

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 24, No. 1
Dec 2009 - Feb 2010
Issued July 2010





PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 24 Number 1 Dec 2009 - Feb 2010

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Cover: **Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*)**. Pennsylvania's well-overdue first Allen's Hummingbird was this female banded 12 December in Leola, *Lancaster* (here 21 December), where it remained for another sixteen days to the delight of hundreds of birders from across the region. (*Tom Johnson*)

... from the Editor

Advanced County Listing

The title of this missive notwithstanding, whether you're into in the game of listing birds or not, this topic could be of some interest. By now most everyone has heard of the various projects that track the movements of large migratory birds via satellite telemetry. (Large birds: those species large enough and strong enough to carry a transmitter without serious burden, such as the larger shorebirds, some raptors, waterfowl, etc.). We've read with amazement, for example, the now documented accounts of species like Bar-tailed Godwit making non-stop, 9-day, 7,000-mile flights from Alaska to New Zealand.

At the same time, certainly we all know by now also of the magic of listening to nocturnal migration. Some of us try to discern as many species as we can among the calls that filter down to us at night, while others of us simply listen for the sake of listening, as if it were music.

Recently, and thanks in great part to a discussion with Ben Coulter, it occurred to me that herein lies a great opportunity for those of us who enjoy listening to the birds at night and who diligently list the birds we see and hear, because the scope of avian satellite telemetry is not limited just to the vast and far-flung Pacific. In fact many species are being tracked even as they fly over our home state of Pennsylvania—by day and by night.

Check out this website when you can: <www.wildlifetracking.org>. Pull down the "Animals" menu, then "Birds", and finally click on a species name. You'll find the results of several projects to track a number of species of North American birds by satellite, including such hard-to-find-in-PA species as Whimbrel (<<http://www.wildlifetracking.org/?species=Whimbrel>>) and Marbled Godwit (<<http://www.wildlifetracking.org/?species=Marbled%20Godwit>>). Here you'll find hard evidence, for example, that at least one Whimbrel migrated over western Pennsylvania specifically on 24 May 2010, which was probably part

of a larger and perhaps noisy flock, and that other Whimbrels migrated over central Pennsylvania around the same time period.

It isn't exactly news that Whimbrels and other species migrate over Pennsylvania annually (and probably in great numbers) yet remain hard to find on the ground. But there is a wealth of information to be mined among these satellite tracks anyway. Dates and locations from past migrations can be matched up with weather reports and prior observations. These tracks prove that some otherwise unthinkable birds for your location fly right over your head every year, and on what dates they made the journey.

Do you have Whimbrel on your home county's list? Unless you bird regularly in Erie or along the Susquehanna, with few exceptions, you probably don't. Certainly, unless you have a particularly impressive place to call home, you don't have Whimbrel on your yard list. I'm fairly passionate about my Allegheny County list. I even started listening for Whimbrels here in Allegheny in late May a few years ago, without much luck, of course. Now, I know for sure that I'm not listening in vain, and given the right circumstances and a little more luck, I might just hear one someday. Likewise, if you have good ears, some patience, and a good measure of luck, you might just be able to turn a little research into some of these satellite tracks into a really crazy county or yard bird. Find out what birds are possible in your area, and familiarize yourself with their flight calls. Then, go out and listen on the right dates. Even if you don't care about listing at all, wouldn't it still be wonderful to head outside at 3:00 some morning in late May and pick out the calls of a high-flying flock of Whimbrels over your house? I think so. Maybe such efforts would all be in vain. Maybe they fly too high and just aren't audible even on the best nights. But, maybe not...

Birds are the Houdinis of the natural world. One day they're here, and the next they've vanished. Sometimes, we can see the birdlife

around us change even by the hour. How they do it isn't magic, of course, but it is in a way magical. After birding for nearly three decades, few things are as interesting to me anymore than listening to birds on their migrations at night, as they make their escape under the cover of darkness. They leave no trail, no evidence of their presence at all, except the fleeting echoes of their voices. In a way, hearing birds at night is like catching the magician in the act. I don't know about you, but that kind of stuff is what keeps birds at the top of my list of the most fascinating things in the world, and a passion that I'll have for the rest of my life.

Yeah, I'm a lister, though not as gung-ho as I used to be, to be sure. Still, Whimbrel is a species I've long coveted for my home county's list. So I'll be out at the quietest spot I can find in Allegheny County each morning next May around the 24th, and every May after that too, doing my best to catch up with the magic.

Again, thanks to Ben Coulter for inspiring the subject of this editorial.

Compiler News

Some news from the ranks of the compilers, and all of it positive. As hoped, the *Westmoreland* vacancy did not last long; **Tom Kuehl** has agreed to compile for this storied county. *Perry* has a new compiler: long time Pennsylvania birding veteran **Ramsay Koury**. Finally, Peter Robinson has decided to take a well-deserved rest from compiling and transition his long-standing editorship of *Adams* sightings to **Phil Keener**. Peter will still compile for *York* for now, and will stay on as the Pennsylvania Birdlists compiler. Many thanks again to all the outgoing compilers and to the "new blood" who have volunteered their time to keep these counties in the record books. Contact information for all of these new compilers can be found in the Local Notes for this season.

*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 © 2010 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.

SEVENTEENTH REPORT
of the
PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
January 2010
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 42 records of 32 species. The 34 records accepted represent an acceptance rate of 81%. Reports were received from 21 counties.

Highlights in this report include the first record for Slaty-backed Gull, the third record for Brown Pelican, and the fifth records for Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Long-tailed Jaeger. The addition of Slaty-backed Gull brings the state total to 413 species (Pulcinella 2006).

PORC encourages observers to document their sightings with photographs, videos or sound recordings when possible, but the committee also urges observers to submit accompanying written documentation. There is little doubt that the advances in digital photography have contributed to the high acceptance rate, but, each year there are at least two or three “photo only” reports that are but accepted but which would have benefitted from a supporting written report. Supporting written documentation may add details such as missing field marks or behavior notes that are not captured in some photos. The Committee continues to emphasize that the primary point of any documentation of a rare bird should be a detailed written description. There are several well written articles on documenting rare birds and observers are encouraged to consult the Committee’s web pages at <<http://www.pabirds.org>>, Dittman and Lasley 1992, and PORC 2000.

The Committee would like to emphasize the importance of submitting documentation directly to PORC. It should not be assumed that reports posted to online discussion groups (listservs, blogs), including written details and photographs, have been discovered by PORC, or that they are understood as documentation of a rarity.

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

Committee News

The Committee membership and year of term expiration during this report period consisted of Ben Coulter (2010), Al Guarente (2012) (chair), Jonathan Heller (2011), Tom Johnson (2012), Geoff Malosh (2012), Cameron Rutt (2011) and Rick Wiltraut (2010). Nick Pulcinella (2010) is the non-voting secretary. Recent member, Eric Witmer, also voted on some records in this report. During this report period, Cameron Rutt took a temporary leave to assist with ornithological research overseas and was replaced by Kevin Fryberger. The committee wishes to thank Kevin for his assistance and contribution during this period.

At the committee’s September 2009 meeting, Al Guarente, Geoff Malosh and Tom Johnson were re-elected to additional three-year terms. Al Guarente was elected chair for an additional year and Nick Pulcinella was re-elected

non-voting Secretary for an additional one year term.

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.



Image 1. Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee members at the 2009 annual meeting. From left to right: Al Guarente, Geoff Malosh, Ben Coulter, Rick Wiltraut, Jonathan Heller, Tom Johnson. Not pictured: Cameron Rutt. (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, 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: CBC – Christmas Bird Count; NAB – North American Birds; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; PB – Pennsylvania Birds; Res. – Reservoir; SGL – State Game Lands; S.P. – State Park; Twp. – Township, WMA – Wildlife Management Area.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) (5)

An adult at Pymatuning WMA, *Crawford*, 31 August – 8 October 2008. (Kevin Jacobs; Lee Reiners, m.obs; Class I-P; 102-01-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:224 and NAB V63:186. This bird was initially caught in a waterfowl trap used for duck banding. It remained in the area for several weeks and was reportedly shot by a hunter.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) (9)

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 27 December 2006. (Steve Kacir; Class III; 115-01-2006). 6/0. This individual was not noted to be banded and was travelling with a large flock of Canada Geese during the time of the observation.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (16+)

A first-winter male was in Warren, *Warren*, 2-6 February 2008. (Cara Farr and Derek Farr: John Fedak (p), et al., Class I-P; 149-01-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:43. Another first-winter male was in New Brighton, *Beaver*, 28 February – 4 March 2008. (Mark Vass; Mike Fialkovich (p), Geoff Malosh (p), m.obs; Class I-P; 149-02-2008.) 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:43 and NAB V62:237. The *Beaver* bird was a first county record and the bird in *Warren* was a second county record.



Image 2. Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). Originally banded as a nestling on an island in the Chesapeake Bay, MD 15 July 2008, this bird was discovered dead along the shore of Raystown Lake, *Huntingdon* 5 November 2008 for a third Pennsylvania record. (E. Wallner-Pendelton)

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) (3)

One immature found dead at 5 Raystown Lake, *Huntingdon*,

5 November 2008. (Eva Wallner-Pendelton (p); Class I-P; 067-01-2008). 7/0. Interestingly, this bird was banded. P.O.R.C. was able to contact the bander, John Weske, who reports that this bird was among the 207 Brown Pelican chicks banded 15 July 2008 on the middle portion of Holland Island, *Dorchester*, MD. This is their first recovery from PA. The banders also reported an additional recovery from this same group from ME. P.O.R.C. thanks Greg Grove for bringing this report to its attention. Photo published in PB V22:224 and NAB V63:75.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) (5+)

One adult at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia* 22 July 2008. (Todd Fellenbaum (p); m.obs; Class I-P; 087-01-2008). 7/0. There were at least three other reports of this species at John Heinz NWR during 2008, but this was the only one documented. Photo published in PB V22:165.



Image 3. Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*). This adult was photographed at John Heinz NWR, **Philadelphia**, 22 July 2008 (Todd Fellenbaum). This one of at least three reported at the refuge during 2008.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) (14+)

An immature was on the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*. 10–16 July 2008 (Bob Shutsky; Devin Bosler (p), et al; Class I-P; 093-01-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:166. An immature was at Middle Creek WMA, *Lancaster*. 17–22 July 2008, (Barry Bell; Pam Fisher, Jeff Hopkins, Geoff Malosh (p), m.obs; Class I-P; 093-02-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:166. Another immature was at Marsh Creek, *Adams*, 31 July – 2 August 2008 (Mike Weible (p); Bob Moul (p), et al.; Class I-P; 093-03-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:166. All three birds fell nicely into the mid-summer occurrence pattern for this species.

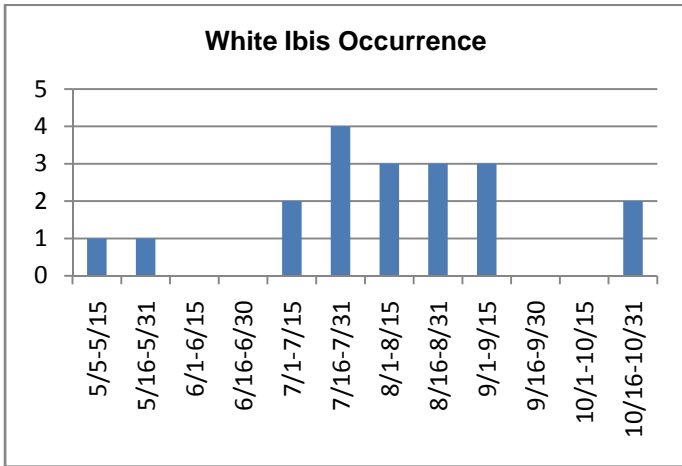
Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (10+)

One was seen gracefully soaring and gliding over a rural area just west of Chambersburg, *Franklin*, 20 September 2007. (Bill Gerke; Class III; 168-01-2008). 6/1. This is another in the increasing number of fall reports.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (19+)

A very early individual was observed passing Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Berks*, 26 March 2008. (Arlene Koch, Denise Peters; Class III; 171-01-2008). 7/0. There were at least 10 reports of this species without supporting documentation listed in the Birds of Note section of Pennsylvania Birds for 2008. Documentation on any of these

sightings is welcomed.



Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (10+)

Two were present at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks*, 16 May 2008 a first county record. (Devich Farbotnik (p); Class I-P; 268-01-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:108. Mid-May continues to be the best time to look for this species as most records have occurred 5/10–5/22.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) (15+)

An immature was at Greencove Wetlands, *Washington*, 11 September 2007 was a first county record. (John Boback; Class III; 331-01-2007). 5/2, 7/0. Another immature was at Keystone Res., *Westmoreland*, 21 September 2007. (Tim Vechter (p); Class I-P; 331-02-2007). 7/0. Photo published in PB V21:190.



Image 4. Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). The remnants of Tropical Storm Hanna grounded very few birds in Pennsylvania, but this bird was special find at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks*, 6-7 September 2008 (Devich Farbotnik).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) (5)

One of the very few rare birds grounded by Tropical Storm Hanna, this bird was at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks*, 6–7 September 2008 (Devich Farbotnik (p); Class I-P; 334-01-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22 (4) cover.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (18+)

One juvenile at Moraine S.P. *Butler*, 12 September 2008 during a heavy rainstorm preceding the passage of the remnants of Hurricane Ike was a first county record. (Debbie

Darney; Geoff Malosh, et al.; Class I-P; 360-01-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:216. For further details surrounding the sighting see Malosh 2008.



Image 5. Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). This very cooperative adult thrilled many western Pennsylvania birders during its stay at Moraine S.P., *Butler*, 27 November-5 December 2008. Photographed here 29 November (Steve Gosser).

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (21+)

One was working the Susquehanna River near Marysville, *Dauphin*, 16-26 March 2008, (Ramsey Koury, Cameron Rutt; Jerry McWilliams (p), m.obs; Class I-P; 340-01-2008). 7/0. This species continues to be nearly annual at this location. There may have been up to three birds observed here during from mid-March through mid-April. One adult was at Moraine S.P., *Butler*, 27 November – 5 December 2008. (Dave Darney, Deb Darney; Steve Gosser (p), Malcom Harter (p), m.obs; Class I-P; 340-02-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:226.

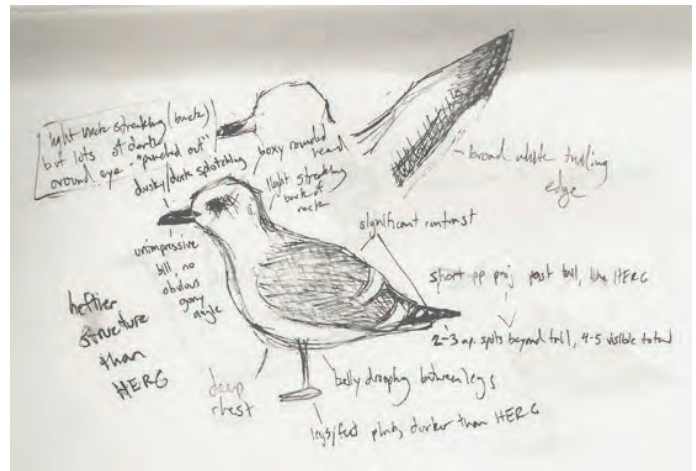


Image 6: Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*). Field sketch of an adult at the Tullytown Landfill, *Bucks*, 21 December 2007 (Tom Johnson). Sightings of this species continue to increase in North America and the northeast in general. This sighting established a first Pennsylvania record.

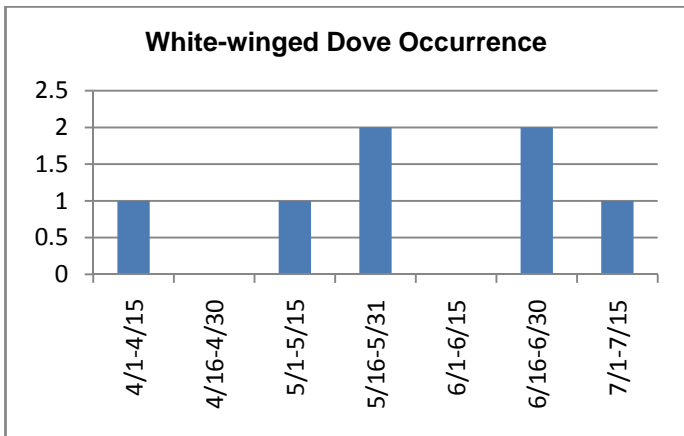
Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) (1)

An adult at the Tullytown Landfill, *Bucks*, 21 December 2007 – 16 January 2008 established a first state record. (Tom Johnson (p); Devon Bosler, Justin Bosler, Devich Farbotnik (p), et al.; Class I-P; 351-01-2007). 7/0. Gulling at Tullytown can be both an exciting and frustrating experience because of

the sheer numbers of gulls one is required to sift through in order to be rewarded with an unusual species. The committee was appreciative with the level of detail submitted to support the identification. Sightings of this species in the northeast have increased annually and gull watchers have eagerly anticipated its discovery in PA. This same individual was more than likely seen at other locations in the northeast (Johnson 2008). Photos published in PB V22:2.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) (4+)

One adult observed on the Delaware River, *Bucks*, 12 July 2008. (Devich Farbotnik (p); Class I-P; 364-01-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:169. This second county record probably involved a post-breeding bird dispersing north and was one of the few Pennsylvania records of this species that was not the result of a tropical storm.



White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) (8)

One observed sitting on telephone wires at the Old York County Landfill, *York*, 22 June 2008. (Randy Phillips; Class III; 413-01-2008). 6/1. This sighting fits into the late spring early summer pattern of previous reports. There was also an undocumented report, thought to be reliable, from *Berks* 6/21/2008 published in PB V22:174.



Image 7: Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). This adult photographed near Milton *Northumberland* 12 July 2008 (Lauri Shaffer), was one of the few July records for Pennsylvania.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (19+)

One in Milton, *Northumberland*, 1–3 July 2008. (John Fedak, Lauri Shafer (p); Class I-P; 557-01-2008). 7/0. Photo

published in PB V22:170. Surprisingly, this is the third accepted July record for this species.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (7+)

One working the rural area of Saltsburg, *Westmoreland*, 4 May 2008. (Karen DeSantis (p); Class I-P; 561-02-2008). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V22:94. (DeSantis 2008). Previous May reports occurred between May 1 and May 9.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) (10)

One found moribund near Homer City, *Indiana*, 10 November 2008 provided a first county record. (Margaret Higbee (p); Class I-P; 576-01-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:228. Three were at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant in Philadelphia, *Philadelphia*, 11 November – 17 December 2008. (Frank Windfelder; Jeffrey Davis (p), Al Guarente, Tom Johnson (p), Sandra Keller (p), Mike Logan (p), T&L McDonald (p), Eric Witmer (p), Matt Wlasiewski (p), m.obs; Class I-P; 576-02-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:215, 228 and NAB V63:78. (Windfelder 2008). This species has been frustratingly difficult to see for the Pennsylvania birding community. Outside of a single bird that was present in *Chester* 24–25 October 2004, all previous reports have been of single individuals or a few birds noted briefly in flight during their near annual late fall passage through northeastern North America. The *Philadelphia* birds provided the first real opportunity for many Pennsylvania observers to study this species for prolonged periods at relatively close range.



Image 8: Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*). These three cooperative birds were present at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant, *Philadelphia*, 11 November – 17 December 2008 much to the delight of numerous observers. Photographed here 29 November 2008 (Mike Logan).

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) (9+)

One was at the Blue Ridge Country Club, *Carbon*, 13–15 April 2008. (Richard Rehrig (p), Arlene Koch, Dustin Welch (p), et al. Class I-P; 650-01-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:111.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) (19+)

A first-spring male visited a feeder in Greene Twp., *Erie*, 17–19 May 2008. (Bob and Pam Zelenek (p); Jerry McWilliams; Class I-P; 780-01-2008). 7/0. Another was at a feeder in Hartstown, *Crawford*, 23 November – 28 December 2008, providing a new late date for Pennsylvania. (Chester Mills; Suzanne Butcher (p), et al; Class I-P; 780-02-2008). 7/0. This

was a remarkable year for Summer Tanagers with 18 reports published in *Pennsylvania Birds*, on the downside; only the two above were documented.



Image 9: Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). This first-spring male visited a feeder in Greene Twp., Erie, 17-19 May 2008, photographed here 17 May (Pam Zelenek).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (7+)

A female was noted at John Heinz NWR, Philadelphia/Delaware, 13-15 April 2008. (Dick Eales; Chuck Berthoud, Tom Johnson (p), m.obs; Class I-P; 782-01-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:113. This is one of a very few spring records for Pennsylvania.



Image 10. Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). Reports of this western race are nearly annual in Pennsylvania but very few are documented as well as this male, which visited a feeder in Harborcreek, Erie, 17-23 November 2008, photographed here 17 November (Michelle Franz).

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) (2+)

One seen and heard in Emmaus, Lehigh, 9 May 2007. (Barbara Burwell; Class III; 837-01-2007). 6/1. The written documentation included a noteworthy fields sketch.

White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrysi*) (8+)

One was present at PeaceValley Park, Bucks, 7-8 March 2008. (August Mirabella, Howard Eskin (p), et al; Class I-P; 838a-01-2008). 6/1. Photo published in PB V22:113. This is one of the few documented outside Presque Isle S.P., Erie, where at least 5 have been previously documented.

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) (6+)

A male was a feeder in Harborcreek, Erie, 17-23 November 2008. (Michelle Franz (p); Class I-P; 840a-01-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:229. This western race is proving to be nearly annual in the state.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) (9+)

One was visiting a feeder at Bushy Run Battlefield Historic Site, Westmoreland, 16 January - 12 February 2008. (Mark McConaughy (p); Geoff Malosh (p), T. Roberts, et al.; Class I-P; 887-01-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:50 and NAB V62:241. Another was at a feeder in Franklin Twp., Susquehanna, 18 February-7 March 2008. (Herb Flavell (p); Class I-P; 887-02-2008). 7/0. Photo published in PB V22:50. The 2008-2009 will be remembered for a major irruption of Common Redpolls and both of the reports above were of birds found within large flocks of Common Redpolls.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established

(Votes are listed as for/against. 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 not to 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 Committee again stresses the importance of taking field notes either while the bird is under study or immediately afterwards. It is worth noting that written reports prepared entirely from memory weeks, months, or years after the sighting are rarely voted on favorably. 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 conservatively and not accept a good record rather than endorse a bad one. It is important to note that non-acceptance by no means indicates that PORC or any of its members feel the record did not occur as reported. All records, whether accepted or not, remain on file and can be re-submitted for review if additional material is presented.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

Three birds soaring over Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Berks, 28 August 2007. Class IV-A, 074-02-2007. 5/2, 4/3. One observed in flight over Doylestown Bucks, 7 September 2008. Class IV-A. 074-01-2008. 3/4. Both sightings may well have been correct, but the written descriptions fell short of positive identifications.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

Walker Lake, Snyder, 14 March 2008. Class IV-B 115-01-2008. 1/5. The written description mentioned only a bird in flight and did not adequately eliminate other species.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)

Presque Isle S.P., Erie 26 April 2008. Class IV-A, 258-01-2008. 5/2, 3/4. This report went two rounds but most members agreed the documentation fell short of convincing for such a rarity.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

One at Tullytown, Bucks 27 December 2007. Class IV-B, 344-01-2007. 1/5. This may have been a correct identification, but

the photos and video submitted were far from definitive. No written details were submitted to support the identification.

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

Tamaqua, *Schuylkill* 13 May 2008 Class IV-A 463-01-2008. 4/3, 5/2. The report is probably correct but the documentation was not conclusive.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

Upper Tulpehocken Twp., *Berks*, 7 January 2008. Class IV-A 666-01-2008. 5/2, 5/2. This report went two rounds and even though most members thought the report was correct the documentation was missing some key features for full acceptance.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

Hummelstown, *Dauphin*, 3-6 May 2008. Class IV-A, 788-01-2008. 2/5. This second hand report was suggestive of this species but did not contain enough information to adequately rule out a first-year male Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*).

Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*)

One in Franklin Twp., *Susquehanna*, 11 April 2008. Class IV-C, 855-01-2008. 0/7. Photos and written description indicate a Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*).

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

Harrisburg, *Dauphin* 29 March – 7 April 2008. Class IV-B 887-03-2008. 4/3, 1/6. This report went two rounds with a majority feeling the photos and written documentation were not sufficient to identify the bird(s) to this species.

MISCELLANEOUS

A list of sightings from 2008 published in *Pennsylvania Birds*, for which **no** documentation was submitted to PORC, follows. We welcome submission of any documentation on these birds.

Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal, one, Penn-Warner Tract, *Bucks*, 20 December. Harlequin Duck, one, no location given, *Warren* CBC, 20 December. **Barrow's Goldeneye**, one, Gifford Pinchot S.P., *York*, 11 March. **Clark's Grebe**, one, Blue Marsh Lake, *Berks*, 7 May; one, Lake Pymatuning, *Crawford*, 23 March. **Anhinga**, one, Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, *Berks*, 10 September; three, Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, *Berks*, 20 September; one, Hawk Mt Sanctuary, *Berks*, 17 October. 10/17; two, Struble Lake, *Chester*, 5 May; one, Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch, *Delaware*, 12 April; one, Second Mountain Hawkwatch, *Lebanon*, 13 October and 17 October. **Tricolored Heron**, one, John Heinz N.W.R., *Philadelphia*, 1 April; one, John Heinz N.W.R., *Philadelphia*, 2-5 August. **Mississippi Kite**, one, Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, *Berks*, 7 September; one, Bern Twp., *Berks*, 6 October; one, SGL 157, *Bucks*, 13 April and 24 May; one, Paxtang, *Dauphin*, 18 April; one, Juniata River, *Juniata*, 4 July; one SGL 145, *Lancaster*, 13 April; one, Rapho Twp., *Lebanon*, 13 April; one, North Whitehall Twp., *Lehigh*, 7 May; one, Little Gap, *Northampton*, 2 September. **Gyrfalcon**, one, Little Gap, *Northampton*, 26 November. **Prairie Falcon**, one, Mud Level Road, *Cumberland*, 10 March. **Yellow Rail**, one, Geneva Marsh, *Crawford*, 28 May. **King Rail**, breeding season, no date or location, *Butler*. **Thayer's Gull**, one, Tullytown, *Bucks*, 19 January; one Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks*,

20 January; two, Penn-Warner Tract, *Bucks*, 20 December; two, Erie CBC, *Erie*, 20 December. **White-winged Dove**, one, Reading, *Berks*, 21 June. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, one, Kempton, *Berks*, 14 May; one, Eckville, *Berks*, 23 May. **Loggerhead Shrike**, one, Freedom Twp., *Adams*, 1 March; one, Perkasio, *Bucks*, 5 May; one, Woodcock Lake, *Crawford*, 10 October; one, Walker Road, *Franklin*, 4 May. **Northern Wheatear**, one, South Avis, *Clinton*, 1 March. **Bohemian Waxwing**, one, Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, *Berks*, 21 September. Swainson's Warbler, one, SGL 106, *Berks*, 3 May. **Summer Tanager**, two, Boston, *Allegheny*, 6 May; two, Frick Park, *Allegheny*, 29 June; one, Moon Twp, *Allegheny*, 18 August; one, no location given, *Bedford*, 10 May; one, Elk Hill Road, *Cumberland*, 27 July; one, Swarthmore College, *Delaware*, 4 May; one, Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 24-25 May; one, Chickies Rock County Park, *Lancaster*, 10 May; one, Marshall Creek, *Monroe*, 7 May; one, Upper Merion, *Montgomery*, 10 May; one, Buttermilk Hill Sanctuary, *Venango*, 14 May; one, Franklin, *Venango*, 24 May, one, no location given, *Venango*, 4 June; one, North Strabane, *Washington*, 7 May; one, Bentleyville, *Washington*, 20 August-2 September. **Lark Sparrow**, one, Meadville, *Crawford*, 23-26 March. **Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco**, one, Butler CBC, *Butler*, 20 December; one Delmont, *Westmoreland*, 29 October. **Painted Bunting**, one, Chestnut Hill, *Philadelphia*, 18 May. **Pine Grosbeak**, nine, Chambersburg CBC, *Franklin*, 20 December.

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Acknowledgements

Thanks to Al Guarente for reviewing an earlier draft of this report.

The 2009-2010 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania

Nick Bolgiano

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held for the 110th time during December 14, 2009 to January 5, 2010. The 110th count was notable for the cold and snow, the paucity of birds, and the lack of any irruption. The statewide species total was 149, the lowest total since 2002, plus an additional six count-week species. The statewide total of 782,000 birds was the lowest since the 90th count two decades earlier. To supplement the relatively short list of notable sightings, I review trends from the last decade.

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 110th count is referred to as occurring in 2009.

Weather and Effort

December's weather, while slightly colder than the historical average, seemed especially cold after a period of relatively mild winters. Some of the worst weather occurred on count days. A snowstorm on the first Saturday, December 19, dumped 22 inches of snow on Philadelphia and 15 on Harrisburg. Despite that, 21 of the 32 sites scheduled to hold their count that day proceeded, though participation and bird numbers were much affected. During the following Saturday, it rained much of the day. During the third and last weekend, it was very cold and windy.

A total of 67 counts reported during the 110th count, 3 fewer than the previous year. Among established sites, the Curtin and Tunkhannock compilers didn't complete their data entry at the time of this report. The total of 4460 party-hours was the lowest since 1985 and 22% below the previous year's effort. In all, 15 sites rescheduled their counts, which also contributed to the lower than normal effort.

Species Numbers

Harrisburg reported the highest number of species, with 96, their second time to lead the list in three years. Southern Bucks County and Western Chester County followed with 91 and 90, respectively. In only three other years since 1973 was the

maximum below 100. Last year's top-10 list required at least 90 species. Figure 1 is a map of species totals by site. Sites averaged 9 species fewer in the 110th count compared to the previous year; six sites experienced drops of 24-39 species.

Top 10 Sites

1	Harrisburg	96
2	Southern Bucks County	91
3	Western Chester County	90
4	Central Bucks County	88
5	Hamburg	87
6	Bethlehem-Easton	86
7	Lititz	84
8	Delaware County	82
9	Elverson	81
10	Lancaster	80

Hits and Misses

A "hit" is an unlikely species found in 2009, while a "miss" is an expected species that was not found. Candidates are species recorded in less than 40% or in more than 60%, respectively, of the years 1970-2009. The 9 hits was a relatively low number, while the 6 misses was a relatively high number.

Hits

Brant
Eurasian Wigeon
Prairie Falcon
Sandhill Crane
Spotted Sandpiper
Laughing Gull
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Orange-crowned Warbler
Le Conte's Sparrow

Misses

Northern Bobwhite
Loggerhead Shrike
Vesper Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Pine Grosbeak
Red Crossbill

Infrequently-observed species reported on the 110th count included **Prairie Falcon** at Newville (a second report in a Pennsylvania CBC); **Sandhill Crane** at Linesville (13th report); **Spotted Sandpiper** at Bethlehem-Easton (ninth report); **Eurasian Collared-Dove** at Hamburg (second report); and **Le Conte's Sparrow** at Elverson (second report).

Count-week species were **Surf Scoter** and **Dunlin** at Erie, **Least**

Sandpiper at Linesville, **Varied Thrush** at Central Bucks County, **Dickcissel** at Western Chester County, and **Brewer's Blackbird** at Wyncote.

Waterfowl and Other Water Birds

Greater White-fronted Goose was reported from Central Bucks County and West Chester. The 100 **Brant** at White Mills was the highest total ever on a Pennsylvania CBC. Two **Eurasian Wigeon** were observed at Central Bucks County. The 751 **Common Goldeneyes** at Linesville was a good number. At Erie were 500 **Canvasbacks**, more than 5000 scaup, 10 **White-winged Scoters**, 4 **Black Scoters**, and a **Red-throated Loon**. The 8 **Great Cormorants** included 2 at Pennypack Valley and 6 at Southern Bucks County. A single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Southern Bucks County. The 19 **Sandhill Cranes** at Linesville were the most ever on a state CBC.

In the just-completed 2000s decade, the following trends were noteworthy. **Greater White-fronted Goose** was observed annually. **Snow Geese** were found in large numbers in the southeastern part of the state, a trend that began in 1993. **Cackling Goose** was first reported in 2004 after its split from Canada Goose. Annual totals of 12-34 were concentrated in the southeast. **Canada Goose** and **Mute Swan** numbers continued to increase.

American Black Duck numbers gradually declined. **Ring-necked Ducks** were reported in elevated numbers in 7 of the 10 years. **Common Goldeneyes** continued to be relatively scarce, a trend that began in the 1990s. **Hooded Mergansers** continued an apparent resurgence.

Double-crested Cormorants were reported more regularly during this decade than before. **Great Cormorants** along the Delaware River continued a generally increasing trend after first being reported in 1983; during this decade, totals exceeded 30 in all but two years.

Gallinaceous Birds

Gallinaceous bird trends of the last decade were boom or bust. **Ring-necked Pheasant** numbers continued

a decline that began in 1971. **Ruffed Grouse** appeared to fall to their lowest levels in about 6 decades. **Wild Turkey** numbers continued to increase, though more slowly than during the rapid expansion of the 1990s. **Northern Bobwhites** were tallied in single digits in 6 of 10 years and missed the other 4 years, the first misses since 1948.

Raptors and Vultures

There were distinct decadal trends for vultures and diurnal raptors.

Black Vulture, except for a dip in the recent 110th count, continued an apparent expansion and started showing up in small numbers at sites where it was previously unrecorded. **Turkey Vulture** also showed an increase, although not quite as dramatic as for Black Vultures.

Bald Eagles continued to be counted in expanding numbers and locations. The 279 tallied in the 110th count was second only to the previous year's 335.

Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers leveled off, while **Cooper's Hawk** numbers were consistent with a continued population expansion. The statewide total of Cooper's exceeded the total of Sharp-shinned in every year starting in 2004. For some decades, Sharpies have been more commonly reported at most southeastern sites, while Cooper's were more commonly reported at most western and central sites. That has changed, as there are now fewer sites where Sharpies clearly outnumber Cooper's, those sites being primarily located along the Delaware River (Figure 2). Map symbols for a Sharpie:Cooper's ratio of more than 3:2 indicates Sharpie predominance, while a ratio of <2:3 indicates Cooper's

predominance. The data displayed in the maps are from decade totals for each species

Red-shouldered Hawks totaled 70 or higher during the last six years, a noticeable jump over the previous time span and seemingly not solely the result of an increase in effort. **Red-tailed Hawk** numbers gradually increased.

Merlins and **Peregrine Falcons** numbers were 2-3 times higher at the end of the decade than at the beginning.

Although **American Kestrel** numbers showed a noticeable dip in the 110th count, with a total of 517 compared to 989 the previous year, it isn't apparent if there is a trend over the last decade.

Owls

Barn Owls were found at Lewisburg (2) and Lewistown. Overall, the number of owls found during the 110th count was down, presumably because of the bad weather. Good numbers were found at the top 10 sites, with a single owl separating the top 4 sites (see table). The 7 **Long-eared Owls** were the fewest since 1990.

A decadal trend is that **Great Horned Owl** numbers declined about 20% around the time West Nile Virus became established near the beginning of the decade and have remained at about the same level since. This approximates the decline in block detections between breeding bird atlases.

Gulls

Bucks County continued to be a gull magnet, but **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** appeared to be more

dispersed than during the previous several years. The statewide total of 257 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included 105 at Central Bucks, 63 at Southern Bucks, and 57 at Upper Bucks. They ranked fourth, fifth, and seventh among all CBC sites, with the top sites being Nantucket and two Florida sites. The nearly 21,000 **Herring Gulls** at Southern Bucks ranked first among all sites. Over 11,000 **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported from both Bernville and Southern Bucks. The single **Laughing Gull** was also at Southern Bucks.

Decadal trends included the following: Bucks County became the North American hotspot for **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, as previously reviewed (Bolgiano 2008a; Rutt 2009). The 3 Bucks County sites commonly ranked among the top North American sites in the CBC. Southern Bucks County was consistently among the top sites in **Herring Gull** totals. **Great Black-backed Gulls** reached their peak in 2004, when over 16,000 were tallied. The tendency since then is for fewer to be reported, with the 1480 in 2009 being the fewest since 1992.

Woodpeckers to Blackbirds

The 6 **Eastern Phoebes** and the single **House Wren**, at Johnstown, were the fewest tallied since 1989. The 12,000 **Horned Larks** were a high concentration not seen since 1989.

Decadal trends included:

Red-bellied and **Pileated Woodpecker** numbers continued to reflect population expansions. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** continued to expand, particularly in the southeast, the central valleys, and the southwest (Figure 2). The data displayed in the maps are yearly averages.

Northern Shrikes irrupted in 2004 and 2007, though they weren't quite as widespread as in 1995 and 1997. The 6 shrikes in the 110th count were typical of a non-irruption year.

Common Raven numbers continued to increase; the 312 reported in the 110th count were just below the record 324 of the previous year.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows were a remarkable find at Pennypack Valley during 2005-2008, with totals of 75-125. The species was observed during count-week during the past count period, but not on the snow day of December 19, when Pennypack Valley held its count. A single individual was also observed at

Top 10 Owling Sites

	Barn	E Scr	GH	Barr	LE	SE	NSW	Total
1. Central Bucks County	0	43	13	0	3	0	2	61
2. Hamburg	0	30	23	2	2	2	1	60
2. Lewistown	1	39	17	1	2	0	0	60
2. West Chester	0	49	11	0	0	0	0	60
5. Elverson	0	43	12	1	0	0	0	56
6. Lititz	0	19	15	0	0	3	0	37
7. Delaware County	0	23	7	0	0	0	0	30
8. Upper Bucks County	0	23	5	0	0	0	0	28
9. Western Chester County	0	24	3	0	0	0	0	27
10. Harrisburg	0	13	9	2	0	0	2	26

Lancaster in 2008.

Carolina Wren numbers expanded in their fourth upswing since 1950 (Bolgiano 2008b). **Winter Wren** numbers, when adjusted for effort, showed an increase during the decade, though they were fewer during the 110th count.

Eastern Bluebird numbers, even when adjusted for effort, reached their highest levels during the last few years. **Hermit Thrush** counts continued to increase, particularly in the southeast and central valleys (Figure 2). The data displayed in the maps are yearly averages.

American Tree Sparrow numbers continued a steady decline. When adjusted for effort, their numbers during the 110th count were the lowest yet in the state.

Finches

There were no finch irruptions during the 110th count. Only 48 **Pine Siskins** were reported, after last year's immense irruption when 11,600 were reported. Two **Common Redpolls** were at Rector and 8 **Evening Grosbeaks** were at Dubois. No Pine Grosbeaks or crossbills were observed.

There was a general consistency to finch numbers during the decade. **Pine Grosbeaks** remained scarce, with only

single digit numbers in 5 of 10 years.

Purple Finches continue to be found at about the same level during the last 2 decades, much lower than during the 1970s and 1980s. **House Finch** numbers held steady during 2003-2008, though much lower than during their peak years of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Red Crossbills were found in 5 of 10 years, reaching double digits in only 2 years. **White-winged Crossbills** were found in 4 of 10 years, though this included the irruption of the 109th count, when 619 were reported.

Common Redpolls were found each year, with a large irruption in 2007.

Pine Siskins continued their tendency to irrupt every other year, though the irruption during the winter of 2008-2009, their largest on record in Pennsylvania, was a consecutive irruption.

Evening Grosbeaks continued to be scarce, with double-digit numbers in only 4 of 10 years, with the high year being 2001 with a statewide total of 64. In comparison, the yearly average statewide total during the 1990s was 934 grosbeaks.

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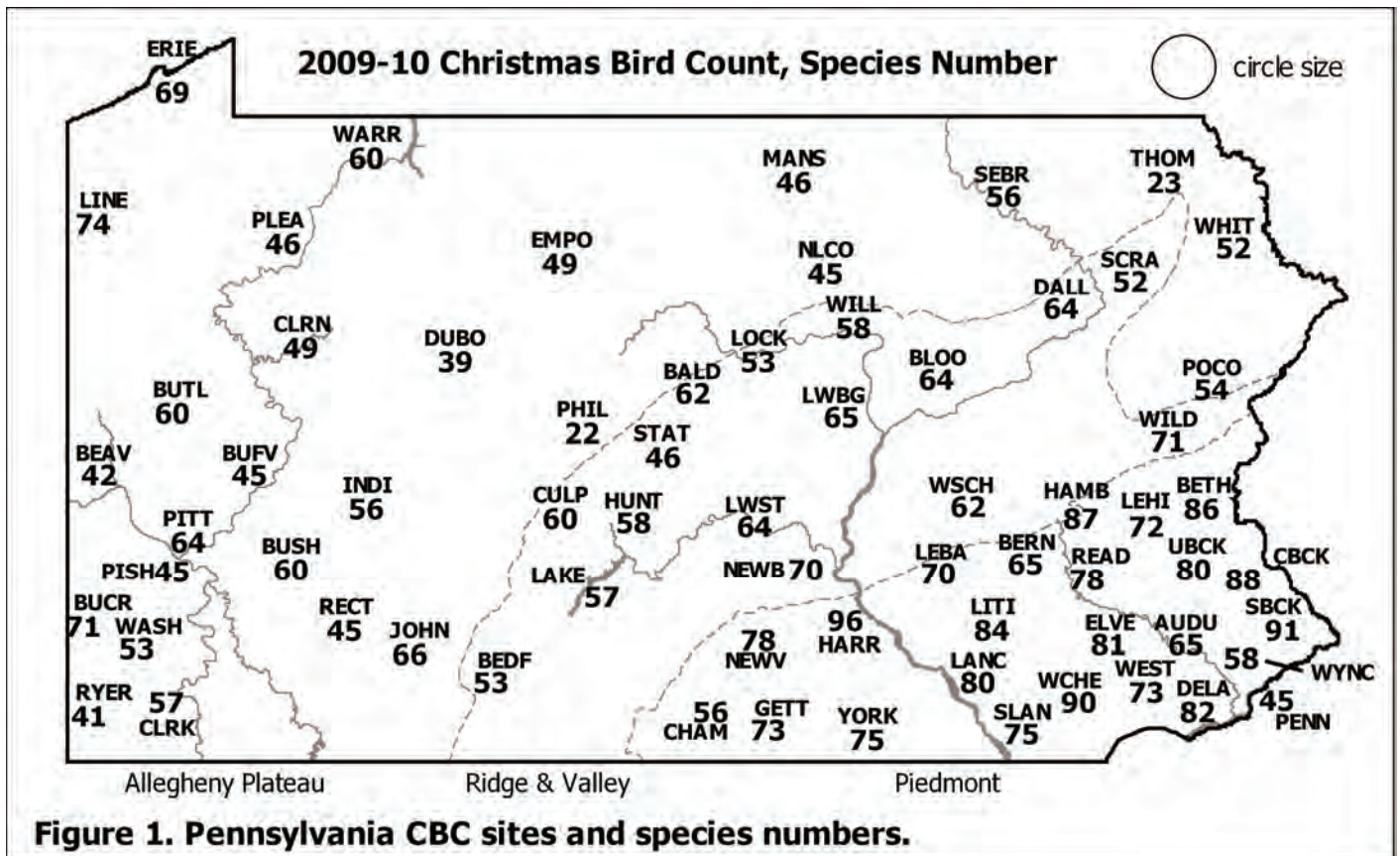


Figure 1. Pennsylvania CBC sites and species numbers.

