gull** continued from the fall until 12/7 at Moraine SP, *Butler*. Single jaeger reports of uncertain or undocumented identification came from *Erie* and *Bucks*.

Although not spectacular, the total of about nine **Snowy Owls** was better than recent years. Two in *Cambria* were only a few miles apart. **Short-eared** and **Long-eared Owls** were reported from 19 and 9 counties respectively; in both cases, the majority coming from the southeast. About ten **Barn Owls** were reported from five counties. Two reports (of three total

birds) were from *Berks*; the others were clustered in the Susquehanna R. drainage, in *Cumberland*, *Dauphin*, *Juniata*, and *Union*.

In 2007-08, **Northern Shrikes** staged a major invasion, with at least 80 birds reported, the second largest documented number for the state (Grove 2008). Again this winter, the incursion of shrikes was substantial with at least 40 reported, perhaps some of the same coming south again this winter. About two-thirds of these shrikes were in western counties, many in the northwest.

N. Rough-winged Swallows wintered again at the water treatment plant in *Philadelphia*. On 12/2 they were joined by three **Cave Swallows** and on 12/13, a **Tree Swallow**. Also, one Rough-wing was at similar plant in *Lancaster* at least until the 12/21 CBC; perhaps a trend is being established?

Compilers in *Berks* and *Washington* commented on the continuing spread of **Common Ravens**. A **Carolina Chickadee** that stayed the winter in *Indiana* was notable. Two **Marsh Wrens** were at Quakertown Swamp in *Bucks* into early Jan. In *Mercer*, harsh cold was blamed for a severe crash in **Carolina Wrens**. A **Varied Thrush** on private property in *Northampton* was photographed but not announced in accordance with the wishes of the property owner.

Eight species of warblers were reported. Most notable were **Nashville Warblers**, two in *Bucks* and one in *Lancaster* in Dec. **Orange-crowned Warblers** were in *Philadelphia Bucks*, *Chester*, the latter two surviving through the end of the season. A New Year's Day **Yellow-breasted Chat** was in Marsh Creek SP, *Chester*. Though most winter warblers in the state occur in the southeast, exceptions were an **Ovenbird** in *Wyoming* 12/20 and a **Pine Warbler** in *Crawford* until at least 12/19. Other species were **Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers** and **Common Yellowthroat**.

Among sparrows, most notable were a **Henslow's Sparrow** in *Chester* and a **Leconte's Sparrow** in *Delaware*. A **Harris's Sparrow** was in Beech Creek, *Clinton*, providing a first county record. It was a good winter for **Dickcissels**, with four reported in *Bucks*, *Cumberland*, *Huntingdon*, and *Lancaster*, all associated with feeding stations and **House Sparrows**. Two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were found in *Lancaster* 1/10; as usual they

were with a large mixed blackbird flock. Reports of **Baltimore Oriole** were fewer this year; singles were in *Chester*, *Juniata*, and *Northampton*.

Several compilers commented on an abundance of **Snow Buntings**. A majority (but not all) of the highest counts were clustered during 1/23-31 as shown in the table below. Whether these clustered high counts are coincidental is of course difficult to know. On 1/22-23, a period of very intense cold ended in the state, with temperatures going briefly above average, before dropping again, though not to the low levels of mid-Jan.

Snow Buntings, Late January 2009

Location	Date	Nbr
Shady Brook Farm, <i>Bucks</i>	1/27	120
Bath, <i>Northampton</i>	1/23	200+
Berlin, <i>Somerset</i>	1/25	200
Jennerstown, <i>Somerset</i>	1/25	200
Summit Mills, <i>Somerset</i>	1/29	100s
<i>Tioga</i>	1/31	230
Meshoppen, <i>Wyoming</i>	1/25	200

The biggest events of the season involved two winter finches, **White-winged Crossbill** and **Pine Siskin**, the former notable for rarity, the latter for remarkable numbers across the state.

This was easily the biggest invasion of **White-winged Crossbills** since 1997-98. In some areas, it may have equaled or topped even that invasion. Of all county summaries submitted, only the *Adams* compiler specifically mentioned an absence of crossbills. Throughout the entire state, with diligence, flocks were eventually discovered almost everywhere where stands of cone-laden conifers were actively searched. Most reports ranged from a few birds to several dozen. Few reports described flocks of over 100 birds, the largest number I noted was of a flock estimated at 200 in *Clarion*. During the 97-98 invasion, flocks in a few places reached several hundred and even well in excess of 1000 in *Clarion* (Hess et al. 1998). Those concentrations apparently did not occur this time. As in 97-98, very few visited feeding stations.

Pine Siskins are expected in moderate to large numbers in approximately alternating years. This year may have been the biggest invasion ever in the experience of current birders in the state. Reports well in excess of 100 were not uncommon. As reported in the CBC summary, the combined siskin CBC tally in Pennsylvania was the highest

ever. In State College, Nick Kerlin banded over 1000 siskins in his back yard by late April. A few of his banded birds were observed elsewhere in State College, and in late April, one was found in Belleville, *Mifflin*, about 20 miles south of State College.

Other rare winter finches also made appearances. There were three **Pine Grosbeak** reports. Nine were recorded in *Franklin* during the Chambersburg CBC 12/20, one was found in *Sullivan* 1/15, and six were in *Lebanon* 2/22. **Red Crossbills** were reported in about 11 counties from all parts of the state. Last year was a good year for **Common Redpolls**, so they were not expected to make a significant showing this year. Surprisingly, they come south again, reported from at least 25 counties, though mostly in small numbers. However, there were a few reports of big flocks: in northern *Clinton*, 80-100 redpolls were counted in a tamarack stand for a week beginning 1/25, and a flock of 100 at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 2/14 included a **Hoary Redpoll**. On 2/20, two large flocks were found in *Bradford*: one of 80-90 at New Era and a second of over 100 at Peck Hill.

Evening Grosbeaks were reported from five counties, all on CBCs: *Bucks*, *Clarion*, *Schuylkill*, and *Westmoreland*, and 24 were found on for the White Mills CBC in *Wayne* 12/14. In contrast to the siskins and crossbills, **Purple Finch**, a regularly expected species, was noted by several compilers as being scarce or absent. **American Goldfinches** were abundant as indicated by the record high total from Pennsylvania CBCs.

4343 McAlevys Fort Road
Petersburg, Pa. 16669
gw2@psu.edu

References

- Grove, G. 2008. Summary of the Season – December 2007 through February 2008. *Pennsylvania Birds* 22: 52-54.
- Hess, P., M. R. Leahy and R. M. Ross. 1998. Pennsylvania's Crossbill Winter of 1997-98. *Pennsylvania Birds* 12: 2-6.
- Malosh, G., and N. Pulcinella. 2008. Acceptance of Barnacle Goose to the Official List of the Birds of Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 22: 194-199.

Birds of Note – December 2008 through February 2009

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. "Listserv" indicates records deemed credible which were gleaned from the PABIRDS listserv for counties with no reporting compiler.

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 terms "no doc" and "doc submitted" indicate whether documentation has been submitted on reports of Review List species listed herein; "no doc" indicates that no documentation was known to have been submitted as of the time of writing. 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** typeface are noteworthy for rarity, but are recorded annually, usually in more than one county.

Greater White-fronted Goose – at least ten reports (mostly singles): *Allegheny*, *Beaver* (first county record), *Bedford*, *Bucks* (three reports of at least 9 birds including a family group of 5), *Centre*, *Dauphin*, *Franklin*, *Lehigh*, *Westmoreland*, *York*. The Allegheny and Beaver birds were the same flock of four.

Ross's Goose – *Bucks*: one on the Central Bucks CBC 12/28 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one imm. at Coatesville Reservoir 12/1 and an adult there 12/4-16 (both Larry Lewis). *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek 12/28 and two there 2/17 (both Edith Leaman); *Lawrence*: one at New Beaver 12/5 (Mark Vass); *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 2/11 (Michael Schall).

Brant – *Berks*: a total of 510 counted in passage over Hawk Mt. throughout Dec, with a high of 295 on 12/8 (Laurie Goodrich); *Bucks*: an injured bird at Penn-Warner Tract continued from fall into Dec; *Chester*: One at Coatesville Reservoir 12/1-4 (Larry Lewis), and a flock of 17 over Okehocking Preserve (Edith Parnum); *Lancaster*: one at Greenfield Estates Pond 12/4 (Justin Bosler).

Barnacle Goose* – *Bucks*: one at Maple Knoll Farms 1/24 and Pineville 2/7 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*).

Trumpeter Swan – *Berks*: two at Blue Marsh Lake 2/19 (Joan Silagy); *Erie*: five on Erie CBC 12/20; *Somerset*: a winged-tagged bird banded in Ontario 2006 was at Quemahoming Reservoir 1/12-19 (Anthony Marich).

Eurasian Wigeon – *Berks*: drake at Lake Ontelaunee 2/22 through Apr (Matt Spence, Bart Smith, Matt Wlasniewski); *Delaware*: one at Brinton Lake 2/16-20 (Kevin Fryberger); *Lancaster*: one at Octoraro Lake 2/21 (Chuck Chalfont, et al.); *York*: one at Codorus SP 2/15 (Matt Schuhart, Steve Wildasin, Randy Phillips).

Blue-winged Teal – *Bucks*: two at Bristol on Southern Bucks CBC 12/20 (Eileen Mercer); *Cumberland*: one at Big Springs 1/15 (Jan Getgood, Thomas Johnson); *Philadelphia*: one at Tinicum 2/19 (Tony Croasdale).

Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal* – *Bucks*: one male on Southern Bucks CBC at Penn-Warner Tract 12/20 (Devich Farbotnik, Billy Weber, *no doc*), an accompanying female was also believed to be a Eurasian.

King Eider* – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 12/30 (Jerry McWilliams, listserv, *doc submitted*).

Harlequin Duck* – *Warren*: one reported on CBC 12/20.

Red-throated Loon – *Clinton*: One on Lock Haven-Jersey Shore CBC 12/21 and one grounded at Tamarack 2/11, released on Susquehanna R. (Wayne Laubscher, Chad Kauffman); *Montgomery*: one at Walt Road 12/30 (George A. Franchois).

Red-necked Grebe – *Allegheny*: one on the Allegheny R. at Cheswick 12/21 (Dan Yagusic); *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon S.P. 1/5-11 (August and Judy Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek SP 12/16-21 (Larry Lewis); *Cumberland*: one on Conodoguinet Creek off of Route 114 in Mechanicsburg 2/14-17, with Western Grebe (Jennifer and Barry Horton); *Delaware*: one at Darby Creek 2/22 (Dave Eberly); *Lancaster*: two on the Susquehanna R. near Wrightsville 2/7 (Chuck Chalfont, Tom Raub).

Western Grebe* – *Cumberland*: One on Conodoguinet Creek off Route 114 in Mechanicsburg 2/14-21, first fully documented state record if accepted (Jennifer and Barry Horton, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: Southern Bucks CBC new high count of 32 on 12/20; *Northampton*: three at Martins Creek Quarry 12/13 (Michael Schall); *Philadelphia*: Twenty-three on the mid-winter census 1/10.

American Bittern – *Philadelphia*: one at Tinicum 1/4 (Lynn Roman, et al.).

Great Egret – *Bucks*: three on Southern Bucks County CBC 12/20; *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats, Susquehanna R. 1/11 (Eric Witmer).

Black-crowned Night Heron – *Bucks*: two at Penn-Warner Tract on Southern Bucks CBC 12/20 to at least 12/27 (Devich Farbotnik, Billy Weber).

Osprey – *Lackawanna*: One on Scranton CBC 12/20.

Red-tailed Hawk, western (dark) form* – *Centre*: found on State College CBC 12/14 (Steven Feldstein, Jim Dunn, Diane Bierly, *doc submitted*); *Juniata*: found and photographed during western *Juniata* Winter Raptor Survey 2/3 (Chad Kauffman, Aden Troyer, Butch McCahren, Michael McCahren).

Prairie Falcon* – *Cumberland*: found for the second consecutive year, east of Shippensburg, first at Running Pump Road 1/1 (Ramsay Koury), last reported at Mud Level Road 2/6 (Ron Freed, Dave Grove, Keith Gingrich), origin unknown (*no doc*).

Virginia Rail – *Bucks*: five at Quakertown Swamp on Upper Bucks CBC 12/8, four still there 1/4 (Devich Farbotnik).

Sandhill Crane – *Bucks*: one heard calling at Penn-Warner Tract during Southern Bucks CBC 12/20 (Devich Farbotnik, Billy Weber); *Chester*: one at Kennett Square 2/3-11 (Dale Kendall); *Crawford*: 13 on Linesville CBC 12/14-20 (m.ob.); *Lawrence*: Reported through the period at Volant Strips, as many 66 birds (m.ob., listserv); *Mifflin*: three near Belleville 12/13 (Chad Kauffman).

American Avocet – *Erie*: One on Erie CBC 12/20.

Spotted Sandpiper – *Juniata*: one on Lewistown CBC 12/20 (Toby J. Petersheim, Toby H. Petersheim).

Least Sandpiper – *Cumberland*: found for the fourth consecutive winter, presumably same bird, at Big Springs 1/1-2/7 (Vern Gauthier, m.ob.).

Baird's Sandpiper – *Lehigh*: one very late bird at Leaser Lake 12/2-9 (Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut, listserv).

American Woodcock – *Berks*: one at Bechtelsville 12/11 (Joanne Kintner); *Northampton*: one on Wild Gap-Little Creek CBC 12/14.

Pomarine/Parasitic Jaeger – *Erie*: Presque Isle SP 12/7 (Jerry McWilliams, listserv).

Pomarine Jaeger* – *Bucks*: a “possible” flyby reported in Nockamixon Twp. 12/20 (Alana Balogh, *no doc.*).

Laughing Gull – *Bucks*: two at Churchville Reservoir Park on Southern Bucks CBC 12/20 (Marlin Corn); *Delaware*: two on Delaware R. 12/1; *Lancaster*: one at Tanger Outlets 2/4 (Drew Weber).

Little Gull – *Erie*: Presque Isle SP 12/6 and 12/16 (Jerry McWilliams).

Black-headed Gull – *Butler*: one at Moraine S.P., continued from Nov to 12/10 (Ben Coulter, m.ob.).

California Gull* – *Erie*: one at Lakeview Landfill 2/23-25 (Jerry McWilliams, listserv, *doc submitted*).

Thayer's Gull* – *Bucks*: two first year birds at Penn-Warner Tract on Southern Bucks CBC 12/20 (Devich Farbotnik, Billy Weber, Rick Mellon, *no doc.*), one first year bird at Falls Twp. Community Park 1/1-4 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc.*) and again 1/9 (Tom Johnson, Cameron Rutt, *doc. expected*), one adult at Penn-Warner Tract 2/13 (David Yeany II, Cameron Rutt, *no doc.*).

Iceland Gull – *Allegheny, Bucks, Cumberland, Lancaster, Lebanon, Northampton, Philadelphia*.

Glaucous Gull – *Bucks*: one at Falls Twp. Community Park 12/6 (Bob Cunningham), eight on Southern Bucks CBC 12/20, and one at Churchville Reservoir Park 2/12 (Bill Keim); *Erie*: two on Erie CBC 12/20; *Philadelphia*: one on Delaware R. at Rhawn St. 12/30 (Frank Windfelder); *York*: one at Codorus SP 2/19, possible first county record (Peter Robinson).

Barn Owl – *Berks*: two on Hamburg CBC 12/28, one in Bern Twp. 1/13, 2/24 (Joan Silagy); *Cumberland*: two reported from SGL 169 on 12/15 (Andy Markel); *Dauphin*: two on Curtin CBC 12/29; *Juniata*: two on Lewistown CBC 12/15; *Union*: one on Lewisburg CBC 12/14.

Snowy Owl – *Cambria*: two in Patton area from mid-Dec through end of period (Dave Kaltenbaugh, Dave Gobert); *Clarion*: one at Curllsville 2/2 (Carole Winslow); *Dauphin*: one at Harrisburg 2/9 (Aura Stauffer); *Lancaster*: one in East Drumore Twp. 2/25 (Tom Amico); *Northampton*: one at Pen Argyl 12/23 (*fide* Rick Wiltraut), another at Northampton Recycling Plant 12/23 (Jon Lahr).

Rufous Hummingbird – *Allegheny*: one at Crafton from fall until 12/2 (*fide* Geoff Malosh); *Dauphin*: one on Harrisburg CBC 12/20; *Franklin*: one in Bear Valley until 2/16 (Joan Wagner, Dale Gearhart); *Perry*: A female at Marysville, banded 1/14 (listserv).

Blue-headed Vireo – *Butler*: one at Moraine State Park 12/7 (Dave Darney), and one on the Butler CBC at Wolf Creek Narrows 12/20 (Gene Wilhelm).

Tree Swallow – *Philadelphia*: one at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant 12/13 (Frank Windfelder).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – *Lancaster*: one from

the fall at the Susquehanna Water Pollution Control Plant in Washington Borough, stayed through the Lancaster CBC 12/21 (Eric Witmer); *Philadelphia*: found again this winter at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant, 125 there on 12/2, also recorded on the Pennypack Valley CBC, on 1/10, 75 still present (Frank Windfelder, et al.).

Cave Swallow* – *Philadelphia*: three continued from the last season Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant to 12/17 (Frank Windfelder, *doc submitted*).

Marsh Wren – up to two at Quakertown Swamp 12/8-1/4 (Devich Farbotnik).

Varied Thrush* – *Northampton*: one present on private property in Allentown beginning in mid-winter, photographed (*fide* Howard Eskin, *doc submitted*).

Orange-crowned Warbler – *Bucks*: present all season in a Langhorne yard (Gerry Dewaghe); *Chester*: one at feeder in West Chester all season (Mary Alice Knox); *Philadelphia*: one at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant 1/3-4 (Todd Fellenbaum, Frank Windfelder).

Nashville Warbler – *Bucks*: one in Warrington Twp. 12/14-17 (ph. Tena Kellogg), a second was in Langhorne 12/17-21 (ph. Gerry Dewaghe); *Lancaster*: one at Peach Bottom 12/3-16 (Bob Schutsky, Tom Raub).

Pine Warbler – *Bucks*: one all season at New Hope (Bill Hoehne), one in Milford Twp. on Upper Bucks CBC 12/14, and a third in Durham Twp. from 12/8 through the season (Bill Friedermann); *Chester*: up to 5 present at Coatesville Reservoir through early Jan (m.ob.); *Crawford*: one present until 12/19 (Adam Troyer, listserv); *Delaware*: one in Marcus Hook on Glenolden CBC 12/20 (Nick and Sharon Pulcinella), another attended a feeder in Media from Jan into Mar (Carol and Don Storey); *Lancaster*: one on Southern Lancaster CBC 12/14.

Palm Warbler – *Philadelphia*: up to 5 at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant through 1/10 (Todd Fellenbaum, Frank Windfelder).

Ovenbird – *Wyoming*: one on Tunkhannock CBC 12/20; *Philadelphia*: one at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant 1/10 (Shawn Towey).

Common Yellowthroat – *Bucks*: one at Levittown 2/11 (Nancy Bilheimer); *Montgomery*: one at Gwynedd Preserve 12/25 (August and Michael Mirabella). *Philadelphia*: two on Woodenbridge Run on CBC 12/20, six on the Philadelphia Mid-Winter Bird Census 1/10.

Yellow-breasted Chat – *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek SP 1/1 (Barry Blust).

Summer Tanager* – *Crawford*: one from the fall near Atlantic last seen 12/17 (m.ob.).

Vesper Sparrow – *Berks*: one on Hamburg CBC 12/28; *Lehigh*: one on Lehigh CBC 12/20.

Henslow's Sparrow – *Chester*: one photographed on Western Chester County CBC 12/13, last seen 2/9 (Kevin Fryberger, Brian Byrnes).

LeConte's Sparrow* – *Delaware*: one photographed at Media 1/25, last seen 3/1 (Al Guarente, m.ob.).

Lincoln's Sparrow – *Clarion*: found in Curllsville on Clarion CBC 1/3, last seen 1/13 (Carole Winslow); *Philadelphia*: one at Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education 1/10 (Ken Januski), and one on Pennypack Valley CBC 12/20; *Warren*: one on Warren CBC 12/20; *Westmoreland*: two on Rector CBC 1/3; one stayed through the season at Powdermill Nature Reserve (Andrew Vitz).

Harris's Sparrow* – *Clinton*: at a feeder in Beech Creek 1/7-2/24, a probable first county record (Dan Brauning, Steve Sneath, Wayne Laubscher, *doc submitted*).

Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow* – *Bucks*: one continued at Peace Valley Park from the fall season to at least 1/3 (August Mirabella, ph. Howard Eskin, *doc submitted*).

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco* – *Butler*: one on the Butler CBC 12/20 (*fide* Suzanne Butcher, *no doc.*); *Erie*: one in Erie until 12/7 (Michele Franz, *doc submitted*).

Dickcissel – *Bucks*: one from 1/13 through the season in Bensalem Twp. (Nick Zahn, Vince DeAntoniis); *Cumberland*: one at a Newville feeder 2/14 (Ron Freed, Andy Markel, Vern Gauthier, Devich Farbotnik); *Huntingdon*: at a feeder in Smithfield Twp. from fall season, last seen 12/31 (David and Trudy Kyler); *Lancaster*: one at a feeder in Holtwood 1/9-2/25 (Tom Amico, Bob Schutsky, Chuck Chalfont).

Yellow-headed Blackbird – *Lancaster*: two in large blackbird flock along Slate Hill Rd. in the southern part of the county 1/10 (Bob Schutsky Chuck Chalfont).

Baltimore Oriole – *Bucks*: one that wintered for the fifth

consecutive year at a location in New Hope (Suzanne Meyers) was also counted on the Central Bucks CBC 12/28, and one on Southern Bucks CBC 12/20 (George Carmichael); *Chester*: one in South Coventry Twp. 12/20-2/1 (Nancy Peterson); *Juniata*: one at Mifflintown during Lewistown CBC 12/20 (Henry Petersheim); *Northampton*: one at Koch Farm Dec-Jan (Arlene Koch).

Pine Grosbeak* – *Franklin*: Nine recorded on Chambersburg CBC 12/20; *Lebanon*: six at Memorial Lake SP 2/22 (Morris Cox); *Sullivan*: one with White-winged Crossbills in Eagle's Mere area 1/15 (Doris McGovern). (*No doc for any.*)

Hoary Redpoll* – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 2/14 (Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*).

Evening Grosbeak – *Bucks*: two fly-bys recorded on Upper Bucks CBC 12/14 (Andy Curtis, Paul Guris); *Clarion*: one reported on Clarion CBC 1/3; *Wayne*: 24 on White Mills CBC 12/14; *Schuylkill*: one on Western Schuylkill CBC 12/20 (Dave Kruel); *Westmoreland*: two at Ligonier 12/14 (Steven Latta, Bob Mulvihill).

Answer to Photo Quiz #23

Rick Wiltraut

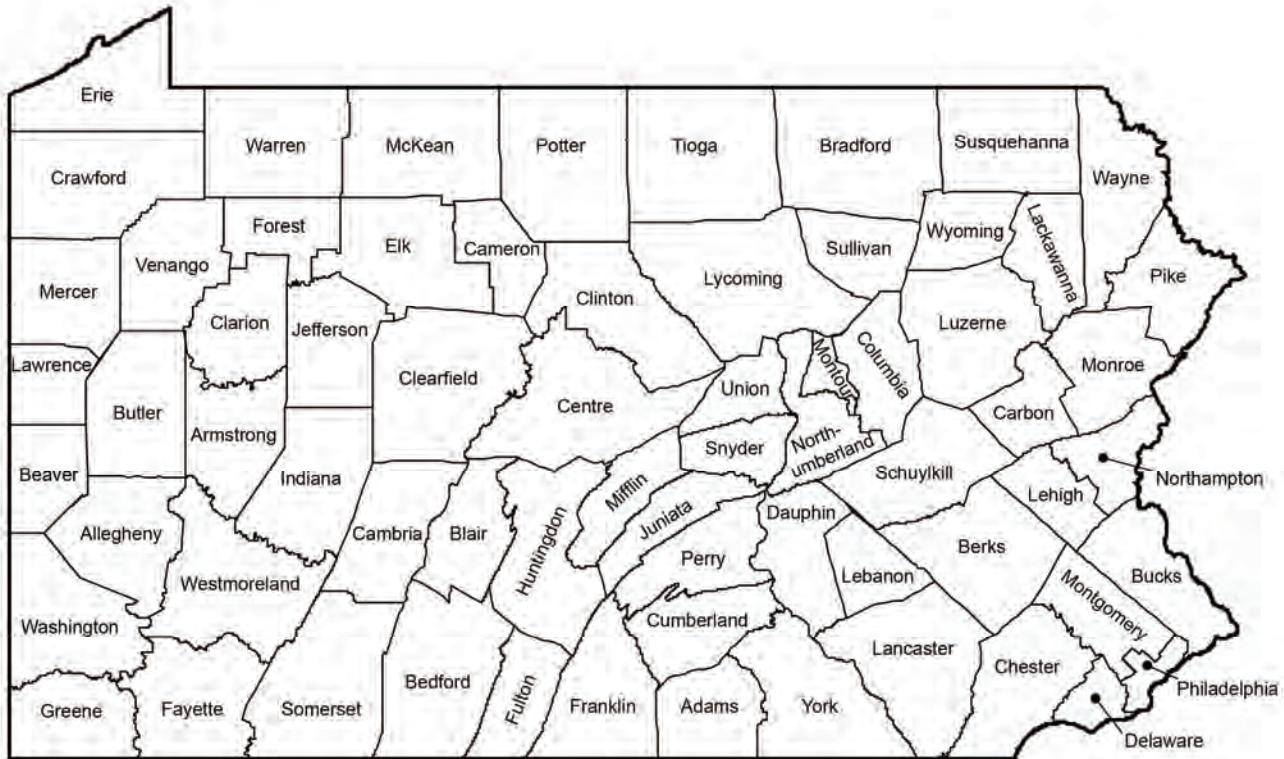
As you can see this bird is a nondescript songbird. Note the overall slender appearance, the gray-brown upperparts, light streaking on the back, long tail, dark legs, and buffy tones and streaks on the flanks. Also note that this bird is perched on a rock out in the open. Many species of birds spend most of their time on the ground. Vesper Sparrows are often found on barren ground in agricultural fields, but have pale brown upperparts that are a heavily streaked. Juncos are also often found on open barren ground, and in their alpine breeding areas of New England, are often seen perched on large rocks. Juvenile juncos have streaked flanks but are also heavily streaked on the back. Many birds that normally spend much of their time foraging high in vegetation will also perch on the ground. At places like the Dry Tortugas, Whitefish Point, and Point Pelee, exhausted and normally treetop-dwelling migrants are often foraging or resting on the ground. In addition, many migrating Neotropical birds will forage on the ground in search of insects during cold weather.

Only a few species of songbirds are considered true ground dwellers that spend almost all of their time on the ground out in the open. Among these are the Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, rosy-finches, longspurs, wagtails and pipits. Snow Buntings will often land on rocky outcrops and jetties, but this bird is obviously not a Snow Bunting. This bird somewhat resembles a Horned Lark, but the upperparts of a Horned Lark are a more sandy-brown color. Rosy-finches are much browner or black on the upperparts and have shorter tails. Of the longspurs, McCown's and Lapland are the only two species that will typically feed out in open barren areas. Lapland Longspur has heavy streaking on the back, a rufous nape, rufous edges on the greater coverts and tertials, and a proportionally shorter tail. McCown's has a mostly white and much shorter tail than this bird, paler upperparts, more distinct streaking on back, and rusty median coverts. Wagtails have proportionately longer tails than the bird seen here. In overall coloration and appearance, this bird could pass for a juvenile or first-winter Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis*), which is similar in coloration and has the shortest tail of all the wagtails. However, they are still longer tailed than the bird pictured here. They also lack streaking on the flanks. Sprague's Pipit has a heavily streaked back, shorter tail, pale legs and is very inconspicuous in short grass.



This American Pipit was photographed by Dustin Welch at Leaser Lake in Lehigh County. The white outer tail feathers of this bird are well hidden! Most birders associate pipits with plowed fields, and it is not uncommon to find them in fall on mudflats. Sometimes after heavy snows, I find them walking on plowed roads or feeding on exposed rocks in the Delaware River. True to their similar alpine nesting habitat, I have also seen them circle around and try to land on barren outcrops along the Kittatinny Ridge while watching for hawks in the fall. One of my fondest bird memories was with my mother at Cape St. Mary's in Newfoundland. On our way out to the cliffs to see the gannets and kittiwakes, we encountered several American Pipits performing their spectacular courtship flights over the barren landscape.

Local Notes – December 2008 to February 2009



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. ob.	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).	juvenal [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.A.	Recreational Area	W.R.S	Winter Raptor Survey
L.	Lake	R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert		

Adams County

Locations: Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP).

On the Gettysburg Christmas Bird Count, 20 field observers and 19 feeder watchers recorded 75 species. The county participated in the state's Pine Siskin invasion, but no White-winged Crossbills, the other invasion species, were reported.

A flock of 25 **Tundra Swans** was seen flying over Germany Rd. 2/14 (PK). **Ring-necked Pheasants** have become quite scarce, and the only report was three along Gun Club Rd. 12/1 (PK). The 12/10 CBC yielded 38 **Wild Turkey**: 2 were seen 1/10 along Rte. 94 (PK) and 3 visited East Berlin feeders throughout the period (PK). The 12/20 CBC reported 17 **Northern Harriers**, one was seen 2/1 along Mud Run Rd. (PK), and there were several reports one or two at the GNMP. A single **Rough-legged Hawk** and one **Merlin** were each found on the 12/20 CBC. There were four reports of one or two **Short-eared Owls** at the GNMP where they have been regular winter visitors. Other Short-eared Owl reports were 2 on 1/25 along Knox Rd. (AF), and one 2/25 on Lake Rd. (PK).

The 12/20 CBC produced a rather high count of 11 **Common Ravens** but just one **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, as well as one **Winter**

Wren, 5 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and one **Hermit Thrush**. The most unexpected species on the CBC were **Gray Catbird**, **Eastern Towhee**, and **Chipping Sparrow**, all singles. The only **Fox Sparrow** report was of one seen on the 12/20 CBC.

Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found on the 12/20 CBC, the only report. A flock of 50 **Common Grackles** was seen 2/10 near Peach Glen (BO) and 10 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were at GNMP 1/31 (BH). There were numerous reports of **Pine Siskins**, with high counts of 355 on the 12/20 CBC, 90 at an East Berlin feeder 1/10 (PK), and 178 at a York Springs feeder 2/7 (D&JG).

Observers: **Peter J. Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 542-8341, pabirder@hotmail.com**, Peter Bugler, Ann Fruth, Don & Jen Gilbert, Kevin Hall, Barry Horton, Phil Keener, Art & Noanie Kennell, Alex Lamoreaux, Nancy Locher, Bob Moul, Bill Oyler, Rusty Ryan, Ralph & Deb Siefken, Carole Simon, Mike Weible.

Allegheny County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Findlay Township (FT), IMP (Imperial), McKees Rocks (MKSR).

A bit of winter weather moved in during December with most of the precipitation falling as heavy rain. The remainder of the season was cold with a lot of snow. By mid-Dec a northern finch invasion was well underway. Pine Siskins continued and increased in number from Nov, but the real surprise was the impressive arrival of White-winged Crossbills and even a few Common Redpolls.

Tundra Swans continued to move through in early Dec with a flock of 40 flying over North Park 12/4 (DN) and 80 over Duck Hollow 12/7 (KSJ). A flock of 37 settled on the AR at Blawnox 12/11 (DY) and 28 were in FT 12/12. A flock of 50 flying over Robinson Township 2/14 (GM) were most likely northbound migrants.

Three rare species of geese provided one of the county highlights this season. Four **Greater White-fronted Geese** and 4 **Cackling Geese** were a pleasant surprise in FT 12/31 (MV). The birds were first discovered on a small frozen farm pond, but later settled on a large nearby pond late in the afternoon, apparently to spend the night. The following morning, the birds were still present, with another unexpected species, **Snow Goose** (MF). Four snows were feeding along the shore and interestingly, there were two white morphs and two blue morphs, an adult and juvenile of each. Snow geese are rare in the county and blue morphs are exceptionally so, particularly a juvenile. The white-fronted provided the third county record and the cackling were the first record documented with photographs and seen by multiple observers. The white-fronted were last seen 1/14, the cackling 1/12, and the snows 1/14 (m.ob.).

In addition to the geese, duck reports were good, particularly the uncommon species. Two **American Wigeon** were in FT 2/26 (TM), and two were at IMP 2/28 (SC). A **Mallard X American Black Duck** was in FT 2/21 (MF) and a **Northern Shoveler** was there 1/5 (BC). **Northern Pintail** reports were exceptional for this season. A male was in FT 12/22 (MV), and another was Emsworth Dam 1/31-2/7 (MV), a female was at Wood's Run 2/15 (MV), two males were in FT 2/20 (MV), with one remaining 2/21-26 (LM, TM), and four were at IMP 2/28 (SC). Two **Green-winged Teal** were in FT 12/5-7 (MV), one was at the point in Pittsburgh 12/11 (DY), and three were at MKSR 1/2 (MV). **Canvasbacks** were in good numbers throughout the season. The AR from Pittsburgh up river to Cheswick held a total of 128 during a rainy day 12/11 (DY). A female **Surf Scoter** continued from last season to 12/21 around the Highland Park Dam on the AR (DY, et al.). Three adult **White-winged Scoters** (a male and two females) were a nice find on the AR at Dam #4 in Tarentum 2/8 (DY). **Long-tailed Duck** reports on the AR were above average this season. Two were at the Highland Park Dam 12/9, two were nearby at Fox Chapel 12/11, one was at the Highland Park Dam 12/16, and three were there 12/20 (all DY). This species continued its presence through the season with two on the Ohio R. at Emsworth 1/3-10 (MV), two at Tarentum 1/24 (DY), a female at Wood's Run 1/24 and 2/7 (MV), and possibly the same bird at Dashields Dam 1/31-2/3 (MF, MV, GM), four at Tarentum 2/8 (DY), and a female again at Wood's Run 2/27 (MV). Single **Red-breasted Mergansers** were reported at the Highland Park Bridge 12/1 (DY), Dashields Dam 1/4 (MV), MKSR and Dashields 1/10 (MV) and Duck Hollow 1/23 (BC). **Ruddy Ducks** were reported most of the season with a high count of 14 at Creighton 12/11 (DY).

I received a late report of a leucistic **Wild Turkey** in early Nov in Ross Township (MSm).

A **Red-necked Grebe** was a nice find on the AR at Cheswick 12/21 (DY) and another (possibly the same bird) was just upriver a few miles at Dam #4 in Tarentum 2/8 (DY). A **Horned Grebe** in Harmar Township 12/27 provided a rare record for the Pittsburgh CBC (SSn). Small numbers of **Horned** and **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported during the entire season.

