

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

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

## Seasonal Editors

Daniel Brauning  
Michael Fialkovich  
Greg Grove  
Geoff Malosh

## Department Editors

### Book Reviews

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

### CBC Report

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

### Hawk Watch Reports

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

### PAMC

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

John Fedak  
26 Race Street  
Bradford, PA 16701  
jlfedak@atlanticbb.net

### Pennsylvania Birdlists

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

### Photo-Quiz

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

### Data Technician

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

### Publication Manager

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

## Contents

1	Editorial	
2	Eighteenth Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee.....	Nick Pulcinella
9	The 2010-11 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania. ....	Nick Bolgiano
25	The 2011 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania. ....	Greg Grove
29	Bullock's Oriole in Montgomery County. ....	Cameron Rutt
30	Pine Siskin Banding Recovery: State College to Seattle.....	Nick Kerlin
31	Summary of the Season. ....	Greg Grove
34	Birds of Note: December 2010 through February 2011	
36	Photographic Highlights	
42	Local Notes	
72	Suggestions to Contributors	
	In Focus.....	Inside back cover
	Photo-Quiz #30.....	Inside back cover

**Cover: Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*).** Despite its appearance late in the fall season, this adult female Anna's Hummingbird at Shartlesville, Berks stole the show in the winter season as well, as it braved the entirety of a harsh Pennsylvania winter by way of a heated hummingbird feeder and what insects it could glean from a nearby sewage treatment plant. It finally departed in mid-March. (*Dustin Welch*)

## ... from the Editor

### A Remarkable Six Months

As I write this in early June, having enjoyed earlier in the day a remarkably close encounter with some White-rumped Sandpipers in Mercer County, I find myself reflecting on what an interesting year it's been so far in Pennsylvania bird-wise. And it's not just the rarities, though there have been some impressive birds found this year, to be sure, including a few that still seem to defy explanation. A Mew Gull in Beaver County? A *Brown Pelican in Washington County*? These two were pretty much unthinkable, but the list of other rarities goes well beyond them. A confiding flock of redpolls at Presque Isle in Erie held a few Hoary Redpolls for another few weeks. A male Bullock's Oriole spent the winter in Montgomery County. So, too, did an Anna's Hummingbird. Harlequin Ducks in Northampton and Huntingdon counties provided firsts for both. A Mountain Bluebird was present in Lancaster County for a few weeks. A female Red Phalarope in high breeding plumage appeared in Chester County in May and actually stayed for a second day. The day after it disappeared, a Marbled Godwit blew through at Gull Point in Erie County while a Reeve was being seen in Lehigh County in the same place were a King Rail made itself obvious for several days earlier in the month. I could go on, but I'm probably stealing too much thunder from the spring editor at this point. So let's just say it's been eventful lately for those who enjoy finding and seeing rare birds.

But as I said before, it's not just the rarities that have made these months memorable. For awhile there in February it seemed that Rough-legged Hawks were just about everywhere except sitting on my front porch. CBC birders in Upper Bucks County set a new North American record by finding a staggering 237 (!) Eastern Screech-Owls on count day. Bald Eagles continue to increase in numbers across the state. By many accounts I personally heard, it was a pretty good warbler migration this year. I certainly

had a blast searching for hours on end (and, at last, successfully) in late May for my Allegheny County Whimbrel, but you can read all about that in the next issue.

We hear a lot of tragic stories these days about declining numbers of birds and the relentless and continuing destruction of habitat here and elsewhere. And surely, these are real problems. Yet a season like this can still remind me of the good things there are in having an appreciation for birds. Yes, we collectively worry—a lot, and with good reason—about the birds we love, and often it can become overwhelming. But every now and again, a season like this comes along, and reminds me that the birding is still good, that fun can still be had, and that birds, of all animals, still have an unparalleled capacity to do the most mind-bending things. It's still good to be a birder.

### Journal Business

Actually, I don't have much to report as far as the inner workings of the journal are concerned, which is a good thing. After four-plus years, things are finally really humming along, and except for the ~~occasional~~ ~~difficulty~~ constant angst in finding feature articles to print, the whole staff—seasonal and department editors and compilers alike—are in something of a groove lately. Putting together each issue is getting easier and easier, and that's more than anything a testament to the hard work done by everyone involved with the journal does, well before things land on my desk. I certainly appreciate it, and I try to reach out to all of them to offer suggestions and extend my thanks as often as I can. In this, I would certainly encourage readers to do the same. My inbox sees its share of encouraging and constructive comments from all of you, which is great, but it's not just me that makes this happen. When you get a chance, if you're so inclined, drop a note to one of the seasonal editors too, or to the compiler of the county you bird in most often, and let them know

what you think.

### County Compiler News

There has been a lot of news since I last wrote about the county compilers. After a long absence of reports from *Wayne*, I'm very happy to announce that **Chris Fisher** has volunteered to write reports for this too-often neglected county. Chris has hit the ground running, supplying a report for this issue. *Centre* has a new co-compiler, **Nancy Butkovich**. Nancy will handle writing the seasonal reports, while veteran *Centre* compiler Bob Fowles will continue to manage the breeding and migration tables for the county. Last but not least, Jim Hoyson (*Luzerne*) has turned over the controls to **David Fisher**, who, like *Wayne's* new compiler, has already submitted his first report with this issue. Many thanks to the incoming compilers and to Jim for his efforts on behalf of *Luzerne*.

As an aside, you'll notice that again in this issue there are a plethora of county reports, 53 in all this time. This is one of the highest totals for a winter season in awhile. It's certainly gratifying to see such extensive coverage season after season. So thanks again to all compilers for all your hard work!

We still have several open counties, some of which have been without a compiler for too long. These are *Blair*, *Cameron*, *Elk*, *Jefferson*, *McKean*, *Montour*, *Northumberland*, *Pike*, *Susquehanna*, *Union*, and *Warren*. Of course some of these counties have few, if any, regular birders, so the lack of a compiler is somewhat understandable. But some have a few (or several, or more) regular birders, at least judging by eBird entries. Just a hint...

*Geoff Malosh*  
Editor-in-Chief

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**EIGHTEENTH REPORT**  
**of the**  
**PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE**  
**February 2011**  
**Nick Pulcinella for the Committee**

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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 55 records of 39 species. The 41 records accepted represent an acceptance rate of 75%.

Highlights in this report include, the first records for Western Grebe and Allen’s Hummingbird and the fourth records for Pink-footed Goose, Brown Pelican, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Lazuli Bunting. The addition of Western Grebe and Allen’s Hummingbird brings the state total to 415 species (Pulcinella 2006).

PORC encourages observers to document their sightings with photographs, videos or sound recordings when possible, but also urges observers to submit accompanying written documentation. 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 <www.pabirds.org>, Dittman and Lasley 1992, and PORC 2000.

The Committee would like to emphasize the importance of submitting documentation directly to PORC. The posting of reports, including written details and photographs, on listservs or websites or blogs may not safely be assumed to have been discovered by PORC nor be assumed to be 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 (2013), Al Guarente (2012) (chair), Jonathan Heller (2011), Tom Johnson (2012), Geoff Malosh (2012), Cameron Rutt (2011) and Rick Wiltraut (2010). Nick Pulcinella (2011) is the non-voting secretary. Former members, Eric Witmer, Jerry Stanley and Kevin Fryberger voted on one or more records in this report. During this report period, Cameron Rutt took a temporary leave to assist with ornithological research overseas and was replaced by Dave DeReamus.

At the committee’s 2010 meeting, Ben Coulter was re-elected to additional three-year term. Rick Wiltraut rotated off the committee and was replaced by Dave DeReamus (2013). PORC thanks Rick for his six years of dedicated service. 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.

#### **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.

*Class IV-A:* A record for which there exists a majority of evidence in support of the observer’s identification; the record is probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt.

*Class IV-B:* A record for which there exists insufficient evidence for evaluation.

*Class IV-C:* A record for which there exists a majority of evidence in favor of an identification other than what was submitted.

*Class V:* The identification is correct, but the bird represents or may represent an escape or an introduced bird not yet established in Pennsylvania.

#### **Format of this Report:**

The records are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists’ Union Check-list of North American Birds (AOU 1998) and supplements. The number in parentheses after the species name represents the number of accepted records, including those in this report, since the establishment of PORC in 1989. A (+) after the number signifies accepted historical records prior to the formation of PORC. Each accepted record includes the locality and county and date(s) when known. In many cases, dates are taken from the seasonal reports published in *Pennsylvania Birds*. Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the name(s) of the observer(s) responsible for finding and/or identifying the bird, if known, followed by a semicolon, then the names of those who submitted documentation (in alphabetical order). Following the list of observers is the record’s classification and the PORC record number. This is followed by the Committee’s vote tally for each record. All photographs, video and sound recordings are currently being held with the Secretary. An (\*) after a species name indicates that the species is no longer on the PORC review list.

**Abbreviations:** Christmas Bird Count (CBC), *North American Birds* (NAB), National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), *Pennsylvania Birds* (PB); Reservoir (Res.), State Game Lands (SGL), State Park (S.P.), Township (Twp.), Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

**Pink-footed Goose** (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (4)

One adult at Lake Muhlenberg, *Lehigh*, 21-22 December 2009. (Matt Loyko (p); Peter Saenger, Robert Hoopes; Class I-P; 108-01-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V24:38. Loyko went to Lake Muhlenberg to search for Cackling Geese and instead was rewarded with the state's fourth Pink-footed Goose. The bird was re-found the following day at Dorney Pond but not seen subsequently.

**Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)** (*Anas crecca*) (8+)

One in Newtown Twp., *Bucks*, 9 March-24 April 2009. (William Keim; Gerry Dewaghe (p); Class I-P; 119a-01-2009). 7/0. One Newtown Twp., *Bucks*, 4-8 December 2009. (William Keim; Ed Norman (p); Class I-P; 119a-02-2009). 6/1. Photograph published in PB V24:38. Both sightings were from Hidden Lake raising the possibility that the second report may be of a returning individual.

**Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) (1)

One at Mechanicsburg, *Cumberland*, 14-21 February 2009. (Barry Horton; m.ob.; Class I-P; Chuck Berthoud, Dale Bicksler (p), Dave DeReamus (p), Mike Fialkovich, Pam Fisher, Geoff Malosh (p), Bob Moul (p), Eric Witmer (p); 010-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:36 and NAB V63:255. This first state record was found in the company of a Red-necked Grebe on the wooded Conodoguinet Creek, a location one would not expect to find either species. Pennsylvania birders had speculated that this species would be confirmed on one of the state's large lakes or at Presque Isle, so most were shocked at the location of this sighting.



Image 1. Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). The state's first of this species was this cooperative bird (shown here with Red-necked Grebe at left) at an unlikely location on the Conodoguinet Creek in *Cumberland* 14-21 February 2009. (Dave DeReamus)

**Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) (4)

One adult on the Susquehanna River near Peach Bottom, *Lancaster*, 3 August 2009. (Bob Schutsky; Dave DeReamus (p), m.obs; Class I-P; 067-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:203. This bird had been seen the previous day on the Susquehanna River in Maryland only a few miles south of Pennsylvania, and a dedicated search for this bird 8/3 by Schutsky returned high dividends.

**White Ibis** (*Eudocimus albus*) (16+)

One immature at Picture Rocks, *Lycoming*, 7 August 2009. (Chris Maneval (p), Tessa Maneval; Wes Egli (p), David Ferry (p); Class I-P; 093-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published

in PB V23:203 and NAB V64:72. One immature Shenango Lake, *Mercer*, 1 September 2009. (Tom Moeller (p); Class I-P; 093-02-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:203. This species continues to be annual during late summer and early fall in PA. These two interior sightings should alert observers that species can show up away from the "usual" southeastern and southcentral counties.

**Wood Stork** (*Mycteria americana*) (7)

One over the Militia Hill Hawkwatch, *Montgomery*, 25 October 2009. (Andy Fayer, Jamie Stewart (p); Class I-P; 099-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:204. Lucky observers at the Hawkwatch were stunned to see this bird fly over but still able to capture a photo.

**Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*) (13+)

One at Tyler Arboretum, *Delaware*, 24 September 2008. (Gerri Peevers, Lorraine Pryor; Class III; 168-02-2008). 5/2, 6/1. One at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, *Erie*, 20 April 2009. (Jerry McWilliams; Class I-P; 168-01-2009). 7/0. One at Ft. Washington State Park, *Montgomery*, 27 August-5 September 2009. (Naomi Murphy; Devich Fartbotnik (p), Todd Fellenbaum (p), m.obs; Class I; 168-02-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:204 and NAB V64:73. The *Erie* bird was a first county record and probably a first for northwestern Pennsylvania. The *Montgomery* bird was most obliging during its nine-day stay by making daily prolonged and close appearances near the Militia Hill Hawkwatch. This record, together with the *Delaware* sighting, is part of an increasing pattern of fall reports.



Image 2. Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). This bird, present 27 August-5 September 2009 near the Militia Hill Hawkwatch at Fort Washington S.P., *Montgomery*, was seen by dozens during its stay. Photographed here 31 August. (Todd Fellenbaum)

**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (22+)

One first summer at Promised Land S.P., *Pike*, 23 May 2009. (Kevin Loughlin (p); Class I-P; 171-02-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:100. One over Lansdale, *Montgomery* 18 September 2009. (Ken Reiker; Class III; 171-04-2009). 5/2, 7/0. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Berks*, 15 August 2009. (David Hughes, Robert Goodheart; Class III; 171-05-2009). 6/1.

**Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*) (4+)

One immature intermediate phase over Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch, *Delaware*, 13 October 2008. (Jim Lockyer; Class III; 186-01-2008). 5/2, 6/1. This species continues to be one of

the more difficult to document. With the exception of a 1901 specimen, all documentation submitted to date has been of written reports of birds in flight usually passing a hawkwatch. With the presence of numerous cameras at hawkwatches, an identifiable photo of this species is high on the committee's wish list.

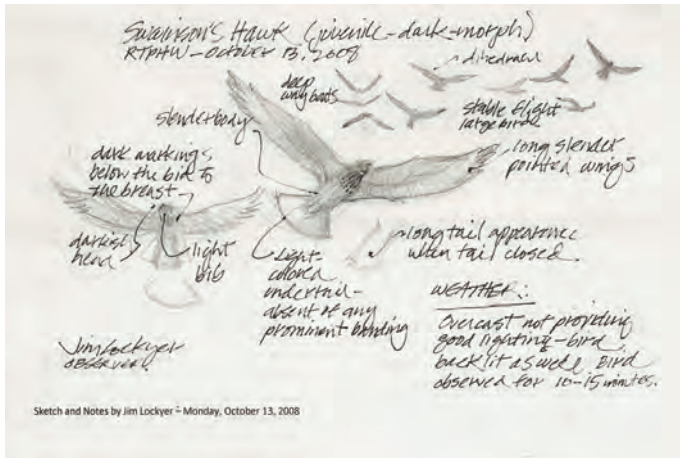


Image 3. Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). Sketch submitted as part of the documentation for this bird that was observed passing the Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch, Delaware 13 October 2008. (Jim Lockyer)

#### Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (15+)

An adult with colored leg bands at Presque Isle S.P., Erie, 4 May 2009. (Julie Dell, Kathleen Ryan; Class III; 261-01-2009). 6/1. Another colored banded adult was at Shawnee S.P., Bedford, 9 May 2009. (Debbie Bodenschatz; Class I-P; 261-02-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:100. Both birds are most likely part of the small Great Lakes breeding population.



Image 4. Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*). This bird on the Kreider Farm pond near Annville, Lebanon 15-18 May 2009 (here 15 May) provided excitement for many who attended the PSO Meeting in nearby Morgantown. (Larry Usselman)

#### Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (12+)

One adult at the Kreider Farm Pond near Annville, Lebanon, 15-18 May 2009. (Ramsay Koury, Chad Kauffman; Tom Johnson (p), Larry Usselman (p), et al.; Class I-P; 268-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:100. Two adult on the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, 10 June 2009. (Chuck Chalfant, Pam Fisher (p); et al; Class I-P; 268-02-2009). 7/0. Mid-May continues to be the best time to look for this species

in Pennsylvania.

#### Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (19+)

One adult was observed at Laurel Hill S.P., Somerset, 18 August 2009. (Steve Tucker; Class III; 360-01-2009). 7/0. The solid written report included "the combination of this bird's entirely dark 'hood', lack of eye arcs, black bill with yellow tip, and unique wing pattern" clearly eliminated all other hooded gull species from consideration. This is one of the few non-storm related records of this species for Pennsylvania.

#### Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (22+)

One first cycle along the Delaware River at Easton, Northampton, 18-21 November 2009. (Dave DeReamus (p); et al., Class I-P; 340-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:206.

#### California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (8)

One adult was at the Lakeview Landfill, Erie, 23-25 February 2009. (Jerry McWilliams (p); Class I-P; 346-01-2009). 7/0. The bird was seen and photographed in direct comparison to adult Herring Gulls. The long yellow bill with a red and black spot on the lower mandible, dark eye, slightly darker mantle, unmarked white head, nape and undersides and greenish-yellow legs were all noted.

#### White-winged Dove (*Zenaidura asiatica*) (9)

One frequenting a feeder in Carlisle, Cumberland, 22-23 April 2009 was a first county record. (Herb Weigle, Kathy Weigle, Ramsay Koury, Billy Weber, Vern Gautheir; Class I-P; 413-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:103.

#### Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) (1)

An adult female in Leola, Lancaster, late 8/09-12/29/09. (Debra Raddenbush; Justin Bosler (p), Howard Eskin (p), Franklin Hass (p), Tom Johnson (p, r), Bob Moul (p), Scott Weidensaul (p), m.ob.); Class I-P; 496-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V24[1] cover & p.41, and NAB V64:352. Long overdue for Pennsylvania, this bird was trapped and banded 8 December by Weidensaul. In-hand photographs and crucial tail feather measurements solidified the identification. Similar to Rufous Hummingbird, but with a less frequent occurrence pattern, Allen's Hummingbird appears in the east beginning usually in mid-late October and there have been records from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Ohio. In contrast, according to the homeowner, this bird was first noticed in early August! There have also been a few unidentified *Selasphorus* hummingbirds reported in mid-August in Pennsylvania.

#### Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) (4)

Mt. Gretna, Lebanon, 20-28 November 2009. (Sid Hostetter; Chuck Berthoud (p), Jeffrey Davis (p), Mike Fialkovich (p), Geoff Malosh (p), Mike McKinne (p), Bob Moul (p), Drew Weber (p), m.ob.); Class I-P; 545-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23[4] cover & p.207. For further details see Miller 2009.

#### Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) (10+)

One observed at north lookout at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Berks, 20 September 2009. (David Barber (p); Class I-P; 650-01-2009). 6/1. In this age of digital photography, PORC seldom receives written documentation accompanying the images but this was one case where the solid written documentation supported the out-of-focus photograph. The

early date should alert observers of the possible occurrence of this species outside of its normal November-December pattern.



Images 5 and 6. Pennsylvania's first Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) generated a sizeable quantity of documentation including 17 photographs and several written descriptions. Two crucial pieces of documentation were the comparison photographs (immediately above) of the important two tail feathers (R5 and R2) which help distinguish and separate Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds, and the single photo showing this bird's tail feathers (first above). The photos show the difference in size and shape of R5—narrow and “stiletto-like” in Allen's, and the shape of R2 which is distinctly “notched” in Rufous and either rounded or slightly “notched” in Allen's. Leola, Lancaster Co. 12 December 2009. (Scott Weidensaul)

**Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (22+)**

One in Allentown, *Lehigh*, 30 January-22 March 2009. (Howard Eskin (p), Arlene Koch, et al; Class I-P; 666-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:38 and NAB V63:255. One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 22-25 December 2009. (Cameron Rutt; Devich Farbotnik (p), August Mirabella, et al; Class I-P; 666-02-2009). 7/0. The Allentown bird was on private property with restricted public access and was seen by only a few. The Peace Valley bird, although located in heavily birded park, proved to be difficult and unreliable to see during its short stay.

**Yellow-rumped “Audubon's” Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*) (5+)**

One was at Dorney Park, *Lehigh*, 16 January-23 March 2009. (Tom Johnson (p), Cameron Rutt, m.ob.; Class I-P; 736a-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:39 and NAB V63:354. Photos of this western subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler clearly show the yellow throat that separates this from the more common and expected “Myrtle” Warbler.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) (5+)**

Newville, *Cumberland*, 20-25 October 2009. (Vern Gauthier; Andy Markel (p), m.ob.; Class I-P; 737-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:208. A remarkable first *Cumberland* record and the first “tickable” for Pennsylvania since 2001, this cooperative bird was enjoyed by many from across the state. For more details see Gauthier 2009.

**Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (14+)**

Butler, *Butler*, 28 January 2009. (Joshua Davis; Class III; 820-01-2009). 7/0. One was well described after it was observed several times at a backyard feeder and in fencerows in the company of American Tree and Song Sparrows. The written report described the “chestnut, black and white stripes and chestnut ear patch” a single dark “breast spot” and when in flight a “long tail with white outer tail feathers.”



Image 7. Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). This long-staying bird, present 25 January – 1 March 2009 at the Darlington Tract, *Delaware*, provided the first known over-wintering record for Pennsylvania. For a species that is usually “hard-to-photograph”, 32 photos were submitted to PORC as well as several written reports. Photographed here 29 January. (Jim Lockyer)

**Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) (8)**

One at the Darlington Tract, *Delaware*, 25 January-1 March 2009 was a first county record. (Al Guarente; Howard Eskin

(p), Devich Farbotnik (p), Mike Fialkovich (p), Jim Lockyer (p), Dustin Welch (p), m.ob.; Class I-P; 829-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:34 & 39 and NAB V63:354. Usually a “skulker”, this particularly accommodating individual obliged many a birder with good looks and close photographs many of which were submitted to the committee to support the sighting. This is also the first mid-winter record for Pennsylvania. For further details see Guarente 2009.

**White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) (9+)

One visiting feeders at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 24 October 2008-3 January 2009. (August Mirabella, Howard Eskin (p), et al; Class I-P; 838a-02-2008). 7/0. This might have been a returning individual as one was seen at this location in March 2008.

**Harris's Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*) (13)

An adult at a feeder in Beech Creek, *Clinton*, 7 January-24 February 2009 was a first county record. (Wayne Laubscher (p), et al.; Class I-P; 839-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:40. An immature in Steelville, *Lancaster*, 10-26 April 2009 was a first for *Lancaster*. (Chuck Chalfant; Pam Fisher, Tom Raub (p), Drew Weber (p); Class I-P; 839-02-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:105. The Steelville bird was especially accommodating to the many birders who visited the area as it gave direct comparisons to the numerous White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows with which it associated.



Image 8. Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). This immature was present in Steelville, *Lancaster* 10-26 April 2009 where it spent most of its time feeding in the open with White-crowned Sparrows. Photographed here 25 April. (Pam Fisher)

**Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco** (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*) (8+)

One male was at West York, *York*, 22 November 2009. (Bob Moul (p); Class I-P; 840a-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:208. Another male was at Kirkridge, *Northampton*, 13 December 2009. (Jake Mohlmann (p); Class I-P; 840a-02-2009). 7/0. Both birds were observed visiting feeders. This subspecies is probably an annual winter visitor and observing birds at feeding stations seems to be the best way to find this species in Pennsylvania. The Dark-eyed Junco complex can be confusing with some immature “Slate-colored” Juncos showing some varying amounts of brown or pinkish tinged plumage and erroneously called “Oregon” or

“Pink-sided” Juncos. Photographs of both of these accepted records show striking adult males with clearly demarcated black hoods.

**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (8+)

One breeding plumaged male visiting a feeder in Waterford, *Erie*, 4-5 May 2008. (Toby Cunningham (p); Class I; 782-02-2008). 7/0. Photo published in NAB V62:407. This was the second spring record for 2008 (Pulcinella 2010).



Image 9. Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*). With nine years between sightings, this male in breeding plumage present in Waterford, *Erie* 4-5 May 2008 (here 4 May) was the second record for 2008. (Toby Cunningham)

**Lazuli Bunting** (*Passerina amoena*) (4)

One male was at a feeder in Catawissa, *Columbia*, 29 January-8 February 2009. (John Slotterback, Sally Slotterback, William Brown et al; Class I-P; 791-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:104. After an absence of sightings from 1975-2004, this species has been recorded three times since.

**Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnella neglecta*) (5+)

One singing individual was in Lykens, *Dauphin*, 5 April-21 May 2009. (Chester Zook, Chad Kauffman (p) (v), m.ob.; Class I-R; 858-01-2009). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V23:105. In the video documentation submitted by Kauffman the bird can be heard singing. See Troyer 2009 for further details.

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

One female seen with a flock of about 100 Common Redpolls at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 14-15 February 2009. (Jerry McWilliams, Ben Coulter (p); Class I-P; 887-01-2009). 6/1. Separating Hoary and Common Redpolls can be difficult, but the photos and written reports submitted supported the identification based on the extensively white flanks with little streaking, the frosty appearance and extensive whitish rump. Photos showed the bird in direct comparison to Common Redpolls. To aid with redpoll identification observers are encouraged to read Czaplak 1995, Eckert 1997, Millington 1996, Sibley 2008, and Stoddart 1991.

**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 to not be accepted because the bird was obviously

misidentified. More commonly, a report is not accepted because the documentation submitted was incomplete, insufficient or too vague to properly identify the reported occurrence while eliminating all other similar species. The 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 on the conservative side and not accept a good record rather than endorse a bad one. *It is important to note that non-acceptance by no means indicates that PORC or any of its members feel the record did not occur as reported.* All records whether accepted or not remain on file and can be re-submitted for review if additional material is presented.

#### **King Eider** (*Somateria spectabilis*)

A distant female seen in flight passing Presque Isle S.P., Erie, 30 December 2008. Class IV-A; 145-01-2008. 4/3, 1/5. Most members did not feel that this distant bird could positively be identified as this species based mostly on size. The committee did agree that the bird should be accepted as eider species.