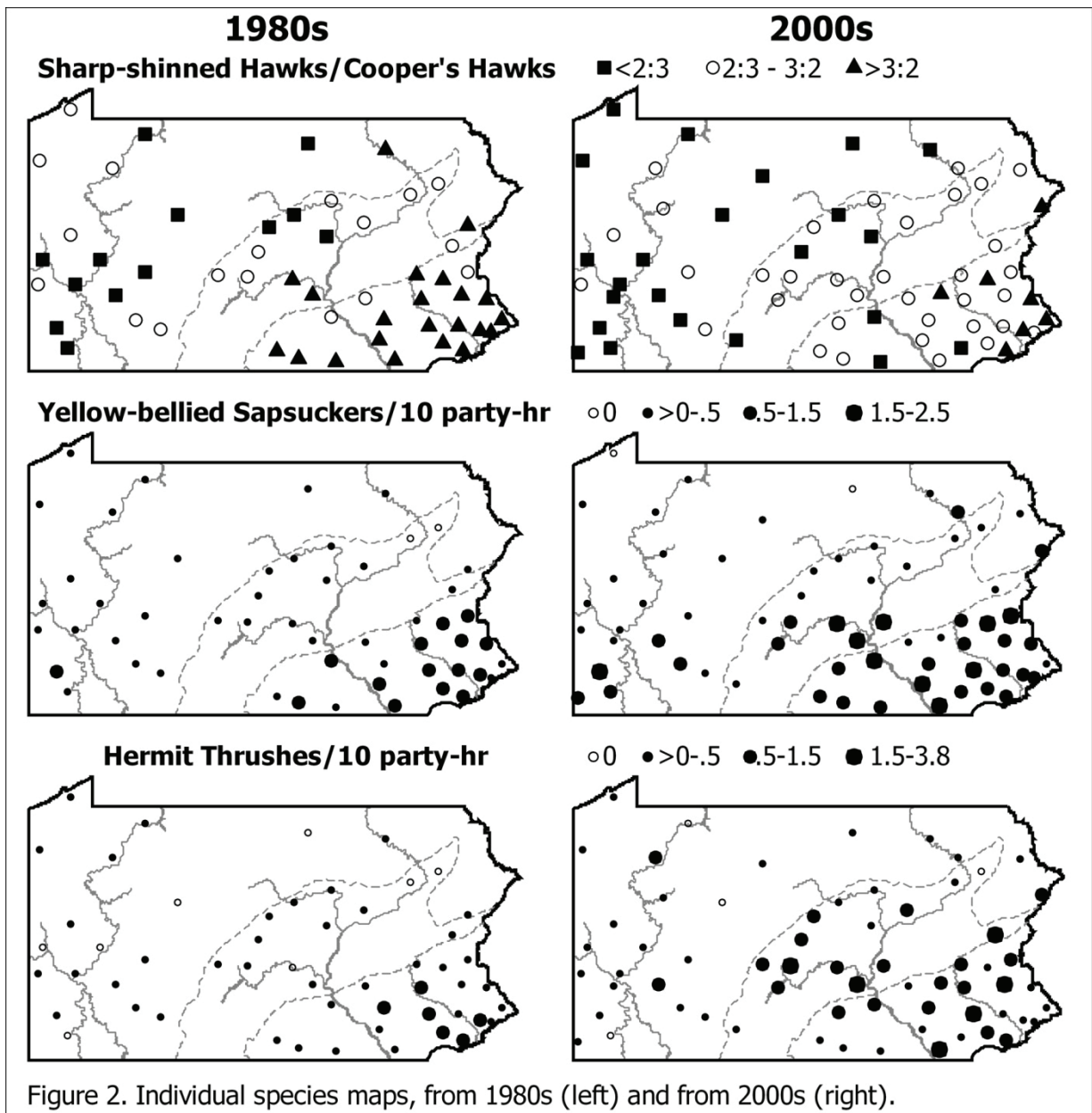


Figure 2. Individual species maps, from 1980s (left) and from 2000s (right).

Site Abbreviations

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

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	DALL
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	21400	-	48	-	-	-	253	-	-	-	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	3777	93	245	83	1826	4342	1025	295	51	576	440	17724	49	119	247	56	742
Mute Swan	2	1	-	-	10	2	4	-	-	5	-	18	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	1	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	4	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	3
American Black Duck	13	9	1	2	2	75	5	5	-	6	5	35	-	-	-	-	23
Mallard	508	34	225	111	82	1088	50	34	25	202	45	411	76	12	16	19	173
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	1	-	2	-	-	41	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	35
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	7
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	85	-	CW	-	-	19	-	2	-	2	19	8	-	-	-	2	9
Common Goldeneye	15	-	CW	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	4	9	-	-	-	-	2
Hooded Merganser	14	5	CW	-	-	1	-	-	-	26	CW	-	-	-	-	-	45
Common Merganser	15	304	-	-	4	108	15	-	1	47	-	359	-	-	-	-	14
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	1	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	1	CW	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	1	-	2	-	3	-	-	2	10	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	1	-	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	-
Wild Turkey	-	100	5	13	-	44	73	247	2	46	124	22	76	89	42	5	49
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	3	-	6
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	12	12	CW	CW	7	21	4	1	1	2	3	37	1	-	6	3	5
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	-	-	-	-	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	112	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey Vulture	22	-	-	-	6	30	-	15	-	3	-	134	-	-	4	-	-
Bald Eagle	-	13	CW	-	2	2	3	-	-	3	2	10	-	1	2	-	1
Northern Harrier	1	1	1	1	1	5	20	2	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	2	CW	1	6	6	6	1	-	1	4	9	3	1	2	1	1
Cooper's Hawk	4	1	1	1	3	18	3	6	-	5	7	7	2	4	4	2	3
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	1	CW	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	23	19	5	7	60	95	74	49	4	45	21	126	6	14	22	20	24

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	DALL
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	5	2	3	9	4	-	33	13	3	12	12	2	3	7	6	3	2
Merlin	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	22
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	1	CW	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	75	34	148	-	11894	2303	5	1	-	3	27	2331	-	-	-	-	10
Herring Gull	1	-	-	-	337	80	-	-	-	-	1	180	-	-	-	-	9
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	1	16	-	-	-	-	-	105	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	240	342	313	379	288	466	495	255	44	167	478	284	30	244	347	130	256
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	235	99	247	138	211	561	478	449	80	240	441	339	362	350	143	192	228
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	1	-	-	4	6	6	3	4	3	1	43	3	3	1	4	10
Great Horned Owl	1	1	CW	2	1	6	11	2	-	4	1	13	5	-	1	3	9
Barred Owl	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Belted Kingfisher	11	1	CW	3	7	17	10	10	1	1	3	10	2	-	4	6	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	106	27	28	22	42	113	41	144	8	55	53	119	36	25	40	-	9
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	9	3	CW	3	2	13	2	12	-	3	-	15	-	-	1	2	-
Downy Woodpecker	82	34	60	37	61	143	89	132	16	38	79	88	61	53	19	42	43
Hairy Woodpecker	13	11	11	8	12	11	17	29	4	19	38	23	10	16	8	9	6
Yellow-shafted Flicker	53	5	2	3	27	53	9	75	-	10	5	75	5	3	19	3	2
Pileated Woodpecker	2	1	5	5	2	2	15	30	2	10	5	7	4	5	6	7	3
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Blue Jay	338	75	102	93	98	220	184	155	23	120	184	382	102	265	77	61	111
American Crow	322	240	105	215	574	4682	437	980	128	408	117	892	25	528	1225	79	369
Fish Crow	-	2	-	-	-	7	4	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	1
Common Raven	-	10	-	3	-	2	-	6	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Horned Lark	-	52	-	305	2879	331	59	39	2	-	157	161	341	-	-	126	-
Carolina Chickadee	326	-	20	-	-	-	-	399	-	6	-	191	8	-	77	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee	-	114	68	49	15	290	249	1	44	30	195	22	98	287	14	65	285
chickadee sp.	-	-	89	-	91	-	-	-	3	127	-	59	-	-	15	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	252	88	150	82	90	254	180	199	19	88	110	252	87	86	55	72	116
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	7	-	-	5	2	4	1	2	2	-	1	12	-	4	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	48	43	48	34	59	137	102	159	9	49	75	104	41	64	44	46	33

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	DALL
Brown Creeper	8	5	CW	2	2	6	5	6	-	8	5	6	8	3	4	4	8
Carolina Wren	83	9	17	12	51	69	49	106	1	30	8	115	27	3	38	11	16
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	2	-	5	-	1	2	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	12	24	5	4	10	21	17	48	4	17	16	12	14	3	2	8	22
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	11	2	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	1	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	53	23	11	17	83	181	113	107	3	96	67	249	22	4	31	17	38
Hermit Thrush	CW	2	-	4	10	6	1	4	4	5	CW	7	1	4	-	-	1
American Robin	973	83	13	5	912	995	13	52	1	175	1061	3451	3	13	25	7	11
Gray Catbird	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Northern Mockingbird	26	7	1	11	53	42	36	28	3	27	2	114	25	1	14	6	6
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	1887	3049	742	609	10640	2593	2809	1050	29	1336	903	3699	354	1547	1991	810	1286
American Pipit	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	1	5
Cedar Waxwing	26	198	-	-	230	165	35	8	2	3	104	238	5	121	7	16	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	29	-	-	-	1	48	-	20	-	7	CW	60	-	-	10	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
American Tree Sparrow	2	41	13	17	66	17	121	129	8	32	336	7	15	180	-	17	115
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	40	1	-	1	8	2	4	11	-	6	-	44	10	1	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	1	-	-	-	3	30	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	-	-	-	-
Le Conte's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	18	1	-	CW	1	2	-	1	-	-
Song Sparrow	205	17	36	16	166	176	66	261	12	36	48	192	53	1	23	9	63
Swamp Sparrow	1	-	-	-	3	4	3	36	2	2	3	8	-	-	-	-	5
White-throated Sparrow	619	216	1	41	979	2171	128	72	27	23	66	518	228	5	9	43	81
White-crowned Sparrow	-	4	1	11	64	5	6	83	-	-	-	13	35	-	3	3	-
Slate-colored Junco	352	482	294	544	836	1330	895	506	239	170	837	686	421	1266	69	199	513
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	61	15	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	8	-
Northern Cardinal	228	60	305	112	182	323	158	340	80	154	296	195	246	123	114	70	101
Red-winged Blackbird	60	-	-	-	40	19	5	-	1	12	CW	21	-	2	-	1	-
Eastern Meadowlark	CW	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	3	-	-	-	-	21	7	31	-	-	-	1055	-	1	4	11	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	40	36	171	-	14	1	14	4	1	-	128	18	-	2	130	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	2	-	13	-	-	1	4	-	CW	8	5	5	8	-	-	CW
House Finch	20	33	77	36	101	315	104	194	-	56	64	173	149	28	14	54	21
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	99	66	92	75	42	218	56	177	40	51	204	120	208	167	37	33	229
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	57	237	521	191	240	378	231	372	8	166	427	242	209	332	296	32	67
Number Species	65	62	42	53	65	86	64	71	45	60	60	88	56	49	57	60	64
Number Individuals	11426	6389	4117	3517	33517	46252	8603	7527	948	4786	7177	36515	3510	6010	5162	2480	5275
Party-hours	92	44.25	21.5	62.25	60	108	89.5	101.75	24	56	61	123.25	38	49.75	25.5	42	54.5

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DELA	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	1276	-	-	-	135	23	-	-	-	-	1	-	CW	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1283	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Canada Goose	10108	-	2314	107	465	705	2000	1518	128	634	330	19	1874	611	10547	794	232
Mute Swan	-	-	14	-	2	8	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	161	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	12	2	-	-	CW
Wood Duck	4	-	-	-	1	-	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Gadwall	3	-	-	-	CW	-	24	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	1	CW	6	26	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
American Black Duck	231	-	142	-	20	2	5	29	9	20	129	24	83	1	54	13	13
Mallard	461	399	432	-	304	154	376	695	27	266	36	48	334	145	537	598	211
Blue-winged Teal	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Green-winged Teal	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	3
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	72	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	20	-	-	-	8	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	73	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	67	-	-	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	1	-	-	-	123	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	236	-	-	14	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	48	-	CW	-	30	-	2	67	2	-	7	32	-	-	1	-	-
Common Merganser	146	-	170	-	67	-	6	14	3	-	3	21	27	-	35	93	5
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	98	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	4	-	63	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	-	1	2	-	4	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	CW
Ruffed Grouse	-	4	-	34	-	-	-	2	1	11	1	7	-	-	-	1	-
Wild Turkey	-	43	14	188	94	-	230	7	25	46	51	-	-	23	81	41	125
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	3	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	6	3	8	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	4	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	16	-	20	-	7	3	21	41	1	2	2	5	11	3	18	10	13
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	23	-	66	-	-	32	51	22	7	-	-	2	56	1	7	3	-
Turkey Vulture	216	-	237	-	-	59	22	34	-	1	-	3	63	3	1	-	70
Bald Eagle	11	-	3	1	1	3	2	3	4	-	-	5	9	3	-	3	3
Northern Harrier	1	-	4	-	-	7	6	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	13	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	19	1	12	1	1	3	11	8	3	9	4	-	5	3	7	2	4
Cooper's Hawk	8	3	9	2	4	5	12	18	3	4	12	1	4	4	12	3	4
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	CW	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	CW	2	-	-	6	6	7	7	-	-	-	3	3	1	3	-
Red-tailed Hawk	78	11	85	19	19	42	154	105	18	40	29	41	40	18	85	109	49

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DELA	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Rough-legged Hawk	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	CW
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	2	4	12	-	2	25	33	12	15	15	7	15	7	5	7	37	26
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	-
Peregrine Falcon	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	18	-	557	CW	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	25	1	-	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	-	8	1	-	CW	6	2	7	2	-	4	1	1	-	-	37
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	27
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	1033	-	6834	-	4209	CW	59	2603	33	CW	CW	292	1162	3	93	25	-
Herring Gull	15	-	260	-	1552	-	51	153	-	-	-	-	180	68	2	4	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	23	-	3	-	95	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	255	4	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	366	161	380	115	604	267	961	601	325	300	598	235	175	38	474	472	1287
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	368	334	398	182	69	130	568	625	155	1117	301	52	197	181	539	337	736
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Eastern Screech-Owl	23	-	43	4	-	1	30	13	7	-	-	5	5	11	7	12	39
Great Horned Owl	7	1	12	1	1	2	23	9	6	4	-	8	2	8	4	6	17
Barred Owl	-	-	1	1	-	CW	2	2	-	CW	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	11	-	19	1	-	2	9	27	4	1	1	3	9	2	13	11	9
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	1	-	-	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	131	8	149	7	27	42	119	102	29	49	12	32	60	27	98	50	83
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7	2	15	1	-	8	11	30	6	CW	-	5	15	2	12	CW	4
Downy Woodpecker	102	31	116	37	50	59	131	121	42	72	34	52	68	46	116	79	120
Hairy Woodpecker	23	17	26	16	9	14	22	24	5	21	-	5	12	6	17	11	20
Yellow-shafted Flicker	35	3	79	-	11	19	65	86	5	15	8	9	33	18	42	9	39
Pileated Woodpecker	5	8	12	20	1	6	11	12	8	14	3	13	5	2	2	18	13
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW
Northern Shrike	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	231	117	383	336	74	143	504	254	144	409	147	99	67	61	196	167	261
American Crow	718	226	534	304	284	190	1385	4840	351	602	1296	526	739	264	1546	2292	445
Fish Crow	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	184	-	5	-	-	16	-	2	1	-
Common Raven	-	2	-	56	-	12	6	2	13	CW	7	4	-	3	2	4	10
Horned Lark	-	-	368	-	-	10	399	57	22	29	767	7	25	108	143	195	836
Carolina Chickadee	306	-	426	-	-	21	-	222	-	-	-	-	135	-	45	-	4
Black-capped Chickadee	2	254	-	389	114	29	1	27	86	357	202	85	34	43	226	145	118
chickadee sp.	-	-	-	-	-	97	285	258	-	-	-	-	15	40	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	221	61	329	102	55	171	390	240	120	184	72	91	135	54	278	151	304
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	4	2	14	1	5	2	2	5	1	1	8	2	2	2	1	7
White-breasted Nuthatch	108	59	179	113	28	50	167	73	69	122	41	43	45	30	119	83	99

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DELA	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Brown Creeper	4	2	12	8	-	1	14	35	3	5	1	1	11	4	6	10	26
Carolina Wren	121	-	142	10	-	28	120	180	31	15	4	39	77	44	79	14	107
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	10	-	2	CW	-	4	4	10	2	-	-	-	5	2	4	1	9
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10	7	11	23	7	3	12	45	26	35	6	22	17	2	22	5	51
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	-	16	-	-	3	7	6	-	-	-	1	2	7	3	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	65	9	329	36	4	57	262	257	75	48	17	87	95	80	86	151	74
Hermit Thrush	4	-	14	-	-	5	4	18	9	4	-	5	2	1	-	1	2
American Robin	3264	CW	1072	1	129	20	507	424	2	76	20	15	246	3	146	2	15
Gray Catbird	3	-	1	-	-	CW	5	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	CW
Northern Mockingbird	65	-	170	CW	-	37	142	94	7	8	2	14	40	7	47	31	44
Brown Thrasher	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW
European Starling	1909	117	4950	64	515	2256	5911	3266	1156	1411	1191	881	1932	634	3505	5455	2505
American Pipit	-	-	7	-	-	-	52	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	124
Cedar Waxwing	36	-	72	157	77	27	63	89	38	-	18	-	26	6	99	-	22
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	1	-	9	-	69	21	9	8	-	3	1	1	7	2	3	-	CW
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
C. Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	38	-	11	1	-	CW	-	3	-	-	9	-	6	-	-	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	26	123	51	44	116	5	89	12	31	131	89	14	4	70	70	55	90
Chipping Sparrow	5	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	70	-	34	-	-	1	18	7	-	-	2	4	22	5	9	1	2
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	14	-	-	3	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	CW	-
Le Conte's Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	18	-	4	-	-	4	-	5	1	-	1	-	14	1	-	1	-
Song Sparrow	472	2	297	10	2	22	285	195	55	62	22	21	208	50	217	69	147
Swamp Sparrow	15	-	18	-	-	2	8	-	-	3	3	-	1	-	8	CW	5
White-throated Sparrow	1122	11	317	30	7	293	895	662	80	77	33	59	839	301	1149	176	317
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	7	-	-	26	12	12	-	3	7	-	5	10	48	24	99
Slate-colored Junco	671	416	367	832	56	618	1581	742	717	783	382	286	389	662	2445	836	1076
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	1	-	-	-	181	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Cardinal	476	78	298	71	67	207	306	482	84	246	98	77	280	131	366	170	417
Red-winged Blackbird	104	1	288	1	-	12	74	45	-	6	3	-	32	27	3	-	72
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	-	-	CW
Rusty Blackbird	2	-	1	14	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Common Grackle	15	-	367	CW	-	6	6	30	-	2	1	-	2	-	40	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	-	5	-	-	3	47	2	-	3	1	1	111	-	78	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	4	9	2	7	-	18	4	4	-	39	2	-	2	-	-	-	CW
House Finch	289	41	136	34	47	135	315	212	39	282	55	29	82	58	229	111	185
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	145	95	113	92	20	175	207	223	74	218	42	52	99	66	93	56	93
Evening Grosbeak	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	356	119	167	338	162	117	715	344	263	645	407	136	187	52	241	302	336
Number Species	82	39	81	49	69	73	87	96	58	56	66	57	80	70	72	65	64
Number Individuals	24490	2795	24780	3832	16704	6566	20195	21954	4392	8472	6555	3558	10992	4115	25737	13295	11104
Party-hours	139.5	57	97	62.5	48	74.5	122.75	116.25	40	103.5	15	42.5	55.5	41.75	91.5	92	63.5

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWW	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	2	589	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110	-	-	19
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	7705	3643	68	97	649	135	606	18	181	963	552	169	3258	-	109	642
Mute Swan	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	20	-	-	2
Tundra Swan	-	229	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	41	363	-	8	-	-	52	-	-	6	46	17	105	-	-	5
Mallard	277	757	48	197	268	9	73	4	73	819	26	320	735	11	134	114
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Redhead	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	CW	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Greater Scaup	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	11	-	1	7	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	751	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	180	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	6	7	CW	-	1	-	3
Common Merganser	4	45	27	62	2	-	-	-	-	1	37	-	43	-	-	42
Red-breasted Merganser	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	CW	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	1	-	8	1	-	CW	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	50	11	105	43	60	76	CW	1	2	154	34	56	8	-	82	24
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pied-billed Grebe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	1	37	6	11	21	-	1	-	6	21	-	1	6	1	2	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	-	23	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	58	-	-	-
Turkey Vulture	-	141	1	-	3	-	CW	-	-	-	-	5	61	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	22	6	CW	2	5	1	1	-	-	1	16	-	5	-	-	1
Northern Harrier	-	1	1	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	5	CW	2	5	-	CW	-	2	7	-	2	8	1	-	1
Cooper's Hawk	4	10	4	6	9	-	1	1	3	21	1	1	7	2	4	2
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	27	93	17	18	27	81	20	3	1	101	10	20	60	11	15	20

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWW	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA
	-	-	3	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk																
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	6	19	6	4	10	25	2	CW	3	2	-	-	4	1	4	2
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	2	-	-	-
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
Sandhill Crane	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	CW	10	-	7	5	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	1840	156	11	91	3	339	258	-	-	1162	1	118	286	-	-	2161
Herring Gull	10	30	-	7	4	-	5	-	-	289	-	2	9	-	-	3
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	3	-	-	17	-	-	6	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	111	677	391	549	510	540	88	CW	81	5	1158	24	150	559	-	771
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	241	423	94	188	284	289	79	231	162	502	50	124	335	115	270	178
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	-	19	CW	-	4	-	-	-	2	9	11	-	5	1	1	3
Great Horned Owl	1	15	1	3	3	4	2	1	CW	7	-	-	3	1	CW	1
Barred Owl	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	CW	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	1	23	3	-	10	11	CW	1	4	20	-	6	8	1	3	-
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	45	124	11	10	53	90	6	22	74	168	20	23	67	26	22	14
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	13	4	-	8	8	-	1	-	2	-	1	12	1	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	120	105	51	28	91	75	18	22	67	203	37	63	76	41	27	68
Hairy Woodpecker	29	24	5	5	13	10	7	7	18	51	5	17	14	4	5	11
Yellow-shafted Flicker	23	81	10	-	54	43	1	CW	15	47	1	4	31	-	4	2
Pileated Woodpecker	13	12	5	2	15	7	1	1	8	19	7	6	7	2	5	4
Eastern Phoebe	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	219	258	110	224	122	148	97	12	68	581	233	126	196	89	96	205
American Crow	150	733	467	490	873	515	911	11	289	9010	240	606	610	50	115	3587
Fish Crow	-	26	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	7
Common Raven	-	2	14	4	-	3	89	-	-	CW	4	2	-	3	12	1
Horned Lark	-	131	61	-	47	1607	154	-	-	-	-	-	1700	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	-	94	-	-	45	56	-	59	207	163	-	-	70	4	70	-
Black-capped Chickadee	283	111	103	402	135	21	298	CW	9	143	228	339	7	132	2	474
chickadee sp.	-	89	-	35	96	-	-	-	103	322	-	-	87	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	72	215	143	43	306	162	91	25	127	572	69	213	154	114	105	127
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	1	7	4	-	1	-	1	2	-	2	1	-	-	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	95	123	45	44	83	83	44	10	59	207	56	71	82	57	43	91

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWW	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA
	2	7	1	18	13	4	1	1	7	5	3	1	11	3	-	3
Brown Creeper																
Carolina Wren	4	111	12	105	68	2	27	2	108	114	1	15	52	8	5	8
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	1	7	-	6	4	-	8	-	-	4	-	2	1	1	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	24	9	1	49	24	3	4	-	23	14	22	8	15	13	-	7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	4	-	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	77	261	37	194	194	15	-	-	60	38	4	45	96	8	10	13
Hermit Thrush	-	14	-	5	3	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	7	1	-	-
American Robin	91	102	5	32	130	2	341	-	327	1641	4	29	2209	15	5	37
Gray Catbird	-	2	-	1	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	-	83	2	80	97	6	4	-	13	78	-	9	45	-	2	4
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	657	3184	2257	1818	3037	263	106	123	834	2941	62	592	3600	95	548	1570
American Pipit	-	18	49	-	52	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	40	54	CW	100	48	-	-	-	93	48	82	233	86	-	-	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	1	20	-	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	-	34	-	2	2	-	CW	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	133	38	161	89	119	90	CW	1	26	16	67	17	10	33	2	35
Chipping Sparrow	-	2	-	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	-	16	-	7	9	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	-	15	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Le Conte's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	1	9	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-
Song Sparrow	27	418	13	8	161	7	38	-	154	255	2	14	100	30	50	18
Swamp Sparrow	40	24	-	4	6	-	-	-	5	2	1	7	3	1	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	12	28	44	11	409	11	243	-	55	147	47	49	616	9	19	30
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	37	111	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	-	6	1
Slate-colored Junco	262	362	516	335	1017	557	142	17	554	414	712	466	1062	310	322	494
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	CW	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	195	363	72	72	328	48	76	6	390	589	63	80	365	168	191	83
Red-winged Blackbird	14	-	-	5	2	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	-
Eastern Meadowlark	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	-	13	-	-	11	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	5	22	-	138	6	-	1	-	1	CW	-	-	1	-	2	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	1	1	4	-	2	5	CW	-	-	1	1	1	7	4	2	1
House Finch	38	240	65	20	130	22	26	-	131	143	1	39	152	39	91	23
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	15	-	-	4	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	148	125	86	86	79	146	131	44	167	342	42	55	105	84	81	69
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	183	597	362	149	737	16	93	43	59	832	65	139	362	24	298	356
Number Species	74	84	53	46	70	45	45	22	45	64	46	54	78	45	41	52
Number Individuals	14375	16274	5881	5249	9058	12810	3338	2616	4503	24511	2904	4276	17855	1520	2805	11342
Party-hours	55	125.5	60.25	39	54	69.6	42	28	83	199	44.5	48.25	93.5	5.5	22.75	72.5

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	SBCK	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	12	552	2	-	-	482	-	-	610	199	-	836	-	-	CW	1
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	1	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	15899	3867	1251	10	-	6279	1035	169	5531	7616	12	2481	515	514	2518	3135
Mute Swan	20	-	-	1	-	8	-	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	2
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	5	-	-	1	-	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-
Gadwall	82	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	95	63	21	3	-	52	2	-	196	28	10	3	30	-	6	9
Mallard	392	562	248	188	-	556	607	76	660	265	145	181	230	67	361	314
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	CW	-	1	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Ring-necked Duck	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	-	-	-	-	3	13
Greater Scaup	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	19	1	-	-	-	5	91	-	-	-	7	-	9	-	-	16
Common Goldeneye	2	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	4	10	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	90	1	-	-	-	8	74	-	4	3	2	19	8	-	11	33
Common Merganser	696	1304	50	-	-	48	224	-	76	28	32	2	66	-	16	54
Red-breasted Merganser	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	3	3	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	4	6	6	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	2	-	1	-	11	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	12	7	197	CW	40	15	4	18	1	-	92	CW	102	59	-	-
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2
Pied-billed Grebe	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	3
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Cormorant	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	15	32	-	1	-	7	7	1	13	17	2	-	8	2	6	10
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	4	171	5	-	-	10	-	-	107	47	-	1	13	22	10	36
Turkey Vulture	10	97	-	-	-	75	-	-	183	177	-	1	-	-	27	97
Bald Eagle	CW	69	3	1	CW	2	27	-	12	3	5	6	3	1	-	2
Northern Harrier	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	4	-	6	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	2	1	2	1	7	3	1	4	12	1	4	4	2	4	6
Cooper's Hawk	7	7	4	6	4	10	4	4	11	12	3	4	3	2	4	8
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	1	1	3	3	-	-	2	-	6
Red-tailed Hawk	26	44	48	28	4	78	12	10	84	77	7	28	39	54	30	42

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	SBCK	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
Rough-legged Hawk	CW	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	-	16	6	12	-	6	1	2	10	5	-	3	5	9	2	12
Merlin	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	CW	-
Peregrine Falcon	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	85	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	8
Sandhill Crane	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	1	-	1	-	16
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	10245	3848	-	1	-	1628	60	-	2032	87	60	47	10	26	84	238
Herring Gull	20678	84	1	-	24	1	-	-	96	-	1	2	-	3	-	-
Iceland Gull	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	63	-	-	-	-	57	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	936	33	-	-	3	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rock Pigeon	10	528	574	1329	25	185	344	59	623	98	73	136	1090	87	81	493
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	248	179	216	614	12	242	316	177	363	305	75	248	279	76	279	192
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	-	15	2	15	-	23	2	-	24	49	-	2	15	2	2	1
Great Horned Owl	3	1	2	1	-	5	CW	2	3	11	-	-	2	-	7	6
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	10	18	1	9	-	3	5	2	7	9	-	1	4	-	14	11
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	69	92	25	17	4	124	33	41	82	127	4	25	34	30	55	46
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	9	1	-	17	1	1	3	10	24	1	3	1	5	4	26
Downy Woodpecker	39	99	50	35	10	144	80	41	79	113	20	36	79	36	65	60
Hairy Woodpecker	7	16	15	2	8	26	18	12	21	27	10	5	11	5	17	8
Yellow-shafted Flicker	52	62	12	5	-	47	6	22	41	44	-	6	16	21	16	46
Pileated Woodpecker	1	8	8	6	2	3	11	4	5	7	7	-	11	5	2	4
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	158	146	131	161	14	355	448	97	155	363	30	79	181	180	109	207
American Crow	155	526	727	1156	20	690	329	130	648	793	133	981	1181	1179	169	486
Fish Crow	1190	1	-	5	-	14	-	-	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Raven	200	228	1	-	-	70	8	-	326	-	4	6	4	6	-	29
Horned Lark	143	209	-	-	-	197	-	99	196	323	-	132	15	227	-	157
Carolina Chickadee	5	1	314	134	51	34	506	35	-	1	184	114	247	-	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee chickadee sp.	3	17	-	-	26	-	-	9	-	16	-	-	-	67	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	106	160	74	100	22	265	151	78	173	275	82	70	164	141	134	147
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	5	-	3	6	6	16	2	5	4	5	-	4	1	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	46	61	58	59	24	121	164	62	86	163	33	19	68	33	92	48

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	SBCK	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
Brown Creeper	4	8	1	-	1	11	7	1	6	5	1	5	1	5	5	7
Carolina Wren	56	82	17	15	-	61	16	31	51	119	2	11	25	32	43	69
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	2	14	-	-	-	-	5	1	3	4	-	1	1	1	5	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	12	33	16	-	-	21	55	4	16	12	-	12	9	10	4	8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	8	-	1	-	4	-	-	3	6	-	1	-	1	1	4
Eastern Bluebird	19	283	113	80	-	216	3	21	159	242	23	45	96	40	14	191
Hermit Thrush	2	8	1	1	-	4	-	1	8	16	-	5	1	6	2	2
American Robin	1032	109	11	6	-	3900	7	60	126	1458	-	2	28	-	1133	72
Gray Catbird	4	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	4	1	-	-	-	2	-
Northern Mockingbird	31	78	3	24	-	79	-	5	81	99	1	19	15	56	23	79
Brown Thrasher	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	CW	-
European Starling	1350	3444	1190	3745	4	3236	2136	312	4869	7079	171	612	1891	784	1048	2427
American Pipit	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cedar Waxwing	99	185	116	70	-	430	122	-	10	CW	-	30	-	19	2	66
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	15	21	-	-	-	133	-	1	8	4	-	1	1	1	-	43
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	CW
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	CW	9	-	-	-	1	-	1	9	39	-	-	2	1	5	1
American Tree Sparrow	4	6	92	90	3	36	111	18	26	2	17	147	56	72	2	7
Chipping Sparrow	8	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	12	11	4	-	-	15	3	1	19	35	-	15	1	8	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Le Conte's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	14	1	-	-	-	4	1	-	1	7	-	2	-	-	CW	3
Song Sparrow	125	256	36	7	-	139	8	37	139	318	1	55	50	87	55	106
Swamp Sparrow	13	10	-	3	-	4	4	1	3	18	4	11	1	3	CW	5
White-throated Sparrow	891	919	41	87	-	892	15	23	567	684	3	268	103	266	548	274
White-crowned Sparrow	CW	35	-	33	-	24	-	5	33	3	6	10	2	14	-	1
Slate-colored Junco	570	527	279	326	14	1195	631	115	791	581	169	1004	705	1064	399	456
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	50	-	13	-	-
Northern Cardinal	188	365	112	104	6	365	244	105	258	385	46	71	140	140	136	147
Red-winged Blackbird	124	6267	-	-	-	75	1	2	109	71	-	130	-	-	11	30
Eastern Meadowlark	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	CW	1	-	4	-	7	-	-
Common Grackle	24	15501	-	-	-	-	-	-	2298	38	-	-	-	-	-	15
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	5112	1	-	-	21	13	-	145	2	-	29	-	-	-	7
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	47	-	-	5	1	6	-	4	15	3	9	-	-	2
Purple Finch	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Finch	47	191	40	71	6	183	59	94	222	289	11	63	101	43	128	53
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	60	149	98	73	4	91	168	64	182	189	30	43	84	31	115	88
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	108	302	223	523	-	214	320	360	284	67	58	27	146	234	207	58
Number Species	91	75	56	46	23	80	60	53	90	73	52	71	58	62	58	75
Number Individuals	56937	52650	6505	9129	278	23359	8532	2450	22987	23159	1737	8192	7923	5829	8218	10269
Party-hours	78	102	61.5	64.25	6	95.75	109	17.25	110	121	36	38	80	38	55.25	83

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS SUMMARY

SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT	SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT	SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT
Gr. White-fronted Goose	2	2	1	CBCK,WICHE	Rough-legged Hawk	31	15	9	NLCO	Brown Creeper	371	61	35	HARR
Snow Goose	27833	20	21400	BETH	Golden Eagle	6	4	2	EMPO,HARR	Carolina Wren	2931	64	180	HARR
Brant	100	1	100	WHIT	American Kestrel	520	58	37	LWBG	House Wren	1	1	1	JOHN
Cackling Goose	12	7	5	WICHE	Merlin	21	14	4	HAMB	Winter Wren	141	38	14	SLAN
Canada Goose	133736	64	17724	CBCK	Peregrine Falcon	29	17	5	PITT	Golden-crowned Kinglet	976	62	55	WARR
Mute Swan	145	26	20	READ,SBCK	Prairie Falcon	1	1	1	NEVV	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	124	31	16	ELVE
Tundra Swan	433	11	229	LITI	American Coot	798	19	557	ERIE	Eastern Bluebird	5481	64	329	ELVE
Wood Duck	53	17	8	UBCK	Sandhill Crane	19	1	19	LINE	Hermit Thrush	205	43	18	HARR
Gadwall	167	11	82	SBCK	Killdeer	134	27	37	LWST	American Robin	26658	62	3900	UBCK
Eurasian Wigeon	2	2	2	CBCK	Spotted Sandpiper	1	1	1	BETH	Gray Catbird	45	20	6	HARR
American Wigeon	49	9	26	HARR	Wilson's Snipe	68	13	27	LWST	Northern Mockingbird	2127	58	170	ELVE
American Black Duck	2140	50	363	LITI	American Woodcock	3	3	1	**2	Brown Thrasher	11	9	2	DELA,WEST
Mallard	17277	65	1088	BETH	Laughing Gull	1	1	1	SBCK	European Starling	131819	67	10640	BERN
Blue-winged Teal	1	1	1	DELA	Bonaparte's Gull	42	2	41	ERIE	American Pipit	453	17	124	LWST
Northern Shoveler	19	7	13	HARR	Ring-billed Gull	57969	47	11894	BERN	Cedar Waxwing	4102	49	430	UBCK
Northern Pintail	20	8	6	LITI	Herring Gull	24142	33	20678	SBCK	Orange-crowned Warbler	1	1	1	LANC
Green-winged Teal	27	10	6	DELA	Iceland Gull	11	3	7	SBCK	Myrtle Warbler	585	34	133	UBCK
Canvasback	510	4	500	ERIE	Lesser Black-backed Gull	257	11	105	CBCK	Pine Warbler	2	2	1	WCHE,WYNC
Redhead	82	6	72	ERIE	Glaucois Gull	4	2	3	ERIE	Palm Warbler	2	1	2	LANC
Ring-necked Duck	310	18	75	SBCK	Great Black-backed Gull	1480	16	936	SBCK	C. Yellowthroat	1	1	1	HARR
Greater Scaup	217	4	210	ERIE	Rock Pigeon	23466	64	1329	STAT	Eastern Towhee	205	27	39	WEST
Lesser Scaup	126	8	67	ERIE	Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	1	1	HAMB	American Tree Sparrow	3700	65	336	BETH
White-winged Scoter	10	1	10	ERIE	Mourning Dove	18530	67	1117	INDI	Chipping Sparrow	63	15	14	BETH
Black Scoter	4	2	3	ERIE	Barn Owl	3	2	2	LWBG	Field Sparrow	467	39	70	DELA
Long-tailed Duck	2	2	2	DELA,ERIE	Eastern Screech-Owl	510	50	49	WEST	Savannah Sparrow	146	15	60	CBCK
Bufflehead	468	25	123	ERIE	Great Horned Owl	254	52	23	HAMB	Le Conte's Sparrow	1	1	1	ELVE
Common Goldeneye	1062	14	751	LINE	Barred Owl	27	21	2	**3	Fox Sparrow	129	32	18	BUCR,DELA
Hooded Merganser	730	29	180	LINE	Long-eared Owl	7	3	3	CBCK	Song Sparrow	6327	65	472	DELA
Common Merganser	4316	42	1304	SLAN	Short-eared Owl	14	6	4	CLRN	Swamp Sparrow	312	41	40	LINE
Red-breasted Merganser	122	10	98	ERIE	Northern Saw-whet Owl	9	6	2	**4	White-throated Sparrow	20157	65	2171	BETH
Ruddy Duck	199	12	95	SBCK	Belted Kingfisher	394	55	27	HARR	White-crowned Sparrow	871	39	111	NEWV
Ring-necked Pheasant	73	25	10	CULP	Red-headed Woodpecker	36	13	10	YORK	Slate-colored Junco	40024	67	2445	LEHI
Ruffed Grouse	106	25	34	EMPO	Red-bellied Woodpecker	3476	65	168	PITT	Lapland Longspur	5	4	2	NLCO
Wild Turkey	3277	54	247	BUCR	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	341	48	30	HARR	Snow Bunting	370	14	181	HAMB
Red-throated Loon	1	1	1	ERIE	Downy Woodpecker	4433	67	203	PITT	Northern Cardinal	13203	67	589	PITT
Common Loon	11	7	3	WILD	Hairy Woodpecker	926	65	51	PITT	Red-winged Blackbird	7742	37	6267	SLAN
Pied-billed Grebe	53	17	8	LAKE	Yellow-shafted Flicker	1537	59	86	HARR	Eastern Meadowlark	27	8	8	LANC
Horned Grebe	6	1	6	ERIE	Pileated Woodpecker	463	66	30	BUCR	Rusty Blackbird	46	11	14	EMPO
Double-cr. Cormorant	67	6	29	PITT	Eastern Phoebe	6	6	1	**5	Common Grackle	19509	25	15501	SLAN
Great Cormorant	8	2	6	SBCK	Northern Shrike	6	5	2	LINE	Brown-headed Cowbird	6317	38	5112	SLAN
Great Blue Heron	527	56	41	HARR	Blue Jay	11814	67	581	PITT	Baltimore Oriole	2	1	2	CBCK
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	1	1	SBCK	American Crow	55837	67	9010	PITT	Purple Finch	261	40	47	SEBR
Black Vulture	932	31	171	SLAN	Fish Crow	1509	23	1190	SBCK	House Finch	6616	65	315	BETH,HAMB
Turkey Vulture	1798	30	237	ELVE	Common Raven	318	36	89	NLCO	Common Redpoll	2	1	2	RECT
Bald Eagle	285	46	69	SLAN	Horned Lark	12345	38	2879	BERN	Pine Siskin	48	13	15	PITT
Northern Harrier	119	37	20	BLOO	Carolina Chickadee	4472	31	426	ELVE	American Goldfinch	7051	67	342	PITT
Sharp-shinned Hawk	228	55	19	DELA	Black-capped Chickadee	8251	59	506	WARR	Evening Grosbeak	8	1	8	DUBO
Cooper's Hawk	344	63	21	PITT	Tufted Titmouse	9823	67	572	PITT	House Sparrow	16508	66	832	PITT
Northern Goshawk	5	5	1	**1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	181	50	16	WASH	Number Species	149			HARR
Red-shouldered Hawk	90	29	7	HARR,HUNT	White-breasted Nuthatch	4856	67	207	PITT	Number Individuals	790656			SBCK
Red-tailed Hawk	2701	67	154	HAMB						Party-hours	4460			PITT

**1: BUTL,CBCK,HAMB,LEBA,UBCK

**2: AUDU,BETH,HUNT

**3: BUTL,HAMB,HARR,LEBA,LINE,PITT

**4: CBCK,DALL,HARR

**5: BETH,CLRK,HAMB,LITI,NEWB,SBCK

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

BIRDS OF WESTERN NORTH AMERICA: A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE by Paul Sterry and Brian E. Small. Published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2009, 5.5 x 8 in., 336 pp., 1118 color photos, 405 maps, paper, \$18.95.

BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA: A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE by Paul Sterry and Brian E. Small. Published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2009, 5.5 x 8 in., 416 pp., 1,341 color photos, 449 maps, paper, \$18.95.

New field guides to the birds of North America continue to flood bookstore shelves and the world wide web, thanks to the explosion of the popular recreational activity of bird-watching. Although numbers vary depending upon sources, it is a fact that tens of millions Americans observe wild birds on a regular basis. Sooner or later, the majority of these people will need two essential tools for their pastime: a pair of quality binoculars and an accessible, reliable, easy to use field guide. Needless to say, bird-watching is big business.

The whole scheme of the avian field guide process, of course, had its impetus in 1934 with the legendary Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds* that revolutionized how Birds are identified in the field. The book was simply designed so that live birds east of the 90th meridian could be readily identified at a distance by their diagnostic field marks, pinpointed by arrows in the guide, without resorting to the bird-in-hand shotgun method that early bird collectors relied upon. The rather formal schematic illustrations and the direct comparisons between similar species are the core of the 'Peterson System' that gained universal acceptance throughout the world. Peterson quickly followed his successful work by producing *A Field Guide to Western Birds* in 1941. Only one other book, *Audubon Bird Guide* by Richard H. Pough in 1946, weakly challenged Peterson's two guides. However, the publication milieu changed in 1949 with the appearance of Golden Press' *Birds of North America*. Its concise text, range maps facing excellent color illustrations by Arthur Singer,

convenient pocket size, reasonable \$4.95 price and continental coverage appealed to a broad audience of birders, becoming an instantaneous market success. It was eventually superseded by the National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* in 1983. That same year the National Audubon Society published its three-volume set *Master Guide to Birding*, the first photographic work that opened the floodgates for other avian photographic field guides in the last decade: Kenn Kaufman's *Birds of North America* in 2000, Ted Floyd's *Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America* in 2008 and Paul Sterry and Brian E. Small's *Birds of Western America* and *Birds of Eastern America* in 2009. However, the definitive guide to birding is still *The Sibley Guide to Birds* in 2000 by David Allen Sibley, America's most gifted contemporary painter of birds and author. This marvelous tome was divided into *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America* and *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America* in 2003. Most of the other books possess overlapping features, to be sure, but still hold true to the field guide process by combining previous outstanding elements and introducing even better results themselves. This is again true of the following books.

Paul Sterry is a highly regarded and best-selling wildlife author and photographer. He is the author or coauthor of more than fifty books, including the *HarperCollins Complete North American Wildlife* and the *Collins Complete British Birds*.

Brian E. Small is a leading nature photographer-author and the photographic editor of *Birding* magazine. He has been the principal photographer for many avian field guides, including *The Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (HarperCollins) and *Birds of North America* (Houghton Mifflin).