Two **Turkey Vultures** were in Leetsdale 12/19 (MV) and one was in Fawn Twp. 1/24 (DH). By early Feb returning migrants were noted with several reports 2/7. An adult **Bald Eagle** was at the Highland Park Bridge area 12/3 and 12/27 (DY). Another was in Etna 12/27 (DY) providing nice CBC records. At least one adult was observed along the AR the entire season from the Highland Park Dam up river to Tarentum (DY, AH, PM, GM, MF). One was also seen along the Ohio R. at MKSR 1/4 (JSc); two were there 1/24 (MV), and one was downriver at Dashields Dam 1/17-2/1 (MV). Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found in Hampton Twp. (DN), and single birds were in Ohara Twp. (ST, SuT) and Indiana Twp. (DG) during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/27. One was found at IMP 1/25 (KS, BS, SM) and resident birds were in Pine Twp. the entire season (PL, SL). **Rough-legged Hawks** wintered at IMP as usual. Up to two dark and three light morph were reported from 1/1 to the end of the season (m. ob.). A **Merlin** was found at Duck Hollow

12/27 (SS, PH), and one was at MKSR 1/4 (JSc). One was reported near the roost site in Schenley Park in Nov, however none were found during this season. A **Peregrine Falcon** was at IMP 12/27 (BS) and two were found at a bridge in Tarentum 1/17 (SG).

American Coot reports were sparse with one near the Highland Park Dam 1/17 (DY, MF) and one upriver near Oakmont 1/18 (AH, PM). Coots were regularly attracted to parks and boat docks along the rivers where people would routinely feed the birds, however this activity is now prohibited and waterfowl no longer gather at these sites.

A **Killdeer** continued from last season at Duck Hollow 12/7 (KSJ), and a bird at Allegheny Cemetery 2/11 (PB) was probably a returning spring migrant.

A flock of 20 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at the point in Pittsburgh 12/21 (DY), 13 were on the Ohio R. at MKSR 12/22 (MV), three were at the point that day (GM), and two were at MKSR 12/27 (OM) providing only the 6th record for the Pittsburgh CBC (*fide* JV). A flock was seen at the point again 1/17 (DY) and one was along the AR in Tarentum 1/24 (DY). Some rare gulls found their way into the county again this season, but only stayed for a brief time. A first winter **Iceland Gull** was at the point in Pittsburgh 1/19 (DY) and remained until 1/24 (DW, GM, BC, DY, MF). An adult **Great Black-backed Gull** was at the same location 1/20 (GM) and again 2/6 (DY).

The male **Rufous Hummingbird** from the fall was last seen in Crafton 12/2 (*fide* GM). This individual was first noted in August 2008 and was probably the longest staying bird in the county's history.

A **Barred Owl** was reported in the Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh in Feb (EM), an unusual location for this species. **Short-eared Owls** were present at IMP all season with a high of eight on 1/1 (SC).

Normally found in small numbers in winter, 65 **Northern Flickers** tallied during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/27 represented the third highest total for the count (*fide* JV).

The **Northern Shrike** reported at IMP in Nov was seen 12/13 (MV). It probably remained through the season, however it was not seen again until 2/20 (MV) and 2/21 (GM). Another bird was in Robinson Township 12/22 and 12/25 (SC).

A **Fish Crow** was heard in Allegheny Cemetery 1/15 (TM) and 1/18 (BH). Two **Common Ravens** were in FT near the Greater Pittsburgh Airport 12/3 (DW) and two were at Harrison Hills Park 12/20 (PH), rare for that location. Two were in Oakmont 12/31 (AH, PM). A bird was observed carrying nesting material (making three trips) to a railroad bridge in Aspinwall 2/9 (DY). This is the same bridge where this species built a nest in 2008; a first potential breeding record for the county. One was in MKSR 2/12 (OM, JG), another regular location. It is uncertain if there is more than one pair or if the sightings along the rivers are the same birds moving along the river valleys.

Red-breasted Nuthatch reports were good for the season. Three were found in North Park (BVN, MS, KD, RD, JB), one was in Schenley Park (WS, DS) and one was in Indiana Twp. (DG) 12/27. Four was a nice count at Hartwood Acres 1/3 and three were there 1/17 (PB), three were in Forest Hills 1/8 (TBI), two were at IMP 1/9 (MV) and one was in Hampton Twp. 1/28 (DN). A few **Winter Wrens** were reported in Dec. Single birds were at East Liberty 12/2 (DY), Sewickley Hills 12/5 (PB), and Fox Chapel 12/27 (DN). Two were at North Park 12/27 (BVN). Very uncommon in the county in winter, single **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were at Frick Park (JS, SS) and North Park (BVN) 12/27, providing not only uncommon winter county records, but rare Pittsburgh CBC records.

A **Hermit Thrush** at Sewickley Heights Park 2/14 was the only report this season (BVN). An unusual sight in winter, a **Brown Thrasher** visited a feeder in Forest Hills irregularly 1/4-2/7 (TBI, MB).

Three **Eastern Towhees** lingered in FT 12/13 (MV). **American Tree Sparrows** were reported from the usual locations but a few appeared at feeders in unusual locations. One was at Frick Park 12/13 (JS, SS) where they are infrequent visitors, up to two visited a feeder in Pleasant Hills 1/11-18 (SSn), one visited a feeder in Natrona Heights 1/11 (PH), one at Harmar Twp. 1/17-27 (JV), and several in Shaler Twp 1/17 (JH). Two **Chipping Sparrows** in Penn Hills 12/4 were late (DY) and a few **Field Sparrows** lingered in the county, including single birds in FT 12/13 (MV), Hampton Twp. (DN), and Kilbuck Twp. (PB); the last two recorded during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/27. **Swamp Sparrows** lingered from Nov in FT to 12/13 (MV). Several were found during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/27 including two at Hampton Twp., two at Fox Chapel (DN), and one in Homewood Cemetery (MVV). One bird continued in FT 1/1 (MF). A western race of the **Dark-eyed Junco** with a hood (most likely *cismontanus*) was found during the CBC in Fox Chapel 12/27 (BSH). A bird with a partial white collar was in Pine

Township during Dec (PL, SL). **Lapland Longspurs** continued from last season in FT; two were seen the first week of Dec (JH).

A **Rusty Blackbird** visited a feeding station in Sewickley 12/7 (JO). Rare in winter a **Common Grackle** visited a feeder in Beechview 1/13 (KM) and Pine Twp. 1/4-6 and 1/29 (PL, SL). A **Red-winged Blackbird** came to a feeder in Scott Twp. 1/9 (KM). By the last week of Feb returning **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** were noted (m.ob.).

A female plumaged **Purple Finch** was in East Liberty 12/3 and 12/6 (DY). One was at North Park 12/27 (BVN) and one visited a feeder in Pine Twp. 1/25 (PL, SL).

A notable invasion of northern finches began in Nov with numerous **Pine Siskins** reported throughout the county. They were followed by great numbers of **White-winged Crossbills** to the delight of area birders. A few flocks of **Common Redpolls** were another surprise northern visitor.

White-winged Crossbills were numerous from the middle of Dec through the season. The first report came from Franklin Park 12/16 when three flew across a road (GM). A large flock of approximately 100 frequented Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville where they were discovered 1/12 (PB) and remained through the season (m.ob.). The cemetery became the site for many birders who wanted to see this northern visitor. Some other larger flocks included 75 at IMP 1/5 (BC), 75 in Greentree 1/29 (BC), 75 in Carnegie 1/30 (SK) and 80 in Hampton Twp. 2/2 (SK). Birds were reported from a minimum of 28 locations in the county.

After last year's fairly good invasion, **Common Redpolls** were an unexpected surprise this winter. A flock of 22 stopped briefly at the small park near the Highland Park Dam 12/2 followed by a flock of 20 on 12/16 (DY). A flock of 34 were found at North Park 12/27 during the Pittsburgh CBC (KS, SM, SC, VM). A few were at IMP 1/5 (BC) and 1/11 (GM), and one visited a feeder in Leetsdale 1/11 (BS). A flock of 14 were at North Park 2/2 (SK), 20 were at IMP 2/8 (BS, KS) and a flock of 30-40 were there 2/14 (MF).

Pine Siskins continued from the fall and remained for the entire season. A total of 206 were counted during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/27 and many visited feeders in the area. High counts included 112 at Pine Twp. 12/17 (PL, SL), 100-160 at Moon Township 1/11 (GM), 100 at Leetsdale 1/11 (BS), at least 90 at Fox Chapel 1/6-15 (BSh) and 144 at Pine Twp. 2/14 (PL, SL). Pine Siskins were reported from at least 32 locations. The leucistic **American Goldfinch** reported last season was still present in Pine Township through the period (PL, SL). A bird with a white collar visited a feeder in Penn Hills Feb (MF).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Carl Banks, Joe Bayer, Meg Bledsoe, Tony Bledsoe (TBl), John Boback (JBo), Carol Borek (CBo), Mark Bowers, Paul Brown, Shawn Collins, Ben Coulter, Tammy Deemer, Karyn Delaney, Ray Delaney, Joe Fedor, Donna Foyle, David Geis, Randi Gerrish, Sarah Gerrish, Steve Gosser, Eric Hall, Brian Herman, Amy Henrici, Deborah Hess, Paul Hess, Joyce Hoffmann, Roger Hummel, Dave Kerr, Margie Kern, Scott Kinzey, Patrick Kopnick, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Pat McShea, Virginia McQuown, Geoff Malosh, Eric Marchbein, Oscar Miller, Thomas Moeller, Kathy Murphy, Lucas Musher, Shirley Mutz, Rosie Noll, Dick Nugent, John Orndorff, Tom Pawlesh, Shannon Platt, Kate St. John, Kathy Saunders, Meg Scanlon, Judy Schryer (JuS), Tony Schryer, Brian Shema (BSh), John Schreiber (JSc), Ed Shott, Sam Sinderson (SSn), Becky Smith, Mike Smith (MSm), Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Loree Speedy, Mary Sterrett, Steve Thomas, Sue Thomas (SuT), Shannon Thompson (STh), Ryan Tomazin, Jim Valimont, Mark VanderVen (MVV), Bob VanNewkirk (BVN), Susanne Varley, Mark Vass, Paul Wiegman, Dave Wilton, Dan Yagusic.

Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Rosston (RT), Yatesboro (YB).

Canada Goose maxima included 211 at KR 12/14 (MH, RH) and 226 at KT 1/11 (MH, RH). Two **Mute Swans** were noted at RT 12/23-1/31 (MVT). KR yielded 2 **Gadwalls** 12/14 (MH, RH) and 2 **American Wigeons** 1/11 (MH, RH). On 1/11 (MH, RH), 6 **American Black Ducks** were at KR and one at RT. **Mallard** counts were 11 at Manorville 12/4 (MVT), 6 at KR 12/14 (MH, RH), and 43 at KR, 34 at KT, and 14 at RT,

all 1/11 (MH, RH). The only **Green-winged Teal** listed were 3 at KT 1/11 (MH, RH). Thirty-eight **Canvasbacks**, 3 **Greater Scaup**, and 3 **Lesser Scaup** at RT were nice finds 12/11 (DY). KR hosted 3 Lesser Scaup 12/14 (MH, RH) and 4 on 1/11 (MH, RH). Four **Buffleheads** were noted at CC 12/4 (MVT) and at KR 12/14, 1/11 (MH, RH). A **Common Goldeneye** at KR 12/14 (MH, RH) and one at RT 12/23 (MVT) were the only ones reported. **Hooded Mergansers** included 4 at CC 12/12 (MVT), 2 at KR 12/14 (MH, RH), 4 at RT 12/23 (MVT), and 4 at KR on 1/11 (MH, RH). **Common Mergansers** appeared in good numbers with 16 at KR 12/14 (MH, RH), 88 at CC 1/8 (MVT), and 31 at KR and 4 at KT, the latter two reports 1/11 (MH, RH). RT yielded a good tally of 62 **Ruddy Ducks** 12/11 (DY); a singleton at KR 12/14 (MH, RH) was the only other one reported.

KR yielded single **Common Loons** 12/14, 1/11 (MH, RH) and 3 **Pied-billed Grebes** and one **Horned Grebe**, the latter two reports 12/14 (MH, RH). First **Turkey Vulture** soared over Ford City 2/24 (RH). An adult **Bald Eagle** was observed at KR 12/14 (MH, RH) while 2 were there 1/11 (MH, RH); CC yielded 4 on 2/12 (MVT), only one of which was an adult. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted only near LB 12/13 (MVT), at CC 1/8 (MVT), and at YB 1/16 (ED). A Winter Raptor Survey in *Armstrong* produced 1 **Cooper's Hawk**, 3 **Red-tailed Hawks**, one dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk**, and 2 **American Kestrels** 1/31 (MMc). A dark morph Rough-leg was at Elders Ridge 1/25 (MH, RH).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** appeared at CC 2/9 (MVT). **Ring-billed Gulls** at KR included 8 on 12/14 (MH, RH) and 3 on 1/11 (MH, RH); CC yielded as many as 8 on 2/12-13 (MVT). A **Barred Owl** roosted in a tree at CC between 12/27-2/25 (MVT).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found regularly 12/13-2/15 (MVT) at LB, 1/11 (MH, RH) at KR, and 1/16 and 1/21 at YB (ED).

Six **White-crowned Sparrows** visited a YB feeder 12/17 (ED). Ten **Red-winged Blackbirds** lingered at Elders Ridge 12/7 (MH, RH), and a singleton returned near LB 2/13 (MVT). Six **Common Grackles** visited feeders at YB 12/15 (PB). A **Brown-headed Cowbird** stopped at a feeder near LB 1/11 (MVT), the lone report. At CC, **White-winged Crossbills** numbered 12 on 2/11, 25 the following day, but only 4 on 2/14 (MVT). **Pine Siskin** reports included 25 at CC 12/12 (MVT), one at KR 12/14 (MH, RH), 20 at CC 1/7 (MVT), and 32 near LB 1/11 and 1/30 (MVT), and a YB yard yielded 4 on 1/14 (ED), 8 on 1/21 (ED), and 15 by 2/13 (ED). By 1/21 (ED), **American Goldfinch** numbers at YB had reached 75; numbers there spiked to 130 on 2/13 (ED).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Patty Barnett, Erma Dovenspike, Roger Higbee, Mark McConaughy, Marjorie Van Tassel, Dan Yagusic.

Beaver County

Locations: Aliquippa (ALQ), Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Beaver Falls (BF), Beaver River (BR), Independence Marsh (IND), Montgomery Locks and Dam (MLD), New Brighton (NB), Ohio River (OR), Rochester (RCH).

Other than waterfowl and winter finches, the winter of 2008-09 was a dull one in *Beaver*. Fortunately, the waterfowl and winter finch showings were impressive enough in their own right to keep birders quite busy though a long and cold winter. Deep cold set in by the end of December, and by mid-January most of the Beaver River and large portions of the Ohio River were jammed with ice. The few patches of water that remained open on the Beaver River, primarily at the river mouth and below the dams in New Brighton and Beaver Falls, provided a haven for wintering and early northbound ducks in January and early February. Concentrations of some species, particularly **Canvasback** and **Common Goldeneye**, were among the most impressive in *Beaver's* history. By mid-February warmer temperatures returned for long enough stretches to clear the rivers of ice, and although periodic strong cold spells continued in March, none were long enough in duration to refreeze the rivers, allowing waterfowl to disperse.

Rare geese made news in nearby *Allegheny* during the first two weeks of Jan, when 4 each of **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Cackling Goose**, and **Snow Goose** all appeared together within a mile of the *Beaver* border. Happily, the entire group of all 12 individuals was seen across the county border in Independence Twp. 1/9 (MV). The **Greater White-fronted Geese** were a first for *Beaver*, but the **Snow Geese** and **Cackling Geese** were not even the first of the season for the county;

one **Snow Goose** was at NB 12/14 (MV) feeding in a field adjacent to a water treatment plant with 178 **Canada Geese**, and two **Cackling Geese** were at Hereford Manor L. 12/21 (MV). A **Mute Swan** was at RCH 12/23-24 (MV). This species seems to have a curious habit of appearing for a day or two on the rivers in early winter, only to disappear in short order. The last southbound **Tundra Swan** passed over Ambridge 12/12 (MV), and first northbound birds were 38 over Shippingport 2/1 (MV).

A **Wood Duck** at NB 12/23-24 was a good late Dec find (MV), especially as the BR was nearing a complete freeze. **American Black Ducks** were a fixture on the BR for most of the winter, making this an "on-year" for this inscrutable species. Top counts were 15 at RCH 1/28 (MV) and 18 there 2/2 (GM). Additionally 17 American Black Ducks at a mostly frozen AR 2/22 (MV) was impressive. The season's only **Northern Shoveler** was at RCH 2/27 (BS *vide* MV). A rare mid-winter **Northern Pintail** wandered the BR in mid-Jan; it was seen at NB 1/13, at BF 1/16, and back at NB 1/18 (all MV).

S.A.

Canvasback, and to a lesser extent **Redhead**, had superb showings at the mouth of the BR at RCH this winter.

Starting with a group of 8 at RCH 1/22 (MV), **Canvasback** numbers built steadily for the next week, leveling at 33 by 1/28. Then the Canvasback flock ballooned to 81 on 1/30 (MV), and hit its peak of 117 at RCH 2/10 (GM), quite possibly the highest total for this species in *Beaver's* history. Daily counts exceeded 80 for nearly two weeks, from 1/30-2/11.

These birds were likely northbound migrants that encountered the heavy ice that had developed in the area by mid-Jan, and thus staged in the only open water they could find. Finally, a strong warm front beginning 2/12 cleared much of the river ice, and Canvasbacks began to disperse. The flock dropped to the low teens during the next week, but up to 23 were recorded 2/26. Interesting was a single Canvasback at IND 12/31 (MV), an odd location for the species. Perhaps this bird was the earliest of these early northbound migrants, or perhaps it was a wandering individual from farther north pushed south by building ice.

Redheads appeared (and peaked) at RCH on the same schedule as Canvasback, but in lower numbers. Single-digit totals were a daily occurrence beginning 1/21, but as Canvasback peaked in the second week of Feb, so too did Redhead, with the best total being 21 on 2/7 (GM, MV). They also quickly dispersed after 2/12, but another wave of 21 appeared at RCH 2/22 (MV). Five were still there 2/26. The twice-reached high of 21 is not unprecedented in *Beaver* but very impressive nonetheless.

A trio of **Ring-necked Ducks** at AR 1/1 (MV) was odd for Jan. Early migrants were a single at MLD 2/1 (MV) and 8 at RCH 2/11 (GM). A wintering first year male **Greater Scaup** appeared at RCH 11/26 (MV) and became the first of its species recorded on the Beaver CBC 12/20 (*vide* RM). It probably stayed the entire winter, but became impossible to distinguish beginning the last week of Dec when it was joined by up to 10 additional Greater Scaup, all of which remained though 2/7 (m.ob.). Most of the flock dispersed with the warm temperatures in mid-Feb, but 3 were still at RCH 2/20. A **Lesser Scaup** at RCH 12/12 (MV) and one or 2 at RCH 2/6-7 (GM, MV) were the only reported. A **White-winged Scoter** appeared at RCH 12/6-13 (MV). Another White-winged Scoter was at RCH 2/6-7 (MV), and yet another (or perhaps the same) was at RCH 2/11 (ph. GM) where it remained to 2/24. **Long-tailed Ducks** were 2 at RCH 12/12-14 (MV) and one at RCH 2/10 (ph. GM). **Buffleheads** were off reported on the BR and OR 1/25-2/13; peak counts were 9 at BF 1/30 (MV) and a total of 14 across three locations 2/1 (MV).

Common Goldeneyes were present in small numbers on the BR the entire season, but like Canvasback and Redhead, numbers built to impressive totals during the deepest freezes of late Jan and early Feb. The highest numbers occurred in the open waters below the dam in BF, where high counts were 35 on 1/23 (MV) and 43 on 1/30 (MV). Twenty-seven at MLD 2/1 (MV) were probably different than the wintering flock at BF. Eight were still on the BR 2/20. **Hooded Mergansers** were similarly present all season on the BR; best was 13 at BF 1/16 (MV). A single **Common Merganser** wandered the BR 12/6-1/16 (MV). The largest migrant flocks of this species were 57 at the mouth of Raccoon Cr. 1/18 (MV) and 28 on the OR in Potter Twp. 2/1 (MV). The season's only **Red-breasted Merganser** was a single at RCH at the odd date of

12/31 (MV). Only two **Ruddy Duck** reports were received: 12 at RCH 12/12 (MV) and 2 at RCH 2/22 (MV), clearly representing the last fall migrants and first spring migrants respectively.

A **Common Loon** at RCH 12/19 was the only loon for the season. **Pied-billed Grebes** wintered in small numbers on the BR. Four or 5 were at NB and RCH in Dec (MV, GM); as many as 3 were seen at RCH in early Feb. **Horned Grebes** appeared six times, including good mid-winter finds of a single at BF 1/23 and one each at Shippingport and MLD 2/1 (all MV). **Great Blue Herons** gathered at the mouth of Raccoon Cr. in good numbers: 24 were there 1/18 (MV), and 18 on 2/1 (MV).

As many as 4 **Bald Eagles** wintered locally on the two rivers (SG, m.ob.), but finding more than one in a single day became difficult after mid-Jan. Last was one over RCH 2/7 (GM). A **Northern Harrier** was at Green Twp. 1/25 (MV), a traditional wintering location. Four **Red-shouldered Hawks** on the Beaver CBC 12/20 provided only the fourth CBC record and the highest-ever CBC total (*vide* RM). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was in North Sewickley Twp. 1/23 (MV). A new wintering area for **American Kestrels** was located in New Sewickley Twp. 2/6 (GM). A **Merlin** wintered in Beaver, recorded 12/11-2/9 (SG, GM). It was frequently seen perched on the steeple of a church at the corner of Fourth and Beaver Streets. The Monaca **Peregrine Falcons** returned to the East Rochester Bridge this season to nest for a third consecutive year, first seen there as a pair 1/15 (SG). It was believed for a time that another pair might nest at the Bruce Mansfield complex in Shippingport, but the prospective pair disappeared in early Mar (SG).

Up to six **American Coots** wintered on the BR at NB (MV). Three **Killdeer** at AR 1/1 (MV) were late and undoubtedly were driven south as the ice and cold deepened in early Jan; however a single at Independence Twp. 2/2 (MV) appeared before the first big thaw. The last **Bonaparte's Gulls** were 10 at RCH 12/20 during the Beaver CBC (MV), and two at NB 12/24 (MV). Nearly 200 **Ring-billed Gulls** staged on the BR in Dec (MV), and 100 were at RCH 2/11 (MV). A flock of 10 on the frozen reservoir at Raccoon Creek S.P. 2/10 (SK) indicates that this species was on the move at the time. Peak **Herring Gull** count was 50 on the BR 12/6 (MV).

The only **Great Horned Owl** report was of the nesting pair in North Sewickley Twp. (DK). **Red-bellied Woodpecker** set a new Beaver CBC high count 12/20 when 42 were recorded (*vide* RM). **Common Raven** was reported in RCH all season, including 12/20 during the CBC, which provided a first CBC record (*vide* RM). A flock of 120 **Horned Larks** and 80 **Snow Buntings** was a surprise find in a relatively small farm field in New Sewickley Twp. 2/6 (GM). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** wintered at AR and SGL 285; best count was 9 at SGL 285 on 2/7 (GM). **Brown Creepers** were reported 12/6-1/7 (MV, KD). A **Winter Wren** was a good CBC find 12/20 (MV). **Eastern Bluebirds** seem to be increasing as a wintering species. Top count was at least 15 near SGL 285 on 2/7 (GM). Three **American Pipits** were at IND 12/31 (MV).

Additional Beaver CBC highlights 12/20 not already mentioned included the following: A total of 11 **Northern Mockingbirds**, which set a new CBC high count (*vide* RM). A single flock of 90 **Cedar Waxwings** was a nice find (RM). One **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was recorded (MV). A single **Chipping Sparrow** was the fourth for the CBC, and new high counts for **Dark-eyed Junco** (315) and **Northern Cardinal** (205) were achieved. Additionally, something of a CBC lowlight was a new high total for **House Sparrow** (769).

A **Fox Sparrow** was reported from IND 1/1 (SC). A wintering **Swamp Sparrow** was at Green Twp. 2/13 (MV). **White-crowned Sparrows** were found at traditional wintering locations in Green Twp. (MV) and at SGL 285 (GM), and one appeared at a feeder in ALQ 1/31 (BW). Already mentioned were the 80 **Snow Buntings** seen with Horned Larks in New Sewickley Twp. 2/6 (GM); this may well be the largest flock on record in *Beaver*. A **Common Grackle** at SGL 285 on 2/7 (GM) was probably wintering there, as it preceded the first large flocks of spring grackles by a few weeks.

As mentioned in the introduction, winter finches teamed with mid-winter waterfowl to provide the highlights of the season. As will undoubtedly be reported from nearly all counties, the winter of 2008-09 will be remembered as perhaps the most memorable invasion of **Pine Siskins** and **White-winged Crossbills** in Pennsylvania history. *Beaver* was no exception. There were six reports of **White-winged Crossbill**: 13 in Chippewa Twp. 1/25 (MV), 6 in Daugherty Twp. 1/20 (B&BK, *vide* MV), 2 in ALQ 1/31 (BW), 18 in Beaver (PB, *vide* MV), 12 in Chippewa Twp. at the Black Hawk Golf Course 2/7 (GM), and 6 in ALQ 2/9 (BW). Undoubtedly, many more crossbills could have been found by a determined observer. **Pine Siskins**, continuing from last season, were

reported 11 times this season 12/7-2/10, too many to enumerate here. Some reports were of long-staying flocks at feeders. Best were 41 on the Beaver CBC 12/20 (the third CBC record), 40 in Economy Boro 1/7 (KD), and 100 in Independence Twp. 2/10 (SK), the last setting a new high water mark for siskins in *Beaver* in recent times. A **Common Redpoll** appeared in Economy Boro 1/17 (KD), the only report.

ADDENDUM: A photograph of a **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** taken at a feeder in ALQ 5/2/2007 (BW) was submitted recently. The photograph was forwarded to PORC. If accepted, this would constitute the first documented record for *Beaver*.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Phil Blue, Shawn Collins, Karyn Delaney, Karena Gregg, Scott Gregg, Deb Kalbfleisch, Bruce and Barb Kiester (B&BK), Scott Kinzey, Rick Mason (Beaver CBC Coordinator), Becky Smith, Richard Tourville, Mark Vass, Bill Walbek.

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), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO), CBC's: Reading 12/14/08, Hamburg 12/28/08, Bernville 1/3/09.

Cold temperatures and moderate ice and snow accumulation made January and February feel more like a traditional winter than a "global warming" winter. LO and BML were mostly frozen in January and February.

In keeping with the pattern of recent years, there was a large southbound influx of geese and gulls in December and early January. Southbound **Snow Geese** peaked at 40,000 at BML 12/29 (JS). By mid-Feb, staging for the return flight had commenced, and the spring high count of Snow Geese was 75,000 at LO 2/28 (MW). Single **Ross' Geese** were combed out of Snow Goose flocks at LO 2/16 (RK) and BML 2/17 (JS). Since **Brant** rarely land in their migration across PA, they are more likely to be seen at hawkwatches than on lakes. December was peak month for Brant migration at HMS, where a high count of 295 passed 12/8 and a total of 510 were recorded for the month (LG). One to three **Cackling Geese** of the Richardson's type were seen with Snow Geese at BML and LO 2/14-26 (RK, KK, JS, MW). **Mute Swans** are still increasing, with 15 on the RCBC and up to six at LO in February (RK). Staging **Tundra Swans** at BML peaked with 38 on 2/26 (JS). Two **Trumpeter Swans**, identified by their calls as they rose and flew away, were at BML 2/19 (JS).

Birders reported 20 duck species, some of them late fall migrants (two **Northern Shovelers** on RCBC and one **Long-tailed Duck** at LO 12/21 - MW), and many early spring migrants (such as one Long-tailed Duck BML 2/23 - JS). A **Eurasian Wigeon** drake first found at LO 2/22 (MS, BS, MW) was still there in early Apr (RK). One or two **American Black Duck X Mallard** hybrids were with the parent species at LO 1/5 through the winter, as usual (RK). A handful of **Canvasbacks** wintered in open springs and deep quarries (EB, JT, MW). About 10 **Redheads** and 10 **Ruddy Ducks**, along with **Ring-necked Ducks** and a few **American Coots**, wintered at Breneman's Quarry in Spring Twp. (MW, m.ob.). Up to 7 **Common Goldeneyes** wintered at LO, sometimes in the Maiden Creek below the dam when the lake froze (RK, DK, MS).

Both vulture species wintered county-wide, often benefiting from our activities, such as eight **Black Vultures** eating a dead calf near Lenhartsville 1/17 (RK) and 16 **Turkey Vultures** dining on chicken parts at a chicken factory farm near Shartlesville 1/25 (KG). The resident LO **Bald Eagle** pair was bonding in Jan and began nesting in Feb. Wintering birds were widely reported, such as two adults and a third cycle bird scavenging chicken parts at the Shartlesville farm in Jan (m.ob.). An immature **Northern Goshawk** was at BML 1/13 (JS). At least 10 **Northern Harriers** were reported, mostly in Jan, benefiting from vole producing habitat like CREP fields and other fallow fields such as those at the Pheasant Valley game bird farm near Robesonia. Many opportunistic **Red-tailed Hawks** scavenged at the Shartlesville chicken

farm, with a high count of about 100 there 1/24 (JS). Wintry conditions to our north pushed **Rough-legged Hawks** into Berks in Jan, when 13 birds were reported at 13 locations (m.ob.), but none were reported in Feb. Five late migrating **Golden Eagles** passed HMS 12/22, followed by a single bird 1/1 (LG). A juv. Golden Eagle was seen at Shartlesville 1/15 (MW). A **Merlin** again wintered at BML (JS). Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** pair was in residence all winter (BU). An unusually light blue-gray Peregrine was in the Oley Valley 2/1 (RK).

An **American Woodcock** bobbing down the walkway of a residence near Bechtelsville on the evening of 12/11 (JK) provided another of few Dec records. An adult **Ring-billed Gull** wearing fluorescent orange patagial tags marked with the code A56 was seen at BML 12/30 (RK, JS), one of three tagged birds seen in southeastern PA and at Conowingo Dam, MD around the same time. The bird had been banded 10/7/08 at a Walmart in Northborough, MA and had last been seen there 12/6/08. On 3/16/09, A56 returned to the same Walmart parking lot where it had been banded. It was banded as part of a water quality study of the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs designed to track the food resources, movements and population dynamics of gulls using the reservoirs. According to Dan Clark, who directed this study for the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, tagged gulls were sighted in 20 states and Canadian provinces, including 11 sightings from PA alone. "All this information was very new to us and quite exciting. We mistakenly assumed that most gulls wintering in Massachusetts would stay in Massachusetts all winter. That's not true, and the gulls showed a tremendous amount of in-state and inter-state movement," said Clark. A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at LO 12/1 (MS). One or two adult **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and one to five **Great Black-backed Gulls** were seen at BML and LO during the period (RK, JS, MW). Two **Barn Owls** were found at a traditional location for the HCBC. Another was seen 1/13 and heard 2/24 in Bern Twp., where it may have been roosting in pines (JS). Calling **Barred Owls** were reported from four places this winter; perhaps these birds are increasing as second growth woodlots mature. Single **Short-eared Owls** were seen off and on at Pheasant Valley Farm near Robesonia and in a CREP field at Henningsville this winter (EB, PS).

An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at the Spangsville Covered Bridge, a former nesting location, 2/1 (RK). Single **Northern Shrikes** were found on the HCBC and BCBC; neither was reported again. Five **Common Ravens** were found on the HCBC, one or two were seen a few times at LO during the period (RK, MS) and one was in southeastern Berks 2/15 (MD, PO). In this off year for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, one to four were found on various dates in conifer stands at BML and LO (RK, JS). Winter bellwether **Carolina Wrens** and **Eastern Bluebirds** remain at the high end of their abundance ranges. **Winter Wrens**, **Ruby-crowned** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, and **Hermit Thrushes** were found wintering in mostly single digit numbers in favored locations (m.ob.). A **Gray Catbird** on the HCBC and two on the BCBC were not reported later, and the only post-CBC **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was near Birdsboro 2/16 (MW). A male **Eastern Towhee** that wintered in Pike Twp., possibly with a feeder nearby, was singing in early Mar (RK). **Chipping Sparrows** were last seen on the BCBC. Three lingering **Fox Sparrows** were found on the HCBC, and the first two spring migrants appeared at feeders in Bern and District Twps. 2/14-15 (EB, RK). **Lapland Longspurs** were scarce, with two reported in Marion Twp. 1/4 (MW) and one near Topton 1/20 (SF). **Snow Buntings** were numerous in late Dec and Jan (100 Marion Twp. 12/26-30; 100 Lenhartsville 1/17 - RK, KK, JS), but numbers tapered off sharply in Feb. An **Eastern Meadowlark** on the HCBC and two in Marion Twp. 1/3 (JS) were the only ones reported. This dismal story was repeated for **Rusty Blackbird**, six of which were found on the HCBC and two at BML 2/11 (JS).

After middling numbers passed through on fall migration, **Purple Finches** were found in single digit numbers on the CBC's and at a few feeders through the winter. A small flock of **Red Crossbills** was briefly seen at the BML Sensory Trail 12/11 (JS), and a single bird was seen at HMS 1/2 (LG). **White-winged Crossbills**, on the other hand, staged their largest irruption in the lifetimes of currently active Berks birders. Starting with a single male at HMS 8/28, various numbers of birds were reported from more than 20 locations through Mar. The first reported south of HMS were 2 birds flying between Norway spruce groves in District Twp. 1/4, followed by 24 feeding in Douglas-firs at the LO dam 1/11 (RK). Reports and numbers of birds increased in Feb. The most reports came from the extensive mature Norway spruce plantations around LO, which also hosted the largest flocks, such as 30 at Peters Creek 2/1 and 2/8 (SS, MS) and 70 there 2/10 (MS). Other large flocks

were 27 in a spruce plantation at BML 1/27 (JS) and 40 in residential Hamburg 2/14 (KG). Most flocks were of less than 30 birds, which wandered wherever there were conifers bearing cones, including town centers, suburban gardens, landscaped developments and business parks. The irruption coincided with an exceptionally heavy cone crop on spruces and Douglas-firs and a moderate crop on hemlock in this region. The only report of a White-winged Crossbill visiting a feeder was of a female at a niger seed feeder on Main St., Kutztown (RS).

The only report of **Common Redpoll** was of a bird in a large flock of **Pine Siskins** at a Bern Twp. feeder (JS). The huge influx of Pine Siskins, also first noted at HMS in fall, was partly overshadowed by the novelty of the White-winged Crossbill irruption. Siskin flocks were seen feeding in birches and conifers, sometimes among the crossbills. Winter weather pushed the siskins to feeders in late Dec and Jan, when reports began to come in of 100-300 birds at some feeders and lesser numbers at many others, persisting well into Mar. One dedicated bird host bought 90 lbs. of niger seed during this period, most of it eaten by hordes of siskins and lesser numbers of accompanying **American Goldfinches**. Some local feed stores had sold out of this pricey treat by late Mar.