#### **Magnificent Frigatebird** (*Fregata magnificens*)

One flying over Blue Marsh Lake, Berks, 20 September 2008. Class IV-A, 075-01-2008. 5/2, 4/3. One over the Militia Hill Hawkwatch, Montgomery 20 September 2008. Class IV-A, 075-02-2008. 4/3, 4/3. Both birds were seen following the passage of Hurricane Ike out of the Gulf of Mexico. Though the identifications were likely correct, the written reports and in the case of the Militia Hill bird, the distant photos did not adequately eliminate the similar Great Frigatebird or Lesser Frigatebird, which have been documented in the mainland United States three and four times, respectively. In the case of Lesser Frigatebird, it has been documented as close as Maine. The committee felt the descriptions and photos adequately supported the reports being accepted as Frigatebird species.

#### **Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*)

One in flight over Cornwall, Lebanon, 20 September 2009, Class IV-A, 168-03-2009. 0/6. Though likely correct for such an unmistakable bird, there was very little detail as too the description in the report submitted.

#### **Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

One near the Breezy View Overlook, Lancaster, 31 May-2 June 2009. Class IV-C; 171-01-2009. 2/5. One in flight over the Pennsy Swamp, Mercer, 13 May 2009; Class IV-B; 171-03-2009. 0/7. The Lancaster was problematic as there were multiple reports of this bird on the PABIRDS listserv by several observers, but the only documentation submitted (a photograph) was not of this species. The Mercer report did not contain a plumage description. Mississippi Kite continues to be a species with a high non-acceptance rate, though that rate is decreasing. Similar species such as Northern Harrier or one of the falcon species seem to cause confusion. In addition, it appears that if a raptor cannot be adequately identified, Mississippi Kite becomes the default

species. Observers are directed to Johnson 2007 for identification keys.

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

One in flight over Presque Isle S.P., Erie 26 July 2009. Class IV-B, 291-01-2009. 2/5. The written report was scant on plumage details for such a mega-rarity.

#### **Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*)

One adult in breeding plumage at Lake Wallenpaupack 24 October 2009, Class IV-A, 369-01-2009. 3/4. Though likely correct, most members felt the identification challenge of separating medium sized Sterna (Arctic, Common, Forster's, Roseate) was not adequately accomplished with the documentation submitted.

#### **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

One in Overfield Twp., Wyoming, 26 April 2009; Class IV-B, 561-01-2009. 2/5. The report did not provide enough detail to adequately assess the sighting.

#### **Bohemian Waxwing** (*Bombycilla garrulosa*)

One at the Piney Tract, Clarion, 8 June 2009; Class IV-B, 694-01-2009. 1/6. The description was suggestive of this species but there was no mention of the undertail coverts, a key feature in eliminating the expected Cedar Waxwing. Committee members were also troubled by the unexpected date and felt that a photograph would be needed to accept a record of this magnitude.

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

One immature/female type in Bethlehem, Northampton, 11 January 2006-7 April 2006; Class IV-A, 874a-01-2006. 4/3, 5/2, 5/2. During the second round of voting it was suggested that this report be sent for review outside of the committee since there was some speculation that the bird was a hybrid Bullocks/Baltimore Oriole. After the outside opinion was received and circulated, most members continued to feel that the bird was most likely a Bullock's Oriole but the photos showed characters that are inconsistent with pure Bullock's including the dark/dusky markings on the pale gray back. Six affirmative votes are needed for acceptance beyond the first round.

#### **Pine Grosbeak** (*Pinicola enucleator*)

Eight individuals in New Wilmington, Lawrence, 1 January 2009. Class IV-B, 879-01-2009. 2/5. The description submitted did not rule out crossbills.

#### **Common (Greater) Redpoll** (*Carduelis flammea rostrata*)

Three at a feeder in Harrisburg, Dauphin, 25 March-6 April 2008. Class IV-C, 886a-01-2008. 2/5. The numerous photos submitted show a redpoll that is larger but appears to be fluffed up. The birds considered to be "Greater" Common Redpolls lack the distinguishing field marks of heavier, dark streaking and less intense red than Common Redpoll.

#### **Hoary Redpoll** (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

One in Solebury, Bucks, 31 January 2009. Class IV-B, 887-02-2009. 1/6. The photos and written description seem to support Common Redpoll.

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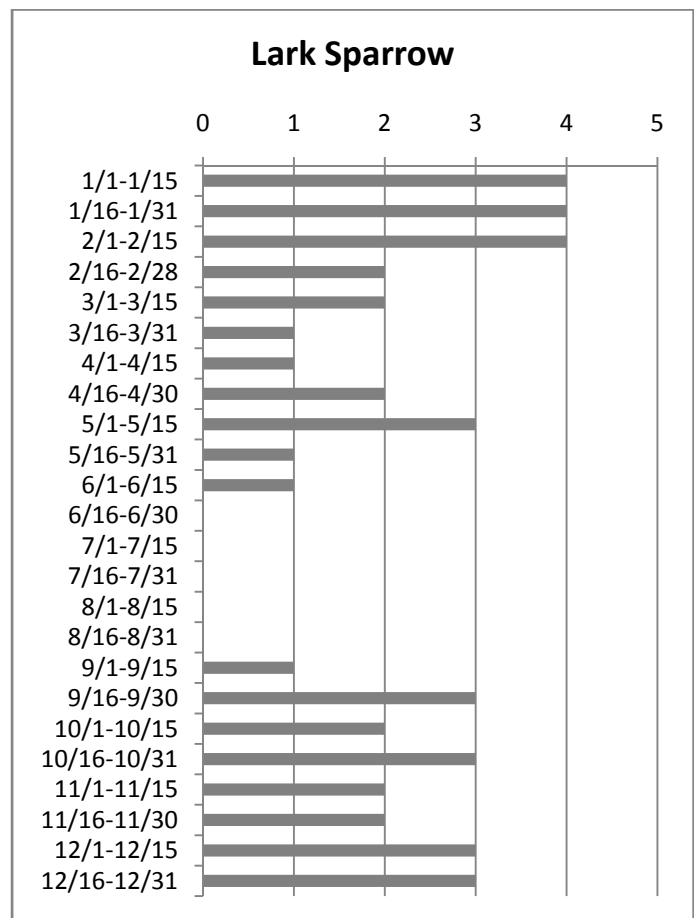
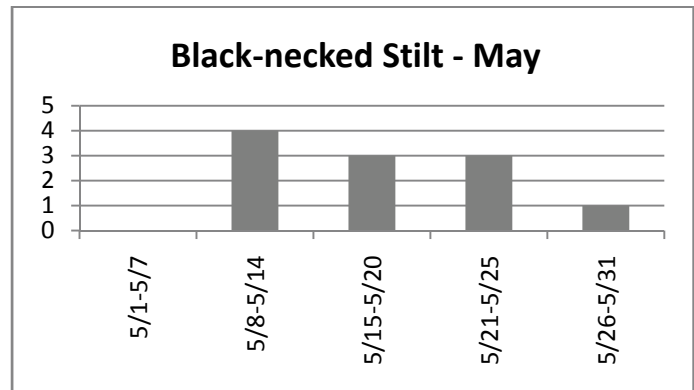
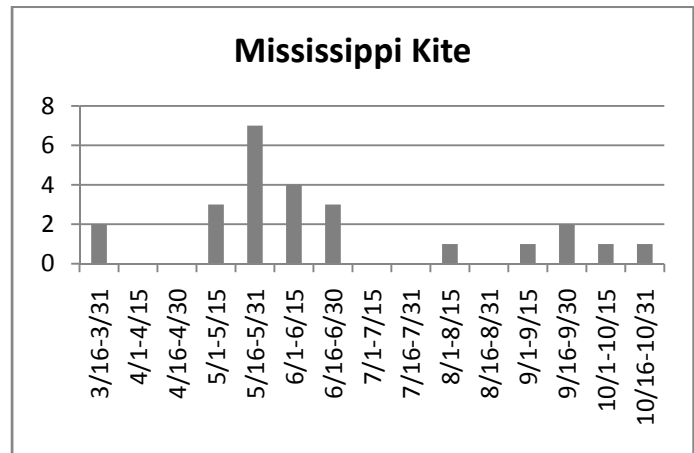
**Acknowledgements**

PORC wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Paul Lehman for reviewing the Bullock's Oriole documentation and Al Guarente who reviewed earlier drafts of this report.

**Corrigenda**

In the 17th PORC report, the record of the Sabine's Gull from Butler County was erroneously reported as a first county record. I was embarrassingly absentminded of the record of this species during the passage of Hurricane Fran in September 1996 by former PORC members Ed Kwater and Paul Hess.

**Occurrence Charts**



# The 2010-2011 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania

Nick Bolgiano

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held for the 111th time from 14 December 2010 to 5 January 2011. This report refers to a year as the one in which Christmas occurred; the 111th count is referred to as having occurred in 2010.

The weather during December and through the count period was seasonably cold, a welcome change from the previous year's storms that disrupted many counts. A total of 70 sites, including all regular sites, reported during the 111th count. The 5336 party-hours were a return to average after the previous year's 4588 hours. The statewide species total of 154, plus two count-week species, was slightly below average.

## Species Numbers

Harrisburg and Southern Lancaster County tied for the highest number of species, with 100. Southern Bucks County, Western Chester County, and Delaware County followed with totals in the 90s. Figure 1 shows species totals by site for all sites in Pennsylvania.

### Top 10 Sites by Species Counted

1	Harrisburg	100
1	Southern Lancaster County	100
3	Southern Bucks County	96
4	Western Chester County	92
5	Delaware County	90
6	Central Bucks County	88
6	Bethlehem-Easton	88
8	Lititz	87
8	Upper Bucks County	87
10	Lehigh Valley	86

## 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 1980-2009.

### Hits

Trumpeter Swan  
Harlequin Duck  
Prairie Falcon  
Sandhill Crane  
Thayer's Gull  
Rufous Hummingbird  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
Yellow-Headed Blackbird

### Misses

Red-throated Loon  
Osprey  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Loggerhead Shrike  
Vesper Sparrow

## Count Highlights

Six **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported from Reading and a single **Ross's Goose** was at Wild Creek-Little Gap. The 25 **Cackling Geese** at ten southeastern sites were consistent with observations of recent years. A **Trumpeter Swan** was at Erie. Lancaster birders tallied 106 **Wood Ducks**, a high count. The **Harlequin Duck** at Huntingdon was only the state's third CBC report. A **Surf Scoter** and a **White-winged Scoter** at Erie were the only scoters. A **Red-necked Grebe** was reported from Upper Bucks County. The **Great Egret** at Pittsburgh South Hills was unexpected that far inland. The only **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Newville and the only **Sandhill Crane** was at Linesville. Single **American Woodcock** were at Dallas Area and Delaware County.

The 47 **Ring-necked Pheasants** at Culp and the 27 **Ruffed Grouse** at Emporium were high numbers for those species. Five **Northern Bobwhites** were tallied at Harrisburg.

One highlight of the 111th count was the total of 415 **Bald Eagles**, which was 24% higher than the previous high (2008) and consistent with high counts reported from Pennsylvania's fall hawk watches. Double-digit eagle numbers were tallied at Southern Lancaster County (78), Southern Bucks County (45), Lancaster (30), Linesville (26), White Mills (26), Warren (22), Tunkhannock (20), West Chester (17), Southeastern Bradford County (16), and Pleasantville (12).

The 142 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, including 20 at Gettysburg, were 29 percent higher than the previous high from 2008. The 44 **Rough-legged Hawks** were an average number. Although the 820 **American Kestrels** were higher than last year's 553, they didn't rebound to the level of 2008, when 989 kestrels were reported. The 40 **Merlins**, including 4 each at Bethlehem-Easton and Lehigh Valley,

were a new high. Over the last 20 years, Merlins have tended to be most common in the southeast, in the Susquehanna Valley, and near Pittsburgh (Figure 2). The 34 **Peregrine Falcons**, including 6 at Southern Bucks County, were also a new high. Proximity to water typifies sites where peregrines have been most common (Figure 2). **Prairie Falcon** was again observed at Newville, presumably the same bird that has been observed in years past.

Southern Bucks County led North American CBC sites in tallies of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, with 357, and **Herring Gulls**, with more than 80,000. A total of 78 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from Central Bucks County and 57 from Upper Bucks County. Also at Southern Bucks were 1361 **Great Black-backed Gulls**, which ranked in the top 10 continent-wide, 16 of the 17 statewide **Iceland Gulls**, 3 of the 4 **Glaucous Gulls**, and one of the 2 **Thayer's Gulls**, the other at Erie. Over 24,000 **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported from Southern Lancaster County. A single **Laughing Gull** was at Harrisburg. Though **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported as a count-week species from Erie, the state-wide absence of Bonaparte's Gull on a count day was the first since 1962.

The 237 **Eastern Screech-Owls** tallied at Upper Bucks County led the North American CBC by a large margin and broke the CBC record of 218 Eastern Screech-Owls set by St. Petersburg, Florida in 2008. According to compiler Bill Etter, owling is practiced by number of dedicated Upper Bucks County birders; the majority of owls were found by two parties that each spent seven hours searching for owls. Bill noted that Screech-Owls are abundant in parts of Bucks and Montgomery counties and it is relatively easy to find 20 or more Screech-Owls along many of the routes when conditions are ideal. **Barn Owls** were found at Lewisburg (4), Hamburg (2), and at Curtin, Lewistown and Southern Lancaster County.

**Rufous Hummingbird** was found in the Pennsylvania CBC for the ninth time, this time at Southern Bucks County. The 58 **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, including 27 at Gettysburg, were the most in seven

### Top 10 Owling Sites

	Barn	E Scr	GH	Barr	LE	SE	NSW	Total
1. Upper Bucks County	0	237	24	1	0	0	3	265
2. Southern Lancaster Co.	1	56	9	1	0	1	2	70
3. Central Bucks County	0	46	15	0	0	1	1	63
3. Lewistown	1	37	21	2	2	0	0	63
5. Western Chester County	0	47	8	1	2	1	2	61
6. Harrisburg	0	24	28	2	1	0	3	58
7. West Chester	0	47	7	2	0	0	0	56
8. Hamburg	2	38	13	1	0	0	1	55
9. Elverson	0	30	10	1	4	0	0	45
10. Audubon	0	26	13	0	0	0	0	39
10. Newville	0	21	11	3	3	0	1	39

years. Besides being found annually at Gettysburg, Chambersburg, and York, Red-headed Woodpeckers have been most commonly found at southern and western sites (Figure 2). **Eastern Phoebes**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, and **Gray Catbirds**, all half-hardy species, were found in fewer than usual numbers. Figure 2 shows distribution maps of phoebe and catbird occurrence from the last 20 years.

Twelve **Northern Shrikes** were reported, with two each at Clarion and Linesville, a good number but not indicative of an irruption. The baseline count per hour value for shrikes has been creeping upward in recent years. Does this represent more shrikes, or better communication among birders about where shrikes have been found? There was a high count of **Fish Crows** at Southern Bucks County, with nearly 6000. The 75 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at Pennypack Valley were the most north of Florida.

**Black-capped Chickadees** were detected at all southeastern Pennsylvania sites, reflecting the irruption that began in the fall. This region is where Black-capped Chickadees irruptions have been best detected by the Christmas Bird Count (Bolgiano 2004). As Carolina Chickadees have moved northward and more chickadees are being identified as simply chickadee sp., assessing the relative size of a chickadee irruption has become impractical.

Single **House Wrens** were at Pittsburgh South Hills and Southern Bucks County. The 1063 **American Pipits** from 19 sites were a good showing and included 471 at Southern Lancaster County. **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Bernville was only the third Pennsylvania CBC record. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Lititz.

**Chipping Sparrows** continued to be most common in the southern half of the state; they remain rare to uncommon at most northern sites (Figure 2). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at Lehigh Valley and Wyncote. A single **Lapland Longspur** was at Linesville, the fewest counted statewide since none were reported in 1972.

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was reported from Southern Lancaster County for the 10<sup>th</sup> of the last 23 years, compared to only two times for all other sites. **Rusty Blackbirds** were relatively plentiful, with 368 reported from 24 sites, including 219 at Newville. Small numbers of **Brewer's Blackbirds** have been found during 12 of the last 15 years. In 2010, seven were counted at York and one at Southern Lancaster County. Southern Lancaster County is where large blackbird flocks are most often found; this count's blackbirds there totaled nearly 300,000. A single **Baltimore Oriole** was at Central Bucks County.

Modest numbers of **Pine Siskins** and **Common Redpolls** were found. Siskins were more widespread, totaling 489 from 40 sites, while 71 redpolls were reported from 5 sites, with a high of 61 at Southeastern Bradford County. Single **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported from Thompson and Warren. No crossbills were reported.

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

### Site Abbreviations

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

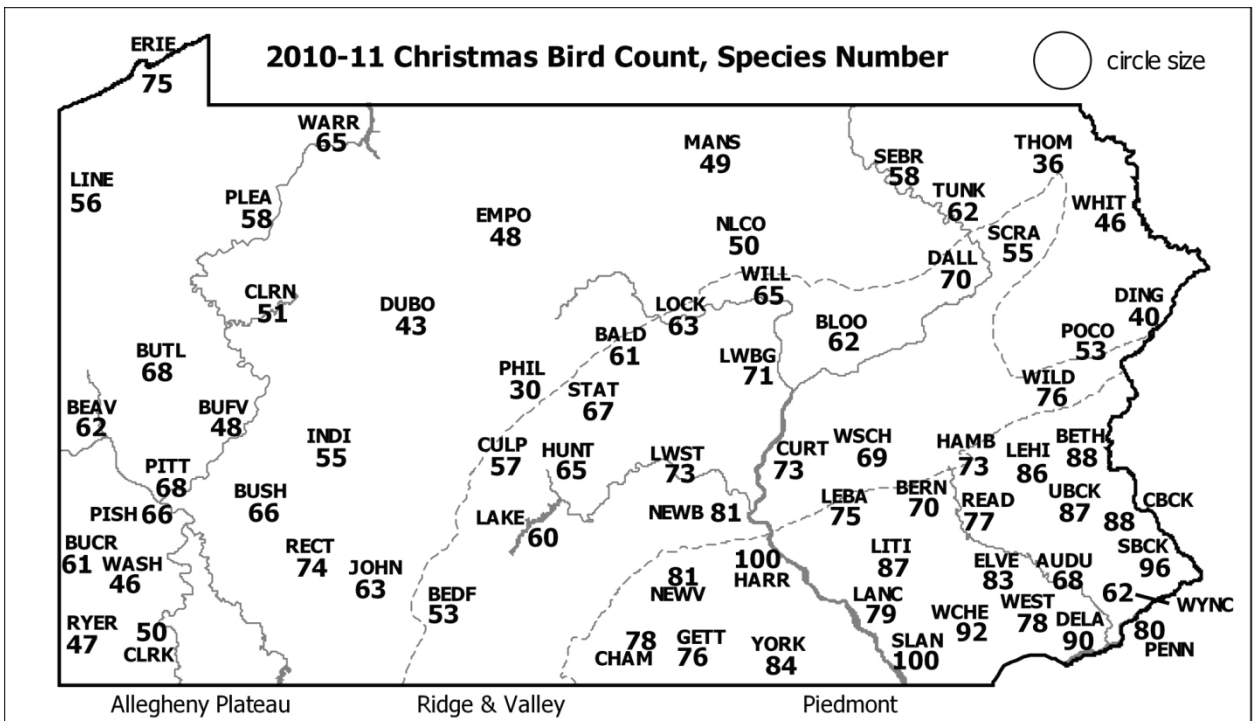


Figure 1. Pennsylvania CBC sites and species numbers.

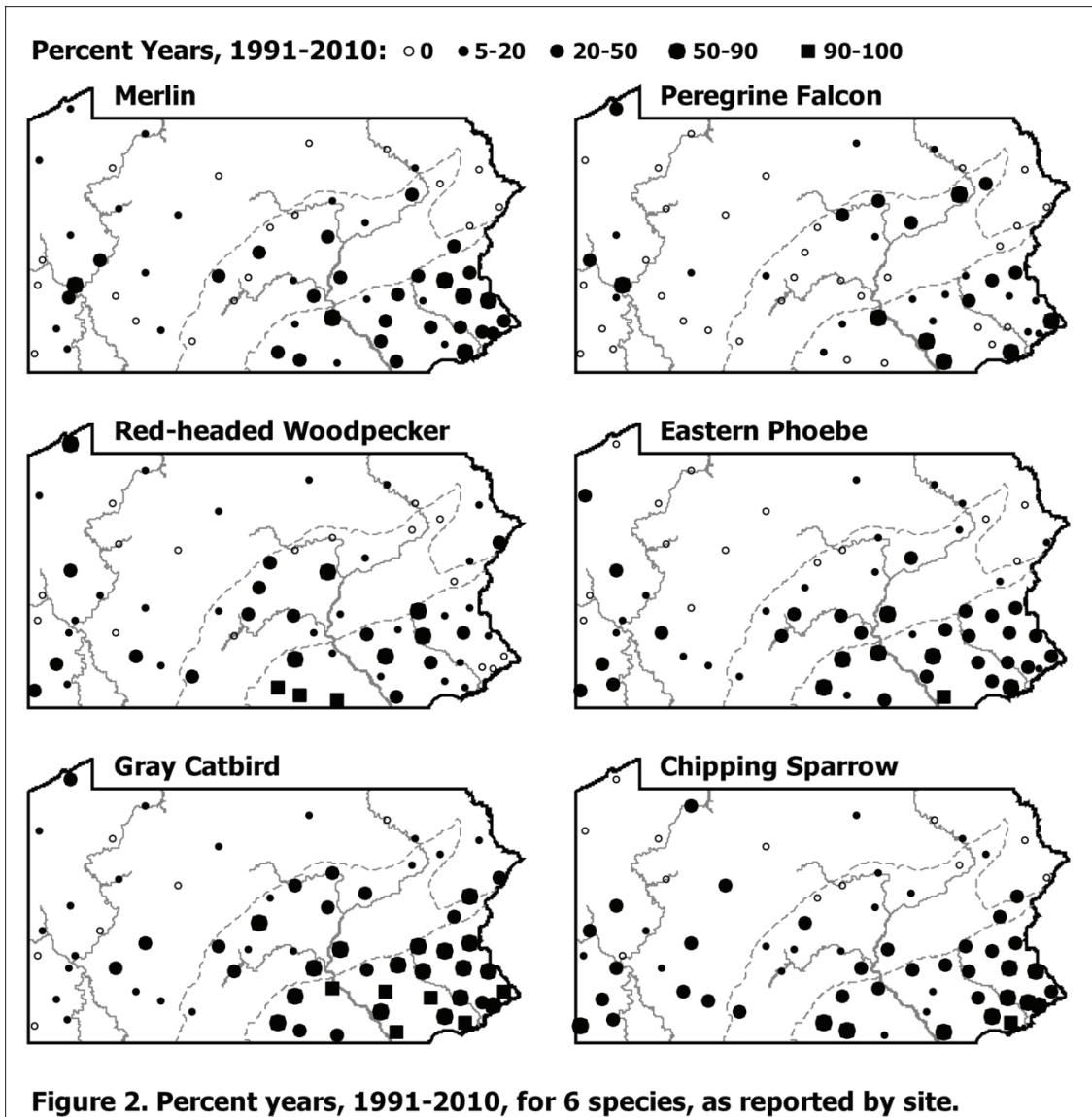


Figure 2. Percent years, 1991-2010, for 6 species, as reported by site.