This extraordinary photographic feat, publishing two avian field guides simultaneously in October 2009, is a grand ornithological achievement. Both guides follow similar contents: Introduction to North American Birds, divided into The Region Covered by this Book and The Choice of Species; How to Use this Book, with Species

Descriptions (the bulk of each book), Voice, Status and Habitat, Observation Tips; Maps and Photographs; Topography; Glossary; Plumage; Habitats for Birds, including The Coast, Freshwater, Woods and Forests, Prairies, Grassland, Farmland and Scrub, Deserts, Uplands, Tundra, and The Urban Environment; Identifying Birds; Migrations and Movements; Further Reading; Index; and Picture Credits. The distributions of most species described in the books are included on range maps that have been provided by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Three color keys are employed: rust represents the range where a species is present only in summer, typically its breeding season; blue represents the range where a species is present only in winter; and purple represents the range where a species is present year-round. Missing, however, are two color keys for migration routes and rare occurrences that add valuable information about each species. Further, it must be recalled that a photograph is a record of a fleeting instant, yet with current digital technology, the photographer can edit out, show key field marks to better advantage and delete unnecessary clutter. Most of the photographs in these two books do this. The illustrated birds follow a sound display pattern: averaging just two or three species per page allow larger photo images with each confusing species facing the same direction and displaying the same angle of view that are consistent and realistic of critical diagnostic identification marks. The accompanying species text is informative and accurate as well.

Unfortunately, there is a major flaw in the "Region Covered" (p. 6) that affects both books: the lack of specifically defining the regional boundary and showing such a demarcation on a map. In other words, exactly where is the western region or the eastern region of mainland North America? This missing basic geographic information leads directly to another problem as to the choices of species for the two guides. For example, what do you do with the state of Texas and its unique avifauna?

Texas has at least four different geographical parts: eastern, western, southwestern and Mexican bioregions.

If the authors used the Rocky Mountains as the geographical boundary for the western vs. eastern guides and the maps showed the complete North American distribution of each species, as Sibley did for his two books, all of Texas would be part of the eastern guide. This would have prevented a great deal of species duplication in the two guides, including texts, maps and photographs. After all, North American birders, defined here as individuals who keep a check list of continental birds, know that sooner or later a visit or two to south Texas is required to record approximately thirty avian 'specialties' that are un-common but regularly found only in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (Falcon Dam to the Gulf of Mexico) and nowhere else in the United States or Canada. Yet, neither photographic guide lists Muscovy Duck, Mask Duck, Red-billed Pigeon, Brown Jay, Tamaulipas Crow, White-throated Robin, Yellow-green Vireo, Tropical Parula, Golden-crowned Warbler, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Blue Bunting or White-collared Seedeater, not even under "Similar Species" or "Out of the Ordinary" species. The White-tipped Dove is mentioned only in the eastern guide while the Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Long-billed Thrasher, Cave Swallow, Olive Sparrow, Altamira Oriole and Audubon's Oriole are only mentioned in the western guide. The Plain Chachalaca and Clay-colored Thrush are found in both books. Nevertheless, the authors state in the Introduction under Deserts in the eastern guide (p.18): "However, arid habitats, approaching deserts in terms of their structure and bird life, are found in the drier parts of Texas, within the range of this book". Some duplication examples are: Introduction pp. 8-9 and 19-20 with the same text on pp. 21 and 24; Ducks pp.38-39 western identical to pp. 40-41 eastern guide; Ducks pp. 40-47 western same as pp. 42-49 eastern; Least Grebe p. 70 western duplicated on p. 60 eastern; Crested Caracara p.102 western repeated on p.100 eastern; Rails pp.108-109 western same as pp. 106-107 eastern book; Plovers pp.118-119 same in both guides; Yellowlegs-Sandpipers pp.122-125 same in both guides; Phalaropes-Dowitchers pp.140-143 identical in both books; Owls pp.186-187 western same as pp.180-181 eastern; Swallows pp. 270-271 western same as pp. 228-229 eastern; Kinglets pp. 292-293 western same as pp. 240-241 eastern; and the European

Starling and Pipits pp. 310-311 in the western guide are the same as pp. 250-251 in the eastern book.

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology should have had the published results of the first *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* (1992), yet many species range maps in the eastern guide are inaccurate for the state. For example, the Bald Eagle (p. 92) is only rust (summer) when it should be purple (year-round) for the entire Commonwealth; American Coot (p. 110) needs rust and blue for western Pennsylvania; Wilson's Snipe (p. 144) requires rust for western and north-central Pennsylvania; Black Tern (p. 160) needs rust dots in the northwestern corner of the state; Short-eared Owl (p. 180) also should have purple in the northwestern part of the state; Northern Shrike (p. 212) extend blue south three-fourths of the way in western Pennsylvania; Sedge Wren (p. 238) extend rust in western Pennsylvania; Eastern Bluebird (p. 242) include purple for the entire state; Prothonotary Warbler (p. 254) include rust spots for northwestern corner of the state.

Discrepancy exists in the tones of colors in the printing process of the range maps and bird photographs. Placed side by side, the eastern guide has darker imagery and a tendency toward browner colors than the western tome that has a tendency toward lighter green to olive colors. For examples, check the male Blue Grosbeak (p. 6) and the range maps (p. 7) in each book, male Canvasback and Redhead (p. 35 western, p. 38 eastern), Horned and Eared Grebes (p. 71 western, p. 61 eastern), Bitterns (p. 83 western, p. 75 eastern), adult Northern Goshawk (p.95 both books) with yellow not orange eye in western book and adult Dowitchers (p. 143 both books) with more vivid brown colors in the eastern guide.

A few incorrect identifications should be mentioned: the upper left photo on p. 95 western, labeled an adult Sharp-shinned Hawk, has white spots on its mantle and the yellow eye of a juvenile bird; again a top left image on p.163 in the eastern guide, labeled adult summer Common Tern, is a first summer adult; and a photograph on p. 330 western and p. 276 eastern, labeled Louisiana Waterthrush, has buffy supercilium, olive-brown back and streaks on the throat of a Northern Waterthrush.

Some positive suggestions are to

include the Mountain Plover (pp. 116-117 western) in the eastern guide as well, especially since the species is regularly observed in flocks in the eastern extremity of the Lower Rio Grande Valley and north along the Texas coastal plain. The Ferruginous Pygmy Owl (p. 186 eastern) needs its range map extended north, west and east in south Texas beyond the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The Buff-breasted Hummingbird (p. 192 eastern) needs its own range map showing its restricted distribution in south Texas. The Common Pauraque (p.202) ought to be in the eastern book and have a map of its own showing how limited it is to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The Yellow-green Vireo is not mentioned in either book and should be added to the eastern guide with its own text and range map. Likewise, the Chihuahuan Raven (p. 262-263 western) occurs in the Lower Rio Grande Valley as a year-round resident and should be added to the eastern book with its own range map. The Rock Wren range map (p. 290 western) should show year-round status extending to McAllen in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Finally, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow (p. 320 eastern) was introduced in Saint Louis, Missouri, by German immigrants in the 19th century and remained in the city for decades before expanding east and north in Missouri and Illinois.

Indeed, in the final analysis, the *Birds of Western North America* and the *Birds of Eastern North America*, are quite simply the most lavishly illustrated photographic guides to date of North American avifauna. Because of that fact, perhaps amateur and advanced birders will not object to procuring both books together when exploring such birding hot spots as the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and elsewhere. Maybe in the future the authors will consider deleting the heavy duplication in the two books and combine the remaining sound contents into a single superb *Photographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*.

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The 2010 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania

Greg Grove

Introduction

The 10th Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) was conducted from 14 January through 21 February 2010, with routes run in 63 of the state's 67 counties. WRS is a roadside survey with simple but specific guidelines. All raptors and vultures are recorded and data are also collected on sex, age, and color form. Cumulative county-by-county results from 2001-2007 were summarized previously (Grove 2007).

Effort and Weather

In 2010, 548.75 hours of observation were recorded, the second highest ever. The 8911 miles surveyed was the highest total ever. Despite the difficult February weather, all but a few established routes were run. When comparing across years or between counties, data have been standardized to birds per hour.

The 2010 WRS period was essentially divided into two parts. Until 5 February, the weather was mostly tranquil. There had been little new snow in January and snow cover was zero or minimal over most of the state. But the weather changed abruptly two-thirds of the way through the WRS period with a storm 5 February, which was followed by more storms, outright blizzards in some locales, and impaired travel conditions throughout the final weeks of WRS. Geographically, the snowfall pattern was somewhat the reverse of the usual, with the northwest escaping the worst of the storms. Despite the snowy weather, the temperatures were near average; in State College, January averaged 2°F above normal and February 1°F below normal, according to AccuWeather statistics. Possible effects of the February weather on the 2010 count are addressed below.

Results from 2010

Red-tailed Hawks. As always, Red-tailed Hawks were the most abundant raptor (Table 1). The total of 2665 was the highest ever and the detection rate of 4.86 was the second highest ever (Figure 1). They were found in good numbers throughout the state except, as usual, for the heavily forested counties in the north (Figure 2).

Dauphin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lehigh, and Westmoreland counties posted rates of over 8.0 per hour. The highest county counts were from Cumberland (152), Centre (129), Juniata (128), and Indiana (126). Of 2083 Red-tails aged, 207 (9.9%) were immature, in line with the range from 2001-2009 of 9%–16%.

American Kestrels. A total of 495 American Kestrels were counted, up slightly from 2009, a rate of 0.90 per hour. Again this year, the greatest concentration of wintering Kestrels was in the counties of the central and lower Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers (Figure 2). Leading county totals were Juniata (34), Cumberland (31), Mifflin (28), Huntingdon (27), and Franklin (25). In counties with at least 7 hours of effort, Snyder led with an hourly rate of 3.00. Of 408 Kestrels sexed, 64.7 % were males, consistent with previous years' range of 59% to 66%.

In the southeast, Kestrel counts were again low (Figure 1), in contrast to the healthy number of Red-tailed Hawks in those counties (compare Kestrel and Red-tail patterns in Figure 2). Collectively, the far southeastern counties (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton) had a total of only 16 Kestrels in 63.25 hours of effort, a rate of 0.25 per hour, compared to 0.99 in the remainder of the state.

Rough-legged Hawks. After a well-above average count of Rough-legged Hawks in 2009, numbers fell well off in 2010. The rate of 0.10 per hour was the second lowest in the 10 years of WRS and the actual count of 54 was the lowest since hours of effort stabilized around 500 beginning in 2004. All birds were identified by color form; 61% were light form, compared to the 2001-2009 range of 60% to 78%.

The limited numbers of Rough-legs were concentrated primarily in northern counties and counties of the central Susquehanna River basin (Figure 2). Seven were counted in Lycoming and 5 in Tioga. The leader, however, was Centre, with a count of 14. Twelve of those came on one route that covers excellent, largely Amish agricultural lands, in Penns and Brush Valleys in eastern Centre, a region that annually hosts a good number of Rough-legs.

Northern Harriers. After increasing numbers from 2006-2008, the Northern Harrier count declined in 2009 and that decline continued in 2010. The hourly rate of 0.13 was the lowest since 2003. Highest county counts came from Lycoming (9), Montour (8), and Schuylkill (5). As noted below, the February weather probably contributed to the low Harrier count.

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

Species	2010	High Count
Bald Eagle	68	81 (2006)
Northern Harrier	74	133 (2008)
Sh.-shinned Hawk	34	55 (2009)
Cooper's Hawk	74	82 (2004)
Northern Goshawk	0	5 (2004)
Red-sh. Hawk	29	39 (2008)
Red-tailed Hawk	2665	2665 (2010)
Rough-legged Hawk	54	341 (2004)
Golden Eagle	2	4 (2009)
American Kestrel	495	511 (2007)
Merlin	5	6 (2008)
Peregrine Falcon	6	8 (2009)
Black Vulture	719	826 (2009)
Turkey Vulture	1690	1863 (2006)

Vultures. Vulture numbers were down from last year, but the decrease was small and may be explained by a couple routes not run in prime vulture country. Both species showed signs of expanding their winter range in the state. Black Vultures were found in 21 counties, more than any previous year. The previous high was 18 in 2009. Turkey Vultures outside their usual southeastern range were recorded in Westmoreland, Fayette, Lycoming, Wayne, and Monroe. As usual, the biggest vulture numbers by far came from the southeast, with Chester and Lancaster leading the counts for both species.

Other raptors, shrikes, and owls. Numbers of other raptors recorded in 2009 are shown in Table 1. Golden eagles were observed in Huntingdon and Lehigh. Three Northern Shrikes were reported, from Huntingdon, Tioga, and Warren. Few owls were reported this winter: 7 Short-eared Owls and one Eastern Screech-Owl.

Effect of weather on counts

Conditions and circumstances changed dramatically for the 2010 WRS season with the onset of

snowstorms late on 5 February. The storms hit the eastern half of the state and southern tier counties the hardest, but no part of the state was spared completely. To address the effect of the bad weather on the count results, I separated the data into two segments: counts run through 5 February, and those from 6 to 21 February.

There were substantial differences in average hourly rates of each of the four main species (Fig. 3) before and after the period of snow. The rates for Northern Harrier and American Kestrel dropped by over 50% after 5 February, and for Red-tailed Hawks by about 25%, suggesting the significant effect the bad weather had on counting.

An alternate hypothesis is that rates are always lower late in the survey period, for reasons unrelated to weather. To examine this possibility, I did the same analysis for the years 2007-09, combining all data for those years into two parts: on or before 5 February, and on or after 6 February. The results in Figure 3 show that the differences in 2007-2009 for Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel are no more than 10% and not likely to be significant. This supports the suggestion that weather had an effect on detection

rates in 2010 beginning 6 February.

This analysis does not answer the question of how or why the onset of bad weather affected the counts. There are several possible explanations, including: difficulties in detection because raptors moved away from areas visible from roads; raptors moved out of regions with heavy snow; mortality related to the storms.

We have little basis for deciding which of these factors is most important. Indeed, these (or others) may apply differently for each species. For example, unlike wintering Red-tails and Kestrels, most Harriers counted on Pennsylvania WRS routes are probably not on a breeding territory. Therefore, they may move longer distances in response to adverse conditions. Regarding Kestrels, many are counted while hunting from perches on roadside utility lines. However, deep snow deposited by plowing may cause them to hunt away from roadsides, where they are less likely to be detected by surveyors. We might also postulate that mortality of Kestrels, which depend on small rodents in winter, may increase during conditions of prolonged deep snow cover. Red-tails, which hunt large mammals that stay above the snow,

presumably have less trouble finding prey during times of deep snow.

Finally, however, it will be noted the data for Rough-legged Hawks are in contrast to that of the other three species. In all years analyzed, they were detected at a higher rate late in the WRS period, which suggests that some Rough-legs are still moving southward into the state well into mid-winter.

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.

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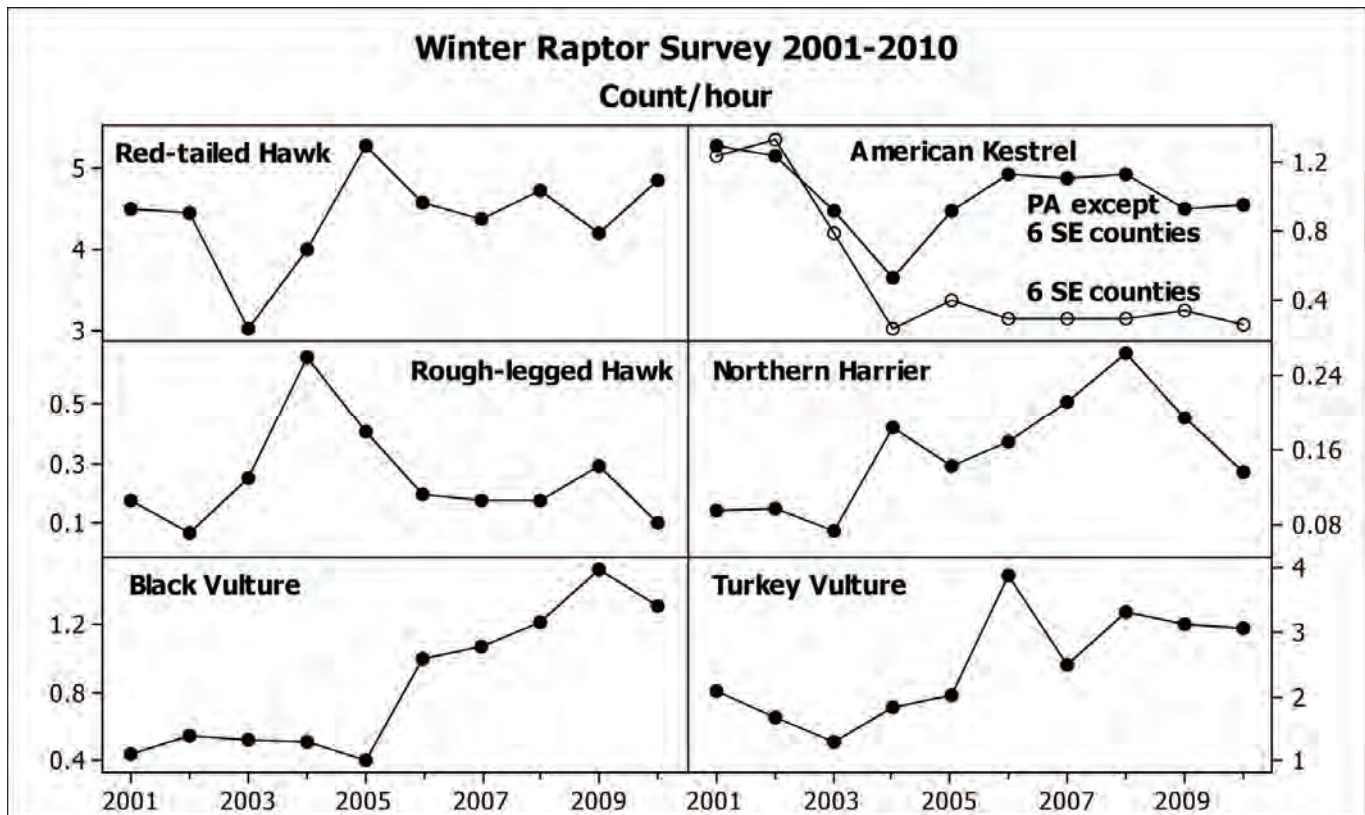


Figure 1: Pennsylvania WRS trends, 2001 – 2010. Results are expressed in birds/hour. American Kestrel results are shown for two portions of the state. The six southeastern counties include Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton.

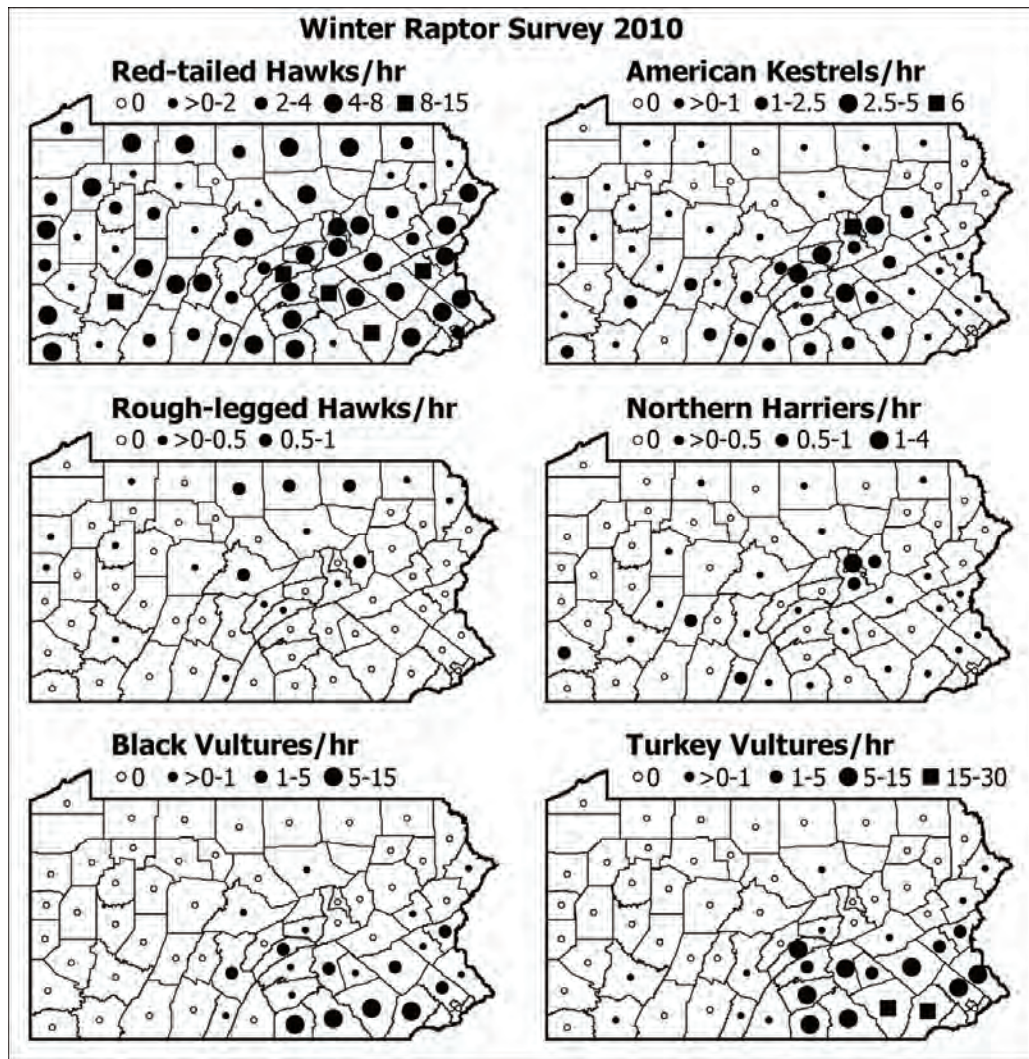


Figure 2: Pennsylvania 2010 WRS results. Data from all routes in a given county were combined and calculated as birds/hour.

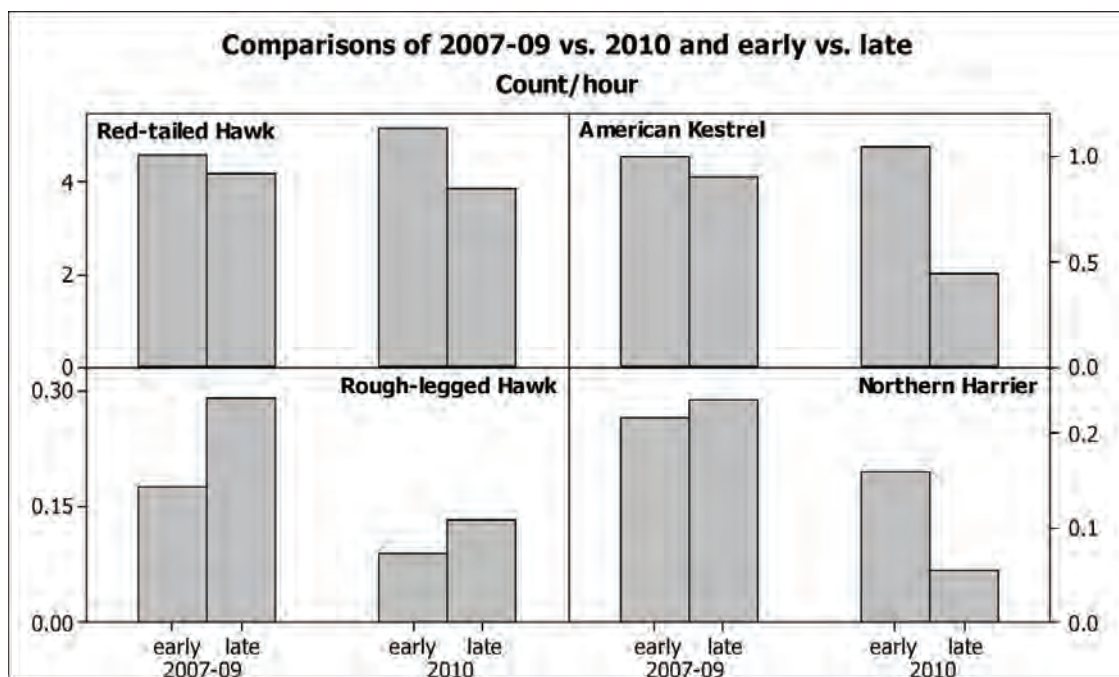


Figure 3: Effect of Weather on Count Results. 2007-09 (combined) and 2010 WRS results (expressed as birds per hour) for four raptors species were separated into “early” counts (on or before 5 Feb) and “late” counts (on or after 6 Feb).

2010 Winter Raptor Survey Results

County	Hours	BV	TV	BE	NH	SS	CH	RS	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG
Adams	8.75	92	68		2	1	1	2	49			14		
Allegheny	2.25								3					
Armstrong	4.25								3			3		
Beaver	2.25			3			1		8			1		3
Bedford	7.75								21			19		
Berks	15.25	44	80	2			1		84			13		
Blair	4.5					2	1		21			2		
Bradford	4								26	4		2		
Bucks	8.5	8	71		2	1	1		53			1		
Butler	3							1	2			2		
Cambria	2				1				8			4		
Cameron	1.5													
Carbon	7.75	2			2		1	1	24			3		
Centre	22.75	5			3	1	3		139	14		19		
Chester	15.5	138	424	6	3	3	3		85			6		
Clarion	17.5					2	3		38	2		9		
Clearfield	8					1		3	12	1		1		
Clinton	8.25						1		3					1
Columbia	3.25				2	1	3		16	3		10		
Crawford														
Cumberland	26.75	16	134			1	7	1	152			31	1	
Dauphin	6.5	14	49		3		2		93			21		
Delaware														
Elk	3.5					1			1					
Erie	1.75								5					
Fayette	9.5		1			1			3			3		
Forest	3.75			2					1					
Franklin	17.75		3		2	1	1	2	84			25		
Fulton	6.75	2	1		4		2		26	1		7		
Greene	10.25						2		59			13		
Huntingdon	21.25	56	4	9	1		1	5	84		1	27		
Indiana	20				1		2	1	126			12		
Jefferson	14.25				2	1	1		40			2		
Juniata	12	52	124	1	4	1	2		128	1		34		
Lackawana	5.5					1	1		8					
Lancaster	15	122	430	17	2		6		122			18		1
Lawrence	6.5			1			2	1	40	1		3		
Lebanon	4.25	2	8	1		1	1		30			5		
Lehigh	11	5	48		1	2	1	1	108		1	3	1	
Luzerne	2								5			2		
Lycoming	18.25	9	1		9		1		85	7		15	1	
McKean	6.75				1			1	33			1		
Mercer	8			2			3		22	1		9		
Mifflin	14.5			1		1	1	2	53	2		28		
Monroe	7.5		5	1				1	31					
Montgomery	9.25	24	60	2	1		1		65			2		
Montour	2.5				8		1		14			15		
Northhamp	19	62	80	2	1	1	4	1	119			4	2	
Northumber	6			3	4	1	1		34	1		13		
Perry	16	10	16			1	6		86			19		
Philadelphia	3								6					
Pike	6.5	6	1	3		2	1		26					1
Potter	4								8	3				
Schuylkill	14.25		12		5	1	1		69			21		
Snyder	7	2	3				1		49			21		
Somerset	4.75					1	1		12					
Sullivan														
Susquehanna	6.25				2				14	3		2		
Tiogo	9			2	3				39	5		4		
Union														
Venango	7.5			1		1		1	30			2		
Warren	6.5			1			1	1	36	2		5		
Washington	5.5				3				28			4		
Wayne	3			1		2		1	5	1				
Westmoreland	9.5		2	2	2	1			76	2		10		
Wyoming	4			2					6					
York	5	48	65	3			1	3	9			5		
Total	548.75	719	1690	68	74	34	74	29	2665	54	2	495	5	6

Summary of the Season – Winter 2009-2010

Greg Grove

Perhaps we can blame the weatherman for a winter season that was a bit below average for birding excitement. However, there were some highlights of course including the first fully documented occurrence of **Allen's Hummingbird** in the state. Other highlights included a **Pink-footed Goose**, two **Least Sandpipers**, two **Varied Thrushes**, and a **LeConte's Sparrow**. Cumberland's enigmatic **Prairie Falcon** returned for another season, strengthening the case for a wild origin.

On the down side, despite real winter weather, birds of winter were scarce. There were few winter finches; and **Rough-legged Hawks** and **Snowy Owls** were also few in number. Winter gulls (or reports thereof) were also down compared to recent seasons and waterfowl activity was average at best.

The winter of 2009-2010 in Pennsylvania was one of big snowstorms. One arrived perfectly timed to wreak havoc on the first weekend of the CBC period. January was mostly tranquil with little new snow. However, beginning 5 February, a series of strong storms swept through the state, bringing blizzard conditions at times and affecting especially eastern and southern counties. Although the northwest had its usual snowy weather, for a change that region could not claim the severest snow conditions in the state. Despite the snowy weather, the temperatures were in fact not particularly cold. According to Accu-weather statistics for State College, December days averaged 1°F below normal, January averaged 2°F above normal and February 1°F below normal, resulting in essentially overall average temperatures for the season. The official temperature at State College never dropped to zero.

Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from seven counties, all in the southeast as usual. The outstanding goose of the season was a **Pink-footed Goose** in Lehigh, the first in the state since 2004. The numerous **Cackling Goose** reports were all from eastern counties. The only report of **Ross's Goose** came from *Lebanon*. The 100 **Brant** on the White Mills CBC was outstanding; there were 37 on the Susquehanna River in *Lancaster* and singles were in *Adams*

and *York*. By late February, the **Snow Goose** count peaked at 80,000 at Middle Creek, *Lancaster/Lebanon*. Two blue-form **Snow Geese** were reported from *Crawford*.

Rarities among ducks were two **Eurasian Wigeons** in *Bucks*, a **Eurasian Green-winged Teal**, also in *Bucks*, and a male **Harlequin Duck**, only the second male record for *Erie*. *Crawford* hosted 900 **Mallards** 12/14 at Pymatuning, and the Linesville CBC there tallied 751 **Common Goldeneyes**, 180 **Hooded Mergansers**, 650 **Common Mergansers** and 225 **Red-breasted Mergansers**. A “whooping” 2200 **Common Mergansers** were at Peace Valley Park in *Bucks* on 1/2.

One **Red-necked Grebe** was in Centre 12/4; there were no other reports for the season. All reports of **Red-throated Loon** were from December, including 80 from the waterfowl count at Presque Isle, *Erie*. Otherwise, a total of only four were noted, with two in *Centre* and singles in *Berks* and *Bucks*. The total of three **Great Egret** reports was about average for recent years. Singles were in *Bucks* and *Chester* in December, but one in *Lancaster* stayed through the season. **Black-crowned Night Herons** have been reported from *Bucks* almost annually in recent years; this year was one still present until at least 1/23.

For the sixth consecutive year, **Virginia Rail** was reported from *Bucks*, again from Quakertown Swamp; the latest date was 1/1. There were no other reports in the state. An impressive 549 **American Coots** were counted at Yellow Creek, *Indiana*, 12/8. **Sandhill Cranes** were reported in six counties, with the high count of 39 coming from *Lawrence*, as it usually does.

As described in the Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) report, a number of stray vultures were reported from outside the usual southeastern range. Among notable reports of out-of range **Black Vultures** was a first winter report in *Erie*, 12/6; a first record for the Pocono Mountain CBC 12/20; and three in the far north in *Tioga* 2/16.

December records of **Osprey** are rare but not unexpected—this year one was in *Adams* 12/27. Far more rare are true mid-winter records, as occurred

this season on 1/24 in *Dauphin*. Whether this was a lingering bird from the fall or an early migrant cannot be known; however, **Osprey** is not an early spring migrant, thus it seems more likely that this bird was trying to winter. It was a low year for **Rough-legged Hawks** as detailed in the WRS report. **Merlins** and **Peregrine Falcons** continue to more firmly establish themselves as part of the winter birdscape across Pennsylvania, found in 19 and 15 counties respectively this year, more so in the eastern half of the state.

The *Cumberland Prairie Falcon* appeared again for the winter season. Some have been skeptical of the origin of this bird because *Prairie Falcons* have little reputation for vagrancy in the east. However, the seemingly well-established pattern of this bird of appearing for the winter and then disappearing for the summer suggests the serious possibility that this is indeed a wild bird moving seasonally between breeding and wintering locations.

Following a good autumn showing, one **American Avocet** hung on until the first day of the “winter” season, 12/1, in *Venango*. For the second year in a row, a **Spotted Sandpiper**, made the state CBC list, with one on the Bethlehem-Easton count 1/2. Quite remarkable was the return for a fifth year of the **Least Sandpiper** to the Big Spring area of *Cumberland*. Farther north, in *Crawford*, another survived until at least 2/7. One **Dunlin** was found in *Erie* 12/16, the only report of the season for this late-moving sandpiper. No December **Purple Sandpipers** were found in *Erie* this year.

As usual, most gull activity came from southeastern counties, *Erie*, and the Ohio River in *Allegheny*, but overall there was less gull excitement than in the past few winters, either because there really were fewer rare gulls present, or there was less activity by gull-watchers. Rarities included a **Little Gull** in *Erie*, **Laughing Gulls** in *Bucks* and *Philadelphia*, and **Thayer's Gulls** in *Allegheny*, *Bucks*, and *Erie*. **Iceland Gulls** were in five southeastern counties plus *Allegheny*. Among **Glaucous Gulls** was one that provided a first county record in *Armstrong*. Unlike other gulls, most

reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** were in the west, *Bucks* the only exception. Last reports of **Bonaparte's** in *Bucks*, *Crawford*, *Indiana*, *Lawrence*, and *Venango* were clustered 12/11-14. In *Crawford* at that time, about 1000 were at Pymatuning. The biggest number, however, was the flock of 3000 in *Erie*.

Berks had its fourth **Eurasian Collared-Dove** record; there were no other reports received although the *Franklin* colony continues. It was a bleak year for **Barn Owls**, reported only from *Cumberland*, *Union*, and *Somerset*, in the latter of which the owl died of unknown cause. Two **Snowy Owls** were found: one stayed a month in *Crawford*, but the other was seen only briefly in flight in *Lebanon*. The number of **Long-eared** and **Short-eared Owl** reports was also down this winter, presumably related to the severity of the season, whether because the birds were indeed low in number, or because birders were less active. Long-ears were reported in only six counties, all in the east. In the previous two winters, Short-ears were found in 27 and 19 counties. This year, they were reported in only 11. With exceptions in *Clarion* and *Luzerne*, all reports were from southern counties, ranging all the way from east to west.

The "bird of the season" was the **Allen's Hummingbird** identified and banded by Scott Weidensaul at the home of Debra Raudenbush in Leola, *Lancaster* on 12/8. This is the first fully documented occurrence in the state. **Rufous Hummingbirds** were found in *Lancaster* and *Lehigh* and a **Rufous/Allen's** type was present in *Erie*. All of these hummers were seen only in December.

Rare in *Bradford* was a **Red-headed Woodpecker**, found in area where nesting formerly occurred prior to logging. A **Pileated Woodpecker** on the Southern Bucks CBC was the first ever. At least 21 **Northern Shrikes** were reported, a good number but lower than the 80 and 40 reported in 2007-08 and 2007-08, respectively. Except for five reports from *Erie*, the others were spread widely around the state. A late **Blue-headed Vireo** was in *Delaware* 12/26.

Common Raven again drew comments for appearing in new places and more frequently in places where formerly rare, pushing out in all directions the edge of its established mountainous range. Reports were from *Erie*, *Venango*, and *Franklin* in the west; *Adams*, *Franklin*, and *York* in the

southern tier; and *Berks*, *Lebanon*, and *Lehigh* to the southeast. One on the Pocono Mountain CBC in *Monroe* represented only the third record on that 30-year old count. That same count reported a **Fish Crow** for only the second time. Read the *Centre* report for details of attempts to control nuisance **American Crows** on the Penn State campus and **European Starling** at the Centre Region airport, with lethal methods employed against the starlings.

For the sixth consecutive year, **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** wintered at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant in *Philadelphia*, with a high count of 62 on 1/9, half of last year's peak of 125. Two or three **Barn Swallows** were also there with one surviving until 3/1. A very early wave of **Tree Swallows** entered the state 2/22, with reports on that date from *Chester*, *Lancaster*, and two locations in *Bucks*, where a new early arrival date was established. With their conspicuous, largely insect-dependant lifestyles, swallows may be good indicator species for climate change.

Varied Thrush was found in *Bucks* and *Lackawanna*. Since 2000, an average of just over one has been found each winter, with as few as zero and as many as three in a given season. Of the total of 14 since 2000, all but four were found in southeastern and south-central counties, the exceptions were singles in *Forest* (2004), *Westmoreland* (2005), *Centre* (2006), and the *Lackawanna* bird this year. *Berks* and *Lebanon* have claimed two each, and *Dauphin*, *Franklin*, *Lancaster*, *Delaware*, *Northampton*, and *Bucks* have one report each since 2000. As always with rarities that occur most often in the southeast, the significance of this distribution is not clear; it is possibly an artifact of substantially more coverage in that part of the state.

Perhaps due to the severe weather this winter, only one report each was received for **House Wren**, in *Cambria* 12/20, and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, in *Bucks* 12/6. At least 10 **Gray Catbirds** were reported after the end of the CBC period, 1/5, all in the southeast. **Brown Thrashers** may have found the snowy weather to their liking, as a minimum of 18 was reported, including at least five after 1/5. Most reports were from the southeast, but thrashers were also found in *Allegheny*, *Clarion*, *Erie*, and *Juniata*. High **American Robin**

numbers came from the Upper and Central Bucks CBCs, reporting 3900 and 3451, respectively.

Nine species of warblers were reported, about average for recent seasons. Eight of the nine were the same eight species reported last year. The exception, and most notable warbler, was a **waterthrush** seen in *Cumberland* 1/15, a remarkable winter find, especially so deep into the season. There are a few previous winter records in the state for Northern Waterthrush but none for Louisiana, so the former is far more likely; but this particular bird will remain unidentified to species. Read the Birds of Note report for details on the other eight warblers reported (except the widespread **Yellow-rumped Warbler**). All are species with a track record, to varying degrees, of winter appearances. For six of the nine warblers, at least some reports came well into the season, after the CBC period.

For the second year in a row, a **LeConte's Sparrow** was the most notable rarity from that family, this year found in *Chester*, following last year's *Delaware* bird. Other rare winter sparrows included **Clay-colored Sparrows** in *Bucks*, *Cumberland*, and *Northampton*; and **Lincoln's Sparrows** in *Bucks* and *Juniata*. A common theme in the reports from the winter was the occurrence of late **Chipping Sparrows**. This is not too unusual in the southeast, where they were noted in several counties, with numbers in *Bucks* cited as higher than usual. Beyond the (usually) warmer southeast, chippies were also noted in *Cambria*, *Crawford*, and *Greene*. **Savannah Sparrows** are also not unexpected in the southeast and were indeed reported from several counties there, with one flock of 44 feeding roadside in *Bucks* following a snowstorm. One on 2/20 in *Lawrence* was notable, regardless of whether it was an over-wintering bird or a very early migrant.

Dickcissels appeared in *Chester* and *Philadelphia*; and one also in *Northampton* at the sparrow-magnet Koch farm, which also hosted one of the aforementioned Clay-colored Sparrows. One bird that gets birders out looking in winter is **Lapland Longspur**. As usual, there were sightings in many southeastern counties; and also as usual, in tiny numbers. Outside the southeast, singles were found in *Centre* and *Lawrence*. **Snow Buntings** are also winter favorites and a bit easier to

find than longspurs. There were reports from at least 19 counties, and from all parts of the state. Some impressive flocks included 500 in *Mercer*, 300 in *Wyoming*, and 230 in *Tioga*.

A flock of 40 **Eastern Meadowlarks** was a nice find in *Adams* 12/17, and on that same date in *Adams*, a **Brewer's Blackbird** was located as well. There were few **Rusty Blackbird** reports, mentioned by eight county compilers, and with most reports of only one or two, primarily in December and February. The only three **Baltimore Orioles** were all in *Bucks*. Two were observed only briefly in late December and early January,

but one wintered at a New Hope location for the sixth consecutive year, presumably the same individual.

After last year's big winter finch season, there were low expectations for this year and those expectations were realized. **Purple Finch** reports were few and a number of compilers specifically commented on their near-absence. There was a report submitted without details of a flock of 100 **Red Crossbills** at Markleysburg, *Fayette* 1/13. Red Crossbills in Pennsylvania are usually seen in small flocks (unlike White-winged) so a flock of that size would be notable. The only **White-winged Crossbill** sighting was of a flock of 13 in *Tioga* 1/31. Small

numbers of **Pine Siskins** were reported from at least 11 counties, well scattered across the state. The only **Evening Grosbeak** reports were of a couple flyovers detected in Manheim, *Lancaster* during a snowstorm 2/6, and of a flock of eight seen on the Dubois CBC.

Thanks as always to the county compilers for their faithful and conscientious efforts!

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An unusual American Goldfinch nest in a corn plant

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ABSTRACT – An unusual American Goldfinch nest was found in a cornfield in southeastern Pennsylvania. In addition to the unique nest substrate, the nest appeared to have been modified during construction after the corn stalk it was built on suffered structural damage. Apparently, the incomplete nest was turned on its side after the corn stalk substrate bent, resulting in a partially domed nest after construction was completed. The nest contained one white egg but was likely already abandoned at the time of discovery. To our knowledge, this is the first documented observation of an American Goldfinch nesting in corn.

Introduction

American Goldfinches (*Carduelis tristis*) nest in a variety of trees, shrubs, and some herbaceous plants, depending on habitat and geography. The most frequently used woody species include dogwoods (*Cornus racemosa*, *C. stoliniifera*, and *C. oblique*), hawthorns (*Crataegus spp.*), elms (*Ulmus spp.*), and willows (*Salix spp.*; Nickell 1951). Herbaceous plants serve as nest substrate in about 12% of cases (Kiviat 1996) and may include thistle (*Cirsium spp.*; Nickell 1951), goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*; Nickell 1951), and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*; Kiviat 1996). Several studies have examined use of cornfields by nesting birds (e.g., Best 1986, Basore et al. 1986) but have not found American Goldfinches nesting in tilled or untilled

cornfields. Here, we describe an unusually modified American Goldfinch nest and provide photographic evidence of an American Goldfinch nesting in a corn plant, thereby providing the first documentation of goldfinches using this substrate.

Observations

An American Goldfinch nest was found on a corn stalk in a cornfield near Hamburg, Pennsylvania (40 31.963 N, -76 00.963 W) on 24 September 2008, one day prior to corn harvest. The nest was located 1.5 m above ground on a corn stalk approximately 2 m tall surrounded by corn of the same height (Fig. 1). The cornfield was bordered by deciduous woods 100 m to the north, an evergreen plantation 50 m to the east, a farm road 150 m to the south, and soybeans 10 m to the west.

The nest was identified based on physical measurements, the color of the egg in the nest, and composition of construction materials. The outside diameter of the nest cup was 7.1 cm and the inside diameter was 4.4 cm. The greatest outside depth was 11.3 cm and the greatest inside depth was 5.0 cm. Except for the outside depth measurement, these are normal values for American Goldfinch nests (McGraw and Middleton 2009). The large outside depth appears to be a result of nest modification after initial construction due to structural damage to the corn

stalk that served as the nesting substrate. Modifications appear to have occurred in two stages (Fig. 2). For unknown reasons, the top third of the corn stalk apparently bent over during nest construction or shortly after eggs were laid. After the corn stalk bent over, the base of the nest was roughly perpendicular to the ground. The wall of the nest was then parallel to the ground and was modified into a new base by constructing a new wall (Figs. 1 and 2), resulting in a partially domed nest. Further evidence for this possibility is the presence of downy lining material in the new base, which was the initial "wall" of the nest (Fig. 2).