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512, 610-845-7310, rkeller@dejazzd.com**, Ed Barrell, Tom Clauser, Mike Deegan, Deb Doaty, Catherine Elwell, Steve Fordyce, Laurie Goodrich & HMS volunteers/staff, Kerry Grim, Frank Haas, Holly Hartshorne, Kevin Johnson, Dean Kendall, Joanne Kintner, Katrina Knight, Ken Lebo, Lisa Miller, Patrick O'Donnell, Peter Saenger, Sue Schmoyer, Richard Sharadin, Joan Silagy, Bart Smith, Matt Spence, John Traynor, Bill Uhrich, Matt Wlasniewski.

Blair County

No Compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: SE Bradford County Christmas Bird Count: the count area is a circle with a 7.5 mile radius from its center, which is Wyalusing (CBC), Intersection of Lone Mary and Iron Bridge Roads near New Era (LIR), Peck Hill (PEH), State Game Lands (SGL), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach's farm near New Era (TNE), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

Since natural gas drilling has not yet become extensive in *Bradford*, we still have birds. We had a reasonably cold winter, with a fair amount of ice, but not a lot of snowfall. We shared in some of this winter's fantastic irruptive species influx, but not as much as most of Pennsylvania, perhaps due to fewer bird watchers here.

On 12/27, during the CBC, 5 **Bald Eagles** were observed: one adult and one immature (possibly first year) over the SUR just upstream of Laceyville (MC, CD, JD, Ath), two near the SUR at French Asylum (RYa), and one between Wyalusing and Laceyville (JiH, RK, SR, BT). On 1/2 an adult flew south along Towanda Creek near Woodside (ATo, RT). Six were seen on the *Bradford* Bald Eagle Survey on 1/10: two adults in a Sycamore tree at the Ulster bridge, two near the SUR at French Asylum, and two adults near the SUR at Quick's Bend (JP, BF, RG, BM, RYa). On 2/7 an adult was seen on Gee Rd. during the northwest *Bradford* WRS (BL); there was a pair at Sayre on 2/10 (DA); also a pair at the SUR near Rimmersfield 2/18 (RYa). A **Northern Harrier** was observed 12/27 during the CBC flying over the Scrib Meadow/Paradise Rd. area (AG, DG); on 2/8 there was one at Wolfe Rd. in western *Bradford* (JeH); and a female 2/15 during the southwest *Bradford* WRS (BL). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was flying over dense woods on Woods Rd on 12/27 during the CBC (AG, DG). On the CBC there were 2 **Rough-legged Hawks**: one flying over a SGL 250 pond (AG, DG), and a dark phase perched in tree and then flying close to New Era (TG). On 1/22 there was a light phase juv. on Kintner Rd. near Wilmot (TG) and a dark phase 2/7 during the northwest *Bradford* WRS (BL). Two **American Kestrels** were observed 2/15 during the southwest *Bradford* WRS (BL).

Eight **Eastern Screech Owls** were detected in the area north of Wyalusing 12/27 during the CBC (SG, BW); a red-phased Eastern Screech Owl got into a dove cage at a farm near New Era 2/23 and killed 4 doves (FS). Sixteen **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were observed 12/27 on the CBC: two southeast of Wyalusing (JiH, RK, SR, BT), and

14 were in Terry Twp. (AG, DG). One was at SGL 172 near Oak Hill 1/15 (TG). Twelve **Winter Wrens** were observed 12/27 on the CBC southeast of Wyalusing in Terry and Wilmot Twps. (JiH, RK, SR, BT). There was a **Hermit Thrush** on 12/27 on the CBC in the same area (JiH, RK, SR, BT).

On 1/22, 15 **American Tree Sparrows** were near Wilmot on SR2007 (TG), and on 2/4 there were 5 at a farm close to New Era (TG, FS). Three **Swamp Sparrows** were seen 12/27 during the CBC at a wetland near New Era (AG, DG). A flock of 30 **Snow Buntings** was seen during the CBC near Mercur (MBo, NW), on 2/2 two small flocks were flying over Wolfe Rd. in western *Bradford* (JeH), and on 2/7 there were 300+ on Baptist Hill Rd. during the northwest *Bradford* WRS (BL). Unusual during mid-winter, 56 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were seen 12/27 during the CBC: 55 on Albert Learn Rd. (TR 491) (MC, CD, JD, Ath), and one north of Standing Stone (MBo, NW).

Two **Purple Finches** were present 2/4 on a farm close to New Era (TG, FS). Also odd in mid-winter, 24 **Red-winged Blackbirds** (mostly females) were at a feeder in Sugar Run 1/5 (MBu, DB, DS, HS); the first sighting of the spring season in the county was one singing 2/26 on Lone Mary Rd. near New Era (TG). Irruptive crossbills were very sparse in the county: one **Red Crossbill** was seen 1/22 at a farm close to New Era (FS). There was only a single observation of **White-winged Crossbills**, that on 12/27 during the CBC, 4 were at LIR (AG, DG). There were many sightings of **Common Redpolls**: on 12/27 during the CBC, 7 were at a feeder on Echo Beach Rd (DN, KN) and there were 14 near SUR south of Wysox (TG, RY); 6 were at a feeder near Hollenbach on 12/31 (MB, NB); and one 2/4 at a farm close to New Era (TG, FS). On 2/7, 24 were feeding on birch catkins at PEH (AV, GV), and on 2/20 a big mixed flock of 80-90 Common Redpolls and **Pine Siskins** were feeding wildly in Grey Birch on a farm near New Era (TG). The most exciting sighting was 2/20 when 100-200 swooped into birch trees and then swooped out again at PEH (AV, GV). Pine Siskins were present in good numbers this winter. An ice storm 12/11-14 that coated trees and vegetation with ice was undoubtedly responsible for large sightings at that time. On 12/12 there were 35 on a feeder, and hundreds fed on feed spread on the ground on Woods Rd. (CM, GM). Twelve were at a feeder at PEH (AV, GV) and 12 also on Echo Beach Rd. (DN, KN) 12/13. On the 12/27 CBC, 183 were observed in the count circle by count participants, including 137 at LIR (AG, DG). There were 4 at a new thistle feeder 12/31 on Woods Rd. (CM, GM), and 30 at a thistle seed feeder near Hollenbach, also 12/31 (MB, NB). On 1/1, 10 were seen on Travis Hill Rd. near New Era (TG); a few were found 1/13 at LIR (TG); a wonderful 100+ on 1/18 at a feeder on Madison St. in Sayre (DP, SP); 5 on 1/20 at a feeder on Willawanna Rd, Sayre (MZ); 50 on 2/4 on a farm close to New Era (TG, FS); 3 on 2/6 and one on 2/13 at TNE (TG); on 2/18, about 80 flew up and into the tops of grey birch trees and proceeded to enthusiastically eat birch seeds from the catkins at TNE (TG); 2 on 2/20 at TNE (TG); 15-20 were present at a feeder near East Smithfield all winter (RLU).

Observers: **Trudy Gerlach, RR2, Box 228, Wyalusing, PA 18853, 570 746-9270tgsgwoods@epix.net**, Dick Allyn, Marvin Baker (MBa), Nancy Baker, Marty Borko (MBo), David Buck, Melody Buck (MBu), Mark Catalano, Chris DeMarco, Joe DeMarco, Bob Fowles, Sandy Goodwin, Alan Gregory, Doug Gross, Rich Gulyas, Jeff Holbrook (JeH), Jim Hoysen (JiH), Rick Koval, Bruce Launius, Joe Lesko, Rebecca Lesko (RLe), Rich Lupinsky (RLu), Bill Madill, Charlene Miller, George Miller, Dan Natt, Karen Natt, Don Paul, Skip Paul, Jason Petlock, Saura Rohrbach, Debby Schaadt, Hoagy Schaadt, Franz Schmitt, Alan Thatcher (ATH), Anna Tonachel (ATo), Ruth Tonachel, Bruce Troy, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Bob Wasilewski, Nancy Wottrich, Ronald Yanney (RYa), Ron Young (Ryo), Marsha Zwierlein.

Bucks County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Central Bucks CBC (C-CBC), Southern Bucks CBC (S-CBC), Upper Bucks-Montgomery CBC (U-CBC), Churchville Reservoir Park (CVP), Falls Twp. Community Park (FTP), Maple Knoll Farms-Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), Shady Brook Farm-Lower Makefield Twp. (SBF).

The weather was more severe than in recent years, with prolonged cold spells and several ice or light snowstorms. Snow totals were

generally light except for a 3/2 storm of 5 to 10 inches. Snow and crusty ice cover on several dates undoubtedly stressed birds. Lakes were ice covered for much of January and February. Surprisingly though, January's 5°F below average was the only below normal month. February set a record for lowest precipitation, with only 0.64 inches, 2.15 inches below normal. Despite January also being below normal, the period had a deficit of only 0.66 inches thanks to a large surplus in December of 2.2 inches. For a welcome change, the county was not overlooked by the large irruption of some northern species not normally seen here. However, some of the irruptive species we see every few years in good numbers were in short supply. Wintering field birds that use our remaining working farms also had a good year. In general, waterfowl numbers did not stand out as unusual but were believed to be on the low side due to ice cover. Gull enthusiasts were satisfied with large numbers at the Penn-Warner Tract area as usual, but no rarities were confirmed. The occurrence of half-hardy species was again a mixed bag, but on the low side probably due to the weather. A total of 146 species and three identifiable subspecies or forms were reported, not including exotics.

The three Christmas Bird Counts experienced good weather. The 41st U-CBC 12/14 produced a near average 92 species and 35,294 individuals. There were eight new high counts, two new low counts, and one new species added to the cumulative total. The 43rd C-CBC 12/28 had an above average 92 species and 34,658 individuals. There were four new high counts and six that tied previous highs. One new species was added for this count. The 62nd S-CBC 12/20 recorded an above average 100 species and 125,903 individuals. There were nine species with new high counts, and one new species added to the count. It should be noted that all three CBCs have part of their count circles outside the county, but species not reported in the county were left out of the details below.

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 at nearby Trenton, NJ. Christmas Bird Count data were supplied by Bob Mercer for the S-CBC, Diane Allison for the C-CBC, and Bill Etter for the U-CBC. All reports from PWT are from Devich Farbotnik unless otherwise noted.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported at PVP 12/9 (AM), 1/18 (CC, EC), and 2/6-21 (DFa, AM). Reports from Solebury Twp. 12/26 (DFa) and 1/12 (RS), MKF 1/10 (RS), and Upper Makefield Twp. 1/24 (DFa), probably were all of one individual. Unusual for the number, a family group of 7, including 5 young, was found at PVP 2/11 (AM, CR). One was at Silver Lake Park 2/15-21 (JMa, FW). One to 6 **Cackling Geese** were reported in the large gatherings of geese at area lakes as usual (BK, Dfa, AM). Rare for the CBC time frame, a significant movement of **Canada Goose** and **Snow Goose** on the S-CBC count day 12/20 resulted in record counts of 27,579 and 861 respectively. This contributed to a high but not unprecedented total of 59,272 Canada Geese on all three counts. Snow Goose flocks in the range of 50-200 were reported sporadically through the period, with one to 3 birds regular at most large lakes. (DFa, BK, AM). The C-CBC 12/28 produced a flyby immature small goose identified as a **Ross's Goose** (DFa), providing a second count record and the 10th county report. The injured **Brant** reported in the fall continued into Dec at PWT. Always rare, a **Barnacle Goose** was at MKF 1/24 and at nearby Pineville 2/7 (both Dfa). **Mute Swans** were only seen 3 times before 1989 on the S-CBC but have trended upward ever since, with a count of 66 this year. Similarly, the C-CBC started trending upward after 1988 with a count of 31 this year. The U-CBC has a similar trend but had a low count of 6 this year. Three **Tundra Swans** were at NSP 1/6 (DFa) and 5 were at CVP 2/20 (BK). Only two other individual reports on the Delaware R. reflect their normally scarce winter status here (EN, JHu).

Always scarce in winter, one **Wood Duck** wintered near Yardley (DFa), and 4 others were reported between 12/14 and 2/7 (DFa, BK). By 2/27 nine returning birds were found at various sites (DFa, MHo). The high count of the **American Black Duck** flock near Mud Island was 150 on 1/2, only half of last year's count (BK). Another 150 were at NSP 1/5 (AM, JMi). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at Rohm and Haas, Bristol on the S-CBC 12/20 (EM) for only the second occurrence. A male **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** was found on the S-CBC at PWT (DFa, BW). An accompanying female was also believed to be that subspecies based on size. **Canvasbacks** are always noteworthy due to their scarcity here. A total of 28 individuals were reported between 12/10 and 2/28 from four sites (JHo, MHo, SH, BK, WK, AM), including the peak single site count of 12 at Mud Island 1/24 (DFa). A good count for here, 14 **Redheads** were at NSP 12/23 (JHo), with 2 lingering until early Jan

(m. ob.). A total of 13 reported from five sites between 1/25-2/27 (DFa, JHu, MD, BK, BHo) may have involved some duplication of the same birds moving up and down the Delaware R. A **White-winged Scoter** stopped at NSP 12/30 (CA) after no reports in the fall season. **Long-tailed Duck** reports were in short supply, with 3 at NSP 12/23 (JHo), and one on the Delaware R. at Tinicum Twp. 1/31-2/7 (DFa). The Delaware R. continues to attract wintering **Common Goldeneye**, with about 75 at Morrisville 2/1 (DFa) being the highest single site count. **Common Merganser** continues to be reported in high numbers. The S-CBC recorded 2077, three times the long-term average and "thousands" were still in that area at PWT 1/3. The peak count of 1600 at Core Creek Park 2/24 (BK) was noteworthy there. Again this year **Red-breasted Merganser** was reported in higher than historical numbers, with a total of 13 individuals from four sites between 12/20 and 2/21 (DFa, BHi, ML, AM, JV). This included an unusually large group for the date of 6 at PWT 1/3.

Only 3 **Ring-necked Pheasants** were found on the three CBCs. It appears to be on track to follow **Ruffed Grouse** and **Northern Bobwhite** into the extremely rare or extirpated status. **Wild Turkey** only became regular and increasing on the U-CBC in the mid-1980s, on the C-CBC in the mid-1990s, and has been recorded only six times on the S-CBC starting in 1993. This year's total count was only 31 compared to a recent peak total of 530 in 2001 and continues the decline over the last few years. This low number corroborates reports by local hunters. Only one **Common Loon** was found on the CBCs, with the S-CBC getting the tally. Two at NSP 1/1 were apparently late migrants (BK, Dfa, AM, JMi). A **Horned Grebe** at NSP 1/11 (DFa) was the only report. A **Red-necked Grebe** at NSP provided the only report 1/5-11 (AM, JMi, Dfa). Although 39 **Double-crested Cormorants** were tallied for the S-CBC 12/20, which was two times the long term average, they apparently vacated the area by Jan, with only one report at Tullytown 1/15 (BK) for the rest of the winter. The S-CBC count of 32 **Great Cormorants** established a new record high for the third year in a row. Three **Great Egrets** were tallied on the S-CBC 12/20 for only the seventh occurrence, but were not reported later. Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were found at PWT on the S-CBC 12/20 and were still there 12/27 (DFa, BW).

A continuous stream of 165 **Black Vultures** on 12/28 in Buckingham Twp. was a remarkable tally (DFa) and contributed to a record high 239 for the C-CBC. Not surprising with their recent and rapid recovery, a new high count of 8 **Bald Eagles** was recorded on the U-CBC, and 6 on the C-CBC matched the previous high. Five were found on the S-CBC, but in late Jan as many as 10 at one time were on the ice at PWT (DFa, SKe). Only one of 10 was an adult. **Northern Harrier** was again well reported this winter, with 16 on the CBCs, and reports continued through the period (m.ob.). For the second year in a row, **Red-shouldered Hawk** was believed to be in relatively good numbers, with regular sightings of approximately 15 at various sites (DFa). A few other sites also had reports (GJ, CR, AM, BK). The all white but not albino **Red-tailed Hawk** wintered at Milford Twp., where it has returned for at least seven years (HE). It was last reported 2/19 (HE). Often not reported at all, the year's first **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Plumstead Twp. 12/25 to make count week for the C-CBC (CC, EC). Others were at Nockamixon Twp. 1/3 and 1/31 (DFa), Bedminster Twp. 1/7 (DFa), and Warwick Twp. 1/24 (SCo). A total CBC count of 15 **American Kestrels** compared to the long-term average of 103 continues to reflect their decline here. A **Peregrine Falcon** near New Hope 2/28 was a new species for the C-CBC.

Virginia Rails were at QTS, with a maximum count of 5 on 12/8 and 4 on 1/4 (DFa). They were not noted on later visits. A **Sandhill Crane** was heard only tally on the S-CBC at PWT 12/20 (DFa, BW). This was a first for the count and eighth county report. **Killdeer** was particularly scarce, with only 4 on the CBCs, about 8% of the long-term average. Two were at Mud Island 1/2, and one was at Tullytown 1/25 (both BK). The first warm days starting 2/11 brought returning birds to multiple sites (AM, BK). **Wilson's Snipe** reports lagged behind last year's total probably due to the frozen conditions. Two were at Bradford Dam 12/5 and again 2/13 (GJ). One was recorded for the C-CBC 12/28 at Pine Run Dam (JT). Up to two were at Warwick Twp. 1/3-25 (CW). **American Woodcock** was unreported but probably was present at least at the end of the period. Two **Laughing Gulls** at CVP on the S-CBC 12/20 furnished a new fall late date (MC). This was the eighth occurrence on that count in 62 years and from a very unexpected location. Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** 12/8 at PWT provided the only report. A water quality study in Massachusetts resulted in the project's tagged gulls reported here. An adult **Ring-billed Gull** at NSP 1/4 was

tagged in Worcester on 10/31/08 with a florescent orange wing tag coded A68, a red leg band, and a metal federal band (SKa). Another was found at PVP 2/14 (DFa) with two florescent yellow wing tags coded A68, blue and metal bands, and was banded in Palmer 12/30/08. Two first year **Thayer's Gulls** were reported on the S-CBC at PWT 12/20 (DFa, BW, RM, *no doc.*). A first year bird was reported at FTP 1/1-4 (DFa, *no doc.*) and again 1/9 (TJ, CR, *doc. expected*). A probable adult was at PWT 2/13 (DY, CR, *no doc.*). **Iceland Gull** continues to be well reported from PWT and FTP (see CBC table), with a handful of reports from inland lakes throughout the county, as usual (MC, MD, BK, JK, AM). Single-site high counts for **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were a bit anemic this year, with 218 at PVP 12/28 (AM), 130 at Lake Towhee 12/14 (BE), and a guess of 350 at NSP 2/26 (ABr). A **Glaucous Gull** at FTP 12/6 was the first report of the fall (BC). The 8 on the S-CBC matched the previous high count. One was at CVP 2/12 (BK) for a rare report away from the PWT area. A surprising 3 **Nelson's Gulls** at PWT 12/27 is certainly unusual for a single day tally.

Bucks County 2009 CBC Gull Counts

Species	U-CBC	C-CBC	S-CBC	Total
Laughing Gull	0	0	2	2
Ring-billed Gull	1599	1482	7856	10649
Herring Gull	159	205	61091	61455
Thayer's Gull	0	0	2	2
Iceland Gull	1*	1	16	18
Lesser Bl.-bck Gull	141	230	188	559
Glaucous Gull	0	0	8	8
Great Bl.-bck Gull	9	87	3688	3784
TOTAL	1909	2005	72563	76477

* First count occurrence

A flyby bird believed to be a possible **Pomarine Jaeger** was reported by a non-birder but experienced nature observer at Nockamixon Twp. 12/20 (ABa, *no doc.*). If correct, this is only the second county report, with the previous report from 1898! There were no reports for **Barn Owl**. Two groups on the U-CBC contributed 60 (DFa) and 66 (KM, LM) out of a total new record high 190 **Eastern Screech Owls**. That effort also contributed to a tally of 42 **Great Horned Owls**. A **Barred Owl** roosted at a yard near the Delaware R. in Tinicum Twp. 12/14 (KM), where none had been noted previously. Another was heard 2/14 near Rushland (MHa) where rarely noted. Recent reports indicate it may be more common than previously thought. An interesting report of approximately 19 **Long-eared Owls** at a single site, where the observer said approximately 30 were found last year, would be the highest single site count report I am aware of in over 35 years, when a large group was at NSP. The observer requested that the location not be reported and wished to remain anonymous. This year's first **Short-eared Owl** was at Buckingham Twp. 12/27 (GG), and the peak count was 3 reported from Bedminster Twp. 2/4 (DFa). One was seen at PVP 2/7 (HM). Three **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were found on the U-CBC, one continued at Richland Twp. to at least 2/7 (DFa), and another was heard in Nockamixon Twp. 2/25 (DFa). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found on the U-CBC in W. Rockhill Twp. for the only report. The CBC total count of 51 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** was high again this year, but the distribution shifted north compared to last year, with 26 on the U-CBC and only 9 on the S-CBC. **Pileated Woodpecker** numbers are encouraging for this possibly increasing species, with the 8 on the C-CBC matching the previous high count and 17 on the U-CBC more than twice the previous high count.

Fish Crow continues to increase, with record high counts of 59 on the C-CBC and 3420 on the S-CBC, both of which exceed the averages by a factor of six. **Common Raven** continued to provide an unprecedented number of reports, with one at a trash can in Warwick Twp. 12/1 (HD), one at Van Sant Airport 1/3 (DFa), and one at NSP 2/6 (DFa). **Horned Lark** was in good numbers again this year with peak counts of approximately 300 at SBF 1/1 (DFa), approximately 200 at MKF 1/13 (RS), and approximately 100 in Hilltown Twp. 1/12 (AM). Four **Tree Swallows** 2/27 at FTP provided a new spring early arrival date (DFa). A **Black-capped Chickadee** at NSP 12/6 (ABr) was the first report for the fall, and 6 at Falls of the Delaware Park 1/30 were well-described (BK). However, for a winter without any noticeable movement into our area, the CBC count of 91 was certainly overstated, as evidenced by areas reporting only that species where **Carolina Chickadee** is the resident. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, after a small fall movement, was scarce again this winter, with only 14 total for the CBCs. **Marsh Wren**, more frequently being reported in winter, was at

QTS 12/8-1/4, with 2 found there 1/2 (DFa).

After four years of far above average counts on the CBCs, totally due to the U-CBC, the total count of 17 **Hermit Thrushes** returned to near the long-term average. As usual a few reports continued through the winter. The C-CBC **American Robin** roost site was vacant and was indicative of a relatively low number in the area for most of the period. The CBC total was 1924, far below recent averages. Recent **Gray Catbird** CBC totals seem to fluctuate greatly, with this year producing only 2, both on the S-CBC, compared to 23 last year. Post CBC reports are expected and included two at NSP 12/30 (CA), one each at PWT 1/1, MKF 1/27-31 (RS), Falls of the Delaware Park 1/30-2/7 (BK, Dfa), and Rushland 12/9-2/15 (MHa). Usually rare on the CBCs, 2 **Brown Thrashers** were at PWT for the S-CBC 12/20 (DFa, BW). One was in Plumstead Twp. 1/2 (BG, JG). A wintering flock of **American Pipits** at SBF provided a S-CBC record high count of 40 and only the third occurrence. A flock of 20 was at Core Creek Park 1/28 (BK), and small numbers were at MKF through Jan up to 2/1 (RS). The CBC total **Cedar Waxwing** count of 193 was well below average and only 20% of last year's count. They were even scarcer post CBCs. Eastern red cedar cone scarcity was noted in some areas as a probable factor.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** continued at a Langhorne yard from 11/26 through the season, appearing sporadically during bad weather (GD). This was the second year in a row there and shows wintering site fidelity. Surprising was not one but two **Nashville Warblers** in the county at the same time. One was found 12/14 in Warrington Twp. and continued to at least 12/17, when the homeowner left for a trip (ph. TK). The other was found in Langhorne 12/17 and was last seen 12/21 (ph. GD). Both were regularly feeding on azalea bushes and both were believed to be the eastern form. These provided our first ever winter records. The total CBC count of 280 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was about the same as last year, but they were very scarce thereafter, again possibly due to cedar cone scarcity. A probable **Common Yellowthroat** was observed in Levittown 2/11 (NB). A **Pine Warbler** continued from 11/29 through the season at New Hope (BHo), one was at Milford Twp. to be recorded as only the fifth occurrence for the U-CBC, and one stayed for the winter at Durham Twp. starting 12/8 (BF). This continues the small but more frequent winter reports for this species in the last three years.

Eastern Towhee had a very low CBC total of 4 compared to 15 for the long-term average. After the CBCs, one was at Falls of the Delaware Park 1/30-2/7 (BK, Dfa). Another was at CVP 1/10-2/7 (CS, VD), and one was at Silver Lake Park 1/18 (JMa). A CBC total of 71 **American Tree Sparrows** was only 17% of the long-term average and reflects the continuing downward trend here. No **Chipping Sparrows** were located on the CBCs for the second year in a row, but single day observations of 5 individuals were reported between 12/6-2/14 at five sites (ABr, MHo, TF, CS, RS). Thirty-nine **Savannah Sparrows** were recorded on the three CBCs, including a new high count of 36 on the C-CBC. The total was 177% of the long-term average. **Fox Sparrow** is normally scarce here in winter but trending up. However, this year's CBC total of 9 was below average, with all but one on the S-CBC, indicating a shift south this year. Migrants began appearing at feeders on schedule 2/27. **Swamp Sparrow** has been trending upward on the CBCs, and 35 on the U-CBC established a new high count. The total of all three CBCs was 77 versus a long-term average of 32. The **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** continued at PVP from the fall season to at least 1/3 (AM *doc submitted*, ph. HE). The CBC total of 67 **White-crowned Sparrows** was twice the long-term average mainly due to a new high count of 49 on the U-CBC. After one fall report, a **Lapland Longspur** was at Hilltown Twp. 12/21 (DFa), one was at MKF 1/11-2/4, with 2 there 2/1 (RS), and one was at SBF 1/12-17 (BK, GJ), with at least 2 there 1/27 (JHa). This was an unusual number of reports both for quantity and duration of stay. **Snow Bunting** also had an exceptional year. A flock continued from Nov at SBF, with the number increasing to a high count of approximately 120 on 1/27 (JHa). MKF hosted some 1/12-2/4, with a peak count of 30 on 2/1 (RS, VS). Six others were reported from three sites 12/31-2/16 (DFa, WG). A rare winter **Dickcissel** was found in Bensalem Twp. in a large flock of House Sparrows 1/13 and continued through the period (NZ, VD). The observers thought more than one bird may have been there, but could not confirm a second individual.

Two **Eastern Meadowlarks** on the C-CBC at Bradford Dam (JT) provided the only CBC report for this now rare-in-winter species. Eight at Tyler State Park 2/19 (BK) had not been noted earlier and probably were the first returning birds. Two at New Britain Twp. 2/21 (BHi) were certainly "spring" migrants. **Rusty Blackbirds** were again found at QTS

in Jan where they apparently winter, but the only count submitted was 12 on 1/4 (DFa). The male **Baltimore Oriole** continued its fifth winter in a row at New Hope (SM) and provided the species 11th occurrence for the C-CBC. Another was at Levittown for the seventh occurrence on the S-SBC 12/20 (GC). **Purple Finch** was in very short supply this winter, with only 35 recorded on the CBCs. Thus, about 15 feasting on crabapples at NSP in early Jan (DFa), and up to 9 doing the same at New Britain Twp. 2/17-27 (AM) are noteworthy. Two **Common Redpolls** were reported on the U-CBC 12/14 (JT) for a rare occurrence, and one was at Chalfont 1/21 (CC, EC). Two more, one a pale bird, stopped at Solebury Twp. 1/31 followed by 2 different birds on 2/8 (GG, WG). The pale bird was suspected of being a Hoary Redpoll, but documentation, including photos, is missing some essential details. Unfortunately all these birds only stayed about an hour or so due to continual harassment by **Pine Siskins**.

Our first **White-winged Crossbill** report was of heard only birds at West Rockhill Twp for only the fourth occurrence on the U-CBC 12/14 (JT). The NSP marina entrance became the most reliable site for sightings starting 1/1 (DFa) and 10 to 32 continued there through Jan, with occasional later reports (m.ob.). In addition, flocks were reported from multiple areas of the park on 1/30 (CR, AM), with about 25-30 seen and more just heard flying over. Altogether, reports came from 17 observers at 22 sites. Conservatively taking only peak counts at each site or likely different birds due to time lapses between sightings, the total number of individuals was 283 through the end of the period. In addition, many more were heard only birds that could not be counted, so the actual number was higher. Unfortunately, 2 were window killed at Central Bucks West High School (SP). This irruption was probably the largest recorded invasion in the county thanks to better reporting. A possible **Red Crossbill** at Solebury Twp. 1/30 (GG) could not be confirmed when a White-winged Crossbill was found in the same tree the next day (DFa). The lack of other reports in the region does not help support this sighting. On a much greater order of magnitude was the huge Pine Siskin irruption. After the initial Oct surge, they were generally scarce as evidenced by only 20 total on all three CBCs. However, more frequent reports started again in late Dec, including flocks of 20 to 50 reported at various sites (WG, Dfa, SD). By mid-Jan through Feb, they were being reported from most feeding stations and other sites, with 50-100+ reported in some cases (m.ob.). Based on actual reports, one can assume thousands of individuals were in the county, probably again the largest recorded irruption here due to the reporting network. Rarely reported here, 2 flyby **Evening Grosbeaks** were checked off for the U-CBC 12/14 (PG, AC).

EXOTICS: Five Egyptian Geese were at Bedminster Twp. 2/1, continuing the string of reports in recent years (AM, JM). A Black Swan appeared at NSP 1/17 (BE) and continued to at least 1/25 (ABa). A European Goldfinch used feeders at MKF 12/14-16 (RS, VS, HS). The bird had 2008 National Finch and Softbill Society leg bands on both legs. This adds to other reports of presumed escapes and/or releases. One wonders if someone is trying to establish them over the last few years in this area.

Observers: **August Mirabella, 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales, PA 19454, 215-368-0594, augustmirabella@aol.com**, Cindy Ahern, Diane Allison, Alana Balogh (ABa), Nancy Bilheimer (NB), Alan Brady (ABr), George Carmichael, Susan Cawthern, Sally Conyne (SCo), Marlin Corn (MC), Chuck Crunkleton, Elaine Crunkleton, Bob Cunningham, Andy Curtis, Henry D'Alessandro, Vince DeAntoniis, Mike DeBonis, Sally Destefano, Gerry Dewaghe, Howard Eskin, Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik (DFa), Rob Fergus (RFe), Doug Filler (DFi), Thomas Ford-Hutchinson, Ron French (RFR), Bob Friedermann, Roy Frock (RFo), Bill Garretson, Jan Garretson, Gene Gladston, Wendy Gladston, Connie Goldman, William Graham, Lynn Gulla, Paul Guris, Marya Halderman (MHa), Jeffrey Hall (JHa), Sharon Hollowell, Ray Hendrick, Barbara Hiebsch (BHi), Bill Hoehne (BHo), Mike Homel (MHo), Cathy Horn, Jason Horn (JHo), Roger Horn, Jacki Hughes (JHu), Gail Johnson, Tom Johnson, Steve Kacir (SKa), Walt Keeler, Bill Keim, Sandra Keller (Ske), Tena Kellogg, Ken Kitson, Arlene Koch, Mike Line, Dave Long, Many observers (m.ob.), Victoria Mahmoud, Don McClintock (DMc), Debbie McColgan (DMo), Harry McGarrity, Rick Mellon, Bob Mercer, Eileen Mercer, Suzanne Meyers, J. Maloney (JMa), Judy Mirabella (JM), Dwight Molotshy (DMo), Kirk Moulton, Lois Moulton, Kathleen Muth, Ed Norman, Susan Palatinus, Joe Pearson, Ann Rhoads, Lillian Ritts, Jim Ritter, Pat Rossi, Tom Price, Margie Rutbell, Cameron Rutt, Bob Shaffer, Lorraine Skala, Hannah Smith, Richard Smith, Vicky Smith, Chris Stieber, Harvey Tomlinson, John Tramontano, Jeff Vinosky, Chris

Walsh, Billy Weber, Lesley Weismann-Cook, Frank Windfelder, David Yeany II, Nick Zahn.

Butler County

Locations: Lake Arthur (LA), Moraine State Park (MSP).

Twenty-three **Snow Geese** and an amazing 1482 **Tundra Swans** were counted on the Butler CBC 12/20 (*fide* SB). Waterfowl highlights at LA included the following: 9 **Tundra Swans** 12/7 (DD), 42 overhead 12/10 (CH), 60 overhead 12/12 (PH, SS), 44 on 12/17 (DDe), and 59 on 12/21 (MV); 15 **Gadwall** 12/8 (CH) and 33 on 12/21 (MV); 20 **American Black Ducks** 12/21 (MV); 14 **Northern Pintail** 12/17 (DDe); a remarkable flock of 33 **Long-tailed Ducks** on the evening of 12/7 (DD), and 6 on 12/21 (MV); 6 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 12/1 (DDe, MD); 16 **Ruddy Ducks** 12/1 (MD). Also variously reported were **Green-winged Teal**, **Redhead**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Canvasback**, **Common Goldeneye**, and **Hooded Merganser**. Additionally, a handful of **Tundra Swans** were reported away from LA, and the Butler CBC total of 339 **Ruddy Ducks** 12/20 was very impressive (*fide* SB).

Sixteen **Common Loons** at LA 12/17 was a nice find (DDe). **Horned Grebes** were present in small numbers though much of Dec (m.ob.), but a large fallout of 46 there 12/21 (MV) was notable. One or 2 **Bald Eagles** frequented LA in Dec (m.ob.) before the lake froze in the last week of that month. One light-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at MSP 12/23 (DDe) and one dark-morph bird was near Slippery Rock 2/23 (SK).

The **Black-headed Gull** continued from the last period at the South Shore Day Use Area at LA to at least 12/8 (BC, CH). A few dozen **Bonaparte's Gulls** lingered with the Black-headed during this time, and neither species was seen by 12/10 (CH).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was located at MSP 1/25 (DD).

Very late were single **Blue-headed Vireos** at MSP 12/7 (DD) and at Wolf Creek Narrows on the Butler CBC 12/20 (GW). A **Common Raven** was found on the Butler CBC 12/20 (*fide* SB). An **Eastern Towhee** was in Center Twp. 1/14 (MB). An **Oregon Dark-eyed Junco** was located on the 12/20 CBC (*fide* SB). Seven **Lapland Longspurs** were another CBC highlight 12/20 (*fide* SB), as were 9 **Eastern Meadowlarks** which provided a new high count. A nice count of 20 **Rusty Blackbirds** was made in Center Twp. 1/30 (MB).