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	1	-	-	-	-	15501	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	7721	281	462	862	1476	13083	788	167	250	568	-	16002	1362	142	235	18	133	324
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	10	4	2	-	-	2	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	1	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	1	4
Gadwall	-	12	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	78	4	17	2	6	55	3	2	-	3	-	73	14	-	2	-	110	83
Mallard	809	113	162	124	355	1041	49	65	23	272	1	871	880	-	38	27	297	197
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Ring-necked Duck	26	-	1	-	-	59	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	70
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Lesser Scaup	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Bufflehead	101	-	5	1	-	17	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	3	20
Common Goldeneye	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	37	-
Hooded Merganser	41	10	23	-	-	2	-	-	-	17	CW	5	-	-	1	-	66	-
Common Merganser	74	38	4	-	40	116	34	-	3	2	6	132	-	-	-	86	56	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	CW	-	-	16	-	-	-	6	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	-	1	2	2	-	2	2	47	13	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	2	-	-	6	-	2	-	-
Wild Turkey	-	-	81	27	10	18	29	160	3	140	88	32	107	136	45	9	102	49
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	2	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	37	10	20	5	13	33	8	1	-	3	1	15	42	1	1	4	21	4
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	121	-	-	-	13	33	-	-	-	-	-	57	2	-	-	-	56	-
Turkey Vulture	116	-	1	1	24	74	-	-	-	-	-	145	3	-	3	-	5	-
Bald Eagle	2	3	2	1	1	2	2	-	1	7	2	3	-	1	-	1	8	3
Northern Harrier	1	-	-	2	5	4	8	2	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	5	8	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	-	-	1	3	8	9	1	-	5	4	11	10	1	1	1	2	2
Cooper's Hawk	7	5	-	4	7	9	9	7	2	5	9	23	18	1	6	8	9	1
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	2	3	3	2	8	-	1	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	65	37	16	20	76	92	106	55	11	56	54	79	86	46	15	44	103	33

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBEK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Rough-legged Hawk	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	5	-	-	1	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
American Kestrel	2	12	5	13	20	6	45	11	3	11	5	9	31	8	14	11	38	4
Merlin	1	-	CW	-	1	4	CW	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	CW	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	1	-	1	-	-	19	-	-	-	1	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	79
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	-	-	-	6	1	4	-	-	CW	-	1	7	-	6	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	479	10	259	-	4473	1501	-	-	-	-	CW	1134	-	-	-	3	2	
Herring Gull	11	-	24	-	258	83	-	-	-	-	CW	266	-	-	-	1	3	
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	1	21	-	-	-	-	-	78	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	503	356	326	542	989	610	369	180	46	326	323	483	1170	193	169	470	828	169
Mourning Dove	253	58	167	584	653	1017	357	538	95	456	381	561	1798	376	205	220	434	150
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	26	6	-	1	12	5	8	7	-	2	2	46	6	-	1	3	21	7
Great Horned Owl	13	8	1	-	5	15	22	1	1	2	1	15	11	-	1	3	1	7
Barred Owl	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	4
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	23	6	3	1	9	28	5	2	1	2	5	17	27	-	2	5	6	3
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	108	21	29	41	57	106	61	134	29	58	65	86	115	24	24	33	80	24
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	13	3	1	4	2	17	2	14	1	2	8	8	11	-	3	2	7	-
Downy Woodpecker	136	40	42	34	64	158	99	150	23	87	94	108	167	50	21	33	96	56
Hairy Woodpecker	37	8	13	14	9	18	17	23	3	22	28	20	28	22	5	17	9	12
Yellow-shafted Flicker	50	19	4	1	26	49	10	43	4	38	4	50	48	3	5	9	29	5
Pileated Woodpecker	2	9	3	14	5	3	14	27	8	16	17	10	13	2	5	11	14	11
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	117	120	141	203	131	241	280	399	63	257	371	281	349	302	119	79	164	98
American Crow	359	530	291	375	499	9136	843	559	85	488	292	658	291	675	323	113	760	527
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	12	19	3	-	-	-	-	55	5	-	-	-	-	4
Common Raven	-	14	-	10	-	-	5	6	-	-	3	1	-	-	4	10	2	4
Horned Lark	-	125	8	-	79	125	194	55	6	74	81	50	494	2	-	4	345	-
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	234	-	1	-	-	2	-	413	-	14	-	211	30	-	-	-	3	-
Black-capped Chickadee	16	184	142	126	70	468	314	-	65	62	224	5	317	346	-	104	294	231
chickadee sp.	-	-	68	-	126	-	-	-	24	251	-	97	-	-	67	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	171	121	100	91	88	292	231	200	33	157	146	224	258	100	46	70	260	123
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	10	1	-	1	2	1	7	-	2	9	2	19	8	-	-	8	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	102	56	45	58	53	151	113	177	21	93	97	107	129	75	33	69	95	65
Brown Creeper	21	1	2	2	4	6	9	5	3	8	9	8	13	4	2	4	8	8
Carolina Wren	128	23	13	10	63	145	59	34	6	12	9	118	81	1	1	8	119	35

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBEK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	-	4	1	1	3	3	-	-	1	1	-	6	4	1	-	4	5	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	23	15	18	8	6	5	19	65	13	27	43	-	6	30	2	12	24	22
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	124	85	17	33	82	164	160	76	15	50	41	105	140	47	27	49	235	26
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	1	2	2	3	1	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	3	3	-
American Robin	890	30	57	11	421	518	17	290	31	24	5744	1502	29	33	47	48	-	3
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	-	14	3	16	79	72	63	29	1	19	2	106	173	3	10	6	64	10
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	2306	940	639	1063	7723	5123	2219	4218	123	1044	986	8994	9987	884	1024	440	7132	1315
American Pipit	-	-	-	50	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	5	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	31	52	-	5	39	3	14	9	2	15	90	49	82	6	16	-	-	40
Myrtle Warbler	12	1	2	-	1	24	-	15	-	15	7	9	2	-	2	-	2	-
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	4	-	2	-	2	-	-	16	1	1	3	1	2	-	2	-	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	-	110	76	54	73	34	299	99	37	180	746	17	10	419	14	71	164	151
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	12	2	1	-	4	1	2	6	-	7	1	9	8	-	2	18	1	-
Savannah Sparrow	9	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	422	18	105	11	81	221	103	147	18	123	57	162	125	7	20	15	184	81
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	4	2	1	-	3	5	3	7	-	3	2	5	-	-	-	4	3	-
White-throated Sparrow	989	80	19	13	583	833	95	79	17	166	94	351	373	18	23	28	334	52
White-crowned Sparrow	11	1	3	38	105	46	6	153	-	9	4	20	127	6	20	2	67	10
Slate-colored Junco	1114	436	277	704	639	1289	1056	702	92	952	1011	735	1430	688	205	252	957	571
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	1	2	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	92	-	-	45	-	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	328	67	129	101	197	387	203	419	40	342	253	253	566	101	147	55	302	66
Red-winged Blackbird	69	1	-	-	-	93	-	19	-	-	141	8	-	-	-	2	31	-
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	1	-	-	13	-
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	4	12	-	-	3	5	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	-	-	1	-	5	11	-	-	-	1	17	44	77	-	-	250	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	-	-	6	53	6	-	9	-	16	12	14	75	-	-	63	22	1
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	74	-	11	-	2	-	1	4	4	25	17	17	26	3	4	2	-
House Finch	126	2	47	39	115	411	130	183	5	106	115	304	443	61	46	81	220	65
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	15	7	-	-	9	-	4	5	2	21	4	-	-	61	-
American Goldfinch	186	134	59	97	33	175	266	242	18	115	243	142	330	160	39	79	124	119
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	92	243	438	358	348	330	406	544	23	330	445	252	1325	311	168	70	342	168
<b>Number Species</b>	68	61	62	53	70	88	62	61	48	66	68	88	78	51	50	57	73	70
<b>Number Individuals</b>	18779	4571	4449	5838	20406	54270	9189	10794	1262	7094	12602	35360	23365	5392	3204	2991	14942	5296
<b>Party-hours</b>	117.5	46.75	31	80.75	60	85	105.25	101	20	87.75	67	111.25	134	56	28.25	50	86	55.5

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	7936	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	13792	86	-	1374	1	254	1551	2831	2022	50	305	1129	18	4683	1291	16645	872	1466
Mute Swan	-	-	-	2	-	5	8	6	-	2	-	CW	-	2	3	4	-	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	31	-	-	-	-	109	-	1	27	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
Wood Duck	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	1	106	-	-	11	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	25	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	CW	2	6	22	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
American Black Duck	137	10	9	82	-	110	7	11	48	-	1	23	22	139	18	40	26	23
Mallard	588	7	350	295	1	343	217	332	996	52	154	609	54	1064	199	719	349	375
Northern Shoveler	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	15	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	185	-	-	1	-	-	CW	-	-	-	1	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	113	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	CW	-	-	-	-	2	18	-	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	30	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	103	-	-	12	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Lesser Scaup	CW	-	-	-	-	52	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	CW	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	6	-	-	1	-	40	-	-	76	-	-	4	11	-	-	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	70	-	-	20	1	-	CW	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hooded Merganser	64	-	5	4	-	11	3	-	72	4	-	2	10	-	-	5	2	2
Common Merganser	194	25	-	3	-	15	-	-	209	18	-	-	282	66	18	20	109	120
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	39	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ruddy Duck	2	-	-	44	-	27	12	-	4	-	-	44	1	-	-	6	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	8
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	2	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	CW
Wild Turkey	6	2	45	58	168	45	7	226	6	108	26	96	27	-	70	32	69	79
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	2	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	7	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	18	1	-	3	1	53	5	8	38	3	CW	-	4	42	14	21	21	38
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	191	3	-	46	-	-	25	30	15	8	-	-	2	70	14	21	-	20
Turkey Vulture	322	-	-	106	-	-	53	3	41	-	-	-	-	172	67	122	-	29
Bald Eagle	8	1	-	-	1	CW	1	CW	6	1	-	-	5	30	6	8	5	5
Northern Harrier	2	-	-	CW	2	-	4	2	2	1	2	1	-	1	3	4	7	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	16	1	1	6	-	1	3	7	10	4	4	1	5	9	3	14	2	7
Cooper's Hawk	23	-	5	1	-	2	4	6	13	5	5	8	-	8	12	12	7	5
Northern Goshawk	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	7	-	-	CW	-	-	20	-	3	8	-	-	1	-	3	2	1	6
Red-tailed Hawk	93	5	15	42	13	18	57	79	84	37	57	30	32	48	109	132	117	166

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
American Kestrel	2	-	9	10	-	CW	31	31	9	11	6	3	12	10	20	8	77	55
Merlin	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	-
Peregrine Falcon	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	-	6	-	269	2	-	-	-	-	6	9	4	4	8	-	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	9	-	-	9	-	-	3	2	5	-	-	-	1	1	4	1	1	18
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	5	1	3	14	21
American Woodcock	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	1036	-	-	3790	-	3357	11	6	825	40	-	-	185	909	24	210	22	-
Herring Gull	27	-	-	81	-	408	-	3	29	-	-	-	-	218	24	11	1	2
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	29	-	-	2	-	29	-	-	52	-	-	-	-	270	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	862	-	345	343	119	349	313	1062	848	554	127	519	197	598	905	848	617	2034
Mourning Dove	528	37	304	309	224	40	395	628	669	76	287	271	114	564	505	1479	175	669
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1
Eastern Screech-Owl	26	-	-	30	5	1	-	38	24	8	1	1	8	1	14	9	10	37
Great Horned Owl	10	-	CW	10	2	1	1	13	28	26	3	5	2	8	14	8	13	21
Barred Owl	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	1	2	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	2
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	17	1	5	5	3	1	4	8	23	7	-	-	4	17	7	14	17	24
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	123	12	7	76	11	18	46	93	111	40	50	10	32	67	66	123	36	155
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	17	3	-	21	1	-	8	12	14	6	3	1	6	11	3	30	3	10
Downy Woodpecker	175	21	27	73	31	56	38	115	105	51	74	28	31	96	87	214	84	209
Hairy Woodpecker	38	4	8	35	21	10	10	19	23	8	34	9	5	19	11	32	11	48
Yellow-shafted Flicker	44	5	-	31	-	3	32	40	35	11	2	1	12	30	28	49	19	60
Pileated Woodpecker	12	3	8	8	14	3	8	23	10	21	20	3	13	6	11	12	15	52
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Blue Jay	145	90	58	188	270	65	189	359	216	256	310	124	108	81	110	364	201	392
American Crow	768	100	232	890	160	260	152	1140	7680	286	797	715	728	11184	1562	8546	1373	747
Fish Crow	8	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	286	-	-	-	-	533	13	13	3	-
Common Raven	-	1	4	-	28	-	9	6	3	13	4	12	9	-	4	-	9	13
Horned Lark	-	-	1	255	-	-	14	344	51	-	26	230	110	87	152	172	12	16
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	490	-	-	289	-	-	55	-	315	-	-	-	-	236	3	56	-	1
Black-capped Chickadee	15	110	126	89	431	124	11	12	65	159	456	174	131	23	186	582	238	333
chickadee sp.	25	-	-	153	-	-	70	350	89	-	-	-	-	37	168	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	345	49	22	265	71	36	107	255	248	134	236	62	75	185	176	472	156	452
Red-breasted Nuthatch	12	-	2	8	3	4	2	7	6	11	8	-	6	4	3	6	8	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	165	37	26	102	84	22	57	102	106	90	118	25	44	64	83	235	83	205
Brown Creeper	26	3	CW	9	2	-	2	13	28	8	7	1	1	-	6	7	10	41
Carolina Wren	106	10	1	59	11	-	38	61	159	30	13	4	26	137	61	140	32	190

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	20	-	-	2	CW	1	4	2	14	1	1	-	-	7	4	7	-	14
Golden-crowned Kinglet	38	25	10	16	19	3	-	57	39	25	41	13	5	29	13	24	12	99
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	3	4	-	-	-	-	5	1	2	1	-
Eastern Bluebird	79	48	7	124	15	1	88	152	226	122	50	17	119	97	177	133	303	272
Hermit Thrush	5	4	-	15	2	-	1	5	7	17	2	-	2	1	-	2	-	6
American Robin	3597	55	18	191	1	92	14	1	56	12	61	-	51	128	26	117	5	5
Gray Catbird	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	106	4	-	41	1	-	86	65	111	16	6	2	7	35	60	153	103	124
Brown Thrasher	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	2482	18	615	1340	263	697	2106	4601	3338	1159	1220	564	2924	1917	1841	10823	4266	3528
American Pipit	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	182	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	84	-	9	29	22	-	17	160	51	74	-	-	-	37	29	80	14	114
Myrtle Warbler	6	-	-	2	-	56	10	8	7	6	-	-	-	31	5	6	-	12
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	21	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	9	23	63	27	76	118	14	98	31	115	184	128	79	2	55	100	91	308
Chipping Sparrow	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	37	-	-	12	-	-	5	1	18	5	2	1	6	3	9	28	18	5
Savannah Sparrow	15	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	1	-	-
Fox Sparrow	15	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	4	2	4	-	4
Song Sparrow	626	7	-	179	16	9	29	121	303	68	56	21	24	186	68	444	88	244
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	21	-	-	7	-	2	4	2	6	1	2	1	-	10	1	20	2	5
White-throated Sparrow	1330	56	4	376	17	2	158	542	568	79	90	17	52	517	187	1700	194	306
White-crowned Sparrow	1	-	-	18	-	1	73	54	14	21	3	12	7	9	22	64	17	268
Slate-colored Junco	1264	171	117	926	732	63	421	2200	910	735	1079	319	495	681	735	2555	653	1359
Lepland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	225	-	-	51	-	400	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	538	46	38	294	101	59	197	309	610	82	342	98	96	328	168	601	206	571
Red-winged Blackbird	456	-	-	30	-	2	3	-	8	-	-	12	-	75	-	301	-	1
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	2	-	-	1
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	19	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	22	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	17	-	CW
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	-	-	10	-	1	2	CW	30	-	3	-	-	35	2	1	1	1
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	8	-	-	2	11	-	2	3	4	11	89	5	3	1	-	8	13	1
House Finch	304	5	53	156	8	45	34	282	299	44	157	113	11	212	162	620	206	317
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	1	-	29	1	-	1	28	3	28	11	2	-	1	-	38	-	-	38
American Goldfinch	325	15	52	299	121	33	53	114	250	136	174	36	64	142	124	254	86	206
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	549	2	166	217	142	247	93	363	225	215	546	266	189	352	132	351	420	859
<b>Number Species</b>	90	40	43	83	48	75	76	73	100	65	55	63	60	79	75	86	71	73
<b>Number Individuals</b>	32701	1106	3027	13622	3260	8234	7088	17947	23289	5107	7253	5798	6485	29935	9961	57850	11556	16843
<b>Party-hours</b>	163.75	23.5	36	62	58.75	43	58.75	96.5	125	47	110	51	46.5	73.5	78.25	111	95	78

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	-	321	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	685	-	-	-	2
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Canada Goose	4522	2582	140	1	195	1150	2197	20	559	805	299	81	4537	301	86	960	18786
Mute Swan	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	11	9	2	-	3	30
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	290	-	-	13	-	-	-	CW	-	163	-	-	253	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99
American Wigeon	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	8
American Black Duck	101	410	190	-	10	-	103	-	1	-	13	4	138	12	1	63	102
Mallard	111	971	573	5	87	531	2	529	48	240	1044	49	2454	71	217	177	817
Northern Shoveler	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Northern Pintail	1	22	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	-	5	2	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	131	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	3
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	14	10
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Lesser Scaup	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	76
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	7	-	-	28	-	-	1	2	-	8	-	-	-	101
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	1	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	11
Hooded Merganser	2	-	1	-	1	-	5	-	-	8	2	-	9	-	-	272	-
Common Merganser	-	66	-	-	155	-	52	-	-	2	97	4	49	-	-	13	3177
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Ruddy Duck	2	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	1	-	-	-	28	20	-	31	53
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	22	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	1	4	-	3	-	5	-	-	19	1	-	CW	-	2	-
Wild Turkey	104	4	63	123	21	22	69	8	41	216	39	76	7	CW	64	35	-
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Great Blue Heron	9	31	2	1	9	78	4	-	3	15	1	1	21	5	2	1	64
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	-	144	-	-	20	62	21	-	-	-	-	-	148	6	-	-	35
Turkey Vulture	-	147	2	16	34	-	36	-	3	CW	-	2	138	43	-	-	61
Bald Eagle	26	5	1	-	7	-	2	-	-	CW	12	-	3	2	-	1	45
Northern Harrier	1	3	1	2	2	23	3	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	4	2	3	6	8	1	8	5	6	-	2	4	9	-	2	10
Cooper's Hawk	1	13	2	1	3	12	1	8	1	5	16	1	11	6	7	1	18
Northern Goshawk	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	3	-	6	2	-	-	-	2	5	1	5	3	4	-	-	3
Red-tailed Hawk	26	79	34	58	44	108	26	20	47	60	8	28	85	51	16	19	79

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK
	3	1	1	3	-	4	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6	10	7	5	18	2	2	2	5	2	3	-	14	3	8	4	1
	1	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-
	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	6
	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	220
	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6	-	2	5	5	-	8	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
	4	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	2
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	64	73	14	27	103	-	476	-	6	68	-	87	328	-	-	3527	4289
	-	9	-	10	5	-	94	-	-	18	-	-	19	-	-	804	80670
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	357
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	-	-	4	-	-	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1361
	134	714	462	657	374	916	310	81	90	743	79	52	1909	36	7	805	195
	106	460	168	175	279	573	376	67	270	480	103	184	1143	153	212	229	685
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	13	5	13	21	3	1	-	8	9	3	3	23	2	-	2	10
	-	3	5	4	11	1	2	2	-	5	1	1	11	2	-	3	7
	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
	-	2	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	11	4	9	22	4	7	-	9	10	2	3	13	3	-	1	21
	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
	41	102	19	66	120	7	42	1	113	110	21	38	88	50	46	17	68
	-	21	4	5	11	CW	10	-	5	4	-	1	14	4	4	-	11
	70	99	53	25	78	143	22	67	106	139	46	65	99	73	33	41	128
	15	19	8	13	27	7	17	-	29	27	15	17	18	21	13	14	19
	10	44	5	37	74	1	15	-	37	43	1	8	33	2	5	1	39
	11	10	11	5	19	4	4	1	16	14	1	10	5	16	9	6	-
	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	152	206	104	152	159	193	34	20	318	408	237	272	298	168	193	204	150
	169	859	464	569	1290	411	50	61	1039	15120	240	441	984	304	187	6790	1800
	-	15	-	-	1	20	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5977
	-	1	CW	6	3	7	28	2	5	2	2	-	-	2	5	-	-
	6	276	70	12	88	502	59	-	-	-	-	-	628	5	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	90	-	-	41	156	123	-	97	163	-	-	80	2	123	-	266
	337	206	210	413	426	45	256	18	2	196	341	314	124	333	-	390	6
	-	121	-	-	45	224	-	-	367	213	-	-	344	9	3	-	40
	45	175	128	34	315	256	64	42	142	382	95	274	257	174	108	90	179
	4	5	3	5	12	13	2	2	-	9	1	3	5	2	-	1	-
	61	128	72	35	131	127	46	52	74	149	107	110	134	106	66	64	99
	7	18	5	3	27	25	5	8	6	12	1	7	6	6	-	3	9
	1	56	18	4	89	168	6	64	51	96	8	29	79	9	4	8	142

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	14	-	1	8	-	-	8	-	1	2	1	-	5	2	-	-	6
30	16	10	5	70	47	8	7	1	61	18	66	34	11	30	14	19	13
-	1	-	-	1	7	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	1	-
82	134	61	17	162	190	29	5	-	43	53	10	47	60	96	29	9	43
-	8	-	-	10	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	7	2	-	-	1
45	18	3	1	28	14	8	73	-	910	1068	7	16	127	9	14	26	1024
-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	38	10	1	74	145	7	29	-	23	63	-	17	51	4	4	9	94
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
480	2160	972	1034	1559	4704	599	1135	192	2595	8371	149	388	3580	543	302	582	2689
-	245	-	-	56	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
39	53	1	-	102	50	92	7	-	-	67	-	46	22	62	8	17	65
7	3	-	-	6	23	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	-	28
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
113	32	67	175	54	100	125	2	20	50	55	46	20	-	160	3	13	7
-	-	-	-	1	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
-	18	4	1	5	4	1	11	-	9	3	4	1	2	5	-	-	17
-	7	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	6
-	2	-	-	1	-	-	6	-	4	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	6
22	256	26	6	130	159	20	68	-	151	248	3	16	214	81	44	7	251
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	11	5	-	5	13	3	4	-	6	6	2	-	11	3	-	-	11
8	635	45	30	473	586	5	329	4	52	116	11	43	558	19	22	16	895
-	77	-	-	24	138	-	4	-	12	-	-	-	19	-	25	1	2
178	1301	488	272	1043	906	319	335	9	409	599	227	736	961	679	452	374	835
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
132	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
152	923	125	8	304	332	47	91	5	353	534	66	95	307	302	162	77	345
-	1	-	-	4	64	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	456
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	3	219	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	22	1	19	145	-	3	4	-	-	CW	-	-	-	3	-	-	7
-	117	1	5	10	7	2	-	-	17	-	27	-	302	2	31	-	30
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	5	15	7	12	20	9	-	-	4	2	-	2	1	16	4	2	-
11	275	107	76	125	286	151	134	2	124	262	42	83	407	103	49	71	225
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	21	13	38	-	21	CW	2	-	2	16	-	-	9	1	4	-
91	201	134	138	76	212	114	143	29	133	308	46	64	174	147	160	92	274
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
320	428	285	279	95	725	78	656	62	250	650	169	179	347	101	305	713	376
56	87	63	49	81	81	50	80	30	66	68	58	53	77	74	47	55	96
7887	15852	5313	4435	8752	15295	3337	8287	721	9106	33183	2913	4444	22230	4694	3054	16367	128680
47	113	51.5	45	65	90	37	52	9	238	176.5	60.25	49.25	104	73.5	29.75	76	128.5

**Number Species**  
**Number Individuals**  
**Party-hours**

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	209	150	-	-	1	5	-	-	227	-	-	1028	-	-	-	2
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Canada Goose	10888	623	517	74	1648	9530	540	280	7680	7971	13	2941	1098	394	3559	4621
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	8	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	3
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	2
Wood Duck	2	-	-	-	1	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	7	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	19	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
American Black Duck	40	31	21	-	68	49	15	-	202	33	39	40	2	10	2	89
Mallard	839	40	348	-	234	940	518	25	515	353	239	239	469	119	225	1074
Northern Shoveler	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Pintail	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	15	6	-	-	2	-	CW	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	7	-	1	-	-	1	5	-	13	6	-	-	-	-	3	12
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	3	-	1	-	-	-	1
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	8	-	-	-	-	1	34	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	1
Common Goldeneye	11	-	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	25	CW	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	6	-	-	-	17	15	102	-	5	9	72	43	-	-	4	45
Common Merganser	1030	79	-	-	109	119	148	-	-	15	14	32	34	-	121	20
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	1	-	-	1	6	-	9	-	-	-	4	-	4	20
Ring-necked Pheasant	7	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	4	3	7	-	2
Ruffed Grouse	-	3	-	4	3	-	5	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	-	-
Wild Turkey	3	3	5	144	409	102	36	20	-	-	69	30	10	-	-	14
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	CW	1	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	15	6	5	-	-	4	3	1	22	20	-	3	3	4	7	11
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	160	-	4	-	-	24	-	-	168	112	-	-	-	13	23	22
Turkey Vulture	185	-	-	-	-	345	-	-	278	177	-	CW	CW	-	24	119
Bald Eagle	78	16	1	1	20	1	22	-	9	17	26	4	1	3	-	3
Northern Harrier	2	7	-	-	11	2	-	-	2	4	4	3	5	8	1	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12	1	1	2	2	5	5	1	8	10	4	4	2	3	3	3
Cooper's Hawk	12	1	2	-	4	12	8	4	12	13	1	1	1	3	1	6
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	4	1	1	2	1	2	-	8
Red-tailed Hawk	71	59	62	4	53	95	24	5	114	106	21	49	55	82	28	79

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
Rough-legged Hawk	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	20	6	11	-	2	7	-	-	17	2	3	2	13	38	1	11
Merlin	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Peregrine Falcon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	1	-	9	-	-	3	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	5
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	5	-	2	-	-	-	4	4	3	2	-	3	7	-	-	3
Wilson's Snipe	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	24412	1	-	-	764	305	-	-	1409	103	956	33	-	111	82	525
Herring Gull	139	12	-	-	44	-	-	-	238	-	316	5	-	27	-	-
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	57	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	18	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Rock Pigeon	1135	527	873	19	254	177	639	22	630	217	62	80	592	430	124	578
Mourning Dove	633	421	380	21	168	712	499	156	824	361	38	324	114	296	309	458
Barn Owl	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	56	1	15	1	12	237	3	-	47	47	-	15	11	8	3	1
Great Horned Owl	9	5	5	2	1	24	CW	-	8	7	-	11	3	7	3	4
Barred Owl	1	2	-	3	-	1	2	-	1	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
Long-eared Owl	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	25	2	12	-	3	11	7	-	16	7	2	2	6	3	7	11
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Red-bellied Woodpecker	194	31	45	3	26	155	33	38	114	88	7	21	26	42	55	55
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	34	1	8	-	12	20	-	5	14	25	-	6	11	2	18	13
Downy Woodpecker	151	42	64	16	59	162	80	37	124	128	17	35	58	56	78	76
Hairy Woodpecker	29	15	18	14	17	36	40	9	33	17	12	8	18	6	18	12
Yellow-shafted Flicker	111	11	12	-	7	64	2	14	64	33	-	11	16	11	18	34
Pileated Woodpecker	25	14	14	3	12	9	9	4	6	10	6	6	20	6	2	5
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	199	113	252	21	155	386	328	116	141	95	94	101	125	138	117	112
American Crow	746	421	1278	52	1529	810	202	76	928	753	247	683	840	648	56	429
Fish Crow	4	-	6	-	2	2	-	-	60	8	-	-	39	2	-	72
Common Raven	-	14	9	2	14	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	14	3	-	3
Horned Lark	480	30	51	-	20	-	-	-	330	-	-	78	-	188	-	25
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	359	-	-	-	-	297	-	78	351	327	-	-	-	-	205	203
Black-capped Chickadee	37	369	282	86	218	386	496	56	39	7	202	205	213	-	8	4
chickadee sp.	13	-	-	-	-	188	-	5	42	-	-	-	-	157	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	256	101	125	28	96	360	100	76	209	217	63	53	141	132	80	121
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8	4	1	-	2	2	10	11	2	13	-	4	2	2	CW	12
White-breasted Nuthatch	158	78	107	23	67	154	110	40	147	121	46	28	64	61	82	62
Brown Creeper	45	16	2	1	14	6	1	1	9	5	2	4	6	12	3	5
Carolina Wren	148	45	33	-	27	125	6	10	121	96	4	26	29	53	51	52