One completely white egg was in the nest but no goldfinch activity was observed during the hour in which observers were in the field on 24 September 2008, nor was there activity on the morning of 25 September 2008, when pictures of the nest were taken. Lack of activity may not indicate an abandoned nest, however, if the nest was found during the laying stage, but this was not likely given the date and the worn appearance of the nest material (Fig. 1).

The nest was attached to the corn stalk on one side only by spider silk and plant fibers (Figs. 1 and 2) and lined with a thistle based down. These features are characteristic of American Goldfinch nests (Nickell 1951, McGraw and Middleton 2009) except that a greater number of attachment points to the substrate is the usual condition.



Figure 1. An American Goldfinch nest in a cornfield in southeastern Pennsylvania. One egg was in the nest at the time of discovery, 24 September 2008, but the nest appeared to be abandoned.

Discussion

American Goldfinches have nested in at least 87 plant species or genera (Kiviat 1996), most commonly in woody species (Nickell 1951, McGraw and Middleton 2009). Nickell (1951) believed herbaceous plants are rarely used because few are strong enough to support a nest. There have been only two previous reports of American Goldfinch nesting in corn, both based on personal communications to the reporting author and both published long after initial observations occurred. The first record was from 1888 in Genesee County, Michigan (Barrows 1912) and the second in 1940 in Gratiot County, Michigan (Nickell 1951). No details in addition to county of nesting are available. Similar to Best (1986), who did not record American Goldfinches nesting in tilled cornfields, Basore et al. (1986) did not find American Goldfinches nesting in approximately 500 ha of tilled and no-tilled cornfields they searched. Tilled cornfields, especially, are not conducive to nesting for many bird species and may represent habitat sinks (Basore et al. 1986).

Two species, Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*) and Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*), are found in similar habitat and have nesting characteristics similar to American Goldfinches. The range of nest measurements of Indigo Buntings (outside diameter: 8.3 to 11.4 cm; inside diameter 4.4 to 7.0 cm; depth 3.8 to 6.4 cm; Harrison 1975) preclude the nest described here from belonging to an Indigo Bunting, however: the nest we found in corn is too small to be a bunting nest. Additionally, Harrison (1975) does not describe Indigo Buntings using spider web to secure the nest to substrate nor the use of thistle to line the nest. A composite down or pappus, mostly of thistle, was in the nest found on the corn plant. Field Sparrows construct nests that are usually larger than those of American Goldfinches and lay eggs that are lightly dotted or blotched with a white background (Harrison 1975), unlike the white eggs of the American Goldfinch. No other species in Pennsylvania has nest and egg characteristics that resemble those of the American Goldfinch or of the nest found on the corn plant.

American Goldfinch commonly nest in the terminal cluster of twigs of the substrate plant (McGraw and Middleton 2009) and usually have two or more points where the nest is attached to the substrate with spider silk and plant fibers (Nickell 1951). In this case, the spider web and fiber attachment to the single stalk ran the entire initial outside depth of the nest (Fig. 2), which placed the nest off center from the cornstalk and may have resulted in the bending of the stalk.

We were not able to directly assess the viability of the nest. American Goldfinches usually lay 2-7 eggs (Stokes 1950, Berger 1968), with fledging occurring as late as 28 September in Madison Wisconsin (Stokes 1950). Egg-laying occurred as late as 24 September in Ontario (McGraw and Middleton 2009) but late fledging dates were not reported from that area. Because this nest contained only one egg on 25 September, which would have resulted in a very late time of fledging, we suspect the nest was abandoned at the time of discovery. The weathered condition of the nesting material (Fig. 2) also indicates this was not a recent nest but, because the corn field was planted during the spring of 2008, the nest must have been built

during the 2008 breeding season.

Acknowledgements

Two anonymous reviewers helped improve the content and quality of the manuscript.

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Figure 2. An American Goldfinch nest on a cornstalk in the approximate position in which it was observed in the field (Fig. 1). Nest construction appeared to continue after the cornstalk substrate bent over, as evidenced by different orientation of nest material after an initial cup was formed when the stalk was vertical (left) and the white, downy lining of the old "wall", now the new base (right). The nest lining of thistle (*Cirsium spp.*) is consistent with the nesting behavior of American Goldfinch.

Answer to Photo Quiz #27

Rick Wiltraut

This bird could almost pass for a duck caught in the middle of a dive, but it's actually a shorebird taking a bath. There is very little to go with on this bird. Note the overall grayish coloration of the body and the white uppertail coverts. Many species of shorebirds fit this description. Non-breeding Black-bellied Plover is similar but has series of dark narrow bars on tail. Both non-breeding Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs are similar but also have noticeable barring on tail. Non-breeding and juvenile Red Knots are similar to this bird but have grayish barring on rump. Non-breeding Hudsonian Godwit has dark tail contrasting with white rump. Non-breeding White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, and Wilson's Phalarope are also similar but have more defined gray or dark gray tails contrasting with white rump. Note the fainter, rather diffused grayish tail of this bird, especially the outer rectrices. This Willet was photographed by Geoff Malosh at Bald Knob, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania on July 25, 2009. Since 2004, there has been a clear uptick in sightings of this species in western Pennsylvania, particularly in spring, but also early in their southbound migration. This individual represented the long-awaited first of its species at the storied Bald Knob pond in western Allegheny Co.



Birds of Note – December 2009 through February 2010

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. "Atlas" indicates valid records deemed credible which were entered into the PBBA database but which do not appear in the county reports.

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 – *Berks, Bucks, Chester, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Northampton.*

Pink-footed Goose* – *Lehigh*: one at Lake Muhlenberg 12/21 (Matt Loyko), re-located 12/21-22 at Dorney Pond (Jason Horn, Billy Weber, Mark Boyd, *doc submitted*).

Ross's Goose – *Lebanon*: one at Gretna Glen 1/29 (Randy C. Miller, Sid Hostetter).

Brant – *Adams*: one at Long Arm Reservoir 12/4 (Dan Richards); *Lancaster*: 37 on Susquehanna River near Peach Bottom Village 1/22 (Bob Schutsky); *Wayne/Pike*: 100 counted on White Mills CBC 12/20; *York*: one at Long Arm Reservoir 12/2 (Dan Richards).

Eurasian Wigeon – *Bucks*: 2 in Warwick Twp. 12/27 on Central Bucks CBC (Marya Halderman).

Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal* – *Bucks*: One at Hidden Lake 12/4-8 (Bill Keim, Ed Norman, *doc submitted*).

Harlequin Duck* – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 2/20 through the end of the period (Mark Vass, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Surf Scoter- *Allegheny*: one at Emsworth Dam on the Ohio River 2/27 (Mark Vass); *Dauphin*: one on Susquehanna River at Marysville 12/12 (Cameron Rutt).

White-winged Scoter – *Allegheny*: one on the Allegheny River at Creighton 1/2 (Dan Yagusic); *Beaver*: one at Rochester 2/18-3/2 (Mark Vass, Geoff Malosh, Scott Kinzey); *Erie*: 10 on Erie CBC 12/19 and 6 at Presque Isle State Park 1/20-23 (Jerry McWilliams).

Black Scoter – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 12/21 (Rudy Keller, Matt Wlasniewski); *Dauphin*: one on the Susquehanna River at City Island 12/27 for the Harrisburg CBC (Richard Williams, Sandy & Bill Baum, Bernie Crist); *Erie*: one on Edinboro Lake continued from fall until 12/6 (Mark Vass), and 3 on Erie CBC 12/19; *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek SP 12/8 (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee).

Red-throated Loon – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 12/3-5 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 12/24 (Devich Farbotnik); *Centre*: Two at Bald Eagle SP 12/4 (Matt O'Donnell); *Erie*: a season total of 80 on the Presque Isle State Park waterfowl count through mid-Dec, with a high of 30 on 12/10 (Jerry McWilliams), and one on Erie CBC 12/19.

Horned Grebe – *Allegheny*: 2 at Natrona Heights 1/9 (Amy Henrici, Pat McShea) and one was at Emsworth Dam on the Ohio River 2/14 (Mark Vass); *Butler*: 2 on Lake Arthur 12/22; *Erie*: 6 on Erie CBC 12/19; *Mercer*: one on Shenango River Reservoir 12/4 (Mark Vass).

Red-necked Grebe – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle SP 12/4 (Matt O'Donnell).

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: High count at Bristol was 13 on 12/29 (Tom Johnson, Cameron Rutt), singles away from Bristol were at Uhlerstown 12/4 (Erich Boenzli) and New Hope 2/10-18 (Bill Hoehne); *Philadelphia*: Two on Pennypack Valley CBC 12/19, a total of 75 was counted 1/1 (Frank Windfelder).

Great Egret – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract through 12/6 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one in Landenburg 12/21 (Andrew Leidig); *Lancaster*: one at Greenfield Corporate Center 12/26 through Feb (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler).

Black-crowned Night Heron – *Bucks*: 4 at Penn-Warner Tract through 12/13, two through 1/1 (Devich Farbotnik), and one at Rohm and Haas 1/23 (Devich Farbotnik).

Osprey – *Adams*: one in Reading Twp. 12/27 (Don and Jennifer Gilbert); *Dauphin*: one in South Hanover Twp 1/24 (Beth Carricato).

Prairie Falcon* – *Cumberland*: present for at least the third consecutive year in the Mudlevel Rd. area 12/4-2/26 (m.ob., *no doc*).

Virginia Rail – *Bucks*: 2 at Quakertown Swamp 12/24 and 1/1 (Devich Farbotnik).

Sandhill Crane – *Chester, Crawford, Lawrence, Lebanon, Mercer, Somerset.*

American Avocet – *Venango*: one from fall stayed until 12/1 at Kahle Lake.

Spotted Sandpiper – *Northampton*: one on the Bethlehem-Easton CBC 1/2.

Least Sandpiper – *Crawford*: one present 12/23-2/7 at Linesville Fish Hatchery provided a first winter record for the county (Mark Vass, Robert C. Leberman); *Cumberland*: found for the fifth consecutive winter, presumably same bird, at Big Spring 12/19-1/30 (Vern Gauthier).

Dunlin – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 12/16 (Jerry McWilliams).

American Woodcock – *Huntingdon*: one in Stone Valley on Huntingdon CBC 12/20 (Margaret Brittingham). *Lebanon*: one at SGL 145 (George Tallman, Randy C. Miller); *Northampton*: one on Wild Gap – Little Creek CBC 12/14.

Laughing Gull – *Bucks*: one on Southern Bucks CBC 12/19; *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware River 12/9 (Frank Windfelder).

Little Gull – *Erie*: Two at Presque Isle State Park 1/28 (Jerry McWilliams).

Thayer's Gull* – *Allegheny*: one first winter bird was well studied and photographed at the Point in Pittsburgh 2/19-3/6 (ph. Geoff Malosh, *doc submitted*); *Erie*: 2 at Lake View Landfill 1/18 (Jerry McWilliams, *no doc*).

Glaucous Gull – *Armstrong*: one at Kittanning 2/14 provided a first county record (Margaret and Roger Higbee); *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 1/5 (Joan Silagy); *Bucks*: 3 at Morrisville Levee 1/17 (Bill Keim, Steve Walker), 3 at Falls Twp. Community Park 1/30 (Harvey Tomlinson), highest count at Penn-Warner Tract was 2 on 12/30 (Bill Keim); *Erie*: as many as nine during the season at Lake View landfill and Presque Isle; *Lancaster*: One on the Susquehanna River at Long Level 12/28 (Chuck Chalfont).

Forster's Tern – *Allegheny*: one at the point in downtown Pittsburgh 12/30-1/2 (Dave Wilton, Dan Yagusic, m.ob.) provided the second state record for January.

Eurasian Collared-Dove* – *Berks*: one at Long Lane and Dotterer Rd. 12/27 provided the fourth county record (Arlene Koch, Billy Weber, *no doc*).

Barn Owl – *Cumberland*: present during part of season at SGL 169; *Juniata*: one on Lewistown CBC 12/19; *Somerset*: one found in barn near Summit Mills late Dec, found dead of unknown cause in Jan (Joe Hertzler, Alan Peterson, Jeff Payne, Chris Payne); *Union*: one on Lewisburg CBC.

Snowy Owl – *Crawford*: one, presumably an adult male, at Shadeland 1/26-2/28 (Miller family) was seen by nearly 500 observers during its stay (*fide* Clare Nicolls); *Lebanon*: one seen in flight at Palmyra 2/22 (Richard and Karen Light).

Long-eared Owl – *Bucks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Mifflin, Northampton, Wyoming*.

Rufous Hummingbird – *Lancaster*: one banded 12/8 in Ephrata (Scott Weidensaul, Eric Witmer); *Lehigh*: hatch-year female in Zionsville, present since 11/11, last seen 12/12 (Chris Stamper).

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird – *Erie*: one from the fall continued in Harborcreek until 12/20 (Sharon Brandt).

Allen's Hummingbird* – *Lancaster*: first state record: adult female banded by Scott Weidensaul near Leola 12/12 at home of Debra Raudenbush, seen until 12/28 (m.ob.) (*doc submitted*).

Blue-headed Vireo – *Delaware*: one at Swarthmore College 12/26 (Andrew Eberly, David Eberly).

Tree Swallow – *Bucks*: one at Morrisville Levee (Devich Farbotnik) and 4 at New Hope on 2/22 (Bill Hoehne) established a new early arrival date; *Chester*: one in Doe Run area 2/22 (Kevin Fryberger); *Lancaster*: 6 flying up Susquehanna River at Long Level 2/22 (Drew Weber).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – *Philadelphia*: Wintered again at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant with 62 counted 1/9 (Paul Driver).

Barn Swallow – *Philadelphia*: 2, possibly 3, at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant One 12/29-1/18, with at least one still present 3/1 (Tom Johnson, Steve DuPont)—this may represent a first Jan record for Pennsylvania.

House Wren – *Cambria*: one on Johnstown CBC 12/20.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 12/6 (Devich Farbotnik).

Varied Thrush* – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley 12/22 (Cameron Rutt), continued through 12/25 (Devich

Farbotnik, Elaine Crunkleton) (*doc submitted*); *Lackawanna*: one reported on private property 12/25 (ph. Jennifer Grab, *doc submitted*).

Orange-crowned Warbler – *Adams*: one in Biglerville 1/18-20 (Mike Weible, Dan Richards); *Lancaster*: one or two at Lancaster County Sewer Authority in Washington Boro 1/3-10 (Chuck Chalfont, Jonathon Heller, Eric Witmer).

Nashville Warbler – *Lancaster*: one at Lancaster County Sewer Authority in Washington Boro 2/28 (Tom Garner); *York*: one on 12/25 (Todd Frant).

Pine Warbler – *Bucks*: one at New Hope in Jan and 2/23 (Bill Hoehne); *Chester*: one at Coatsville Reservoir 1/3 on West Chester CBC.

Palm Warbler – *Bucks*: one at Giving Pond 12/22-1/22 (ph. Erich Boenzli); *Lancaster*: one at Lancaster County Sewer Authority in Washington Boro 1/3 into Feb (Chuck Chalfont, Jonathon Heller), and one at Columbia 12/19; *Philadelphia*: up to 3 seen through 1/9 at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant (Frank Windfelder).

Ovenbird – *Philadelphia*: one on Temple University campus 12/1-4 (Sanford Sorkin).

Waterthrush sp. – *Cumberland*: one not identified to species along Conodoguinet Creek 1/15 (Ron Freed, Jim Binder).

Yellow-breasted Chat – *Chester*: one at State Line Woods 1/29 (Joe Sebastiani, Brian Byrnes).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Bucks*: one at Morrisville 12/30-1/23 (ph. Bill Keim, m.ob.); *Cumberland*: one at a Newville feeding station 2/7-8 (m.ob.); *Northampton*: one at a feeder at Koch farm in Williams Twp 1/21 through end of period (Arlene Koch).

LeConte's Sparrow* – *Chester*: one on Elverson CBC 12/27 (Rick Robinson), seen until 1/24 (m.ob.) (*doc submitted*).

Lincoln's Sparrow – *Bucks*: one in New Britain Twp. 12/23 (Tom Johnson); *Juniata*: one at Oakland Mills 12/31 into Feb (Aden Troyer, Chad Kauffman).

Dickcissel – *Chester*: one at Cochranville 1/3 through end of season (Gail Dillon); *Northampton*: one on 1/7 and 1/13 in Williams Twp. (Arlene Koch Dustin Welch); *Philadelphia*: one at Linden Ave. boat ramp 1/9-15 (m.ob.).

Brewer's Blackbird – *Adams*: one along Pumping Station Rd. 12/17 (Mike O' Brien).

Baltimore Oriole – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 12/22-1/2 (Cameron Rutt, m.ob.), one in Doylestown Twp 12/23 (Tena Kellogg), and one in New Hope present for the sixth consecutive winter (Suzanne Meyers).

Red Crossbill – *Fayette*: a flock of 100 reported near Markleysburg 1/13 (Larry Durgin).

White-winged Crossbill – *Tioga*: 13 seen on 1/31 during a winter raptor survey in northern part of county (Jeff Holbrook).

Common Redpoll – *Westmoreland*: 2 on the Rector CBC 1/2.

Evening Grosbeak – *Clearfield*: 8 reported on Dubois CBC 1/2; *Lancaster*: Two or three flyovers north of Manheim 2/6 (Kate Miller, Randy Miller).

Addendum for Fall 2009

American Avocet – *Mercer*: one at Shenango Reservoir 8/29 (Mark Vass).

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*). This bird was found and photographed at Lake Muhlenburg *Lehigh* 21 December 2010, and was relocated the next day at nearby Dorney Pond before it moved on. It represents approximately the tenth report for Pennsylvania and is currently under review. (*Matt Loyko*)



Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*). Present at Hidden Lake near Newtown *Bucks* 4 to (here) 8 December 2009, this bird may have been the same Eurasian Teal that was reported in *Bucks* in March and April 2009. (*Ed Norman*)



Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). These two blue morph Snows were photographed with a white morph over East Allen Twp. *Northampton* 9 February 2010. (*Dustin Welch*)



Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). This outstanding adult male was present at the channel at Presque Isle State Park *Erie* 20 February to at least mid-March (here 21 February) and provided the county with just its second record of an adult male. (*Jerry McWilliams*)



Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). This Cackler (center) was photographed with two Canada Geese over Leola *Lancaster* 21 December 2009 as the photographer waited for Pennsylvania's first Allen's Hummingbird to appear at a feeder (see cover). (*Tom Johnson*)



Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). In *Erie* this species is relatively easy to see as they pass Sunset Point in late fall, but not so easy to study and photograph at close range as this one was at the channel at Presque Isle State Park 27 December 2009. (*Jerry McWilliams*)



Great Egret (*Ardea alba*). An unusual winter record, particularly considering the harsh and snow-blasted February experienced statewide, was this Great Egret that spent the entire season at Stauffer Run Lancaster, photographed here 24 February 2010. (*Devin Bosler*)



Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). The enigmatic *Cumberland* Prairie Falcon returned once again for the winter to the area around a quarry northeast of Shippensburg, shown here 1 January 2010. It is worth noting that despite this bird's presence for a number of winters now, there is still no documentation submitted to PORC regarding this record. (*Tom Johnson*)



Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). Even in an off year for this species, the Volant Strips and surrounding area in *Lawrence* can be counted upon for a Rough-legged Hawk or two, such as this bird photographed there 23 December 2009. (*Steve Sanford*)



Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*). It used to be unheard of to see a Least Sandpiper and snow at the same time in Pennsylvania, but it is becoming ever more common. This bird, present for much of the season at the Linesville Fish Hatchery *Crawford* and shown here 24 February 2010, has joined the long-standing *Cumberland* Least as one of the hardest individual shorebirds in Pennsylvania's history (aside from Killdeer and snipe, of course). (*Virginia McQuown*)



Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). A fine portrait made at Morrisville Levee *Bucks* 17 February 2010. (*Bill Keim*)



Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*). This first-winter Kumlien's Gull posed nicely at Morrisville Levee *Bucks* 17 January 2010. (*Bill Keim*)



Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayerii*). Just the third in *Allegheny's* history, all since 2007, this first cycle Thayer's Gull was present in downtown Pittsburgh 19 February to 6 March 2010 (here 3 March). It proved frustratingly difficult to photograph until the last few days of its stay, when this image was made. (Geoff Malosh)



Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). This first cycle bird at Kittanning *Armstrong* 14 February 2010 provided a first county record; curiously this species was absent in Pittsburgh where there was an otherwise excellent winter for gulls. (Margaret Higbee)



Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayerii*). Another view, this from above and in good sunlight of the Thayer's Gull at Pittsburgh *Allegheny* 5 March 2010. (Geoff Malosh).



Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). Also increasing in *Allegheny* is Great Black-backed Gull, which enjoyed its best season ever in the county. This bird was one of a single-day record-setting 5 in downtown Pittsburgh 15 February 2010. (Geoff Malosh)



Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). Definitely continuing to increase in *Allegheny* is Lesser Black-backed Gull; this bird was one of at least 3 found this season in downtown Pittsburgh, photographed here 15 February 2010. (Geoff Malosh)



Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*). Totally unexpected was this Forster's Tern in downtown Pittsburgh 30 December 2009 to 2 January 2010 (here 31 December). Its stay over the New Year holiday made it just the second January Forster's in Pennsylvania history. (Geoff Malosh)



Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*). This nearly pure white and thus almost certainly adult male Snowy Owl was present at the Miller family farm in Shadeland Crawford 26 January to 28 February 2010 (here 21 February), where it was visited by nearly 500 birders from across the Northeast. (Geoff Malosh)



Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*). Leola Lancaster 14 December 2009. PSO and birders from across Pennsylvania and elsewhere wish to extend their gratitude to host Debra Raudenbush who welcomed hundreds of hopeful onlookers into her yard during the bird's stay. (Bob Moul)



Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*). Pennsylvania's very long-awaited first Allen's was this adult female banded at a residence in Leola Lancaster 12 December 2009, where it remained to 28 December (here 24 December). (Howard Eskin)



Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). It was an average season for shrikes in Pennsylvania with about 20 reports; this bird was photographed at East Greenville Lehigh 20 January 2010. (Jimmy Warren)



Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*). The Leola Allen's demonstrated its hardiness by enduring snowfalls up to 18 inches and frigid temperatures prior to its 28 December departure. Photographed here in heavy snowfall 20 December 2009. (Jeffery Davis)



American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*). This pleasing image was made at Maple Knoll Farm Bucks 18 Feb 2010. (Howard Eskin)



Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). One of two found in Pennsylvania this year, this bird was present at Thornhurst *Lackawanna* and photographed 10 January 2010. The record and image above was submitted to PORC well after the original sighting. (*Jennifer Grab*)



Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*). As the photographer put it on his website, where else can you expect to find three species of warbler in Pennsylvania in February with 18 inches of snow on the ground? At the Lancaster Water Authority plant in Washington Boro *Lancaster*, of course, where this Orange-crowned was photographed 8 February 2010 in the company of Yellow-rumped Warblers and at least 2 Palm Warblers. This location is famous for harboring wintering warblers every year. (*Eric Witmer*)



American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). This image serves as a tribute to both the ridiculously harsh and snowy February of 2010 and the resilience of Pennsylvania's wintering birds. This amazing scene of an American Robin scaling icicles in order to drink the dripping water was made in Columbia *Lancaster* 10 February 2010 during a snowfall. (*Meredith Lombard*)



Ovenbird (*Seiurus noveboracensis*). For the second year in a row an Ovenbird was found in December on the campus of Temple University in *Philadelphia*. This image was made in December 2008 of what could possibly be the same bird as was present also in December 2009. (*Sanford Sorkin*)



Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*). This species is increasing as a winter resident in Pennsylvania. Pictured here are 3 at Williams Township *Northampton* 26 January 2010. (*Dave DeReamus*)



Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*). Another wintering Chipping Sparrow in *Northampton*, this one was at the Koch Farm 2 February 2010. (*Dustin Welch*)



Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). For the second consecutive winter, a Le Conte's spent a good portion of the season in the extreme southeastern corner of Pennsylvania, this time at Struble Lake Chester 27 December 2009 to at least 24 January 2010, here 10 January. (*Jeffery Davis*)



Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). One of three Clay-colored Sparrows found in Pennsylvania this winter, this bird was at the Koch Farm *Northampton* from 21 January 2010 to the end of the period, here 21 February. (*Howard Eskin*)



Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). A leucistic bird at *Narvon Lancaster* 25 February 2010. (*Frank Haas*)



Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). A fine portrait of a wintering Savannah at *Beltzville State Park Carbon* 9 February 2010. (*Dustin Welch*)



Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*). This bird with a deformed foot was photographed at *East Allen Township Northampton* 2 January 2010. (*Dustin Welch*)



Presumed White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco. This interesting individual was photographed at Bucktoe Creek Preserve Chester 14 February 2010. It might otherwise be passed off as an exceptionally dull White-crowned Sparrow, but the white outer tail feathers and pale bill, both like that of a Dark-eyed Junco, suggest hybrid parentage. (Joe Sebastiani)



Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). One of three in the state this season, this bird was at the Linden Ave. boat ramp in Philadelphia 9 to 15 January 2010 (here 10 January). (Bill Keim)



Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). Moore Township Northampton 20 December 2010. (Dave DeReamus)



Presumed White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco. Another view of this unique bird. In this picture the bird could be seen simply as a very dull White-throated Sparrow, except for the pale bill. Fortunately the tail pattern was also captured in the first image above. 14 February 2010 at Bucktoe Creek Preserve Chester. (Joe Sebastiani)



Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). Following two extraordinary winters for northern finches (redpolls in 2007-08 and crossbills in 2008-09), it's not surprising that this season the only finch Pennsylvania's birders could count on would be the occasional Purple, such as this one photographed at Houston Washington 2 January 2010. (Cris Hamilton)

Local Notes – December 2009 to February 2010



ABBREVIATIONS

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

Adams County

Locations: Biglerville (BIGV), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Huntingdon Twp. (HUNT), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Mountain Rd. (MTN), State Game Lands 249 (SGL), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

A **Brant** was found 12/4 at the *Adams* edge of LAR (DR). The 1/2 CBC located eight **Mute Swans**. Two **Tundra Swans** were seen 12/3 flying over the Mines Rd., north of Hanover, and a group of 57 were in a farm field on Germany Rd. 2/21 for the third year in a row. Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were at LAR 12/4 (DR).

Osprey are not normally seen here in the winter, but one was seen 12/27 in Reading Twp. (DJG). A **Bald Eagle** was found along Red Rock Rd. 12/18 (DR), and three were found on the 1/2 CBC. Seven **Northern Harriers** were reported on the 1/2 CBC, and one was seen during a 1/27 WRS (RDS). There were three **Rough-legged Hawk** sightings: one 12/17 at the FFLD Post Office (MOB), one 1/2 on the CBC, and one 2/19 at GNMP (BM). A **Merlin** was seen 12/18 along the Emmitsburg Rd. (DR). An immature **Peregrine Falcon** that had rather large green bands on each leg was found 12/24 perched on top of a utility pole along Germany Rd. (PK). The only **Short-eared Owl** report was the

three from the 1/2 CBC.

A few **Red-headed Woodpeckers** stayed for the winter: one was found 1/27 on a WRS (RDS), two were seen 1/18 at GNMP (DR), three were at SGL 1/21 (DR), and one was at SGL 2/2 (DR). Eight **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found on the 1/2 CBC, one showed up 1/8 at MTN (RDS), and one was at SGL 1/21 (DR). A **Northern Flicker** was at MTN 1/14 (RDS) and one was in a GBG area yard 2/6 eating sunflower seeds. **Common Ravens** continue to increase, slowly but surely. Twelve were tallied on the 1/2 CBC, and one was seen 1/19 in BIGV (DR). The only **Brown Creeper** report was the one on the 1/2 CBC, the only **Winter Wren** report was the four on the 1/2 CBC, and the only **Hermit Thrush** report was the five from the 1/2 CBC. A **Brown Thrasher** was found on the 1/2 CBC, and one was seen 2/11 in GBG (JM). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found in BIGV 1/18 (MW), then was seen again 1/19 and 1/20 (DR, MW).

A few **Eastern Towhees** stayed over the winter: a pair frequented a GBG yard from 12/17 through the end of the period (NL), one was at SGL 1/21 (DR), two were at SGL 1/22 (DR), and three were at SGL 2/28 (PK). There were a few reports of one or two **Tree Sparrows**, then 14 were seen 2/14 in HUNT (DJG). A **Chipping Sparrow** was found on the 1/2 CBC, and another visited HUNT 2/10-14 (DJG). A **Field Sparrow** was seen on the 1/2 CBC, one was at HUNT 2/6-7, then two

were there 2/10-14 and 2/28 (DJG). Three **Savannah Sparrows** were located during the 1/2 CBC, two showed up 2/6 on an East Berlin window sill during a 16-18 inch snowfall (PK), and one was seen 2/14 in HUNT (DJG). The only **Fox Sparrow** reports were four on the 1/2 CBC, one at SGL 2/2 (DR), and one 2/10 in GBG (JM). **White-crowned Sparrow** reports were also scarce: two 12/18 along Bigham Rd. (DR), one 1/3 in East Berlin (PK), and one 2/10-11 in HUNT (DJG).

Some **Eastern Meadowlarks** stayed into the winter. There was a flock of 40 seen 12/17 at the FFLD Post Office (MOB), six were seen 12/27 along Germany Rd. (DR), two were found on the 1/2 CBC, and nine were at GNMP 1/26 (DR). A **Brewer's Blackbird** that was described well by the observer, who is familiar with the species, was seen 12/17 along Pumping Station Rd. (MOB).

Observers: **Peter J. Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 542-8341 pabirder@hotmail.com**, Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Phil Keener, Nancy Locher, Jenny McClintock, Bob Moul, Mike O'Brien (MOB), Dan Richards, Ralph & Deb Siefken (RDS), Mike Weible.

NEW COMPILER BEGINNING SPRING 2010: Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com.

Allegheny County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Dashields Dam on the Ohio River (DASH), Emsworth Dam on the Ohio River (EMSW), Pine Township (PT), Plum Borough (PB).

A good variety of waterfowl were reported in small numbers during the season, particularly during the cold spell the first half of January. Gulls were the highlight of the season with a good variety along the rivers. A Forster's Tern was a surprising out of season visitor.

A few **Tundra Swans** were reported in Dec. One flew over Ohara Twp. 12/26 (STh), 5 were on the AR at Springdale 12/26 (AH, PM) and 65 flew over Hampton Twp. 12/29 (DN).

A male **Green-winged Teal** was at Cheswick 12/20 to 1/3 (DY, AH, PM). A female was in PT 12/26 (PL, SL). Four **Canvasback** were on the AR at Harmar Twp. 1/3 (AH, PM), 2 were on the same river between Twelve and Fourteen Mile Islands 1/16 (AH, PM) and one was at Neville Island on the Ohio R. 2/21 (MV). A **Redhead** was at the ponds on Moody Road in Findlay Twp. 12/12 (MF). There were only two **Ring-necked Duck** reports: 2 at Boyce-Mayview Park 12/10 (SC) and one at DASH 2/11 (MV). A **Bufflehead** was at Boyce-Mayview Park 12/1 (SC), 4 were at EMSW 12/26 (PB), 6 were there 1/1 (MV) and 19 were there 2/27 (MV). Single birds were at Etna 1/1 (DY) and PB 1/10 (AH, PM). Up to 4 remained at PB up to 2/20 (AH, PM). **Common Goldeneye** reports include one at EMSW 12/28 (PB), 5 there 1/1 (MV), 2 at DASH 1/16 (KSJ), 2 on the AR at Etna 1/16 (DY), 2 at Harmar Twp. 1/16 (DY), 2 at PB 1/23 (AH) and 21 at EMSW 1/29 (MV). This species remained at these locations through the season. Three **Hooded Mergansers** were at Boyce-Mayview Park 12/10 (SC), 6 were at Wood's Run 12/18-1/1 (MV) and 2 were at Cheswick 12/26 (AH, PM) with one remaining to mid-Jan (m.ob.). Three were at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. 1/28 (TM, NM). Small numbers remained to the end of the season at various locations. **Common Merganser** reports were all from the AR and included single birds at Cheswick 12/20 (PM), Sharpsburg 12/26 (MVV), Blawnox 12/28 (AH, PM) and 2 at Fox Chapel 1/2 (AH). Ten were at Blawnox 1/16 (DY), 3 were at Fox Chapel and 6 were nearby on the Penn Hills side of the AR 1/18 (AH, PM). Eleven were at Oakmont 2/13 (AH, PM). Several remained on the river through the season. There were only two reports of **Red-breasted Merganser**: 2 at Cheswick 12/20 and one at Etna 12/26 (DY, BC). A female **Northern Pintail** was found on a small pond in PT 12/26 through January. It disappeared for a few days during the heavy snow we experienced in early Feb, but returned and remained to the end of the season (PL, SL). A **Long-tailed Duck** was a nice find on the AR in Cheswick 12/26 (DY). A **Surf Scoter** was at EMSW 2/27 (MV), and a **White-winged Scoter** was on the AR at Creighton 1/2 (DY). There were a few reports of **Ruddy Duck** this season. One was at the Point in Pittsburgh 12/22 (GM), 2 were at EMSW 1/1 (MV) and one was on the AR at Sharpsburg 1/2 (DY).

Irregular here in winter, 2 **Turkey Vultures** were in Edgeworth 1/21 and one was there 1/25 (BS).

Raptor activity was lively this season. **Bald Eagles** moved into the

county as winter set in. Two were at DASH 12/22 (MV) and one was there 1/10 and 1/16 (KSJ). One was at Wood's Run 12/24 (MV), 12/28 and 1/2 (PB), one was in Etna and nearby areas 12/26 (DY, BC, MVV), one was at Duck Hollow 1/2 (KSJ) and one was flying along the AR in downtown Pittsburgh 1/8 (SG). An adult was seen on the frozen lake at North Park 1/28 (fide PL, SL). Three were at DASH 1/29 and one 2/14 (MV). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Imperial 1/10 (LM). A **Merlin** was at Boyce-Mayview Park 12/1 to at least 12/8 (SC), one was at Lock and Dam #4 at Natrona Heights 12/6 (AH, PM), one was near Warrendale 12/21 (GM), one was in Etna 12/26 (DY, BC) and one was in Creighton 1/3 (BC).

A **Peregrine Falcon** made two passes at the gulls gathered at the Point in Pittsburgh 1/12, but did not attack any of them (DW). One mobbed the Bald Eagle mentioned above in downtown Pittsburgh 1/8 (SG). One was seen at the Tarentum Bridge 1/11 (MVT); a location of previous sightings that bears watching. A bird was seen several times in the Etna area near the site where nesting has occurred (m.ob.). A pair was observed and photographed at the Tarentum Bridge 2/7 (SG). Both birds were banded and the band numbers were recorded. According to Kate St. John, the male was hatched at the University of Pittsburgh nest in 2008 and the female was hatched on a bridge near Hopewell, Virginia in 2008 and hatched in the Shenandoah Mountains (because the young birds often die when learning to fly due to high winds at the bridge).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was a nice find during the Pittsburgh CBC in Fox Chapel 12/26 (BSh). Grouse have become difficult to find in the county in recent years. A group of 7 **Northern Bobwhites** were near SGL 203 in Marshall Twp. 12/3 (GM).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Wood's Run 12/18 (MV), one was in Cheswick 12/20 (DY), 3 were at McKees Rocks 1/1 (MV) and singles were at Sharpsburg, Harmar Twp. and Blawnox 1/16 (DY). Up to 3 continued at McKees Rocks through Feb. (OM, TM, NM, MV) and one was at EMSW 1/29 (MV). Two **Horned Grebes** were at Natrona Heights 1/9 (AH, PM) and one was at EMSW 2/14 (MV). Small numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported during the entire season on all three rivers in the Pittsburgh area.

Late **Killdeer** reports include single birds in Lawrenceville 12/11 (PB), Findlay Twp. 12/12-19 (MV) and Frazier Twp. 12/21 (DH). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at Imperial 12/19-20 (MV).

The cold weather brought some unusual gulls to the confluence of the three rivers at the Point in Pittsburgh. Large numbers of gulls are seen at dusk when they gather to roost for the night and just after dawn before they disperse for the day. An adult **Bonaparte's Gull** was at the Point in Pittsburgh 2/12 (GM). A first cycle **Thayer's Gull** was there 2/19-3/6 (GM, et al.). The bird was carefully studied and excellent photographs were taken showing plumage details that led to a confident identification. A third winter **Iceland Gull** was present 12/24 (DY, BC). An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was spotted 12/25 (BC), 1/1-2 (MF, DW, ST, DY), 1/5 (BC) and 1/12 (DW). An adult was around the Highland Park Bridge 1/13 (DY). An adult was back at the Point in Pittsburgh 2/12 and 2/14 and 2 adults were present 2/15 (GM). A single adult remained 2/17-19 (GM). An adult **Great Black-backed Gull** was there at dawn (DY) followed by a first winter bird at dusk 12/24 (BC). A third winter bird was found at Duck Hollow 1/13 (TM, NM). Two adults were at the Point 2/14 and a good count of 5 were there 2/15 that included 3 adults and 2 first cycle birds (GM). Four (2 adults, 2 first winter) were present 2/17 (GM) and one adult 2/27 (GM, MF). Two adults were at DASH 2/27 (MV). High counts of **Ring-billed Gulls** at the Point included 1200 on 12/24 (BC) and 4000 on 2/17 (GM). **Herring Gull** high counts included over 300 on 12/24 (BC) and 400 on 1/12 (DW) and 2/18 (GM). Very unusual and out of season was a **Forster's Tern** at the gull gathering spot in Pittsburgh 12/30 (DW, DY) where it was seen up to 1/2 (m.ob.). This provided only the second January record of this species in the state.

Great Horned Owl reports were more numerous than usual. Two were heard in PB 12/26 (AH), 2 were calling in Fox Chapel 12/27 (MF), one was heard in Hampton Twp. 1/9 (DN) and 3 (two seen and 3 heard) were in Ross Twp. 1/11 (BVN). A bird was on a well known Red-tailed Hawk nest in Findlay Twp. 1/22 (MV) and one was perched in a tree in the Imperial area 1/29 (MV). One was mobbed by a Cooper's Hawk (and filmed no less) in Ross Twp. 2/12 (STI). A **Barred Owl** was reported near Schenley Park in Pittsburgh 12/17 (JK). One was in this area last winter. In past years one was present in nearby Squirrel Hill for a period of time. It's difficult to assess the status of this species within the city limits of Pittsburgh, but these periodic sightings may represent wandering birds or in this case, perhaps a bird spending the winter in Schenley Park. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling at

Imperial 12/23 (GM). Single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at Boyce-Mayview Park 12/1 (SC), PB 12/6 and 1/3 (AH, PM), Franklin Park (JO) and Fox Chapel (BSh) 12/26, Penn Hills 12/28 (MF), Frick Park 1/10 (MF), East Liberty 1/13 (DY), and in Ross Twp. 2/11 (STi).

A **Northern Shrike** was found in PT 1/5 (BSh) and the bird first reported at Imperial in Nov was seen again 1/10 (LM, SC). The **American Crow** roost in Pittsburgh moved again this year. As of this writing, the exact location has not been reported, however thousands of birds have been observed in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh at dawn and dusk. During the Pittsburgh CBC, 7000 were counted (fide JV). After a lack of reports since spring, 2 **Common Ravens** were at Imperial 12/20 (MV). A single bird was reported at Wood's Run (a reliable location in recent years) 12/24 (MV) and 12/28-29 (PB). Two at DASH mobbed one of the Bald Eagles 1/10 (KSJ).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was visiting a feeding station in Churchill in Dec (TS, JSc), one was at Knob Hill Park 12/14 (KD) and one was visiting a feeder in Kilbuck Twp. 12/26 (PB). One was found at North Park 1/15 and 1/23 (PB) and one was at Boyce-Mayview Park 1/19 (SC). **Winter Wren** reports were good with single birds in Ohio Twp. 12/8-10 (PB), Boyce-Mayview Park 12/10 (SC), North Park (BVN) and Fox Chapel 12/26 (BSh).

A late **Brown Thrasher** was a good find in East Liberty 12/26 (DY), a location that has hosted a lingering bird for the past few years.

There are usually reports of lingering or wintering **Eastern Towhees** and this fall was no exception. Four were at Boyce-Mayview Park 12/19 (fide DW) and one was at North Park 12/26 (BVN). A **Fox Sparrow** was visiting a feeding station in PT 12/7-12 (PL, SL) and another visited a feeder in Etna 1/10-12 and again 2/11 (BC). A **Swamp Sparrow** was in the small wetland along the AR in Fox Chapel 12/1 (BC) and a nice count of 5 were tallied at Boyce-Mayview Park during the Pittsburgh South Hills CBC 12/19 (fide DW). One was at Imperial 12/20 (MV), 2 were at a traditional wintering site in Fox Chapel 12/26 (BSh) and one was found again at Boyce Mayview Park 1/4 (DW, ST). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were at the traditional wintering site in Findlay Twp. 1/9 (MV). A **Dark-eyed Junco** sporting a white collar visited a feeder in PT 2/22 (PL, SL).

A late **Red-winged Blackbird** visited a feeder in Pleasant Hills 12/11 and an early migrant stopped at the same feeder 2/26 (SSn). A late **Common Grackle** visited a feeder in PT 12/13 and 12/25 (PL, SL) and a flock of 6 were present 2/12 (PL, SL); probably early migrants or perhaps displaced by the major snowstorm. Two were in PB 2/26 (AH, PM) and one was in Ohara Twp. 2/27 (PB), certainly returning spring arrivals. A late **Brown-headed Cowbird** stopped at PT 12/19 and two were there 12/22 and 12/31 (PL, SL). Single birds were there 1/2 and 1/7-8 and 2 were there 1/14. Several were present 2/25-26 (PL, SL).

An intriguing post to the PA Birds Listserv by Bob Mulvihill 12/10 described 12 large black and white birds flying over the Wexford area 12/9, observed by Steve Latta from the National Aviary in Pittsburgh. The observer thought they may have been Wood Storks, describing them as long necked, long legged, white with black along the length of the wings and circling upwards. The observer saw the birds while driving on a busy highway so detailed observation was impossible. Further discussion on the PA Birds Listserv led to the suggestion based on the time of year that perhaps they were American White Pelicans. Unfortunately no further observations were made so this remains a mystery.

EXOTICS: A caller on a local radio talk show, *Birds and Nature*, called to report a **European Goldfinch** at their feeder in the Imperial area (fide Scott Shalaway).

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Armstrong County

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

Canada Goose maxima included 20 at KR 12/6 (MH, RH) and 136 near LB 1/2 (MVT). Two **Mute Swans** were noted at RT after 2/14 (MH, RH). KR yielded the last 2 **Gadwalls** 12/6 (MH, RH); 2 were listed at MV 2/21 (MH, RH). Top **Mallard** count was 60 at MV 2/27 (MH, RH). One **Lesser Scaup** appeared at RT 2/21 (MH, RH). KR hosted the season's last 2 **Buffleheads** 12/6 (MH, RH); the Allegheny River yielded 2 at RT 2/14 (MH, RH) and 6 at KT 2/21 (MH, RH). A **Common Goldeneye** at RT 2/21 (MH, RH) was the lone report. A **Hooded Merganser** lingered at KR 12/6 (MH, RH), 2 appeared at CC 2/20 (MVT), and 5 were at RT 2/27 (MH, RH). KR hosted 16 **Common Mergansers** 12/6 (MH, RH); 3 were at MV and 2 at KT 2/14 (MH, RH); 6 visited CC 2/20 (MVT), and one was at RT and 2 at KT the following day (MH, RH). Six **Red-breasted Mergansers** were sighted at KR 12/6 (MH, RH).

A **Ruffed Grouse** near KR 12/6 was the only one noted. The best count of 32 **Wild Turkeys** was achieved near LB 1/10 (MVT). Single **Common Loons** were listed at KR 12/6 (MH, RH) and at KT 2/21, 27 (MH, RH). A **Pied-billed Grebe** at KR 12/6 (MH, RH) was last.