Three **Purple Finches** were at MSP 12/5 (BC). The CBC total of 84 Purple Finches 12/20 was a new high count (*fide* SB). A **Red Crossbill** was heard calling as it flew over the observer at MSP 12/1 (MD). **White-winged Crossbill** reports began for *Butler* with 5 at Butler Twp. 12/5 (DDe), a number which quickly ballooned to 30 the next day. The 12/20 CBC tallied 28, a new high count. Five were at MSP 12/23 (DDe). A flock of 12 was at Todd Sanctuary 2/15 (AH). Large flocks of **Pine Siskins** were noted at county feeders this season. DD and DDe hosted a large flock in Butler Twp., with a high of 80 on 12/6. MB's feeder in Butler topped 50 on 12/14 and reached triple digits in early Jan. Both White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins were reported through the season.

Observers: Marcia Brown, Suzanne Butcher, Ben Coulter, Dave Darney, Debbie Darney (DDe), Michael Dietrich, Amy Henrici, Craig Holt, Scott Kinzey, Richard Nugent, Sam Sinderson, Mark Vass, Gene Wilhelm.

Report by: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**.

Compiler: **Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057, (724) 794-2434, genewilhelm@aol.com**.

Cambria County

Locations: Patton area (PT), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG).

Waterfowl reports were from early and late in the period, as the lake was frozen at PG from early January to late February. **American Black Ducks**, **Mallards**, **Northern Pintails**, **American Wigeons**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, and **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers**

were all seen at PG (JS). A lone **Great Blue Heron** spent a very brutal winter along Chest Creek at PT. **Northern Harriers** and **Rough-legged Hawks** were common in the fields at PT. **American Kestrels** were also present in better than average numbers. Two **Merlins** were seen at PT 2/16 (JS). Two **Snowy Owls** were present at PT from mid-Dec through the end of the period. The first owl was located by DK 12/16 and the second had been in the area for a month before it was made known to birders. Many birders and the public in general got wonderful views of these two birds.

Horned Larks were seen in smaller numbers than usual. A lone **Hermit Thrush** was at PG 2/13 (GB, DG, JS). A **Northern Shrike** was at PG 2/27 (DG, JS). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was at PG 1/13 (DG, JS). **Snow Buntings** were seen at PT in flocks of up to 200 (GB, DG, JS) throughout the period. **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** first appeared at PG 2/25 (DG). A small flock of **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, unusual for our area in the winter, was at a feeder at PT in Feb (DG). Two large flocks of **Purple Finches**, more than 20 birds in each, were at PG and PT during Feb. Several flocks of **White-winged Crossbills** were seen throughout the period at PG (GB, DG, JS). **Pine Siskins** were common at thistle feeders in several locations.

Observers: **Dave Gobert, 287 Beech Rd. Patton, PA 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net**, Grant Barber, Dave Kaltenbaugh, John Salvetti.

Cameron County

No Compiler.

Carbon County

No Report.

Compiler: **David Hawk, 521 Walnut Street, Lehigh, PA 18235, (610) 377-2407, finch@ptd.net**.

Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Centre Furnace Duck Pond (DP), Colyer Lake (COL), Nittany Lion Inn at PSU (NLI), Pennsylvania State University at University Park (PSU), Pleasant Gap (PLG), State College (SC), Toftrees Game Lands or Pond (TOF).

A local listserv group, <scbirdcl@lists.psu.edu>, hosted by Penn State for discussing wild birds seen within 25 miles of Penn State, is referred to herein as SCBIRDCL. More information about some of these locations is available at www.scbirdcl.org. Almost all of the information for this report comes from postings to SCBIRDCL. All data for the CBCs may be reviewed at <www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html>.

Rare/uncommon species or events reported this season include **Golden Eagle**, an irruption of **White-winged Crossbills** and **Pine Siskins**, and a possible **Cassiar Dark-eyed Junco**.

The SC CBC was held 12/14 with good weather prevailing. Interesting species included **Golden Eagle**, (a first for this species on the count), **Snow Goose**, record numbers of **White-Winged Crossbills** and **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, and **Merlin** (JD).

The BESP CBC was held 12/28. Interesting observations included **American Pipit**, **7 Bald Eagles** of different ages, **200 Snow Buntings**, **252 Wild Turkeys**, **Rough-legged Hawk**, **Swamp Sparrow**, **Winter Wren**, **7 Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, **97 Eastern Bluebirds**, but only **9 Pine Siskins** despite the ongoing siskin irruption (BS).

Two imm. **Snow Geese** were seen with **300 Canada Geese** at DP 12/6. Two imm. **Snow Geese** along with a flock of **400 Canada Geese** were seen at COL 12/15 (MH). An unexpected **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found at DP 2/9 (PM, MO). A flock of **24 Tundra Swans** was seen coming from the west for a landing at COL 2/22 (JL). A flock of **50 Tundra Swans** was seen at TOF 2/26 (KE). A **White-winged Scoter** was observed at BESP 12/12 (MH). Two male **Common Goldeneyes** were seen at COL 12/12 (MH), and one **Common Goldeneye** was near the dam at BESP 1/1 (JC). A flock of **116 Common Mergansers** was seen from the lookout at BESP 12/28 (NB). A few hundred **Common Mergansers** were seen at BESP 1/1 (JC). About **200 Common Mergansers**, **50 Hooded Mergansers**, and a **Red-breasted Merganser** were seen at BESP 2/22 (NB). Four female

Red-breasted Mergansers were found at COL 12/1 (DG).

An early **Turkey Vulture** soared over East Irvin Ave SC 2/9 (MH), and another early one was seen over the Elementary School at Pine Grove Mills 2/25 (BF). A mixed flock of **7 Turkey Vultures** and **2 Black Vultures** were seen flying over Lederer Park SC 2/27 (KE). Three juv. **Bald Eagles** were perched on the lake ice, and one had a close-up personal interaction with a **Great Blue Heron** that involved a mutually desired piece of food at BESP 12/26 (JC). Two adult and three imm. **Bald Eagles** were seen from the lookout and one immature was seen from the dam at BESP 12/28 (NB). During mid-morning 12/31 eight immature **Bald Eagles** congregated on a bare spit of lake bed on the Howard side of BESP (BS, CH). As they watched, the eagles would surf on the north wind a few yards above the water, and one or two would fly off high above Bald Eagle Mt. and then swoop down and join the others on the exposed section of lake bed. A bit later in the morning, an adult flew in upward and downward spirals with an imm. near the dam. A second imm. eagle buzzed a flock of **Common Mergansers** at the dam, then flew up to join the adult juv., but was continually chased off by the adult eagle. This is probably a record for the number of **Bald Eagles** (10) to be spotted in BESP on the same day. A perched adult **Bald Eagle** was seen that morning about half a mile north of Stormstown along Buffalo Run in Halfmoon Valley 1/19 (DAB). After seeing the eagle two consecutive days, he noted that it was not perched the following morning and assumed it had perhaps moved on. However, near Carson's Corners, there was an adult BE in the air headed to Stormstown. Two **Bald Eagle** adults were perched within 30 to 300 yards of their nest tree at BESP 1/2 (BS). An adult **Bald Eagle** was perched in the lone pine trees along Rte. 220/I-99 between SC and Bellefonte 2/2 (MM). A naturalist at BESP informed BS that a **Bald Eagle** had been seen sitting in the nest 2/10 and again on 2/11. BS saw an adult **Bald Eagle** sitting on the nest 2/14 and 2/15 and for an hour observed the bird as it sat on the nest. As he watched, the eagle stood on the edge of the nest and flew in several circles around the nest tree, and then perched in a deciduous tree approximately 30 yards away. The eagle perched in that tree for about 10 minutes and then headed back to the nest. It stood on the nest rim and looked into the nest before settling down inside (BS).

A male **Northern Harrier** was seen near the campground booth in BESP as it glided away toward Bellefonte 12/12 (DG). As a **Northern Harrier** flew along the face of the dam at BESP, BS heard the wind rustling through the bird's feathers as it patrolled just 25 feet from where he stood with his scope 12/21. A **Northern Harrier** was seen just east of Rte. 80 interchange 12/28 (NB). A female **Northern Harrier** was observed hunting at the Curtin Wetlands 12/28 (JC). An imm. **Northern Harrier** was quartering over the field north of Rte. 322 opposite the Tait Farm 12/31 (MH); one was observed hunting low over the field opposite Taylor Hill and Lake Roads 1/1 (MH); and after an adult female **Northern Harrier** was seen cruising over a field at COL, it was seen still hunting about half an hour later 2/21 (MH).

CBC participant SF reports: "On the SC CBC 12/14, JD, DB, and I saw an adult **Red-tailed Hawk** sitting in a tree along Cedar Run Road near the old Linden Labs building between Linden Hall and Centre Hall that had the characteristics of the western subspecies *B. j. calurus*. This bird showed characters of an intermediate morph, e.g., a deep black head, back and wings without any white markings (as in a dark morph western or Harlan's Hawk), and intensely orange under parts, as in a juvenile **Northern Harrier**. Documentation was submitted to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee."

This was a very good winter for **Rough-Legged Hawks**: a light adult female was soaring several hundred yards before the Harrison Road exit on the other side of Rte. 220 12/26 (JC); a dark morph was spotted near the intersection of 220 and 150, and a dark morph juv. was seen at the Rte. 220 and Rte. 80 intersection 1/1 (JC); one was seen flying over COL 1/5 (MB); a light-morph adult was observed over the intersection of I-99 and Fox Hollow Road 1/15 (DAB); a very dark morph was hovering over the fields near the I99 Harrison Road exit 1/15 (JL); a juv. light morph was seen over Rte. 322 at the (Boalsburg) S. Atherton Exit 1/16 (AW); a dark morph was found hovering and flying above a field in the PLG area just along I-99 1/17 (HB); a light-phase bird was spotted along I-99 near Benner Pike 1/18 (HB); a dark morph was seen perched in top of a tree at I-99/Harrison Road exit near PLG 1/19 (JL); a light morph was seen in perfect lighting circling low over a field on University Drive 1/4 mile past the intersection with South Atherton St 1/19 (BF); a dark-morph was seen from the Rte. 220 Bellefonte North exit 1/21 (MH); a dark morph seen flying over the Shiloh Road/I-99 intersection 1/26 (DAB); three dark morph adults and one light morph

adult (some hover-hunting) were seen at various points along I-99 from SC to the I-80 intersection 1/31 (DAB); a light morph was photographed as it hovered 20 ft off the ground along Rte. 26 just east of I-80 1/31 (BS); a light-morph hawk was hovering low in a field near exit 78 and a second one was seen near exit 78 2/9 (JV); a circling light morph was observed in Brush Valley 2/21 (JS, NS, BF); six light morphs and one dark morph were seen along a route through Brush Valley Rd and Penn's Valley Rd. during a Winter Raptor Survey 2/22 (SH, BH, MH, DS); four were observed between PSU and Bellefonte during a WRS 2/9 (JL, RF, NAB). The I-99/220 route from SC to where it intersects I-80 is a very productive area for seeing raptors in the winter.

A SC CBC highlight was a **Golden Eagle** that was observed from the North Meadows Road lookout above Bear Meadows where it appeared to be hunting along Sinking Creek below Bear Meadows, and eventually disappeared in the direction of COL 12/14 (NB). A **Merlin** was observed hunting finches and siskins on the west side of SC, but its presence was detected initially by seeing the finches chasing it 12/27 (JC). Three **Peregrine Falcons** were seen during this period: one was spotted near Rock Springs during a Winter Raptor Survey 1/31 (NEK, DB, JD, MH); one was seen flying over PSU Whitmore Lab 2/13 (DAB); and one was seen giving an alarm call on the edge of the roof of the Bryce Jordan Center at Penn State 2/16 (DAB).

A flock of approximately 220 **Wild Turkeys** (a conservative estimate) was observed during the BESP CBC on Fairview Road 12/28 (DB, NB); another flock of over 100 was seen at Fairview Road and Marsh Creek Road 2/1 (NEK, DB, MH, JD). Eight **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen resting on the water at COL 12/1 (DG). The only **Northern Shrike** reported this period was near the boat launch at BESP 12/8 (WL).

American Crows have created a noise and litter problem at PSU. Pyrotechnic devices and decoys are being used to encourage them to move to other less-objectionable areas and it appears to be working 12/2 (JL, MB, GY). Hundreds of American Crows were seen migrating over Old Gatesburg Road in steady streams headed south towards Tussey Mountain 12/18 (CW). A group of 400 or more American Crows were seen flying overhead on North Atherton Street SC headed west in the direction of the Penn State golf course 12/7 (JV).

Many **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen in the Alan Seeger Natural Area 12/6 (JD, SL), and one was seen in Lederer Park SC 1/23. A record number of 75 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen during the SC CBC 12/14 (JD). Like many other birds, an **American Pipit** was attracted to fresh earth revealed by a local snow plow BESP 12/26 (JC).

A photograph of a **Dark-eyed Junco** at a feeder of in SC 11/22 was later examined and tentatively identified as a possible subspecies **Cassiar Junco** (*Junco hyemalis cismontanus*) (JC, NB).

A flock of about 200 **Snow Buntings** was seen swirling about for several minutes in a field along Heverly Road between Orviston Mt. Road and Mantown Road before they flew off 12/28 (DB, NB). Twelve Snow Buntings were found near the Livestock Evaluation Center on Rte. 45 1/31 (NEK, DB, JD, MH). A few **Eastern Meadowlarks** are usually found every winter: two were seen in an area near the intersection of Rte. 220 and 150 12/26 (JC), and one flew in front of a car on Rte. 550 near the northern county border 1/25 (MB). A flock of about 200-300 **Common Grackles** settled in a tree in SC 2/18 (JV). A House Finch with a light pinkish head was photographed at a SC feeder 2/5 (MJ).

Like birders in other counties this winter, we enjoyed a widespread irruption of **White-winged Crossbills**, which last occurred in the county in 1998: 30 in the Alan Seeger Natural Area 12/6 (JD, SL); 10+ in a conifer patch along the Moss Hanne Trail at Black Moshannon State Park 1/3 (NB); a flock of 14 was moving quickly between trees on the western side of PSU near the Walker Building 1/28 (TA); a flock was feeding in a stand of hemlocks near NLI 1/29 (GG); a flock of 15-20 birds in a couple of hemlocks between Whitmore and Pond Labs PSU 2/1 (BC); a small flock of 18 near NLI 2/1 (JV); one male, two females in the hemlocks directly in front of NLI 2/2 (MB); 17 or so were feeding in the hemlocks on the PSU side of the Pugh St./East College Ave. SC 2/5 (RS); several were seen in a wooded area behind a farm on Horse drive about 13 miles east of Rebersburg 2/7 (JS); 22 flew between conifers along Stratford Drive SC 2/15 (TA); a flock of about 15 landed in the hemlocks outside an office near the new business building PSU 2/23 (LH); a flock of 10-15 feeding in a hemlock near PSU Chandlee lab 2/26 (MR).

The only **Common Redpoll** reported this quarter was photographed at a feeder in Grays Woods 1/24 (DK). According to postings on SCBIRDCL, the **Pine Siskin** irruption this period began in

the county about 12/12 and may be the biggest irruption in over two decades: about 150+ were mobbing the observer's feeders who estimated they were the most he had seen in 17 years at his house in Howard 12/12 (BS); over 100 siskins were feeding on thistle feeders, the ground, and all over the coneflower seed heads that are still standing at a residence in Unionville 12/12 (DO); about 30 at a feeder in Stormstown 12/13 (JLS); about 30 at feeders in Pine Grove Mills 12/13 (JB); 70 at feeders in Bellefonte 12/13 (DG); 20 in front of Eisenhower Auditorium PSU 12/13 (NK); 150 at feeders in Aaronsburg 12/12 (MK fide HB); 49 at a feeder in SC 12/13 (JC); 60-80 visited the observer's feeders in Howard 1/3 and 1/4 (BS); a flock 50+ Siskins was feeding in hemlocks near PSU Mueller Lab 1/6 (GG); 75+ at observer's feeders in SC 1/7 (JC); 100-200 in the observer's yard in Unionville 1/8 (DO); 30+ found in PLG 1/9 (JL); 50+ at a feeder at Skytop Lane, Port Matilda 1/9 (EE); 300-400 over an area of 10x15 that was covered with them in Unionville 1/9 (DO); 40-50 at a yard in Kaywood, Boalsburg 1/11 (TP); 75 were feeding daily on the west side of SC 1/15 (JC); 100 or so seemed to prefer Sunflower to Niger seeds at Grays Woods SC 1/18 (EE); 100+ at feeders in Overlook Heights in SC 1/24-1/25 (DR); a "green morph" siskin with a very bright appearance overall and a green back was in a flock of 100+ that came to a feeder for a few days in SC 1/30 (JC). People reporting on SCBIRDCL noticed an apparent reduction in Pine Siskins about when most of the snow and ice had disappeared around 2/10. The siskin irruption was the subject of an article in *The Centre Daily Times* 1/19 (JL).

NK, a member of the SC Bird Club, banded Pine Siskins through the winter. From 1/23-1/31 he banded 299 siskins at his residence and only eight were caught again. During the period 1/7-1/31, 70 reports from 41 different locations were received from 38 people within a 21 mile radius of SC for a total of 2178 individuals, giving an average of 53 birds per location. Individual counts varied from one to 350 individuals.

Observers: **Bob Fowles, P.O. Box 266, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, (814) 238-1990, rbf@psu.edu**, Tom Auer, Joe Bishop, Margaret Brittingham, Diane Bierly, Don Bryant (DAB), Jack Cochran, Nick Bolgiano, Hillel Brandes, Nan Butkovich (NAB), Benjamin Cooley, Jim Dunn, Kurt Engstrom, Edwin Escalet, Steve Feldstein, Roana Fuller, Greg Grove, Debra Grim, Steve Hass, Bob Hass, Matt Hass, Mike Johnson, Molly Heath, Cecil Houser, Nick Kerlin, Nancy Ellen Kiernan (NEK), Mark King, Don Kiel, Wayne Laubscher, Jennifer Lee, Scott Lewis, Melissa May, Patricia Moyer, Matt O'Donnell, Dan Ombalski, Tom Pluto, Matt Rockmore, Dave Ryan, Don Sheehy, Bob Snyder, John & Linda Stevens, Rob Stone, Jesse Swarey, Nancy Swarey, Joe Verica, Leah Wasser, Doug Wentzel, Chuck Widman, Andy Wilson, George Young.

Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Preserve (BTPR), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Chamber's Lake (CHLA), Coatesville Res. (CORES), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), South Eastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA), Struble Lake (STLA)

The ice pack on the county lakes was short-lived, consequently the lakes held numerous waterfowl with at least 25 species recorded. **Snow Geese** in varying numbers were present throughout the season. There was a huge movement 12/20 when 8957 were observed on the West Chester CBC. An estimated 700 were at CHLA the following day (RR). There were two **Ross's Geese** present. An imm. was at CORES 12/1 (LL) and an adult was at CORES 12/4-16 (LL, et al.). **Brant**, rare and irregular visitors, were found twice. One was present at CORES 12/1-4 (LL) and a flock of 17 was recorded during the large movement of geese 12/20 over Okehocking Preserve (EP). **Cackling Geese** were found in several locations. Up to 7 were at CORES 12/1-1/1 (m.ob.), 2 were on the West Chester CBC 12/20, 2 were in a flock of **Canada Geese** over West Goshen Twp. 12/26 (NP) and one was at CHLA 1/18 (NP). Winter **Tundra Swans** are rare and irregular; a few were seen on CHLA, CORES, MCSP and STLA (BB, KF, PF, HM, LL). Northbound birds were noted 2/9-26 from BTPR and CHLA (JS, HM, RR).

Puddle ducks took advantage of the mostly open water with lingering **Wood Ducks** recorded at multiple locations until at least 1/10 (m.ob.). Spring arrivals were first noted 2/27 with a pair at Waterloo Mills (KF). **American Wigeon** were present at CHLA through most of Feb with a high count of 12 on 2/26 (RR). High counts of **Northern Pintail** included 26 on 1/13 (KF, HM) and 30 on 2/26 (RR), all both at

CHLA. **Northern Shovelers** were at the Rte. 100 Waste Water Plant in Upper Uwchlan Twp. 1/17, when 4 were noted (NP). **Green-winged Teal** remained into Feb with a high of 7 at CHLA 2/12 (HM). Three were also present at Waterloo Mills Preserve 2/27 (KF).

Canvasbacks were observed all season with up to 4 at CHLA (m.obs) and singles at MCSP 12/11 (LL) and CORES 1/13 (KF, HM). **Redheads** were also at CHLA throughout the season with a high of 5 on 12/25 (RR) and 2-3 through Feb (m.ob.). **Ring-necked Duck** is probably the most common winter duck in the county and this was reflected with high counts of 300 at Longwood 12/29 (LL) and 110 at Somerset Lake 1/9 (AL). **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup** were irregular through the season with respective highs of 3 at MCSP 12/16 (LL) and 3 at CHLA 1/30-2/27 (m.obs). **Long-tailed Ducks** were found 12/21 with 2 at CHLA (RR) and one at MCSP (NP). At least two **Common Goldeneyes** were at MCSP irregularly through the season (m.ob.). There were scattered reports of **Buffleheads** with a high of 4 at CORES 1/1 (NP). Wintering **Hooded Mergansers** seem to be increasing yearly and were reported from all the lakes throughout the winter with a high of 42 at MCSP 2/23 (HM). **Common Mergansers** arrived 12/1 and could be found at most lakes through the season with a single observer high of 143 at MCSP 2/23 (HM). Unusual were 13 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at CORES 12/13 (KG). Good counts of **Ruddy Ducks** were made at MCSP with a high of 88 on 1/4 (CG).

Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were at MCSP 12/1 (NP) and Somerset Lake 1/9 (AL). Two **Horned Grebes** were also at MCSP 12/1, 12/21, and 1/1 (NP, BB). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was at MCSP 12/16-21 (LL, m.ob.).

Single **Rough-legged Hawks**, rare and irregular, were at Church Farm School 1/19 (JL) and in the Doe Run area 2/5 (HM). Rare in *Chester*, a **Golden Eagle** was observed at CHLA 1/3 (RR). The same bird or a different individual was seen sporadically in the Doe Run area 1/3-2/1 (KF, m.obs). **Merlins** once again wintered in the county with up to 3 at CORES and scattered reports from BTPR, Doe Run and the Westtown area (m.ob.). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen in Lower Oxford Twp. 2/6 (HM, KF, JC). A **Sandhill Crane** was found 2/3 in Kennet Twp. (DK). The bird associated with flocks of Canada Geese and was noted at several nearby locations until at least 2/11. Returning **American Woodcock** were found at BTPR 2/16 and 2/18 (JS) and at Waterloo Mills 2/27 (KF).

The only report of **Bonaparte's Gull** was of 4 at CHLA 12/10 (LL). Single **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at MCSP 12/19 (CC) and SECCRA 2/11 (HM). Unusual for its location, a **Barred Owl** was at BTPR 12/8-1/5 (JS, et al.). Another was at Hopewell Furnace 12/14 (RW, EW). Up to 5 **Short-eared Owls** were in the Doe Run area all season (m.ob.).

An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** apparently overwintered at the Natural Land's Trust's Crow's Nest Preserve (HM, et al.). A lingering **Eastern Phoebe** was at Longwood 1/10 (LL). An adult **Northern Shrike** was in Warwick Twp. from 2/2-14 (LL, NP). **Horned Larks** were in good numbers this season with a high of 200 in Honeybrook Twp. 1/18 (NP) and 250 near Homeville 2/6 (KF, HM). Unlike last year's incursion, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were sporadic, with most reports coming from traditional locations such as Nottingham Park (NP, KF) and CORES (LL). A **Brown Thrasher** was at BTPR 1/26 (JS) but not reported thereafter. **Cedar Waxwings** were irregular with high counts of 20 at BTPR 12/1 (JS) and 12 at Crow's Nest Preserve 2/14 (NP).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** frequented a suet and peanut feeder in a tiny backyard in downtown West Chester throughout the period (MAK, m.obs) for one of the few documented overwintering records. **Pine Warblers** can usually be found adjacent to CORES in Dec and this year there were up to 5 present through early Jan (m. ob.). Unusual, but not unprecedented, was a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at MCSP 1/1 (BB).

Chipping Sparrows attempt to over winter annually and this year they were found at multiple locations until 1/23. No doubt the best bird of the season was a **Henslow's Sparrow** found during the Western Chester County CBC 1/3 in Londonderry Twp. (KF, BBy). The bird was on private property with restricted visitation. The original observers were able to keep track of the bird until at least 2/9. This was probably the first documented report of a wintering Henslow's Sparrow in Pennsylvania. Single **Lapland Longspurs** were observed in flocks of Horned Larks in Honeybrook Twp. 1/18 (NP) and 2/2 (LL). Three **Snow Buntings** were also reported in Honeybrook Twp. 1/24 (RR). Single Snow Buntings were found at CHLA 12/4 (LL) and in Lower Oxford Twp. 2/6 (HM, KF).

Large mixed blackbird flocks are not uncommon in *Chester* each

winter. This year an estimated 50,000 -100,000 were in the Honeybrook Twp. area beginning in mid-Dec (m.ob.). A **Baltimore Oriole** was present in South Coventry Twp. 12/20-2/1 (NPe).

This was a nice year for a few of the irruptive winter finches. Single **Red Crossbills** were discovered at CORES 12/31 (LL) and Nottingham Park 1/24 (HM) while 5 were at Longwood 1/19 (TA). **White-winged Crossbills** were much more noticeable from locations throughout the county beginning 12/14. Most flocks consisted of 5-15 birds but 40 were seen at BTPR 2/28 and as many as 50 were recorded at Longwood 1/26. Several observers were lucky to have these nomadic gems stop in the backyards even if only briefly (m.ob.). **Pine Siskin** numbers were the best in recent years. It was not unusual for backyard feeding stations to have daily numbers of 50-100+. Nearly everyone reported at least a few at their feeders beginning in mid-Dec. There were no reports of Evening or Pine Grosbeaks despite diligent searching.

Observers: **Nick Pulcinella, 613 Howard Rd., West Chester, PA 19380, (610) 696-0687, nickpulcinella@verizon.net**, Tom Amico, Barry Blust (BB), Brian Byrnes (BBy), Chuck Chalfant, Janet Crawford, Pam Fisher, Kevin Fryberger, Kevin Graff, Carlton Groff, Dale Kendall, Mary Alice Knox, Andrew Leidig, Larry Lewis, Jeff Loomis, Holly Merker, Edie Parnum, Nancy Peterson (NPe), Rick Robinson, Joe Sebastiani, Eleanor Wolf, Rick Wolf.

Clarion County

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

The winter of 2008-2009 was one of exciting birding for *Clarion* as well as for the entire state. Several irruptive species were found as well as seasonal rarities making the season one to remember, at least for this writer.

An unusual sighting for winter, a flock of 9 **Northern Pintails** was seen in flight 1/5 over SGL 72 near the Clarion River (MW). Farther south along the river, 2 **Common Mergansers** were a nice surprise for the CBC 1/3, found on some of the few patches of open water at Piney Dam (CW).

Bald Eagles were again noted during late winter along open areas of water on the Clarion River, starting 2/23 near last year's nesting area (CW). On 1/28, a leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen near Leeper where it has been present for the past few winters (LC). **Rough-legged Hawks** were somewhat more common this winter than last, reported regularly from MZ, MA, New Bethlehem, and CV areas as well as near Fryburg in the northern part of the county (CW, FM, ML, MW). More winter records were established for **Merlin**, with one seen at SGL 74 on 1/5 (MV), and another near MZ 2/7 (ML). At a new location, **Short-eared Owls** were found between CV and New Bethlehem, on a recently reclaimed strip mine hilltop, regularly through the winter starting 12/15 (CW). On 2/24 one owl was found dead of unknown cause near the roadside. For the Clarion CBC 1/3, two short-eared owls were found at MA (RM, PC). The best raptor record for the season was a beautiful immature **Snowy Owl** found on a WRS route in open field agricultural/pasture areas near CV 2/2 (CW). The bird was relocated the next morning in a nearby field but was not located after that, however, a very large area of suitable habitat here makes it possible that the bird remained but not re-found.

A suet feeder at Wentlings Corners was host to an imm. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** during the Clarion CBC 1/3, an unusual winter record for *Clarion* (C&JR). **Northern Flickers** continue to show an increased presence during winter. Four were seen together 1/3 near CV being chased through a field by a Northern Harrier (PC, DF). Two were also found through Jan at MZ (CW). **Northern Shrikes** were not nearly as numerous as last year's record count; however, they were seen in six different locations in the county, more frequently in the south near Sligo and MZ through mid-Feb (CW, MW). Another sighting was from SGL 74 where one was observed 12/11 hunting from an open perch in a clearcut forest area. This bird was also heard singing (MW). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were noted in only small numbers this winter with records from ST, CV, and MZ starting 12/5 and heard through 2/21 (RM,CW). **Northern Mockingbirds** again demonstrated their winter presence in southern areas of *Clarion* near CV and MZ, appearing to stake out multiflora roses as territorial winter food sources (CW).

Two **Eastern Towhees** made appearances this winter, one during

the CBC 1/3 at Marianne (JH), the other a female present regularly at a CV feeder from 12/13 through the end of Feb (CW). Another great highlight from the Clarion CBC 1/3 was the appearance of a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at the same CV feeding station (CW). This bird was documented with photos and remained present daily through 1/13. A rare sight indeed to see a towhee and Lincoln's sparrow together in one view through the binoculars in Clarion in the winter season! At another feeder in SV 1/13, an **Oregon Dark-eyed Junco** was present for the day (MB). An agricultural field near CV was host to a **Lapland Longspur** 2/4 along with a flock of 26 **Snow Buntings** (CW, MW). Snow Buntings were found in more areas this year through mid-Feb with flocks numbering up to 50; locations including three separate areas surrounding CV as well as at MA and MZ (RM, CW, MW).

This winter season provided a memorable spectacle of northern finches for many birders lucky enough to have a pine or spruce in their back yard. **Red Crossbills** were present in small numbers, mostly flocks of fewer than 12. They were first seen 12/6 at SGL 74 (MW), and were reported through mid-Feb at CF and in Clarion (ML, RM, SG, EM, JM, et al.). **White-winged Crossbills** were one of the biggest invaders this year with groups of up to 200 birds, the largest numbers being at CF (GE, SG, ML, RM, EM, et al). Smaller numbers were also reported starting 12/6 and continuing through the end of Feb for Callensburg, CV, Clarion, SGL 74, ST, and Wentlings Corners (DF, WF, RM, CW, MW). Unlike last year, **Common Redpolls** were reported for only two locations 1/4, at feeders in CV and SGL 74 (MB, GE, WF, ML, RM, et al.). **Pine Siskins** were seen in very large numbers this season, likely in many more areas than reported. Flocks numbered up to 200+ and were noted at feeders in Clarion, CV, Knox, Fisher, SV, ST and Wentlings Corners as well as at SGL 74 (MB, GE, WF, ML, RM, et al.). High numbers of siskins were building already by early Dec and grew to their largest numbers in mid-Feb, and continuing through the end of the month.

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net**, Margaret Buckwalter, Lois Callahan, Paulette Colantonio, Pat Conway, Gary Edwards, Deb Freed, Steve Gosser, Janice Horn, Mike Leahy, Flo McGuire, Jerry McWilliams, Geoff Malosh, Ellwood Meyers, Ron Montgomery, Carl and Joan Rowe, Kate St.John, Mike Weible.

Clearfield County

Locations: Bradford Township (BT), Coalport (CPT), Eastern Clearfield Area (ECA), Westover (WST).

No waterfowl reports this period. Raptor reports included a **Northern Harrier** at ECA (DB, DGR). A lone **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at WST 1/23 (DG). **Red-tailed Hawks** were present at several locations. Nine **Rough-legged Hawks** were found at ECA (DB, DGR). Two **American Kestrels** were at WST 1/23 (DG). A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at BT 1/21 (JG). **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** were first seen at CPT 2/28 (DG). Two **White-winged Crossbills** were at BT 1/21 (JG). A small flock of **Pine Siskins** were at WST 1/23 (DG).

Observers: **Dave Gobert, 287 Beech Road Patton, Pa. 16668 (814) 674-8359 djgobert@verizon.net**, Diane Bierly, Debra Grim, Jason Gulvas.

Clinton County

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

The only waterfowl report of the season came from the Tamarack area where a **Red-throated Loon** was found stranded in a yard after a night of heavy fog 2/11. It was uninjured and subsequently released on the SR at LH (CF, WL).

One **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed 1/10 at Swisssdale (WL). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported in WR 2/22 (C&CH). A pair of **Bald Eagles** was seen engaging in apparent mating behavior along the SR on Island Road east of LH 2/20, giving rise to hope that they might be nesting in the area (L&SB). The resident **Peregrine Falcon** pair was seen along the SR at McElhatten throughout the period (m.ob.).

The appearance of an adult **Harris's Sparrow** at a residential feeder in the Beech Creek area 1/7-2/24 represented a first *Clinton* record (DB, WL, SS). The memorable irruption of **White-winged Crossbills** continued in the county with sightings in several areas, including 1/21 and 1/25 near Hyner (WL, CK), 2/2 in Woolrich (TO), 2/18 in LH (JC), and from 2/19-21 near LH along the SR (JS). Thought to be an off winter for them, the discovery of a large flock of 80 to 100 **Common Redpoll** in a tamarack stand along Ritchie Road 1/25 was quite a surprise (WL, CK). Redpolls were subsequently reported there through 1/31 (C&CH, GY). On 2/2 a redpoll appeared at a residential feeder in WR (TO). As reported elsewhere in the state, **Pine Siskins** were widespread throughout the county and in unprecedented numbers through the period (m.ob.).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745-8153, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnet.org**, Larry Bason, Steve Bason, Dan Brauning, Jerry Cierpilowski, Kristina Franklin, Carol and Charles Hildebrand, Chad Kauffman, Terry O'Conner, Jeff Schaffer, Steve Sneath, George Young.

Columbia County

No Report

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

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Ford Island (FI), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Lake (PL), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Linesville Christmas Bird Count (LCC), Jamestown State Park (JSP), Sugar Lake (SL), Woodcock Lake (WL), Tamarack Lake (TL).

A pair of **Pied-billed Grebes** was found at CL 12/30. One **Common Loon** was reported on LCC 12/14 at CL (m.ob.). A **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen 12/30 at PC. After mid-Dec, all other gull species were in small numbers due to fast freeze-ups and just slivers of open water at PL. A total of 8 **Common Mergansers** was noted at WL 12/11 and 75 were at PC 12/26 (RCL). A good total of 40 **Red-breasted Mergansers** was seen at PC 12/26 (RCL). There were 4 **Green-winged Teal** at PC 2/26. Two **Northern Pintails** were recorded on LCC 12/14 (m.ob.). Eight **Redhead Ducks** were at CL 12/28 and four were off the PC 2/7 (RCL). A high number of 200 Common **Goldeneyes** was found at PC 12/27 (RCL). A pair of **Snow Geese** was noted on LCC 12/14 (m.ob.), and one was on the ice at CL with 125 **Canada Geese** 1/4. A flock of 60 **Tundra Swans** was noted at HM and 8 were at PC on 2/21 and 2/26 (MB). Single **Great Blue Herons** lingered at HM 12/6 (MB) and at HM and PC 1/9 (HM). An excellent number of 12 **Sandhill Crane** was noted on the LCC at FH 12/14 (m.ob.) and the same 12 were last noted 12/20 (RCL). Two **Ruffed Grouse** were spotted near SL 12/15 (RE).