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	30	1	2	-	-	15	-	-	11	8	-	-	1	-	11	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	83	30	25	-	20	35	14	3	19	27	2	35	20	46	5	13
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	-	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	1	2
Eastern Bluebird	292	117	86	-	88	198	2	2	202	181	27	162	117	77	1	156
Hermit Thrush	22	1	3	-	1	2	-	-	6	8	1	3	1	2	1	4
American Robin	82	19	30	-	4	249	13	97	58	1198	1	45	129	5	308	50
Gray Catbird	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Northern Mockingbird	141	2	44	-	3	138	-	3	167	100	-	30	15	57	28	90
Brown Thrasher	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	4101	1188	1698	16	1178	2548	680	228	8332	6595	472	484	1335	1565	1109	1691
American Pipit	471	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	30	40	208	8	26	17	3	13	3	73	1	10	12	2	4	67
Myrtle Warbler	16	-	2	-	2	28	-	-	16	6	-	-	1	-	2	25
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	17	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	7	3	-	1	-	3	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	13	101	104	12	167	23	153	7	58	18	7	193	122	142	-	20
Chipping Sparrow	3	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	1
Field Sparrow	11	-	1	-	2	15	1	-	21	19	-	5	1	19	3	9
Savannah Sparrow	2	-	-	-	4	9	-	-	5	3	-	CW	-	-	-	1
Fox Sparrow	10	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	5	5	-	3	CW	-	6	4
Song Sparrow	678	25	22	1	58	230	11	30	397	337	-	75	36	94	89	140
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Swamp Sparrow	36	-	6	-	4	17	-	-	13	18	-	5	1	2	-	4
White-throated Sparrow	1516	35	211	6	116	466	17	14	665	539	-	223	84	221	449	311
White-crowned Sparrow	136	-	7	-	-	65	14	1	148	16	-	8	-	21	-	34
Slate-colored Junco	1431	311	818	25	574	1358	470	192	1015	813	119	952	635	823	325	559
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	530	77	146	11	147	463	134	123	347	349	17	126	197	131	188	221
Red-winged Blackbird	100171	3	2	1	-	4	-	3	25044	2279	-	11	-	-	20	42
Eastern Meadowlark	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	7	-	10	-	-	14	-	-	3	-	-	4	-	7	-	7
Brewer's Blackbird	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	257799	-	2	-	-	15	-	-	14486	251	-	CW	-	229	1	16
Brown-headed Cowbird	25245	-	-	-	1	58	9	-	6049	2	-	-	5	75	-	12
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	8	-	7	11	-	2	1	12	-	1	5	3	9	-	5	1
House Finch	327	72	312	-	82	367	101	76	302	369	13	61	104	84	137	68
Common Redpoll	-	61	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	3	63	10	4	2	-	2	-	3	-	-	6	20	1	-	-
American Goldfinch	237	133	124	43	138	73	137	88	208	143	45	69	198	60	163	63
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	562	226	373	12	271	214	238	255	419	43	72	56	145	286	276	99
<b>Number Species</b>	100	58	67	36	62	87	65	46	92	78	46	76	65	69	62	84
<b>Number Individuals</b>	447231	5808	8848	676	8238	22808	6406	2255	73243	25216	3393	8760	7271	7149	8466	12777
<b>Party-hours</b>	140	49.5	101	3	76	119.75	119.75	14.5	128.25	125.25	31	49	68	48.5	54.5	82

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT	SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT	SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT
Gr. White-fronted Goose	6	1	6	READ	Rough-legged Hawk	44	25	5	CLRN	House Wren	2	2	1	PISH,SBCK
Snow Goose	26118	19	15501	BETH	Golden Eagle	4	4	1	**2	Winter Wren	240	44	30	SLAN
Ross's Goose	1	1	1	WILD	American Kestrel	820	62	77	LWBG	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1643	67	99	LWST
Cackling Goose	25	10	10	SBCK	Merlin	40	26	4	BETH,LEHI	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	76	28	8	SLAN
Canada Goose	181842	67	18786	SBCK	Peregrine Falcon	34	13	6	SBCK	Eastern Bluebird	6284	68	303	LWBG
Mute Swan	161	28	30	SBCK	Prairie Falcon	1	1	1	NEWV	Hermit Thrush	178	44	22	SLAN
Trumpeter Swan	1	1	1	ERIE	American Coot	662	27	269	ERIE	American Robin	19804	66	5744	BUTL
Tundra Swan	1055	14	290	LITI	Sandhill Crane	1	1	1	LINE	Gray Catbird	17	14	2	**3
Wood Duck	173	19	106	LANC	Killdeer	149	31	18	LWST,SBCK	Northern Mockingbird	2977	61	173	CHAM
Gadwall	213	11	99	SBCK	Wilson's Snipe	94	22	21	LWST	Brown Thrasher	9	8	2	SLAN
American Wigeon	81	15	22	HARR	American Woodcock	2	2	1	DALL,DELA	European Starling	165116	70	10823	LEHI
American Black Duck	2947	57	410	LITI	Laughing Gull	1	1	1	HARR	American Pipit	1063	19	471	SLAN
Mallard	26642	68	2454	READ	Ring-billed Gull	56039	43	24412	SLAN	Cedar Waxwing	2321	58	208	STAT
Northern Shoveler	33	6	14	LITI	Herring Gull	83860	32	80670	SBCK	Myrtle Warbler	414	41	56	ERIE
Northern Pintail	50	18	22	LITI	Thayer's Gull	2	2	1	ERIE,SBCK	Yellow-throated Warbler	1	1	1	BERN
Green-winged Teal	82	17	15	DELA,WCHE	Iceland Gull	17	2	16	SBCK	Pine Warbler	6	4	3	DELA
Canvasback	319	5	185	ERIE	Lsr. Black-backed Gull	522	10	357	SBCK	Palm Warbler	3	3	1	**4
Redhead	130	10	113	ERIE	Glaucous Gull	4	2	3	SBCK	Common Yellowthroat	3	2	2	CURT
Ring-necked Duck	328	23	70	DALL	Gr. Black-backed Gull	1868	16	1361	SBCK	Yellow-breasted Chat	1	1	1	LITI
Greater Scaup	123	8	103	ERIE	Rock Pigeon	32777	69	2034	LWST	Eastern Towhee	135	30	22	READ
Lesser Scaup	170	16	76	SBCK	Mourning Dove	27347	70	1798	CHAM	American Tree Sparrow	6257	67	746	BUTL
Harlequin Duck	1	1	1	HUNT	Barn Owl	9	5	4	LWBG	Chipping Sparrow	50	12	14	CHAM
Surf Scoter	1	1	1	ERIE	Eastern Screech-Owl	939	58	237	UBCK	Field Sparrow	416	54	37	DELA
White-winged Scoter	1	1	1	ERIE	Great Horned Owl	419	59	28	HARR	Savannah Sparrow	103	17	15	DELA
Long-tailed Duck	10	5	3	DALL,ERIE	Barred Owl	46	30	4	PITT	Fox Sparrow	107	31	15	DELA
Bufflehead	495	23	101	AUDU,SBCK	Long-eared Owl	22	13	4	ELVE	Song Sparrow	8314	67	678	SLAN
Common Goldeneye	228	13	70	ERIE	Short-eared Owl	9	8	2	WSCH	Lincoln's Sparrow	2	2	1	LEHI,WYNC
Hooded Merganser	967	38	272	SBCK	Northern Saw-whet Owl	26	16	4	DALL	Swamp Sparrow	318	49	36	SLAN
Common Merganser	7006	44	3177	SBCK	Rufous Hummingbird	1	1	1	SBCK	White-throated Sparrow	19062	69	1700	LEHI
Red-breasted Merganser	53	7	39	ERIE	Belted Kingfisher	536	62	28	BETH	White-crowned Sparrow	1944	50	268	LWST
Ruddy Duck	375	25	53	SBCK	Red-headed Woodpecker	58	11	27	GETT	Slate-colored Junco	49068	70	2555	LEHI
Ring-necked Pheasant	159	32	47	CULP	Red-bellied Woodpecker	4071	70	194	SLAN	Lapland Longspur	1	1	1	LINE
Ruffed Grouse	105	27	25	EMPO	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	510	57	34	SLAN	Snow Bunting	1018	12	400	HAMB
Wild Turkey	3971	61	409	TUNK	Downy Woodpecker	5447	70	214	LEHI	Northern Cardinal	16075	70	923	LITI
Northern Bobwhite	5	1	5	HARR	Hairy Woodpecker	1244	69	48	LWST	Red-winged Blackbird	129384	35	100171	SLAN
Common Loon	12	7	4	WEST	Yellow-shafted Flicker	1562	64	111	SLAN	Eastern Meadowlark	43	14	13	CURT
Pied-billed Grebe	35	12	8	WARR	Pileated Woodpecker	731	69	52	LWST	Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	1	1	SLAN
Horned Grebe	11	5	5	JOHN	Eastern Phoebe	12	10	3	CHAM	Rusty Blackbird	368	24	219	NEWV
Red-necked Grebe	1	1	1	UBCK	Northern Shrike	12	10	2	CLRN,LINE	Brewer's Blackbird	8	2	7	YORK
Double-cr. Cormorant	54	6	29	SBCK	Blue Jay	13105	70	408	PITT	Common Grackle	273501	29	257799	SLAN
Great Cormorant	30	2	23	PENN	American Crow	94967	70	15120	PITT	Brown-headed Cowbird	32372	44	25245	SLAN
Great Blue Heron	840	61	78	NEWV	Fish Crow	7177	29	5977	SBCK	Baltimore Oriole	1	1	1	CBCK
Great Egret	1	1	1	PISH	Common Raven	311	44	28	EMPO,NLCO	Purple Finch	502	52	89	INDI
Black-cr. Night-Heron	1	1	1	NEWV	Horned Lark	5960	44	628	READ	House Finch	10535	69	620	LEHI
Black Vulture	1689	33	191	DELA	N. Rough-winged Swallow	75	1	75	PENN	Common Redpoll	71	5	61	SEBR
Turkey Vulture	2896	33	345	UBCK	Carolina Chickadee	5314	33	490	DELA	Pine Siskin	550	41	63	SEBR
Bald Eagle	415	49	78	SLAN	Black-capped Chickadee	12126	66	582	LEHI	American Goldfinch	9503	70	330	CHAM
Northern Harrier	168	48	23	NEWV	chickadee sp.	3296	27	367	PISH	Evening Grosbeak	2	2	1	THOM,WARR
Sharp-shinned Hawk	286	60	16	DELA	Tufted Titmouse	10984	70	472	LEHI	House Sparrow	21092	70	1325	CHAM
Cooper's Hawk	433	63	23	CBCK,DELA	Red-breasted Nuthatch	315	58	19	CHAM	<b>Number Species</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>HARR,SLAN</b>
Northern Goshawk	12	9	2	**1	White-breasted Nuthatch	6107	70	235	LEHI	<b>Number Individuals</b>	<b>1443961</b>	<b>447231</b>	<b>447231</b>	<b>SLAN</b>
Red-shouldered Hawk	142	38	20	GETT	Brown Creeper	561	65	45	SLAN	<b>Party-hours</b>	<b>5336</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>PISH</b>
Red-tailed Hawk	3825	70	166	LWST	Carolina Wren	3603	68	190	LWST					

\*\*1: CHAM,LANC,LEBA

\*\*3: DELA,SLAN,YORK

\*\*4: HARR,SBCK,YORK

# The 2011 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania

## Greg Grove

The 11th Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) was conducted from 15 January through 20 February 2011, with routes run in 64 of the state's 67 counties. WRS is a roadside survey with simple but specific guidelines. All raptors and vultures are recorded, with data collected on sex/age/morph. Cumulative county-by-county results from 2001-2007 were summarized previously (Grove 2010a).

### Effort and Weather

In 2011, 162 routes were conducted, comprising 573 hours of observation covering 9000 miles, both values the highest ever. Despite difficult weather again this year, nearly all established routes were run with several new added. Comparisons across years or between counties have been standardized to birds per hour.

The winter of 2010-11 was harsh, more so for consistently cold temperatures than for heavy snow. The worst of the season occurred in December, before the beginning of the WRS period; this included the biggest single snowstorm, which especially affected eastern counties. At State College, January temperatures averaged 2°F below normal, in February 2°F above. The difficult conditions of December may have driven higher numbers of some species farther south, thus contributing to low counts of Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, and American Kestrels, despite the record high observation hours.

A new feature this year is the creation of a map of Pennsylvania showing most WRS routes, available on the internet. Clicking on a county shows each route in detail along with additional information about that route, including the compiler. This map can be accessed through the Projects/WRS link at the the PSO website <[www.pabirds.org](http://www.pabirds.org)> or directly <[http://www.pabirds.org/WRS/WRS\\_Map.html](http://www.pabirds.org/WRS/WRS_Map.html)>. Frank Haas suggested and created this excellent feature.

### 2011 Results

*Red-tailed Hawk.* As always, Red-tailed Hawks were the most abundant raptor (Table 1); however this was a low year for this iconic Pennsylvania bird. After a record count in 2010, this year's total

of 2162 was the lowest since 2004. The detection rate of 3.77 was the second lowest ever; only 2003 had a lower rate (Fig 1). Of 1590 Red-tails aged, 143 (9.0%) were immature, at the low end of the range from 2001-10 of 9-16%.

Despite below-average numbers, Red-tails were nevertheless found fairly readily throughout most of the state. However, more than usual, they were concentrated in counties of the Susquehanna River basin and in the southeast. Of the 64 counties from which reports were received, Red-tails were tallied in all but heavily forested Cameron; numbers were also typically low in other counties in the heart of the north-central forest region (Fig 2).

The highest Red-tail totals came from Lancaster (192), Indiana (110), Perry (107), and Centre (98). Among counties with at least six hours of effort, Juniata had the highest hourly rate at 8.1, followed by Lancaster (7.4) and Lawrence (7.1) Cumberland (6.5), Dauphin (6.3), and Perry (6.2).

*American Kestrel.* A total of 401 American Kestrels were counted, the fewest since 2004. The overall hourly rate across the state was 0.70, second lowest only to the rate of 0.52 in 2004. As was the case in 2004, the winter of 2011 was colder than normal, with persistent snow cover throughout most of the WRS period, perhaps sending more Kestrels south than usual or negatively affecting survival.

Again the greatest concentration of wintering Kestrels was in the counties of the central and lower Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers (Fig 2). Leading county totals were Juniata (32), Huntingdon (26), Perry (24), Snyder (23), and Cumberland (22). In counties with at least six hours of effort, Juniata, Union, Cumberland, and Snyder averaged at least two per hour. Of 313 Kestrels sexed, 201 (64 %) were males, consistent with previous years (range: 59-66%).

I've been tracking kestrels separately in six southeastern counties (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton) due to declining numbers there, a trend evident during the 11 years of WRS (Table 2). This winter, the collective Kestrel count in those counties was lower than ever, a total of only 12 in 64.25 hours of effort, a rate of 0.19 per

hour, compared to 0.76 in the remainder of the state (Fig 1).

**Table 1. Pennsylvania WRS Species Counts for 2011 and High Counts from 2001-2011.**

Species	2011	High Count
Bald Eagle	79	81 (2006)
Northern Harrier	65	133 (2008)
Sh-shinned Hawk	31	55 (2009)
Cooper's Hawk	95	95 (2011)
Northern Goshawk	0	5 (2004)
Red-sh. Hawk	46	46 (2011)
Red-tailed Hawk	2162	2665 (2010)
Rough-legged Hawk	195	341 (2004)
Golden Eagle	2	4 (2009)
American Kestrel	401	511 (2007)
Merlin	7	7 (2011)
Peregrine Falcon	11	11 (2011)
Black Vulture	727	826 (2009)
Turkey Vulture	1698	1863 (2006)
Northern Shrike	2	7 (2007)
Hours	573	573 (2011)
Miles	9000	9000 (2011)

*Rough-legged Hawk.* While Red-tails and Kestrels were down, the opposite was true for Rough-legged Hawks. The total of 195 was the third highest ever, as was the rate of 0.34/hr, lower only than in 2004 and 2005. Of 188 birds identified by color morph, 132 (70%) were light (2001-10 range = 60-78%).

As is often the case, it seemed the winter season was well along before many Rough-legs moved into the state (Grove 2010). On Pennsylvania's CBCs (14 Dec to 5 Jan), 43 Rough-legs were counted, merely average for the past decade (Bolgiano, in press). However, in mid-January, at approximately the beginning of the WRS period, there was a notable increase in Rough-leg reports on the PABIRDS listserv, a trend that continued until mid-February when, coincident with a period of warm weather, a few observers noted that Rough-legs had suddenly become harder to find, presumably spurred by the weather to start north.

They were especially numerous in central Pennsylvania, essentially the upper and central Susquehanna basin, where the open fields presumably provide the best hunting grounds in the state (Fig 2). A single route in Perry produced an astonishing 25 Rough-legs, an all-time WRS record. The routes in Centre collectively tallied 25 Rough-legs, due in part to lots of coverage but also, as usual, the Penns Valley route of eastern Centre was a hotspot with 13 this year. Huntingdon, Lycoming, Snyder, and Juniata also reached

double-digit totals among central counties. Further west, the grasslands of Clarion produced 15 Rough-legs. Along the northern tier, hours were lower and data thinner, but some counties, notably Susquehanna, Tioga and Warren, had good hourly rates.

*Northern Harrier.* After increasing from 2006-2008, the Northern Harrier count has declined each year since. The rate of 0.11 was the lowest since 2003 (Fig 1) and the total of 65 was the lowest since the stabilization of hours of effort beginning in 2004. Even with the low count, it is evident again that harriers favor the central Susquehanna farmland region with its combination of relatively mild weather and substantial tracts of undeveloped land (Fig 2).

The increasing number of harriers on WRS routes through 2008 coincided with the expansion of set-aside acres as part of CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program). Analysis has shown the harrier's increase is linked to the acreage and location of CREP lands (Wilson et al. 2010). Of course, annual weather variation is also likely to affect the number of wintering harriers. The decrease since 2008 may reflect the rather cold and snowy condition of the past three winters—persistent snow cover presumably negatively affects hunting prospects for

these small-mammal specialists. The factors that dictate the size of the wintering population of a migratory species like Northern Harrier represent a complex interplay between habitat quality, snow conditions, prey availability, and reproductive success of the previous breeding season.

*Vultures.* Numbers and hourly rates of both vultures were similar to recent years, with no indication of a negative effect of the cold December weather. As usual, the biggest numbers came from the southeast: Lancaster lead the way with 483 Turkey Vultures and 115 Black Vultures. Lebanon tallied 243 Turkey Vultures, and 106 Black Vultures were counted in Chester. A few Turkey Vultures were found outside their usual southeastern winter range in Centre, Greene, and Monroe; slightly out-of-range Black Vultures were in Bedford, Centre, Fayette, and Lycoming.

*Other raptors.* Though it was a down year for Red-tails, Kestrels, and Harriers, the opposite was true for several other raptors (Table 2). Record high counts were made for Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon. Slightly higher effort may partially explain the high numbers; however, with the possible

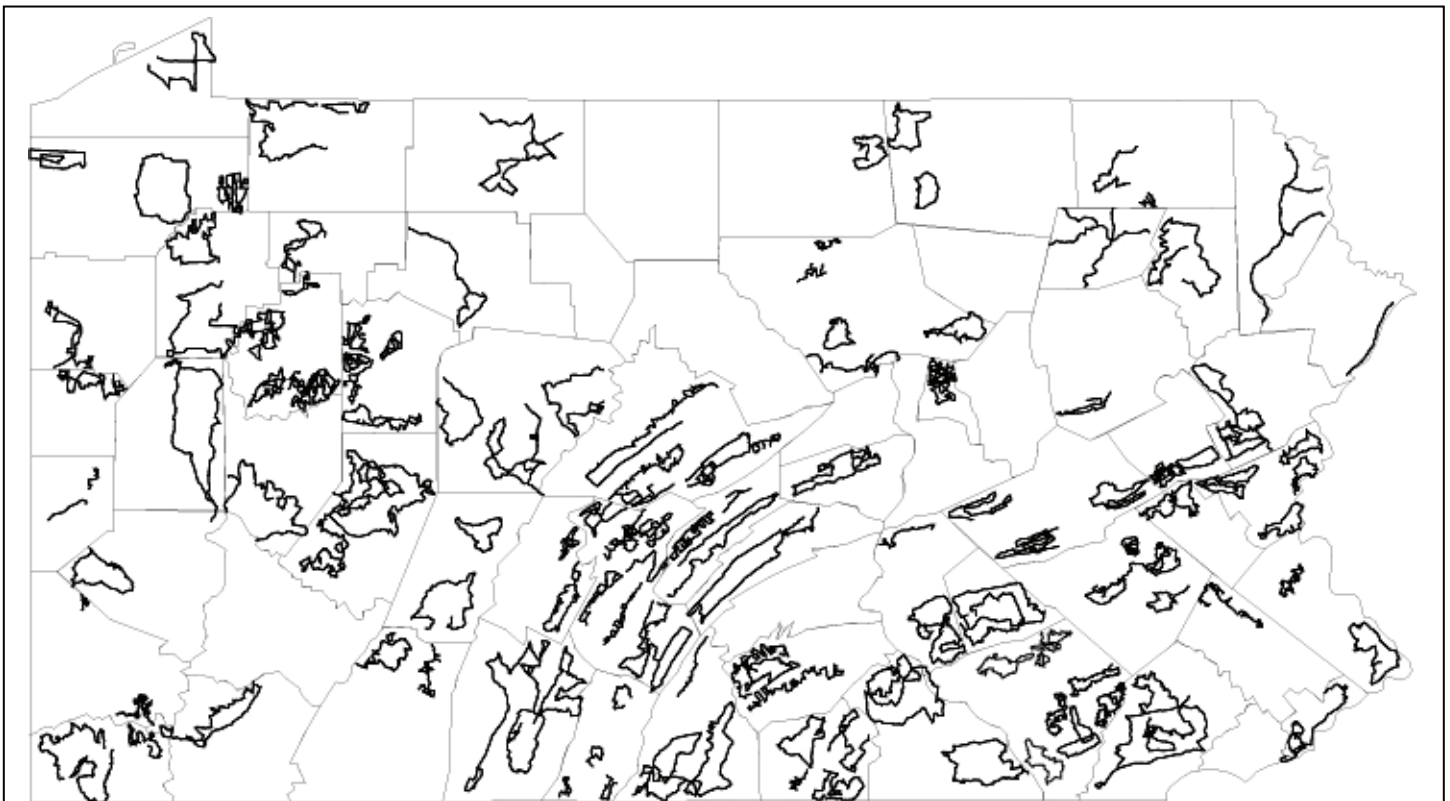
exception of Red-shoulders, these species all appear to be increasing. Bald Eagles of course are also increasing; this year just missed a WRS record high.

### Acknowledgements

I thank Nick Bolgiano for creation of Fig 1 and 2. Thanks are due to Frank Haas for generating the map showing WRS routes in each county. Of course, thanks go to the well over 100 birders and companions who gathered data across the state.

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Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey routes. See <[www.pabirds.org](http://www.pabirds.org)> for more information.

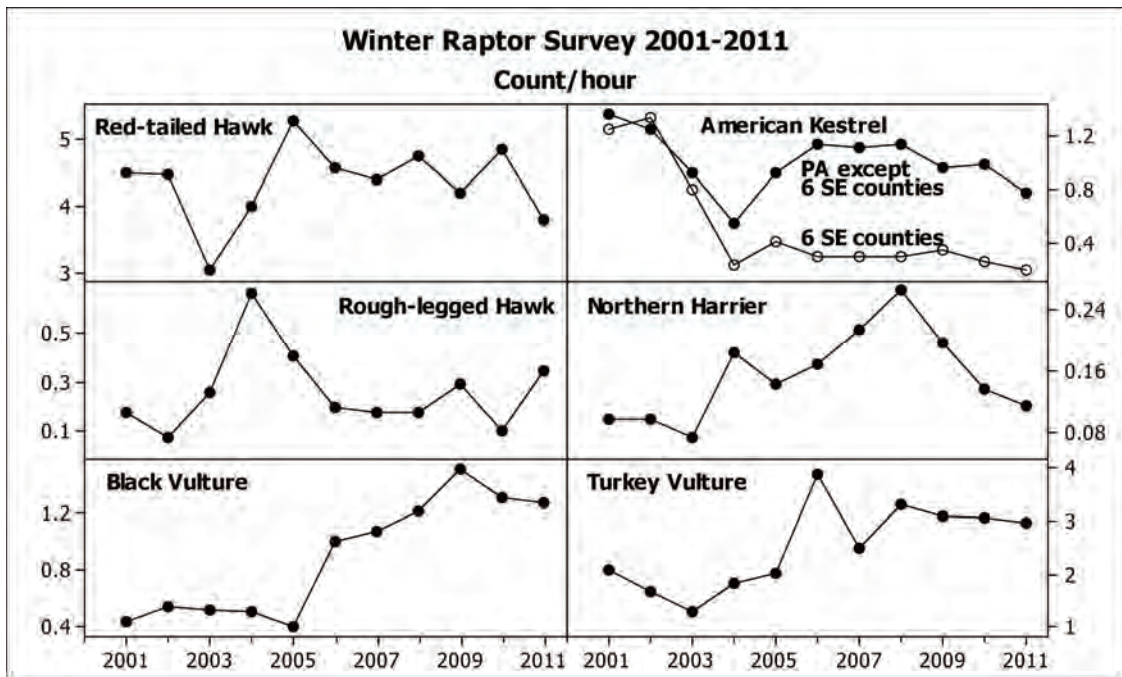


Figure 1. Pennsylvania WRS trends, 2001 – 2011. Results are expressed in birds/hour. American Kestrel results are shown for two portions of the state, the six southeastern counties including Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton.