At least two adult and two immature **Bald Eagles** were observed at CC in Jan. (MVT); two adults were found near LB 2/7 (MVT); a second-year bird was at RT 2/27 (MH, RH). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was noted only near Whitesburg 2/27 (MH, RH); **Cooper's Hawks** were found at three locations this period (m.ob.). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed near Elderton 12/23 (RH). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** near the Market Street Bridge in KT on 2/14 (MH, RH) was a second county record.

Eight **Ring-billed Gulls** at CC 1/28 (MVT) and 12 on the Allegheny between MV and KT 2/14 (MH, RH) were the best counts. Top **Herring Gull** count was 10 at MV 2/21 (MH, RH). A second-winter **Glaucous Gull** ph. 2/14 (MH, RH) at KT was a first county record.

A **Barred Owl** roosting in a tree cavity at CC was observed 1/2 (SG) and 1/9 (TS). A **Belted Kingfisher** at CC 1/21 (MVT) was the season's lone report.

The only **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** noted were spotted 1/10 (MVT) near LB and 1/21 (MVT) at CC. A pair of **Common Ravens** frequented CC throughout the period (MVT). Three **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at CC were nice finds 1/23 (MVT); one was still present 1/27 (MVT). Four **Red-winged Blackbirds** returned at Yatesboro 2/14 (ED).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Erma Dovenspike, Steve Gosser, Roger Higbee, Tom Skubel, Marjorie Van Tassel.

Beaver County

Locations: Beaver River (BR), Rochester (RCH).

Following one of the warmer Novembers in recent memory, the winter of 2009-10 quickly turned to extreme cold and snow which endured through much of the season, as an El Niño winter took its toll on the North American continent. In *Beaver*, snow fell often in December, followed by bitter cold and more snow in early January. February brought a series of epic snowstorms in the first half of the month; by Valentine's Day, much of the Pittsburgh area was buried under 25 to 30 inches the white stuff. It did not relent. The total snowfall for February as measured at the Pittsburgh International Airport in nearby *Allegheny* was 48.7 inches.

Beaver is already a county that suffers from low birder coverage, but this season of brutal cold and slippery roads surely exaggerated what became a very sparsely reported season, even by *Beaver's* meager standards. Even the CBC suffered; this season's count day (12/19) happened to coincide with a storm that dumped five inches of snow on the area, depressing participant turnout, effort, and bird activity. Most reports received for the season were of waterbirds on the county's two rivers, and even these were without much excitement.

Top count of **Canada Goose** was made 2/6, when 313 were tallied at RCH (MV). The season's only **Gadwall** was a lingering fall migrant at RCH 12/5 (MV). A varying number of **American Black Ducks**, as many as 12, were reported periodically along the BR through at least 2/6 (m.ob.). A count of all waterbirds on the BR 1/15 turned up an impressive 318 **Mallards** (MV). Perhaps most interesting among waterfowl reports was an apparent hybrid **Green-winged Teal x Mallard** which appeared at RCH 2/21 (MV) and was seen sporadically for a few days. Interestingly this bird was wearing a metal band which generally (but not always) signifies that it was a wild bird banded by the

USFWS, and not escaped from a collection. **Redheads** were thrice reported: one was at RCH 12/22-23, one was on the BR 1/15, and one was at RCH 2/26-27 (all MV), each conveniently representing the last fall migrant, the season's only wintering bird, and the first spring migrant, respectively, for the species. **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen occasionally on the rivers throughout the season (m.ob.). A **White-winged Scoter** appeared at RCH 2/18 (MV, ph. GM) and remained to at least 3/2 (SK). On 2/27, it was joined by a male **Greater Scaup** which closely accompanied the scoter for a few days (MV). Another **Greater Scaup** was found on the BR 1/8 (MV). A female **Long-tailed Duck** was at RCH 12/23-24 (MV). Top count of **Bufflehead** was made 1/15, when 21 were found at various locations on the BR (MV). These were also the season's last. **Common Goldeneyes** were reported five times 12/18-1/15; the best (and last) count for them was 1/15 when 14 were on the BR (MV). **Hooded Merganser** and **Common Merganser** were reported thinly in December and January, with the last Common at RCH 2/26 (MV). The only reports of **Red-breasted Merganser** and **Ruddy Duck** were of singles of each on the BR 1/15 (MV).

Pied-billed Grebes wintered in small numbers mostly on the BR. Last **Double-crested Cormorant** of the fall was one at RCH 12/23 (MV). Up to three **Bald Eagles** frequented the rivers this season, last reported 2/14 (MV, SG, et al.). The only **Northern Harriers** or **Red-shouldered Hawks** reported were one of each on the Beaver CBC 12/19 (*fide* RM). A **Rough-legged Hawk** in North Sewickley Twp. 1/15 (MV) was, as always, a welcome report for the county. **American Kestrels** were reported from both Marion Township and North Sewickley Township. A **Merlin** returned to the town of Beaver this season beginning 12/5 (MV), but it was not reported after that. **Peregrine Falcons** were mentioned periodically throughout the season near the mouth of the BR.

An **American Coot** wintered on the BR (MV). Last **Killdeer** for the fall was one on the BR 12/18 (MV), and first for the spring was one on Independence Township 2/13 (MV), which was accompanied by a **Wilson's Snipe**. A flock of about 200 **Ring-billed Gulls** was on the Ohio River at RCH in late Dec, and small numbers (up to 25) persisted throughout Jan (m.ob.). After the middle of Feb, when gulls were gathering by the thousands in Pittsburgh, up to 700 **Ring-billed Gulls** roosted at the mouth of the BR in the evenings, but carried nothing different with them other than a handful of **Herring Gulls** (m.ob.).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was in Economy Boro 12/21 (SM) and became a count week bird for the CBC. A notable total of 23 **Horned Larks** was counted in Marion Township 12/22 (MV). Seven **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found during the CBC 12/19 (*fide* RM); the only other report was of one at Economy Boro 1/3 (KD). **Brown Creeper** was at Beaver Falls 12/18 (MV) and Economy Boro 1/3 (KD). The trend of **Carolina Wrens** in Beaver will be interesting to monitor in coming years, following a series of colder than average winters recently (and in the case of this year, much snowier than average as well). The CBC 12/19 saw 17 counted; they were also reported occasionally in both Jan and Feb. Three **American Pipits** were at the riverfront park in RCH 1/1 (BS, SM, MV) and one was still there 2/6 (MV). A **Field Sparrow** was reported at a feeder in Beaver Falls 2/10 (SB) during the height of the February snowstorms. A **Pine Siskin** was heard in North Sewickley Township 12/24 (DK).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Simone Bennett, Shawn Collins, Karyn Delaney, Scott Gregg, Deb Kalbfleisch, Scott Kinzey, Rick Mason (Beaver CBC Coordinator), Shirley Mutz, Kathy Saunders, Becky Smith, Mark Vass.

Bedford County

No Report.

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Berks County

Locations: Hamburg CBC 12/27/09, Bernville CBC 1/2/10, Reading CBC 1/3/10, Blue Marsh L. (BML), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO).

A mid-December snowstorm postponed the Reading CBC.

January was fairly open, but three snowstorms and consistently cold temperatures in February kept several inches of snow on the ground and LO mostly frozen all month.

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** flocked with **Canada Geese** in the Oley Valley for about a week in mid-December (DA). Wintering **Snow Geese** (high of 15,000 over BML 1/25 - JS) and most ducks moved south with the February freeze and did not return in numbers until March. A **Cackling Goose** was at BML 12/21-1/2 (JS). Two male **Mallard x American Black Duck** hybrids were at LO 1/5 (RK). Eight **Northern Shovelers**, uncommon here in any season, found some open water at Breneman's Quarry, Spring Twp., 1/9 (MS) and stayed to at least 1/12. A **Redhead** and as many as 65 **Ruddy Ducks** were seen at the quarry on various dates in February (MS, MW). A **Black Scoter** at BML 12/21, a **Long-tailed Duck** at LO 12/3-5 (RK) and a **Red-breasted Merganser** at LO 12/6-11 (RK, MW) were late migrants. **Common Mergansers**, always pushing the freeze line, had increased to 400 at BML (more open than LO) by 2/13 (JS). A **Red-throated Loon** was at LO 12/3-5 (RK).

In spite of deep snow, both vulture species were easy to find through February. LO's resident **Bald Eagle** pair was seen all period. Three late migrating **Bald Eagles** passed HMS 12/16 and two 12/28 (DW). Hard winters usually bring several **Rough-legged Hawks**, but this year the only reports were of one in Marion Twp. 12/12 (SFi) and one near Maxatawny 1/19 (CRE). Two late migrating **Golden Eagles** passed HMS 12/16 (DW). **American Kestrels** held on in the low numbers typical of recent years. **Merlin** sightings increased. A female thought to be spending its fifth winter at BML was joined by a male 12/18 through February (RK, JS). A female was seen regularly in Reading for a few weeks in February (KK). A male was near Bechtelsville 2/17 (RK). The Reading **Peregrine Falcon** pair was seen all period (*fide* BU). An adult Peregrine was seen occasionally at BML 1/4-2/24 (JS); the bird was seen eating a gull 2/14 (JS).

One to three **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and up to nine **Great Black-backed Gulls** (typical winter numbers) were seen at BML and LO through January (RK, JS). An adult **Glaucous Gull** was at BML 1/5 (JS).

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, the fourth county record, was found 12/27 on the HCBC at a feeder at Long Lane and Dotterer Rd. near Krumsville (AK, BW). The bird was seen there until at least 1/1 (MW), possibly later. Two to three **Common Ravens** were again at Peters Creek 1/17 and 1/18 (MS). Ravens were also seen at BML 1/27 (JS), Green Hills L. (first record) 2/12 (KL), and Henningsville 2/27 (PS). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** remained scarce. Single **Winter Wrens** were in District Twp. 2/11 (RK) and at Peters Creek 2/28 (MW). Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** ate suet/peanut butter mix at Baldy Hill, District Twp. during February (CRE). **Gray Catbirds** were found on all three CBC's, the four on the HCBC setting a record. Although more of these birds seem to be lingering into winter, they (like Yellow-rumped Warblers) are almost never tracked after CBC season. A **Brown Thrasher** that visited a feeder near Bechtelsville 12/12 (JK) was not seen again. Three **Hermit Thrushes** were reported surviving in February (TC, KG, RK). Five **American Pipits** were foraging at an open spring in the Oley Valley 2/14 (RK). A flock of 30 **Cedar Waxwings** in District Twp. 1/13 included one bird with an orange tail band and another with a deep golden tail band (RK), probably acquired by eating the red fruits of invasive Asian honeysuckles during feather formation.

American Tree Sparrows, even in this 'real' winter, were much less common than they were in the 20th century. **Chipping Sparrows** are now expected in small numbers in winter. An adult was at a feeder in Reading 1/8-2/22 (MS) and a juvenile was at a Hamburg feeder 12/28-1/12 (KG). Many **Field Sparrows** appeared at feeders after the February snowstorms, as did a Fox Sparrow near Leesport 2/11-17 (DK). Thousands of **Horned Larks** scanned by birders for **Lapland Longspurs** yielded only one of the latter near Lyons 12/7 (MW) and two near Shartlesville 2/15 (MW). A moderate influx of **Snow Buntings** in late December and early January showed up on the CBC's, but there were no later reports. No **Eastern Meadowlarks** or **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported. The few **Purple Finches** and even fewer **Pine Siskins** found on CBC's were also not found later.

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Blair County
No Compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: SE Bradford County Christmas Bird Count (CBC): the count area is a circle with a 7.5 mile radius from its center, which is Wyalusing; the area of circle will follow in parenthesis, (se), (e) etc., Coreyland (COR), Peck Hill (PEH), Susquehanna River (SUR).

Although parts of Pennsylvania were hit by major snow storms this winter, *Bradford* escaped these except for one late winter storm, resulting in less snow on the ground than usual. This doesn't seem to have been noticeably reflected in the numbers and species of birds present. Although last winter there were major irruptions of White-winged Crossbills, Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls in Pennsylvania, this winter found no reports of winter finches in this county.

On 12/17 there were about 50 **Snow Geese** in a flock mixed with about 50 **Canada Geese** near New Era (TG); on 12/26 one was observed on the CBC (sw) (DB, MBu, TG, RYo), and one on the CBC (se) (JH, RK, BT); on 2/28 about 5000 in various flocks, an amazingly large number, passed over Echo Beach Rd near Wysox (DN, KN).

Quite unusual, and possibly indicative of a northward expansion, were 5 **Black Vultures** found 12/26 on the CBC (se) (JH, RK, BT). A nice number of **Northern Harriers** were reported: on 12/26 during the CBC: one (sw), (DB, MBu, TG, RYo), one (e) (MC, CD, JD), one (ne) (JL, RL), one (nw) (MB); on 1/8 an adult outside Troy, on 1/30 2 immatures and one adult at COR, on 2/1 a female at West Burlington, a male at Springfield (north of West Burlington), 3 immatures and one male (one of which was flying with and fighting with **Common Ravens**) at COR, all (RYo); on 2/21 2 were at Windham (AV, GV). Rarely seen in the county, a **Northern Goshawk** was present 2/28 at PEH (AV, GV). There were also a number of sightings of **Rough-legged Hawk**, which is seen here regularly but infrequently during the winter: one on 12/26 on the CBC at Scrib Meadow along Paradise Road near SGL 250 (AG, DGr); one found injured on the west side of SUR near the Wyalusing bridge (RG); a dark morph on 1/30 at COR (Ryo); a dark morph 2/4 and 3 during the nw. *Bradford* WRS 2/8 (BL); and one on 2/21 at Farmer's Valley outside Troy (RYo). **Bald Eagles** are doing well in the county: on 12/23 an adult was on the flats near the SUR at Sugar Run (WFr); on the CBC there were 2 at Echo Beach Rd. (DN, KN) and one immature (c) (SG, BW); 2 adults were near Rummerfield on 1/8 (RYa); and there were 9 eagles (5 adults and 4 immatures) counted on the Mid Winter Bald Eagle Survey on 1/9 along the SUR (there was activity at 2 of the county nests during the survey) (DA, RG, TL, BM, BS). Male **American Kestrels** were observed 2/4 and during the nw. *Bradford* WRS 2/8 (BL).

An **American Woodcock** observed 2/10 at SGL 289 was unusually early; the earliest sightings in the past five years have been around 3/20 (RYo). A delightful observation on the CBC (s) was a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on 12/26 (DGr, AG). Also rarely seen here, a juvenile **Red-headed Woodpecker** appeared in late Nov. at Hornbrook (DGi). Not too many years ago this species nested in the area prior to lumbering. Also unusual, a **Northern Shrike** was found 12/26 on the CBC (e) (MC, CD, JD). Several **Horned Larks** were seen 1/12-13 on farm fields near Spring Hill Rd, Edinger Hill (EW).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were sighted 12/26 on the CBC: one (s) (WFa, DGr, AG) and 4 (se) (JH, RK, BT). Not often seen here in any season, a **Northern Mockingbird** was reported as follows: at PEH 12/16 (AV, GV), and on the 12/26 CBC: one (se) (JH, RK, BT), one (e) (MC, CD, JD), and one (ne) (JL, RL). A single **Brown-headed Cowbird** was observed 12/26 on the CBC (ne) (JL, RL). A few **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen during the first week of March in a mixed flock of **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** (DN, KN).

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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), Doylestown Twp. (DOY), Maple Knoll Farms-Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Morrisville Levee (MVL), New Hope (NHP), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT),

Temperatures only deviated from average within +/- 1°F each month but precipitation exceeded averages by almost three inches, with most of the excess in December. Four significant snow storms and many light snow events certainly stressed birds, as evidenced by ground feeding birds driven to feeders and plowed road edges. Waterfowl were particularly scarce again, partially due to frozen lakes, and early migration was delayed. Winter irruptive species were essentially absent. The handful of active dairy farms provided manure spreads on the snow, which attracted large numbers of hungry birds. Pursuit of gulls near Tullytown seemed to be reduced this winter, resulting in little of interest reported. The frozen lakes kept large concentrations of gulls away from inland lakes after December. The occurrence of some half-hardy species surprisingly seemed above average despite the weather. Food supply was apparently good for fruit eating species, as some species that utilize this source were more common at least through December and into January. A total of 132 confirmed species and two identifiable subspecies or forms were reported.

Two of the three Christmas Bird Counts experienced difficult weather. The 42nd U-CBC 1/3, rescheduled from 12/20 due to the snow storm, was hampered by cold, extremely windy conditions, and reduced participation. The counts of 80 species and 23,359 individuals were well below the recent 10 year averages and long-term averages. Only two new high counts were recorded. The 44th C-CBC on 12/27 had good weather, with 88 species and 36,515 individuals, both below the recent 10 year averages but above the long term averages. There were three new high counts, and one new species was added to this count's cumulative total. The 63rd S-CBC 12/19 was conducted during a heavy snow storm resulting in fewer participants and the lowest species count since the 2000 count. The 91 species and 59,646 individuals were well below the recent 10 year averages, but the species count was above the long term average. 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, New Jersey. 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 the Penn-Warner Tract (PWT) are from Devich Farbotnik unless otherwise noted. All reports from Maple Knoll Farms (MKF) are from Richard and Vicky Smith.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** reported at PVP starting 12/27 (JT) was joined by another 2/13 (CR), and both were last reported 2/20 (AM). The same birds were also seen feeding on nearby Hilltown Twp. farm fields 2/9-20 (AM). Two more were noted at Core Creek Park 1/25 (BK). A group of 9 **Cackling Geese** at PVP 12/12 (AM) was the highest single site count reported. As usual with effort, individuals of this species were gleaned from various large flocks of geese at PVP, CVP, Core Creek Park, and a group of Lower Makefield Twp. ponds (CA, SW, BK, DFa, AM). The 2 summer resident **Snow Geese** continued at NSP into Dec, occasionally joined by a third (DFa). One or two were mixed in with large flocks of geese at major lakes as usual (m.ob.). Several flocks of 23 to 250 were reported at various sites (m.ob.). The highest report was 510 heading south 2/13 at PVP (CR). A flock of 479 near Perkasio was tallied on the U-CBC 1/3. Triple digit counts on the U-CBC have only been recorded three times, all since 2001. The above supports the apparent small but increasing winter numbers here. Three **Tundra Swans** flew over Jamison 1/14 (HD) for the only report.

An unusual number of **Wood Ducks** was noted this winter. They continued at CVP until 1/24 (BK), with the highest report being 5 on 1/1 (GJ). Lower Makefield Twp. ponds also held this species intermittently 12/17- 2/12, with the highest count of 4 on multiple dates (BK). Two **Wood Ducks** were at PVP 12/30 (RH). Although none were on the C-CBC, a total of 13 on the other two CBCs was more than double the average for those counts. Six at PVP 2/28 (BHi) marked the arrival of the first obvious migrants. A count of 220 **Mallards** at PVP 1/14 (AM)

was unusually high for that site and surprisingly the highest single site count reported in the county. Core Creek Park and Lake Afton near Yardley also had noteworthy counts of 156 on 2/1 and 150 on 2/16 respectively (BK). Two **Eurasian Wigeon** at Warwick Twp. 12/27 (MHa, et al.) provided only the sixth county report and first for the C-CBC. The high count for the **American Black Duck** flock near Mud Island was 153 on 1/10 (BK), about the same as last year. Probably the same male **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** reported in Mar and Apr 2009 was found 12/4 (BK) through at least 12/8 (EN, doc., ph.) at Hidden Lake near Newtown. **Canvasback** was again scarce here. The ponds at Lower Makefield Twp. had **Canvasback** 12/15-12/20 (BK, DFa, GJ), with the high count being 3 on 12/15 (DM). One was at PWT 12/24, with 10 there a month later on 1/23. Five stopped briefly at PVP 1/20 (AM). **Redhead** is annual but scarce at PWT. The only reports were one 12/24, and 5 on 2/6. Two **Greater Scaup** on the U-CBC 1/3 was only the fourth occurrence for that count. Four were tallied for the 14th occurrence on the S-CBC 12/19. Two were noted at PWT 2/6. The highest single site counts of **Common Goldeneye** were 38 at MVL 12/30 (BK), 35 at NHP 1/10 (BHo), and 70 near Uhlertown 2/15 (AM). These are regular winter sites for this species. A yellow billed bird or two at the MVL proved to be female **Common Goldeneye** after much research by the observer eliminated **Barrow's Goldeneye** (BK). All three scoters and Long-tailed Duck were missed. A whopping count of approximately 2200 **Common Mergansers** were at PVP 1/2 (AM), and the high count at Core Creek Park of 600 was also reported the same day (BK). Thousands were at PWT about the same time. After the heavy rain 1/25 opened the ice cover, an estimated 2000 returned briefly to PVP 1/27 (CA). **Red-breasted Merganser** reports are now expected in winter mixed in with the large **Common Merganser** flocks. Two at PWT 12/24 were the first reported in the county since spring, and one was there 1/23. Three were at PVP 12/24-1/1 (KA), followed by singles there 1/10 (KA) and 2/3 (CR).

Five **Ring-necked Pheasants** and 49 **Wild Turkeys** on the CBCs are consistent with the recent poor showing by these species. A rare winter **Red-throated Loon** was found at PWT 12/24 (DFa). **Common Loon** was scarce probably owing to the ice covered lakes. It was missed on all three CBCs, but one was reported 12/6 at PWT, and 3 were at NSP 12/13 (DFa), with one there 12/20-24 (DFa, EBo). Horned Grebe and Red-necked Grebe were not reported this season. Usually winter **Double-Crested Cormorant** reports are restricted to the southern part of the county after mid-Dec, so one at PVP 12/22 (AM) and 1/3(KA) is unusual. The S-CBC 12/19 found 20, which matches the long term average. Thereafter only one at a time was reported from the PWT area through 2/1 (AW). The highest single site report for **Great Cormorant** was 13 at Bristol 12/29 (TJ, CR). Noteworthy for being away from the lower county, one was at Giving Pond near Uhlertown 12/4 (EBo), and another stayed just north of NHP 2/10-18 (BHo). A **Great Egret** lingered at PWT 12/6, where this species has become regular into Dec. Up to 4 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** lingered until 12/13 at PWT, with 2 still present 1/1. An adult was at Rohm and Haas, Bristol 1/23 (DFa).

Turkey Vulture and **Black Vulture** appeared to remain in the area throughout the season in relatively small numbers per eBird entries, but no roost counts were submitted to help substantiate their level of abundance. The Mid-Winter Eagle Survey produced 2 **Bald Eagles** along a 10-mile stretch of the Delaware R. between Erwinna and Riegelsville 1/10 (AR, BV, NV). Another survey at the PWT lakes produced an excellent count of 16 sitting on the ice 1/12 (AJ). Fifteen of the above 18 survey birds were immature. Other eagles were regular at CVP (BK), Core Creek Park (BK, GD), NHP (BHo), Kintnersville (EN), and PVP (m. obs.). **Northern Harrier** was in lower numbers than in recent winters, with a total of only 6 on the CBCs and few other reports. Three or four were at the usual Bedminster Twp. area at least part of the season (SC, FG). Both **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and **Cooper's Hawk** were perceived to be in lower numbers this winter, which was supported by CBC totals lower than recent years. The Milford Twp. all white but not albino **Red-tailed Hawk** wintered for at least the eighth year (HE) and was last reported 2/8 (WY, ph.). Another partially white **Red-tailed Hawk** reported last season in the CVP area was again reported there 12/12 (MC) and 1/7 (BK). One **Rough-legged Hawk** at PWT 12/20 (DFa) and another at Durham Twp. 2/4 (BF) were the only reports. For the second year in a row, **Peregrine Falcon** was reported on the C-CBC. Inconceivable a few years ago, the 2 peregrines equaled the **American Kestrel** count in that circle, which was a high for the former and a low for the latter. Similarly, the S-CBC had 4 **Peregrine Falcons** and no **American Kestrels**. The U-CBC had 6 kestrels, which is only

10% of the long term average. **Virginia Rail** was at Quakertown Swamp as usual, with at least 2 detected 12/24 and 1/1 (DFa), but were not located later. Documentation for a fly-by **Sandhill Crane** reported from Core Creek Park 12/22 lacked convincing details for this rarely reported species but may have been correct.

Winter **Killdeer** reports have decreased significantly in the last 10 years, but possibly more lingered this winter. The only CBC report was of 3 on the S-CBC, but other reports came from seven sites on nine dates, with the highest counts being 4 at both Warminster Twp. 1/23 (GJ) and DOY 2/23 (BG). **Wilson's Snipe** was scarce, with one each at Warminster Twp. 12/4 (GJ), Pine Run Dam 12/13 (DFa), the S-CBC 12/19, and MKF 1/11. Surprising considering the weather, a possible early migrant was at DOY 2/23 sitting in water surrounded by snow (BGr, ph.). A late **Laughing Gull** was found on the S-CBC 12/19. Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** at PVP 12/11(BK), with one lingering 12/12 (AM) provided the only report. A possible first year **Thayer's Gull** was at MVL 1/17 (SW, ph.), but the photo was not definitive. **Iceland Gull** was reported at the regular sites at PWT and Falls Twp. Community Park (m. obs.). Three **Iceland Gulls** were at MVL 1/17 (BK), with one there 1/14 and 2/22-24 (BK, BC). One was at NSP 2/6 (DFa) and one was at PVP 2/24 (AM). "Hundreds" of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were reported at NSP in Dec (ABr). The highest reported actual count there was 182 12/2 (DFa). Three **Glaucous Gulls** at MVL 1/17 (BK, SW) and 3 at Falls Twp. Community Park 1/30 (HT) tied for highest single site report. Two **Glaucous Gulls** at PWT on 12/30 was the highest report there (BK). The total gull count for the CBCs was significantly lower than normal, presumably due to the poor weather conditions for the S-CBC.

CBC GULL COUNTS

Species	U-CBC	C-CBC	S-CBC	Total
Laughing Gull	0	0	1	1
Ring-billed Gull	1628	2331	10245	14204
Herring Gull	24	180	20687	20891
Thayer's Gull	0	0	0	0
Iceland Gull	0	0	7	7
Lsr. Bl.-backed Gull	57	105	67	229
Glaucous Gull	0	0	0	0
Great Bl.-backed Gull	3	48	936	987
Total	1712	2664	31943*	36319

* Heavy snow storm

There were no reports for Barn Owl, which is now normal. The annual owl counts on the U-CBC were not attempted this year due to the high wind, with only 6.5 hours of owling resulting in 28 owls compared to 239 last year. A **Great Horned Owl** was discovered 1/24 to have hijacked a **Bald Eagle** nest that a new pair had built in 2009 and was expected to use this year. A **Barred Owl** was regular in Haycock Twp. (DFa), and another was spotted at Plumstead Twp. 1/20 (CW). PVP held at least 9 **Long-eared Owls** 2/3 (AM), and 4 were reported from Tinicum Twp. 1/30 (DA). The only **Short-eared Owl** reported was at Bedminster Twp. 1/18 (SC, FG). Up to 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were regular in Haycock Twp. through the period but could not be found elsewhere (DFa). There were no Red-headed Woodpecker reports this winter. The CBC total count of 34 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** was significantly lower than last year but still close to the recent ten year average. Two **Pileated Woodpeckers** were excavating a hole at Lower Makefield Memorial Park 12/14 (BK), another possible indication of recent increases for this species. One from this site became the first ever for the S-CBC. Another at the wide open farmland of MKF 12/8 must have been scouting for territory. An **Eastern Phoebe** was spotted on the S-CBC 12/19 (BM) despite the snow storm. Another was found 1/14-19 at Giving Pond (EBo), and one was briefly seen 2/10 in a snow storm at Solebury Twp. (MR).

A record high 14 **Fish Crows** on the U-CBC 1/3, compared to the previous high of 4, may be another indication of the increase in this species. Two **Common Ravens** were in Richland Twp. 1/2 (DFa), not far from where the fledgling was found last spring. Another was noted at Plumstead Twp. 2/3 (CW), one crossed the Delaware River into New Jersey at Uhlertown 2/16 (DA), and 2 were noted north of NHP 2/17-18 (BHo). The fledgling mentioned above that was found in E. Rockhill Twp. last year and died, was sent to The Academy of Natural Sciences, where spread wing and skeleton specimens were made. Tissue samples were also kept. Surprisingly, this was the first specimen at the academy from Pennsylvania since 1911, and all previous specimens

came from *Centre* (NR). The snow caused large gatherings of **Horned Lark** on manure spreads. Peak counts were approximately 300 at MKF 2/13 (RS), 282 at Hilltown Twp. 2/15 (CR), 125 at Shady Brook Farm, Lower Makefield Twp. 2/6 (DFa), and 80 at Doylestown Twp. 2/23 (BGr). **Tree Swallow** established a new early arrival date 2/22, with one at MVL (DFa) and 4 at NHP (BHo). This was five days earlier than our earliest "spring" arrival date set last year. **Black-capped Chickadee** was not noted as moving into the area in any numbers again this winter. None were reported on e-Bird. Although their status is more understood by more birders locally, the total of 61 or 9% of the total chickadees reported on the CBCs was probably still well overstated this year. If **Black-capped Chickadee** characteristics were actually seen, many of these were undoubtedly hybrids, although that determination is very subjective. An example was 3 birds that were regularly seen together at PVP in Feb that had **Black-capped Chickadee** features ranged from close to Carolina to close to Black-capped (RW, CR, AM). They were entered as **Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee** in e-Bird (AM). Again, this is subjective, and Chickadee Hybrid or Black-capped Chickadee could have been entered for one or two of them.

Multiple **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported regularly from only CVP, with a maximum count of 5 on 2/20 (CS). The C-CBC missed this species for only the eighth time, and only a total of 4 were on the other two CBCs. This and only a handful of other reports support the conclusion that they were rare here this winter. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** had an above average showing of 8 on the C-CBC, supporting the general impression that they were more easily seen this winter. The PWT area, due to habitat and location, provides the most likely conditions for winter surprises. The only one this year was a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 12/6. The thrushes apparently had a good supply of fruit to feast on. The C-CBC totals of 249 **Eastern Bluebird**, 7 **Hermit Thrush**, and 3451 **American Robin** were all twice the long-term average. The count of 3900 **American Robins** on the U-CBC was four times the long-term average. In general, **American Robin** was particularly visible throughout the area this winter, with many single site reports of over 100 birds (m. obs.). After the Dec snow, 4 **Hermit Thrushes** were found at both PVP and NSP on 12/23 (CR, TJ). An elusive **Varied Thrush** was discovered at PVP 12/22 (CR, doc.) and continued until 12/25 (DFa ph., EC). This was the third record for the county. Eight **Gray Catbirds** on the CBCs were near the long-term average. Probably 9 other reports based on location were different birds (m.ob.). Reports were concentrated in Dec, some lasted into Jan, with only 2 reported in Feb. Seven **Brown Thrashers** were reported fairly well distributed through the period (m. obs.). MKF hosted **American Pipits** for most of the period as usual, with the highest count of 30 on 1/8. Only a few others were noted. **Cedar Waxwing** also benefited from the fruit crop, with a three-times average total of 238 on the C-CBC and 1.5-times average 430 on the U-CBC. A **Palm Warbler** was a rare winter find at Giving Pond 12/22- 1/22 (EBo, ph.). The total of 193 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** on the U-CBC and C-CBC were above average, and if any indication, reports of 24 on 2/4 at PVP (RFR, BS) suggest good numbers remained through the season. A **Pine Warbler** was again noted for the second year in a row at NHP for a brief period in Jan and again 2/23 (BHo).

Although only 2 were tallied on all the CBCs, **Eastern Towhee** was reported more frequently than usual through the season. There were as many as 23 individuals reported at nine locations (m.ob.), with high single site counts of 5 at Lower Makefield Memorial Park 12/14-17 (BK, DM), and 5 at Revere 1/15 (ED). Only four were reported in Feb. The first fall report of **American Tree Sparrow** came on a rather late date of 12/12 at PVP (AM), with the few reports throughout the area thereafter of only one to 3 birds (m.ob). The exception was a group of 15 at a feeder 2/15 at Blooming Glen (CR). The C-CBC tally was only 7 or 6% of the long-term average, and the U-CBC had 36 or 20%, supporting the downward trend here. **Chipping Sparrow**, rarely seen in winter, frequently appears on bare ground at road edges or at feeders after a snow storm. This year was exceptional as 13 individuals at five locations were noted during and after the heavy Dec snow (MR, RS, CR, AM, DFa). One was at DOY 1/30-1/31 (MHo). The Feb storms produced only 4 at four locations (BK, DFa, CR, RS). Another indication of this year's unusual status, after two years with no **Chipping Sparrows** on CBCs, the count of 17 was more than two times the long-term average. A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, a rarely reported species here, was found at MVL 12/30-1/23 (BK ph., m.ob.). Many **Savannah Sparrows** found sustenance at MKF manure during the heavy snow cover in Feb, with the peak count of 44 in one flock 2/13. **Fox Sparrow** apparently remained through the season in small but above average

numbers, or maybe was just detected more due to being driven to feeders and roadsides by the snow. During the snow storm, the S-CBC had 14, which was twice the long-term average. **Swamp Sparrows** driven to the road edge at PVP 2/13 produced a noteworthy single site winter count of 16 (CR, AM). A **Lincoln's Sparrow**, very rare here in winter, was well described at New Britain Twp. 12/23 (TJ). Another not well documented on 12/25 at Bradford Dam will be tallied as a possible only. We have had more reports of **Lapland Longspur** in recent years probably due to more birder activity. One was at Warminster Twp. 1/1-2 (GJ, BK), one was at MKF 1/8 (RS), 2 were at Shady Brook Farm 2/6 (DFa), and one was at Hilltown Twp. 2/9-18 (AM). A **Snow Bunting** was at Shady Brook Farm 12/19 (GJ). MKF noted them on four dates 12/20-2/28, with the high count of 3 on 12/21.

Up to 5 **Eastern Meadowlarks** remained at Tyler State Park through at least 12/30 (MCo). This is one of the last somewhat regular winter locations. One was along the roadside at PVP 2/12 (CR), where not expected in winter. Increased attention to the declining **Rusty Blackbird** may account for more frequent sporadic reports in winter. The total was only 26 individuals from six locations, all but 4 in Dec. Highest reports were 12 in Durham Twp. 12/13 (BF) and 6 at their usual winter site at Quakertown Swamp 12/13 (DFa). A **Baltimore Oriole** was found at PVP 12/22- 1/2 (CR, m. obs.), and another was at DOY 12/23 (TK). The NHP oriole incredibly continued for the sixth winter in a row (SM). Both this and the PVP bird were tallied on the C-CBC. **Purple Finch** had an even poorer showing this year than last, with only 10 recorded on all the CBCs. The eBird total was only 14 for the period. Thus, 11 at Nockamixon Twp. 1/30 (HM) are noteworthy. A count of 173 **House Finch** on the C-CBC continues the lower counts for this species in recent years. The long term average is 532, and from the mid 1980s through the mid 1990s, counts of well over a 1000 were regular. The highest count was 1979 on the 1994 count. Similarly, the U-CBC had 183 or 18% of the average. **Pine Siskin** was almost absent. Approximately 6 at NSP 1/22 (HE, ph.) is surprising. One stopped at Upper Makefield Twp. 1/31 (JMA).

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Butler County

Locations: Birdwatchers Store (BS), Forrester Road (FR), Lake Arthur (LA), Miller Woods (MW), Moraine State Park (MSP), Poplar Forest (PF), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Creek (SRC), Slippery Rock Township (SRT), Wolf Creek (WC).

The weather this season got progressively more winter-like from mid-December through February. In fact, little snow fell in early December but this changed with the 12/19 CBC. Last year, we were lucky by missing the big snowstorm by one day and having all water bodies completely open, allowing our field party to rack up 86 avian species. Not this year. Snow started falling after midnight and by 0700, 2-4 inches were already on the ground with a local temperature of 28°F. Several consecutive days before the CBC were bitter cold (in the teens), allowing LA to start freezing (60-70%). Undoubtedly, these weather conditions encouraged most water birds to move farther south,

leaving only a few birds behind. Visibility was poor with dense fog in the morning that prevented scoping birds in distant lake openings. With only a few exceptions, land birds stayed hidden waiting out the snowstorm. Afternoon weather improved considerably with light snow and a pickup in wind velocity cleared the atmosphere of fog. Raptors, in particular, became active and visible, accounting for nine species by the end of the day. But the CBC snow event was only a minor prelude to the county getting zapped by two heavy record-breaking snowstorms 2/5-6 and 2/9-10. The former storm dumped as much as 40+ inches of snow in certain locales of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, paralyzing cities like Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Richmond and Washington D.C. for days. The second punch produced far less snow (6-18 inches) but fierce winds caused 5-10 feet high snowdrifts in spots. Temperatures were 10-20°F below the average minimum for the season, resulting in LA being frozen from Christmas through most of February.

Such negative weather resulted in a paucity of bird life, especially noticeable on the CBC with only 52 species on the day itself plus another 10 species during count week (SB). One exception to water bird paucity occurred at LA 12/5 (MV) versus CBC 12/19: **Canada Goose** 7 vs. 440, **Tundra Swan** 78 vs. zero, **Mute Swan** 2 vs. 0, **Wood Duck** one vs. zero, **Gadwall** 16 vs. zero, **American Wigeon** one vs. zero, **American Black Duck** 2 vs. 5, **Mallard** 45 vs. 32, **Northern Pintail** zero vs. 2, **Ring-necked Duck** one vs. 9, **Lesser Scaup** 8 vs. zero, **Bufflehead** 26 vs. 19, **Hooded Merganser** 2 vs. zero, **Red-breasted Merganser** one vs. zero, **Common Merganser** zero vs. 4, **Ruddy Duck** 95 vs. zero, **Common Loon** 14 vs. zero, **Pied-billed Grebe** 8 vs. zero, **Horned Grebe** 9 vs. zero, **Great Blue Heron** zero vs. 3, **American Coot** 61 vs. 39. Two open patches on LA 12/22 had these waterfowl: 237 **Canada Goose**, 8 **Tundra Swan**, 34 **Mallard**, 4 **American Black Duck**, 3 **Ring-necked Duck**, one **Lesser Scaup**, 7 **Bufflehead**, 2 **Hooded Merganser**, 29 **Ruddy Duck**, one **Horned Grebe**, and one **American Coot**.

The CBC may have recorded the most raptor species in its history: 2 **Bald Eagle**, one **Northern Harrier**, 4 **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 7 **Cooper's Hawk**, one **Northern Goshawk**, 4 **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 21 **Red-tailed Hawk**, one light-phase **Rough-legged Hawk**, and 12 **American Kestrel** (SB). At least 3 **Northern Goshawks** have been active in the northern part of the county, specifically in MSP, MW and PF (GW). The 478 **Rock Pigeons** and 441 **Mourning Doves** 12/19 proved that they are doing well. However, only single **Eastern Screech** and **Great Horned Owls** and 2 **Barred Owls** were found on the CBC.

The 157 **Horned Larks**, 67 **Eastern Bluebirds**, 1061 **American Robins** and 104 **Cedar Waxwings** were greatly appreciated but the 336 **American Tree Sparrows** and 837 **Dark-eyed Juncos** indicated that a harsh winter was here (SB). None of the boreal species that invaded our region last winter (e.g., **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Purple Finch**, **Pine Siskin**, and **White-winged Crossbill**) appeared this year save for a lone **Pine Siskin** (HL, LL).

Observers: **Gene Wilhelm**, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145, genewilhelm@aol.com, Nancy Baker, Beverly Barnett, Bartramian Audubon Society, Tom Baungardner, Steve Bickel, Birdwatchers Store employees, Jim Blain, Nancy Blain, Larry Brown, Marcia Brown, Gene Butcher, Suzanne Butcher, Butler Outdoor Club, Al Cooper, Linda Cooper, Ruth Crawford, Dave Darney, Debra Darney, Barbara Davis, Charles Davis, Sharon Davis, Barb Dean, George Dean, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Robert Jamison, Sally Jamison, Bill Klobetanz, Henry Lenz, Linda Lenz, Becky Lubold, Berenice Madjaric, Robert Madjaric, Reenie Merlino, George Moser, Bob Pietz, Judy Pietz, Arthur Richards, Cathy Setzer, Dawn Smith, Mark Swansiger, Sandee Swansiger, Christy Tichy, Gary Uber, Linda Wagner, Robert Walczak, Dorothy Weisberg, Amanda Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm, Kevin Wilhelm, Joe Young.

Cambria County

Locations: Ebensburg (EB), Patton (PT), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG).

Waterfowl reports in Dec at PG include **Tundra Swan**, **American Black Duck**, **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon**, **Canvasback**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers**, and **Ruddy Duck** (JS).

A lone mature **Bald Eagle** wintered at PG. This is probably the same bird that has taken up full time residency at the park. It has been there for about three years and with no sign of a mate. **Northern Harriers** were seen at several locations when there were breaks in the

weather. **Red-Tailed Hawk** and **American Kestrel** numbers were average. A single **Bonaparte's Gull** was at PG 11/9 (DG). A suspected **Franklin's Gull** was seen at PG 12/14 (JS). The bird was seen hawking small minnows over the middle of the lake. After consultation with other birders this was the identification most likely. **Short-Eared Owls** were seen in the Patton area from late Dec through the end of Feb.

Two **Carolina Wrens** survived the brutal winter by spending the bad days inside the building that houses the trout nursery in Patton. They dined on suet and fish pellets. JS had a **Chipping Sparrow** at his feeder in Ebensburg throughout the period, unusual for our area.

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

Cameron County

No Compiler.

Carbon County

No Report.

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

Centre County

Locations Abbreviated: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Colyer Lake (COL), Pennsylvania State University at University Park (PSU), a local listserv group scbirdcl@lists.psu.edu hosted by Penn State for discussing wild birds seen within 25 miles of Penn State (SCBIRDCL), Pleasant Gap (PLG), State College newspaper Centre Daily Times (CDT), Tofrees Game Lands or Pond (TOF).

More information about some of these locations is available at <www.scbirdcl.org>. Almost all of the species information for this report comes from postings to SCBIRDCL. All data for the CBCs may be seen at <www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html>.

The State College CBC was held 12/26 with rain throughout the day. The species count was 46 and 9129 individual birds were found including one **Bald Eagle**. This is the lowest number since 44 species were found in 1966. The Bald Eagle State Park CBC, held 1/3 amidst snow flurries, strong winds, and cold weather, tallied 62 species and 6388 individuals including thirteen **Bald Eagles** (five adults and eight immatures).

Two **Red-throated Loons** in winter plumage and one immature **Red-necked Grebe** in winter plumage were seen at the boat launch area at Hunter's Run Cut at BESP 12/4 (MO).

Five **Black Vultures** were seen squadron-flying over the PSU visitor center during a Winter Raptor Survey 1/31 (RF, JL, NAB, NS), and five were over I-99 between exit 81 at PLG and exit 83 at Bellefonte 2/8 (KE). An adult **Bald Eagle** was in the yard of a private residence in Milesburg close to Bald Eagle Creek 12/26 (BS); one was perched in a tree top on a hill top just north of the intersection of Houserville Rd and Old Houserville Road 12/26 (GG); two adult and two Basic III birds with a white triangle on their backs were found at BESP 12/30 (BS); two adults and one white-belly were seen at BESP 1/3 (NB); and two adults were seen flying and then perching in trees on the hillside overlooking the valley and lake at BESP 1/3 (DB, NAB). A male **Northern Harrier** was observed in the PLG area 1/6 (HB) and again 1/8; a female or young male was found on Williams Rd near Centre Hall 1/9 (JD); and one male close to the intersection of Walker Drive and Sinking Creek Rd. 1/11 (BF). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen on Rte. 550 in a new development near the Fillmore store 12/26 (DB *vide* BF); a light morph along Taylor Hill Rd 1/9 (MH); one on Taylor Hill Rd just off Rte. 322, another on Sinking Creek Rd just off Rte. 144, and a third on Middle Rd and Ridge Rd, beyond Centre Hall 1/10 (JD); one light morph close to the intersection of Walker Drive and Sinking Creek Rd near Centre Hall 1/11 (BF); and two light morphs near Rebersburg 2/15 (JS). Four **Golden Eagles** were seen from the Jo Hayes Vista 12/10 (CW), and one was flying over the Kaywood development near Boalsburg 1/9 (TP). A **Merlin** was seen along PA Rte. 45 near the intersection with Tusseyville Road where it initially perched on a telephone pole, then flew to the top of a tall pine tree 12/1 (MO).