A **Northern Harrier** was noted at SL 2/17 (RE) and another at C 2/17. Single **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at ENWR 12/29 (RE), HM 1/1 (MB), Springboro 1/17 (TCN) and Geneva 2/1. A **Cooper's Hawk** was found at ENWR 12/25 (RE) and one was at HM 1/24 (RB). **Northern Goshawks** were seen 12/14 on the LCC at CL and one was noted west of Meadville 1/1. Single **Rough-legged Hawks** were present at ENWR, CM and Pymatuning all this period (MO). An excellent number of 51 **Bald Eagles** assembled at Pymatuning 12/14 on LCC (m.ob.). One **Short-eared Owl** was found 1/25 near French Creek north of Vaningo Boro. A **Barred Owl** was noted 12/14 on the LCC and one at ENWR 2/10 (RE). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was seen near SL 1/26 (RE). One to two **Great-horned Owls** were noted at HM from 12/14 - 2/4 (MB).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found at HM 12/8 (MB) as well as singles near SL 1/10 (RE) and at JSP and HM 1/9 (RB). A **Northern Shrike** was sighted at ENWR 12/9 (RE), with 3 on the LCC 12/14 (m.ob.), one at CM 1/4 and one at WL 1/25. The 75 **Horned Larks** at HM 1/1 was a good total (MB). **Common Ravens** are being seen increasingly in *Crawford*, even spreading into the western area near the Ohio border. Two were at SL 12/1, one on 12/10, and one 12/15 (RE). Two were at JSP 12/20 (RCL) and one near SL 1/5, with 2 there 2/21

(RE).

Twenty-five **Cedar Waxwings** were seen at SL 12/27 (RE), and 38 were at FI 1/4. A **Pine Warbler** was at a feeder near Rundletown 12/8 (TCN *vide* AT). A **Northern Mockingbird** was found 12/14 on the LCC (MB) and 2 **Gray Catbirds** also on LCC 12/14 (m.ob.). Four **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported on the LCC 12/14 (m.ob.) and 4 were seen south of PC 1/4 and one at a feeder near SL 1/3 (RE). Six **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were at PC 1/4, and 2 were at HM 1/1 (MB). **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported all period at HM; up to 30 (MB). The **Summer Tanager** reported in the fall report remained at a feeder in Atlantic near HM to 1/4 (MB).

Sixty **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted near Meadville 12/20, two **Common Grackles** were seen 1/29 along Pine Road HM (RB), and one was near SL 2/11 (RE). Two **Purple Finches** were noted at HM 1/1 (RB) and 11 were near SL 1/25 (RE). A good number of 30 **White-winged Crossbills** was near SL 12/1-4 (RE), and up to 25 were near HM this period (MB, RB) Three were at Springboro 1/17 (TCN). **Pine Siskins** were well scattered across the county (m.ob.). The top count was 108 on LCC 12/14 (m.ob.). **Snow Buntings** made a good showing here, seen 12/30-2/26. The best count was 500 along Atlantic Lake Road in HM.

Observers: **Ronald Leberman, 11508 Pettus Rd., Meadville, PA 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Rachel Byler, Marvin Byler, William Byler, Richard Eakin, Robert C. Leberman, Thomas C. Nicolls, Adam Troyer.

Cumberland County

Locations: Big Spring (BS), Great Backyard Bird Count 2/13/09-2/16/09 (GBBC), Mudlevel Road (MLR), Newville CBC 1/3/09 (NCBC).

It turned out to be an interesting 2008-09 winter season in *Cumberland*. Finches played their part, with **Pine Siskins** showing up in numbers not seen in many years. In January they were followed by **White-winged Crossbills** in numbers perhaps never seen before in *Cumberland*. Things got even more intriguing when two winter rarities now becoming *Cumberland* regulars—**Prairie Falcon** and **Least Sandpiper**—made return appearances. Finally, in February, birders from all over flocked to the Conodoguinet when a **Western Grebe** graced us with its presence.

Single **Cackling Geese** showed up on two occasions. The first was reported at a small pond on Spring House Road in Shippensburg 1/17 (RK, AM, VG) and was seen throughout the remainder of the period (AM). Another was seen at BS 2/14 (VG). A flock of 150 **Snow Geese** was reported north of Carlisle during the GBBC (HW).

The Children's Pond in Boiling Springs had its usual contingent of approximately 40 **American Wigeon**, 2 **Mute Swans** (m.ob.) and one male **Northern Shoveler** 1/3 (AM), 1/10 (MK), and 1/11 (VG). Surprisingly the Children's Pond also had a **Common Loon** 1/3-2/28 (m.ob.) This is the second winter in a row that a Common Loon has spent at least part of the season on a *Cumberland* pond. Last winter there was one at Newville on the Laughlin Mill pond. **American Black Ducks** also made an appearance with 2 reported at Boiling Springs 1/13 (VG) along with one at Newville 2/14 (VG) and 3 at Mechanicsburg during the GBBC.

Other waterfowl reports included one **Green-winged Teal**, one **Blue-winged Teal** (an excellent *Cumberland* winter bird), and one **Gadwall** on BS 1/15 (TBJ, JG), 1/17 (RK, AM, VG), 1/20 (VG). During the GBBC, 3 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 5 **Wood Ducks**, 11 **Hooded Mergansers**, and 21 **Common Mergansers** were reported in Newville, 6 **Northern Pintails** in New Cumberland, and one **Canvasback** in Carlisle.

Last but not least among waterbirds were the **Red-necked Grebe** and **Western Grebe** discovered on the Conodoguinet off of Route 114 in Mechanicsburg 2/14 (BH, GH). The Red-necked Grebe in itself would have been a good find, but to find a Western Grebe along with it was outstanding! The Western Grebe was certainly a first for *Cumberland* and if accepted will become the first confirmed in Pennsylvania! Even not knowing what the rest of 2009 may bring, it will take something special to knock this bird off its perch as bird of the year for *Cumberland*. The Red-necked Grebe was present through 2/17 (m.ob.) and the Western Grebe through 2/21 (m.ob.).

Though there did not seem to be one large roost as the past two years, **Black Vultures** were present in good numbers with 88 reported on 1/3 (NCBC). **Turkey Vultures**, on the other hand, seemed present in

record numbers as reflected by the 53 reported on the NCBC 1/3, which smashed the previous record high of 28. For the second consecutive year a **Prairie Falcon** was present just east of Shippensburg. It was first reported at Running Pump Road 1/1(RK) and last reported 2/6 MLR (RF, DG, KG). Up to this point neither last winter's nor this winter's bird (very likely the same one) has been submitted to PORC, and its origin remains an issue. Is it a truly wild bird or an escapee from a falconer? One **Peregrine Falcon** was seen on Duncan Road (near MLR) 1/25 (AM), and single **Merlins** were reported in Enola 1/1 (RK), MLR 1/3 (NCBC), New Cumberland 1/8 (RK), and PGFSP 1/25 (BO). It seemed an average year for the *Cumberland American Kestrel* population with 44 reported on the NCBC 1/3. **Northern Harriers** were present in good numbers with 12 being reported on the NCBC, which is more than double 17-year average of 5.

Among *buteos*, two light morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported, one at Gettysburg Pike 12/14 (AS), and one (perhaps the same bird) at Gettysburg Pike and Slate Hill Road 2/1 (BH, JH). A new high count for **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported for the NCBC when 5 individuals were reported (1/3). Other reports during the period include one off Route 15 1/9 (AS), one in sw. *Cumberland* 1/15 (TJ, JG), one at Huntsdale 1/31 (VG, BF, LF), and one juvenile reported on the BS 1/3-2/14 (m. ob.). **Red-tailed Hawks** were abundant, and set a new high count for the NCBC with 107 reported 1/3. The only **Bald Eagle** reports came from Carlisle at the Letort Spring Run where one was seen 1/21 and 2/2 (HW).

Once again, one **Least Sandpiper** was reported at the BS 1/1-2/7 (m.ob.). This is the fourth consecutive year the bird has been reported in the winter period at this location and three out of the past four years one has been reported on the NCBC.

One first cycle **Iceland Gull** and one adult **Great Black-backed Gull** were reported at the Cumberland County Landfill, 1/15 (JG, TBJ); one **Iceland Gull** was at the same location 1/17 (AM).

There was one **Long-eared Owl** at Conifer Road north of Newville 1/3 (AM), and one reported from SGL169 1/13 and 2/16 (AM). Two **Barn Owls** were reported from SGL169 12/15 (AM) but the birds were absent in Jan. Two **Short-eared Owls** were reported during the period, the first 1/25 BS (AM), and the second 2/22 near the intersection of Rte. 233 and Center Road (VG).

The first **American Woodcock** of the season was reported at SGL169 on 2/15 (AM). Three **Eastern Phoebes** were reported 1/3 at BS (VG, CK), and up to 2 were observed on the BS through 1/29 (m.ob.) Another phoebe was reported throughout the season at the West Fairview Boat Launch (RK). There were 2 **Gray Catbirds** at Pine Grove Furnace State Park 12/13 (AM, RK), and another at SGL169 on 2/16 (AM).

As for field birds, there were 3 **American Pipits** at MLR 12/25 (AM), 12 east of Newville in a field near the Conodoguinet 1/11 (VG), and one on the BS 1/30 (BO). There were also up to 73 **Snow Buntings** and 5 **Lapland Longspurs** reported among the hundreds of Horned Larks at Running Pump Road 12/25 through 2/14 (m.ob.). Finally, one **Dickcissel** was reported at a feeder at Crossroad School Road east of Newville 2/14 (BF, AM, VG, DF).

While it was not an impressive winter for Sparrows, one **Fox Sparrow** was reported at a Newville feeder throughout period in Newville (ML), 2 others at SGL169 on 2/15 (AM), and 6 at Mechanicsburg (GBBC). There were also 6 **Field Sparrows** reported on the NCBC and 2 others at SGL169 on 2/15 (AM). **Eastern Towhees** also were present with 3 reported for the NCBC, 2 of which were present at a Newville feeding station throughout the period.

Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported north of Newville on the NCBC, which is only the second time the species has been reported on the count since 2000. Nine other meadowlarks were seen in a field north of Newville 1/13 (RF). One to three **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported on a regular basis on the BS 1/20 - 2/15 (VG, AM), and a flock of about 50 birds were reported at Dykeman's Pond in Shippensburg 1/15-2/15 (AM). Ten were also reported at Mechanicsburg during the GBBC.

The **White-winged Crossbill** invasion was of historic proportions for *Cumberland* with reports from ten different locations scattered throughout the county. The first report was of 3 individuals from the NCBC at Conifer Road 1/3 (AM), and the last was of 8 individuals in a Newville yard 2/28 (VG). The largest report was of 125 at the Spring Hill Cemetery in Shippensburg 1/18 (RK). There were reports from the cemetery 1/17-2/28 (m.ob.). One male **Red Crossbill** was also present at the Spring Hill Cemetery 1/18 (AM). **Pine Siskins** were everywhere in what only can be described as a mega invasion year for the county.

Just one example of the enormity of the invasion can be demonstrated by the fact that 147 were reported on the NCBC where the previous high count was only 17. Less impressive but worthy of note were the large numbers of **American Goldfinch** present during the period, for example, 557 were reported on the NCBC, which more than doubled the previous high count of 243 individuals.

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Devich Farbotnik, Ron Freed, Jan Getgood, Keith Gingrich, Dave Grove, Barry Horton, Jennifer Horton, Thomas Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Bob Keener, Mike Kotz, Ramsay Koury, Margaret Lehman, Andy Markel, Bill Oyler, Adam Stuckert, Herb Weigle.

Dauphin County

Locations/Abbreviations: Blue Mountain (BM), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Hershey Important Bird Area (HIBA), Middletown (MID), Mahatango Mountain (MM), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), SR from Fort Hunter Park (SHP), SR from Millersburg (SMB), SR from Marysville (SMV), SR from West Fairview (SWF), Susquehanna River (SR), West Hanover Twp. (WHT), Wildwood Lake (WL), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

Although the presence of **White-winged Crossbills** drew most of the attention, it was the **Pine Siskin** irruption that was truly unprecedented. This was also a good season for raptors, especially **Northern Harriers**, **Rough-legged** and **Red-shouldered Hawks**, and **Merlins**. Even a **Snowy Owl** made a brief visit. This "winter" season began and ended on a mild note with one extended cold spell lasting from mid-January through early February. During this cold snap, lakes and ponds were ice covered and the SR was limited to only a few open channels. Precipitation, in all forms, was below normal with HBG recording only 15 inches of snow for the season (average is about 36 inches).

A single **Greater White-fronted Goose** and 4 **Cackling Geese** were with a flock of a few hundred **Canada Geese** in a field along Hersheypark Dr. 1/4 (TJ, et al.). A late southbound flight of Canada Geese, over both the east and west shore of the SR, coincided to the HBG CBC 12/20 and resulted in a record count of more than 13,000 for this species (m.ob.). Included in this southbound flight were about 130 **Tundra Swans** and 140 **Snow Geese** flying over the SR (JC). About 300 Snow Geese were found near Deodate 12/28 (EC), another 200 were in a field in EHT 2/13 (NC) and on the same date a flight of about 150 were noted over BM (M&RB). Another much larger flight of about 2000 was observed at HIBA 2/19 (PW, RW). Smaller numbers of Tundra Swans, in the range of 10-20, were reported at SFH 2/13 (M&RB) and from SHT 2/27-28 (JG).

Most of the expected dabblers remained at WL into early Jan and returned by 2/17 as the lake thawed. These included **American Black** and **Wood Ducks**, **Northern Pintails**, **Gadwalls**, and **Green-winged Teal** (SL, CR, et al.). At Lisa Lake in Highspire, 24 American Black Ducks, 2 **Northern Shovelers**, and a **Lesser Scaup** were still present 1/11 (PW, RW). A single **Canvasback** was found for the Curtin CBC 12/29 SMB (RK, et al.). Other sightings of Canvasback included one on 1/18, and four 2/7 (SMV) and an additional 16 at SMB 2/7 (RK). **Redheads** were also present for much of the quarter with ten found 1/18 and 23 on 2/7 at SMV and an additional seven at SMB 2/7 (RK). Redheads remained at SMV through the quarter with 13 counted 2/16 and two on 2/26 (PW, RW). Three **Ring-necked Ducks** were observed at SFH 2/26 (PW, RW). A single **Greater Scaup** was found a SMV 1/18 (RK) and three were noted SFH 2/28 (DY).

One **White-winged Scoter** was reported 12/28 SHB (KA), and another was observed 2/26 SFH (PW, RW) and again on 2/28 (DY). A single **Long-tailed Duck** was noted during the Curtin CBC 12/29 on the SMB (TP, et al.) and two were found at SRT 1/11 (PW, RW). More than 30 **Common Goldeneyes** were counted for the Curtin CBC 12/29 SMB (RK, et al.) The only **Red-breasted Merganser** of the season was a single male at SHB 12/20 (RW, et al.) One **Common Loon** was found SWF 1/18 in an open channel of the predominantly frozen SR (RK) and, the only reported **Horned Grebe** came on 2/26 SMV (RK).

Black Vulture reports were numerous from the southern portion of the county (m.ob.) and are on the increase in the northern portion. For the Curtin CBC 12/29, Black Vultures actually outnumbered **Turkey**

Vultures 91 to 59 (SB, et al.), and finding 17 during a WRS 1/25 across the northern tier was a first for this survey route (RK, JR). Both Black and Turkey Vultures returned to a winter roost in the Laurel Woods development south of HER where more than 100 were counted in Feb (GB). **Bald Eagle** reports were numerous but finding five at SFH 2/13, all sub-adults, was note worthy (M&RB). An impressive count of 17 **Northern Harriers** was tallied 12/29 for the Curtin CBC in the fields around Gratz (CK, et al.). One to four Northern Harriers remained in the HIBA throughout the quarter (m. ob.) and two were noted on a WRS 1/25 between Millersburg and Gratz (RK, JR).

This was a good winter for **Rough-legged Hawks**. A dark "chocolate" phase, appropriate for the HER area, was found along Rt. 743 and Old Laudermilch Rd. 1/2 (BW), and continued to be seen at this location and in the nearby HIBA, along with at least one light phase, through 2/6 (m. ob.). The northern county WRS produced six **Rough-legged Hawks** along a 29-mile route between Millersburg and Gratz 1/25 (RK, JR). It was also a good year for **Red-shouldered Hawks**. Among those reported was one along the Greenbelt Trail for the HBG CBC 12/20 (S&GL); another near Bachmanville Rd., south of Hershey, 12/25 and 1/17 (AL); and one along Early's Mill Rd. in EHT 2/1 (S&RZ) and 2/22 (GK). Another good find in the HIBA 1/24 was a **Merlin** (AM, et al.), and there were subsequent sightings in the HIBA 2/6 (GK), 2/15 (S&RZ), and 3/1 (PW, RW) of possibly the same individual.

A **Killdeer** was found near Middletown 1/18 (ME), and one was noted on a WRS east of Millersburg 1/25 (RK & JR). By 2/12 Killdeer had returned to the HIBA and remained for the rest of the quarter (PW, RW). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on the SR was counted on the HBG CBC 12/20 (DH), and a single **Bonaparte's Gull** was observed 12/28 SHB (KA). **Ring-billed, Herring**, and **Greater Black-backed Gulls** were noted on the SR throughout the quarter (m. ob.) with Ring-billed Gulls numbering in the thousands by the end of Feb.

A **Snowy Owl** was reported 2/9 atop the Department of Education Building in downtown HBG to the displeasure of the resident **Peregrine Falcon** pair (AS, fide SW). Two **Short-eared Owls** were counted for the Curtin CBC 12/29 near Gratz (CK, AT, et al.), and reports of single Short-eared Owls came on 2/4 HER Cemetery (GK) and 2/2 from the M.S. Hershey School farms (NM).

Common Raven made the Curtin CBC 12/29 (RK, et al.) and two were found on a WRS 1/25 between Millersburg and Gratz (RK, JR). Two were observed in SHT 1/13 (PW, RW) and two were reported flying over the HACC campus 2/24 (BH). **Fish Crows** remained common throughout the quarter, especially along the Swatara Creek and at the shopping plaza at the east end of Hummelstown (PW, RW), an additional report of 15 Fish Crows along Strite's Rd. in Swatara Twp. came 1/24 (AM, et al.).

Hermit Thrush reports included two at SGL 246 12/25 (J&BH), on MM 12/29 (RK, et al.), and at WL 1/14 (CR) and 2/1 (LU). A **Gray Catbird** was found along the Greenbelt Trail 12/20 for the HBG CBC (RW, et al.) and, one of the surprises on the Curtin CBC 12/29 was a **Brown Thrasher** (SB). A single **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was on the HACC campus 12/20 (S&BB, et al.) and two were found in the HIBA 2/8 (RW).

A single **Fox Sparrow** was observed on MM 12/29 (JR), two were still present in Swatara Twp. the first week of Jan (S&BB), and one was reported the last week of Jan at the M.S. Hershey School Environmental Center feeders (NM). The first "spring" Fox Sparrows arrived 2/28 in EHT (S&RZ) and on the M.S. Hershey School campus (NM). A **Chipping Sparrow** was also present at the Environmental Center feeders in Jan (NM). **American Tree, Savannah**, and **White-crowned Sparrows** were found in the HIBA throughout the winter quarter (RW).

A flock of **Snow Buntings**, 25-50 birds, was observed in the farm fields southeast of HER 12/2 (TM, AS) and 12/6 (LU). Another report of ten Snow Buntings came 2/1 from along Strite's Rd. in Swatara Twp. (AM). These sightings also included **Horned Lark** flocks of various sizes. Two **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found just east of Millersburg 12/29 for the Curtin CBC (RK, et al.) and the first returning meadowlarks were noted 2/15 EHT (S&RZ). A few **Red-winged Blackbirds** stayed the winter at WL and were reported at the Olewine Center feeders (CR, et al.).

One of the highlights of this winter was the **White-winged Crossbill** irruption. The first report came from the north slope of MM where 17 were noted for the Curtin CBC 12/29 (RK, TP). Flocks were also observed in Grantville where 16 were noted 1/13 (SF) and the Manada Gap area where about 35 were found 1/30 (CB, RK). White-winged Crossbills were also added to a number of yard lists including in

Paxtang 1/13 (DH), in SHT 2/3-2/13 (PW, RW) and 2/16-17 (GP), in EHT 2/8 (WC), and in Dauphin 2/11 (fide DB). From mid-Feb they were also being reported feeding on hemlock cones at Zoo America in HER and were still being observed there into Mar (TB).

During this season we experienced an unprecedented irruption, both in duration and in numbers, of **Pine Siskins**. They were seemingly everywhere, visiting feeders from Lykens to Middletown. Small flocks, ranging from 2 to 25, were reported at feeders and counted on CBCs in Nov and Dec, but by Jan counts started reaching into the hundreds. During a northern county WRS, 200+ were observed along roads near Gratz 1/25 (RK & JR). Counts in the 300-500 range were noted atop BM the last week of Jan (M&RB). Over 100 were observed at feeders throughout the southern third of the county, especially from mid-Jan through to the end of Feb (JG, RS, PW, RW, S&RZ, et al.). Siskins were still visiting feeders through Mar.

Common Redpolls and **Purple Finches**, on the other hand, were scarce this winter. Two Redpolls were noted near MID 1/18 (ME), and as many as five visited feeders in WHT during the GBBC 2/13-16 (BI, SH). Purple Finches were found on the Curtin CBC 12/29 (RK, et al.) and a few were visiting a feeder in Lower Paxton Twp. in mid-Jan (JR).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Kyle Aldinger, Sandy and Bill Baum, Tim Becker, Chuck Berthoud, Scott Bills, Gerry Boltz, Dan Brauning, Ed Chubb, Joe Church, Nancy Cladel, Richard Cleary, Walter Cressler, Bernie Crist, Mike Epler, Scott Fisher, Jan Getgood, Shirley Halk, Bill Hintze, Deuane Hoffman, Jenni and Barry Horton, Barb Huffman, Betty Irvin, Tom Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Gary Kinkley, Ramsay Koury, Alex Lamoreau, Gary Lockerman, Sandy Lockerman, Annette Mathes, Nate McKelvie, Tom Mitchell, Zach Millen, Cara Musser, Jane Pianovich, Toby Petersheim, George Pfeiffenberger, Chris Rebert, Joan Renninger, Art Schiavo, Rosemary Spreha, Aura Stauffer, Aden Troyer, Larry Usselman, Brian Weaver, Scott Weidensaul, Patricia Williams, David Yeany, Sally and Rich Zaino.

Delaware County

Locations: Crum Reservoir (CR), Darby Creek (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Glenolden CBC 12/20 (CBC), Haverford College (HC), Hildacy Farm (HF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Swarthmore College (SC), Tyler Arboretum (TY).

The 87th Glenolden CBC was held 12/20. This includes most of *Delaware* and parts of *Philadelphia* at John Heinz NWR (Tinicum). The reported data are not always separable by county. CBC totals reported could include individuals from both counties. A winter storm in New England the weekend of the CBC appeared to be the cause of record numbers of geese over the count circle. Other than the presence of more frozen lakes and ponds relative to recent years the weather seemed to not have much impact on the birding. There were a nice number of rarities reported and two first county records: **Ross's Goose** and **LeConte's Sparrow**.

Red-necked Grebe is a rare winter visitor so an individual at DC 2/22 (DE) was notable. A single **Great Cormorant** continued a recent trend on the CBC. This species has been recorded almost annually since 1993 but with only one CBC record prior to that, in 1984. An extremely late **Great Egret** was at TI 1/1 (BB). Also continuing a trend, 144 **Black Vultures** were tallied, surpassing the previous high of 137 in 2005.

The New England winter storm helped bring a new high count of 1856 **Snow Geese** on the CBC, smashing the previous record of 506 in 2001. On that day a **Ross's Goose** was picked out of an overhead flock in Media for a first CBC and first *Delaware* record of this species (JL, JC). Two **Cackling Geese** were also found on the CBC; in Chester (NP) and Elwyn (CW). Also, 15,880 **Canada Geese** were tallied exceeding the previous CBC high.

A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was found on Brinton Lake 2/16 (KF). It stayed around until the lake froze over shortly after 2/20. A drake **American Wigeon** on the same lake was often found in company with the Eurasian Wigeon. Four **Lesser Scaup** DR 1/27 (AG) and 10 **Common Goldeneye** SR 1/24 (AG, DE, DW) were other ducks of particular interest.

A pair of **Bald Eagles** was on the same nest that hosted a

successful fledgling last season 1/24 (AG, DE, DW). The CBC tallied a new high 13 **Bald Eagles** surpassing the 2007 high of seven. An immature **Northern Goshawk** surprised TP as it flushed along Crum Creek SC 1/5. Not commonly seen in *Delaware*, a light phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted DT 2/1 (CK) and a probable dark phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported SC 2/4 (BS). Also at SC was a **Merlin** seen intermittently at the same perch throughout the winter (JS). The only **Peregrine Falcon** report was of one individual flying over the commercial district of Media 1/15 (JL).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was found on the CBC at DT (JD). It is good to know that some individuals of this species are still around. A single **Wild Turkey** was on Little Tinicum Island on the DR, the only spot in the county where they can reliably be found 2/27 (AG).

Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at DR 12/1 (AG). More surprising was a flyover Bonaparte's Gull at TY 1/19 (JP). Two late fall **Laughing Gulls** were also at DR 12/1 (AG). Consistent with a trend throughout northeastern North America, **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, once accidental in *Delaware*, were reported twice. One was on the DR in Chester 12/20 (NP) and two were at TI 2/15 (BB).

Fish Crows also appear to be on the rise. They were regular in Swarthmore all winter (DE, JS, BB) and found along the DR 1/23 (AG).

Black-capped Chickadees were scarce. Four were found on the CBC (data from two counties) and the only other report was from TY 1/21 (TR). After last year's invasion, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found in low numbers. Again the only reports were from TY where single individuals were seen on several occasions (TR), and 3 were seen on a single day 1/30 (JL). A **House Wren** in Middletown Twp on the CBC was of interest. This species is found on about one half of the CBCs. Another summer holdover, a **Gray Catbird**, was at DT 1/27 (DWe).

A **Pine Warbler** was found in Marcus Hook on the CBC 12/20 (NP, SP), and another visited a feeder in Media from Jan through Mar (C&DS). A female **Eastern Towhee** visited a feeder in Rosemont from Jan to early Mar (MP). **American Tree Sparrow** reports were few. One was at HF 12/26 (DE) and 2 were at PHL 1/30 (AG).

S.A.

On Sunday 1/25, AG was checking the sparrows at the Darlington Tract and happened upon a **LeConte's Sparrow**. He immediately got on his cell phone and the rush was on! This was a first county record for the species, following seven previous confirmed state records. Additionally there have been several unconfirmed sightings reported throughout the state since 1959. The bird was a lovely little gem and was seen and photographed by many. It was last reported 3/1.

A flock of 25-30 **Snow Buntings**, uncommon in *Delaware* especially away from PHL, surprised JP as he was walking his dog in Glen Mills 1/19. A species of interest, **Rusty Blackbird**, was reported twice: 3 were at a feeder in Springfield 12/3 (SC), and "one lonely fellow" was at DT 1/31 (AG).

A single flyover **Red Crossbill** was heard at DT 1/26 (KF). It took the **White-winged Crossbills** a while to reach *Delaware* but when they did they were in force. First reported along Crum Creek in Media 1/14 (MM) and again at the same location 1/15 (DM), they were found at TY 1/16 (AE) and soon were being found in many locations (m.ob) including several back yards (JL, AG, DE). **Pine Siskins** were first reported in the county 11/9 and were still going strong at the close of the winter season. Those who did not have them at their feeders were feeling left out. Faint hopes have been raised that nesting may occur in the spring.

Observers: **Dave Eberly, 112 S. Princeton Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081, (610) 543-3499 david.eberly@gmail.com**, Brian Byrnes, Skip Conant, Janet Crawford, John Damico, Susan Damico, Andrew Eberly, Kevin Fryberger, Al Guarente, Sheryl Johnson, Chad Kaufman, Maryellen Krober, Jim Lockyer, Doris McGovern, Mike McGraw, Tom McParland, John Miller, Mariana Pesthy, Jamie Pugliese, Sharon Pulcinella, Nick Pulcinella, Ben Schweinhart, Alice Severeid, Jacob Socolar, Tom Reeves, Carol & Don Storey, Chris Walters, Dave Washabaugh, Dustin Welch (DWe), Janis Zane.

Elk County
No Compiler.

Erie County
No Report.

Compiler: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA 16508-2129, (814) 868-3059, jerrymcw@aol.com.**

Fayette County

I received very few reports for the season. Two **Tundra Swans** were at Mill Run Reservoir 1/1 (SF). An **American Black Duck**, a **Bufflehead**, a **Common Goldeneye**, a **Hooded Merganser** and a **Red-breasted Merganser** were at the Youghiogheny Dam 12/23 (PW). A **Common Goldeneye** was at Greenlick Run Lake 12/19 (MF). A group of 12 **Common Mergansers** was at Mill Run Reservoir 1/1 (SF). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was found in Farmington 2/2 (LD).

An adult and an immature **Bald Eagle** were at the Youghiogheny Dam 12/23 (PW). Winter Raptor Surveys turned up two **Red-shouldered Hawks**. One was tallied on the east side of the county 1/24 (MB, EH) and another on the western side 1/25 (MM).

An **Eastern Screech Owl** was in Farmington 2/2 (LD). A **Common Raven** was in SGL 51 on 1/1 (SF). Two **Winter Wrens** were found in Farmington 2/2 (LD).

Fortunately, *Fayette* can be added to the counties with winter finch sightings thanks to two observers. A flock of 20 **White-winged Crossbills** were in Farmington 2/2 (LD) and 40 **Pine Siskins** were in Indian Head 12/31 (SF). With high elevations and numerous hemlock-lined streams in the county, the potential for large numbers of crossbills was high; however there aren't many birders in the area.

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Mark Bowers, Larry Durgin, Scott Freidhof, Eric Hall, Mark McConaughy, Paul Wiegman.

Forest County

Locations: Buzzard Swamp (BS), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake (TL).

Highlights of winter in *Forest* included several flocks of **White-winged Crossbills** in December and early January, and many **Bald Eagle** sightings throughout the period.

A single **American Black Duck** was a nice find 1/26 near the bridge at the Tionesta Outflow (FM, JM). A **Ring-necked Duck** sighting 1/4 on the Allegheny R. near Hunter's Station constituted the second occurrence of this species on the Pleasantville CBC (JS, RS). A **Common Goldeneye** was spotted 1/26 at the Tionesta Outflow (FM, JM). Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported 1/4 near TI (CV, et al.) and 1/21 near West Hickory (JM).

A very early **Turkey Vulture** was spotted 1/26 near TI on the WRS (FM, JM). The previous early date was 1/27/2006, also on the WRS. **Bald Eagle** sightings continue to increase: the Tionesta Lake area Eagle Surveys tallied 3 adults and 2 imms. 12/8 near TI, 2 adults and 2 imms. 1/9 near TI, 2 adults 1/9 in the Newtown area along Tionesta Creek, 2 adults and 3 imms. 1/14 near the Fish Hatchery, and one imm. 1/14 near Balltown along Tionesta Creek (RD). One adult was found near TI 1/4 on the Pleasantville CBC (CV, et al.), and one adult was seen soaring 2/14 near TI (FM, JM). Cook Forest employees also found **Bald Eagles** in the Forest County section of the park: one adult 1/7, and 2 adults and 2 imms. 1/8 near the Clarion R. (DL, SS, SaS). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported 1/10, 1/21, and 2/16 at feeders near TI, and another was spotted 2/6 on Jones Farm Road (FM, JM). An imm. **Golden Eagle** was spotted hunting over corn stubble 2/25 near TI (JM).

A **Northern Shrike** was seen 12/3 near the first dam on Pond 6 at BS, very close to the area where one was found last year (DY). A **Common Raven** was noted 12/3 at BS (DY), two 1/4 at TL (JS, RS), another 1/4 near TI (CV et al.), one 1/31 near TI, one 2/6 on Jones Farm Road, and another 2/6 near Marienville (FM, JM). A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was regular this winter at feeders in Marienville (DY), but there were only two other reports: one 12/3 at BS (DY), another 2/1 at TL (FM, JM). The only **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was

spotted 12/3 at BS (DY). A **Hermit Thrush** was found 1/4 at TL on the Pleasantville CBC (JS, RS).

American Tree Sparrows were regular at feeders near TI, with a high of 8 on 1/17 (FM, JM). The only **Fox Sparrow** during the period, 1/4 near TI, was the first record of this species for the Pleasantville CBC, which is in its 43rd year (CV, et al.). The only **White-throated Sparrow** was also found 1/4 near TI (CV, et al.). **Purple Finches** were somewhat regular at feeders near TI, with a high of 4 on 1/31 (FM, JM).

White-winged Crossbills, conservatively estimated at about 100, were reported 12/3 at BS "frenetically feeding on spruce cones" (DL). Several flocks were also reported 12/1 at BS, and a flock of 11 was found 12/4 at Beaver Meadows (TB, MB). A flock of 25 was found at TL 1/4 on the Pleasantville CBC, although out of the count circle (JS, RS).

Common Redpoll numbers diminished from the large regular flocks found last winter. A single female Redpoll was found 1/3 in a large flock of **Pine Siskins** and **American Goldfinches** in Marienville (DY). One was seen at feeders near TI 1/5, and 2 on 1/28; these also were with a large flock of siskins (FM, JM). Siskins were numerous, and were regular throughout the period at feeders near TI, with a high count of 44 on 1/31 (FM, JM). A flock reported from Marienville numbered 46 on 1/3 (DY). On 1/4, a flock of 45 was found near TI (CV et al.) and 10 near TL for the Pleasantville CBC (JS, RS).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Ln, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Margaret Buckwalter, Ted Buckwalter, Brian Devore, Rodney Daum, Dale Luthringer, Jim McGuire, Jerry Stanley, Randy Slater, Russ States, Steve Steele, Sam Steiner, Charles Vevers, David Yeaney II.

Franklin County

One of the better sightings of the winter was a **Greater White-fronted Goose** on the Greencastle Reservoir 2/10 (CG) that stayed for only one day. As usual, waterfowl were hard to find in the county. A **Tundra Swan** was on a pond near Five Forks 2/9 and 3 **Canvasbacks**, 3 **Hooded Mergansers** and a **Gadwall** were spotted on a pond along Long Lane near St. Thomas the week of 2/20.

Several **Bald Eagles** were reported at various locations in the county: near Marion, Waynesboro, Greencastle and Mercersburg. Most sightings were mature eagles, seen throughout the winter. A good number of **Red-tailed Hawks** were very visible at many locations along with **American Kestrels**. A Merlin was watched near Pond Bank 2/22 (BO).