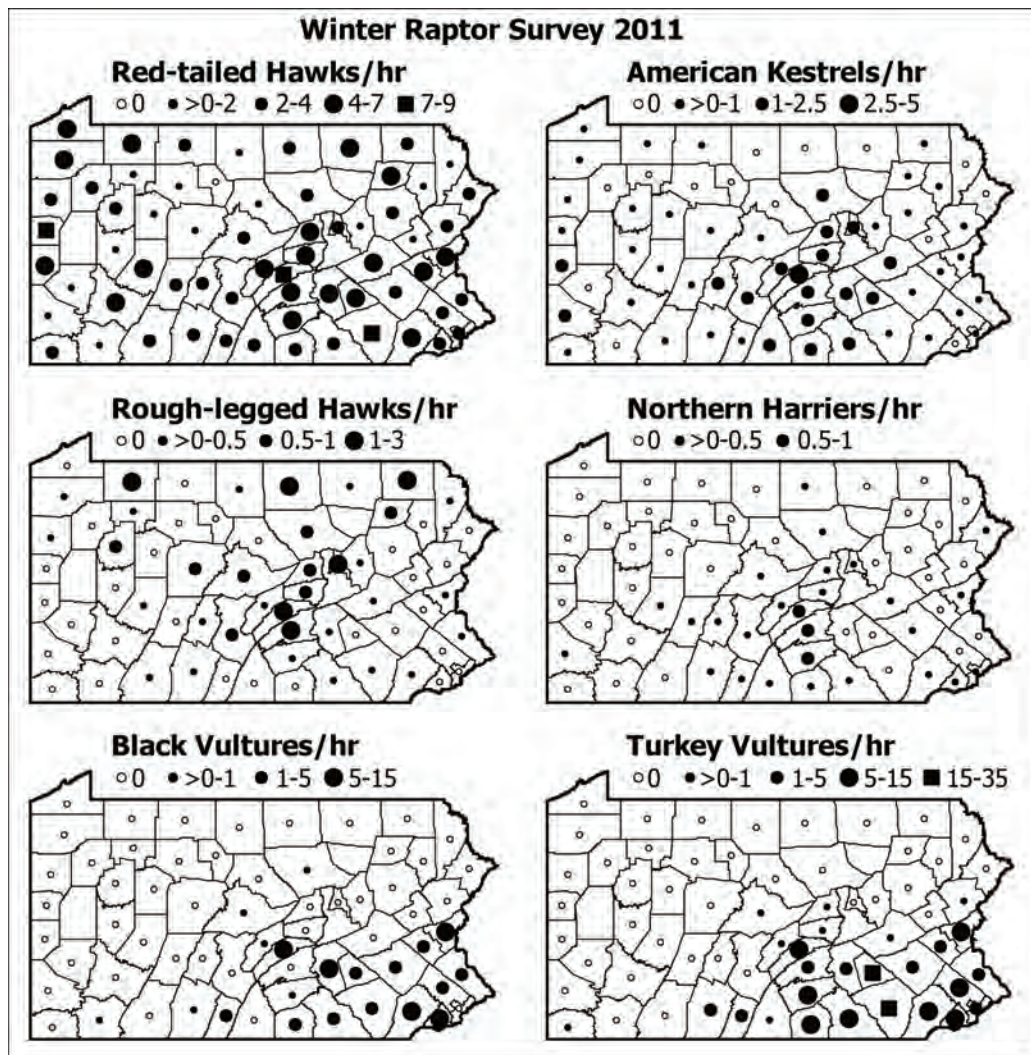


Figure 2. Pennsylvania 2011 WRS results. Data from all routes in a given county were combined and calculated as birds/hour.

2011 Winter Raptor Survey Results

County	Hours	Miles	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TV	BV
Adams	11.75	188	-	1	-	7	-	3	44	-	-	19	-	-	128	40
Allegheny	2.5	54	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Armstrong	4	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Beaver	2.75	21	3	-	1	1	-	-	16	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Bedford	11	228	-	3	-	2	-	-	29	1	-	9	-	-	14	2
Berks	15.75	227	1	1	-	5	-	1	62	-	-	4	-	-	48	42
Blair	6.5	122	1	1	-	2	-	-	14	2	-	9	-	-	-	-
Bradford	4.5	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bucks	10.25	108	4	-	1	1	-	3	30	1	-	2	-	1	43	22
Butler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambria	4.75	92	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cameron	2.25	64	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carbon	9	135	-	-	-	1	-	1	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Centre	27.25	350	2	3	-	3	-	1	98	25	-	11	-	-	7	1
Chester	14.75	347	3	1	4	2	-	2	68	2	-	2	-	-	180	106
Clarion	19.75	310	-	-	-	5	-	1	77	15	-	8	1	-	-	-
Clearfield	9	223	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	5	-	2	-	-	-	-
Clinton	6	128	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Columbia	2.75	59	3	-	-	1	-	-	4	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
Crawford	12.5	181	2	-	1	-	-	8	54	5	-	8	-	-	-	-
Cumberland	11.25	189	-	6	1	9	-	3	73	3	-	22	-	-	58	10
Dauphin	7.75	128	-	-	1	1	-	-	49	2	-	9	1	-	36	67
Delaware	10.25	168	4	1	2	1	-	2	38	-	-	-	1	2	97	60
Elk	4	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erie	1.5	55	2	-	-	5	-	-	9	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Fayette	10	188	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Forest	3.75	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Franklin	14.5	254	-	1	2	2	-	-	49	-	-	19	-	-	5	-
Fulton	4	45	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	-	1	2	-	-	8	9
Greene	9.25	164	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	3	-	-	1	-
Huntingdon	23.5	387	2	5	-	2	-	3	72	14	-	26	-	-	-	-
Indiana	22.75	282	-	1	-	3	-	1	110	1	-	14	-	-	-	-
Jefferson	13	177	-	-	-	1	-	1	23	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Juniata	7	110	4	6	1	2	-	1	57	10	-	32	-	-	80	86
Lackawana	7	98	2	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Lancaster	26	375	8	-	4	8	-	-	192	2	-	17	2	3	489	115
Lawrence	8	88	-	-	-	2	-	1	57	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	7	115	-	-	-	3	-	-	33	-	-	10	2	-	243	25
Lehigh	11	145	-	-	-	1	-	-	47	-	-	1	-	1	37	29
Luzerne	1.75	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Lycoming	14.5	183	1	2	1	5	-	-	47	11	-	15	-	-	-	2
McKean	2.5	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Mercer	9.25	125	3	-	-	-	-	2	33	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
Mifflin	14.75	161	1	3	2	-	-	1	59	6	-	16	-	-	1	10
Monroe	6.25	122	1	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Montgomery	4.75	54	2	-	1	-	-	-	13	-	-	4	-	-	25	7
Montour	7	114	-	3	-	-	-	-	15	9	-	7	-	-	-	-
Northampton	13.25	175	-	2	2	2	-	-	77	1	-	3	-	1	105	82
Northumberland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Perry	17.25	184	4	9	1	4	-	1	107	26	-	24	-	-	25	-
Philadelphia	4.5	64	1	2	1	-	-	-	13	-	-	1	-	-	5	-
Pike	5.5	31	13	2	1	-	-	-	16	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Potter	7	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Schuylkill	12.5	231	2	1	1	2	-	-	56	4	-	17	-	-	3	-
Snyder	11.75	202	1	3	-	2	-	-	60	11	-	23	-	-	2	-
Somerset	7.5	86	-	-	-	1	-	1	16	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Sullivan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Susquehanna	6.25	50	-	-	1	1	-	-	17	8	-	1	-	-	-	-
Tioga	3	40	-	1	1	-	-	-	11	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union	6	122	-	2	-	1	-	-	26	3	-	13	-	-	2	-
Venango	7.75	130	-	-	-	-	-	4	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warren	6.5	111	4	-	1	1	-	1	29	7	-	2	-	-	-	-
Washington	3	68	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Wayne	6	100	2	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westmoreland	4.75	72	-	-	-	1	-	1	25	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Wyoming	2.5	77	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
York	8.5	211	1	2	-	-	-	3	27	1	-	16	-	-	55	9
TOTAL	572.75	9000	79	65	31	95	-	46	2162	195	2	401	7	11	1698	727

# Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) in Montgomery County

## Cameron Rutt

For much of the American populace, my New Year's weekend would have seemed rather normal, groggily awakening around noon for a day of few activities. But checking my phone's voicemail quickly revealed otherwise. After listening to the contents twice, just to be sure the gears of my brain were in fact well-oiled, it still sounded like "Bullock's Oriole." Technologically behind-the-times, when I finally got back to Ben Davies in person and learned the details of the male Bullock's Oriole visiting his parents' property, I was not near a computer, nor could I access email over my phone. But hours later, after a bus trip back from New York City, there it was, the undeniable evidence filling the pixels of my computer screen.

Although I hadn't talked to Ben in years, he and I had attended school together dating all the way back to elementary school through to college. With a healthy interest in the entire natural world, Ben would be the first to admit he's not really a "birder." He and his wife Karah manage a community-supported agriculture (CSA) farming operation locally in Barto, Montgomery County. As it turned out, his parents had first noticed the oriole two days prior on 31 December, but word on their family's grapevine apparently travels slowly, as the news didn't reach him until 2 January. By the time I got back to Pennsylvania, however, my work was simple, since the bird had already been identified and documented (by Karah) with very identifiable photographs.

The Davies were happy to host visitors and exceedingly gracious, even supplying coffee, tea, and cookies to the birders who gathered the following morning! The only downfall, aside from the bird's relatively short stay (31

December 2010 to 5 January 2011), was a territorial Northern Mockingbird that targeted the oriole. The oriole's favorite haunts were a pair of apple trees that had been left unharvested, and it regularly attempted to feed on the rotten apples. The mockingbird made this task very difficult, consistently giving chase, and forcing the oriole away from the fruit of its labor. But unlike the mockingbird, the oriole also frequented the suet and seed feeders set up closer to the house.

At this time of year, Bullock's Orioles are typically in Mexico or as far south as the mountains of Guatemala (Rising and Williams 1999). If accepted by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC), this would become just the fourth record of Bullock's Oriole for the state, and only the second adult male (Table 1).

Until recently, this species has had a checkered past in Pennsylvania. Documented nine times, it has proven quite controversial, until two recent adult males (including this one). With females and immatures providing sticky identification issues, four of the five non-accepted Bullock's Orioles have received nearly 50/50 splits during PORC voting. Even the first two accepted records for the state had dissenting voters. Add to this the fact that Bullock's and Baltimore Orioles hybridize frequently in the Great Plains and you've got a real headache with female-plumaged birds (Rising and Williams 1999). Unfortunately, only adult male hybrids are readily identifiable (Sibley 2000).

As for the Montgomery County bird, the extensive pale fringing to the mantle and nape, and, to a lesser degree, crown and scapulars, is expected for an AHY/ASY male (After Hatch Year/After Second Year; a bird

born during or prior to summer 2009), which will lose this edging in the spring, leaving it with solid black upperparts. Adult Bullock's Orioles undergo a single complete molt each year (Definitive Prebasic molt) during the fall, without a Prealternate molt, thus wearing into their "summer attire" (Pyle 1997, Rising and Williams 1999). Finally, there was discussion about the bird's more "yellowy" and less "orangey" appearance. Apparently, this character is extremely variable, with individuals ranging from Baltimore Oriole-orange to lemon-yellow, with the variation at least partially attributable to diet (Rising and Williams 1999).

Thanks go to Nick Pulcinella for help in providing specifics about past Bullock's Orioles in Pennsylvania.

*PO Box 223  
Blooming Glen, PA 18911  
cameronrutt@gmail.com*

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*Editor's Note: Cameron Rutt penned this article shortly after the bird was believed to have departed on 5 January. He subsequently left the country on a research assignment and fell out of daily contact. But the bird reappeared later in the winter at a feeder in Montgomery County not far from the Davies', in a place that was not made public. It was periodically seen there through at least 27 March.*

County	Date	Acceptance	Age/Sex
Clarion	13-29 Dec 1990	No	Female
Berks	8-18 Jan 1994	Yes	Female
Northampton	12-13 Nov 1996	No	Female-type
Lancaster	27 Jan - 1 Feb 1997	No	Female
Lancaster	9 Jan - 5 Mar 2000	Yes	Female
Northampton	22 Oct 2001	No	Female-type
Northampton	11 Jan - 7 Apr 2006	No	Female
Juniata	23 Nov 2007 - 19 Jan 2008	Yes	Adult Male
Montgomery	31 Dec 2010 - 5 Jan 2011	Pending	Adult Male

**Table 1. Details of previously documented Bullock's Orioles assessed by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC). Note that sex is labeled female-type during the period of Hatch Year (HY) molt, after which HY males gain their distinctive black throat (Pyle 1997).**

# Pine Siskin Banding Recovery: State College to Seattle

## Nick Kerlin

The mass movement of Pine Siskins during the winter of 2008-2009 has been described by many superlatives, for example, "superflight". To this I can only add "once in a lifetime." Between 23 January and 26 April 2009, I banded 1009 Pine Siskins in our State College, Pennsylvania back yard. This is the highest number of any species I've banded in any of my 36 years of bird banding.

I generally banded between 8:00AM and 1:00PM, on 55 days during this 93-day period. On several days I banded over 60 birds in just a few hours. Had I banded on each of the 93 days, the total could have been well over 2000.

The birds were seemingly everywhere! Lower numbers on some days were followed by increased numbers, followed by numbers falling back down again for no apparent reason, evidence of the nomadic habits of this species. A "core" group of about 45 birds appeared to set up a feeding pattern in the local area, as evidenced by recaptures in our yard, and by other people reporting siskins with "shiny new bands" at their feeders. One observer was able to take some photos of banded birds and kindly forwarded them to me. I discovered that it is possible to read band numbers if enough photos are taken. The capabilities of digital cameras and photography software are wonderful!

Most amazing to me was the comparative fearlessness of these birds. Several times I was able to walk up to a feeder and simply pluck the bird from it, just like picking an apple!

Numerous observations of interest resulted from this banding. Most notable was the seemingly continual nomadic nature of these birds. Although I banded over 1,000 individuals, fewer than 12% were captured a second time or more. Birds seemed to feed briefly and then move on to parts unknown, never to return. There were exceptions, though: one siskin was caught seven times over a period of 39 days. Another was handled three times between 24 January and 26 April, a 92-day span.

A few birds were recovered varying distances from our residence. Two were found at other feeders within 0.5 and 15.5 miles from our home. Two others ventured much farther afield. A siskin banded 3 March 2009 was recovered four months later, 127 miles away in Springville, New York (28 miles southeast of Buffalo). But the champion distance traveler was a siskin I banded 6 April 2009 that was found over a year later (18 June 2010) near Hobart, Washington (approximately 21 miles southeast of Seattle). This is a straight line distance of 2208 miles from State College, and represents the furthest recovery of any bird I've banded.

This last recovery was mentioned in published findings of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project Feeder Watch in a piece regarding banded Pine Siskin movement during the invasion winter. Their review of 46 recoveries from over 31,000 siskins banded that winter revealed strong patterns of movement. Data suggest that birds that had moved into the south central and southeastern United States originated in and returned to the north central regions of North America. Those present in the northeast were from the western United States and western Canada. View the full report here: <<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/News/siskins.html>>.

These findings bring forth further questions: Where else did these birds wander? Did they follow the spruce forests on their way west or make a more direct flight? Did they breed along the way? Banding recoveries reveal only a tiny but unique glimpse into the fascinating lives of these amazing creatures.

### Acknowledgments

Thanks to all the observers in the Centre County area that reported siskins to me and sent photos (37 people, 69 different reports). A special thanks to my wife Donna who put up with my siskin obsession for all those weeks. ("You're going out again?" only to be followed later by, "How many this time?")

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520 Ridge Avenue  
State College, PA 16803  
[bluebird6771@verizon.net](mailto:bluebird6771@verizon.net)



Twelve Pine Siskins in mist net, ready for banding. State College, Center County, winter 2009. (Nick Kerlin)

# Summary of the Season

## Greg Grove

For the third consecutive winter, weather in Pennsylvania was colder and snowier than average for recent decades, but the weather did not keep birders indoors. The PABIRDS listserv was constantly active and hundreds of field trips were entered into the eBird database. I received reports from 53 counties, the most in my five years of compiling the winter season sightings. For the first time, I have included reports made to eBird but not included in any county summary. My search of eBird was from far from exhaustive and not particularly systematic, but it's a start at utilizing this resource.

Much of the state, especially the eastern half, suffered less snow than in the previous winter; however, beginning in December prolonged cold dominated and continued almost without break through mid-February. At State College, December and January temperatures averaged 5 and 2 degrees Fahrenheit below normal, respectively, whereas February was 2 degrees above. Although there was less snow than last year, there were nevertheless a few substantial storms of both snow and ice. Much of what fell remained on the ground and most of the state was covered by some combination of snow and ice for most of the season. In *Monroe*, these conditions were blamed for ten **Eastern Screech Owls** brought to a rehabilitator in a condition of starvation.

Among highlights of the season was the continued presence of the state's first documented **Anna's Hummingbird**, which stayed in *Berks* in apparent good health, departing in mid-March. Also of note were a **Barnacle Goose** in *Montgomery*, **Harlequin Ducks** in *Huntingdon* and *Northampton*, a **Gyr Falcon** that cruised by the Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch in early December, and the return yet again this winter of **Prairie Falcon** and **Least Sandpiper** to *Cumberland*. The most notable raptor trend of the season was the best incursion of **Rough-legged Hawks** since 2005. It was not a big year for winter finches, but a modest number of **Common Redpolls**, with an occasional **Hoary** mixed in, provided a taste of the north for those lucky enough to host them at their feeders.

With the arrival of warmer weather in mid-February, waterfowl

migration got underway on time. A **Barnacle Goose** was photographed in *Montgomery* in late February. This species has been granted legitimate status in Pennsylvania in that sightings are no longer automatically presumed to be escapees or feral birds. **Greater White-fronted Goose** and **Ross's Goose** are not quite as novel as they once were, at least not in the southeast. The former were reported from six southeastern counties, with a flock of ten staying at Lake Ontelaunee in *Berks* from mid-December to mid-January. Seven counties hosted **Ross's Geese**, including *Allegheny* and *Crawford* in the west. **Snow Geese** returned in numbers just after mid-February. A count of 55,000 was made at Middle Creek WMA 2/20. Large numbers were noted passing over *Dauphin* beginning 2/19. More so than in most years, western counties got a share of the **Snow Goose** passage as noted by compilers in *Allegheny* and *Lawrence*, where flocks of 46 and 26, respectively, were seen 2/27.

Pennsylvania birders should be studying up on differentiating swan species, and I don't mean separating **Mute Swans** from **Tundra Swans**. **Trumpeter Swans** are now to be expected annually. This winter, they were reported from four counties, all central or west. Two in *Clinton* were originally tagged near Toronto; birds in *Butler*, *Erie* and *Huntingdon* were not tagged. With the success of re-introduction (or maybe just introduction) programs in a number of states and provinces, we can expect more here, perhaps even breeding someday. Whether they belong in the east or not, like other big birds that present an easy target, they will draw attention from people who do not know how to responsibly use guns. A dead **Trumpeter Swan** was found along the Juniata River in *Huntingdon* in February, apparently from a shotgun blast. This was the first county record, tragic as it was. But it was followed just five days later by discovery of two live **Trumpeter Swans** near the town of Huntingdon.

Exceptional counts of duck species included 980 **Redheads** and 180 **Long-tailed Ducks** on Jerry McWilliams' Presque Isle water bird count in *Erie* 12/14. On Christmas day in *Berks*, 760 **American Black Ducks**

were counted on Lake Ontelaunee. On the Delaware River, 275 **Canvasbacks** were assembled 2/17, albeit on the New Jersey side. On the Southern Bucks CBC, 12/18, the count of 3177 **Common Mergansers** was about five times the average. The compiler speculated that many had been driven south earlier than usual by the very cold start of the season earlier in December. There were 400 **Hooded Mergansers** at Pymatuning in *Crawford* 12/4.

Scoter reports were about average, with **White-winged** showing up in ten counties and the scarcer **Surf** and **Black** in two and three respectively. *Allegheny* was the only county to host all three. The count of 650 **Ruddy Ducks** at Tinicum 12/2 was impressive and the best in recent years, but still far short of the average of 5000 on the local Glenholden CBC in decades past.

Among rare ducks, **Eurasian Wigeons** and **Harlequin Ducks** occur almost annually in the state. The only **Eurasian Wigeon** this season was in *Montgomery* in late February. The total of two **Harlequin Ducks** is probably above average. When **Harlequins** are found on rivers in Pennsylvania, they tend to stay for a while, as was the case this year. A male found on the Juniata River during the Huntingdon CBC 12/19 stayed until at least 2/1, providing the second county record—quite good for a central mountain county. The other **Harlequin**, also a male, was content for two months on the Delaware in *Northampton*.

**Red-necked Grebes** were reported in five eastern counties, about average, excepting the rare invasion years. With the exception of a few in *Bucks* in December, the other reports were all from mid- to late February. With the extended cold and reports of Lake Erie freezing over, we might have expected more, but there was no sign of an invasion. Red-throated Loons went unreported this winter. **Great Cormorants** were present as usual on the lower Delaware River with a high count of 32 on the *Philadelphia* mid-winter census 1/8.

Reports of herons and egrets, other than the hardy **Great Blues**, were about average. Individual **Great Egrets** lingered until 12/11 in *Allegheny* and 12/12 in *Delaware*, and a **Green Heron** hung on in Lancaster

until 12/7. A **Black-crowned Heron** in *Cumberland* 1/2 was presumably still around from the fall. One in *Bucks* 2/13 may have been an early returnee, but there is a recent history of this species in *Bucks* in December and even mid-January, so it possible that a few may winter there.

As usual, Yellow Creek S.P. in *Indiana* hosted lots of **American Coots** in the fall, with 548 still there 12/7. **Sandhill Cranes** were reported from five western counties; the highest count was 40, in *Lawrence* as usual.

There are usually a few lingering **Ospreys** in early winter; this year two were in *Chester*, the latest on 12/11. **Bald Eagles**, of course, continue to increase in Pennsylvania. Some hawk watch sites had set all-time record highs by the end the fall watch season. Wintering concentrations are usually centered along the Delaware River and the lower Susquehanna. However, of note this year was a count of at least 37 **Bald Eagles** at the southern end of Lake Raystown in *Huntingdon* 2/27. Most were immature birds, perhaps concentrating there to take advantage of a fish kill at the lake.

Early in the winter, relatively few **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported, with CBC numbers no more than average for recent years (N. Bolgiano, per. comm.). However, just in time for the start of the Winter Raptor Surveys 1/15, there was a sharp increase in Rough-leg reports on PABIRDS. The incursion continued through mid-February, resulting in the third highest Rough-leg count in the 11 years of WRS, and highest since 2005. With the warming trend of the second half of February, the Rough-legs quickly began vacating the state. In contrast, WRS counts of **Red-tailed Hawks**, **Northern Harriers**, and **American Kestrels** were substantially below average. WRS details are presented elsewhere in this issue. The season's most outstanding raptor was the **Gyrfalcon** that flew past the Waggoner's Gap watch 12/6, the first seen there since 1986. The western *Cumberland* **Prairie Falcon** returned for at least the fifth straight winter.

Also returning to *Cumberland* for a remarkable sixth year was the **Least Sandpiper** which wintered again in the Big Spring area. It was seen with less regularity than in previous years—only six times—the latest 1/31. Did it make it through the winter? We will have to wait for another winter for a possible affirmative answer.

Other notable sandpipers included yellowlegs at both ends of the season. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** in *Bucks* was last seen 12/10, and a bird believed to be a **Greater Yellowlegs** in *Westmoreland* 2/27 was likely a very early migrant, as Greaters sometimes are. Less easily explained was a **Spotted Sandpiper** on the Delaware River in *Northampton* 2/11, either a wintering bird or an early migrant, but both explanations seem equally unlikely. More expected, but always exciting, were two **Purple Sandpipers** at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 12/2. A few **American Woodcocks** stayed into early winter, braving the cold of December: one was in *Delaware* 12/18, and another saw in the New Year in *Dauphin*, seen there 1/3. With the warmer weather in mid-February, woodcocks returned as well, displaying in *Bucks* and *Schuylkill* by 2/18 and in *Adams*, *Allegheny*, *Berks*, *Montgomery*, and even north to *Wyoming* by the last three days of the month.

Gull reports included **Little Gulls** in *Erie* 12/6 and *Cumberland* 1/19; **Laughing Gulls** in *Bucks*, *Dauphin*, and *Delaware*, all in December; **Thayer's Gulls** in *Bucks* and *Erie*; and **Glaucous Gulls** in *Buck's*, *Erie* and *Chester*. Check the *Bucks* summary for details of gull counts there on the three local CBCs.

It was bleak year for **Barn Owls**, reported from only six counties, mostly south-central, and mostly from CBCs. The most unusual report was of a **Barn Owl** apparently resting on a 20th floor ledge of a building in *Philadelphia* 2/16. Presumably the same owl was found two days later nearby and taken to a rehabilitator, where it died.

The most remarkable owl report of the season was the count of 237 **Eastern Screech Owls** on the Upper Bucks CBC 12/19, a result of the efforts of Devich Farbotnik, Holly Merker, and Kirk and Lois Moulton. **Short-eared** and **Long-eared Owls** were more numerous than in recent years, reported from about 21 and 18 counties respectively, mostly in the east and south, although Short-ears were also reported in *Allegheny*, *Butler*, *Lawrence* and *Mercer*. No Snowy Owls were reported this year.