A **Northern Shrike** was active between the Environmental Learning Center and the Marina at BESP 12/4 (BS); one was seen in a small tree opposite the Overlook at BESP 12/6 (MH); one in the modern campground at the end farthest from the headquarters building 12/27 (JD, SL); and one was perched on a phone line about north of Stormstown 1/14 (DAB). To convince several thousand **American Crows** to stop roosting on the PSU campus because of the unsanitary conditions that they created, the university began using anti-crow pyrotechnic noisemakers called "bangers" and "screamers" at 12/8 from 17:30 to 21:00 9:00 p.m. On 1/14 the crows were not found and the crow relocation program was suspended (CDT).

Between 12-18 **American Pipits** were found feeding along Kryder Rd. between Jacksonville and Rt. 64 1/3 (DB, NAB); several were seen along Filmore Road and the University Park Airport 1/3 (DO); and several in the cattle pen at the intersection of Geary Rd. and Airport Rd. 2/14 (JV). A total of 697 **American Robins** were counted on Ridge Ave., State College at dusk 2/12 (NK). A flock of **Eastern Starlings** caused significant damage to an engine of a 50-seat commercial airliner shortly after takeoff in August 2006. As a result, the USDA used a chemical avicide called Starlicide (DRC-1339) in an area near the University Airport 1/27 to attempt to reduce or eliminate the flock that was estimated to have at least 15,000 birds (CDT).

A **Lapland Longspur** was found along Williams Rd (JD). The first reported **Fox Sparrow** of the season showed up in a backyard in SC 12/14 (CG); the only other reported was near TOF 2/6 (DF). At least three **Purple Finches** were seen at TOF 1/17 (JD, SL), and two were there 1/24 (NK).

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Chester County

Locations: Chambers Lake (CHLA), Coatesville Reservoir (COARES), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Struble Lake (STLA), Upper Uwchlan Twp. Water Treatment Plant (UUWTP), Waterloo Mills Preserve (WTML), Western Chester County CBC (WCCBC).

Chester, like most southeast Pennsylvania counties, suffered from a record amount of snowfall and an early freeze to lakes. Many lakes were partially frozen by 12/19, the first weekend of the CBC period. Despite lower than average numbers, a few rarities were discovered, easing the pain of the cold temperatures, strong winds and high snow.

A single **Greater White-fronted Goose** was present at Westtown L. 1/20-2/8 (DK, m.ob.). Observations of **Snow Geese** occurred throughout the winter with numbers building through the end of the season. A few of the higher counts included 300 at Westtown L. 12/17 (TS), 750 at Doe Run 1/26 (KF), and 3000+ flying over Cochranville 2/19 (NP). **Cackling Geese** were found in several locations including up to 3 at Somerset L. 12/30-1/18 (AL, et al.), 5 were at COARES on the WCCBC and one was in Exton 1/30 (NP). A small number of **Tundra Swans** usually move north through *Chester* beginning in late Jan. This winter 10 were at MCSP 1/25 (BB, NP), 17 were noted at Doe Run 1/26 (KF) and 2 were at West Chester Res. 2/22 (NP). A few **Wood Ducks** lingered into late Dec with a high of 7 at WTML 12/11 (KF). They departed once the lakes and streams froze and 3 on 1/22 were probably early migrants (KF).

Ice-packed lakes kept waterfowl numbers low. Some of the better finds were 5 **Gadwall** were at CHLA 12/10 (KF), a **Canvasback** at STLA 2/17-19 (HM, AG) and another at the Upper UUWTP 2/24 (NP), a single **Redhead** at Westtown L. 1/12-19 (DK, et al.) and another at a pond in Sandsburyville (WCCBC), a single **Greater Scaup** at Westtown L. 1/20 (AG), a **Lesser Scaup** at Somerset L. 1/1-5 (AL) and another at Westtown L. 1/19 (MP), 10 **Buffleheads** at Westtown L. 1/19 (MP) and a single **Common Goldeneye** at CHLA 12/8-10 (RR) and STLA 12/10 (KF, HM). **Ring-necked Duck** numbers increased through Jan and Feb with 75 at Longwood 1/28 (JF) and 61 at UUWTP 2/24 (NP). Eleven **Hooded Mergansers** at Westtown L. 1/19 was the max count (TS). Single **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at CHLA 12/26 (NP) and COARES 1/3 (WCCBC).

Two **Common Loons** were flyovers at Longwood 12/12 (LL). There were few grebe reports this winter. Three **Pied-billed Grebes** were found at Westtown L. 12/2-9 (TS) and a single was at MCSP 12/23 (BB). A **Horned Grebe** at CHLA 12/8 (RR) was the only report. A late **Great Egret** was a good find in Landenburg 12/21 (AL).

The number of wintering **Merlins** continues to increase in southeastern Pennsylvania and once again, there were multiple reports, all single birds, in the county. They were found frequently at BTPR 12/14-2/28 (m.ob.), COARES 12/23-1/3 (m.ob.), East Coventry Twp. 2/13 (RB) and UUWTP 2/15 (NP). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were observed at COARES 1/3 (WCCBC) and CHLA 1/12 (HM). **Sandhill Crane** is another species that has become a nearly annual winter visitor in *Chester*. This winter 2 were observed standing with **Canada Geese** in a field near CFS 12/2 (NK). **American Coot** numbers were way down this year probably due to the long time period when lakes were frozen. The only report was up to 5 birds at Somerset L. 12/30-1/1 (AL).

Three **Wilson's Snipe** were in Honeybrook Twp. 2/20 (NP, SP). An **American Woodcock** in Berwyn was a great find during the Audubon CBC 12/26 (BQ). High counts for **Ring-billed Gulls** included 600 at MCSP 12/23 (BB) and 300 at STLA 1/1 (NP). Three **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at SECCA 12/16-1/3 KF, WCCBC) and one was present at STLA 12/27-1/28 (KF, LL). Single **Iceland Gulls** were recorded at SECCRA and CHLA 1/3 (WCCBC), BTPR 1/10 (LL) and STLA 1/28 (LL).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was at BTPR 12/4 (JS). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Crow's Nest Preserve 12/10 (KF, HM), the same location where one wintered last year. Another adult was in West Chester 1/30 (DH). A lingering **Eastern Phoebe** was at BTPR 12/14 (LL). A **Northern Shrike** was found in the Doe Run area 1/3 (WCCBC) and relocated 2/8 (NP). **Horned Larks** were in good number this winter in Honeybrook Twp. with several flocks of 200-300 noted (m.ob.). An early **Tree Swallow** was seen over the Doe Run area 2/22 (KF). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were uncommon this winter with small numbers seen most frequently at Longwood (m.ob.). Two were also at a feeder in Willistown 1/19 (MP).

Single **Gray Catbirds** were reported at several locations up to 1/18 (m.ob.) and single **Brown Thrashers** were noted at COARES 1/3 (WCCBC) and Myrick Conservation Center 2/19 (HM). Single **American Pipits** were reported all season mostly in associated with Horned Larks (m.ob.). Five **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at MCSP 12/27 (KF), a single bird was in Phoenixville 1/8 (RK), and 2 were at Black Rock Sanctuary 1/30 (VS). A **Pine Warbler** was at COARES 1/3 (WCCBC). One of the best finds of the winter was a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at State Line Woods 1/29 (JS, BBY).

Chipping Sparrows are now annual into Jan and this year they lingered until at least 1/18 at several locations (m.ob.). **Savannah Sparrows** wintered in good numbers with a high of 6 at STLA 1/6 (NP). One of the highlights of the season was a **Le Conte's Sparrow** found at STLA during the Elverson CBC 12/27 (RR) and seen sporadically until 1/24 (m.ob.). Single **Lapland Longspurs** were found associated with Horned Larks in Cochranville 2/9 (KF) and Honeybrook Twp. 2/18 (HM). Six **Snow Buntings** were at BTPR 12/21 and a single was in Honeybrook Twp 2/18-19 (HM, AG). A **Dickcissel** was photographed at a feeder in Cochranville 1/3 (GD). At first, the homeowner was not sure but the identification was confirmed by CC the next day. The bird remained faithful at the feeder to the end of the season (m.ob.).

Eastern Meadowlarks, rare in winter, were in the Doe Run area 1/27 (KF) and 2/21 (HM). The only **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported at Westtown L. 12/18 (TS) and 2/5 (DK). This winter, finches were notable for their absence, with only a smattering of **Purple Finches** reported.

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Clarion County

Locations: Curllsville (CV), Limestone (LI), Mount Airy (MA), Mount Zion (Piney Tract) (MZ).

After being spoiled with great bird activity the past two winter

seasons, 2009-2010 was quiet with few reports received. Some highlights are from the *Clarion* CBC as well as from the Winter Raptor Surveys (WRS).

During the southcentral WRS survey 2/7 two **Common Mergansers** were found along a small open area of fast water along the southern county border on Redbank Creek at St. Charles, an area where these birds were noted as possible breeders during the recent breeding bird atlas (CW).

Along the Allegheny River in Foxburg on the western border of *Clarion*, two adult **Bald Eagles** were observed 12/22 taking small waterfowl from the water, with the observers having the pleasure of viewing from indoor restaurant seating (CW). These birds have been breeders in this general area for some time. **Rough-legged Hawks** were in short supply this winter with just a scattering of records through the season, including a dark morph seen 12/29 on the *Clarion* CBC near Miola (FM), a light-morph bird at MA 1/10 (CW), another light-morph bird on a WRS survey near Shannondale 1/20 (CW), and a third light-morph bird on another WRS survey 2/7 on Packing Rd. near CV (CW). A gray **Eastern Screech Owl** provided some entertainment this season by using a barn in CV as a regular roosting spot, perched high up by the ceiling on most days and watching activities below with a wary eye (CW). **Short-eared Owls** were present at MA during the winter with one bird seen 12/2 (CW), two during the CBC 12/29 (DF), and 3 there at sunset 1/10 (CW). Two birds were also seen at MZ during the CBC 12/29 (PC, ML).

Also from the *Clarion* CBC 12/29 was the single **Northern Shrike** report of the season, a lone bird spotted along Shannon Tipple Rd. near MA (RM). With large areas of good habitat for this winter visitor, higher numbers have been found in most recent seasons. As noted in the past two winter reports, **Northern Flickers** continue to be found more often though this season, with three birds noted at CV 1/10, and continuing to be seen sporadically there through Feb (CW). These birds made use of multiflora rosehips as a food source, competing with the local wintering mockingbirds. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found on the CBC 12/29 in slightly higher than usual numbers; and from various locations (RM), with a regular single bird noted through the season in CV and LI (CW, FW), and an unusually high number of five also found in a small flock at a pine plantation area near MA during a WRS survey 1/25 (CW). In an interesting sighting for this recent harsh winter, two **Carolina Wrens** were noted during the GBBC in LI 2/12-13, presumably being there through the season (FW). A single bird found near Sligo during the CBC (RM).

Three **Hermit Thrushes** were found near the shrike location during the CBC, along Shannon Tipple Rd. near MA, a good number for this count, especially with the later date of the survey this year and the fact that the birds were seen together (RM). A cold-looking **Brown Thrasher** lingered near CV 12/7 (CW). With low temps during that time keeping the ground frozen, the bird appeared to be utilizing nearby pokeberries left dried on the plants, judging by the purple coloration of the bird's vent. No unusual sparrows or finches were noted this year other than lower than average numbers of **White-throated Sparrows** at feeders near CV (CW), no higher than 5-6 (about half the usual amount). The only **Purple Finch** report was of 2-3 birds at feeders in LI during the Great Backyard Bird Count 2/13-14 (FW).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjal@windstream.net**, Margaret Buckwalter, Paulette Colantonio, Deb Freed, Mike Leahy, Flo McGuire, Ron Montgomery, Fran Williams.

Clearfield County

Locations: Dubois (DB), Philipsburg: (PB), Westover (WST).

Notable hawks of note were found in several locations. **Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, and Rough-legged Hawks** were found in the Dubois area (MW) with Red-tailed and Rough-legged also around PB (DB). **American Kestrels** were seen throughout the period at WST (DG). A **Northern Shrike** was found at DB 1/1 (MW). Small flocks of **Horned Larks** were seen at several locations in the open farmland above WST (DG). A lone **Hermit Thrush** was at DB 1/1 (MW).

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Clinton County

No Report.

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Columbia County

No Report.

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Crawford County

Locations: Atlantic Lake Road (ALR), Conneaut Lake (CL), Jamestown State Park (JSP), Custards (C), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva Marsh (G), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Linesville Christmas Count (LCC), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Sugar Lake (SL).

A good find was 2 **Blue Geese** at LCC 12/20 (m.ob.). The **Canada Geese** count on LCC 12/20 was 7705 (m.ob.). Forty-eight **Tundra Swans** were found at SL 12/11 (RE) and 50 at CL 12/15 (CN).

Four **Double-crested Cormorants** were last spotted at JSP December 12 (RFL). A fair count of 650 **Common Mergansers** was noted at PC 12/14 (RFL); that total was reduced to just 4 birds on LCC 12/14 (m.ob.). RFL found 225 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at PC 12/14 and up to 20 remained after that date to 1/14 (RFL). A good count of 180 **Hooded Mergansers** was tallied for the LCC 12/20 (m.ob.). A large group of **Mallards** wintered at the western end of PC with some 900 there 12/14 (RN). A lone **Green-winged Teal** was seen 1/14 at FH (RFL), the only report. One **Northern Shoveler** was noted at FH on LCC 12/20 (m.ob.) and one at the PS 1/30 (RFL). Two **Northern Pintails** were found on the LCC 12/20 (m.ob.) while CL produced 10 birds 12/12 (RFL) and 5 were found at PS 1/30 (MV). A lone **Redhead Duck** was at CL 12/2; high count of 10 there 12/12 (RFL). Five were seen at PS 1/30 and three there on 2/28 (MV). There were 3 **Canvasbacks** at CL 12/6 and I found one at PC 2/4 and 2/6 (RFL). A **Greater Scaup** was reported 12/20 on the LCC (m.ob.) and 2 were located at the PS on 2/28 (MV). Six **Lesser Scaup** were seen at PS 1/30 (RFL). There were 22 **Ring-necked Ducks** at JSP 12/6 and 2 at CL 12/18 (RFL, RCL). The first reports of **Common Goldeneye** were 2 at CL and 5 at PC 12/2 (RFL). Some 751 were seen at LCC (m.ob.) 12/20; after that date numbers were very slim (m.ob.). **Buffleheads** were seen regularly but in small numbers (up to 5) most of the period. The high count of **Ruddy Ducks** was 28 at CL 12/18 (RFL, RCL).

Twelve **Horned Grebes** were found at JSP 12/12 (RFL). Five **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted at SL 12/7 (RE) and one was at FH (m.ob.). One **Common Loon** was seen at CL and 14 PC 12/2 (RFL). One was present at LCC 12/20 (m.ob.).

MV found 15 **Sandhill Cranes** at PYM FH 12/6. Seventeen were there 12/18 (RFL, RCL) and 19 there on 12/20 LCC (m.ob.). The best total of **American Coots** was 150 on CL 12/23 (RCL). Nine wintered on an open pond at FH all winter (m.ob.). A single **Ruffed Grouse** was seen on LCC 12/20 (RFL) and singles 1/9 and 1/24 at SL (RE) and another 1/30 on Canal Road PYM (RCL). Fifty **Wild Turkeys** were tallied on LCC 12/20 (m.ob.). CN found a flock of 62 near SP 2/2. A **Turkey Vulture** was seen near Meadville 2/16 (RE). A **Northern Harrier** was noted at PS 12/5 (RFL) and one was seen at PGMA 2/28 (MV). Nine **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were reported 12/14-2/22 at a number of locations (RE, CN, RFL, RCL, MB) and 13 **Cooper's Hawks** were found, many at feeders 12/12-2/24 at CM, CL, G, SP, SL and ENWR (m.ob.). The six **Red-shouldered Hawks** on the LCC 12/20 was better than most years (m.ob.). The first **Rough-legged Hawk** was found 12/6 at JSP (RFL). One was noted at SL 12/20 and 12/27 (RE). Two were seen at SL 2/22 (RE) and 2 were near SP 1/31 (CH). A few **Bald Eagles** wintered here despite an early lake freeze (at one point once even creeks and streams were ice covered). The count of 22 seen at the LCC 12/20 was below the last few years. **Merlins** were found at PGMA near Miller Ponds 12/2 and 12/5 (RFL).

A **Killdeer** was seen on ALR HM 2/15 (MB). A most unusual find for any winter period was a **Least Sandpiper** at FH on a narrow pond with some running water 12/23 (MV, RCL). This bird stayed until at least

2/7 (MV, m.ob.). This was a first winter record for *Crawford*. At least 38 **Herring Gulls** were at PC 12/14 and 30 there 12/27 (RFL, RCL); fewer were noted in Jan and Feb. Some 4300 **Red-billed Gulls** were seen at Pym 12/5 (RFL) and 1840 were tallied on the LCC 12/20 (m.ob.). In mid-Dec, 1000 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were tallied at Pymatuning 12/13 and 12/14 (CH, RN) with one bird remaining at PC 1/6 (CH).

There were 2 **Barred Owls** seen 12/20 for LCC (m.ob.) and one was reported at Springboro 2/1 (CN). An **Eastern Screech Owl** was reported at ALR near HM (MB) 1/5-9. A **Great-horned Owl** was reported 12/20 (LCC) and 2 were at ALR 1/1-2/17 (MB, HM). The bird of the season was an extremely white **Snowy Owl** that was found by the Miller Family on their farm at Shadeland 1/26, staying until 2/28; 500 viewers visited the farm (*vide* CN). This was likely the only Snowy Owl of which recorded in northwestern Pennsylvania this season.

Single **Belted Kingfishers** were recorded for LCC 12/20, at PA 12/23 (MV), and at Springboro 1/12 (CN). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were recorded at PYM at Bosons (east of Meadville) and Springboro (RCL, CN). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen on the LCC 12/20 (m.ob.). This was the first LCC record in several years. From 1/1-16 ten **Horned Larks** were seen near HM (MB); top was 75 at SNWR 2/1 (RE). A **Common Raven** was noted near SL 1/26 (RE).

Four **Carolina Wrens** were recorded on LCC 12/20 (m.ob.). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at RFL's feeder 1/17 south east of Meadville, and one was seen at PA 1/18 (SA). **American Robins** and **Eastern Bluebirds** wintered here in fair numbers. Single **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found 12/18 and 12/20 at PYM; one on Pine Road (HM) 12/27 (RCL, MB) and one south of PC 1/23 (RFL). A late **Chipping Sparrow** came to a feeder daily at Meadville and was last seen there 12/24 (RFL, RCL). An **Eastern Towhee** was seen North of Meadville near Venango 2/21 (RFL). A **Snow Bunting** was recorded at PC 12/12 (RFL) and 50 were seen there 12/14 (RN); after that date none were recorded likely due to heavy snow cover, as deep as 2 feet or more, making it difficult to find seed after Jan.

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Cumberland County

Locations: Big Spring (BS), Boiling Springs Children's Pond (BSCP), Conodoguinet Creek (CC), Mudlevel Road (MLR), Newville CBC 1/2/10 (NCBC), Running Pump Road (RPR).

While the winter of 08/09 was known for the high quantities of White-winged Crossbills, Pine Siskins and American Goldfinch, the winter of 09/10 may be remembered for its lack of northern finches. Other species present in lower numbers than usual were **Northern Harriers**, **Black Vultures** and **Turkey Vultures**. Of *Cumberland's* two winter regulars, many once again saw the **Prairie Falcon**, but the **Least Sandpiper** played hard to get. A trio of very good winter finds included **Brown Thrasher**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, and a **Clay-colored Sparrow** which was reported in *Cumberland* for only the second time.

Two **Common Goldeneyes** were seen at BSCP 11/8 (HW). The **Common Loon** that has been at the pond for over a year continued through the period (m.ob.). There seemed to be only about half of the usual number of **American Wigeon** at the pond with a high of 32 individuals being reported in the first week of Feb (HW). The pair of **Mute Swans** continued throughout the period at BSCP. One **Mute Swan** was also reported on the CC 1/15 (JB, RF), and 2 other Mute Swans were reported during the NCBC (RK). The one regular winter visitor missing from BSCP was a **Northern Shoveler**, but oddly enough one **Northern Shoveler** was recorded on the NCBC (RK) which was only the second time in 19 years that the species has shown up on the count. Other waterfowl reported on the CC besides the normal sightings of **Common Mergansers** included 2 **Hooded Mergansers** and one **Wood Duck** 1/15 (JB, RF). One other **Wood Duck** was also reported on the BS 2/14 (DB, JB). Finally, one **Bufflehead** was reported on the BSCP on 2/4 (VG, SD) and 2/27 (HW).

As for raptors, the **Prairie Falcon** was reported from the MLR area 12/4-2/26 (m.ob.). Sightings of individual **Merlins** were reported from the intersection of PA-641 and Crossroad School Road 12/31 (VG), PA-641 and Crossroad School Road 1/1 (BF, LF), on Smithdale Road Shippensburg 1/21 (VG), at Boiling Springs 1/24 (MK), and on the BS

2/14. For a large part of the period there seemed to be a lack of numbers of both **Turkey Vultures** and **Black Vultures** which was reflected in the fact that only 3 of each species were reported on the NCBC. Perhaps the heavy snowfall had something to do with this. **Northern Harriers** too seemed to be in short supply with none being reported on county WRS routes, though 6 were reported on the NCBC. No **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported in *Cumberland* during the period, but 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported on WRS routes and 2 were on the NCBC. There was one adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** along the Big Spring, near the intersection of Big Spring Road and Nealy Road 2/5 (AL), and 2 were reported from the same area 2/7 (VG, BO)

The **Least Sandpiper** that has been showing up the past few winters on the Big Spring was present once again, though it was not as regular as in years past. Perhaps it has found a new favorite hangout. But it was reported on the Big Spring 12/19 (VG), 12/20 (AM), 12/22 (VG), 12/27 (VG), 1/10 (RS), 1/30 (VG). One **Wilson's Snipe** was also seen on the BS 12/19 (VG), and 2 at the intersection of Bullshead and PA-641 12/20 (AM). There were a number of reports of one to 3 **Killdeer** throughout the period.

It seems that the **Barn Owls** at SGL169 departed during the period, and that 2 **Long-eared Owls** were reported at Conifer Road Tree Farm on 12/5 (AM). The only report of **Fish Crow** was the one that was reported on the NCBC. Two **Common Ravens** were reported on the BS 12/20 (AM), one at Green Ridge Village 12/31 (VG), and one at Duncan Road 2/7 (BO, VG)

While one can imagine that the heavy amount of snow made life hard on field birds, it did make viewing them easier. Large flocks of **Horned Larks** were reported throughout the period with a new record high of 1607 on the NCBC. In the words of count compiler Bill Franz, this "smashed the past record of 1090". **American Pipits** were relatively common in the period with a record 52 reported on the NCBC. And though **Snow Buntings** were not reported on the Newville CBC, up to 8 were reported on Running Pump Road and MLR 12/5-1/10. In the same area during the month of Feb, reports of **Lapland Longspurs** were common, with a high of up to 8 reported on MLR 2/14 (DB, JB).

One **Brown Thrasher** paid a visit to a Newville feeding station on 2/14 (BF, LF). The thrasher was a follow up to a **Clay-colored Sparrow** reported at the same feeding station 2/7 and 2/8 (BF, LF, VG, BK, BO, MW). Two **Savannah Sparrows** were reported on MLR 12/4 (MS), and 2/7 (VG, BO) and 6 Savannah Sparrows at MLR on 2/14 (DB, JB). An astounding number of 137 **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported from MLR on 12/20 (AM). One **Eastern Towhee** reported at the Green Ridge Village Fields 12/31 (VG), 2 on the NVCBC, and 3 at the parking lot and thickets SGL169 marsh 2/13 (VG). There were several reports of **Fox Sparrows** during the period with 3 reported on the NCBC.

Other birds of special interest reported in the period included a very unusual winter **Waterthrush sp.** spotted along the CC 1/15 (RF, JB), 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** on the BS 12/20 (AM), and single **Eastern Meadowlarks** at MLR 2/3 and 2/14 (RF, PF, DB, JB), and on Ridge Road Newville 2/13 (VG).

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Dauphin County

Locations: East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Hershey Important Bird Area #45 (HIBA), Hummelstown (HUM), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR from Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR from Harrisburg (SRHB), SR from Marysville (SRMV), SR from Royaltown (SRRT), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), West Hanover Twp. (WHT), Wildwood Lake (WL).

This winter will be remembered as one of the worst CBC seasons in recent memory. Starting with the snow storm 12/19 which forced the postponement of the HBG CBC to 12/27, the Lebanon CBC counters braved the storm and managed, at least, a partial day's count. The New Bloomfield CBC was held in a chilly rain and the Curtin CBC had to deal with gale force winds. January started unseasonably cold but midway through the month the temperatures moderated and we enjoyed a late

January thaw. February was another story and set a record in HBG as the snowiest month ever, with 42 inches, most of it coming in back-to-back storms early in the month. Counties south and east of *Dauphin* had 50- to 60-inch snow totals.

A flock of 90 **Snow Geese** were with a few hundred **Canada Geese** in a field along Swatara Rd. within the HIBA 1/26 (PW, RW). On 2/20 there was a report of 20 **Snow Geese** in SHT (JG). A lone **Tundra Swan** was observed flying along the Swatara Creek in the HIBA 1/22 (PW, RW). On a WRS in the northern part of the county three **Tundra Swans** were noted near Millersburg 1/23 (RK, JR).

A drake **Wood Duck** was reported with **Mallards** on Spring Creek within Zoo America in HER 12/28 (TB), and probably the same bird was observed on Spring Creek just behind the HER Chocolate Factory 1/24 (PW, RW). **Wood Duck**, **Gadwall**, **Green-winged Teal**, and **Northern Shoveler** all remained at WL through most of Dec. Three **Northern Shovelers** and one **Green-winged Teal** was still present there 1/1 (RK). **Gadwall** and **American Black Duck** could be found at WL when ever open water was available and **Wood Duck** returned by 2/24 (CRb). Two **Gadwall** were located on SRHB 1/2 and three were found at the Highspire Reservoir 2/24 (PW, RW). The only report of a **Northern Pintail** came 1/29 from WL where one was observed (JW) and a single **Northern Shoveler** was found on SRWF 2/23 (RK).

Three **Ring-necked Ducks** were on SRHB 1/20 (PW, RW). Five **Greater Scaup** were observed 1/31 on SRWF (RK) and four were still present on the SR along the Wormleysburg waterfront 2/2 along with two **Lesser Scaup** (PW, RW). A male **Surf Scoter** and six **Long-tailed Ducks** were observed at SRMV and three **Long-tailed Ducks** were found on SRWF 12/12 (CRT, et al.). A female **Surf Scoter** was present 12/13 on SRMV (AMk, MS). A female **Black Scoter** was on the SR from City Island, HBG 12/27 for the HBG CBC (RW, S&BB, BCr).

Bufflehead and **Common Goldeneye** were reported on the SR, between Fort Hunter and HBG, throughout the season (m.ob.) but a single **Bufflehead** on the Swatara Creek in the HIBA 2/2 was unusual (PW, RW). **Common Mergansers** were quite common on the SR and the Swatara Creek throughout the quarter (m.ob.). A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** were found on the Swatara Creek at Rte. 39 on 2/23 and another pair was observed at the Highspire Reservoir 2/24 (PW, RW).

A single **Ruddy Duck** was found on a pond in the northern part of the county for the Curtin CBC 12/29 (PF, N&CJ). Another Ruddy was on Lisa Lake, in Highspire, 1/4 (PW, RW). The only report of a **Common Loon** came during the HBG CBC 12/27 when one was at SRMV (DH).

Black Vulture continues to be regularly reported throughout the southern half of the county (m.ob.). Of particular interest was the early morning flight, around 08:00, of 12 **Black Vultures** from the wooded hillside behind The Hotel Hershey on two consecutive days 1/6 and 1/7 (PW, RW). Both species of vulture returned to the Laurel Woods roost area south of Hershey (GB).

A very early **Osprey** was observed along Shetland Dr. in SHT 1/24 (BCa). This is the earliest report for this species by more than a month in the past 20 years, and it corresponded with the two week thaw enjoyed in late Jan. **Bald Eagle** reports were numerous from both along the SR and along the Swatara Creek in the HER-HUM area (m.ob.). Two **Northern Harriers** were among the raptors counted along a WRS route in northern part of the county 1/23 (RK, JR). Overall, harriers were scarce this season with one report from the HIBA 12/22 and another from along Geyer's Church Rd. 1/15 (PW, RW). There was also one observed along Bindnaugle Rd. 2/18 (GK). **Cooper's** and **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were reported throughout the quarter (m.ob.) and **Cooper's Hawk** pairs were noted in EHT (NC) and Highspire (KK). An adult **Northern Goshawk** was observed along Rte. 443 just east of Blue Mt. Parkway perched in tree 2/19 (M&RB). The first **Rough-legged Hawk** of the season was reported near Elizabethville 1/11 (M&RB) and, one was observed over the Conservation District Office in Clarks Valley 2/3 (SB).

There were three reports of **Merlins** this quarter. The first was found along Geyer's Church Rd. east of Middletown 1/4 (PW&RW), the second was reported in Clarks Valley 1/12 (SB), and the third was observed near the intersection of Hersheypark Dr. and Lingle Ave. 2/24 (JG). A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed taking a pigeon in the northern part of the county 12/17 (SDI), one was found in HBG for the CBC 12/27 (DH), and another report came from the HER area where on 2/5 one was observed atop a telephone pole at the intersection of Hersheypark Dr. and Rt. 39 near The Giant Center (PW, RW).

American Coot was present at WL from 12/4-12/16 (CRb) and one was observed there 1/22 (GK). At least a few **Killdeer** remained all winter with reports, usually of single birds, coming from a number of

locations but especially the HIBA (m.obs.). At least two **Long-eared Owls** were reported in EHT 2/1 (SDo), and one was observed at this location 2/3 (SDo, PW, RW).

In mid-Dec. a **Red-headed Woodpecker** made a few visits to feeders near Manada Hill (BI); another was found along Bindnaugle Rd. in Derry Twp. 1/27 (GK), and a third report came from along Schoolhouse Rd. south of HUM in mid-Feb. (*vide* HW). An **Eastern Phoebe** was present at Zoo America as late as 12/28 (TB) and two **American Pipits** were found along Kennedy Lane 12/24 (TJ).

A large crow roost of about 2000 was reported on City Island, HBG 12/12 including both **American** and **Fish Crows** (LU). **Fish Crows** are also common in the HUM and Swatara Creek area (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was an irregular visitor in EHT (NC) and, at least one was observed within the HIBA 1/24 (S&RZ) and 1/30 (PW, RW). The only **Gray Catbird** reported this quarter was found during the Curtin CBC 12/29 (PF, N&CJ), and the only **Brown Thrasher** was present in a Susquehanna Twp. neighborhood as late as 1/14 (EC). The only **Northern Shrike** of the season was observed in WHT 12/29 (BCa, JC). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was found at Swatara Creek Park 1/10 and along Swatara Rd. within the HIBA 1/22 and again 2/1 (PW, RW).

An **Eastern Towhee** visited a feeder near HBG 12/19-20 (AMA), one was counted on the HBG CBC near the old State Hospital grounds 12/27 (RW, BC, S&BB) and, at least one came to feeders in WHT in Jan. (BCa, JC). This species was likely present all winter at various locations. There were two late Dec. reports of **Chipping Sparrow** in SHT: the first 12/20 (TJ) and the second 12/25 (PW, RW). **Field Sparrow** was observed along E. Canal Rd. in SHT 1/10 (PW, RW). A **Savannah Sparrow** paid a visit to a HER feeder 1/2 (AS) and one was noted at the WL feeders 2/26-28 (SL, CR). Two **Fox Sparrows** were found near the old State Hospital 12/27 (RW, et al.) and, at least one was noted in EHT 1/3 and again 1/30 (S&RZ); and one visited SHT feeders from 2/10-16 following the back-to-back snow storms (PW, RW). A **Lapland Longspur** was found with **Horned Larks** along Kennedy Lane 12/24 (TJ) and one was observed in a farm field near Gratz 12/29, during the Curtin CBC, along with a single **Snow Bunting** and many **Horned Larks** (AT, et al.).

During the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) in mid-Feb. a single **Rusty Blackbird** visited a feeder in WHT (BS). Sixteen **Common Grackles** were reported from the Middletown area 1/10 (ME), and five were observed at the Royalton Canal Boat Launch 2/24 (PW, RW) marking their seasonal return to the area. A few **Red-winged Blackbirds** remained all season at WL (CRb) and a lone **Eastern Meadowlark** was found just south of HUM 2/15 (PW, RW). **Pine Siskins** visited feeders in FCV, with 11 reported for the GBBC 2/14 (D&PA), and one was counted south of HUM the same weekend (Toni).

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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 Glenolden CBC was held 1/2. Traditionally the CBC is held on the third Saturday in December, making this year's scheduled date 12/19. However the first of three major snowstorms of the season struck *Delaware* on the eve of the scheduled count forcing the only postponement in anyone's memory. The day the CBC was held, 1/2, turned out to be cold (in the 20's) and windy (30-40 mph). Despite this, the intrepid *Delaware* birders turned out in good numbers and hours of

participation were about average. Birding for the season was inevitably affected by the weather and reports were well below average.

There was only one report of **Snow Geese**. Fifteen flew over the observer's home in Springfield 2/11 (SC). At least five **Wood Ducks** stayed through the Dec storm and were at SR 12/31-1/2 (DM). A fairly high mid-winter number of 21 **Ring-necked Ducks** was also at SR 1/1 (DM). Notable for its unusual location was a **Northern Shoveler** on Broomall's Lake, a small recreational lake in Media 1/2 and 1/5 (BK, CS, AG). A CBC highlight was a male **Long-tailed Duck** SR 1/2 (AG). The hot spot for wintering **Hooded Mergansers** is Crum Reservoir where 27 were counted on the CBC 1/2 (CP) and similar numbers were counted at this location through the season (DE).

Bald Eagles continue to thrive. Eleven were tallied on the CBC 1/2 (m.ob.). Despite the unfavorable conditions, that count was only 2 birds shy of the high count of 13 on last year's CBC. The *Delaware* nest was active again with nest building observed 1/16 (AG). Only 3 **American Kestrels** were found on the CBC including count week (SC, NC, DM). The CBC average prior to 1990 was 33, since 1990, only 12.

A rare winter visitor, a **Blue-headed Vireo** was well seen SC 12/26 (DE, AE). **Black-capped chickadees** were sparse. The only report was of two individuals on the CBC (RH). Likewise hard to find were **Red-breasted Nuthatches**. Three were tallied on the CBC at DT (JD), RCSP (TM et al.), and TY (TR et al.). As expected every winter, individuals were seen at TY on multiple dates through the season (TR, AG) but there were no reports from other locations. Considering the reduced birding hours for the season, an unusual number of hardy **Gray Catbirds** were reported. There were 3 on the CBC (AE, RH, SJ) and individuals were found late into the winter despite the snows at DT 1/7 (AG), Media 1/19 (AG), and SC 1/31 (DE). The SC bird seemed particularly hardy as it was seen calling the morning after a fresh 1-inch snowfall and 14°F low the previous night. Also overwintering were 2 **Brown Thrashers** seen on the CBC (RH, CW).

Warbler reports were practically non-existent. For the second winter in a row, a **Pine Warbler** visited a feeder in Middletown Twp 2/5 and other dates (CS). Winter finches, in contrast to last year's siskin and crossbill invasion, were not reported except a total of 5 **Purple Finches** at TY 12/2 (TR), RCSP 1/2 (TM et al) and 3 at DT 1/2 (JD).

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Elk County

No compiler.

Erie County

Winter came on strong in late January with heavy snowfalls through February. For the first time in many years Lake Erie nearly froze over completely. The ice-cover was short lived though and within a few days in late February at least half of the lake re-opened. Presque Isle Bay began to freeze by mid-December and, except for the channel, remained completely frozen through the period. A total of 80 **Red-throated Loons** was recorded the first half of December during the waterbird count (WC) with the highest count day on 12/12 when 30 birds passed Sunset Point. Most waterfowl were forced out of the region by late December, but hundreds of **Common Goldeneye** began returning in late February packing into a small patch of open water at the channel. The first adult male **Harlequin Duck** ever seen by birders in *Erie* made an appearance with the goldeneye in late February, and remained to at least the first few days of March. It was not a season of northern finches. Not a single crossbill, redpoll or siskin was reported. The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PISP) unless noted otherwise.

The flock of 35 to 40 **Snow Geese** seen flying over the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Erie 12/15 was not only a large number, but rather late for *Erie* (KA). An earlier than usual **Northern Shoveler**, was spotted at the channel 2/23 (JM). A stunning adult male **Harlequin Duck** showed up among hundreds of **Common Goldeneyes** 2/20 at

the channel and remained through the end of the period (MV, et al.). Of the 17 or so records of this species in *Erie*, this is only the second record of an adult male. Low numbers of all three scoters were tallied at the WC through mid-Dec (JM). A total of six **White-winged Scoters** were seen from 1/20-2/23 around PISP (JM). The single **Black Scoter** found on Edinboro Lake in Nov remained to at least 12/6 (MV). The first winter record of a **Black Vulture** in *Erie* occurred 12/6 when one was photographed sitting in a tree along Beach 10 (DM, *vide* SS). This is the first of its kind to be seen in the county outside of spring migration.

A very early **Turkey Vulture** was seen flying over Harborcreek 1/21 (SD). A greater than usual number of **Red-shouldered Hawks** was found throughout the county this season, including a nicely photographed immature hanging out at a bird feeding station in Erie. Light morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported from several sites this season with at least six individuals involved (m.ob.). A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** continued to be seen periodically through the winter in the PISP area (m.ob.).

A late **Dunlin** passed Sunset Point during the WC 12/16 (JM). Two adult **Little Gulls** were among the 3000+ **Bonaparte's Gulls** 1/28 off Beach 11, a very high number for this time of year (JM). Two **Thayer's-type gulls** were at the Lake View Landfill on 1/18 (JM). One was an adult and the other was a first cycle bird. The other two white-winged gulls were fewer in number than usual for this time of year. There were a total of at least five **Iceland Gulls** and nine **Glaucous Gulls** at the Lake View Landfill and at PISP (JM). Only four **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found at the Lake View Landfill and PISP (JM). Rather unusual was a probable fourth cycle **Great Black-backed Gull x Herring Gull** at the Lake View Landfill on 2/8 (BC) and 2/16 (JM).

The **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** reported in the fall continued at a feeder in Harborcreek until 12/20 (SB). **Northern Shrikes** made a decent showing with at least five appearing at various sites throughout the county (m.ob.). **Common Ravens** have become regular visitors the past few winters south of Union City and this year was no exception. At least two birds were seen and heard periodically through Jan and Feb (DP). Even more noteworthy was one seen off Rte. 8 just south of Wattsburg 1/21 (RS). A very late **Brown Thrasher** was reported during the first week of Jan in Harborcreek (SD) and a late **American Pipit** was flushed from the ground near Perry Monument 12/23 (JF).

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Fayette County

Once again there were very few reports for the season. A flock of 6 **Tundra Swans** was observed flying over Greenlick Run Lake 12/1 (SK) and a single was on the Cheat River near Point Marion 1/23 (TB, NB). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 1/23 and a **Northern Flicker** was also present (TB, NB).

A nice count of 25 **Eastern Bluebirds** were at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 1/23 (TB, NB). There was a report on the Western Pennsylvania RBA of a flock of 100 **Red Crossbills** south of Markleysburg 1/13 (LD).

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Forest County

Locations: Tionesta (TI).

A nice assortment of waterfowl was found 1/3 on the Allegheny River between West Hickory and TI: 4 **Mute Swans**, 44 **American Black Ducks**, 13 **Mallards**, 7 **Hooded Mergansers**, and 26 **Common Mergansers**, as well as 7 **Bald Eagles** (RS, from the Pleasantville Christmas Bird Count). Six adult and one immature **Bald Eagle** were reported 1/11, primarily between Tionesta and Kellestville (JQ, mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey).

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen 2/25 unsuccessfully cruising by bird feeders near TI. A **Common Raven** was seen 12/5 flying near TI, where a single **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. One or two **American Tree**

Sparrows were regular throughout the period (FM, JM). Thirty-four **White-throated Sparrows** were reported 1/3 in the area between TI and West Hickory (RS). A **Rusty Blackbird** was seen 2/13-19 at a feeder near TI, where **Purple Finches** were regular from 1/7 throughout the period, with a high of 7 on 2/27.

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Jim McGuire, Jason Quinn, Russ States.

Franklin County

Locations: Chambersburg Area (CA), Cordell's Wetland (CW), Shady Grove (SG), Zullinger (ZU).

This winter was snowy and cold, which had an effect on the birds and the birders and consequently sighting were fewer than usual. However, we needed a good snowy winter.

Waterfowl were difficult to locate in Dec due to due snow and frozen ponds. **Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, and American Wigeon** were the only reported waterfowl during the CBC. A lone **Bufflehead** managed to land on the Greencastle Reservoir when the water was not frozen 2/27. On 2/25, three **Gadwall** were on a pond along Kriner Road near CA. **Wilson Snipe** were observed at various times in Dec, Jan, and Feb at CA and CW. An occasional **Northern Harrier** was sighted in CA in Dec. The **Eurasian Collared-Doves** are seen regularly in SG and also often in Greencastle throughout the winter. Several **Eastern Screech Owls** were observed and heard calling in CA and near Clay Hill. A **Great Horned Owl** was observed on a nest at CA 2/26.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported at several locations near CA and in the Clay Hill area. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** and **Hairy Woodpeckers** came to feeders near SG and CA. **Common Ravens** were seen often in the county in contrast to just a few years ago when they not present. **Brown Creepers** frequented a feeder near ZU in Dec. Many **Horned Larks** (well over 600) fed at various locations. Some groups had **Lapland Longspurs** mixed with them but there were very few **Snow Buntings** this winter. It was nice to watch **Fox Sparrows** at several feeder locations near ZU and SG. Ten **White-crowned Sparrows** were also at the same feeder location 2/28. Five **Purple Finches** were counted on the CBC and two **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported on the CBC. It was not until 2/23 that a **Pine Siskin** finally came to a feeder east of CA near Caledonia State Park. They were very hard to locate this year.

Observers: **Dale Gearhart, PO Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256, (717) 860-5799, dgearhart01@comcast.net**, Valerie Barnes, Carl Garner, Bob Keener, Bill Oyler.

Fulton County

No Report.

Compiler: **Daniel Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan_snell@hotmail.com**.