With no very cold weather, **Wilson Snipe** were feeding along a small stream near Clay Hill 1/1-22. The first **American Woodcock** of the year was reported on Stillhouse Hollow Rd. 2/27 (BK).

At least 3 **Great Horned Owls** were found on nests from Chambersburg south to Greencastle. A pair of **Barred Owls** was observed several times along the Warm Spring Road southwest of Chambersburg. Also, a pair of **Eastern Screech Owls** (red and brown phases) roosted in the front yard of home in the Kensington Heights development, allowing great views during the day 2/28.

The **Rufous Hummingbird** reported previously continued to attend the feeder in Bear Valley until 2/16. Joan Wagner treated this bird like it was her own child, but cold weather came and it disappeared. A pair of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** continued coming to a feeder near Shady Grove until mid-Feb. **Common Ravens** were reported regularly at various locations, which seems to indicate more are residents in the valley. Ravens were rarely reported several years ago in the valley. A **Brown Creeper** visited a feeder 1/4-2/6 near Zullinger.

Fox Sparrows made their appearance 12/13 near Zullinger at feeder, and were reported also at Caledonia, Pond Bank and Shady Grove. **Lapland Longspurs** and **Snow Buntings** were mixed with large numbers of **Horned Larks** during Jan and Feb near Marion, Shady Grove, Duffield, and Mercersburg.

A large number of **White-winged Crossbill** was in Chambersburg 1/18 (BO) and many **Pine Siskins** also invaded the county throughout the winter, with as many as 60 or more at a Caledonia area feeder (VB). VB also had a **Common Redpoll** 1/23, the only one reported in the county.

Observers: **Dale L. Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256 (717-860-5799) dgearhart01@comcast.net**, Valerie Barnes, Carl Garner, Donna Hocker, Bob Keener, Bill Oyler, Phil Schaff, and Joan Wagner.

Fulton County

Locations: CREP1- Plum Run survey route, CREP2- Pleasant Grove survey route, CREP3- Hustontown survey route, CREP4- Buck Valley survey route.

On 2/28, Meadow Grounds L. hosted a flock of 24 **Canada Geese** and one **Cackling Goose** (DS). Using the PA Game Commission CREP Routes, four winter raptor survey routes were run in the county. Each route was between 12 to 15 miles. On 2/9, CREP1 netted one **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, one **Cooper's Hawk**, 17 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 3 **Bald Eagles**, one **Golden Eagle**, and 2 **American Kestrels** (DS). On 2/15, 5 **Turkey Vultures**, 6 **Red-tailed Hawks**, one **Northern Harrier**, and 2 **American Kestrels** were detected along CREP3. On 2/9, CREP2 survey results included 11 **Turkey Vultures**, 5 **Red-tailed Hawks**, and one **Rough-Legged Hawk** (DS). On 2/15, CREP4 netted 6 **Black Vultures**, 5 **Turkey Vultures**, 4 **Red-tailed Hawks**, one **Red-shouldered Hawk**, and 2 **American Kestrels** (DS).

An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found at a sheep farm along Wertzville Road 2/9 (DS). A small flock of **White-winged Crossbills** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** fed along a hemlock-lined stream in Harrisonville 1/14-15 (MN). A flyover **White-winged Crossbill** was recorded near Pleasant Ridge 2/09 (DS).

Observers: **Dan Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan_snell@hotmail.com**, Mike Newell.

Greene County

Locations: Claylick Road/Center Township (CT), East View (EV), Franklin Township (FT), Graysville (GR), Hunting Hills Farm (HH), Kern Farm (KF), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Morgan Township (MT), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Sycamore (SY)

Thankfully, birds from the north provided a nice diversion for such bitterly cold, gray, snowy, icy weather as we had in January and February this year. Several observers have feeders full of wintering birds and interesting sightings. With still only one body of water of good size, local ponds have held some nice surprises and even with all the cold temperatures, enough streams and creeks remained open to provide feeding areas and watering holes for several species.

The roster of waterfowl reported throughout the winter starts with **Canada Geese**. They were found 12/4 at CT, 1/22 while observers ran the Winter Raptor Survey, and 2/15 near Greene County Country Club. This ubiquitous species was noted flying in a high "V" of 44 birds, headed northwest 2/16 over RBF (RKB). In the southeast corner of *Greene*, a **Tundra Swan** rested and fed in the wetlands off Creek Road 1/7 (SS). On a leisurely birding trip 1/10, two **Gadwalls** were spotted on a farm pond in MT (RB, KR). They were noted at the same spot 2/15 (KK). **Mallards** were seen throughout the winter. A large flock of over 45 was found on Lightner Run near Rogersville 12/13 (KK). A flock of 20 was noted 1/10 at the Waynesburg Water Dam (RB, KR). A pair of stopped at CT 2/14 where they enjoyed the duck food put out for them (R&LA). At HH 2/18, two **Hooded Mergansers** were found on the farm pond (SS).

Many observers reported large flocks of **Wild Turkeys** coming to feeders and elsewhere. A flock numbering up to 55 was seen throughout the period coming to the feeding station at CT in the western part of the county (R&LA). At LCR, in the southeast, a flock 35 came morning and evening to eat, where MLP reported on 1/19, "They are less 'spooky' now and will practically run over me when I scatter corn." And she noted 1/30 that 7 displaying toms had joined the group usually comprised of hens and a few young jakes. In the north central part of the county, a flock of 30 was found during the Winter Raptor Survey near SY 1/31 (MH). A surprise was a **Great Blue Heron** working the small stream on KF 1/18 (KK); great blues were also seen 2/14 at LCR (MLP) and flying over RBF 2/16 (RBK).

KB noted a **Turkey Vulture** 2/27 as it circled in MT. While scouting for raptors 1/22, a total of three **Northern Harriers** were found, an adult male at one location and two adult females at another (KK, SS). At LCR, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** enjoyed a meal of "cardinal tartar" 2/3 (MLP). She found "...nothing left but a pile of fluffy gray, downy feathers and a few reddish brown primaries – no bones or scraps". Feeders of several observers also kept wintering **Cooper's Hawks** nourished. At RBF one roosted in evergreens in the yard and fed from the bounty at

the feeders all winter (RKB). At KF the resident Cooper's was seen flying out of a row a Blue Spruce that line the driveway early mornings when the observer drove out to work (KK). At CT a Cooper's kept close watch over the feeders where it managed to dine on a **Blue Jay** 1/1. The Cooper's main competition was a **Red-tailed Hawk** who would come multiple times a day (R&LA). One **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported in FT 12/27 (JM *fide* MH). The WRS routes found several **American Kestrels** around the county.

The first **Killdeer** report was one 2/25 near Khedive (RKB). During the Great Backyard Bird Count at KF, 55 **Mourning Doves** descended on the feeders (KK). Another species that turned up more frequently than expected this winter was **Belted Kingfisher**. On Rte. 21 in MT a small farm pond yielded a single bird 1/10 (RB, KR), Ruff Creek in MT had a single bird 1/18 (KK), and Gray's Creek in GR also produced a kingfisher 2/14 (MH).

As a family, the woodpeckers seemed better represented this winter than in previous years. There were more sightings of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** with a report from EV 1/3 (MH), and 3 located on a birding trip 1/10 (RB, KR). Other woodpeckers, including **Red-bellied, Downy, and Pileated Woodpeckers** and **Northern Flickers**, were reported by many observers throughout the period. **American Crows** attended several feeders in groups, with 7 frequenting the feeders at KF way too often (KK), and up to six dining at CT (R&LA). Only one **Common Raven** was noted flying over RBF 1/7 (RKB). A nice find during the WRS 1/31 was a flock of over 50 **Horned Larks** near GR (MH). Only one **Brown Creeper** was noted at EV 1/25 (MH). In a complete about-face from last fall and winter's early and frequent sightings, only one **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported, but it was at the feeders at RBF all winter (RKB).

American Robins hung around this winter, but not nearly in the numbers of last winter. One was seen in the yard every day at RBF (RKB), and one was noted in the birdbath at EV 2/15 (MH). Usually found all winter in *Greene*, nine **Cedar Waxwings** were observed in the Holly Trees at RBF 12/28 with an occasional bird noted frequently (RKB).

The sparrow family was nicely represented throughout the season. Observers reported **Song, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows** at their feeders along with many **Dark-eyed Juncos**. For a pleasant change, **American Tree Sparrows** were noted by several observers, even coming to a heated birdbath 1/19 at LCR (MLP). MLP added that along with the Tree Sparrows were **House Sparrows, Pine Siskins, Northern Cardinals, American Goldfinches** and juncos, all of which seemed to enjoy splashing even in the sub-freezing weather.

Northern Cardinals did not lack in numbers this year, with 14 at RBF 2/23 (RBK), 18 at KF 2/14 (KK), and 8 at CT 1/25 (R&LA). Though many folks are always glad to see the early robins as they think it means that spring is imminent, to this compiler a real sign spring is near is the return of the blackbirds. Though **Red-winged Blackbirds** are occasionally found in *Greene* for the CBCs, with one seen 12/13 at EV (MH), and even into Jan with one noted 1/14 at EV (MH)—it is when the flocks arrive in Feb that we know winter will soon be done. For the Great Backyard Bird Count 2/14 at KF, 37 Red Winged Blackbirds descended on the feeders. Along with them was one **Rusty Blackbird**, however a **Rusty Blackbird** had also been seen 1/18 at KF (KK). And though **Common Grackles** are known to return and nest early, they are at least a sign the summer birds are on the way. **Common Grackles** were at the feeders 2/13 at KF (KK). **Eastern Meadowlarks** also can be found at odd times in winter, such as 3 noted 1/22 during a WRS (KK, SS).

The big story for the period was the inundation of **White-winged Crossbills**. They were reported by nearly all observers, and for some this was a "life bird" experience. The earliest sighting was 1/14, when 13 were found in the hemlocks at RBF, and at least 6 were seen 1/23 (RKB). A flock of 12 was noted 2/14 near LCR (MLP), again in hemlocks and on the ground under the trees. The most detailed report was from SY starting 1/25 with sightings of 5 females and one male. A week later on 2/1, only 2 females showed up with a group of 10 **Pine Siskins**. By 2/3, a total of 7 crossbills came to eat in the hemlocks. The last sighting was 2/4 (JC). She adds that it has been many years since she last hosted crossbills in her yard. She had a flock of over 50 on 10/14/1987. The banding records kept by RKB show the last time he had several **White-winged Crossbills** was in Feb 1982, when he banded a total of 40 birds.

The second biggest story was the number of **Pine Siskins** that spent the winter with us. The earliest report was 12/4 at CT where 7 showed up in the rain and snow, but by the end of Jan, 20 were coming

to dine. Others seemed to arrive with the New Year as a flock of over 50 was found 1/1 at EV (MH), and 6 were noted at RBF the same day (RKB). The first report of siskins at LCR was made 1/8 where they visited the thistle feeder daily with **American Goldfinches**.

Observers: **Kathy Kern 322 Kennel Road, Waynesburg, Pa. 15370**
Phone 724.627.5376 n3xsj@windstream.net, Ron and Lyn Argent, Kim Barbetta, Ralph K. Bell, Roberta Boyd, Jan Churney, Marj Howard, Mary LaPlante, John Markle, Kathy Reeves, Sally Sisler.

Huntingdon County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Ennisville (ENN), McAlevys Fort (MCF), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Mt. hawk watch (SMHW), Summit Schoolhouse Road (SSR).

The species count for the Huntingdon CBC 12/21 was 73, was a record high. Lake Raystown CBC observers tallied 68 species, two above average.

Waterfowl reports were below average for the winter season in *Huntingdon*. Of note was the first record of **Red-breasted Merganser** on the Huntingdon CBC 12/21. Highlights from the combined WRS included 56 **Red-tailed hawks**, one **Golden Eagle**, 3 **Rough-legged Hawks**, and 27 **American Kestrels** (GG, DK, TK). In recent years, out-of-use and unmown pastures on SSR have become productive for wintering **Northern Harriers**; a high of 12 was recorded there 1/2 (JK). A Golden Eagle was seen over ENN 1/3 and 2/14 (DW). Another Golden was recorded on the *Huntingdon* portion of the Culp CBC 12/20 (DK). Also on that count was flock of 145 **Wild Turkeys** (DK). The turkey population in the county is as high as this compiler can recall in 24 years.

Present for the second consecutive winter at SSR, 2 **Short-eared Owls** were seen throughout the season (GG, DW, JK). Also for the second consecutive year, 2 **Long-eared Owls** were recorded on the Huntingdon CBC on private land in the northern part of the county (DW). Record numbers of **Great Horned Owls** (33) and **Eastern Screech-Owls** (25) were tallied on the Lake Raystown CBC 1/4 (m.ob.).

A **Dickcissel** from the fall season continued at the Kylers feeders until 12/31, keeping company with **House Sparrows**.

Both crossbills were recorded. A flock of 5 **Red Crossbills** was at SMHW 12/5 (NB). **White-winged Crossbills** recorded on both the Huntingdon and Lake Raystown CBCs, a first for each count (GG, DG). A flock of 50 White-wings was recorded at Alan Seeger Natural Area in the *Huntingdon* portion of the State College CBC 12/14 (DG, GG, DK, TK). **Pine Siskins** were abundant. A peak of 85 at the compiler's feeder near MCF was reached 1/31, and the Wentzels feeders at ENN attracted 50 on 2/14. They also had 135 **American Goldfinches** that day, for the Great Backyard Bird Count. The total of 444 goldfinches was a record for the Lake Raystown CBC 1/4 (m.ob.).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, gwg2@psu.edu**, Nick Bolgiano, Deb Grove, Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Doug Wentzel.

Indiana County

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

Canada Goose maxima included 836 at TL 12/25 (LC) and 456 at YC 12/16 (LC). Eight **Tundra Swans** were at YC 12/24 (LC, RH); last reported was a singleton at TL 12/25 (LC).

Four to 5 **Gadwalls** were sighted at YC 12/2-4 (LC). **American Black Duck** maxima included 37 at YC 12/2 (LC) and 71 at TL 12/23 (LC); 11 were last spotted at YC 1/6 (LC, MH), but by 2/28 the first 28 spring migrants had returned to YC (MH, RH, JK). Top **Mallard** count was 133 at TL 12/23 (LC). Eighteen **Northern Pintails** were noted 1/6 (LC, MH) at YC, the high count; a single pintail found on a pond near Gipsy 1/31 (CG, MH, RH) was the season's last report; by 2/28 (JK) partially open water at YC provided refuge for 14 heading north. First 6 **Green-winged Teal** arrived at YC 2/28 (MH, RH). Single **Canvasbacks** were spotted at YC 12/26 (GL, GS); arriving at YC 2/28 (MH, RH, JK) were the first northbound 7. Twelve **Redheads** were noted 2/28 (MH,

RH, JK) at YC. One **Ring-necked Duck** lingered 1/6 (LC, MH) at YC while 49 had arrived by 2/28 (MH, RH, JK). A **Greater Scaup** at YC 12/24 (LC) was the only one noted; high **Lesser Scaup** tally was 64 at YC 12/12 (LC); last reported were 7 at TL 12/26 (LC, RC). Lingered **Buffleheads** included 4 at YC 1/6 (LC); a puddle of open water at YC attracted 4 on 2/17 (LC). **Common Goldeneyes** included 4 on 12/16 (LC) and one ten days later (GL, GS), the lone reports. Last **Hooded Merganser** lingered at YC 1/6 (LC, MH); 18 arrived at YC 2/28 (JK). **Common Merganser** reports included 2 at TL 12/2 (LC), 2 at YC 12/26 (SC, MH, RH, JJ, MVT), and first spring arrivals at YC 2/28 (MH, RH, JK). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** visited YC 12/26 (GL, GS). **Ruddy Ducks** were spotted on many YC trips with high count of 114 on 12/12 (LC), the same day (LC) TL yielded 63.

Nine **Ruffed Grouse** were found for the Indiana CBC 12/26 (m.ob.). The largest flock of **Wild Turkeys** was observed almost daily north of IN with high of 152 on 1/6 (SB). The season's last **Common Loon** was sighted 12/16 (LC) at YC. Last **Pied-billed Grebes** were found 12/26, both at YC (MVT) and near Homer City (LC, RC). YC's last **Horned Grebe** was found 12/16 (LC).

Last **Turkey Vulture** was listed near Penn Run 12/1 (BF, TF). **Bald Eagle** reports included an imm. 12/21 (CL, GL) at Heilwood and an adult 1/13 (LC, MH, MVT) at YC. **Northern Harriers** were found at YC 11/18 (LC, MH) and 12/16 (LC); the CBC yielded 6 on 12/26 (m.ob.); 3 were at Elders Ridge 1/02 (MC). Both **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Cooper's Hawks** were well reported but a low count of only 2 Sharp-shins and 3 Cooper's were located for the CBC (m.ob.). **Red-shouldered Hawks** reports included singletons at YC 12/26 (SC, MH, RH, JJ, MVT) and 1/27 (LC, MH) and 2 on WRS #2 on 1/17 (MH, RH). **Red-tailed Hawks** hit an all-time high of 70 for the CBC 12/26 (m.ob.); in addition, WRS #2 yielded 26 on 1/17 (MH, RH) and WRS #1, 22 on 1/31 (CG, MH, RH). Light morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were nice finds 1/13, both at YC (LC, MH, MVT) and along Rt. 422 near Penn Run (MH), possibly the same bird, and near Blairsville 1/17 (DC). Two, one dark and one light, were observed near Marion Center 1/17 (MH, RH) and 2 light morph were found near West Lebanon 1/25 (MH, RH). WRS #2 produced 6 **American Kestrels** in n. *Indiana* 1/17 (MH, RH) while WRS #1 yielded only one 1/31 (CG, MH, RH). A **Merlin** was a good find near PR 11/4 (BF, TF).

The high **American Coot** count this season was 600 on 12/2 - 4 (LC); last noted were 3 at YC 12/26 (SC, MH, RH, JJ, GL, GS, MVT); first 6 arrived at YC 2/28 (JK). A wintering **Killdeer** was near West Lebanon 1/25 (MH, RH).

Top **Ring-billed Gull** counts included 24 at YC 12/26 (m.ob.) and 40 on 2/28 (MH, RH). Armstrong Twp. yielded a flock of 127 **Mourning Doves** 12/17 (SB). Three **Eastern Screech-Owls** were found 12/26 (TS) in White's Woods. **Great Horned Owls** were noted at only 4 locations this winter (m.ob.). Single **Barred Owls** were noted between IN and Graceton 12/9 (TF) and at Rexis 12/18 (JC). A **Short-eared Owl** was a nice find near Conemaugh Dam 1/20 (MF).

Among many reports, **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** included one at IN 12/28 (JM) and one north of IN 1/9-2/23 (SB). A **Northern Shrike** was found near Smicksburg 1/17 (MH, RH). **Common Ravens** were not as widespread with the only reports of 2 at YC 12/26 (SC, MH, RH, JJ, MVT), one in Center Twp. 12/26 (BM, KM, CW, PW), and one near Marion Center 1/17 (MH, RH).

High **Horned Lark** reports included 35 near Penn Run 1/12 (GL) and 15 near Conemaugh Dam 1/20 (MF). A **Carolina Chickadee** continued near LV throughout the winter (MC). Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** visited an IN feeder 12/26 (MP) and 1-2 used feeders near SH throughout the period. The only **Winter Wren** noted was one near Homer City 12/26 (SP). Two late **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** stopped in Center Twp. 12/26 (CW, PW). YC harbored one **Hermit Thrush** 12/26 (SC, MH, RH, JJ, MVT) and 2 on 1/27 (LC, MH); another was sighted on WRS #1 on 1/31 (CG, MH, RH). **American Robins** did not winter locally in good numbers with only 16 spotted on the CBC (m.ob.). A **Gray Catbird** lingered at YC 12/26 (GL, GS) and 1/13, 27 (LC, MH, MVT); another was spotted n. of IN 2/23 (SB). Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** found on the CBC (m.ob.) were the last seen this season.

An amazingly large flock of 134 **American Tree Sparrows** was at YC 12/26 (SC, MH, RH, JJ, MVT). A **Chipping Sparrow** and a **Field Sparrow** lingered near SH through 1/9 (MH) and 1/18 (MH, RH) respectively while another **Field Sparrow** was found at YC 1/27 (LC, MH), the last report. A **Fox Sparrow** stopped at a feeder north of IN 12/22-24 (SB). Last **Swamp Sparrows** occurred 1/13 (LC, MH, MVT) at YC. More than the usual number of **Snow Buntings** were reported including at least 100 birds near the Jimmy Stewart Airport 12/26 (PJ)

and 21 near Penn Run 1/31 (CG, MH, RH).

Last **Red-winged Blackbirds** were 77 at YC 12/26 (JD, ED, GS, MS, JT) and one near LV 1/30 (MC) with first returnee north of IN 2/22 (SB). YC yielded one **Rusty Blackbird** 12/24 (LC); a singleton appeared near LV 1/14 (MC). **Common Grackle** reports included one near SH 12/6 (MH), 2 near Home 1/10 (JT), and first returnees were 2/28 both near SH (MH) and north of IN (SB). Five **Brown-headed Cowbirds** appeared near Willet 12/2 (SB) while another was spotted near Home 1/10 (JT), the same day 60 descended on feeders near LV (MC).

It was an exciting season for winter finches. **Purple Finches** were found across the region in small flocks. Oakland Cemetery in IN yielded 35 **White-winged Crossbills** 2/1 (MH, RH) and 80 on 2/3 (MC), the same day 6 were located at YC (LC, MH). One **Common Redpoll** was found near McIntyre 1/18 (PG), and another accompanied a siskin flock near SH 1/29 (MH), the lone reports. **Pine Siskins** were noted in unbelievably high numbers with an all-time CBC record of 375 on 12/26 (m.ob.), more than 80 north of IN 1/10 (SB), and 218 near SH 1/29 (MH, RH). High **American Goldfinch** count was 120 near LV 1/4 (MC).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@alltel.net**, David Beatty, Sid Blair, Jim Carnahan, Lee Carnahan, Roger Carnahan, Susan Comfort, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Jim Dearing, Ed Donley, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Mike Fowles, Pat Gazda, Carol Guba, Roger Higbee, Pat Johner, Jessica Jopp, John Kilmarx, Gloria Lamer, Beth Marshall, Ken Marshall, Julie Mibroda, Marjorie Peterson, Sara Pulliam, Tom Simmons, Garrett Strittmatter (GS), Mark Strittmatter (MS), Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Marge Van Tassel (MVT), Chris Williams, Paula Williams.

Jefferson County

No Report.

Compiler: **Mike Weible, 124 N. Third Street, Shippenville, PA 16254, (717) 357-3319, feather_ridge@yahoo.com**.

Juniata County

Locations: Cuba Mills Road (CMR), Cedar Spring Road (CSR), Licking Creek Valley (LCV), Lost Creek Shoe Shop (LCSS), Locust Run (LR), Mifflintown River Access (MRA), Muskrat Springs River Access (MSRA), Oakland Mills (OM), Port Royal (PR), Thompsettown River Bridge (TTRB), Van Wert (VW).

The Lewistown CBC (most of which is in *Juniata*) 12/20 produced 83 species with high counts for **Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Black Vulture, Bald Eagle, Carolina Wren, Eastern Towhee, and Pine Siskin**. New species for the count were **Snow Goose, Lapland Longspur, and Baltimore Oriole**.

A **Northern Pintail** was found at MRA 1/22 (CK, AT). Four **Greater Scaup** (2 male and 2 female) were at MSRA 1/15 (TJP). A female **Long-tailed Duck** was seen floating down the river at MRA 12/31 (CK, AR). On 2/14, several species of waterfowl were seen south of the Juniata R. and east of TTRB, including one pair of **Redheads** and 6 **Greater Scaup**, along with **Fish Crows**. Also seen on the river west of the bridge at CB were a male **Common Goldeneye**, 3 **Bald Eagles** (including one on a nest), one **Canvasback**, and one **Bufflehead**. These waterfowl were joined by at least 300 **Ring-billed Gulls** and 2 **Herring Gulls** (TJP). Of note was a **Great Black-backed Gull** seen near the TTRB 1/16 (PK).

This year's WRS in western *Juniata* was conducted 2/3 with approx 100 miles driven over six hours. Raptors found were 21 **Turkey Vultures**, 275 **Black Vultures**, 5 **Northern Harriers**, one **Coopers Hawk**, 33 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 6 **Rough-legged Hawks**, 21 **American Kestrels**, 2 adult **Bald Eagles**, and a single **Golden Eagle** (CK, BM, MM, AT). Other highlights of the survey were **Wood Duck, Eastern Towhee, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Meadowlark, American Robin, Ruffed Grouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Wilson's Snipe**. Additional Rough-legs sightings were at LCSS 1/19 (AT, DT, ST) and at LR 1/20 (CK). On 1/29, an adult **Bald Eagle** was seen carrying a large stick near MRA (PR). A third **Bald Eagle** nest was confirmed in the county (CK, JS, AT, DW).

A single **American Woodcock** was seen 12/30 at CMR (RS). On

2/27, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found on a porch in PR (DP). On 12/23, a single **Short-eared Owl** was seen flying around and hunting at VW (AR, GR). Up to 2-3 were seen for weeks to follow since the main fields that used to produce these are now out of the CREP program. On 1/1 at CSR, a **Short-eared Owl** woke up for the evening and perched on a road post alongside our vehicle, within 10 feet of us. Of course the camera was in the back, so when it flew away, we retrieved the camera and got some images of it as it fed. A **Barn Owl** was also found that day.

Approximately 1000 **Horned Larks** and 100 **Snow Buntings** were seen 1/29 at CSR (TjP). One hundred **Red-winged Blackbirds**, one **Rusty Blackbird**, and 30 **Common Grackles** were viewed behind LCSS 2/10 (AT, DT).

As elsewhere, *Juniata* was visited by **White-winged Crossbills** as well as large numbers **Pine Siskins** in many locations, with flocks numbering up to 300. A flock was seen on a hunting outing 12/6 at OM (AT). Crossbills were also seen at OM 1/3 (PR) and 2/9 (HP); also on 2/1 at LR (TJP). Single **Common Redpolls** were at CMR 1/9 (CK, ES, LS, RS) and at LCV 1/10 (DB, GB).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, HCR 63 Box 65 Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 436-8257, chadkauffman@earthlink.net**, Deb Brackbill, Gary Brackbill, Butch McCahren, Michael McCahren, Henry Petersheim, Toby J. Petersheim, Doris Pontias, Andy Renno, Gideon Renno, Paul Renno, Jim Stoner, Esther Swarey, Leroy Swarey, Raymond Swarey, Aden Troyer, Andy Troyer, David Troyer, Leroy Troyer, Moses Troyer, Mary Troyer, Steven Troyer, Dusty Weidner and Linda Whitesel.

Lackawanna County

Locations: Scranton CBC 12/20 (CBC), Lackawanna State Park (LSP)

All sightings are from the Scranton CBC on 12/20 unless noted.

Waterfowl seen on the CBC included 200 **Snow Geese**, a single **Tundra Swan**, 8 **American Black Ducks**, and 7 **Common Mergansers**. Also seen were 64 **Wild Turkeys** and a single **Great Blue Heron**.

Raptor sightings included a **Turkey Vulture** over Moosic 12/30 (BW), 2 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** 12/20 (CBC), and a single bird over the Laundromat in Jermyn 1/24 (JG). Other CBC raptors included a late **Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Coopers Hawk, 19 Red-tailed Hawks, Peregrine Falcon, and 2 American Kestrels**.

Owls of note included a **Short-eared Owl** 1/22 in Dalton (KR) and **Eastern Screech** and 3 **Great Horned Owls** on the CBC. Other CBC sightings included a **Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 14 Hairy Woodpeckers, 4 Pileated Woodpeckers, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 28 Cedar Waxwings and 33 American Tree Sparrows**.

Finches included a single **Purple Finch** (CBC) and 6 **White-winged Crossbills** 1/29 at LSP (fide TG), 23 **Pine Siskins** (CBC) and 43 **Siskins** in Scott Twp. 1/22 (LGJ).

Observers: **Joe Greco 3116 Township Woods Rd, East Greenville, PA 18041, (610) 457-1812**, Trudy Gerlach, Len and Gerry Janus, Carol Lizell, Kevin Ripka, Bob Wasiliewski.

Lancaster County

Locations: Middlecreek WMA (MC), Muddy Run (MR), Octoraro Lake (OL), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRFC).

This year winter temperatures in *Lancaster* were slightly below normal, and precipitation including snowfall was far below average.

The Southern Lancaster CBC was held 12/14, and 51 participants recorded 106 species. The highlights included 6 **Cackling Geese** (high count), 69 **Bald Eagles** (HC), 2 **Merlins**, 3 **Peregrine Falcons**, **Iceland Gull**, 3 **Long-eared Owls**, 7 **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, 60 **Hermit Thrush** (HC), **Nashville Warbler**, 85 **Rusty Blackbirds** (HC), and 8 **White-winged Crossbills**.

The Lititz CBC was held 2/28, and 38 participants identified a very respectable 97 species. Highlights included **Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, 77 Wild Turkey** (HC), **Merlin**, 3 **Long-eared Owls**, 4 **Short-eared Owls, Common Raven, 2 Chipping Sparrows, 10 Purple**

Finches, and 42 Pine Siskins.

The Lancaster CBC was held 12/21, and only 13 participants identified 91 species. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was a new species for the count. Other highlights were **Cackling Goose**, **Ruddy Duck**, **Northern Goshawk**, 2 **Merlins**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Purple Finch**, and 2 **Pine Siskins**.

The defining ornithological event this winter for Lancaster was the large and widespread invasion of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins. Both species were seen nearly everywhere and could be easily found almost anywhere in the county where there was suitable habitat. None of the reporting observers could remember crossbills visiting in these numbers during their lifetimes.

This winter a **Ross's Goose** was seen at MC 12/28 and as the **Snow Goose** numbers began to build, two more were reported 2/17 (EL). By 2/19 over 80,000 **Snow Geese** were reported at MC. **Cackling Geese** were also reported on several occasions with reports from all three CBCs, and sightings continuing at MC through the end of the season. A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was found 2/21 at OL (CC, et al.). Many of the usual ducks such as **Gadwall**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, and **Hooded Merganser** were present at MC much of the winter. **Canvasbacks** were seen several times on the SR at Long Level in Feb with as many as 14 reported. **Redheads** also started showing up at MC in Feb. They were seen by many with as many as 6 reported. Some of the best opportunities to see a variety of ducks on the SR and get good views often occur when the open water is limited by a heavy icepack. Under this scenario, a flock of scaup along the SR near Accomac 1/17 contained both **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup** and allowed a very close comparison (CC, JH). In addition to other more common species such as **Bufflehead** and **Common Goldeneye**, a **Long-tailed Duck** was there as well. A **Surf Scoter** was found at Muddy Run Fisherman's Park 1/17 (CC, JH) and was still there the next day. A **White-winged Scoter** was at Long Level on the SR 2/7 (CC, TR) and again 2/22 (JH). This scoter was eventually joined by a second and they remained at least through 3/28 (JH). This was a decent winter for **Red-necked Grebes**. The first report was of two on the SR near Wrightsville 2/7 (CC, TR). One or two remained in this location into Mar.

A **Great Egret** was at SRCF 1/11 (EW). This may be the only Jan sighting in the county. The Solanco CBC recorded an extraordinary count of 69 **Bald Eagles** 12/14. Each year Bald Eagles continue to spread throughout the county and they can now be seen regularly almost anywhere. Other reported sightings included an adult near its nest at Zeltenreich Church 1/16, 2 adults flying over the Miller house north of Manheim 2/8 (KM), and an adult on the nest at the Mount Eden road section of OL 2/16 (CC). **Rough-legged Hawks** were present in small numbers again this winter with sightings of both light and dark morph birds. A dark morph was northwest of New Holland near Amishtown Rd. 1/10-12 (m.ob.); a light morph was in fields along Voganville Rd. in Earl Township 1/11-12 (m.ob.). These or similar birds were seen in the same area again 1/25 (TR) and a dark morph was north of New Holland 2/17 (DW). An imm. **Golden Eagle** was a nice sight from Fisherman's Park at Wissler Run 1/16 and 1/18 (PF, CC). **Merlins** were reported from several locations this winter, in addition to reports on all of three CBCs. A Merlin was seen near the New Holland Reservoir 1/7 (m.ob.), along south Fairview Road 1/10 (TH), and on a winter raptor survey near Strasburg 1/17 (TR). **Peregrine Falcons** were seen on two of the three CBCs and were present all season as well. Reports away from the usual haunt around the Columbia/Wrightsville Bridges came from Schoeneck Road just south of the town of Schoeneck 1/3 (BC), along South Groffdale Road 1/4 about 0.5 miles west of the Zeltenreich Church Bald Eagle nest (EW), a WRS in southern Lancaster county 1/26 (BS, NS), another WRS in the eastern part of the county 1/25 (BH, FH), and near Bird-in-Hand 2/17 (DW).

A **Laughing Gull** was seen flying over the Tanger Outlets 2/4 (DW). An **Iceland Gull** was seen on the SR during the Solanco CBC. A first winter Iceland Gull was seen from the parking lot of the John Wright restaurant in Wrightsville 1/17 (CC, JH) and was still there the next week. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was along the SR at Accomac 1/17 (CC, JH) and on the river at Wrightsville the next weekend.

A **Snowy Owl** was seen briefly in the early morning 2/25 along Spring Valley Road about 0.25 miles east of route 272 in East Drumore Twp. (TA). **Long-eared Owls** were seen during the period at MC as well as near Littitz. Up to 4 **Short-eared Owls** were at MC and were still being reported into Mar. The 7 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** on the Solanco count was a good total. On 2/8, a **Common Raven** flew over Schoeneck and Indiantown Roads (EW). There was a second hand report that ravens were seen again in the Furnace Hills near the old

Cornwall Fire Tower on the Lancaster side of the county line. **Horned Larks** were reported in many places this year including 50 along Chiques Road 1/20 (RM) and over 200 near the intersection of Rte. 897 and School Lane Rd. (CC). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present in average numbers most of the season in various locations throughout the county, particularly in the pine woods near Safe Harbor and OL.

As highlighted last year, the Lancaster Area Sewer Authority Plant in Washington Boro has produced many unusual reports of lingering songbirds. This was the first year in my memory that no unusual warblers (not even Palm Warbler) were reported. However, a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** lingered into Dec and was still present 12/14 (EW) when it was photographed. It was spending time around some of the sewer tanks where it was presumably finding insects. The Lancaster CBC was held 12/21 and the Rough-winged Swallow was still present, representing the first swallow species of any sort from that count.

Winter Wrens are regular residents, but one in full song north of Manheim on the morning of 12/14 was unusual (RM). **Nashville Warbler** has been recorded in Lancaster during the winter on several previous occasions, but one visiting the Schutsky's feeder until at least 12/16 (BS, TR) was very late. **Lapland Longspurs** and **Snow Buntings** were both reported this winter. A Snow Bunting was seen 12/21 along Peters Road east of Hollow Road 12/21 (PF); 4 longspurs and 6 buntings were along School Lane Road 12/23 (CC), and they lingered at least to late Jan. Another rarity this season was a **Dickcissel** found visiting TA's feeder along Penny Rd. in Holtwood 1/9 (TA, BS, CC). This bird was seen regularly at least through 2/25 (TA). Another highlight was 2 **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** in a large mixed flock of approximately 250,000 blackbirds. They were found along Slate Hill R. near its intersection with Prawls Hollow Road in the southern portion of the county (BS). Another was seen nearby the same day (CC).