Last year's "bird of the season" was the Allen's Hummingbird in *Lancaster*. This year, another hummingbird took that title, though the **Anna's Hummingbird** in *Berks* officially appeared in the fall season. It stayed through the entire winter and left in apparent good health in March, thanks

to its hosts in the Mountain Springs Mobile Home Park in Shartlesville. **Rufous Hummingbirds** were in *Adams* and *Montgomery* through early December; one in *Bucks* stayed to 1/22. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** hung on in *Chester* until 12/4.

At least 24 **Northern Shrikes** were tallied, similar to last year's count of 21. In general that is a pretty good number, but less than the 80 and 40 reported in the winters of 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. The shrikes were well distributed around the state as follows: Southeast (5), Northeast (2), Ridge and Valley (6), Allegheny Plateau (5), Far West (5).

Among the half-hardies, a few **Eastern Phoebes** lasted at least into January, noted in *Philadelphia* 1/8 and *Delaware* 1/19. One in *Allegheny* wintered, last seen 2/19, and one returned early to *Washington* 2/28. At least six **Gray Catbirds** were reported after the end of the CBC period, all in January. Most were in the southeast as expected except the one brave (or foolish) catbird still in *Erie* 1/31. A few of their mimic cousins, **Brown Thrashers**, also lingered post-CBC, with one in *Delaware* all season, one in *Montgomery* until at least 1/22 and two seen in *Cumberland* 2/9.

A **Tree Swallow** in *Chester* in early January this year was remarkable, but one at *Erie* 1/9-24 was amazing. It seems unlikely that the bird survived the season, but it was tough enough to endure two weeks in the cold northwest corner of the state. Tree Swallows in January are not without precedent; one was in *Lancaster* 1/29/06 and occasional birds linger into (or show up in) December. **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** wintered again at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant in *Philadelphia* with a high count of 55.

The fall report included the beginnings of an irruption of **Black-capped Chickadees**. Compilers in *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Philadelphia* and *York* noted higher than usual numbers of Black-caps, with mention in *Bucks* of many birds with characteristics intermediate between **Black-capped** and **Carolina Chickadees**.

Nine warbler species were reported for the season, if we count **Yellow-breasted Chat**, whose classification remains a bit vague. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** 12/18 represented a first winter season record for *Erie*. Another was present 1/4-5 in *Philadelphia*. A **Black-throated Blue**

**Warbler** lingered in *Lancaster* until 12/7, the fifth winter record since 2000. Along with **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, Pine and Palm are the other two warblers that can be regarded as regular, if rare, in the state each winter. Of course most reports are from the southeast, but this year **Pine Warblers** were in *Butler*, *Carbon*, and *Juniata*, and a **Palm Warbler** was in *Allegheny* until 12/26. The most celebrated warbler of the winter, reported regularly on PABIRDS by Joan Silagy, was the **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Blue Marsh Lake in *Berks*, usually keeping company with a **Pine Warbler**. Another **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen at West Fairview, *Cumberland* 2/20, perhaps also a wintering individual, but possibly also an early migrant given that this species occasionally returns early. As far as I can determine, these were the first winter **Yellow-throated Warblers** since one in *Lancaster* in December 2002. Prior to that, there are records in *Lancaster* in December 2001, in *Allegheny* in January 1997, and in *Cumberland* in December of 1992 and 1994. The *Berks* bird this year may be the first documented instance of this species staying into March.

One or two **Ovenbirds** are reported most winters. This year singles were in *Erie* until 12/4 and *Philadelphia* until 12/13. **Common Yellowthroat** probably ranks as the fourth most likely winter warbler in Pennsylvania. This year, two individuals were found on the Curtin (*Dauphin*) CBC 12/29 and one in *Northampton* 1/2. Still a warbler for now, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found in the *Lebanon* portion of the Lititz CBC 12/26.

**Chipping Sparrows** were rather numerous—assuming most were not mis-identified **American Tree Sparrows**. They were reported from over a dozen counties mostly in the southeast, but also as far north and west as *Fulton*, *Perry*, and *Centre*, along with a more extreme outlier in *Greene*. A number of these reports extended into January and February. **Savannah Sparrows** also were reported in many southeastern counties as well as *Wyoming*, *Mercer*, and *Erie*, which had its first “true” winter record 1/31. **Lincoln’s Sparrows** are nowadays reported more often in winter than in the past; perhaps birders are more aware of their possible presence and are looking more carefully at winter sparrows. All

five reports this season were from the southeast, with four occurring in the first 20 days of December, but one, in *Montgomery* persisted until at least 2/10. A flock of 50 **White-crowned Sparrows** was in *Adams* 12/28.

An immature **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was in *Butler* 12/12-18. The last winter reports of this species were from *Bradford* in 2004 and *Westmoreland* in 2003. Remarkably, a **Summer Tanager** lingered into December in *Crawford* for the second time in the last three winters, although not at the same location, so we cannot assume it was the same individual.

It was a good year for **Snow Buntings** with many reports. Large flocks included 400 in *Berks* 12/26, and 200 on the *Allegheny/Beaver* border 12/19-1/2. **Lapland Longspurs** were mentioned in at least 22 county reports, mostly south and east of *Centre* and *Clearfield*, but also in *Allegheny*, *Beaver*, *Erie*, *Lawrence*, and *Venango* in the west.

Notable **Eastern Meadowlark** reports included flocks of 15 in *Adams* 12/28 and of 11 in both *Perry* 1/28 and *York* 1/9. Surprisingly, relatively few reports came from the milder southeast (are they routine in winter there, or absent?); other reports came *Cambria*, *Clarion*, *Huntingdon*, *Indiana*, *Lawrence*, and *Snyder*. **Brewer’s Blackbirds** were found on the Southern Lancaster and York CBCs, the latter reporting seven well-studied birds. As is often the case, two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were found among a large wintering blackbird flock in *Lancaster* 12/18-19. **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported from many locations around the state except the northern tier counties; a flock of 70 in *Indiana* 12/1 was notable.

*Montgomery* logged its first record of **Bullock’s Oriole**, with one first noted in Douglas Township 12/31 and staying for the duration of the season. A yard in *Chester* has hosted a male **Baltimore Oriole** each winter since 2007. But this year he brought friends, as at least four different birds wintered there, enjoying “grape jelly, orange halves, and sunflower chips, dutifully provided by the homeowners,” to quote from the county report. One **Baltimore Oriole** wintered in *Bucks* and one was in *Northampton* 12/3-9. But one that had apparently badly lost its way was in *Clarion* 1/28, stopping briefly at a feeder. The deep winter date is intriguing. Had that bird been wintering all along, considering that

winter is presumably less hospitable to orioles in *Clarion* than it is in the “balmy” clime of *Bucks* or *Chester*?

Last year, we saw almost nothing of winter finches, so there was some expectation of more this year. That was the case, but not to any spectacular degree. **Pine Siskins** were due this year, according to their pattern of alternating years; and indeed they were widely reported but in modest numbers. **Common Redpolls** entered the state in tiny numbers. Those lucky enough to host some at their feeders generally saw only a few birds for a day or two. A flock of over 100 was discovered foraging on a mountainside in northern *Clinton*. A few **Hoary Redpolls** accompanied the **Commons**, reported in *Erie* and *Clarion*. **White-winged Crossbills** were reported in *Cambria*, *Centre*, *Monroe* and *Potter*, but no Red Crossbills were reported. Finally, two **Evening Grosbeaks** visited a feeder in *Tioga* 12/14.

As mentioned above, I now enter at least some of my field trip lists into eBird, after a few years of procrastinating. Not surprisingly, it is not as onerous a task as I had presumed and I urge Pennsylvania birders to contribute to this database as it grows in usefulness to birders, scientists, and policy makers.

Now, the question naturally arises as to whether journals such as *Pennsylvania Birds* are still necessary when electronic information on rare birds or fall-outs is available daily, or hourly, or even in *real time* to connected birders. As wonderful as all that certainly is, for the foreseeable future, however, it will remain though the efforts of compilers and editors of state journals like *Pennsylvania Birds* and of *North American Birds* on the continental scale that that information is best assessed and synthesized into recognizable trends or teased out as singular events that transcend the reports that rush in daily, but then ebb away into the electronic archives as the next day’s reports begin. There is no battle between paper and electronics. The value of eBird is obvious, as is, in my opinion, still also that of paper journals. Hopefully, we will be able to combine the positives of both media to continue to improve our understanding and appreciation of birds and the sharing of our common passion.

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

## Birds of Note – December 2010 through February 2011

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. "eBird" indicates valid records deemed credible which were entered into the eBird database for counties with no reporting compiler.

An \* denotes species on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) Review List. Details or descriptions that are submitted for species on the PORC Review List will be reviewed by the committee. The terms "no doc" and "doc submitted" indicate whether documentation has been submitted on reports of Review List species listed herein; "no doc" indicates that no documentation was known to have been submitted as of the time of writing. The PORC Review List can be found at the PSO web site <<http://www.pabirds.org>>.

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

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

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

Birds in Normal typeface are noteworthy for rarity, but are recorded annually, usually in more than one county.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – *Berks*: 10 at Lake Ontelaunee 12/17-1/15 (Steve Fordyce, m.ob.), and one migrating with Canada Geese at Shartlesville 2/26 Matt Wlasniewski); *Bucks*: one at Churchville Reservoir Park 1/1 (Vince DeAntoniis), and two near Newtown 1/16, one at Core Creek Park 1/30, and one at Nockamixon SP 2/26 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: one with Canada Geese on Conestoga Creek Road 2/20 (Barb and Frank Haas); *Lehigh*: one at Fogelsville Quarry (Todd Watkins); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Res. 2/22-26 (Devich Farbotnik); *Northampton*: Martin's Creek Environmental Preserve 1/4 (Matt Sabatine, eBird).

**Barnacle Goose\*** – *Montgomery*: One photographed at Green Lane Reservoir 2/23-27 (Anita Guris, Martin Dellwo, doc submitted).

**Ross's Goose** – *Allegheny*: 2 at Imperial 2/28 (Cory DeStein); *Carbon*: one with Canada Geese at Beltzville SP 12/19, first record for the Wild Creek CBC (Mark Boyd, Mike Schall, Corey Husic); *Chester*: three reports: one detected in a skein of Snow Geese over Struble Lake 12/16 (Larry Lewis, Kathleen Pileggi), one with Snow Geese in Honeybrook Twp 2/17 (Kevin Fryberger), and one immature in a mixed goose flock in Cochranville area 2/28 (Kevin Fryberger); *Crawford*: one at Woodcock Lake 12/4 (Geoff Malosh); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 2/24 (Anne Hurst, eBird); *Lehigh*: one "probable" in a Snow Goose flock over Allentown 2/28 (Billy Weber); *Northampton*: one in the Martins Creek area 1/1 (Jason Horn, Matt Sabatine).

**Trumpeter Swan** – *Butler*: three at Lake Arthur 12/4 (Mark Vass); *Clinton*: a wing tagged pair found on Bald Eagle Creek near Castanea 2/3 was determined to have been tagged and banded near Toronto, Ontario in 2009 and 2010, and was apparently present from late Jan and remained through at least the third week of Feb (Steve Sneath, m.ob.); *Erie*: one untagged adult at Presque Isle SP 12/18 (Mike Weible); *Huntingdon*: one found dead of possible gunshot wound along Raystown Branch of Juniata R. 2/11. Two adult untagged birds were found nearby at Huntingdon 2/16 (David and Trudy Kyler).

**Eurasian Wigeon** – *Montgomery*: one male at Green Lane Reservoir 2/20-27 (m.ob.).

**Harlequin Duck\*** – *Huntingdon*: one male in Juniata R. at Huntingdon 12/19-2/1 (David and Trudy Kyler, Gene Zielinski, doc submitted); *Northampton*: one on Delaware R. 12/28-2/20, first documented county record (Stephen

Kloiber, Kathy Sieminski, doc submitted).

**Red-necked Grebe** – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 12/19 (Bill Etter); 3 at Mud Island-Bensalem Township 2/13-22 (Devich Farbotnik, Frank Windfelder); *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake SP 2/26-28 (Tim Becker); *Lehigh*: one on the Lehigh River in Allentown 2/20 into March (Mark Boyd); *Philadelphia*: found on Delaware R 2/20-22 (Vincent Nichnadowicz, Win Shafer; eBird).

**Great Cormorant** – *Bucks*: high count of 16 at Mud Island-Bensalem Township 2/13 (Devich Farbotnik); *Northampton*: one on the Delaware R. 1/17 (Bill Etter); *Philadelphia*: high count of 32 on mid-winter census 1/8.

**Great Egret** – *Allegheny*: one at Wingfield Pines 12/8 (Jeff McDonald); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 12/12 (Mike Johnson; eBird).

**Green Heron** – *Lancaster*: one at Wood's Edge Pond 12/3-12/7 (Dan Heathcote, Justin Bosler).

**Black-crowned Night Heron** – *Bucks*: one at Silver Lake Park 2/13 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: one at Green Spring Fish Hatchery, Newville CBC 1/2 (Andy Markel).

**Osprey** – *Chester*: one on White Clay Creek 12/3-4 (Sue McLaughlin), and one on Brandywine Creek in West Bradford 12/11 (Holly Merker).

**Gyrfalcon\*** – *Perry*: gray morph at Wagoner's Gap hawk watch 12/6 (Dave Grove, et al., no doc).

**Prairie Falcon\*** – *Cumberland*: present throughout season in Mudlevel Rd. area for the fifth consecutive winter (m.ob., doc submitted).

**Sandhill Crane** – *Allegheny*: 6 high over Oakland 12/8 (Kate St. John); *Beaver*: one over a Chippewa Twp. shopping center 12/6 (Becky Smith); *Clarion*: 4 over Stockdill Rd. area of Mount Zion (Piney Tract IBA/SGL 330) 2/19 (Carole Winslow, Mike Weible); *Crawford*: recorded though 12/19 (m.ob.), high counts were of 32 at Hartstown Marsh (Jack Christman) and 32 at Pymatuning Goose Management Area, both on 12/1 (Anthony Marich Jr.); *Lawrence*: reports from 1/6-2/12, with highs of 40 on 2/12 at Volant Strips (Amy Henrici) and 25 on 1/6 at Black Swamp (Richard Nugent).

**Yellowlegs sp.** – *Westmoreland*: a likely Greater at Mammoth Park Lake 2/27 (Tim Vechter).

**Lesser Yellowlegs** – *Bucks*: one from fall at Churchville Reservoir Park until 12/10 (Bill Keim).

**Spotted Sandpiper** – *Northampton*: one on Delaware R. 2/11 (Lillian Shupe).

**Least Sandpiper** – *Cumberland*: presumably the same bird

was present for the sixth consecutive winter at Big Spring, seen six times 1/7-31 (Vern Gauthier, Andy Markel, Matt Sabatine).

**Purple Sandpiper** – *Erie*: 2 passed Sunset Point during the Waterbird Count 12/2 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Laughing Gull** – *Bucks*: 4 at Falls Township Community Park 12/2 (Bill Keim); *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview on Susquehanna R. during Harrisburg CBC 12/18 (Martin Wilson, Sandy and Bill Baum, Bernie Crist, Larry Usselman); *Delaware*: 24 at John Heinz NWR 12/12 (Mike Johnson; eBird).

**Little Gull** – *Cumberland*: one at Boiling Springs 1/29 (Ramsay Koury); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 12/6 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Thayer's Gull\*** – *Bucks*: first year bird at Falls Township Community Park 12/18 (Devich Farbotnik, Billy Weber) and an adult there 1/18 (Devich Farbotnik) (*no doc*); *Erie*: adult at Sunset Point, Presque Isle SP was a first for the Waterbird Count 12/18 (Jerry McWilliams, *no doc*), and another adult was observed in Presque Isle Bay 1/8 (Mark Weible, *no doc*).

**Iceland Gull** – *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Erie*, *Lackawanna*, *Lehigh*, *Montgomery*, *Northampton*, *Philadelphia*.

**Glaucous Gull** – *Bucks*: first noted at Falls Township Community Park 12/9 (Bob Cunningham) and seen periodically in the county through the season; *Chester*: a first cycle bird at Struble Lake 12/16 (Larry Lewis, Kathleen Pileggi); *Erie*: at least nine different individuals were reported 12/7 through the end of the period in Presque Isle Bay (Jerry McWilliams).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** – *Cumberland*: one at Windy Hill Farm on the Big Spring 1/29 and 2/6 (m.ob.).

**Barn Owl** – *Dauphin*: one on Curtin CBC; *Juniata*: one on Lewistown CBC 12/18; *Lancaster*: reported on Southern Lancaster CBC 12/19; *Lebanon*: one on Pine Rd. 2/5 (Mike Johnson; eBird); *Philadelphia*: one rested on the 20th floor ledge at 5th & Walnut 2/16 (Sarah Hood). On 2/18, presumably the same bird was found in a stair well on 18th St. and taken to rehab where it died (Judy Stepenaski); *Union*: 4 on Lewisburg CBC.

**Anna's Hummingbird\*** – *Berks*: the bird first seen at Renee Gery's feeder in Shartlesville in Oct 2010 stayed the winter, surviving sub-zero temperatures, and left in mid-Mar, having developed a few red feathers on her throat (m.ob., *doc submitted*).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – *Chester*: female banded in Devon 11/29 (Nick Pulcinella) was last seen visiting a feeder on the afternoon of 12/4 (Joe Flood).

**Rufous Hummingbird** – *Adams*: one at Gettysburg from the fall until 12/18 (*fide* Sandy Lockerman); *Bucks*: one of two hummingbirds present near Yardley at feeders from Oct was captured, identified, and banded as an immature female Rufous 12/16, last seen 1/22 feeding through the day (Barbara and Richard Sullivan, Scott Weidensaul); *Montgomery*: one at Bryn Mawr 12/3-8 (Nick Pulcinella, Justin Bosler; eBird).

**Empidonax sp.** – a flycatcher at Tuscarora S.P., thought to be a Least, was last seen 12/2 (Jonathan DeBalko).

**Tree Swallow** – *Chester*: one at Black Rock Sanctuary 1/4 (Lisa Miller); *Erie*: one at open patch of water at Fry's Landing 1/9-24 (Shannon Thompson, m.ob.).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** – *Philadelphia*: wintered again at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant with high count of 55 (m.ob.).

**House Wren** – *Bucks*: one on Southern Bucks CBC 12/18

(Gail Johnson).

**Orange-crowned Warbler** – *Erie*: one at a feeder along Port Access Rd. in Erie 12/8 (Mike Weible); *Philadelphia*: one at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant 1/4-5 (Matt Sabatine, Tom Johnson).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** – *Lancaster*: one at Wissler's run along the Susquehanna River 12/5 and 12/7 (Justin Bosler).

**Yellow-throated Warbler** – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh SP throughout the season (Joan Silagy, m.ob.); *Cumberland*: one at West Fairview boat launch 2/20 (Ramsay Koury).

**Palm Warbler** – *Allegheny*: one in Blawnox 12/26 (Dan Yagusic); *Lancaster*: one on Lancaster CBC 1/2; *Philadelphia*: 3 at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant 1/4-8 (Tom Johnson); *York*: one at Spring Grove on the York CBC 12/18 (Randy Phillips).

**Common Yellowthroat** – *Dauphin*: two locations on the Curtin CBC (Ramsay Koury, Aden Troyer, et al.); *Northampton*: one on Heinsohn Rd, Washington Twp during Merrill Creek/Martins Creek CBC 1/2 (Rick Wiltraut).

**Ovenbird** – *Erie*: one at a feeding station near Waterford 12/4 (Chuck Gehringer); *Philadelphia*: one at Temple Univ. campus 12/13 (Penelope Myers).

**Yellow-breasted Chat** – *Lebanon*: one near Camp Shand during Lititz CBC 12/26 (David and Susan Wheeler).

**Lincoln's Sparrow** – *Chester*: one at a feeder in Devon 12/15-2/15 (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: one at Muddy Run 12/18 (Tom Amico). *Lebanon*: one on Second Mtn 12/20 (Randy Brenner); *Lehigh*: one on Allentown CBC 12/18; *Montgomery*: one at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 1/20 and 2/10 (Paul Driver).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – *Butler*: an immature at Evans City 12/12-18 (Melissa Little, Richard Nugent).

**Summer Tanager\*** – *Crawford*: one in the county for the second late-fall in three years, this time in area of Woodcock Lake dam, 11/22-12/4 (Clare Nicolls, m.ob., *doc submitted*), well photographed.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** – *Lancaster*: 2 in large blackbird flock north of Octoraro Lake along Route 472 on 12/18, one still present 12/19 (Tom Raub).

**Brewer's Blackbird** – *Lancaster*: reported on Southern Lancaster CBC 12/19; *York*: 7 well studied during CBC 12/18 (Tish Swam, et al.).

**Baltimore Oriole** – *Bucks*: one in New Hope throughout season (Suzanne Meyers); *Chester*: 4 wintered in a yard in West Grove (Kevin Fryberger); *Clarion*: one in Clarion 1/28 (*fide* Janice Horn); *Northampton*: an immature bird at feeders on Koch farm 12/3-9 (Arlene Koch).

**Bullock's Oriole\*** – *Montgomery*: one in Douglas Township 12/31-2/28, first county record (Ken Davies, Cameron Rutt, *doc submitted*).

**White-winged Crossbill** – *Cambria*: female at a feeder during mid Feb at Hastings (Greg Doll); *Centre*: several over Bald Eagle SP 1/5 (Drew Weber); *Monroe*: female at a Mt. Pocono feeder 2/20-21 (Pat Fellion); *Potter*: reported at Shinglehouse 12/20 (Kathy Eberling; eBird).

**Hoary Redpoll\*** – *Clarion*: 2 at Stockdill Rd. at Mount Zion 2/20 (Andy Markel, Matt Sabatine, Mike Weible, *no doc*); *Erie*: at least two individuals at Presque Isle SP were photographed: one 1/18-31 (Jason Berry, Mike Weible) and one 1/23-25 (Jerry McWilliams) (*doc submitted*).