Greene County

Locations: Claylick Road/Center Township (CT), Cumberland Township (CUMB), East View (EV), Franklin Township (FT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Nineveh (NV), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Rogersville (RGV), Sycamore (SY)

The roster of waterfowl reported continues to dwindle due to the loss of water habitat and with the few remaining lakes and ponds thick with ice for this period. Of the two large bodies of water left, one is being drawn down in order to repair the dam structure. The fish are being relocated while the repair work is being done and will be replaced. One hopes the birds will find their way back when the water level returns. **Canada Geese** are one exception to low waterfowl reports. A flock of 53 was noted 1/10 at ponds in MT (KK) and respectable numbers were reported on the Christmas Bird Counts (*Greene* has two count circles). Also, pairs of both **Mallards** and **Gadwalls** were found 12/26 in MT (KK). The Gadwalls were not seen again. A surprise 1/29 was a **Great Blue Heron** standing in the middle of Ten Mile Creek in FT in the early

morning (KK). A single **Ring-billed Gull** was noted in FT 2/16 (MH).

Wild Turkey populations have not appreciably declined as some predicted with the growth of the coyote population. Large flocks of turkeys visit feeders all winter throughout the county. In the east (CUMB), a flock of 47 was noted 1/10 (KK), south at LCR 35 they started coming to the feeders 12/11 and returned frequently (MLP), and in the western area at CT 43 came regularly to feeders (R&LA). **Turkey Vultures** were not seen until 3/1 at LCR (MLP).

Although searched for on many occasions, no Northern Harriers or Rough-legged Hawks were found this winter. At SY, the resident **Sharp-shinned Hawk** enjoyed dining at the feeders all winter (JC). Several observers' feeders also kept wintering **Cooper's Hawks** nourished. At RBF, one roosted in the yard all winter (RKB) and at LCR and SY Cooper's Hawks were observed frequently (JC, MLP). One **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported at EV 1/26 (JH). **American Kestrels** were noted around the county by several observers and provided a nice number for the winter raptor counts (three counts are run).

A **Killdeer** was heard calling 12/11 in FT but was not seen or heard after that (MH). Though reported more frequently than in past years, the only report this season of a **Barred Owl** was at SY, heard calling 2/12 (JC). **Mourning Doves** descended on the feeders at CT with a high of 55 tallied multiple times (R&LA).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers must have been late arrivals as there was only one reported for the CBC circles but several sightings in Jan and Feb (RKB, JC). On 2/7-8, just prior to the "big snow", 2 **Eastern Bluebirds** were noted checking out a nest box at CT. They disappeared after the snow (R&LA). However on 2/25 and 2/28 Bluebirds were reported at RBF (RKB) and NV (CA). **American Robins** hung around through the winter in greater numbers than last winter. A flyover of 50 was noted by C. David Bell at RBF 12/18 and there were several in the yard through Feb with a peak of 48 on 2/15 (RKB).

As usual, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** camped out in the holly trees all winter at RBF with 10 noted 1/16 (RKB). Sightings of winter **Eastern Towhees** had observers excited. The earliest was 1/15 at EV (JH), the next was 1/30 in CUMB (RB), on 2/10 at a feeder in FT by Bill Wentzel, and 2/13-15 at LCR (MLP). Apparently they did not mind the snow.

Observers reported **Song** and **White-throated Sparrows** at their feeders along with copious amounts of **Dark-eyed Juncos** for the period. RKB noted at least 6 White-throated Sparrows daily with a peak of 10 present 1/30. Dark-eyed Juncos came in bunches also with a high of 30 found at EV 2/15 just in time for the Great Backyard Bird Count (MH). **American Tree Sparrows** were observed at LCR 1/10 with 3 or 4 showing up on a regular basis thereafter (MLP). She also had one lone **Fox Sparrow** for one day 1/10. An early **Chipping Sparrow** found its way to LCR 2/27 (MLP).

The **Northern Cardinals** did not lack in numbers again this year with 20 showing up nearly daily at CT (R&LA), usually 30 at LCR (MLP), and a high of 34 at EV 2/15 (MH). At NV CA relates, "We had about 8 pair of cardinals this winter. We have watched the males fighting more lately. I observed 2 females fighting! The ones who back off, seem to me, to be younger ones." **Red-winged Blackbirds** have been the "talk of the town" with a flock of 25 seen 1/30 during a Winter Raptor Count in MT (RB), multiple February sightings at SY (JC), and 2 noted in RGV 2/25 (MG). The 25 noted on 1/30 appeared to be all females. They were very striped, the rosy throat was evident, but only faint wing bars. **Eastern Meadowlarks** also can be found at odd times in winter. One was heard singing 1/10 in CUMB (KK).

The second biggest story of *last* winter was the large number of **Pine Siskins** that spent the winter with us over a wide area of *Greene*. This winter, only one was reported 1/6-2/10 at EV (JH). **American Goldfinches** abounded at LCR with an average of 20 (MLP) and at EV with a peak of 41 on 2/7 (MH).

Observers: **Kathy Kern 322 Kennel Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 627-5376, n3xsj@windstream.net**, Carol Andrew, Ron and Lyn Argent, Ralph K. Bell, Roberta Boyd, Jan Churney, Myra Gibson, Jerry Howard, Marj Howard, Mary LaPlante.

Huntingdon County

Locations: Ennisville (ENN), Huntingdon (HU), Juniata River (JR), Lake Raystown (LR), McAlevys Fort (McF), Summit Schoolhouse Road (SSR).

The LR CBC was held 12/27. The species count was 57, lowest

ever (the average is 66). The count for several common species was lowest or second lowest ever, including **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Tufted Titmouse**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Northern Cardinal**, **American Tree Sparrow**, and **American Goldfinch**. Wild Turkey was missed for the first time ever. The low numbers were due to several factors: harsh weather leading up to count-day, fog in the morning, and below-average party-hours. The HU CBC was held 12/20 following a snowstorm the previous day, which limited participation. Like the LR CBC, the species count of 58 was below average as was the count for many of the common winter species.

Waterfowl reports were few; most came from the JR, which remained mostly ice-free. Principle species present included **American Black Duck**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Bufflehead**, and **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers** (GG, DK, TK).

The annual winter count of **Bald Eagles** on LR was 14, the highest ever. **Northern Harriers** wintered on SSR again this season (GG). The combined totals from Huntingdon WRS routes included 9 **Bald Eagles**, one **Northern Harrier**, 5 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 84 **Red-tailed Hawks**, and 27 **American Kestrels** (DB, RF, GG, DK, TK, NK). Also of note and unusual in winter here was a kettle of 56 **Black Vultures** near Shirleysburg (GG).

A **Northern Shrike** was located during a WRS 1/30 near Seven Stars (DB, NK). Flocks of **Horned Larks**, numbering as many as 300, were present throughout the season in the farmlands south of Allensville. One **Snow Bunting** was spotted among a flock there 2/14 (DG, GG). A few **White-crowned Sparrows** wintered in the usual location near Cottage (GG, DK).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, gwg2@psu.edu**, Diane Bierly, Nick Bolgiano, Ron Freed, Deb Grove, Nancy Ellen, Kiernan, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler.

Indiana County

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

YC Lake, which harbors most of the waterfowl moving through *Indiana*, had frozen by 12/23; by the end of the period there was still no open water there. TL, which seldom freezes completely, had also frozen by the end of December and had not thawed by the end of February.

Canada Goose maxima included 608 at TL 12/20 (LC) and an estimated 500 over LV 1/22 (MC). A flock of 458 **Tundra Swans** passed over LV 12/7 (MC); last reported were 2 at TL 12/26 (LC) and 2 in flight near SGL 248 on 12/26 (JK, TK).

A late **Wood Duck** remained at YC 12/8 (LC, MH). Four to 5 **Gadwalls** were sighted at YC 12/2-4 (LC). Last **American Black Ducks** were sighted 12/6 with tallies of 18 at TL (LC) and 2 at Margus Lake (GL, GS). Top **Mallard** count was 146 at TL 12/26 (LC). Single **Canvasbacks** were spotted at YC 12/3 (LC) and 12/15 (LC, MH, MVT), and 2 were present 12/8 (LC, MH). Two **Redheads** 12/8 (LC, MH) and one **Ring-necked Duck** 12/15 (LC, MH, MVT) at YC were the only ones noted this season. One **Lesser Scaup** at YC 12/8 (LC, MH) and 2 on 12/15 (LC, MH, MVT) were the only ones listed. YC yielded both a **Black Scoter** and a **Long-tailed Duck** 12/8 (LC, MH). Lingering **Buffleheads** included 21 at YC 12/8 (LC, MH) and a singleton 12/15 (LC, MH, MVT). Two **Common Goldeneyes** appeared at YC 12/8 (LC, MH). **Hooded Mergansers** included 6 at TL (LC) and 20 at YC (LC, MH) 12/8; 3 at YC 12/15 (LC, MH, MVT) were last. A **Red-breasted Merganser** visited TL 12/23 (LC). Twenty-nine **Ruddy Ducks** were still present at YC 12/1 (LC), but numbers dwindled to the last 3 on 12/15 (LC, MH, MVT). TL yielded 4 on 12/24, 26 (LC).

Eleven **Ruffed Grouse** were tallied for the CBC 12/26 (m.ob.), up 2 from last year's count; 3 were feeding on buds in a tree near Luciusboro 2/13 (MH, RH, DL). The largest flock of **Wild Turkeys** was observed almost daily north of IN with a high of 57 on 1/13 (SB). The season's last **Common Loon** was sighted 12/3 (LC) at YC. Latest **Pied-billed Grebes** were 6 found at TL 12/26 (LC).

Last **Turkey Vulture** was listed near Creekside 12/26 (MH, RH). **Northern Harriers** were found near YC 12/4 (TF), at YC 12/22 (LC, MH), and near Smicksburg 1/23 (MH, RH, DL). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at 15 locations; **Cooper's Hawks**, at 9 (m.ob.). An immature **Northern Goshawk** was a nice find near IN 2/22 (KM). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was spotted near Thomas Bridge 1/23 (MH, RH, DL). **Red-tailed Hawks** hit respective high tallies 54 and 44 on WRS #2

on 1/23 (MH, RH, DL) and WRS #1 on 1/30 (MH, RH, DL); a new WRS #3, after the deep snow cover, yielded only 29 Red-tails 2/13 (MH, RH, DL). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was a nice find just north of IN 2/28 (DW, RW). WRS #2 produced 7 **American Kestrels** in northern *Indiana* 1/23 (MH, RH, DL) while WRS #1 and #3 respectively each yielded only 3 on 1/30 and 2/13 (MH, RH, DL). A **Merlin** was photographed near LV 2/17-18 (MC).

YC's high **American Coot** count was 549 on 12/8 (LC, MH); last noted before freeze-up were 297 at YC 12/15 (LC, MH, MVT). Last **Killdeer** were one found 12/21 (MC) near LV and 2 near the Jimmy Stewart Airport 12/26 (PJ); first returnee was sighted 2/26 (LC) near Homer City. Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** stopped at YC 12/8 (LC, MH). Top **Ring-billed Gull** count was 12 at YC 12/8 (LC, MH); 6 flew over the Wal-Mart Plaza near IN 2/22 (MH). **Great Horned Owls** were noted at various locations this winter, including a pair in Armstrong Twp. 12/26 (LS, LSt, RS), a pair hooting frequently in Jan-Feb near IN (DJ), a pair near Home (VB); and a pair near SH after 2/26 (MH, RH). **Barred Owls** were noted near SH 1/10 (RH) and near Brush Valley 12/20, 25 (BB).

With all the ice on streams, **Belted Kingfishers** were in short supply with the CBC yielding only one 12/26 (BM, KM); the next reports did not occur until 2/13 (MH, RH, DL) when one was spotted on Crooked Creek near SH and another at Conemaugh Dam. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** included one near LV 12/7 (MC), one n. of IN 12/30-1/14 (SB), and one near SH 2/14 (ED).

Five **Fish Crows** were listed in IN 12/26 (JK, TK). **Common Ravens** were reported from 6 locations, including the best count of 4 over LV 2/12 (MC). Top **Horned Lark** counts included 35 near Homer City 12/5 (BM, KM), 30 near Conemaugh Dam 1/2 (MF), 50 on WRS #2 on 1/23 (MH, RH, DL), 60 near Smicksburg 1/27 (MH, SH), 55 on WRS #1 on 1/30 (MH, RH, DL), and 221 on WRS #3 on 2/13 (MH, RH, DL). One to 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** visited a feeder near SH throughout the period (MH, RH). YC harbored one **Hermit Thrush** 12/8 (LC, MH), 3 on 12/26 (MH, RH), and a singleton in another part of the park also 12/26 (DWi, RW). Three **Yellow-rumped Warblers** found 12/26 (JT) near St. Bernard's in IN were the last seen this season.

Three **Fox Sparrows** lingered near LV 12/6 (MC). Last **Swamp Sparrows** occurred 12/26 (m.ob.) for the CBC; one turned up again at YC 2/2 (LC, MH). **White-crowned Sparrows**, usually uncommon in the county in winter, were reported more frequently this year. Reports included one near LV 12/6 (MC), 2 at YC 12/26 (JD, JT), one near IN 12/26 (DC, MC), and 6 on 1/31 (MH, RH) at a farm near Blacklick, where 4 were again listed 2/13 (MH, RH, DL).

Last **Red-winged Blackbirds** were 6 near YC 12/26 (GL, GS); LV yielded the first and only Feb returnees 2/12 (MC) as well as the only 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** reported; LV was also the site of the only returning **Common Grackle** 2/10 (MC).

Observers: Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net, Vince Beatty, Bob Bell, Sid Blair, Lee Carnahan, Susan Comfort, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Jim Dearing, Ed Donley, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Mike Fowles, Roger Higbee, Dory Jacobs, Pat Johner, Jessica Jopp, Jan Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Laufer, Beth Marshall, Ken Marshall, Linda Stormer, Luke Stormer (LSt), Rodger Stormer, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Marge Van Tassel (MVT), Daniel Winstead (DWi), Dawn Winstead, Ray Winstead.

Jefferson County

No Report.

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Juniata County

Locations: Lost Creek Shoe Shop (LCSS).

The Lewistown Christmas Count 12/19 almost didn't occur due to snowfall in the mid-state. Several of our regular counters had to withdraw on the day, but we still had many good birds and fun. Sixty-four species were counted by 26 people. Highlights included **Tundra Swan**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Bald Eagle**, **Killdeer**, **Wilson's Snipe**, **Barn Owl**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Gray Catbird**, **Brown Thrasher**,

American Pipit, Field Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, and Purple Finch.

A Winter Raptor Survey conducted 1/21 day produced 42 **Turkey Vultures**, 14 **Black Vultures**, 2 **Northern Harriers**, one **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, one **Coopers Hawk**, 78 **Red Tailed Hawk**, 24 **American Kestrels** and one **Bald Eagle** on nest. The species count for the day was 42, including **Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Red-headed Woodpecker, American Robins**, and **Horned Lark** (CK, RK, AT).

On 2/27, approximately 150 **Black Vultures** and 150 **Turkey Vultures** returned to the county (CK, AT). An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen sitting on the nest in Arch Rock 1/14 (LW). An immature was seen in the same area 1/25. One adult **Bald Eagle** was seen near the nesting area in Honey Grove (MM) 1/28 and two were seen near the nesting area in Locust Run (DW) 1/30. The first **Rough-legged Hawk** of the season was seen near Oakland Mills 12/20 (HP). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were spotted near Oakland Mills 2/13 (CK, HP, AT). A **Merlin** was spotted near Van Wert 1/30 (JD).

A wintering flock of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was found near Oakland Mills 12/11. Up to 7 were seen and heard at one time with both adults and sub-adults (CK, HP, AT, et al.). An **Eastern Phoebe** was seen near Van Wert 12/21-27 (MaT). High numbers of **Horned Larks** were seen through the season. **Fish Crow** were seen and heard in Mifflintown 2/23 (BW). A **Brown Thrasher** was seen near McAlisterville 12/17 (MT) and a **Gray Catbird** was the highlight of the New Years Day listing in which 49 species were located in the county (CK, AT, LT).

A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen beginning 12/31 and then off and on into Feb in Oakland Mills at LCSS (AT, CK, ET). A **Savannah Sparrow** was there 2/13 (AT, DT, ST, JD). Eleven **Eastern Meadowlarks** were located near Van Wert 12/31 (CK).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 436-8257, (717) 994-6715, chadkauffman@earthlink.net**; James Dunn, Ramsay Koury, Michael McCahren, Henry Petersheim, Aden Troyer, David Troyer, Leroy Troyer, Marvin Troyer, Steven Troyer, Dusty Weidner, Barb Wengard, Linda Whitesel.

Lackawanna County

Locations: Lake Scranton (LS), Dunmore Reservoir (DR).

Unless otherwise noted, sightings from this period are from the Scranton CBC 12/19.

On 12/5, 3 **Bufflehead** were on LS along with 94 **Ruddy Ducks** (KR). On 12/12, LS held 2 **Common Mergansers**, and 3 **Ruddy Ducks** were there 12/26 (KR). CBC waterfowl highlights included: one **Common Loon**, 19 **Snow Geese**, 5 **American Black Ducks**, 3 **Hooded Mergansers**, and 42 **Common Mergansers**. A lone **Great Blue Heron** was the only wader.

Raptor highlights on the CBC included single **Bald Eagles**, **Northern Harriers** and **Sharp-shinned Hawks**. There were two **Cooper's Hawks**, two **American Kestrels** and 20 **Red-tailed Hawks**. Three **Eastern Screech-Owls** and one **Great Horned Owl** were found.

As expected, the most common CBC woodpecker was the **Downy Woodpecker** with 68 seen, followed by 14 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, 11 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 4 **Pileated Woodpeckers** and 2 **Northern Flickers**. The corvids were represented by 3587 **American Crows**, 7 **Fish Crows** and a lone **Common Raven**.

Thrushes were nearly non-existent with only 37 **American Robins** and 13 **Eastern Bluebirds** seen. The count also produced 3 **Brown Creepers**, 7 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and 2 **Cedar Waxwings**.

Five sparrow species were counted including 37 **American Tree Sparrows**, 18 **Song Sparrows**, 30 **White-throated Sparrows**, 494 **Dark-eyed Juncos** and a single **White-crowned Sparrow**. A lone **Purple Finch** was reported, which was one of the few winter finch reports I recall reported for any county this year, even considering my daily review of the PABIRDS listserv.

ADDENDUM to the 2009 fall season report by KR: **Ruddy Ducks** were present through the end of the period in good numbers at LS with a high of 88 on 11/14. Also present at LS through the period were **American Black Ducks** with a high of 8 on 10/31. Other notable waterfowl at LS were as follows. On 11/14 there were 3 **Common Mergansers**. On 10/31 there were 2 **American Wigeons**, 6 **Common Loons**. Sightings 11/28 included 7 **Bufflehead**, 6 **Hooded Mergansers** and a single **Black Scoter**. Gull numbers peaked at 250 **Ring-billed**

Gulls at DR 11/14 and 50 **Herring Gulls** at LS on 11/28. Also on 11/28, a single **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was on LS. A **Common Raven** was also at LS 11/14.

Observers: **Joe Greco 3116 Township Woods Rd, East Greenville, PA 18041, (610) 457-1812 joe@grecofamily.org**, Kevin Ripka, Scranton CBC.

Lancaster County

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

This year winter temperatures in *Lancaster* were below normal and snowfall was far above average. The Southern Lancaster Christmas Bird Count was held 1/2 and 32 participants recorded 75 species, far below normal. The highlights included 69 **Bald Eagles**, **Merlin**, 3 **Peregrine Falcons**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 4 **Gray Catbirds**, and **Chipping Sparrow**. The Litz Christmas Bird Count was held 12/27 and 38 participants identified 84 species. This total was also below normal and highlights included 6 **Bald Eagles**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 3 **Great Black-backed Gulls**, 3 **Short-eared Owls**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, 81 **Northern Flickers** (HC), **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 2 **Gray Catbirds**, 2 **Chipping Sparrows**, 9 **Fox Sparrows**, 4 **Eastern Meadowlarks**, and **Purple Finch**.

The Lancaster Christmas Bird Count was held 1/3, with only 18 participants identifying 81 species. This species tally was also lower than normal, but the high winds and cold temperatures probably didn't help. The highlights were 9 **Bald Eagles**, 3 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 2 **Merlin**, **Peregrine Falcon**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Gray Catbird**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Palm Warbler**, 14 **Fox Sparrows**, 8 **Eastern Meadowlarks**, and 2 **Purple Finches**.

The avian highlight this winter was Pennsylvania's long overdue first record of **Allen's Hummingbird**. The adult female was banded and identified by Scott Weidensaul near Leola 12/12. It was seen daily by many observers until at least 12/28. During this time the homeowner, Debra Raudenbush, was very gracious in allowing birders to stand in her backyard and view the hummingbird. The hummingbird demonstrated her hardiness by staying through (and feeding during) an 18-inch snowfall as well as very cold temperatures.

This winter was unusual in that there were three major snowstorms with over a foot of snow in the county. The heavy snow cover delayed the migratory **Snow Geese** at MC so that the biggest numbers were reported in March. **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported from several locations this winter. One was with a flock of **Canada Geese** along Octoraro Creek on Creek Road in Sadsbury Township 1/3 (HM, TR) and again on 1/4 (CC, RR). Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported at MC 1/24. By 2/19 over 80,000 **Snow Geese** were reported at MC. **Cackling Geese** were also reported on several occasions with reports of a flyover at Leola 12/21 (TJ), 2 at the Greenfield Estates ponds 12/23 (JBo, DB), one at MC 1/29 (AL), and a high count of 8 back at the Greenfield Estates ponds 2/9 (DB, JBo). Even more unusual was a flock of 37 **Brant** along the Susquehanna River near Peach Bottom Village 1/22 (BS). Other waterfowl species were not especially numerous during the period. Most of the CBCs reported low counts of waterfowl since the SR and other bodies of water were mostly frozen. A few hours at SRLI produced good numbers of **Common Goldeneye** and **Common Mergansers**. During Jan and into mid-Feb, most of the lake at MC remained frozen and sightings of **Northern Pintail**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Hooded** and **Common Merganser**, and **Common Goldeneye** were fairly sparse with only a few birds of each species. As the ice began to melt and the **Snow Geese** began to return numbers of these species began to build. Redheads are seen annually in the county. Some years they are fairly regular in modest numbers on the SR and at MC. In other years they are a bit scarcer. This year two drake **Redheads** at MC were notable since there were not that many reports this spring.

A **Great Egret** wintered in the area of Stauffer Run just off William Penn Way and Greenfield Road at the Greenfield Corporate Center (DB, JBo). It was seen 12/26 and on a number of occasions in Jan and Feb. It was also seen near this spot at the intersection of Jarvis and Willow Roads 2/24 (JBo). Needless to say, this is an unusual time of year for this species, but especially so given the especially heavy snow cover and cold temperatures.

Once again the Solanco Count recorded an extraordinary count of 69 **Bald Eagles** 1/2 despite high winds and very cold conditions. There were numerous sightings throughout the county and it is no longer surprising to spot an eagle in almost any location. On 2/28 a new active **Bald Eagle** nest was located from SRLL. From that location it was noted that it is now possible to see a total of 5 nests (BC, EW). **Rough-legged Hawks** were present in small numbers again this winter with sightings 2/19 at MC (RB) and another in the area of Wissler Road north of Linden Grove Road 1-28-29 (m.ob.).

An immature **Golden Eagle** was perched along the east branch of Octoraro Creek 12/21 (CC) and another immature provided prolonged good views for BS at his home in Peach Bottom on the east shore of the SR 1/18. This was a new yard bird and a pretty good one at that. Just nine days later an adult Golden Eagle was in almost the same location 1/27 (BS). **Merlins** were seen on two of the three CBCs and were reported from a number of locations this winter including on a utility pole on S. Groffdale Rd. 12/21 (TJ, DW), south of MR 1/2 (BS), at a trailer park near Gap (PF), and at the intersection of Nolt and Hollander Roads 2/7 (DB, JBo). **Peregrine Falcons** were equally prevalent. Reports were from Peach Bottom 1/2 (BS), Safe Harbor Dam 1/3 (JH, JM), 2 perched on the Rte. 462 bridge over the SR 2/20 (ML), and on the same day another 2 on the new Marriott Hotel in downtown Lancaster (ML). These were also photographed and made the Lancaster newspaper.

An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported from SRLL 12/28 (CC). A third cycle **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen 1/24 in a field south of Washington Boro (DB, JBo) and another was at SRCF 1/24. Another adult was on the SR at Wrightsville 2/15 (JH), so this species was fairly regular this winter on the river. More notable was a second winter **Glaucous Gull** at SRLL 12/28 (CC). Surprisingly there were no reports of Iceland Gull this winter.

Short-eared Owls were present at MC again this winter, but Long-eared Owls were missed on the Lititz CBC, which is unusual. There were some signs of Long-eared Owl pellets at MC 12/27, but no owls. In addition to the aforementioned first Pennsylvania record of **Allen's Hummingbird**, a **Rufous Hummingbird** was banded 12/8 in Ephrata (SW, EW). **Tree Swallows** usually return each year in the middle of March so 6 flying upriver at SRLL 2/22 (DW) were quite early. Another 8 were at Wrightsville 2/28 (EW). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce this winter but one or 2 were seen on each of the CBCs and one was reported from Manheim 1/5 (RM). This winter **American Robins** were fairly numerous all winter long. It was especially interesting to see nearly 100 robins in a residential neighborhood along the Oregon Pike in the thick of both major Feb snowstorms (JH).

This winter **Orange-crowned Warbler** was a special treat at the Lancaster Area Sewer Authority (LASA) in Washington Boro. It was first discovered 1/3 (CC, JH) along with 2 **Palm Warblers**. Both species were seen into Feb. On 1/10 EW was able to have several sightings of **Orange-crowned Warbler**. Based on differences in coloration it is possible that two birds were present. The same location produced another seasonal rarity when a **Nashville Warbler** was discovered 2/28 (TG) and seen again 3/5 (EW). **Palm Warbler** was also reported from Columbia during a big snowstorm 12/19. **Lapland Longspur** was reported along S. Groffdale Rd. 12/21 (TJ, DW) and 5 were at the same location 2/7 (DB, JBo). Perhaps even more impressive was the total count of 1705 **Horned Larks** in the same area with one flock of almost 1000 birds. Another longspur was with a flock of **Horned Larks** 2/3 on the east side of School Land Road in Salisbury Township (PF).

Winter finches were exceptionally scarce this year particularly in contrast to the abundance last year. A **Purple Finch** was at a yard in Manheim 12/2 (RM) and a single bird and two birds were reported from the Lititz CBC and the Southern Lancaster County CBC respectively. Much more notable were 2 or 3 **Evening Grosbeaks** reported as heard only flyovers north of Manheim during a heavy snowstorm 2/6 (KM, RM). This species is rarely reported in the county.

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), Randy Brenner, Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfant, Andrew Eberly, Dave Eberly, Pamela Fisher, Tom Garner, Al Guarente, Barb Haas, Frank Haas, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Ramsay Koury, Alex Lamoreaux, Joe Meloney, Holly Merker, Kate Miller, Randy Miller, Meredith Lombard, Tom Raub, Rick Robinson, Bob Schutsky, Derek Stoner, Jim Smith, Drew Weber, Scott Weidensaul, Eric Witmer.

Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Three Rivers gravel pond (TR), New Wilmington Area (NW), McConahy Road (MR), Volant Strips area (VS).

Notable for this reporting period: **Northern Shrike** was reported in last season's narrative in early November (DY, LM), and was again seen in late February of this year (2/22, STh, DW). Interestingly, this species—perhaps the same bird—will be reported in the Spring season as well, having been seen again on 3/22 (SC). It is unusual to see this species this late in the season. Along those same lines, a lone **American Coot** found 1/10 (MV) was a nice winter find for this species. And a rather early **Savannah Sparrow** was recorded 2/22 (MV).

A solid count of 187 **Canada Geese** was recorded 12/23 at TR (MV), accompanied by one **Lesser Scaup** and a **Ruddy Duck**. The **Lesser Scaup** and **Ruddy Duck** were also seen 12/4 at that same location (MV). A pair of **Gadwall** were hanging on to an open patch of water 1/10 at a pond on MR, and six were seen 1/23 at BS (MV). A nice group of 42 **Mallard** was also spotted 1/10 at MR (MV). Ten **Bufflehead** were seen 12/4 at TR (MV). Three **Ring-necked Duck** 12/4 at TR was the only report for this species in this period.

Raptors were well represented in this winter's sightings, including a **Merlin** reported once, nicely spotted 1/20 at NW (RN, ML). **Merlin** was also reported in nearby *Mercer*, perhaps the same bird. An adult **Bald Eagle** was reported twice in Feb, once 2/7 from an unspecified location (SB, LW), and again 2/28 at the Black Swamp (MV). Individual **Red-shouldered Hawk** sightings were had from 1/15 through 2/18 in the northwest corner of the county (CH), and in New Castle 2/5 (GC). Both light and dark phase **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen in NW 1/14-2/22 (m.ob.). A tally of 40 **Red-tailed Hawks** throughout the county was reported during a Winter Raptor Survey 2/7 (SB, LW). **American Kestrels** were consistently reported in small numbers from 12/14-2/18 in NW and VS (m.ob.). **Cooper's Hawks** were also reported in small numbers 12/14-2/7 at NW and BS, VS (m.ob.). **Northern Harriers** were found in NW and VS: two females and a male were there 12/14 (RN), three were seen 2/3 at NW (SS), and the last report of the season 2/18 of a female in NW (CH).

Sandhill Cranes were observed in the Black Swamp area in groups 1/10-2/22 in groups ranging from six to a consistent 39 individuals reported on three separate dates, 1/23 (MV), 2/4 (BV), and 2/7 (SB, LW). A report of 33 on 1/20 (JS), and 37 on 2/1 (SK) also gives a good idea of how the population swells in the area during this season. Why this happens is unknown to this compiler. Are these additional birds migrating through, adding to the local population for a short time, or region-wide (say, Ohio) individuals congregating here at this time of the year? An **American Coot** was an unusual winter find 1/10 in a small patch of open water at MR (MV).

Killdeer were reported in small numbers from 12/4 at TR (MV) through 1/14 at NW (SD, BV), and then again 2/22 off Heather Heights Road (STh, DW). Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen among nine **Ring-billed Gulls** 12/11 at a small pond along Route 168 near the *Lawrence/Beaver* county line.

Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed overwintering 1/14-2/22 at the Yoder Road location (m.ob.). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were also reported in the area 1/14-2/7 (CH, SB, LW), as was a **Pileated Woodpecker** 1/15 and 1/24 (CH). **Northern Flickers** were seen in the area as early as 2/7 (SB, LW), and were reported again 2/18 (CH). As noted above, a **Northern Shrike** was reported 2/22 in the Black Swamp area (STh, DW). One **Carolina Wren** was reported 1/24 in far nw. corner of the county (CH). **Eastern Bluebird** proved resilient this winter, reported in small numbers from 1/24-2/20 along roads from NW to VS (SB, CH, MV, LW). A nice find was **American Pipits** 2/22 along Heather Heights road (DW).

American Tree Sparrows were reported in good numbers from 12/20-2/22 throughout the area (m.ob.). **White-throated Sparrows** were sparse, with only two reports, 1/15 and 2/18 in the New Bedford area (CH). Four **White-crowned Sparrows** was a nice find 1/20 in NW (ML, RN), and three individuals 2/3 also in the same area (SS). Also noted above, a **Savannah Sparrow** made an early appearance 2/20 at VS (MV). **Horned Larks** were reported from 12/20-2/28 at NW and VS, numbering from less than a dozen to a flock of about 150 birds. Sightings of single **Lapland Longspurs** were reported 2/18 at VS (CH), and 2/22 (STh, DW). **Snow Buntings** were in decent numbers in early January, beginning 1/10 with 64 at NW (MV), a nice count of 123 on 1/14 in NW (BV, SD), and then tapering off but still seen through 2/28 at BS, NW, and VS (m.ob.).

Heralding the coming of spring by making their way back into the area 2/18 were several flocks of **Common Grackles** totaling about 250 birds, along with about 100 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, at Villa Maria (CH).

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Lebanon County

Lebanon County Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Marquette Lake (ML), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Second Mountain Hawk watch (2nd Mtn), SGL 145.

The Lebanon County CBC was held 12/19 and had no new high counts, due mainly to the arrival of a snowstorm and frozen standing water. Total species count was 70 (the record is 83, in 2007). The total individual count was 4115 (the record is 30,684, in 2008). Of interest were 3 **Bald Eagle**, 5 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, one **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 70 **American Tree Sparrow**, and one **Fox Sparrow**. The Lititz CBC was held 12/27. On the *Lebanon* side of the count highlights were 2 **Northern Pintail**, 2 **Short-eared Owl**, and 11 **Yellow-rumped Warbler**.

A good effort by Second Mountain counter staff was made despite bad weather that cost 26 days of lost coverage. Above average counts were noted of **Broad-wing Hawk** (4386, +20%) and **Bald Eagle** (118, +27%). All other species were down a combined 30%. The worst decline was **Northern Goshawk**, down 61%. Also below average was **Red-tailed Hawk**, down 47%, and **Golden Eagle**, down 45%.

A first Jan record **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found at ML 1/18 (GK). It moved to MLSP where it was last seen 1/22 (DM). At the end of Feb, MC staff estimated 65,000 **Snow Goose** and 700 **Tundra Swan**. One **Ross's Goose** was found at Gretna Glen 1/29 (RCM, SH, m.ob.). One **Cackling Goose** at MLSP was found 1/1 (RW) and again 1/21 and 1/29 (MRB). **Mute Swans** were at both ML and MLSP most of the quarter (m.ob.). On 1/4 one male **Wood Duck** was found in Cornwall (JH). One male **Redhead** was found 1/23 at MLSP (RCM). Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** (MC, RB) 1/25 at MLSP provided a new early date and a first Jan record.

One flyby **Golden Eagle** 2/21 was seen at FIG flying northeast (MC) Three different sightings of **Merlin** were noted: 12/7 Lake Duffy (RCM, MC); 1/21 FIG RMB and 2/13 at the intersection of Harrison and Ono Roads (FH, AS).

The Lake Duffy **Sandhill Crane** was seen sporadically during the entire period (m.ob.). A flyover flock of 4 adults on Second Mtn. was observed 12/8 (MC) for a total of 5 Sandhill Cranes, a new county high. One **American Woodcock** was found 12/11 at SGL 145 (GT, RCM, m.ob.). A first year **Iceland Gull** was found at Lion Lake on 12/15 (TB). A female or immature **Snowy Owl** 2/22 was flying north over Rte. 422 at Clear Springs Rd Palmyra (RKL). During the Lititz CBC, 2 **Short-eared Owls** were seen at Stop 3.

Common Raven was seen most of the quarter in the northern part of the county (m.ob.). A single **Brown Thrasher** was seen 1/3 by GK in his Palmyra backyard for a second Jan record.

A **Chipping Sparrow** was found on Cold Spring at Hotel Road, FIG 2/21 for a new early date and first Feb county record (MC). On 12/8, a **Lapland Longspur** was found on Oak Rd, Annville in a flock of Horned Lark (MC). A flyover flock of 15-30 **Snow Buntings** was noted 12/29 at Muir field FIG (JD, JT). Low numbers of **Purple Finch** visited a feeder in Mt. Gretna (SH) all quarter.

Observers: **Chuck Berthoud, 47 Brookside Avenue, Hershey, PA 17033, (717) 533-7136, cberthoud@verizon.net**, Tim Becker, Dick Bicksler, Gerry Boltz, Mary and Randy Brenner, Dick Brown, Paul Brubaker, Bruce Carl, Morris Cox, Mike Dale, Jarrod Derr, Andrew Eberly, Dave Eberly, Jim Fiorentino, Al Guarente, Fritz Heilman, Sid and Evelyn Hostetter, John Hower, Gary Kinkley, Garry Koppenhaver (GKo), Ramsay Koury, Gayle Lawrence, Richard and Karen Light, David McNaughton, Tom Mckinne, Kate Miller, Randy C. Miller, Ryan Miller, Shelva Miller, Richard Pohner, Steve and Sharon Rannels, Joan

Renninger, Art Schiavo, Dave Schwenk, Corinne and Mike Schall, Rosemary Spreha, George Tallman, John Taucher, Mike Tobias, Brian Weaver, Dennis Wengle, Susan Wheeler, Fred Wilcox, Dale Zimmerman.

Lehigh County

The winter season was relatively mild, with mean temperature 0.5°F above the 30-year norm in the Lehigh Valley. Total precipitation for the period was 1.1 inches above norm. January was rainy, book-ended by months of considerable El Niño fueled snowfall in December and February. Forty-three inches of snow in February (mainly due to heavy snow 2/6 and 2/10) was 33 inches above norm. Water levels were average to high throughout the season, with minimal freezing on larger lakes, and little ice build up on the Lehigh River. A total of 99 species was reported in *Lehigh* this season. Events referenced below include the Allentown Christmas Bird Count (CBC) 12/19 (MB, compiler), Upper Bucks CBC 1/3 (BE, compiler), and the northern Lehigh Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) 1/23 (BH, compiler). Totals from the Allentown CBC referenced below are for *Lehigh* only, excluding numbers recorded from other counties within the CBC circle.

We begin with the stand-out highlight of the quarter: a **Pink-footed Goose** spent approximately 24 hours in West Allentown 12/21-12/22. Found at Lake Muhlenberg on the morning of 12/21 (ML), it was relocated later that evening and early the following morning at Dorney Pond (JaH, BW, MB). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Dorney Pond on several occasions 12/16 (JaH) to 1/25 (ES), and three were reported from Fogelsville Quarry 12/30 (BW). Four **Cackling Geese** were at Fogelsville 12/5 (TW). At Dorney Pond, 3 smaller geese, including one with a partial white neck-ring, were reported by various observers as either **Cackling Goose** or the **Lesser Canada Goose** (*Branta canadensis parvipes*), 12/21-12/27. No sizable flocks of **Snow Geese** wintered in *Lehigh*, but 683 were counted on the Allentown CBC 12/19. A dozen duck species were reported this quarter. A single **American Wigeon** was at various West Allentown locations 12/19-2/15. Dorney Pond attracted single ducks of several species, including **Gadwall** 12/25 (BE), **Northern Pintail** 1/24 (ES), **Green-winged Teal** 1/6 (ES), **Lesser Scaup** 1/24-2/15 (m.ob.), and a pair of **Bufflehead** 2/15 (ES). Up to 50 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at Fogelsville Quarry 1/1 to at least 2/15; the Allentown CBC total for this species was 73.

A Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) run by RH, ML and RK at the northern end of the county 1/23 produced 106 raptors of 10 species, highlights to follow. **Black Vultures** seemed to rival (if not outnumber) **Turkey Vultures** in many areas over the winter: Up to 20 **Black Vultures** and 30 **Turkey Vultures** were in Lower Milford throughout Jan (m.ob.). The Allentown CBC produced 7 Black and zero Turkey, and the WRS had 18 Black and 5 Turkey. A pair of adult **Bald Eagles** spent the winter near Lehigh Canal Park in Allentown (MB). In Salisbury, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed taking an early-emerging bat 2/25 (ES)! The small portion of the Upper Bucks CBC that falls within *Lehigh's* Lower Milford produced some good birds 1/3, including an adult **Northern Goshawk** (KM, LM). Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported on the Allentown CBC 12/19 and WRS 1/23. The WRS also tallied 72 **Red-tailed Hawks**. Our lone **Rough-legged Hawk** was a light-phased adult female, seen and described well by many observers in Lower Milford 1/9-1/12 (HE). The highlight of the WRS was an immature **Golden Eagle** near Leaser Lake in Lynn. **American Kestrel** was in short supply (3 each) on the WRS and the Allentown CBC. Five **Merlin** were reported from various locations 12/31-1/15, including two on the Allentown CBC. Adult **Peregrine Falcons** were reported from Allentown's 8th Street Bridge 1/1 (JH) and 2/21 (MB), and from the PPL Building on several occasions 1/12-2/17 (BH).

Killdeer was last noted for 2009 at Salisbury 12/27 (ES) and first noted for 2010 at Lower Macungie 2/28 (JH). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was regular from Dorney Pond and Lake Muhlenberg, with Dorney high counts 2/13 (13) and 2/28 (12) (AL, JH). The Allentown Waste Water Treatment plant hosted a notable total of 58 **Lesser Black-backed** and 3 **Great Black-backed Gulls** 2/19 (MB), the former a probable high count for *Lehigh*.

The hatch-year female **Rufous Hummingbird** in Zionsville, present since 11/11, was last seen by the host 12/12 (CS). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was noted by several observers in Lynn, 12/15-1/5. An Eastern Phoebe was in a swampy area at Upper Milford 1/9-1/15 (NP, HE). The phoebe was noted due to the fact that it shared its favored territory with a **Northern Shrike!** First noted on the Upper

Bucks CBC 1/3 (KM,LM), the adult shrike remained through at least 1/28 (HE); it proved to be quite faithful to a particular field and hedgerow at the Moyer's Graber Farmstead on Jane's Lane, and was seen and photographed by many observers. In Fountain Hill, 3 **Common Ravens** were seen soaring toward south Bethlehem (ES), the locus of several raven sightings since early 2009. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was scarce. Only one was found on the Allentown CBC 12/19. Small numbers were in Slatington (max 4, 2/9), and a Red-breasted Nuthatch was observed drinking from a pond in an Allentown yard 1/30 (BM).

Reports of winter field birds began with the first snow in early December, and peaked following the heavy accumulation of 2/10. At Smith Lane in Alburdis, 120 **Horned Larks**, 20 **American Pipits**, one **Savannah Sparrow**, and 3 **Snow Buntings** were reported 12/6 (TW). The buntings remained throughout the month, as did larks, with numbers of the latter peaking at 300 on 12/31. One or two **Lapland Longspurs** were reported here sporadically 12/31-2/13 (AL, AS, TW). Heidelberg Township was host to several **Horned Lark** flocks, with reports beginning around New Year's Eve and peaking the week following the 2/10 snowstorm. Several sizable flocks were present 2/13, including one along Bake Oven Rd that held two near-alternate plumage male **Lapland Longspurs** and a single **Snow Bunting** (JH). On 2/14, fields near Hawkview and Mantz Roads held over 500 **Horned Larks** and 3 **Snow Buntings**, while Furnace Road had 600+ Horned Larks. An estimated 1500+ larks were in the area that day (BH). Subsequent searchers in Heidelberg located 6 **Snow Buntings** at Hawkview and Church Roads 2/15 (ES), 2 **Lapland Longspurs** at Handwerk Rd. 2/15 (ML), and 10 **Snow Buntings** and 4 **Eastern Meadowlarks** 2/25 (ML). Away from Heidelberg, 40 **Horned Larks** and a **Snow Bunting** were in North Whitehall 2/15. A lone **Horned Lark** was notably out of place circling and calling high over downtown Slatington 2/10 (BE). A lone **Rusty Blackbird** was at Macungie 2/17 (BM), and just 2 were tallied on the Allentown CBC 12/19. A flock of 200 **Common Grackles** in Lower Milford 1/15 was significant for mid-winter (NP). Winter finches were absent this season, except for a few stray reports of solitary **Purple Finch**.

CORRIGENDA: Some corrections to the Fall 2009 report. Further information was received regarding "up to 4 summering **Snow Geese**" at Lake Muhlenberg. Apparently, the birds in question were placed there by a well intentioned waterfowl enthusiast. Bands on the birds' legs are from a private organization, and not recognized by the USGS Bird Banding Lab at Patuxent, MD. Also, as noted above, the Zionsville **Rufous Hummingbird** was first noted by the host 11/11, and was not, in fact, "present since October".

Observers: **Bill Etter, 209 E. South St, Slatington PA 18080, (215) 964-3613, billetter01@gmail.com**, Mark Boyd, Howard Eskin, Linda Freedman, Bob Hoopes, Jeff Hopkins, Jason Horn (JaH), Ron Kline, Andrew Leidig, Matt Loyko, Barbara Malt, Bernie and Pauline Morris, Kirk and Lois Moulton, Nick Pulcinella, Peter Saenger, Ed Sinkler, Adam Smith, Chris Stamper, Todd Watkins, Billy Weber.