As mentioned earlier, winter finches were the highlight of the season. There were a few reports of **Red Crossbill**, including 3 along Rte. 897 near the New Holland Reservoir 1/6 and 1/13, as well as one near the former Cornwall Fire Tower in the northern part of the county 1/11 (JH), and Lancaster County Central Park 1/25 (DW). It would be nearly impossible to mention all of the locations where **White-winged Crossbills** were reported so only the highlights follow. The first report was at OL on the Solanco CBC. On 1/3, crossbills were reported along Rte. 897 near the New Holland Reservoir (BC, PF). Many people got to see these birds, and as many as 50 were present during the first few weeks of Jan. By then they were starting to be seen in other locations such as near the old Cornwall Fire Tower, as a yard bird in southern Lancaster (CC) 1/15, and in Peach Bottom village 1/18 (BS). The Conestoga Pines Park is a small tract of woods along the Conestoga River along Pitney Road just outside of Lancaster. It is adjacent to some well traveled roads and residential areas. On 1/18, RS reported 40 White-winged Crossbills. This turned out to be one of the more accessible areas to get good views of these birds. The flock varied in size with a high count of over 100 individuals in Feb and over 75 still present 3/8 (DF). This was the highest count in Lancaster and a very noteworthy count for the region. Other sizeable counts were made in Safe Harbor Village 2/10 (TA), with 60 birds sighted and 30 still present in late Mar. Up to 20 were also present along Golf Road in Lancaster County Central Park 2/17 (DW). Many people reported seeing or hearing crossbills at random places as they were traveling throughout the county. They were reported from yards and offices in residential areas where one would not traditionally think of finding good habitat for crossbills. A flock was even present in Paradise for several weeks in late Feb into Mar in an area where there are only a few pine trees. One of these birds unfortunately flew into a window. It was collected and will, we hope, reside in a local museum (BD). The reports received, and the evidence of pine cones torn apart seemed to indicate that Norway spruces were one of the favorite foods for crossbills. This could be because these trees are very plentiful, but by the end of the winter most groves of these trees in Lancaster showed evidence that crossbills had been feeding on the cones.

Common Redpolls were reported in small numbers with a few birds in the New Holland reservoir area 1/6, 1/12, and 1/17 (TJ, et al.). Another redpoll was reported with hundreds of **Pine Siskins** visiting feeders in eastern Lancaster 2/18 (FH). Pine Siskins were the most numerous winter finch this year and were present at most feeders throughout the season. There were many reports of 50 or more at feeders with some reporting several hundred. No reports of Evening or Pine Grosbeaks were received.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller, 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042**

jonathan.heller@comcast.net, Tom Amico, Jim Binder (JBi), Jerry Book, Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler (JBo), Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfant, Betty Denlinger, Devitch Farbotnik, Pamela Fisher, Tom Garner, Barb Haas, Frank Haas, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Hopson, Tom Johnson, Ramsay Koury, Edith Leaman, Kate Miller, Randy Miller, Esther Petersheim, Tom Raub, Bob Schutsky, Derek Stoner, Roger Stoner, Jim Smith, Drew Weber, Eric Witmer.

Lawrence County

Locations: Volant Strip Mines (VSM).

A flock of 38 **Tundra Swans** was seen on the Butler CBC 12/20 in *Lawrence* territory (RN). Following last season's remarkable report of 9 in one spot, another **Cackling Goose** turned up in the county this season: one was with **Canada Geese** in North Beaver Twp. 12/27 (MV). A **Ross's Goose** at a gravel pond in New Beaver 12/5 was an excellent find (MV). Also at the gravel pond that day were one **Northern Pintail**, 33 **Ring-necked Duck**, and one **Ruddy Duck** (MV). Edinburg Lake held a **Northern Pintail** and 4 **American Black Ducks** 12/27 (MV).

Despite the marked expansion of **Sandhill Cranes** in Pennsylvania, the farm fields of Plain Grove Twp. in *Lawrence* remain the marquee location to study this species in the Commonwealth. The wintering flock reached 66 by 1/4 (D&DD). The birds were well-seen by many and remained above 50 total through the season. A female **Ring-necked Pheasant** in Pulaski Twp. 12/5 was interesting given that most released pheasants are males.

At least 8 **Short-eared Owls** and a handful of **Northern Harriers** continued to put on a stellar show at VSM into mid-Dec, and up to 5 were seen in Jan, and 3 in Feb (m.ob.). A total of 42 **Red-tailed Hawks** on a WRS 1/24 was impressive (LW, CG, MH, SB). Up to 5 **Rough-legged Hawks** frequented grasslands at VSM and elsewhere throughout the season (m.ob.), as did good numbers of **American Kestrels**. Two **Bald Eagles** and 41 **Ring-billed Gulls** were at Edinburg Lake 12/27 (MV).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at Black Swamp 1/3 (KSJ). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** wintered at a traditional location near New Wilmington (m.ob.). **Horned Larks** were abundant near New Wilmington and at VSM throughout Jan and Feb. Twelve **White-crowned Sparrows** were located during a WRS 1/24 (LW, CG, MH, SB), and another was near New Wilmington 2/1 (RN). **Snow Buntings** invaded in force this winter, especially at VSM and New Wilmington, where 150+ were counted 1/12 (HB). But this was nothing compared to the 1000+ counted across 4 locations in northern *Lawrence* and southern *Mercer* 1/23 (PH, JV)! At least 450 were counted 1/25 primarily around New Wilmington and VSM (MC). Numbers dwindled after that, but flocks of 50 or more still remained into mid-Feb. One of the flocks of buntings found by PH and JV 1/23 also contained a group of 9 **Lapland Longspurs**, staggering by western Pennsylvania standards. Four **Eastern Meadowlarks** at VSM 12/5 were a nice, but not unexpected, Dec find (CH).

Twelve **White-winged Crossbills** were found on a WRS 1/24 (LW, CG, MH, SB), as were 3 **Pine Siskins**. A **Pine Siskin** appeared at a feeder in New Wilmington 12/18 (RW), and the flock grew to 14 by 1/13. A flock of 50 was in Grove City 1/12 (HB). Another flock upwards of 50 spent much of the winter at a feeder in New Castle (CGo), and yet another flock of at least 110 spent Jan and Feb at a different feeder in Grove City (RS).

Observers: Harriet Bauer, Suzanne Butcher, Mike Campsey, Dave and Debbie Darney (D&DD), Candy Gonzalez (CGo), Carol Guba, Paul Hess, Margaret Higbee, Craig Holt, Scott Kinzey, Richard Nugent, Kate St. John, Randy Stringer, Jim Valimont, Mark Vass, Linda Wagner, Robert Walczak.

Report by: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net.**

Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand (CS), Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Memorial Lake State Park (MLS), Second Mountain Hawk Watch (2nd Mtn), SGL 80, SGL 145, SGL 211.

One of the highlights for this quarter was 6 **Pine Grosbeaks** at MLS on 2/22. Four were male, 2 females (MC). This is a third county sighting. The last was 5/2/1987 (MC, m.ob.).

The Lebanon County CBC was held 12/20 and saw high counts for the following species: **Snow Goose** (3171), **Canada Goose** (15,897), **Cooper's Hawk** (7), **Red-shouldered Hawk** (4), **American Coot** (53), **Hairy Woodpecker** (10), **Northern Flicker** (45), **Eastern Bluebird** (232), **White-crowned Sparrow** (52), **American Goldfinch** (509).

Snow Geese and **Tundra Swans** were at 80,000+ and 2400 respectively at the end of Feb at MC (MC Staff). **Redheads** were seen all quarter at MLS with 28 on 1/12-19 for a new county high (GK, m.ob.). **Greater Scaup** set an early date with 2 on 1/11 at MLS (LC).

No records were set at 2nd Mtn. this year. Some Dec highlights: **Northern Goshawk** (2), **Rough-legged Hawk** (2), **Bald Eagle** (11), **Golden Eagle** (9), and **Merlin** (2) (m. ob.). A **Peregrine Falcon** set a new late date, flying over MLS 12/20.

American Woodcocks were found at MLS with 5 on 2/22 (MC). Gull numbers were way down at MLS. A pair of **Bald Eagles** was seen there all quarter (m. ob.). An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen 11/30 and 12/20 (RCM). A first year **Iceland Gull** spent only 10 minutes at MLS before it flew off 12/20 (RCM). It was the only gull at the lake. **Short-eared Owls** were seen all quarter at MC with 3 being seen most of the time (m. ob.). **Common Ravens** were seen at 2nd Mtn. 12/28 with 7 in one group (DS). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported in low numbers (m. ob.).

American Tree Sparrows were in low numbers. **Fox Sparrows** were seen until 12/3 at 2nd. Mtn. (MC). The first spring migrant was seen in Mt. Gretna 2/28 (SH). **White-crowned Sparrows** set a county high with 32 on 12/20 (m. ob.). **Snow Buntings** were reported only from 2nd Mtn. where 30 were seen 12/23 (MC).

Purple Finches were in small numbers at feeders (m. ob.). Nine **Red Crossbills** were seen surrounding a **Cooper's Hawk** 1/23 at SGL 145 (RCM). **White-winged Crossbills** were found beginning 1/11 with 6 near the CS (JH). The highest number was 36 at Clark Road 1/19 (GK). They were in the county through the quarter (m. ob.). A **Common Redpoll** was at Mt. Gretna 1/27 (SH). **Pine Siskins** were all over the county in big numbers throughout the quarter (m. ob.). **American Goldfinch** set a new county high with 509 on 12/20.

Observers: **Randy C. Miller 607 Woodland Dr., Manheim, PA 17545, (717) 664-3778**, Mike Adams, Chuck Berthound, Gerry Boltz, Randy Brenner, Stephanie Butler, Bruce Carl, Lou Carpenter, Chuck Chalfant, Morris Cox, Scott Fisher, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Sid Hostetter, Rudy Keller, Dave Ker, Gary Kinkley (GK), Gary Koppenhaver (GKo), Dave Kruel, Gayle Lawrence, Richard Light, Kate Miller, Richard Pohner, Steve Rannels, Art Schiavo, Dave Schwenk, Rosemary Spreha, Brian Weaver, Dennis Wengle, Fred Wilcox.

Lehigh County

No report.

Compiler: **Jon Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Macungie, PA 18062, (610) 366-9996, levinj1@yahoo.com.**

Luzerne County

No report.

Compiler: **Jim Hoyson, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA 18708, (570) 696-4925, birdder@aol.com.**

Lycoming County

No Compiler.

McKean County

No Compiler.

Mercer County

Locations: Grove City (GC), Oak Hill Cemetery (OHC), Williamson Rd. (WR).

The severe weather led to mixed reports on bird life: some good,

some normal, some bad. The last skein of southbound **Tundra Swans** was 12/7 over WR (NT). A dark phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was hunting fields along Airport/Fredonia Rd. 2/8. Just over the county line into *Lawrence*, there were 66 Sandhill Cranes and 12-15 Short-eared Owls in the Volant strip mine area throughout the period. Also, several **Sandhill Cranes** were along Coolspring Church Rd. 12/2. One **Belted Kingfisher** remained until 1/8 by Coolspring Creek. At Woodland and Meadow Rd. in Springfield Twp., 250 **Horned Larks** were working a corn field 2/8 (KG).

Eastern Bluebirds survived the snow and cold, as did **Northern Mockingbirds**. During the frigid winter, NT observed a notable decrease in **Carolina Wren** numbers in the eastern part of the county, but in the western part it was a different story: they were totally wiped out. **Eastern Towhees**, often present all winter, were absent. **Snow Buntings** arrived 1/11 and remained until late Feb. The first "spring" **Common Grackle** showed up 2/14, first **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** 2/17, and the first **Killdeer** 2/10, all of which represent normal arrival dates.

Twelve **White-winged Crossbills** were spotted 1/18 in Hemlocks on Milburn Road (KG), and also in OHC in larches and pines mid-Jan through mid-Feb. SK reported up to 20 **White-winged Crossbills** in OHC in the last week of Jan. **Pine Siskins** were present 11/19-2/26 at Segualas, and 50 were at GC 1/1-7 (both HB), as well as all period at OHC (NT). Sixty **Common Redpolls** were found at OHC 1/26 (SK).

Observers: **Marty McKay, 841 East Lake Rd., Transfer, PA 16154, (724) 962-7476**, Harriett Bauer, Kathy Gutowski, Scott Kinzey, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Neil Troyer, Ruth Troyer, Samuel Troyer.

Mifflin County

Two adult **Bald Eagles** circled over the Barrville area on 2/28, seen by members of a State College Bird Club field trip. Winter Raptor Surveys in Big Valley and Ferguson Valley located one **Bald Eagle**, one **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 32 **Red-tailed Hawks**, two **Rough-legged Hawks**, and 15 **American Kestrels** (BF, LP, SS). Three **Sandhill Cranes** were found near Belleville 12/13 (CK). Two **Snow Buntings** and two **Lapland Longspurs** were with a **Horned Lark** flock near Allensville, found during the Huntingdon CBC 12/21 (GG).

Observers: **Gregory and Deborah Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg PA 16669, (814) 667 2305, gwg2@psu.edu, dsq4@psu.edu**, Chad Kauffman, Bob Fowles, Louis Peight, Stephen Swarey.

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA).

December and January were cold, snowy, and icy, followed by a milder and drier February. The 29th Pocono Mountain CBC (PMCBC) was held 12/14 with 57 species recorded including two count firsts. The period was marked by outstanding numbers of two species of northern finches.

A flock of 300 **Snow Geese** was seen over Tobyhanna 2/26 (JS), the only report of this species for the period. **Wood Duck** is always a good winter find; one was observed on a back channel of the Delaware R. at Shawne 12/20 (PF, BH, MT). A PMCBC first were the 27 **Hooded Mergansers** found in the Reeders area (VP). An interesting observation was the movement of **Northern Harriers** through the Delaware R. valley near Hialeah in DWGNRA, 8 were counted the morning of 12/20 (PF, BH, MT).

Ruffed Grouse continue to be reported regularly from the Skytop area (JS), and a family of 5 entertained DM through the winter in the Cresco area. These birds fed on barberry, mountain ash, and multiflora rose and roosted nightly in a large concolor fir in the observer's yard. A high count of 11 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** was noted in DWGNRA 12/20 (PF, BH, MT). A low count of only 7 **American Tree Sparrows** was recorded on the PMCBC. Two **Snow Buntings**, an uncommon county bird, were seen at Skytop 1/3 (JS).

This was the winter of the **White-winged Crossbill**, and the 46 on the PMCBC represented a count first (PF, MT, JW, SP). Other reports of this species included up to 10 in a Saylorburg yard 12/30 to mid-Feb (RW), 15 in Mt. Pocono 1/9 (PF, MT), 4 in Paradise Twp. 1/16 (PF), and

25 at Brady's Lake 1/23 (PF, MT). Observers noted these birds feeding on the cones of hemlocks and Norway spruces. The only reports of **Common Redpolls** were a flock of about 20 seen 1/25 in the Long Pond area feeding in gray birches (TL) and 3 in a large **Pine Siskin** flock in Saylorburg 2/5 (RW).

The other event of the winter was the major irruption of **Pine Siskins**. A count record of 119 was seen on the PMCBC. They started inundating feeders countywide in early Jan and continued through the period. An estimated 200 siskins were seen picking grit on Hidden Lake Rd in DWGNRA 1/10 (JT). A green morph Pine Siskin was reported from Saylorburg 2/20 (RW).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570)629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**. Bud Cook, Pat Fellion, William Kendall, Tom LaDuke, Don Miller, Vic Paulus, Sue Predl, John Serrao, Megan Taylor, Jim Thomson, Rick Wiltraut, Jim Wykcoff.

Montgomery County

Locations: Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Gwynedd Preserve (GP), Haverford College (HC), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Unami Creek Valley UVC, Upper Frederick Township UFT, Upper Gwynedd Township (UGT), Upper Hanover Township (UHT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge National Park (VFNP).

The winter season brought below average temperatures and below average snow and rainfall. Green Lane Reservoir had more than 90% ice cover, which helped to concentrate early-moving waterfowl in February. Waterfowl had a good showing, but the big story for the period was the widespread irruption of winter finches.

Waterfowl variety was good with 19 species reported. Highlights included a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Upper Perkiomen Valley Park 2/15 (P&AG) and a season high of 10,000 **Snow Geese** over Walt Road 12/12 (GAF). Nearly as impressive were a group of 1300 on the ice at Walt Road 1/27—unusual in *Montgomery* (GAF, m.ob.). Up to 7 **Cackling Geese** were reported at various GLR locations (m. ob.). Given the variations between and among subspecies of Cackling Goose and Lesser Canada Goose, it appears that the former is often misidentified and therefore over-reported. The season's first **Tundra Swans** appeared at Walt Road, GLR, 2/10 (KC), and reached a maximum of 67 there 2/26 (GAF). Two **Tundra Swans** flew over Haverford College 2/12 (SJ).

Dabbling ducks had a good showing at GLR and included 4 **Northern Shovelers** at UPVP 12/6 (KC, m. ob.) and a single at Knight Road, GLR 2/14 (KC, SR). Two **American Wigeons** on Knight Road, GLR 1/1 were unexpected (KC, DC). This species reached a record-high count of 84 on 2/11 at Walt Road (GAF). A very respectable count of 440 **Northern Pintails** was at Walt Road, also on 2/11 (GAF). Diving ducks also had a decent showing, highlighted by 4 **Redheads** at Valley Forge National Park 1/18 (RG). Also noteworthy were 2 **Canvasbacks** at Walt Road, GLR, 2/1+ (JG, m. ob.). Two **Lesser Scaup** were at Walt Road, GLR 1/27+ (KC, m. ob.), and one was at VFNP 1/30+ (RG). A **Bufflehead** was at Walt Road, GLR 1/27+ (KC, m. ob.), and a high of 71 were at VFNP 2/2 (RG). A single **Red-breasted Merganser** 2/11 + (GAF, m.ob.) and a **Ruddy Duck** 1/27+ (KC, m. ob.) were both seasonal surprises at Walt Road, GLR.

A **Red-throated Loon** at Walt Road 12/30 was another unexpected find (GAF). Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were at VFNP 1/18 (RG) and Walt Road 2/17 (GAF). Two **Horned Grebes** were at Walt Road 2/1 and 2/14 (GAF).

Raptors enjoyed their best winter showing in several years in the county. GLR's resident **Bald Eagles** began incubation right on schedule 2/8 (SR), and an imm. was at VFNP 2/2 (RG). Up to 3 **Northern Harriers** were at Gwynedd Preserve 12/25 (A&JM), and at least 2 were at Church Road, GLR 12/26+ (GAF, m. ob.). An imm. was at Norristown Farm Park 1/20 (KC). Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were at Gwynedd Preserve 1/20 (A&JM), Walt Road 2/15 and 12/ 17 (P&AG, GAF), and PERT 2/22 (PD). Most impressive among the raptors were up to 3 **Rough-legged Hawks** at Church Road, GLR. Included were a dark morph bird 12/25 -1/24 (AC, m. ob.) and up to 2 light-morph birds 1/23+ (GAF, m. ob.). Rounding out the raptor reports was a Merlin at Walt Road 2/26 (GAF).

The season's first **Killdeer** were in Plymouth Meeting 2/28 (SK).

High counts for both **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (4), and **Great Black-backed Gull** (2) were had at VFNP 2/29 (RG).

Two **Long-eared Owls** were in western *Montgomery* 12/14 (SR, KC). Two **Short-eared Owls** were at GLR 1/23+ (A&JM, m.ob.) and one was at PERT 2/1 (PD). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** wintered at several backyard suet feeders including UHT 12/21+ (JG), Unami Creek Valley 12/22+ (KC), Norristown 12/25+ (SK), and UGT 1/19+ (A&JM). Other sapsuckers were observed in GLR (2) 12/14 (KC, SR) and Lederach 2/9 (RG).

Fish Crows made their spring debut at Walt Road 2/15 (GAF). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce overall, but were found at GLR (GAF, SK); two were at a feeder in UHT all quarter (GLF). **Brown Creepers** were noteworthy in their scarcity as well (m. ob.). **Winter Wren** reports came from Lederach 12/3 (RG), 2 in the UCV 12/14 (AM), and 3 in Lower Merion Township 1/24 (SK). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were in the UCV 12/14 (A&JM), Elkins Park 2/4 (PD), and GLR 2/14 (KC). **Hermit Thrush** were in the UCV 12/14 (A&JM), Lederach 1/21 (RG), GLR 1/26 (SK), and GP 2/6 (A&JM). One of the spring season's early arrivals was a **Brown Thrasher** at Walt Road 2/26 (GAF). Perhaps the most outstanding find of the season was a female **Common Yellowthroat** at GP 12/25 (A&JM).

An **Eastern Towhee** was at Gwynedd Preserve 1/20 (A&JM). **Field Sparrows** were found in the UCV (A&JM) and GLR 12/14 (KC, SR). A season-high 7 **Savannah Sparrows** were in GP 2/6 (AM). **Fox Sparrows** are rare a rare mid-winter find in the county, so 2 birds in Lederach 1/9 were a surprise (RG). Our first spring migrant Fox Sparrows were in JFT 2/22 (RG) and at Walt Road 2/27 (GAF). Six **Swamp Sparrows** were in the UCV 12/14 and one was at GP 1/20 (both A&JM). **White-crowned Sparrows** reached a high of 10 at a Pennsburg feeder 1/27 (GAF).

Purple Finch numbers were disappointing, at best, during the quarter. High counts of 6 were at UFT feeders 1/20 (RG), and 5 at another UFT feeding station 12/20 (PAG). Other reports of 1-2 birds came from GLR and UCV (KC). The truly big story for the winter season was the incredible irruption of **Pine Siskins** and (to a lesser extent) **White-winged Crossbills**. Pine Siskins had their best showing in memory with high counts (all in Feb) as follows: 250 in UFT (PAG), 125+ at GLR Nature Center (KC), 100+ in UCV (KC), 60 in UFT (RG); Upper Hanover Township counts (all different locations) were 65 (DR) 63 (DR), 40 (JG), 35 (GLF), and 60 (SR); 46 in UGT (A&JM), 25 in Pennsburg (GAF), 14 in Norristown (SK), and 12 at Haverford College (SJ). This past season will likely be one for the record books across Pennsylvania. It can be safely assumed that the sheer numbers of birds and duration of their visits accounted for brisk sales of Niger seed at area feed stores.

Finally, **White-winged Crossbills** also irrupted in big numbers. Reports were as follows: 30 at VFNP 1/19 (SK), 25 in Pennsburg 2/8 (GAF), 20 at VFNP 1/23 (RG), 15 at Elkins Park 2/22 (PD), 12 at Knight Road, GLR 2/6 (GAF), 8 at Haverford College 2/28 (SJ), and 2 at GLR Nature Center 2/6 (KC).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, P.O. Box 100, Sumneytown, PA 18084, (215) 234-6867, kcrilley@mail.montcopa.org**, Diane Cameron, Andrew Curtis, Paul Driver, George A. Franchois (GAF), Gary L. Freed (GLF), Joe Greco, Ron Grubb, Paul & Anita Guris, Sheryl Johnson, Steve Kacir, August and Judy Mirabella, Steve Rothenberger, Diana Rudloff.

Montour County

No report.

Compiler: **Jon Beam, Montour Preserve, 700 Preserve Rd., Danville, PA 17821, (570) 437-3131, jdbeam@pplweb.com**

Northampton County

Locations: Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP).

Pine Siskins and **White-winged Crossbills!** It seems every birder in PA should have seen them this winter. These two species made cold weather birding much more fun. Other county highlights included **Snowy Owl**, **Baltimore Oriole**, and **Northern Shrike**.

At Nazareth Quarry 2/11, a **Ross's Goose** was located among 30,000 **Snow Geese** (MS). Seiple's Pond had a pair of **Redheads** in

Feb (DW). On the Lehigh River below the Cementon Bridge was a **Long-tailed Duck** 1/4-6 (FD, CK, GB). There were 3 **Great Cormorants** at Martins Creek Quarry 12/13 (MS). Good news for the county was the discovery of a second **Bald Eagle** nest by the Delaware R. north of Easton. The Portland nest had an adult sitting tight in Feb, and at the new nest site MS saw 2 **Bald Eagles** perched side by side on a sycamore near the nest. There were numerous reports of **Rough-legged Hawks** with sightings from Bath, Northampton, Easton, Martins Creek, and Williams Twp. A **Merlin** was observed going to roost at Nazareth Boro Park in Feb (RW).

A first winter **Iceland Gull** was seen sporadically at Green Pond 2/14-28 (DD, MS). Another **Iceland Gull** was seen at the Bethlehem Landfill 1/27 (AK, RK). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were also found at Green Pond with a high of 38 on 2/28 (DD). On 1/12, a **Short-eared Owl** was hunting near dusk at MCEP (RW). A **Snowy Owl** was seen near the Grand Central Landfill in Pen Argyl 12/22-23. Another Snowy Owl was by the Northampton Recycling Plant 12/23 (JL). There was a single **Long-eared Owl** roosting in cedars at MCEP 2/27 (MS). A **Northern Shrike** was at the Koch farm in Williams Twp 12/12 (AK) and Terry Master's ornithology class located a **Northern Shrike** at MCEP 2/4-7 (JY). During the CBC 12/14, a **House Wren** was found on SGL's 168. An adult female **Eastern Towhee** wintered at the Koch farm (AK). The same location also had an adult male **Baltimore Oriole** that showed sporadically in Dec/Jan (AK).

Manure spread on a field along Arrowhead Rd., Bath was a huge attractant of **Horned Larks**, **Snow Buntings**, and **Lapland Longspurs** this winter. On 1/23, there were over 200 **Snow Buntings** (DW) and 12 **Lapland Longspurs** 12/26 (DW). Plenty of seed cones were available around the county to make sightings of **Pine Siskins** and **White-winged Crossbills** fairly easy in Jan and Feb. At Jacobsburg State Park, a few green morph **Pine Siskins** were observed (RW). Near Valley View Restaurant in Mt. Bethel, a high of 50 **White-winged Crossbills** were reported. Areas reporting crossbills included Bath, Bethlehem, Northampton, Easton, Graver's Arboretum, and Jacobsburg State Park. One **Common Redpoll** visited a feeder in Seemsville 2/12 (BM).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, 610-737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, George Berger, Dave DeReamus, Frank Dickman, Chris Kita, Rudy Keller, Arlene Koch, Jon Lahr, Betsy Mescavage, 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

Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Darby Creek (DC), Delaware River (DR), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Naval Business Center (aka Navy Yard) (NBC), Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant (NEWPCP), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Philadelphia Mid-Winter Bird Census (PMBC), Rhawn St. at the Delaware River (R-DR), Schuylkill River (SR), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Four annual censuses inform this report: the SCEE Winter Census 1/3, Leigh Ashbrook coordinator (21 volunteers, 43 species), the PEC CBC 12/20, Peter Kurtz and Brian Schultz coordinators (27 observers, 84 species), the Glenolden CBC 12/20, Nick Pulcinella, coordinator (57 observers in 20 parties, 90 species), and the 23rd Philadelphia Mid-Winter Bird Census 1/10, Keith Russell coordinator (55 observers in 27 parties, 96 species). KR notes that the 96 species total would make the Philly PMBC the second highest in the state if it were a CBC.

Despite the weather, much colder and snowier than in recent

winters, we hosted four warbler species and three swallows including a **Cave Swallow**. A **Common Raven** also made an appearance. Philly was late seeing the winter eruption of *Fringillidae*, but they finally did arrive.

A few **Snow Goose** reports produced a high count of only 150 on 12/12. A Richardson's **Cackling Goose** was seen and photographed on the ball field at R-DR 2/9-10 (FW). Dabblers and divers were frequently chased to the rivers as standing water froze for weeks at a time. **Gadwalls** were abundant at FDR with 75 seen 12/22 (MSh) and a record high count of 145 on the PMBC. **American Wigeons** also posted a high count with 12 seen. **American Black Ducks** were scarce with only 291 reported 1/10. An early **Blue-winged Teal** at TI on 2/19 delighted TC, but the bird did not linger. All **Canvasback** reports came from EPR where the high count was 76 on 1/10. Two to 5 **Redheads** were at FDR for the season with a male and three females seen most often. At R-DR, 13 **Greater Scaup** and 13 **Lesser Scaup** could be found 1/23-27 (FW) and **Lesser Scaup** were also at FDR 2/12 (GJ). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** sighted from NJ flew across the DR and over Philly 1/25 (TB), and amazingly on the PMBC, one **Long-tailed Duck** was found on the Queen Lane reservoir (WM, JM). Two **White-winged Scoters** lingered at R-DR 1/10-30 (FW, TF, CL). **Buffleheads** and **Ruddy Ducks** were seen on all open waters, but 6 **Common Goldeneyes** were only briefly at R-DR 1/23-27 (FW). All mergansers were present, but **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen only twice, 12/31 and 2/26 on the DR (FW).

Common Loon reports ended 12/25 when one was seen on the SR (JS). Eight **Pied-billed Grebes** at FDR never returned after ice closed open water, despite the fact that FDR appears to have warm springs or some condition which keeps it open longer than TI or EPR. **Great Cormorants** were up and down the DR at the NBC 12/23 (DB), with a total of 23 seen on the PMBC. Over 100 **Double-crested Cormorants** wintered in the county.

An **American Bittern** delighted the bird watchers led by LR at TI on 1/4. As many as 35 **Turkey** and **Black Vultures** continue to roost in Northwest Philly in a stand of Norway Spruce at the Spring Lane residence of CHe. **Northern Harriers** were seen at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant and at R-DR on 12/20 (FW) and two were found 1/10. A **Northern Goshawk** made a brief stop at TI 2/7 (GS). A light phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was found at the NE Water Pollution Control Plant 1/10 (RH, SD). **American Kestrels** were reported from R-DR, Bridge St., and Interstate-95. A **Merlin** was found 1/10 and **Peregrine Falcons** continue to thrive near the towers and bridges of the city. **Wild Turkeys** were found in Pennypack and at TI where they recently bred, and one was at the Army Corps property east of Fort Mifflin.

American Coots were numerous at TI before the freeze and at FDR. **Killdeer** and a **Wilson's Snipe** were at the mouth of the Pennypack Creek 1/10 (FW, TF). Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at FDR 12/22 (MS). **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gull** high counts were 700 and 1300, respectively. An adult Kumlien's **Iceland Gull** flew over R-DR 1/7 (FW) and a second cycle **Glaucous Gull** perched at R-DR 12/30 (FW). The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at R-DR since 2004 continued; two were reported at TI 2/8 (BB), a possible first record there.

A high count of 55 **Eastern Screech Owl** was heard on 1/10. At TI, the **Great Horned Owl** pair occupied the 2008 **Cooper's Hawk** nest in the small stand of pine trees. **Barred Owls** were heard calling in early Dec in the upper WC (DB). On 2/10, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** and its cached Northern Cardinal were found at TI. On 1/8, while scouting for the winter census, we found a young **Long-eared Owl** in a honeysuckle tangle behind the visitor's center at TI. We could not find the owl on 1/10, and unfortunately it was found dead later in the month and now resides in the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences skin collection (AS, DM). An unexpected Long-eared Owl was in Pete Kurtz's Fox Chase front yard, sunning itself close to the front door 1/31.

A **Common Raven** called and flew over Spring Lane on 2/27 as CHe waited for Gov. Rendell to release a rehabilitated **Red-tailed Hawk**. Again this winter the NEWPCP had a **Tree Swallow** 12/13 along with 75 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** feeding on 1/10. The **Cave Swallows** discovered 11/11 (FW) were last reported 12/17 (FW) just making it into the PEC CBC count week. Also at the NEWPCP were an **Orange-crowned Warbler** 1/3-4 (TF, FW), 4 **Palm Warblers** 1/1 and 5 (2 Yellow, 3 Western) on 1/10 (FW, TF), as well as an **Ovenbird** 1/10 (ST). Six **Common Yellowthroats**, three at TI and three at NEWPCP, were a high for the PMWBC. Two Yellowthroats were at Woodenbridge Run on the PEC CBC 12/20 (BS).

A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at SCEE 1/10 was a first for the count (KJ). **Snow Buntings** flew from NJ over the DR into Philly 12/26 (TB). As

Rusty Blackbird numbers decline and the population is monitored, Philly hosts this species at FDR and TI throughout the season. At R-DR, 150 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were notable (FW).

Finally, our finches. One **Purple Finch** was found 1/10 at W. Southampton Rd. (KR, et.al.). **White-winged Crossbills** were reported from Spring Lane 1/12 (CHe), from W. Mount Airy 1/27 (MSh), and from Glen Foerd 1/29 (FW). From 1/28-30, sixty White-winged Crossbills were seen on Forbidden Trail in FP (AA). **Pine Siskins** thrived at the SCEE feeders (LA), at Mt Airy feeders (CH), and at SL where up to 40 were feeding 1/10 (CHe).

ADDENDUM: The Fall 2008 summary omitted a **Lesser Scaup** at TI 11/17 (BB).

EXOTICS: A **Chukar** was seen walking around on the roof of the So. Phila. H.S. gymnasium on 1/14 by a teacher whose classroom overlooked the roof (MSo).

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern100@comcast.net**, Andrew Albright, Leigh Ashbrook, Tom Baily, Debbie Beer, David Belford, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Skip Conant, Ned Connolly, Tony Croasdale, Martin Dellwo, Steve DuPont, Bert Filemyr, Todd Fellenbaum, Gregg Gorton, Cliff Hence, Chuck Hetzel (CHe), Rich Horwitz, Ken Januski, Gail Johnson, Steve Kacir, Bill Keim, Pete Kurtz, Chuck Lyman, John Miller, Judy Moody, Winston Moody, Tom Reeves, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Brian Schultz, Alice Sevaireid, Matt Sharp, Michael Southerton, Judy Stepanaski, Gary Stolz, Shawn Towey, Frank Windfelder.

Pike County

No Compiler.

Potter County

No report.

Compiler: **David Hauber, RR 2 Box 153, Coudersport, PA 16915, (814) 274-8946, haubers3@penn.com**.

Schuylkill County

Locations: Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), Landingville Dam (LVD), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Swatara State Park (SSP).

Ruffed Grouse were seen in very low numbers for the second straight year. A few **Northern Harriers** and a dark-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** were seen in the Hegins area in mid-Dec (TC). A male **Merlin** was near SAL 2/5 (TC), and a male was also near the village of Dreherstown later in Feb (LG). A pair of adult **Bald Eagles** continued to visit the LVD area for continued successive years (TC, AB, BJ).