Luzerne County

Locations: Dallas Area Christmas bird count (DCBC), Harveys Lake (HL), Susquehanna River (SR), Wyoming Valley Airport (WVA).

After last year's "winter finch" incursion, this winter's bird sightings proved to be much less exciting. The DCBC recorded the lowest number of species in a decade with only 65 species recorded (last year there were 79 species observed). Despite the apparent lack of high profile bird activity, a few nice discoveries were made.

Each year we have one or two **Greater Scaup** show up and this year one was found 12/8 at HL with a flock of 25 **Hooded Mergansers** (KR). On the same date at HL a **Long-tailed Duck** and **Red-breasted Merganser** were also found (KR). On the following day 12/9 at HL, KR found a **Cackling Goose** in with a large flock of **Canada Geese**. Also on 12/9 along the SR in Plains, 4 flocks of **Snow Geese** flew low overhead. Each flock had up to 100 birds (BT).

Merlins continue to be reported in each season at various locations along the SR corridor but no reports of nesting have been submitted. The first report for this period was of an individual seen near the Carey Ave. Bridge in South Wilkes-Barre 1/3 (RK) and the last report was of another individual perched on a dead snag in Kingston 2/6 (JS). I assume this bird was wintering in the Kingston area since a report was received of a Merlin in the same location on 1/16 (KR).

Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported on 12/11 at HL with a flock of 35 **Ring-billed Gulls** (KR).

Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were found on the DCBC 12/14 by two different teams. One was seen and heard at L. Catalpa (SGa, MK, KR) and another in the Loyalville area (SGo, BW, TG, JHa). Another nice find on the DCBC was one **Short-eared Owl** seen hunting at dusk over the weedy fields adjacent to the Wyoming Valley Airport in Forty Fort (SGa, MK, KR). This has become the best place in the Wyoming Valley for seeing **Short-eared Owls** but unfortunately not consistently.

On 1/25 there were 35 **Horned Larks** seen in Sybertsville feeding on a manure spread (RK). **Horned Larks** seem to be one of our most uncommon common birds in the county and are always fun to find. There were a few reports of **Hermit Thrush** and **American Robins** throughout the period (RK, KR, et al.). The only report of **American Pipits** was of 4 seen near the SR in Forty Fort on 1/1 (KR). This species may contend with **Horned Lark** for the most uncommon common bird in the county. A **Rusty Blackbird** was seen in a Dallas yard in early December (KR). The only report of **Pine Siskins** was of 12 coming to a feeder in Pikes Creek for a week in early February (DP).

Observers: **Jim Hoyson, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA 18708, (570) 696-4925, birdder@aol.com**, Stan Galenty (SGa), Trudy Gerlach, Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Jeff Hartman, Mark Kasper, Rick Koval, Deb Petroski, Kevin Ripka, Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

Lycoming County

No Report.

Compiler: **Dan Brauning, (570) 547-6938, dbrauning@state.pa.us.**

McKean County

No Compiler.

Mercer County

Locations: Shenango R. Res. (SRR) Williamson Rd. (WR).

At the eastern end of SRR 12/4, MV found 5 **Bufflehead**, 57 **Hooded** and 4 **Common Mergansers**, 7 **Ruddy Ducks**, and one **Horned Grebe**. On 1/20, a single **Great Blue Heron** was sighted along Skunk Run Rd. in an unfrozen creek (NT).

A south-bound **Sandhill Crane** was heard in flight in the pre-dawn hours over WR 12/8 (NT), and just south of the county, at the Volant Strips in *Lawrence*, there were 39 wintering cranes (HB). The first spring migrant **Turkey Vulture** was seen 2/25 along WR, and a **Wilson's Snipe** showed up 2/27 along N. Foster Rd. (both NT).

HB reported a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** 12/19, and 2 on 1/2 at a Grove City feeder. Around the L. Latonka area, **Carolina Wren**, **Eastern Bluebird**, and **Northern Mockingbird** all survived the harsh winter. A single **White-crowned Sparrow** spent the winter at a feeding station on North Vernon Rd. A flock of 500+ **Snow Bunting** were noted in a field along North Foster Rd. 1/16 (NT).

ADDENDUM: The following sightings were inadvertently omitted from the Fall 2009 report. At Shenango Lake 8/29, shorebirds included one **American Avocet**, **Sanderling**, **American Golden-Plover**, and **Baird's Sandpiper** (MV). Also of note that day was one **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** (MV).

Observers: **Marty McKay, 841 E. Lake Rd., Transfer, PA 16154, (724) 962-7476**, Harriett Bauer, Lynne Doolan, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Neil Troyer, Ruth Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Mark Vass.

Mifflin County

The combined totals from Mifflin WRS routes included one each **Bald Eagle**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, and **Cooper's Hawk**, 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 53 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 2 **Rough-legged Hawks**, and 28 **American Kestrels** (BF, GG).

Unusual in winter were two **Gadwalls** in Coffee Run, near Belleville 1/7 (GG). **Wilson's Snipe** were found throughout the season in various locations in Big Valley with a high count of 5 on 2/13 (JD, GG, DK). The highlight of the season was the discovery of at least three

Long-eared Owls at a winter roost site in Big Valley. These birds used a lone but very dense spruce tree adjacent to a house (IB, IBJ, JZ). A single **American Pipit** was found near Allensville 2/21 (DK). As is the case most winters, a few **White-crowned Sparrows** were found along Coffee Run in Big Valley (GG).

Observers: **Greg and Deb Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, (814) 667-2305, gwg2@psu.edu, dsg4@psu.edu**, Ivan Byler, Ivan Byler, Jr. (IBJ), Jim Dunn, Bob Fowles, David Kyler, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware Water Gap (DWG).

The winter season was cold and snowy through December, followed by a milder January and then more cold and snow in February. The 30th Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count (PMCBC) was held 12/20 and recorded 55 species with highlights to follow.

A **Black Vulture** sighted in the Analomink area on the PMCBC represented a first count record (MJ, DS). A single **Snow Goose** was found at Shawnee 12/19 mingling with a large flock of **Canada Geese** (PF, BH, MT). Winter records of **Hooded Merganser** can be hard to come by—one was seen count week on the PMCBC and represents only the second count record (RH, VP), and another was at Skytop 2/8-11 (JS). The **Golden Eagle** is another bird that generates excitement; an adult was at Mt. Minsi in the DWG 1/9 (BH) and an immature was seen in Cherry Valley 2/6 (RW).

The **Northern Shrike** in Kresgeville 12/15 (DS) was the only report of this species. A **Fish Crow** (AF, MT) and **Common Raven** (RH, VP) on the PMCBC represented only the second and third count records for those species, respectively. The flock of 150 **Cedar Waxwings** at Skytop 12/2 represents a high count (JS). Notable was the absence this winter of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins; no reports of either species were received after last year's record-breaking invasion.

ADDENDUM: Received too late for the fall report, a **Northern Goshawk** was seen chasing a **Ruffed Grouse** at Skytop 11/7 (JS)—what a great thrill that must have been for the observer.

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd., Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Andy Fedor, Pat Fellion, Randy Halstead, Matt Jardel, Vic Paulus, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Megan Taylor, Rick Wiltraut.

Montgomery County

Locations: Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Gwynedd Township (UGT), Upper Hanover Township (UHT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The winter season brought below average temperatures and above average precipitation to the county. *Montgomery* experienced four major snow events of 8 inches or greater. Snowfall totaled about 60 inches in western *Montgomery* during the season.

Waterfowl of note included 300 **Snow Geese** over Church Road, GLR 1/27 (KC). A blue morph **Snow Goose** was at Walt Road, GLR 1/10 (GAF). **Canada Goose** numbers at GLR topped 12,000—our highest count in several years. (KC, GAF). Ironically, Cackling Goose was not reported during the period. A pair of **Mute Swans** spent the winter at GLR, most often at Hill Road (m.ob.).

Early migrant **American Wigeons** arrived at Hill Road 2/15 (KC), and reached a "high" of 4 at Walt Road 2/24 (GAF). **Gadwall** reached a seasonal high of 3 at UPVP 1/23 (GAF), a paltry number compared to the 20+ that have overwintered in the past. A **Wood Duck** was at Church Road 12/1 (GAF), and a high of 3 were there 1/3/10 (GF). Diving ducks of note included 2 **Bufflehead** at UPVP 1/10 and a high of 4 **Ring-necked Ducks** at Walt Road 2/15 (KC). **Common Mergansers** attained a high of 31 at Knight Road, GLR 1/27, and **Hooded Mergansers** topped out at 10 at UPVP 1/23 (GAF). **Wild Turkeys** continue to decline in western *Montgomery* (most notably at GLR), so a high count of 28 from neighboring UHT 12/21 was encouraging (JG).

Raptor reports included GLR's resident **Bald Eagles** on eggs 2/15, or possibly sooner (m.ob.). **Northern Harrier** reports were higher than

in recent years, with single birds reported at GLR almost daily from 12/28-1/9 (GAF, CM), and last reported 1/31 (GAF). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** reports were wide-spread with single birds in UHT (JG), UGT (AJM), and GLR (KC). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was along Knight Road, GLR 1/27, representing our only report, and a **Merlin** was at Church Road, GLR 12/1 (both GAF).

A **Killdeer** was in Norristown Farm Park 2/13, as was a **Wilson's Snipe** 2/3 (KC). Gulls of note included an all-time county high of 22 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at Walt Road 12/3, and a second-year **Iceland Gull** there 1/25 (GAF). A **Barred Owl** was calling from near Knight Road, GLR 2/1 through the end of the period (GF). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** wintered in the UCV and UGT (KC and AJM, respectively), and one was at UPVP 1/26 (GAF).

Brown Creepers were scarce again this winter, with a single bird at GLR Nature Center intermittently through the period (KC, m.ob.). Similarly, a **Winter Wren** at Norristown Farm Park 2/3, and a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at Hock Road, GLR were the only reports for each species (KC). A **Hermit Thrush** was at Walt Road, GLR 2/2 (GAF), and another was eating hawthorn berries at GLR nature center 2/13-16 (KC, m.ob.). A **Gray Catbird** was on Knight Road, GLR 1/3 (KC, SR), but could not be relocated after that date. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** reached a high of 14 on Hock Road, GLR 1/10 (GAF).

An **Eastern Towhee** was at Green Lane Nature Center 1/3 (GF), and another was in Limerick 2/8-26 (RF). **American Tree Sparrows** were at Walt and Church Roads, GLR throughout the period (GAF, KC), and a **Chipping Sparrow** was a nice find in UHT 12/5 (JG). **White-crowned Sparrows** reached a maximum of 7 in Pennsburg 12/28 (GAF). **Field Sparrows** maxed out at 12 along Wait Road (GAF). Other sparrows worth noting were a **Fox Sparrow** in UHT 1/3 (GF) and **Swamp Sparrow** at Church Road 1/24 (KC).

Red-winged Blackbird arrived in UGT 2/13, and quickly swelled to 50 birds 2/17 (AJM). Two **Eastern Meadowlarks** along Hock Road, GLR 2/2 were a very nice find for winter (GAF). **Common Grackles** overwintered in UCV (KC), GLR (GAF), UHT (JG), and UGT (AJM). A season high of 300 grackles were in UGT 12/9 (AJM). Small numbers of **Brown-headed Cowbirds** spent most of Dec in the UCV and UHT (KC and JG, respectively), and early "spring" arrivals were in UGT 2/12+ (AJM). **Purple Finches** had another poor showing this winter, with a high of 2 along Knight Road, GLR 1/3 (KC, SR), and a single at GLR nature center throughout the period (KC, m.ob.).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, P.O. Box 100, Sumneystown, PA 18084, (215) 234-6867, kcrilley@mail.montcopa.org**, Rick Fidler, George Franchois (GAF), Gary Freed (GF), Joe Greco, August and Judy Mirabella (AJM), Chris Mullaney, Steve Rothenberger.

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).

Highlights for the county include **Clay-colored Sparrow**, **Oregon Dark-eyed Junco**, **Long-eared Owl** and **Dickcissel**. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** of the Greenland race was at Echo Lake 12/26 (MSa, JM). Another was on the Lehigh River in Bethlehem 1/16 (BW). Other waterfowl of note included a **Cackling Goose** at MCEP 12/27, a male **Redhead** at Martins Creek Quarry 12/27 and a male **Northern Shoveler** at Seiple's pond 1/27 (ML). On 12/31, there was a dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** hunting the fields along Foul Rift Road near MCEP (MSa). The same location also had a **Merlin** 2/16 (RW) and a Peregrine Falcon 12/27. In Bethlehem there was a **Killdeer** 12/27. **Wilson's Snipe** was reported from Gracedale and MCEP in Jan. An **Iceland Gull** was seen flying over East Allen Twp 1/3 (DW). High numbers of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** from recent years past were not observed in the county this winter. There was a high count of 19 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at Dutch Springs Quarry 2/20 (MS).

Birders helping on the 12/27 MCEP CBC located 4 roosting **Short-eared Owls** in cedars. Another cedar stand at MCEP held 2 **Long-eared Owls** 1/12 (MS, CS). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was discovered

at a feeder on the Koch farm in Williams Twp 1/21 and continued through the period allowing many people a chance to see this species (AK). Birders also observed **Field, Savannah, White-throated, White-crowned, Chipping, American Tree, and Song Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos** at the Koch feeders. An **Oregon Dark-eyed Junco** was at a feeder in Upper Mt. Bethel Twp. 12/13 (JM). Another odd bird was a wintering all-white **White-throated Sparrow** at the Jacobsburg SP feeders (RW). **Snow Buntings, Lapland, and Horned Larks** tend to associate with each other in open fields with several locations having both species. Graver's Hill had 25 **Snow Buntings** and a **Lapland Longspur** 12/20. There was a high count of 45 **Snow Buntings** at Graver's Hill 1/22 (JY, JR, JK, NE). Both species were also along Arrowhead Road in E. Allen Twp. in Jan and Feb. **Snow Buntings** were seen on Seemsville Road 2/22 (BM). Another good find was an adult female **Dickcissel** 1/7 and 1/13 in Williams Twp. (AK, DW).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Nick Ernst, Jim Kaufman, Arlene Koch, Matt Loyko, Betsy Mescavage, Jake Mohlman, Justin Roussos, Matt Sabatine, Corinne Campbell Schall, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut, Joe Yuhas.

Northumberland County

No Compiler.

Perry County

The New Bloomfield CBC was held 12/26. The 24 observers braved a steady, cold, day long downpour to record 69 species. Numbers were understandably very low. One observer described his experience as "the worst day of birding ever"! One new high count was achieved with six **Bald Eagles** found.

Interesting waterfowl on the count were 2 **Redhead** and one **Lesser Scaup** on the Juniata River (AF). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen near Shermansdale on the count (CK, et al.). A winter raptor survey route on 2/13 in the northeastern section of the county produced: 4 **Cooper's Hawks**, 31 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 4 **American Kestrels** (DG, DO, GW). Any shorebirds are notable here in the winter, so 2 **Wilson's Snipe** near New Bloomfield (DH) and 7 **Killdeer** near Shermansdale (CK, et al.) were nice finds on the CBC.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found on the winter raptor survey route on 2/13 (DG, et al.). A Black-backed Woodpecker was reported during the Great Backyard Bird Count near Shermansdale, but a trip there 2/15 revealed that the bird was only an attractive **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (RK, KA).

A bedraggled **Eastern Phoebe** was discovered along Sherman's Creek on the CBC, as was a Gray Catbird at SGL 170 on 12/26 (TJ, et al.). A **Snow Bunting** was found on 12/19 near Donnelly Mills (CK, MT) and a **Pine Siskin** was in the same area also on 12/19 (CK, MT).

Observers: **Ramsay Koury, 123 Old Ford Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011, (717) 761-1871, rkoury123@aol.com**, Karen Atwood, Ann Fruth, Dave Grove, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Don Orris, Henry Petersheim, Toby Petersheim, Joan Renninger, Aden Troyer, Marvin Troyer, Gene Wagner.

Philadelphia County

Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenters 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 1/9 (PMWC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

The severity of the mid-Atlantic winter is amply documented. Philly had a record 70 inches of snow with strings of days and nights far below freezing. Both birds and birders became scarce. Waterfowl used the DR

as a haven from frozen ponds, but many passerines moved south or died.

Our 24th Philadelphia Mid-winter Bird Census on 1/9 covered the county, not a CBC count circle, and recorded 93 species and 24,670 individuals on a breezy, sunny day. The 24-year census average is 92 species and 26,651 individuals, so despite of the harsh conditions, the 2010 PMWC fared well. Two new PMWC birds were **Barn Swallow** and **Dickcissel**. A **Barn Swallow** was among 62 **N. Rough-winged Swallows** at NEWPCP on 1/9 (PD). The **Barn Swallow** was photographed 12/29 (TJ), but two individuals were reported both on 1/18 and 3/1 (SD) indicating that one or possible two may have overwintered. A January **Barn Swallow** appears to be a first for the Commonwealth; late Dec and Feb. records exist in western PA. The **Dickcissel** was found 1/9 (BL) and subsequently photographed (BK, FW) at the Linden Ave. boat ramp also called Pleasant Hill Park (m.ob.). The **Dickcissel** roosted and fed with a flock of 50 House Sparrow who frequented shrubs with bird seed scattered beneath them by some kind soul. Birders subsequently contributed superior quality seed, but the **Dickcissel** was last seen 1/15. There was a noticeable difference in the feathers around the left eye causing speculation that the bird had an injured or diseased eye. This was discounted by better photos.

A **Wood Duck** was found at Morris Arboretum 12/29 (AA). The high count for **American Black Duck** was 112 on the DR on 1/9 and reflects their continuing decline. FDR was the most dependable location for many of the 21 species of dabblers and divers reported, including high counts of 8 **Mute Swan** 1/9, 24 **Gadwall** 2/21, 5 **Redhead** 12/2-1/23, plus single **Northern Pintail** and **Green-winged Teal** 1/9. The DR held one **Canvasback** 12/1 (FW), 32 **Ring-necked Duck** 1/13, 1-2 **Greater Scaup** 1/2-9, and 11 **Lesser Scaup** 1/9. When the scattered groups of **Bufflehead** were totaled on 1/9 there were 52. Large numbers of **Hooded Merganser** were at TI early in the season, but only 20 remained on 1/9. A brief thaw at TI on 1/23 brought in 250 **Common Merganser**. A very good bird for the county is **Red-breasted Merganser**; seen on the DR from Glen Foerd mansion 1/9 and flying north from POD (FW). Small groups of **Ruddy Duck** scattered among the docks along the DR totaled 262 on 1/9. The count of **Great Cormorants** on 1/1 was 75 (FW) and 122 **Double-crested Cormorant** on 1/9 was a record, surpassing 2009 by 22 birds.

Expected raptors were observed throughout the season in small numbers except for one **Northern Goshawk** seen only on 1/9 at WC. Two **Red-shouldered Hawk** wintered again at TI. Nest building and breeding behaviors for two pair of **Bald Eagle** were observed. **Peregrine Falcons** were active at previous nest sites.

American Woodcock were seen and heard at TI and at BRSP 12/4 (FW). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were found 1/9. I used to report that **Laughing Gull** overwintered in small numbers, especially at the trash plant underneath the Walt Whitman Bridge. That is not supported now by a latest record of 12/9 at POD (FW). A record high of 26 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** on 1/9 surpassed the previous PMWC 1996 high of 21.

A **Gray Catbird** on 12/19 is not unusual unless it escapes the cold by flying into your house by the front door as happened to JS. Judy safely returned the hapless bird back to nature. **Eastern Towhee** on 2/19 and a **Brown Thrasher** on 2/18 were at TI (TF). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was found at POD through 1/2 and **Palm Warblers** were at NEWPCP from 12/1 when two **Yellow Palm Warblers** were seen (FW) until 1/9 when a total of 3 **Palm Warbler** were seen. Again this year, an **Ovenbird** lingered on the Temple University campus from at least 12/1-4 (SS). An **Eastern Towhee** was also present. **American Tree Sparrow** was present at scattered sites in small numbers. Several **Fox Sparrow** at TI survived the winter and 4 **Savannah Sparrow** were found at TI in the fields surrounding the parking lot 12/16 (TF).

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern100@comcast.net**, Cindy Ahern, Andrew Albright, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Martin Dellwo, Paul Driver, Steve DuPont, Todd Fellenbaum, Gregg Gorton, Ken Januski, Tom Johnson, Steve Kacir, Pete Kurtz, Butch Lishman, Chuck Lyman, Nick Pulcinella, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Brian Schultz, Sanford Sorkin, Judy Stepenaski, Kate Summerville, Frank Windfelder.

Pike County

No Compiler.

Potter County

No Report.

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Schuylkill County

No compiler.

Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Walker Lake (WL).

The cold winter kept much of both FL and WL frozen for most of Jan and all of Feb, suitable more for ice fishing rather than birding. Penns Creek however, remained ice-free and **Common Mergansers** were present for most of the season between New Berlin and Selinsgrove (DU).

A dark phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was along Middle Creek Rd., east of Benfer 1/9 (PW, RW). Although the Rough-leg was not found for the Winter Raptor Survey, 30 **Red-tailed Hawks**, one Cooper's Hawk, and 14 **American Kestrels** were counted 1/24 (GG, CK).

A single **American Pipit** was found along Shale Pit Rd. on the west side of FL 1/9 (PW, RW). During the last week of Feb, **Horned Larks** and a few **Snow Buntings** were found along Lepley Rd. near Kratzerville (DU).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Greg Grove, Chad Kauffman, Don Ulrich, Patricia Williams.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

It was a very snowy and cold December through March with only brief periods in mid-December and mid-January of above freezing temperatures. Mostly frozen water by the 12/20 CBC reduced any lingering waterfowl. Deep snow cover caused the normal large Horned Lark flocks to depart before being joined by longspurs or Snow Buntings. There were virtually no winter finches after last year's bounty. Overall, it was a tough season for this mountainous county which left most birders dreaming of tropical climates.

Wintering **Canada Goose** numbers were very low due to mostly frozen water and fields that were deeply snow covered. A few **Mallards** were at BC (RC) and in the Summit Mills Area (JH). **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported only 2/23 near Summit Mills (EB) until some migrants passed through after the period. **Killdeer** departed 12/5 and returned 2/22 to Summit Mills (EB).

The wild **Ring-necked Pheasant** reintroduction program is proceeding in the BA. Late last winter, approximately 300 wild western pheasants were relocated to several areas north and south of Berlin. Some broods were observed in the summer. A flushing survey with numerous volunteers and dogs was done in available winter cover in late Jan and just under 50 birds were located. Another approximately 300 pheasants are to be released this winter. Biologists for Pheasants Forever and the Pennsylvania Game Commission are saying that these hardy birds can survive harsh weather and covered food supplies. Hopefully survival and reproduction will be better this year.

The long-staying pair of **Sandhill Cranes** at BC was last seen 12/10 (RC); some dancing had been observed before their departure. Very exciting was a **Barn Owl** found in an active barn near Summit Mills at the end of Dec (JH). It was seen and appeared healthy 1/1 (AP, CP, JP) and was eating rats and banty chickens. Unfortunately, JH reported it started acting sick shortly after this and was found dead within two days. A cause was not ascertained. A **Short-eared Owl** was spotted 2/23 near Summit Mills (EB).

A hardy **Belted Kingfisher** was found 1/9 on Matlick Creek (EB). A rather large flock of 14 **Common Ravens** flew over PP in the early morning of 12/12. A few **Eastern Bluebirds** were at the Moses property near Laurel Hill State Park in Jan but deserted by Feb (JM, MM). For

the first time in 20 years, a **Northern Mockingbird** tried to overwinter on Allegheny Mountain at PP (JP, CP). It ate peanut butter and some grapes at feeders as well as crabapples and rose hips. It was last seen in bedraggled condition in early Feb.

American Tree Sparrows and **Dark-eyed Juncos** were in lower numbers than usual at PP (CP, JP). One **White-throated Sparrow** and one female plumaged **Red-winged Blackbird** wintered at PP. A single **Snow Bunting** was found by JH near Summit Mills 2/18 while spreading manure. Only a few **American Goldfinches** were at PP and CP found the only **Pine Siskin** reported at PP 2/6.

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Elmer J. Brenneman, Robert Croner, Joe L. Hertzler, Anthony Marich, Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Chris Payne, Alan Peterson.

Sullivan County

No Report.

Compiler: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com.**

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: Hammond Lake/Ives Run Recreation Area (HL), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Muck/Marsh Creek Important Bird Area #27 (Muck), the new section of Pine Creek Rail Trail at Rte 287/Marsh Creek Road (henceforth Marsh Creek Rail Trail or MCRT), Mansfield Bike Trail, Mansfield-Wellsboro CBC Count Circle (PAMA).

Most of this report is derived from the 110th annual CBC held in *Tioga* 12/19 (PAMA circle). Although the weather for this count was kinder than in the past two years (the temperature was around 20 degrees, the skies cloudy and calm), most of this year's 17 participants felt that they did not see as many individual birds or species as they have in the past. The PAMA count circle is centered in Whitneyville with Mansfield and Wellsboro on its periphery, thus including Tioga-Hammond Lakes, Marsh Creek and the Muck, Nessmuck Lake, and the area just north of Arnot. A total of 5,244 individual birds were counted, comprising 45 species. The total count was actually higher than in most years, last year being an exception because of the large number of migrating **Canada Geese** that happened to pass over the area on the day of the count. The species number was down, though, from an average number of about 50.

Although most lakes and streams were frozen, there were many patches of open water this year, resulting in the sightings of 2 **Lesser Scaup**, one **Bufflehead**, 48 **Mallards**, and 68 **Canada Geese**. There were also 3 **Great-blue Heron** sightings. Raptors included a **Peregrine Falcon**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 3 **Rough-legged Hawks**, 18 **Red-Tailed Hawks**, 2 **Northern Harriers**, and 3 **Great-horned Owls**. **Wild Turkeys** were in great abundance with 111 reported. Three **Carolina Wrens** and a **Northern Mockingbird** were reported, and almost all observers saw **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**; these are three species of milder climes that have started to move north. The most abundant species seen was **European Starling** with a count of 1818 followed by **American Crow** with a count of 490. The **Brown-headed Cowbird** count was high at 402, which is not particularly encouraging because of their parasitic breeding habits. Local residents were happy to hear that there were plenty of **Eastern Bluebirds** (37), and some were surprised to hear that 9 **American Robins** were reported. **Black-capped Chickadees** set a record of 400, the largest count for that species ever recorded for the PAMA CBC. The closest was 388 in 1996. The count is typically between 200 and 250 (GT).

Two eagle surveys were conducted in Jan. The 1/9 survey followed a new route in Pine Creek Gorge from Ansonia to 2 miles below Tiadaghton; 3 adult **Bald Eagles** were seen (JK, GT). The 1/10 survey produced an adult **Bald Eagle** on the Tioga R. near the NY state line and a second **Bald Eagle** near Lawrenceville. None were seen at

Hammond and Tioga Lakes, where they have nested recently (JH).

A **Northern Shrike** and a **Northern Harrier** were seen in the Millerton area 12/1 (LB). A winter raptor survey in the county's northern townships on 1/31 produced one adult **Cooper's Hawk**, 10 adult and one juvenile **Red-tailed Hawks**, and one light and 2 dark-form **Rough-legged Hawks** (JH). Three **Black Vultures** were reported 2/16 near Nauvoo (PK). Possibly the same three birds were reported 2/19 near Pine Creek Gorge (JHi). A **Great Horned Owl** was reported 2/1 and 2/12 near Millerton (LB).

There were very few reports of irruptive species this winter. Forty **Snow Buntings** were seen 12/1 in the Millerton area (LB), and another 230 in an unspecified area in the northern part of the county were seen on 1/31 during a winter raptor survey. Thirteen **White-winged Crossbills** and 34 **Pine Siskins** were also seen during the same survey (JH). Two **Pine Siskins** were also seen 2/12 near HCSP (GT). There were no reports of redpolls or Evening Grosbeaks.

Observers: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA 16901, (570) 724-5789, gwt720@yahoo.com**, CBC participants included Larry Biddison, Arlene Brown, Larry Brown, Martha Copp, John Erich, Rich Faber, Charlotte Goldsmith, June Hill (JHi), Jeff Holbrook, Phil Krajweski, Sue Lyons, Joan Mason, Ken Meyer, Lori Redell, Nancy Redell, Ann Vayansky, and Beth Walker.

Union County

No Report.

Compiler: **Christy Bowersox, 968 Furnace Road, New Columbia, PA 17856, (570) 205-5434, cabowersox@yahoo.com**.

Venango County

Locations: AR – Allegheny River, KL – Kahle Lake, OC – Oil City, WH – Windy Hills farm.

The winter season in *Venango* can be characterized by a lack of migrants. No winter finches, very few winter raptors, and very few waterfowl species.

A pair of **Mute Swans**, not common in *Venango*, hung around the AR at OC 1/6-2/12. Most other waterfowl were seen for a short period in Dec and then not again for the winter season. Highlights: **Gadwall** 12/9-14, **American Wigeon** 12/10-11, **Northern Pintail** 12/14, **Green-winged Teal** 12/5-9, **Canvasback** 12/10-11; two **Redhead** 1/8 on AR, **Greater Scaup** 12/5, **Lesser Scaup** 12/4 and 1/8, **Hooded Merganser** 12/4 and 1/8, **Ruddy Duck** 12/1 and 1/9, **Pied-billed Grebe** all season, and **Horned Grebe** 12/5 and 1/17 (one of very few Jan records). Present all season though in lower numbers than the last few years were **Bufflehead**, **American Black Duck**, **Mallard**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Common Merganser**, and **Canada Goose**.

Bald Eagles are present as long as there is open water on the AR. Despite the cold weather, some of the river remained open all winter. **Northern Harrier** presented just 3 records: 12/10–11 (JS) and 1/10 (GE). A few **Red-shouldered Hawks** were noted on the Winter Raptor Survey. The only **Rough-legged Hawk** was found on the Pleasantville CBC 1/3 at Windy Hills (GE, JW), a traditional winter haunt for them.

American Coot was present 12/11. A late **American Avocet** lingered until 12/1 at KL. **Ring-billed Gull** was found sporadically throughout the season. The only **Bonaparte's Gull** was 12/11 (JS, KG).

A **Common Raven** was seen at Fisherman's Cove 2/23, a new area for them. The only **Horned Lark** record was 12/28 at KL. No Red-breasted Nuthatch reports were received. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** reports were down. **Hermit Thrush** continues to be found during winter, as it has for the last several years. Small numbers of **Cedar Waxwings** were seen throughout the winter, which is unusual. They normally disappear after the beginning of Jan.

A **Field Sparrow** was found at Eagle Rock (RS, GE) 12/23, a traditional wintering spot, but it could not be relocated for the CBC. **Swamp Sparrow**, also hard to find in winter, was seen 1/3 and again 1/6 WH. The same field that held the Swamp Sparrow had 400 **Dark-eyed Juncos** on the CBC 1/3. Our last reported **Red-winged Blackbird** was 12/8 (KG, JS). A single **Common Grackle** was seen in Seneca 1/31 (RS, GE). The only **Brown-headed Cowbird** was 12/21. Finches were in short supply. **House Finch** was very hard to find. The only **Purple Finch** report came 1/12 (GE, JW).

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd., Apt. 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csconline.com**; **Russ States, 11 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, pabirder@verizon.net**, Nancy Baker, Joyce Fleming, Kathie Goodblood, Meg Kolodick, Mike Leahy, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Jim Wilson.

Warren County

No Compiler.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Avella (AV), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

In a season of sparse coverage and few reports, one sighting nevertheless stood out as one of the more intriguing in recent *Washington* history: a flock of 48 **Snow Geese** was seen headed east over AV 12/20 (JB). This is surely the highest single-day total on record for the county. AMD hosted large numbers of **Canada Geese** and **Mallards** in Jan, which take advantage of the pond's warm waters during freezing weather to use it as a roosting site. Best counts for Canada Goose there were 449 on 1/4 and 370 on 1/18, and best for Mallard were 221 on 1/4 and 228 on 1/18 (all MV). Two **Mute Swans** were at R4 on 12/12 (MV). That same day the season's only **Gadwall** was also at R4 (MV). Two or three **American Black Ducks** hung around AMD through much of Jan (m.ob.). The female **Northern Pintail** returned to the pond at Washington Cemetery for another winter, first spotted 12/26 (LC). It was seen through Jan at least. Interestingly, a female **Northern Pintail** was reported at R4 on 12/20 (MV), raising the possibility that it was the same bird that winters at the cemetery. A **Redhead** was at R4 on 12/12 (MV), and another stayed for a most of a month at AMD, present 2/19-3/10 (MV, SC, et al.). Even longer-staying at AMD was a **Ruddy Duck** that was present 1/18-3/10 (MV, et al.).

Ruffed Grouse was reported in AV in Dec (JB) and at a traditional stronghold near Burgettstown in Jan (RG), where at least 6 were found. Ducks are not the only birds that take advantage of AMD's artificial warmth; up to 4 **Great Blue Herons** were found there in Jan, and the **American Coot** that never leaves the pond was there all winter as well (m.ob.). **Northern Harriers** were limited to the grasslands in Robinson Twp., where 2-3 were seen in Jan and Feb. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in AV 12/20 (JB) where they breed. **American Kestrel** was at Robinson Twp. 12/27 (MV) and Greencove Wetlands 1/3 (MC). A second **Merlin** joined the one that appeared at Washington Cemetery in Nov; both were seen through the season (m.ob.). Very interesting was a report of a heard-only **Virginia Rail** at Greencove Wetlands 1/24 (JB). The report was not confirmed, though the possibility of a wintering Virginia Rail in sw. Pennsylvania is not totally outlandish. Two **Ring-billed Gulls** at R4 on 12/12 (MV) was the only report.

Eastern Screech-Owls were found in AV (JB), and in Robinson Township, where one or two used a Wood Duck nest box as a roosting site throughout the season (MV, et al.). One **Short-eared Owl** was seen at the Buffalo Creek IBA during the area CBC 12/20 (AT); otherwise they were found only at their usual location in Robinson Township. Wintering **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were somewhat widely reported: one in Houston 12/19 (CH), 5 in AV 12/20 (JB) with two were still there through 1/9, and one in Claysville 1/10-2/13 (MC). A **Common Raven** was over Houston 12/25 (CH), and three hung around AV in early Jan (JB). Thirteen **Horned Larks** were located on the Buffalo Creek CBC 12/20 (AT), as was a **Black-capped Chickadee** (AT); the latter is rare in *Washington* in winter. Top count of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at Washington Cemetery was a meager 4 on 12/26 (LC). **Brown Creepers** were reported in Dec both in East Findlay Township (PH) and AV (JB). Two **Carolina Wrens** were around Claysville 1/10-2/13 (MC). The only report of **Winter Wren** came from AV 12/20 (JB). Three **Hermit Thrushes** were in AV 12/20, and at least one stayed until 1/9 (JB). Two **Eastern Towhees** were at Greencove Wetlands 1/3 (MC). A wintering **Brown-headed Cowbird** was at East Findlay Twp. 1/13 (PH). Two **Purple Finches** were at Houston 1/2 (CH).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, John Boback, Mike Campsey, Shawn Collins, Lauren Conkle, Ross Gallardy, Cris Hamilton, Pat Hutchinson, Amy Taracido, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

Wayne County
No Compiler.

Westmoreland County
No Report.

NEW COMPILER BEGINNING SPRING 2010: Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (412) 398-1977, tjkuehl@comcast.net.

Wyoming County

Locations: Lake Carey (LC), Oxbow Lake (OL), Sordoni's Farm (SF), Vosburgh (VO), Grist Flats (GF).

As I reported in the Fall Migration report, the migration, up to that point, at least as reported, was not as exciting as it seemed to be in some adjacent counties. Nevertheless, we had a terrific Tunkhannock Christmas Bird Count 12/20, with one of our best species counts of 70, and a number of species new or uncommon to the count. They are mentioned below, along with other interesting sightings for the period.

As she did last year, SG made the first report of migrating **Snow Goose** as they passed over her house in Beaumont 12/12. RL reported a flock, as well, over her home in Tunkhannock Township 12/18. I had casual reports of other sightings, but without numbers or dates. The only report of migrating **Tundra Swan** was a flock of 43, flying over Tunkhannock and observed during the Tunkhannock CBC 12/20 (MK, KP). Of particular interest, what is suspected to have been a **Snow Goose/Canada Goose** hybrid was reported that day, as well (EH). There was a lot of discussion about the bird's appearance at the meeting after the count, and that's the best identification the observer could make.

Among the ducks reported during the period were 2 **American Wigeons** and a lone **Canvasback**, both during the CBC 12/20 (RK, SGa), and both uncommon for the count. Outside the count, I observed two small flocks of **American Black Ducks** on the Susquehanna River near Vosburgh 2/18 and 2/28. I was disappointed to have neither seen nor received reports of **Common Loon**. Usually, Lake Carey is a reliable place to find migrating loons during both fall and spring migrations. But, it seemed the ice came late and all at once, so I suspect we were bypassed.

It will be no surprise to anyone that we're seeing **Bald Eagles** with greater regularity in *Wyoming*. Most of the sightings are along the Susquehanna River, but areas near Tunkhannock Creek and Lake Carey have produced many reports. RL, the Director of the Endless Mountains Nature Center, reports that she has seen an adult eagle, assumed to be a female on eggs, at the nest near the Center, a nest which has helped fledge a number of eagles in recent years. She has also reported what she believed was an immature Northern Goshawk, a rare sighting in our area, as she drove along US-6, just west of Tunkhannock 2/26. She was unable to get confirmation, as traffic prevented her returning to the site of the sighting. And subsequent searches by her and me were not successful. Other raptors reported during the period include **Rough-legged Hawk** at Sordoni's Farm, probably the most reliable place for seeing them in *Wyoming* in winter 1/4, 1/7, and 2/28 (JT, JT, KR), as well as these birds during the CBC: **Golden Eagle** (MK, KR), **Merlin** (MK, KR), and **Peregrine Falcon** (RK, SGa), all new species for this county's Christmas count.

One **Long-eared Owl**, another uncommon bird for the count, was observed flying into cover along Vosburgh Neck Road during the CBC 12/20 (BW, SG). This species seems to be a regular winter visitor to the county, and we've found individuals in this location in the past.

The Tunkhannock CBC 12/20 results included several other interesting reports, including 43 **American Pipits**, uncommon to the count, along Grist Flats Road in Mehoopany (RK, SGa), **Northern Shrike**, uncommon, along Sugar Hollow Road in Mehoopany (RK, SGa), **Fish Crow**, new to the count, in Factoryville (EH/DB), 9 **Common Ravens**, a new high for the count, **Eastern Towhee**, uncommon, (VO) (BW, SG), **White-crowned Sparrow**, uncommon, and **Brown-headed Cowbird**, uncommon.

Finally, I was excited to observe some 36 **Horned Larks** and over 300 **Snow Bunting** just to the north of Meshoppen, at the *Susquehanna* line. The birds were very active, moving back and forth between a fresh manure spread and an adjacent grassy field, and back and forth across the county line 2/28.

Observers: **Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468, jdemarco@epix.net**, Dave Birchler, Mark Catalano, Stan Galanty (Sga), Trudy Gerlach, Sandy Goodwin (SG), Ellie Harding, Mike Kasper, Rick Koval, Rebecca Lesko, Kevin Ripka, Jon Thomas, Bob Wasilewski, Ellen Whipple.

York County

Locations: Brunner's Island (BRUN), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Codorus State Park (CSP), Dillsburg (DILL), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), New Freedom (NFDM)

LAR was the site for some unusual waterfowl: a **Snow Goose** 12/17 and 1/28, a **Brant** 12/2, and a **Cackling Goose** 1/7 (DR). At CSP there were two **Long-tailed Ducks** 12/4 and a **Common Goldeneye** 1/15 (DR). **Double-crested Cormorants** lingered at CSP, where one was found 12/4 (DR), another was seen 12/16 (DR), and the 12/27 record of one was a first for the CBC.

Thanks to an increasing number of nests, **Bald Eagle** sightings continue to increase. Two were found on the 12/27 CBC, one was at LAR 1/5 (DR), two were at CSP 1/7 (DR), three were at Lock 12 on 1/23 (DC), two were at CSP 1/20 (DR), one was seen flying over near Lake Redman 2/20 (AP), one was photographed perched on a utility pole 2/20 in East York (DJ), and two were at the mouth of Mill Creek 2/22 (AE). A **Northern Harrier** was on the ground feeding on an American Crow 2/15 in near Dover (LC). There was a **Merlin** at CSP 12/2, where one has been seen occasionally for the past three winters (DC). A banded **Peregrine Falcon** was seen regularly in downtown York from 12/3 to 3/4 (AE). One was found 1/1 along Canal Rd. (PK), and there was a pair near the Rt. 462 bridge 2/20 (ML).

Herring Gulls are not common in the county away from the Susquehanna River, but at CSP there was one 1/14, two 1/21, and three 2/2 (DR), as well as two at LAR 2/4 (DR). A **Great Black-backed Gull** was found 12/27, a first for the CBC; and one was at LAR 2/4 (DR).

A few **Red-headed Woodpeckers** stayed into the winter, with ten found on the 12/27 CBC, a flyby 1/23 at Exit 32 on I-83 (LC), two 1/27 at CSP (AP), and a pair that wintered at GPSP (RK). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at BRUN 12/1 (LC), a record high 26 were found on the 12/27 CBC (the previous high was 11 in 1994), one was seen along Deer Rd. 1/12 (DR), and another was at CSP 1/15 (DR).

The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** report was of one from Deer Rd. 1/14 (DR). Seven **Brown Creepers** were found on the 12/27 CBC. Singles were found 1/14 at Sheppard-Myers Res. (DR), 1/19 in NFDM (BF), 1/22 along Hoff Rd. (DR), and 2/9 in NFDM (BF). One **Winter Wren** was located on the CBC 12/27, another was found 1/2 at Peach Bottom (RP), and one was at the Wrightsville boat launch 1/15 (DR). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at CSP 12/8, four were seen on the 12/27 CBC, one was at the Wrightsville boat launch 1/15 (DR), and one was in NFDM 1/19-25 (BF). The 12/27 CBC tallied 191 **Eastern Bluebirds**. **Hermit Thrushes** winter in the county in small numbers: two were found on the 12/27 CBC, one was at Peach Bottom 1/2 (RP), another was seen 1/17 at CSP (RP), one was found 1/22 along Hoff Rd. (DR), and there was one in a Hanover back yard 2/15 (BP). Two nice **Cedar Waxwing** flocks were encountered, 80 at Peach Bottom 1/2 (RP), and 30 in Hanover 2/3 (BP).

A **Nashville Warbler** was a nice Christmas present when it appeared 12/25 in a southern York County back yard (TF). Forty-three **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found on the 12/27 CBC, and others were reported throughout the period. An **Eastern Towhee** was in DILL 12/5 (CR), one was spotted on the 12/27 CBC, and two were at CSP 1/3 (RP). The few **American Tree Sparrow** reports were of one 12/1 at BRUN (LC), one 12/5 in DILL (CR), seven on the 12/27 CBC, and one 2/27 in DILL (CR). Two **Field Sparrows** were seen on Tollgate Rd. 1/7 (DR) and one was at Sunnyside 1/10 (RP). Three **Fox Sparrows** from the 12/27 CBC were the only ones reported. The 12/27 CBC also had the only five **White-crowned Sparrows** reported and the only two **Purple Finches**.

Observers: **Peter J. Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 542-8341, pabirder@hotmail.com**, Lou Carpenter, Dick Cleary, Amy Evans, Bruce Fortman, Todd Frantz, Dave Jarvie, Ramsay Koury, Meredith Lombard, Bob Moul, Ann Pettigrew, Randy Phillips, Beth Pugliese, Chris Rebert, Dan Richards.

Photo Quiz #28

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	1 May	July
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 June	1 August	October
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 August	1 October	December
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 December	1 February	April

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