A pair of **Short-eared Owls** was seen in the CREP fields in the western sector of the county 1/10 (TC). For successive years, **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported in higher numbers than usual in the Auburn and LVD areas (TC). Two pairs of **Common Ravens** were seen in the Auburn area during the Hamburg CBC (TC). These ravens were likely from the nearby Summit Station quarry.

Numerous **Horned Larks**, as well as a few **Snow Buntings** and a single **Lapland Longspur** were seen at the Lewistown Valley fields from late Dec through Jan (TC).

Pine Siskins were seen and heard in excellent numbers at various county locations throughout the period, including HMS, Auburn, Deer Lake, and Tumbling Run Watershed. A few **White-winged Crossbills** were reported from a few county locations, including SSP, Deer Lake, and HMS (TC, LG, Hawk Mt. staff).

Observers: **Tom Clauser, P.O. Box 531, Pottsville, PA 17901, (570) 294-9760, runner01@comcast.net**, Denise Donmoyer, Laurie Goodrich, Barb Jucker, Doris Klint, Kerry Grim, Ann Marie Liebner, Mike Ward, Hawk Mt. staff.

Snyder County

Locations and Abbreviations: Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), Faylor Lake (FL), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

The first **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported 12/28 near FL (CK); five were counted on a WRS 2/8 that included the western portion of the county, west of Rt. 104. A single **Black Vulture** and one **Northern Harrier** were also tallied on that count (GG, CK).

About 75 **Pine Siskins** were visiting feeders in the Selinsgrove area in early Jan (DU). During the GBBC, 2/13-16, five **Common Redpolls** were at Penn's Creek.

Observers: **Greg Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Rd., Petersburg, PA 16669, gwg2@psu.edu**, Deb Grove, Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Doug Wentzel.

Somerset County

Localities: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Youghiogheny River (YR).

The winter season was colder overall than the past few years but some open water remained into early January, as did decent numbers of waterfowl. Irruptive birds put on the best show in years.

The only **Snow Goose** reported was one flying with **Canada Geese** in BA 2/28 (RC, JP). A wing-tagged **Trumpeter Swan** was seen at QR 1/12 and 1/19 (AM). The USGS banding encounter report stated that the bird was hatched in Waldemar, Ontario in 2006. Flocks of **Tundra Swans** were still passing PP 12/4 (JP). Puddle ducks were represented by 4 **Gadwalls** at SL 1/1 (AM), a nice group of 11 **Northern Pintails** near SL 1/8 (AM), one **Green-winged Teal** at QR until 12/13 (AM), and 2 **Northern Shovelers** at BC 1/8 (BC). Diving Ducks were not to be outdone with good counts including 4 **Canvasbacks** 2/1 at YR, 26 **Redheads** at SL 12/25, one **Greater Scaup** 12/13 at SL, one **Lesser Scaup** 1/1 at SL, and 19 **Buffleheads** and 6 **Common Goldeneyes** 1/31 at YR. Both **Common Mergansers** (5) and **Hooded Mergansers** (6) were also at YR 1/31 (all AM). Five **Pied-billed Grebes** were at QR for the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society CBC 12/14.

Great Blue Herons over-wintered in small numbers. Early **Turkey Vultures** were at Wellersburg 2/11 (AM) and in BA 2/3 (JP, LP). An adult **Bald Eagle** was at YR 12/29 (AM). **Rough-legged Hawks** were present in small numbers in BA 1/3-2/3 (JP, LP) and a dark morph was near Summit Mills 2/5 (EB). Two **American Coots** were at SL 12/26 (AM). **Killdeer** were in Summit Mills 1/14 (EB) and in BA 2/14 (CP). **Ring-billed Gulls** started moving north with a slight warming trend 2/8 (AM, JP, LP).

Northern Shrikes seemed to be widespread; the first seen on the APAS CBC 12/14 near Jennerstown (RR), another was south of Shanksville 1/20-2/3 (CP, JP, LP, JM, MM), and the second ever visited a PP feeder 2/24, following last season's first (JP, LP).

A **Brown Thrasher** missing its tail feathers was found on the unexpected date of 2/3 at a feeder at an unexpected location high on Mt. Davis near Springs (JP, LP). In Jan, Buffalo Creek had the locally uncommon wintering sparrows such as **Swamp, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows**, as well as many **Song Sparrows**. **Lapland Longspurs** peaked at 6 in BA 1/26 (JP) and were also reported in Summit Mills 1/14 (EB). **Snow Buntings** put in a spectacular, albeit brief, showing with 200 in BA 1/25, another 200 near Jennerstown about 1/25 (SB), and "hundreds" on fresh manure near Summit Mills 1/29 (EB). A few flocks of **Red-winged Blackbirds** wintered near BA (JP, LP, CP) and near Jennerstown (AM). Four **Rusty Blackbirds** graced feeders at PP 1/20 (LP).

White-winged Crossbills were found first near Shanksville for the APAS CBC 12/14 with a flock of 17 in white pines and hemlock (EH, EG). Six were present in Shanksville in blue spruces 1/3 (CP, JP, LP), one was at PP in Norway spruces 1/29 (LP), and five were at Mt. Davis in hemlocks in a location only a few hundred yards from the Brown Thrasher (JP, LP). Only one **Common Redpoll** was found with the large flocks of **Pine Siskins** 2/12-14 (CP, JP, LP). Siskins were everywhere with over 200 at PP on several occasions. Many sick or dead birds were widely reported when the cold snap ended in late Feb. Cause of mortality was not determined but coincided with thawing which may have exposed bacteria-contaminated feces. Mortality may have approached 5% of siskins, with a few **American Goldfinches** also found, but no other species seemed to be afflicted.

Observers: **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814)**

267-5718, Elmer Brenneman, Scott Bastian, Robert Croner, Tom Dick, Ed Gowarty Jr., Eric Hall, Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Chris Payne, Lauretta Payne, Ron Rovanssek.

Sullivan County

The Eagle's Mere area was visited the weekend of January 24 and 25 with side trips to other spots in the county including World's End State Park. All observations from this weekend were made by DM. She also had one non avian sighting: a Bobcat was seen along Rte 220 on the way to Dushore. Birds of prey observed were **Red-tailed Hawk** and **Eastern Screech Owl**. In addition to various expected species were observations of **Wild Turkey, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Red-breasted Nuthatch**. Three other less expected species observed were of birds that seem to be increasing their range into the county. They are **Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, and Northern Cardinal**. This seems especially true of the woodpecker and the cardinal, of which there are few records at any time of year. This year's winter finch invasion was in full force at the time of these observations. **Pine Siskins** were seen at feeders in town. Large flocks of **White-winged Crossbills** were seen in hemlocks, sometimes five to a branch. The birds were seen repeatedly eating grit from the roads around town, waiting until the last second to avoid being struck by cars. On 1/25, a single female **Pine Grosbeak** was found feeding with a flock of approximately 50 White-winged Crossbills in hemlocks. The bird was briefly observed three times and was heard to make its distinctive three-note, yellowlegs-like call.

A WRS was conducted 2/7 by JH in relatively mild conditions for mid-winter. The temperature was just above freezing at 33F, with moderate wind. Snow depth was estimated at 6 inches. The survey found only four **Red-tailed Hawks**, however, several other species were noted. Eighteen **Wild Turkeys** were counted. A large number of crows (331) were seen along with four **Common Ravens**. The thrush family had two representatives: 12 **Eastern Bluebirds** and 2 **American Robins**. Other birds counted were 83 **Snow Buntings** and 52 **Pine Siskins**.

RM spent the weekend of President's Day in the county. Skies were mostly overcast and temperatures never rose much higher than the low thirties so large bodies of water remained frozen. The previous week had been very warm which left no snow cover and a few very small bodies of water ice free. Not surprisingly, waterfowl were scarce. There were **Canada Geese**, 10 of which were in a small flock flying over the county seat of LaPorte, and also 2 **Mallards** on a small farm pond.

A single Game Commission-released **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen at Shady Nook Lake having successfully avoided all hunters. During a walk along an old railroad bed on RM's property close to the Loyalsock Creek, two **Ruffed Grouse** were flushed. A large flock of Wild Turkeys was observed while driving back roads near Dushore. There were about 40 birds scattered across a plowed field in small groups. None of the males were displaying but there did seem to be some pairings.

Raptor numbers were low. Five Red-tailed Hawks were seen along with a single **Northern Harrier** hunting an uncultivated farm field and a single **Cooper's Hawk**. One other accipiter was observed but was too far away in too poor light and among too many branches to be positively identified. Still, I was duly impressed with the keen eye of my eldest son as I had missed the bird altogether. A single male **Great Horned Owl** was heard calling one evening while I was star-gazing.

Most of the birds seen in small numbers were alone or among small feeding flocks. This includes five each of **Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Red-breasted and 5 White-breasted Nuthatches**, a single **Brown Creeper, 5 Golden-crowned Kinglets** and 2 **Eastern Bluebirds** together in a large farm field. The most numerous species, found in small groups of 5 or 6, were the 65 **Black-capped Chickadees** and the 38 **Dark-eyed Juncos**.

Checking feeders in downtown Eagles Mere and at houses outside of Dushore produced the only **White-throated and House Sparrows**, plus the only **House Finch** for the day. Chickadees and Juncos were found at feeders as were ten **American Goldfinches**. A single flock of about ten **Pine Siskins** seen near Shady Nook Lake were the only ones among 45 total counted not seen at feeders. There were also three **Cedar Waxwings** feeding in a Crabapple Tree loaded with fruit in Eagles Mere.

The family with the most individuals seen was the Corvids. Thirty

Blue Jays were seen alone or in small groups and seemingly on the move. One large flock of approximately 50 **American Crows** formed the bulk of the 80 seen. As with the crows, one large group of around twelve **Common Ravens** comprised the bulk of the 20 seen and or heard. Two introduced species were encountered mostly in large groups: 50 **Rock Pigeons** and about 40 **European Starlings**.

Also found that day were 3 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, 7 **Tufted Titmice**, and 2 **Northern Cardinals**. As stated, these have never been common species at the high elevations of the county. The three Red-bellied Woodpeckers may actually come close to the grand total I have seen in the county at any time of year in the 20 years I have been bird watching here. Two of the woodpeckers, both cardinals, and a few of the titmice were found in Eagles Mere, although only the titmice were at feeders. I am hoping to obtain some historical records that might help answer whether these are more likely seasonal movements or actual range expansion.

On President's Day, I finally found a flock of **White-winged Crossbills**. Driving along very slowly I saw a bird perched in the very top of a tall Norway Spruce that in very poor light looked like a good candidate to be a crossbill. Within just a few seconds, an accommodating male lit just below this female. I stopped the car and as I stepped to the pavement a dog barked his disapproval of my presence and dispersed the flock of about 12 birds, not to be seen again. The area contained a large number of mature Norway Spruce trees, all loaded with cones. There are also stands of planted pine and larch nearby.

Sandhill Cranes returned to the county 3/12. They were observed in the same area where they have nested since near the beginning of this decade. A single pair has been observed in the general vicinity several times since. The initial observation comes from local residents via TG.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, 610-323- 0119, Robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Trudy Gerlach, Jeff Holbrook, Doris McGovern.

Susquehanna County

No Report.

Compiler: **Jerry Skinner, Woodburn Preserve, RR 6 Box 6294, Montrose, PA 18801, (570) 278-3384, jskinner@epix.net**.

Tioga County

Locations: Cowanesque Lake (CL), 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).

In general, this was an unusually harsh winter, and observers found it difficult to get out. When they did, species counts were very low, often in the single digits. The variety of feeder birds was also low this year, again often numbering in the single digits, although the numbers of birds was often high because of the large flocks of **Pine Siskins**.

A trip 12/7, before the lakes completely froze over, produced 5 **Tundra Swans**, a **Bonaparte's Gull**, and a **Northern Shrike** at Cowanesque Lake (DW). Large flocks of **American Tree Sparrows** and **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen at all of the lake overlooks (DW).

By 12/20, the day of the 109th CBC, there was practically no open water anywhere. A major snowstorm 12/19 dumped 6-8 inches of snow, making this year's effort one of the most difficult in memory. Temperatures in the teens and light morning breezes made things even more uncomfortable. Just walking through the snow was a real chore. Many birders who live within the 15-mile-diameter count circle decided to stay home and just count the birds in their backyards. Despite the difficulties, a record number of birds was reported thanks to the many flocks of **Canada Geese** flying south over the county. These over flights were unprecedented for the time of year and continued throughout the day. A total of 3,145 Canada geese were counted, and after interviewing the participants, it is unlikely that any were counted twice. In fact, there were probably a lot more. The species count this year was 49, compared with 50 last year. A number of species that are relatively rare for our area were seen, including northern birds such as **Pine**

Siskin, White-winged Crossbill, and Snow Bunting (JH, BW). Three observers reported seeing **Northern Harriers** and **Rough-legged Hawks** (LB, PK, VK). Other than the Canada Geese, there were few waterfowl observations with most lakes and bodies of water were completely frozen over. A few **Mallards** were seen winging their way over the Muck, a flock of 57 **Snow Geese** were spotted flying near Hills Creek State Park, and 2 **Cackling Geese** (JH) were found at an undisclosed location within the count circle. The Cackling Geese may be a first for *Tioga*, since this species only gained full status in 2004. Other than Canada Geese, the most abundant birds for the day were **Mourning Doves** (425), with **European Starlings** coming in second (377). Only one **Bald Eagle** was reported (RF), but there were some good flocks of **Eastern Bluebirds**—around 24 were counted this year. The total count for the day set a record, with 6746 individuals compared to 4169 last year and 5699 in 2002. There were eighteen participants this year (GT).

Two **Black Vultures** were seen in Nauvo in the southern part of the county 2/16, quite unusual for *Tioga*, especially in winter (PK). On 1/31 JH conducted a WRS in the county's northern townships, reporting one **Cooper's Hawk**, 11 **Red-Tailed Hawks**, and 3 **Rough-legged Hawks** (one light, 2 dark). Three **Great Horned Owls** and an **Eastern Screech-Owl** were seen near Millerton 1/2 (LB).

During the 1/31 WRS, several northern visitors were also seen, including 34 **Pine Siskins**, 13 **White-winged Crossbills**, and 230 **Snow Buntings** (JH). Siskins were seen in relatively large numbers (up to 50) at numerous feeders throughout the county well into Mar. Only a few **Common Redpolls**, at various feeders, were reported (GT).

Observers: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA 16901, (570) 724-5789, 3aquila@myway.com**, Arlene Brown, Larry Brown, Rich Faber, Terry Faber, June Hill, Roy Hill, Jeff Holbrook, Phil and Vinca Krajewski, Beth Walker, Drew Weber.

Union County

No Report.

Compiler: **Christy Bowersox, 968 Furnace Road, New Columbia, PA 17856, (570) 205-5434, cabowersox@yahoo.com**.

Venango County

No Report.

Compiler: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd., Apt. 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@sonline.com**.

Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Bavington (BAV), Bentleyville (BENT), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Robinson Township (RBT), Washington Cemetery (WCEN), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

In a crossbill season for the ages, few locations were as reliable and spectacular for observing **White-winged Crossbills** as was Washington Cemetery on the south side of the city of Washington. Washington Cemetery is a very old and very large cemetery, dating to 1853, which features a wide array of conifer species, including a fine stand of Eastern Hemlock—a favorite target of crossbills in Pennsylvania this winter. Some of the trees are as old as the cemetery itself. For weeks on end, many observers were enthralled with point-blank views of these frenetic birds as they went about their business of tearing hemlock cones to pieces. Several photographers made their best-ever portraits of this species at the cemetery this winter. It was a season that will not be easily forgotten.

A banded **Canada Goose** was located in WCEN 2/1 (MF); research showed the bird was banded in Pennsylvania 6/22/2004 with further details still pending at the time of this writing. Well in excess of 500 **Canada Geese** and at least 300 **Mallards** used AMD as a roosting area in Feb. Two **Mute Swans** were at R4 12/26-29 (MV) and 2/28

(MV). A superb flock of 275 **Tundra Swans** were on a pond near BENT 12/5 (AB). Other reports of this species included 66 over McMurray 12/20 (RT), 2 at CL 2/15 (RT), and 3 at Claysville 2/15 (MC).

Aside from the last few southbound stragglers in Dec, waterfowl were mostly absent until Feb. A pair of **Wood Ducks** at R4 2/28 (MV) was the first of the spring. Four **Gadwalls** at AMD 1/16 (MV) was a good mid-winter find. As was the case in nearby *Beaver*, **American Black Ducks** were above average in *Washington* this season. Up to 6 were at AMD in late Dec (MV, et al.), 16 were at R4 12/26 (MV), 5 were in BENT 12/30 (AB), 5 were at AMD 1/16 (MV) with two staying through the season, and 2 were in RBT 2/8 (MV). A **Northern Shoveler** at BENT 12/29 (AB) was the only reported. The returning female **Northern Pintail** (presumably) appeared in WCEM again this year but was present only for a short time in the last week of Dec.

Fifteen **Canvasbacks** appeared at AMD 2/1 (RT) and stayed to at least 2/16 (MV). Nine were still there 2/28 (MV), and on that same day, 5 were at R4 (MV). A single **Redhead** stayed at AMD 2/6-28 (RT et al.). A male **Ring-necked Duck** was in RBT 12/28 (MV); first northbound birds were 3 at AMD 2/6-16 (RT). **Lesser Scaup** barely made the winter report; 2 were at R4 2/28 (MV). Two **Buffleheads** stayed for a week at AMD 1/30-2/6 (RT), and 2 were at CL 2/1 (MV). **Hooded Mergansers** appeared in numbers on the last day of the period; 10 were at R4 2/28 (MV) and 7 were at Washington Reservoir #5 (PB). Three **Common Mergansers** at CL 2/9 (MV) and 3 **Ruddy Ducks** at Bebout Rd. 12/26 each were the only representatives of their species found this season in *Washington*.

Interesting were 17 **Ring-necked Pheasants** in Coal Center 1/20 (JoT, et al.). A flock of not so **Wild Turkeys** entertained observers at WCEM throughout the season. The first and only **Pied-billed Grebe** of the season was in the creek next to AMD 2/16 (MV).

Northern Harriers were reported from six locations including one at National Cemetery just south of Bridgeville 2/1 (RT), a new location for this species. Single **Sharp-shinned Hawks** wintered in WCEM (m.ob.) and in BENT (AB) this season. A stunning leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk**, nearly completely white, was located near Taylorstown 2/14 (JB), where it was seen occasionally for the rest of the season. **Rough-legged Hawks** were represented by singles at Buffalo Creek IBA80 on 12/14 (AT) and at RBT 2/8 (MV). Wintering **American Kestrels** were located at RBT, BAV, and GCW. A male **Merlin** was found in WCEM 12/27 (LC), where it remained through the season and was seen by many. It was joined by a juv. or female **Merlin** 1/19-2/9 (LC, CH).

One or two additional **American Coots** joined the permanent resident at AMD this winter. A **Killdeer** at Canonsburg 12/31 (AB) was late. **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported twice: one was over AMD 2/1 (RT), and 15 were at R4 on 2/28 (MV).

Eastern Screech-Owl and **Barred Owl** were found in Avella in late Jan (JB). Aside from the deluge of crossbills, the most exciting find of the season was 2 **Long-eared Owls** near BENT 12/6 (AB). Unfortunately they did not linger. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported in several locations in Jan, including at least one at WCEM 1/10-24 (PB, CH, GM). A late **Eastern Phoebe** was in Washington 12/3 (JB). **Common Ravens** continued their relentless advance into *Washington* this season with four reports: one at Daisytown 12/1 (AB), one in RBT 12/5 (BC), and 2 in BENT 12/30 and 1/15 (AB). A flock of 25 **Horned Larks** was at the Buffalo Creek IBA80 on 12/14 (AT). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present in WCEM through the season in good numbers beginning with 10 on 12/20 (ABI, KSJ). At least 3 were still there 2/28 (PB, GM). They were also reported in BAV 12/22 (KSJ) and in BENT (AB). **Brown Creepers** were one each in BAV 12/22 (KSJ) and one at WCEM 2/1 (MF). A **Winter Wren** was also at BAV 12/22 (KSJ). Very nice were 25 **American Pipits** at RBT 2/20 (MF). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** wintered at WCEM in small numbers (m.ob.); additionally, 10 were at Buffalo Creek 12/20 (ABI, KSJ) and one was at R4 on 12/26 (MV).

An **Eastern Towhee** put in an appearance at a feeder in East Findlay Twp. 1/21 (PH). Sparrows at the county's top sparrow hotspot, GCW, on 1/23 included 20 **American Tree Sparrows**, 3 **Field Sparrows**, **Song Sparrows**, 9 **Swamp Sparrows**, one **White-throated Sparrow**, and 15 **White-crowned Sparrows** (JB). Otherwise, sparrow reports were off, save for a duo of **White-crowned Sparrows** that used a feeder in Claysville 1/11-17 (MC).

It was a good season for **Snow Buntings** in Pennsylvania and *Washington* was not an exception. Three reports were as follows: 20 were found a few miles from GCW 1/22 (JB), 61 were near BENT 1/31 (AB), and 30 were at National Cemetery in the last week of Jan to 1/31 (TA). The first **Red-winged Blackbirds** (3) and **Rusty Blackbirds** (20)

appeared together at CL 2/9 (MV). A pair of **Purple Finches** was found in Taylorstown 2/15 (CH, LC).

As already mentioned, the story of the season was the crossbill flock at WCEM, which delighted dozens of birders from around southwestern Pennsylvania on demand though much of Jan and Feb. It began with a report of 20 **White-winged Crossbills** at the cemetery 12/17 (MD). Initially observers had some fairly bad luck relocating the flock, but by 1/5, the total spiked to 50 birds, and topped 100 for the first time 1/10 (PB, CH). After that, observers reported between 60 and 100 crossbills on every trip made to the cemetery from then to the end of Jan. In Feb, daily crossbill counts dropped to the teens, but 60 were there 2/28 (MV, GM, PB), and a handful were still being reported in early Mar. One **Red Crossbill** was reported at WCEM: an imm. seen and heard among a few White-winged Crossbills 12/27 (MD). Away from WCEM, additional White-winged Crossbills reports included 12 at Forest Lawn Cemetery 2/2 (RT), 11 at BENT 2/3 (AB) with 2 still there 2/4, 3 in North Strabane Twp. 2/9 (RT), and 12 in Finleyville 2/2, where one was also found dead, apparently a victim of a window strike (EH *vide* MH). **Pine Siskins** were abundant at WCEM and elsewhere all season as well. Most observers reported at least a few at WCEM on most trips all season; top count at WCEM was 50 on 12/29 (PB). They were reported from eight other locations, with notable totals of 45 at Avella 1/26-27 (JB) and up to 28 at a feeder in BENT from 1/16 to the end of the season (AB). Siskins were still at WCEM 2/28 and into Mar (PB, GM).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Kyle Aldinger, Tim Andrie, Andy Berchin, Anthony Bledsoe (ABI), John Boback, Paul Brown, Mike Campsey, Lauren Conkle, Ben Coulter, Michael Dietrich, Dallas DiLeo, Mike Fialkovich, Cris Hamilton, Eileen Higbee, Margaret Higbee, Pat Hutchinson, Heather Jacoby, Scott Kinzey, Kate St. John, Amy Taracido, José Taracido, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

Wayne County
No Complier.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Trout Run Reservoir [Latrobe Reservoir] (TRR).

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was an exceptional find during count week for the Bushy Run CBC (*vide* DB). Two **Wood Ducks** remained at TRR 1/6 (RCL). Fifty **American Black Ducks** were on TRR 12/02 (RCL), and 52 were counted there on the Rector CBC1/3 (*vide* L&LH). Six **American Wigeons** were still on TRR 1/6 (RCL). A flock of 6 early **Hooded Mergansers** was spotted on a small pond in Bell Township 2/15 (KD). An adult **Bald Eagle** was spotted flying down Loyalhanna Creek just south of New Alexandria 2/15 (KD), and several other eagle reports came from the BRR area. An adult **Northern Goshawk** was a good backyard find at Murrysville on 2/15 (DBr). A **Golden Eagle** was spotted at Oak Grove, north of Ligonier, 2/9 (RCL), for the only local report this season.

A flock of 20 **Eastern Bluebirds** was found along Old Distillery Road, Stahlstown 12/20 (L&LH). A **Brown Thrasher** on the Rector CBC1/3 (*vide* L&LH) represented the first-ever winter record for the Ligonier Valley, and yet another was spotted (RCL) along Astraw Road, at Red Arrow Farms, about a mile north of TRR, on 2/6. Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported on the Rector Christmas Count (*vide* L&LH) 1/3, one of them lingering at the bird banding station at PNR through most of the winter (AV). A late **Eastern Meadowlark** was found a few miles west of Stahlstown 12/25 (L&LH), and a **Rusty Blackbird** was spotted near Stahlstown 12/6 (L&LH).

As elsewhere in Pennsylvania, the **White-winged Crossbill** invasion was impressive, with good numbers of birds listed throughout the county. In the Ligonier Valley, flocks of up to 25 were seen at PNR (ML, BM, AV), Ligonier (BM, RCL), Donegal Lake (RCL), Pleasant Grove (RCL), and Rector (RCL, CL, AV, ED). Twenty crossbills were in Bell Twp. 1/23 (CD), 25 at Delmont 1/20 (KB), as many as 25 at Bushy Run Battlefield Historical Site in late Feb (MM), and doubtless many others at other sites. Likewise, **Pine Siskins** were common at feeders

throughout the county, with flocks of well over 100 at PNR all season, 50 at Delmont 1/28 (KB), 562 on the Rector CBC 1/3, and 32 on the Bushy Run count 12/27. The only report of **Evening Grosbeaks** this winter was of 2 birds at Ligonier 12/14 (SL, BM).

Observers: **Robert C. Leberman, 1847 Route 381, Rector, PA 15677, (724) 593-6021, siskin@lhtot.com**, Ken Byerly, Dick Byers, Debbie Bryant (DBr), Karen DeSantis, Emma DeLeone, Len & Linda Hess, Mike Lanzone, Steven Latta, Cokie Lindsay, Mark McConaughy, Trish Miller, Bob Mulvihill, Andrew Vitz.

Wyoming County

Locations: Grist Flats (GF), Lake Carey (LC), Oxbow Lake (OL), Vosburg Neck (VN).

If I were asked to summarize this period, I would emphasize a very successful Tunkhannock CBC (hereafter, "CBC") 12/20, which included a new record for total species (74) and total individuals (just over 15,000), new highs for seven species, eight species noted as "uncommon" to this count, and one entirely new species for the CBC. Aside from the CBC, the irruption of **Pine Siskins** throughout the area was surely also a highlight.

We observed our highest total ever for **Tundra Swan** (100), **Snow Goose** (23), and **Canada Goose** (over 8,000) during the CBC. My team alone observed over 1000 migrating Canada Geese. We also observed our highest total for **Bald Eagle**, at 15. Outside the CBC, we have been observing both imm. and mature Bald Eagles throughout the county on a regular basis. We had at least one successful nest, at VN last season. A **Northern Goshawk** was also reported during the CBC, at GF (RK), another uncommon report for this CBC. A **Rough-Legged Hawk** was reported at Sordoni's Farm 12/23 (SG), the only report during the period, which is surprising.

The first report of calling **Great Horned Owls** was 12/5, with three at Lake Carey (MC). During the CBC, participants observed five species of owls: **Eastern Screech Owl**, **Great Horned Owl**, **Barred Owl**, **Northern Saw-Whet Owl**, and **Long-Eared Owl**, all at VN (SG, BW). The Saw-Whet and Long-Eared Owls are uncommon to this CBC.

The CBC produced over 2,700 **European Starlings**. It seemed that every corner turned produced another flock of several hundred. Needless to say, the counting was difficult, what with the numbers and the constant shifting of position by the birds. An **Ovenbird** was observed at the Rte. 92 boat launch (RK). The bird appeared to be in pretty rough shape, and it likely did not last the winter. Ovenbird is a new species for the Tunkhannock CBC.

A lone **Eastern Towhee** was found at VN (SG, BW), and a lone **Chipping Sparrow**, at GF (RK), both uncommon for our CBC. Finally, the CBC produced a new high for **Snow Bunting**, at 62. Outside the count, over 200 Snow Buntings were seen feeding on a fresh manure spread just north of Meshoppen 1/25 (RL).

One highlight of the winter was the irruption of **Pine Siskins**. None were reported prior to mid-Dec. However, suddenly on 12/5, some 100 siskins were feeding, drinking, and bathing very actively and noisily in my backyard (JD). That day, and subsequently, siskins were reported from all over *Wyoming* and other counties as well. Five **White-Winged Crossbills** visited my pond in Tunkhannock 2/15 (JD). Their stay was brief, and they were not seen beyond that afternoon.

Observers: **Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468, jdemarco@epix.net**, Mark Catalano, Joe DeMarco, Sandy Goodwin, Jim Hoyson, Mark Kasper, Rick Koval, Rebecca Lesko, Bruce Troy, Jon Thomas, Bob Wasilewski.

York County

Locations: Althouse Rd. grassland (ALT), Codorus State Park (CSP), Dillsburg (DILL), Garriston Rd. (GRST), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Lake Redman (LRED), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Sheppard-Myers Reservoir (SMR).

The 21 participants in the York CBC recorded 74 species, including 14 species of waterfowl. The county participated in the state's invasion of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins, with several crossbill reports and many reports of siskins.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at CSP 2/20 (DR, PJR), but did not stay. A single **Snow Goose** at CSP was found on the 12/14 CBC and seen again 12/21 (RP). A flock of 25 Snow Geese was seen flying over ALT 2/23 (RP). There were 2 **Cackling Geese** at CSP 2/25 (PJR). Three **Tundra Swans** were near Shrewsbury 12/24 (AS), and 24 were seen 1/24 (DR) at the mine pond on the north side of Hanover. A **Eurasian Wigeon** was found at CSP 2/15 (SW, MS), and was re-found later that afternoon (RP). A single **Long-tailed Duck** was at Long Level 2/22 (RP) at the mouth of a Susquehanna R. tributary.

The only **Ring-necked Pheasant** reported was one that visited a back yard on the south side of Hanover 12/2 (BP). Ten **Wild Turkeys** were seen walking across a road at SMR 1/3 (PJR). **Bald Eagle** sightings were widespread: eight were reported on the 12/14 CBC, a pair was at LRED 1/2 (DC), one adult was at LAR 1/3 (PJR), one was at GPSP 1/8 (LC), two were at CSP 2/20 (PJR), and one was at ALT 2/23 (RP). A **Northern Harrier** was spotted on the 12/14 CBC, one was seen 12/24 near Shrewsbury (AS), there were three at ALT 1/1 (RP), one at ALT 1/4 (DC), and one 1/23 at GRST (JM). A **Merlin** was seen at CSP 12/18 and again 1/28 (DR).

The second winter **Glaucous Gull** found 2/19 at CSP (PJR) might be the first county record. **Short-eared Owls** were seen throughout the period at ALT (RP) with a high of five 2/23. There were 5 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** on the 12/14 CBC, and five other reports of single birds. A **Northern Shrike** was reported near Siddonsburg 12/20 (DHo).

Only one **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found on the 12/14 CBC, but there were several at CSP 12/23 (DR), five at LRED 1/2 (DC), and two at SMR 1/18 (PJR). Seven **Winter Wrens** were recorded on the 12/14 CBC, but after that only one 12/15 at GRST (JM) and one 1/20 at Park Rd. (DR). After the seven **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** on the 12/14 CBC, the only report was of one 1/21 along the Susquehanna R. (CC). There were several reports of single **Hermit Thrushes** during the period. Five **American Pipits** were in York-New Salem 1/20 (BF), and several were seen along Gitts Run Rd. 2/20 (DR).

An **Eastern Towhee** 12/14 was a good CBC record, and a **Chipping Sparrow** 1/30 at SMR (DR) was unexpected. An unexpected number of **Savannah Sparrows** was the 15 at ALT 1/17 (RP). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen: 12 at ALT 1/1 (RP), three near Dillsburg 1/3 (CR), 30 at ALT 1/4 (DC), and three at ALT 2/16 (RP). Eleven **Brown-headed Cowbirds** visited a DILL feeder 1/18 (CR). The only **Purple Finch** reports were of two on the 12/14 CBC, one 1/8 at GPSP (LC), one 1/10 at GRST (JM), and one 1/18 and 1/28 at a DILL feeder (CR).

As was the case all over the state, there were a number of **White-winged Crossbill** reports. A few were found 12/23 at CSP (DR), there was a flock of 50-75 on cones 1/18 at SMR (PJR), about 40 were seen 1/18 at York's Reservoir Hill (DHe), 20 were at SMR 1/23 (RP), 20 were at Kline Run Park along the Susquehanna R. 1/25 (JH), 10 were at CSP 2/4 (DR), and eight flew over DILL 2/4 (CR). A **Common Redpoll** visited a feeder near LRED 12/24 (AM). The state's **Pine Siskin** invasion also reached the county. There were numerous reports with of highs of 30 in Dover 1/9 (DC), 50 at GRST 1/23 (JM), 30 at GPSP 2/18 (MB), 100 at Hanover feeders 2/19 (PJR), and 100-150 at feeders in York 2/21 (DHe).

Observers: **Peter J. Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 542-8341, pabirder@hotmail.com**, Michael Boustead, Deb Carmen, Lou Carpenter, Chuck Chalfant, Dick Cleary, Bruce Fortman, Dan Heathcote (DHe), Jonathan Heller, Deuane Hoffman (DHo), Barry & Jenni Horton, Georgia Kagle, Phil Keener, Andy Markle, Jason Miller, Ann Pettigrew, Randy Phillips, Beth Pugliese, Chris Rebert, Dan Richards, Matt Schuhart, Adam Stuckert, Steve Wildasin.

Photo Quiz #24

Can you identify this bird? Answer in the next issue.



PUBLICATION SCHEDULE: Materials to be included in the publication are needed by the due dates below.

Issue	Sightings due to Compilers by...	Articles due to Editor by...	Publication Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 March	15 May	July
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 June	15 August	October
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 August	15 October	December
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 December	15 February	April

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION: We welcome submission of feature articles, artwork, or photographs. We strongly encourage that submissions be sent in electronic format by email. For articles, the Microsoft Office suite (any version) is preferred; however we will accept any popularly used format, or plain text. Digital photos or scanned images sent for consideration should be JPEG files between 100 to 250 kb and at least 600 pixels on one axis, with larger uncompressed files available on request. When submitting by email, all files should be sent as attachments—DO NOT embed pictures or documents within the email body. Hard copies of any material must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope if the author desires to have the material returned. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** assumes no liability or responsibility for any unsolicited materials.

REPRINTS: Request reprints of articles from: PSO, 2469 Hammertown Rd., Narvon, PA 17555, or fchaas@pabirds.org.

ADVERTISING: Current rates for classified ads are \$0.75 per word with a minimum of 20 words. A copy-ready block of approximately 2" by 2" would be \$50.00 per issue. Rates for other sizes or types of advertising are negotiable. Copy deadline is as noted above. Payment should be sent with copy. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** and PSO are not responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised herein.

Send all articles, artwork, advertising, etc. to **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, pomarine@earthlink.net.**