**Evening Grosbeak** – *Tioga*: 2 at a feeder along Hager Road off Route 414 on 12/14 (Matt Wlasniewski).

## PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



**Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*).** This bird present 23 to 27 February 2011 (here 26 February) would represent the third record for Green Lane Reservoir, *Montgomery* if accepted by PORC. (*Bill Keim*)



**Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) (left, with American Wigeon).** This fine male was a first for Green Lane Reservoir, *Montgomery* 20 to (here) 27 February 2011. (*Dustin Welch*)



**Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*).** Large flocks of Snow Geese are unusual in western Pennsylvania, so a flock of 26 near New Wilmington, *Lawrence* 27 February 2011 was quite notable. Shown here are 19 of the 26; the aggregate group included 9 Blue Geese. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*).** *Northampton's* first documented record of this species, and one of two in the state this season (the other a first for *Huntingdon*), was provided by this outstanding male present on the Delaware River 28 December 2010 to 20 February 2011 (here 3 January). (*Dustin Welch*)



**Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*).** This wing-tagged bird was one of two on Bald Eagle Creek near Castanea, *Clinton* 3 February 2011. The birds had been captured and tagged near Toronto, Ontario in 2009 and 2010. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



**White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*).** Now known to be a nearly annual late-winter visitor to the rivers of *Beaver*, this first winter male was present for a month at the mouth of the Beaver River, from 13 February to 13 March 2011 (here 25 February). (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Great Egret (*Ardea alba*).** Very unusual as a winter species for *Allegheny* was this Great Egret at Wingfield Pines 8 (here) to 11 December 2011. (Jeff McDonald)



**Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).** Proof that their recovery continues unabated, this Bald Eagle on nest was photographed in western *Allegheny* 13 February 2011, a first for the county. (Geoff Malosh)



**Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*).** Despite its status as common in many parts of Pennsylvania, good photos of Black Vulture are nonetheless decidedly uncommon. This wonderful image was made at Martins Creek, *Northampton* 11 February 2011. (Dustin Welch)



**Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*).** Birders all over the state enjoyed a great season for this species after the first of the year. This superb image was made at Struble Lake, *Chester* 23 January 2011. (Holly Merker)



**Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*).** This striking all-white Turkey Vulture was photographed over Tyler State Park, *Bucks* 1 January 2011. (Henry Horn)



**Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).** As Peregrines continues to increase in Pennsylvania, so too do fine portraits of the species made by the state's camera enthusiasts, but few are as striking as this image of a banded adult on the *Allegheny* River, *Allegheny* 16 January 2011. The Tarentum Bridge can be seen in the background, emblematic of the species' new breeding status in the state. (Steve Gosser)



**Merlin (*Falco columbarius*).** This bird at Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny* 14 December 2011 was one of nearly a dozen reports for the species in the county this season. (*Jeff McDonald*)



**Putative Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull.** This presumed hybrid was photographed at Tullytown, *Bucks* 18 December 2011. Note the mantle just barely lighter than a typical *graellsii* Lesser Black-backed but the overall Herring-like structure. (*Tom Johnson*)



**Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*).** This amazing little bird, present again this season at Big Spring, *Cumberland*, defied the harsh Pennsylvania winter for a sixth consecutive year. Shown here 23 January 2011. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



**Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*).** This charming little owl was nicely photographed as it roosted on the open window of an old barn in Marshall Twp., *Allegheny* 27 January 2011. (*Oliver Griswold*)



**Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*).** Quite unexpected was this Laughing Gull found at West Fairview, *Dauphin* during the Harrisburg CBC 18 December 2010. It provided a first for both the count and for the county during the winter season. (*Andy McGann*)



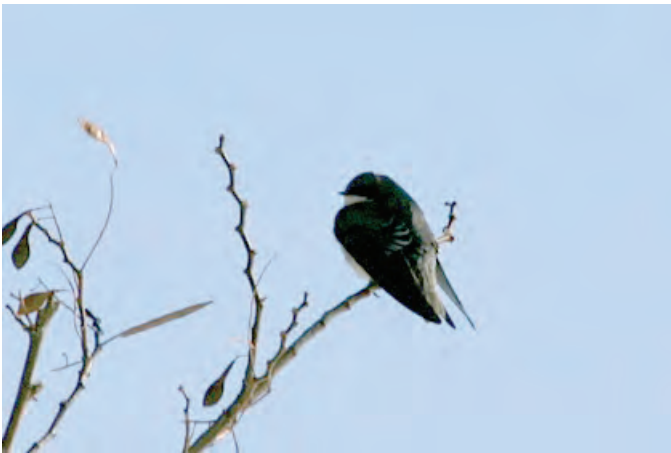
**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*).** This immature female was present in a Yardley, *Bucks* yard from late fall to 22 January 2011, when was noted feeding throughout the day before disappearing the next. Shown here 16 December 2010. (*Bill Keim*)



**Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*).** Despite the harsh weather, this bird unexpectedly wintered at Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny* anyway, seen from November to at least 18 February 2011 (here 17 February). (Jeff McDonald)



**American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*).** It was a good season for pipits in several counties; this confiding bird was photographed at Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny* 8 December 2011. (Geoff Malosh)



**Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*).** Totally surprising was this Tree Swallow making a go of things at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 9 to 24 January 2011 (here 17 January). The bird was not seen on the 25th after the small patch of water it was using had frozen over. (Drew Weber)



**Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*).** This memorable bird spent the winter at Blue Marsh Lake, *Berks*, present 24 November 2010 to at least 10 February 2011 (here 23 January). It delighted dozens of birders with its fearlessness while foraging for insects and later, for peanut butter, which was happily provided by its many onlookers. (Dustin Welch)



**Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*).** It remains to be seen what effect the recent string of harsh winters will have on Pennsylvania's population of Carolina Wrens. This bird was photographed at Woolrich, *Clinton* 18 January 2011. (Charles Hildebrand)



**Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*).** This bird joined the Yellow-throated Warbler shown above at Blue Marsh Lake, *Berks*, on 25 November 2010 and stayed into March (here 31 January). Together they made an unforgettable pair for those who made the journey to see them. (Howard Eskin)



**Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*).** Pine Warblers had a good showing in the state this winter, with reports from seven counties. This bird was photographed at Ronks, Lancaster 22 December 2010. (Frank Haas)



**Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*).** Crawford hosted a late-fall Summer Tanager for the second time in three seasons; this bird was present at a feeder near Saegertown 24 November to 8 December 2010. (Geoff Malosh)



**Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).** This unique-looking bird showing several plumage abnormalities was present in a West Grove, Chester yard for much of the winter, shown here 7 January 2011. (Kathy Freeborn)



**Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).** Back, wing, and tail detail of the abnormal cardinal in West Grove, Chester, here 30 January 2011 (Hank Davis)



**Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).** Compilers across the state boasted of great seasons for this species, and with the hordes came copious photo opportunities. This bird was wonderfully captured at East Allen Township, Northampton 4 February 2011. (Dustin Welch)



**Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*).** Any season as good as this one for Snow Buntings will also bring a share of Lapland Longspurs; this bird was photographed in *Northampton* 22 January 2011. (*Dustin Welch*)



**Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*).** This bird was one of an unthinkable *four* that wintered in a yard in West Grove, *Chester*; this one was photographed 30 January 2011. See the inside back cover for a remarkable image of two adult males together in the snow. (*Hank Davis*)



**Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*).** Though nowhere near the magnitude of the invasion of 2008-09, it was still a good season for siskins in Pennsylvania. This bird was at Woolrich, *Clinton* 18 January 2011. (*Charles Hildebrand*)



**Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*).** Redpolls staged a small invasion this season, but the few truly large flocks reported were limited to the northern counties. This bird posed nicely at Hills Creek State Park, *Tioga* 16 February 2011. (*Gary Tyson*)



**Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*).** A large flock of Common Redpolls at Presque Isle State Park contained at least two Hoary Redpolls during the last half of January. This one was photographed 22 January 2011. (*Jerry McWilliams*)

# Local Notes – December 2010 to February 2011



## ABBREVIATIONS

B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey	max	maximum	R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
C.A.	Conservation Area	min	minimum	Res.	Reservoir
CBC	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	subadul(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).	juvénal [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.	River	W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
L.	Lake	R.A.	Recreational Area	WRS	Winter Raptor Survey

## Adams County

Locations: East Berlin (EB), Fairfield (FFLD), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Gettysburg Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Huntingdon Township (HUNT), Mountain Rd (MTN), Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve (SHNP), South Mountains (SMt).

Organized birding initiatives during the period produced 76 species on the 12/18 CBC led by MOB. Three WRS routes produced the expected mid-winter raptor species (RF, PK, et al.).

Waterfowl variety was low with 11 species reported. Germany Rd continued to be a reliable stopover for **Tundra Swans** with 18 first seen 2/12 (PK). Numbers grew to 90 by the end of the period.

Raptor highlights included **Bald Eagle** at GNMP 12/25 (JP) and one on the CBC. **Northern Harrier** reports came from six locations 12/18-2/14. Interestingly, none were seen on the three WRS routes. **Red-shouldered Hawks** are year-round residents but a count of 20 on the CBC was remarkable! **Rough-legged Hawks** were found at four locations 12/18-1/30. Rare for the county, a **Peregrine Falcon** was seen on Red Rock Rd 1/31 (BP, FP).

An **American Woodcock** was displaying at MTN 2/27 (RDS). A nice count of five **Short-eared Owls** came from Cunningham/Pumping

Station Rds 1/22 (SB). Two were also seen at GNMP 12/28 (JP, AW). The **Rufous Hummingbird**, first seen 11/19 at an undisclosed GBG area home and banded on 12/4, was last seen 12/18 (*fide* SL).

The CBC produced a decent count of 27 **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, as Adams is one of the state's strongholds for this species. It was a good winter for **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, which were found at 7 locations with 10 were recorded on the CBC. Irruptive species first seen in the fall period continued into this reporting period. **Black-capped Chickadees** were at 8 locations from 12/18-2/15. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports were confined to Dec; one at EB 12/5 (PK), one at SMT 12/18 (BF) and two on the CBC. **Brown Creeper** had a good showing with 7 reports 12/18-1/23. Four **Winter Wrens** were found on the CBC and one was at MTN 12/25 (RDS). Both **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were found but reports were isolated to two and one, respectively. **Hermit Thrush**, **Brown Thrasher**, and **Eastern Towhee** were all observed in Dec.

**Chipping Sparrow** reports were limited to one location, HUNT, but the numbers were noteworthy for a winter sighting. A first bird was seen 1/31, six were seen 2/5-6, and six again 2/19-20 (DJG). The CBC provided the sole reports of **Savannah Sparrow** (one) and **Swamp Sparrow** (4). Two **Fox Sparrows** were at GBG 12/10 and again 2/23-27 (NL). **White-crowned Sparrows** were fairly common this winter.

Noteworthy was a large flock of up to 50 at FFLD 12/28 (JP) and 73 on the CBC. Fifteen **Eastern Meadowlarks** at FFLD 12/28 (JP) was an unexpectedly high count.

**Purple Finches** were scarce; 2 on the CBC, one at GBG 12/5 (JM) and one at EB 12/5 (PK). **Pine Siskins** were found throughout the county 12/2–2/15, with a high count of 17 at SHNP on the CBC.

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Scott Blanchard (SB), Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Bill Frantz (BF), Ron Freed (RF), Nancy Locher (NL), Sandy Lockerman (SL), Mike O'Brien (MOB), Frances Parker (FP), Bonnie Purtzline (BP), Jason Pietzrak (JP), Ralph & Deb Siefken (RDS), Anne Winters (AW).

## Allegheny County

Locations: Boyce-Mayview Park (BMP), Dashields Dam on the Ohio River (DASH), Emsworth Dam on the Ohio River (EMSW), Findlay Township (FT), Fox Chapel (FC), Imperial (IMP), Wingfield Pines (WP).

December was cold with lake effect snow showers producing minor accumulations in the early part of the month. The first winter storm of the season hit the second week with blustery conditions and more lake effect snow. Below freezing temperatures were in place through Christmas. January was cold and sometimes frigid with snowfall and the rivers in the area began to freeze. Cold temperatures and snow continued for the first half of February with a few days of milder weather later in the month.

**Tundra Swans** continued to move through so the last date in the fall migrant chart is now extended. A number of reports were submitted for 12/5 with flocks noted in several locations. Flyover flocks include 28 in Shaler Twp. (JH), 254 in West Deer Twp. (the total of several small groups flying during a 70 minute period) (DY), 29 in Franklin Park with additional birds heard but not seen (OM) and 75 in Plum Borough (RG, SG). An unknown number flew over Hampton Twp. after dark (DN) and 15 flew over Oakland 12/13 (KSJ) and 24 were noted again in Plum 12/14 (RG, SG). Five were on the Allegheny R. at Cheswick 12/18 (DY). Four flew over Moon Twp. 2/27 (GM), returning spring migrants.

A flock of 46 **Snow Geese** flew over FT (Moody Road area) 2/27 (GM). Snow Geese are rare here and certainly a flock of this size is extremely rare. Two **Ross' Geese** were found at a new pond in front of a warehouse at IMP 2/28 (CD), providing the 4th county record.

Regular coverage along the county's rivers produced a good variety of waterfowl including **American Black Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, and Common Merganser**, all regularly reported during the season. Species with few reports are detailed below.

A **Mallard X Black Duck** was at EMSW 2/20 (MV). Three **Gadwall** were at Tarentum 12/18 (DY), 3 were at IMP 2/25 (MV) which increased to 6 by 2/26 (MV, SC); 4 remained 2/27 (GM) and 5 on 2/28 (CD). Three were at Blawnox 2/27 (DY). **American Wigeon** reports began at the end of Feb. Three were at Aspinwall and 4 were at Cheswick 2/27 (DY), 3 were at Creighton 2/27 (DY) and 4 were at IMP 2/28 (CD). A **Northern Shoveler** was at DASH 1/15 (MV) and one was at Harmar Twp. 1/22 (AH, PM). Two **Canvasbacks** were at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. 12/14 (TM, NM), one was there 1/7 (TM, NM) and two 1/9 (KSJ) that remained until 1/14 (TM, NM). One was at DASH 12/24 (MV), one at Harmar Twp. 12/26 (DY), 2 at Woods Run/Brunots Island and 2 at EMSW 12/27 (PB), 3 at EMSW 1/29 (PB, MV), 3 at Sewickley 2/20 (MV) and one at the Point in Pittsburgh 2/23 (GM). Single birds were at Blawnox and Cheswick 2/26 (DY). **Redhead** reports were all from the Ohio R. Four were at Sewickley 12/18 (MV), 5 were nearby at Neville Island 12/27 (DW, ST), 2 were at Woods Run/Brunots Island 1/28-30 (PB, MV, DY) and one was at EMSW 2/20 (MV). A **Greater Scaup** was at Wood's Run/Brunots Island 1/30 (DN). A **Surf Scoter** was at DASH 12/10 (MV). Five **Black Scoters** were at Lock and Dam #4 on the Allegheny R. in Natrona Heights 1/8 (AH, PM). This species is rare here and this is the highest count ever reported in the county. A **White-winged Scoter** was on the Allegheny R. at Blawnox 2/12 and 2/27 (DY). It's a rare season when all three scoters are reported in Allegheny. A **Long-tailed Duck** was on the Allegheny R. at Creighton 12/18 (DY). A female was found downriver at the Fox Chapel Yacht Club 12/18 (DY) where she remained in a small open patch of water through 1/23 (m.ob.). A female was on the Ohio R. just downstream from the Point in Pittsburgh 1/26 (FM, CM) and again 2/9-13 (GM, et

al.). A female was back at FC 2/13 (AH, PM). It could have been the same bird moving around, as the river nearly froze solid, then cleared. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at FC 12/6 (TM) and 1/13 (TM, NM) and one was at McKees Rocks 12/24 -1/30 (MV, et al.). One was at EMSW 2/13 (MV), one was at Duck Hollow 2/13 and two were there 2/15 (TM, NM). A **Common Merganser** at IMP 2/28 was the first for that location (CD). Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at the Moody Road Ponds in FT 12/3 (MV). Single birds were at EMSW 12/10 and 1/29 (MV), DASH 12/10-17 (MV), Duck Hollow 12/25-26 (TM, NM) and at the Point in Pittsburgh 2/23 (GM) and 2/26 (ST).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was found at BMP 1/15 (DW, ST) and one was at the nearby PennDot Wetlands 2/16 (JM). Small numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes** were present the entire season on the rivers around Pittsburgh (m.ob.). **Horned Grebe** reports include one on the Ohio R. in Sewickley 12/18 (MV), 2 on the Allegheny R. at Blawnox 12/18 (DY), two at McKees Rocks 12/24 (MV), one at Cheswick and one at Creighton 1/9 (DY), one at DASH 1/29 (MV) and one at the Point in Pittsburgh 2/5 (DY). A **Common Loon** was on the Allegheny R. at Creighton 1/9 (DY, AH, PM), an uncommon species here in winter. Up to 14 **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported at various locations along the Ohio R. through the entire season (m. ob.).

After no reports during the fall season, a **Great Egret** was seen and photographed at WP in Upper St. Clair 12/8 (JM), very unusual for Dec. It was last reported 12/11 (CD, JM, et al). A non-birder who visited the park told birders there were two present 11/23 (*fide* JM). There was a report of a white heron with black legs at the small pond in Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville 12/11 (*fide* BC). The bird was described by a groundskeeper at the cemetery and does fit the description of a Great Egret; however a follow up search later that day was unsuccessful (BC).

Single **Turkey Vultures** were near Wexford (STi) and in Franklin Park 12/27 (OM) and in West Mifflin 1/3 (CD). None were reported after 1/3 until the first few days of Feb when the first migrants returned. By the middle of the month small flocks were observed in a few locations.

Winter sightings of **Bald Eagles** are now a regular occurrence in the county. A single adult was at DASH 12/3-17 (MV). Up to 2 adults and an immature were reported regularly at DASH 12/23-1/21 (MV) and 2 were there 1/29-2/6 (MV, SC). Four were observed around Brunots Island and Wood's Run 1/24 (JF) and one was there 1/25-27 (JF, PB, FM, CM). One was at EMSW 1/15 and 1/29 (MV). All these locations are on the Ohio R. so birds were probably moving up and down the river during the period. Single birds were reported in flight over Oakland 12/17 (KL), Pleasant Hills 12/28 (SSn), and over I-376 near Oakland 1/22 (CD). One was seen along the Allegheny R. at Tarentum 1/29 (DY) and an immature was at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. 2/10 (TM, NM). A few **Red-shouldered Hawks** are usually around during the winter, but not widely reported. This season reports were more numerous than usual and include one at Wexford 12/2 (PL, SL), one in Upper St. Clair 12/29 (ST), five in FC 1/1 (BSh), one in Springdale 1/13 (DH), one at DASH 2/6 (SC) and one in FC 2/20 (TM, NM). **Rough-legged Hawk** reports were good and a few were away from the traditional IMP location. A light morph was at Upper St. Clair 12/18-21 (DW, ST) and one was in an open area at a new housing plan along Hilltop Road in Collier Twp. that day (MF, MVV). Two were at IMP 12/19, one light and one dark morph (DY) and 2 light were seen at IMP that day (DW, ST). Two light morph birds were at IMP 12/22 (DN) and 1/2 (GM). A single bird continued at IMP 1/5-16 (LM, RM, JB, DW, ST). **Merlin** reports were good this winter. One was seen at the Pitt Campus in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh 12/7 (RF) and 12/8 (TBI) and again 1/10 (TBI). The roost site in nearby Schenley Park has been devoid of sightings in recent years. Two were along the Allegheny R. 12/11: one in Harmar Twp. and one near the Fox Chapel Yacht Club (DY) and one was at WP 12/15 (JM). One was seen again near the Fox Chapel Yacht Club 12/31 (AH). The Pittsburgh CBC on 1/1 yielded Merlins in Shaler Twp. (JH), Aspinwall (DY) and in RIDC Industrial Park (STh) which may have been the same bird seen in Aspinwall around the Yacht Club in Dec. One was at WP in Upper St. Clair Twp. 1/9 (DN, ML), 1/31 (SC) and 2/2 (JM). One was in Homewood Cemetery 1/15 (MF), one in Blawnox 1/29 (DY), and one was at Duck Hollow 2/26 (BG).

Certainly a surprise encounter was a flock of 6 **Sandhill Cranes** flying high over Oakland 12/8 (KSJ). Independently and just minutes earlier, a flock of 40 were noted flying over the same location (TBI).

**Killdeer** were still present in Dec. Two were at BMP 12/8 (JM), 3 were at Duck Hollow 12/10 (JS, SS) and one was at WP 12/11 (JM). Two continued at Duck Hollow 12/15 and one 12/25 (TM, NM). This species wintered at WP with reports of 2 to 5 birds through the season (JM, DW, ST, CD, DN, ML). Two at IMP 2/20 (MV) and one at North

Park 2/24 (PL, SL) were probably returning migrants. A **Wilson's Snipe** was at WP 1/25 (ST) and 2/18 (CD). Four **American Woodcock** were displaying at IMP 2/28 (DW, ST).

Gull numbers at the Point in Pittsburgh never swelled this year despite the frozen bodies of water to the north. The only notable gulls include a **Bonaparte's Gull** at DASH 1/16 (DW, ST) and Duck Hollow 1/30 (KSJ) and an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the Point 1/31 (DW, ST) and again 2/4-5 (GM, DY). **Ring-billed Gull** and **Herring Gull** totals only maxed out around 800 and 200 respectively 2/9 (GM).

Another unexpected over wintering species, an **Eastern Phoebe** reported in Nov continued at WP through the season (DW, ST, DF, CD) and was last reported 2/19 (DW, ST).

A **Northern Shrike** was found at IMP 12/19 at the same location as last year (DW, ST). It was still being seen through January (SC, JB, DW, ST, CD) and was last reported 2/20 (DW, ST).

The **American Crow** roost in Pittsburgh moved again this winter. Birds were concentrating in the Allegheny R. valley near Herrs Island. The only count submitted was 4000 in Bloomfield 12/2 (OM). **Common Ravens** continue their presence in the county with most sightings in the Allegheny and Ohio River valleys and in the IMP area. Two were at IMP 12/3 (MV) and one was at Knob Hill Park in Marshall Twp. 12/11 (KD). Two were at McKees Rocks 12/18 (MV) and 1/1 (OM, JG). One was at Barking Slopes in Plum Borough 12/26 (PM) and 2 were there 1/15 (AH, PM). Two were in Cheswick 1/8 (AH, PM). One was at IMP 1/9 (DN, ML) and 2/20 (DW, ST) and 2 were at DASH 1/16 (DW, ST). Two were in the Brunots Island/Wood's Run area 1/28-29 and 2/5 (PB, MV). Two just downriver a few miles in Avalon 1/29 (PB) were likely the same.

A large **Horned Lark** flock was at Janoski's Farm in FT in Dec and Jan. The maximum count was 150-200 (JB, LM, RM). Three **American Pipits** were at WP 12/8 (JM), 25 were there 12/9 (DW, ST), 3 were seen again 12/10 (GG) and 5 on 12/11 (JM). Up to 6 continued at WP at least through mid-Jan (m. ob.). A single bird was oddly perched in a shrub along a stream in Collier Twp. 12/18 (MF, MVV).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in Forest Hills 12/26 (TBI). Eight were tallied during the Pittsburgh CBC 1/1. Three were in FC (BSh), 2 in Kilbuck Twp. (PB), 2 in Hampton Twp. and one in Franklin Park (JO). Numbers of this species vary from year to year. Up to 2 **Winter Wrens** were at WP for most of the season (ST, DW, JB). Single birds were at BMP 12/30 (DW, ST), FC 1/1 (BSh), the Penn Dot Wetlands near BMP 1/22 (ST), Fall Run Park in Shaler Twp. 1/24 (DN) and Trillium Trail 1/17 (PB) and 2/26 (MF). Small numbers of **Brown Creepers** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were reported in scattered locations during the season. **Eastern Bluebird** reports include 11 in Kilbuck Twp. 1/1 (PB), 9 at Knob Hill Park 1/17 (KD), 3 at WP 2/1 (JM) and 2 in Ohio Twp. 2/16 (PB). A **Hermit Thrush** visited a yard in Squirrel Hill 12/7 (JS, SS) and one was found during the Pittsburgh CBC in Ohara Twp. 1/1 (STH, et al.). A **Brown Thrasher** was a surprise in FC during the Pittsburgh CBC (BSh).

Five **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at DASH 12/18 (MV) and one was there 12/23 (MV). One was in Franklin Park 1/29 (OM) and one was at WP 2/26 (JM). An extremely late **Palm Warbler** was found along the Allegheny R. in Blawnox 12/26 (DY).

**Eastern Towhee** is irregular in winter here so reports this season are noteworthy. The Pittsburgh CBC 1/1 yielded single birds at North Park (BVN), near Beechwood Farms in FC (BSh) and Hampton Twp. (CBC Observers). Two were at BMP 1/15 (DW, ST) and one was at Salamander Park in FC 2/26 (MF). Up to 2 **Field Sparrows** were at BMP for most of Dec (CD, DW, ST), one was at Duck Hollow 12/11 (JS, SS), 2 were at Knob Hill Park 12/31 (KD) and 2 were in Ohio Twp. 12/31 (PB). Single birds continued in Ohio Twp. 1/1 and 1/4 with 2 there 1/18 (PB). Two in Indiana Twp. 1/1 (SG) were nice additions to the Pittsburgh CBC, and one was at IMP 1/2 (GM). **Fox Sparrow** reports in Dec and Jan are unusual. Three were at BMP 12/1 (ST), one was there 12/9 (CD), one was in Harmar Twp. 12/12-19 (JV) and one was at North Park 1/1 (BVN). A bird in Pine Twp. 2/28 (PL, SL) was probably one of the first spring migrants. A **Swamp Sparrow** was at BMP 12/9 (CD), 2 were at WP 12/14 (ST) and up to three continued in that area through Jan (DW, ST, CD). A traditional wintering site (and traditional Pittsburgh CBC location) at Shadyside Academy in FC yielded 5 birds 1/1 (BSh) and one was tallied in Indiana Twp. during the count (SG). Up to 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** were at BMP for most of the season (DW, ST) and 2 were at the farm on Strouss Road in FT 12/18 where they are regular in winter (MF, MVV). One was found at the wetlands along the Allegheny R. in FC 2/26 (AH, PM). A "Cassiar" **Dark-eyed Junco** continued from Nov at a feeder in Hamar Twp. 12/1 (JV).

A late **Common Grackle** was visiting a feeder in Leetsdale 12/19

(BS) and singles visited feeders in Upper St. Clair 12/24 (DW, ST) and Shaler Twp. 1/14 (JH). A single bird continued in Upper St. Clair 1/16-2/20 (DW, ST). A flock of 83 and 30 appeared at that location 1/16 and 2/22 respectively (DW, ST). Along with that flock, single birds in Ohara Twp. 2/24 (PB) and Blawnox 2/26 (AH, PM) were probably spring migrants. There were a few late **Brown-headed Cowbirds** reported. One was in Natrona Heights 12/1 (PH), 4 males were at a feeder in Upper St. Clair 12/7-10 and 7 birds were present 12/11 (ST). That flock increased to 38 by 12/24 and small numbers continued through Feb (ST). One was in Pine Twp. 12/12-18 (PL, SL) and one was in Shaler Twp. 2/18 (JH). A **Rusty Blackbird** visited a feeding station in Pine Twp. 12/11 (PL, SL).

A large flock of 50 -100 **Snow Buntings** were in the fields at Janoski's Farm in FT and 2 **Lapland Longspurs** were with them 12/17 (MV); 3 were found 12/18-19 (GM, et al.). Both species are rare in the county. This was the second time longspurs were found at this location (the last was Nov 2008). Two were still being seen up to 1/5 (m. ob.). A count of 207 **Snow Buntings** was made 12/19 (GM) and 200 were tallied 1/2 (GM). The bunting flock was reported through 1/16 (m. ob.) though the numbers were drastically reduced to 20 birds. Whether or not the majority of birds moved on is unknown. They could have been in areas not visible from the farm; there are numerous fields and rolling topography where the birds could easily have been out of sight.

There was a single report of 3 **Common Redpolls** feeding on birch catkins along Moody Road in FT 2/26 (MV). A few **Pine Siskins** continued to be seen after the rather widespread sightings in Nov. Six visited a yard in Natrona Heights 12/2 (PH), but oddly did not go to a feeder, and a bird visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 12/9 (JV). One was at a feeding station in Pine Twp. 12/12, and then 3 were there 12/13 and one continued through the season (PL, SL). Eight at White Oak 12/25 (SC) was the max. count; 2 were in FC 1/1 (BSh).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Jack Baker, Tony Bledsoe (TBI), John Boback, Paul Brown, Scott Brown, Shawn Collins, Ben Coulter, Sheree Daugherty, Karyn Delaney, Cory DeStein, Joe Fedor, Ryan Ford, Donna Foyle, Gigi Gerben, Randi Gerrish, Sarah Gerrish, Steve Gosser, Jim Gray, Bob Greene, Amy Henrici, Deb Hess, Paul Hess, Joyce Hoffmann, Peter Keyel, Karen Lang, Melissa Little, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Ryan McDermott, Jeff McDonald, Pat McShea, Geoff Malosh, Oscar Miller, Nancy Moeller, Tom Moeller, Lukas Musher, Dick Nugent, John Orndoff, Rob Protz, Kate St. John, Meg Scanlon, Brian Shema (BSh), Judy Schryer (JSc), Tony Schryer, Sam Sinderson (SSn), Becky Smith, Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Steve Thomas (STh), Sue Thomas (SuT), Shannon Thompson, Steve Tirone (STI), Jim Valimont, Mark VanderVen (MVV), Bob VanNewkirk (BVN), Marjorie Van Tassel (MVT), Mark Vass, Dave Wilton, Dan Yagusic.

### Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Manorville (MV), Rosston (RT).

**Canada Goose**maxima included 121 at KT and 100 at Templeton 12/29 (CG, MH). RT yielded 2 **Gadwalls** 12/29 (CG, MH) and 2 again 2/18 (BJ, CJ). Fifteen **American Wigeons** were listed at RT 2/17 (MVT), but by the following day that number had doubled (BJ, CJ); MV yielded 3 and RT 2 on 2/20 (MH, RH). CC harbored 12 **American Black Ducks** 12/6 (MVT) and KT produced an equal number 12/29 (CG, MH); 2 appeared at CC 2/18 (BJ, CJ) and 4 were sighted at MV 2/20 (MH, RH). Top **Mallard** counts were 37 at KT 12/12 (MH, RH), 38 at KT 12/29 (CG, MH), and 40 at MV 1/31 (MVT). A **Green-winged Teal** and a single **Ring-necked Duck** were early arrivals at MV 2/20 (MH, RH). KT hosted 4 **Buffleheads** 12/29 (CG, MH) while 14 were found at RT 2/18 (MM). The Allegheny River yielded 6 **Hooded Mergansers** at RT and 4 at KT 12/29 (CG, MH); 7 were found on the cooling pond at Keystone Power Plant 1/9 (MH, RH); a raft of 36 on the water at RT 2/20 (MH, RH) was the high tally. Congregating at RT were 45 **Common Mergansers** 12/29 (CG, MH) while Mosgrove yielded 19 the same day; 34 were noted at CC 1/31 (MVT); 21 remained at RT 2/21 (MVT).

The best count of 17 **Wild Turkeys** was achieved near LB 1/22 (MVT). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** stopped at MV 12/12 (MH, RH) while singletons were listed 12/29 (CG, MH) at RT, KT, and Mosgrove, and 1/31 (MVT) at CC and MV. Three **Great Blue Herons** were feeding

along the river's edge at RT 12/29 (CG, MH).

An immature **Bald Eagle** was found near LB 12/10 and 12/21 (MVT); an adult flew by RT 12/29 (CG, MH); a second-year bird was spotted at KT 1/8 (MH, RH); LB yielded 2 eagles 1/19 and 1/31 (MVT). Amazing that of the 12 eagles seen at CC 2/18 (BJ, CJ), only one was an adult. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was noted only at KT 1/8 (MH, RH); **Cooper's Hawks** were found only near LB (MVT) on four dates and at KT twice (MH, RH). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed near Spaces Corners 1/19 (FM, JM).

Three **American Coots** at KT 12/12 (MH, RH), 3 at KPP 1/9 (MH, RH), and one at RT 2/18 (MM) comprised the entire coot report. First **Ring-billed Gulls** on the Allegheny at RT were 5 on 1/31 (MVT); high tallies included 150 at CC and 25 at RT 2/18 (BJ, CJ). Two **Herring Gulls** near the old nest at KT on 12/29 (CG, MH) were the only ones noted. A single **Common Raven** was spotted at CC 1/11 (MVT). Two **Brown-headed Cowbirds** visited a LB feeder 12/7 (MVT).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Erma Dovenspike, Carol Guba, Roger Higbee, Bob Jackman, Carolyn Jackman, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Mark McConaughy, Marjorie Van Tassel.

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### Beaver County

Locations: Beaver Falls (BF), Beaver River (BR), Economy Borough (ECON), Independence Marsh (IND), Rochester (RCH).

As lakes and ponds throughout the region froze solid by mid-Jan, numbers of **Canada Geese** built steadily on the BR, peaking at 720 on 1/23 (MV). A **Mute Swan** on the BR north of BF 12/24 (AB) was the only report of this thankfully still-rare species in *Beaver*. Small numbers of **Gadwall** appeared at RCH in Jan and Feb (BS, MV). Reports of **American Wigeon** were limited to 6 at RCH 2/18 (BS) and one on the BR 2/25 (MV). **American Black Ducks** inexplicably were common again this season, continuing an almost random pattern of occurrence in the county in recent years. They were reported on the BR from RCH to BF throughout the season with peak counts of 15 on 12/24 (AB) and 19 at RCH 1/27 (MV). Like Canada Geese, it seemed every resident **Mallard** from around the county decided to cram onto the open water of the BR in Jan and early Feb; best count was 700+ on 2/1 (SK). **Northern Shovelers** appeared at Hereford Manor Lake 2/18 (SD) and RCH 2/20 (DW, ST). Single **Northern Pintails** were at New Brighton 2/6 (KG) and on the BR 2/25 (MV). The only report of **Green-winged Teal** was of 3 late fall migrants at AR 12/5 (MV).

Small numbers of **Canvasback** were at RCH in Dec and again beginning mid-Jan; last was a group of 6 present 2/10-18 (MV, BS) that also provided the high count. **Redhead** followed a similar pattern and abundance as Canvasback, but up to 12 stayed as late as 2/28 on the BR (MV). Up to 7 **Ring-necked Ducks** were present 1/10-31 at RCH and BF, unusual for this species that often doesn't appear until late Feb. Two **Greater Scaup** put down at RCH 2/11 (MV) and stayed to the end of the season. A **Lesser Scaup** was at RCH 12/23 and on the BR 12/26-27 (MV); otherwise they were not reported again until late Jan. A first winter male **White-winged Scoter** was present at RCH for a month, from 2/13-3/13 (MV, m.ob.). The only **Long-tailed Duck** of the season was at RCH 12/23 (MV). **Bufflehead** had a good season, present sporadically from RCH to BF 12/9-2/16 (m.ob.). Best count was 16 at BF 2/11 (MV). **Common Goldeneye** also had a better than average flight. Notably up to 6 were on the BR 12/17-26 (MV, AB); the species is rare before Jan here. Last were 15 at BF 2/11 (MV). **Hooded Mergansers** were reported very frequently on BR and Ohio River throughout the season (m.ob.), with a peak of 19 on 12/26 (MV). A **Common Merganser** was out of place at Hereford Manor Lake 12/4 (MV). A nice count of 25 was made at BF 12/24 (AB). The only **Ruddy Duck** of the season was one at RCH 12/19-23 (MV). A small number of **Pied-billed Grebes** wintered on the BR and Ohio River (m.ob.). The only report of **Horned Grebe** was of 2 at RCH 2/10 (BS).

First **Turkey Vulture** of the spring returned 2/15 (BS). **Bald Eagles** continue their unfettered expansion in sw. Pennsylvania as a wintering species. Daily counts of 2 or 3 on the rivers were frequent throughout the season, but the most notable report was made from Montgomery Lock and Dam 1/26 when 11 were found: 2 adults and 9 sub-adults (SG). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** at RCH 12/4 was probably a late migrant (MV). **American Kestrels** were reported only from North Sewickley Twp. 2/11 (MV) and from the county WRS route 2/14 (SG). A

**Merlin**, possibly the same one that wintered in the town of Beaver in previous seasons, decided to make a go of it on the other side of the BR this season; one was occasionally seen in RCH beginning 12/19 (MV) and was present through the season (GM). One or two **Peregrine Falcons** continued all season as fixtures on the bridges over the Ohio in the area of Monaca (m.ob.).

A **Sandhill Crane** was seen flying over a Chippewa Twp. shopping center 12/6 (BS). First **Killdeer** of the spring was found at Bridgewater 2/16 (BS), and first **Wilson's Snipe** were represented by 2 at Independence Twp. 2/25 (MV). **Ring-billed Gulls** peaked at 250 at RCH 2/11 (MV). A few **Herring Gulls** were present with the ring-bills in Feb.

Single **Common Ravens** were recorded in the RCH area 1/10 (BS) and 2/27 (KG). Flocks of **Horned Larks** included 30 in Independence Twp. 1/2 (GM), spillover from the Janoski Farm in adjacent *Allegheny*, and 15 in North Sewickley Twp. 2/5-11 (MV). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found at feeders in BF (MV) and ECON (KD, BS). A **Brown Creeper** spent much of the winter at a feeder in ECON (BS). A **Winter Wren** was a nice find on the Beaver CBC 12/18 (*fide* RM). Up to 2 **American Pipits** were seen at RCH 12/12-14 (MV). A **Fox Sparrow** was found on the Beaver CBC 12/18 (*fide* RM), providing an unusual Dec report for the county. A **Swamp Sparrow** was at IND 1/2 (MV). Like Horned Larks, a large flock of at least 207 **Snow Buntings** were seen on the *Beaver* side of the Janoski Farm in Independence Twp. 12/19-1/2 (GM). Another flock of 80 was found in North Sewickley Twp. 2/5 (MV), with 3 still there 2/11. At least 3 **Lapland Longspurs** accompanied the Janoski bunting flock, one of which was definitively seen on the *Beaver* side 12/19 (GM). **Common Grackle** returned to ECON 2/18 (KD). A group of 5 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** was in North Sewickley Twp. 2/11 (MV). The only report of **Purple Finch** was of 3 at a feeder in ECON 2/11 (KD). Up to 8 **Pine Siskins** frequented the same feeder in ECON 12/8-2/18 (KD); the only other report of siskin in the county was of one at a BF feeder 1/29 (SB).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Simone Bennett, Andy Berchin, Scott Brown, Shawn Collins, Sheree Daugherty, Karyn Delaney, Scott Gregg, Karena Gregg, Scott Kinzey, Rick Mason (Beaver CBC Coordinator), Becky Smith, Kate St. John, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton.

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### Bedford County

No report.

Compiler: **Tom Dick, 123 Hummer Lane, Cairnbrook, PA, 15924, (814) 754-5727, thomasd102.d@gmail.com**.

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### Berks County

Abbreviations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), Breneman's Quarry, Spring Twp. (BQ), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands # 110 (SGL).

December and January were the coldest since 2002-03, with temperatures dropping to 0°F or lower on some January nights. Because of the cold, snow cover, often crusted with ice, was continuous for much of the period. BML, LO and many creeks were frozen for weeks. However, Dec-Feb precipitation was below normal, continuing the dry trend of 2010. A thaw in mid-Feb triggered heavy migration, especially of waterfowl, gulls and blackbirds.

Ten **Greater White-fronted Geese** were seen at LO or nearby Moselem Springs Golf Club 12/17-1/15 (SF, m.ob.). The birds consisted of a flock of nine (which included two immatures) and a single goose not associated with the flock. On 2/26, more than a month after the clustered sightings, a **Greater White-fronted Goose** migrating with **Canada Geese** stopped at the pond on Old Rt. 22 east of Shartlesville (MW). All these birds had the bright orange bills typical of the *flavirostris* (Greenland) race. The first great wave of tens of thousands of **Snow Geese** broke over the county during the Feb thaw. Single **Cackling Geese** were at Moselem Springs 12/20 (DW), LO 2/22, 27 (RK), and BQ 2/24 (RK). **Mute Swans** held on at LO in spite of the freeze, the high count of 24 seen there 2/24 (RK). **Tundra Swans** began to appear in early Feb and increased to 56 at BQ 2/28 (MW), forerunners of many more in an excellent spring to see the species in *Berks*.

Birders reported 21 duck species this winter. Some common ducks peaked early in winter, such as 53 **Gadwall** at Moselem Springs Golf Club 12/7 (RK), 760 **American Black Ducks** at LO 12/25 (RK) and 3500 **Mallards** at LO 12/12 (RK). When the latter two species are abundant, Black Duck x Mallard hybrids can usually be found, and this season produced more sightings of these than usual, with a high count of three drakes at LO 12/25 (RK). Two hybrid drakes at BQ 2/13 were paired with apparent female Mallards (RK). BQ remained at least half open when BML and LO were entirely frozen, enabling several species to winter. Some high counts from BQ in the depths of Jan were the winter's only **Redhead** and 30 **Ring-necked Ducks** 1/15 (ALam), 33 **Ruddy Ducks** and 43 **American Coots** 1/22 (RK). The quarry attracted three **Northern Shovelers** and six **Lesser Scaup** 2/24, 26 (RK). Rain produced this winter's high count of 500 **Northern Pintails** at LO 2/28 (RK), and 15 **Canvasbacks** were at LO 2/27 (RK, MS). A **White-winged Scoter** was at LO 12/2 (MS). Other Dec scoters were noted in the fall season report. **Great Blue Herons** were already standing on their nests in Spring Twp. 2/26 (EB).

Raptors provided some of the most interesting birding during this long, cold winter. Both vulture species were again easy to find. A **Black Vulture** wearing a yellow patagial tag on its left wing was in the Oley Valley from mid-Dec until 2/13 (RK). It had been captured and marked near Kempton as part of a HMS study of vulture movements. Various aged immature **Bald Eagles** drifted through the county at various times, and the resident pair at LO was billing and cooing over a shared goose dinner on the frozen lake 1/22 (RK). Many birders reported seeing **Northern Harriers** quartering fields, especially in areas with shaggy grasses (such as in CREP fields) alternated with row crop remains, because such areas support the voles that rule this hawk. A birder who spent an afternoon in such habitat along Bright School Rd., BML saw one female, one juvenile and three male **Northern Harriers** 1/25 (JBo). In similar habitat at Pheasant Valley Farm, a game bird farm near Robesononia, two male and one juvenile harriers were seen 2/13 (RK). A **Northern Goshawk** was seen at BML 12/8, 21 (JS). January brought an influx of **Rough-legged Hawks**, which concentrated in the same habitat as harriers. On 1/25, one dark morph and four light morph birds were seen along Bright School Rd., BML (JBo). Some of these birds, along with harriers, were seen off and on for about two weeks. A light morph bird was at Pheasant Valley Farm 2/6 (RF) and other birds at other places till 2/10. A post-season **Golden Eagle** soared past HMS 1/15 (SF). **American Kestrels** vacated some traditional wintering sites, probably because of crusted snow cover. **Merlins** were prominent. The male and female wintering at BML were joined by a second male 1/25 (JS). **Merlins** were also seen near Oley 12/17 (KL), near LO 12/21 (ALam) and near Bernville 1/23 (MW). Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** pair was in residence all winter (BU). A Peregrine was eating a songbird atop a utility pole near Robesononia 2/13 (RK).

**Killdeer** and **Wilson's Snipe** were very hard to find. **American Woodcock** were already courting at Hamburg and near Leesport 2/27 (DK, MW). Most gulls, like most ducks, vacated during the lake freeze-up and didn't return in numbers until mid-Feb. Neither **Great Black-backed Gulls** nor **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported after the CBCs. Single **Short-eared Owls** were seen at BML 1/1 (RK, JS) and at Pheasant Valley Farm near Robesononia 2/26 (RK). A road-killed bird was found on Sunday Rd. near Hamburg 2/13 and a live owl was hunting nearby fields on Windsor Castle Rd. 2/19 (MW).

The adult female **Anna's Hummingbird** first seen at Renee Gery's feeder in Mountain Springs Mobile Home Park, Shartlesville in late Oct 2010 survived the winter. Many birders saw the hummer visit a feeder kept thawed by a heat lamp, and two people reported seeing her hawking small insects at the park's sewage treatment plant (HE). She survived several nights of sub-zero temperatures and left in mid-Mar, having by then developed a few red feathers on her throat. Successive photo studies (HE) showed her looking alert and healthy all winter.

A **Northern Shrike** seen along Bright School Rd., BML 1/20 (JS) was not found again, though sought by birders for several days. A few **Fish Crows** wintered at BML (JS), augmented by new arrivals in late Feb. Three to five **Common Ravens** flying over Reading 1/11 (KK) were harassed by **American Crows**, a common occurrence off the Kittatinny Ridge. **Horned Larks** were abundant, reported in hundreds from many places till mid-Feb. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** wintered at a few feeders and four were found in a native stand of Virginia Pine at SGL 2/27 (TC). **Winter Wren**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **American Pipit**, and **Eastern Towhee** were all reported in very small numbers in Jan or Feb. Flocks of **Eastern Bluebirds** and **American Robins** were found all

winter, as usual.

A **Yellow-throated Warbler** of the albiflora race present at the BML Dry Brooks Day Use Area (aka beach) since 11/24 was last seen 2/10 (JS). The bird lived on insects and spiders gleaned from acorn cups, branches and foliage, park buildings and picnic tables until well into Dec, then began eating peanut butter and lard/peanut butter mix smeared on trees beside a parking lot (JS). Easily found because of its tameness and persistent chipping, the bird was a lifer for many of the birders who came to see it and donated many jars of peanut butter on its behalf. It was last seen after an ice storm, having survived the coldest part of the winter. The **Pine Warbler** that had accompanied the **Yellow-throated Warbler** since 11/25 was last seen 3/4 (JS), the second time this species has overwintered at BML. One or two **Fox Sparrows** were seen on all three CBC's. An injured bird visited a feeder near Leesport 12/9-13 (DK). One there 2/18 (DK) was probably an early migrant. One or two **Lapland Longspurs** were found in **Horned Lark** flocks at various farms 1/23-2/10 (KG, KL, JS, BW). **Snow Buntings** were common. The flock of 400 found on the Hamburg CBC 12/26 was a record. Flocks of a few to 200 were reported widely until 2/13 (m.ob.). All reports of two rare icterids follow: Two **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen along Monument Rd., Hamburg 1/25 and two nearby at Bleile Rd. 1/30. Three were seen on Balthaser Rd. in the same area 1/30 (RK). Single **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen at the BML feeders 1/20 (JS), in the Oley Valley 1/23 (RK) and at Peters Cr. 3/1 (MS).

A few **Purple Finches** made rare appearances at a few feeders. **Pine Siskins** were a bit more common, with 20 or more birds sometimes seen, but most flocks were much smaller and usually did not settle in for long. **Common Redpolls** staged a large incursion into the northeastern US this winter, and were reported from several places in northern Pennsylvania. The only **Common Redpoll** reported in Berks was a bird seen briefly at a feeder in Eckville 3/11 (SW).

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512, (610) 845-7310, rckeller@dejazzd.com**, Ed Barrell, Joe Beatrice, Justin Bosler, Tom Clauser, Catherine R. Elwell, Mike Epler, Howard Eskin, Rob Feldman, Steve Fordyce, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Kevin Johnson, Dean Kendall, Katrina Knight, Alex Lamoreaux, Amy Langman, Barry Pounder, Joan Silagy, Mike Slater, Matt Spence, Bill Uhrich, Drew Weber, Bruce Williams, Matt Wlasniewski.

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**Blair County**  
No Compiler.

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**Bradford County**

Locations: SE Bradford County Christmas Bird Count: the count area is a circle with a 7.5-mile radius from its center at Wyalusing (CBC): (if location is not noted, area of circle will follow in parenthesis, e.g. (se), (e), etc.), Echo Beach Road on the Susquehanna River south of Wysox (EBR), Peck Hill (PEH), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Woods Rd. (WRD).

Although many complained about the winter weather, there have been many winters with colder weather and much more snow during Dec-Feb. The major snowstorms this year hit us after the report period.

The largest number ever counted on the CBC, 150 **Snow Geese** flew over Brewer Hollow Rd. 1/2 on the CBC (SG, JHa, BW).

An adult **Bald Eagle** was at French Asylum 12/18, there were multiple sightings of them behind the courthouse in Towanda and at Wilawanna during Dec and an immature was at Ulster 12/27 (RG). There was also the largest number of **Bald Eagles** counted on our CBC, 16 on 1/2 (the previous CBC count had been 6), as follows: one adult and one immature at Wyalusing Rocks, one adult and 3 immatures at Homet's Ferry (SG, JHa, BW); 2 adults and 2 immatures (se) (JHo, BT); 2 adults (e) (CD, JD, AT), 2 at French Asylum (RYa), and 2 adults at EBR (DN, KN). Additionally, there were 13 tallied 1/8 during the Winter Bald Eagle Survey in *Bradford*: 2 adults at Tioga Point, one adult and one immature on the Chemung River between Athens and Sayre, one adult at Wilawanna, 3 immatures at the Sayre sewage plant, one immature at Hornbrook, 2 adults above James Street Bridge, Towanda, and 2 immatures just north of Wyalusing Rocks (DA, RG, TL, BM, JPe). On 1/10, two adults were observed at French Asylum (RYa), one was in the Woods Rd. vicinity 1/24 (CM), and an immature was attacking a **Mallard** but then was chased off by a **Canada Goose** 2/3 in the SUR

(BH). There was a **Northern Harrier** at Liberty Corners 12/25, one at Athens and one at East Smithfield 12/27 (RG). They were also observed on the CBC 1/2: 2 near Merryall (SG, JHa, BW), one on Higley Rd (DG, RM), one (se) (JHo, BT). 2 (e) (CD, JD, AT), and one (nw) (MBo, JPa, MP). On 1/8 there was one over the Sheshequin Flats and one on the flats at Hornbrook (DA, RG, TL, BM, JPe). On 12/21, a **Rough-legged Hawk** was moving from power pole to power pole along a road near New Era (TG). Two were seen on the CBC 1/2: one along the road south of TNE (DB, MBu, TG) and one near Merryall (SG, JHa, BW). On 1/4 one was eating roadkill on Rt. 187 close to Spring Lake (TG); and one was seen 1/8 at Hornbrook (DA, RG, TL, BM, JPe). Two (one dark and one light) were recorded on the WRS 2/11 in NW Brad. Co. (BL).

A wonderful surprise was a **Long-eared Owl** on the CBC 1/2 (SG, JHa, BW). This species has only been counted on our CBC 4 other times, in 1958, 1961, 1965, and 1967. Somewhat unusual on the CBC here, a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was counted 1/2 at SGL172 (DG, RM). Not often seen, there were 30 **Horned Larks** on the CBC 1/2 on Ruger Hollow Rd. near Baker Road near Laceyville (CD, JD, AT). Also, 9 on 1/18 on Flemming Rd. off Windfall Rd. in the East Canton area (LF), and 12 were at Edinger Hill Rd. 2/8-9 (EW). Four **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen frequently during December at Wilawanna Rd (MZ), and on the CBC 1/2: 2 (s) (DG, RM) and 2 on Woods Rd (CM).

One **Winter Wren** was found on the CBC 1/2 on Fisk Rd. near SGL172 (DG, RM). A **Hermit Thrush** was heard singing on Iron Bridge Rd. on the CBC 1/2 (DG, RM).

**Snow Buntings** sightings were delightfully numerous. There were about 100 on a freshly manured cornfield in the Evergreen vicinity 1/10 (RG), 12 to 20 were at WRD 1/24-25 (CM), six were on Armenia Mt. 1/28 (RYo), a small flock was at Edinger Hill Rd. 2/6 and another small flock was on Davis Rd near Edinger Hill Rd 2/12 (EW).

One to 4 **Purple Finches** were present at PHE 2/18-21 (AV, GV). **Common Redpolls** were found in a number of locations. On the CBC 1/2: 52 on Iron Bridge Rd. (DG, RM) and 9 on WRD (CM). On 1/3 two were at a feeder near Canton (LF), 4 were at a Herrickville feeder 1/7 (MBe), and 12 were at an E. Smithfield feeder 1/12 (RG). Redpolls spent most of the winter at PEH, beginning with 20+ on 12/30, a high count of 100-200 on 12/31, and smaller number many days during Jan up to and into Mar (AV, GV). There was a single at a TNE feeder 2/21 and 2/23 (TG), and several on 2/3 at Ulster (DA, NA). Relatively few **Pine Siskins** were seen during the winter: One was at a feeder near Canton 12/25 (LF). A total of 63 were found on the CBC 1/2: 5 (s) (DG, RM), 57 near Holleback (MBa, NB), one at WRD (CM). Finally, some were at WRD 1/28 for two weeks up to 1/28 (CM), and one was at PEH 2/21 (AV, GV).

Observers: **Trudy Gerlach, 6907 Wyalusing New Albany Rd., Wyalusing, PA 18853, (570) 746-9270, tgswoods@epix.net**, Dick Allyn, Nan Allyn, Marvin Baker (MBa), Nancy Baker, Marilyn Behrend (MBe), Marty Borko (MBo), David Buck, Melody Buck (MBu), Chris DeMarco, Joe DeMarco, Lewis Frederick, Trudy Gerlach, Sandy Goodwin, Doug Gross, Rich Gulyas, Jeff Hartman (JHa), Jim Hoysen (JHo), Bob Hutchings, Bruce Launius, Joe Lesko, Rebecca Lesko, Tony Liguori, Bill Madill, Robert Megraw, Charlene Miller, George Miller, Dan Natt, Karen Natt, John Palmer (JPa), Marilyn Palmer, Jason Petlock (JPe), Alan Thatcher, Bruce Troy, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Bob Wasilewski, Ellen Whipple, Ron Yanney (RYa), Ron Young (RYo), Marsha Zwierlein.

## **Bucks County**

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Central Bucks CBC (C-CBC), Southern Bucks CBC (S-CBC), Upper Bucks-Montgomery CBC (U-CBC), Churchville Reservoir Park (CVP), Core Creek Park (CCP), Falls Township Community Park (FTP), Maple Knoll Farms-Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Mud Island-Bensalem Township (MUI), New Hope (NHP), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP).

Temperatures averaged about 3.5°F below normal for December and January, with February about 2.7°F above normal due to a post-2/17 warm up. Precipitation was about 0.5 inches below normal for the period. The early hard freeze and almost continuous snow cover starting 12/26 and lasting until the third week of Feb must have made survival difficult for many species. Waterfowl were again scarce away from the lower county up until the warm spell 2/17-2/19, when a major movement of ducks occurred. As the ice slowly retreated through the

end of the period, waterfowl made a good showing. Winter Raptor Surveys and other reports indicated hawks also were in lower numbers this winter, but rebounded after the warm spell. A lack of mice normally found while cleaning out bluebird boxes (RH, AM), and the lack of normal post snow melt meadow vole trails on hundreds of acres of pasture in Blooming Glen (AM) may indicate a shortage of rodents for hawks and owls. The Christmas Bird Counts confirmed that several winter irruptive species observed during this fall's migration period and the regularly occurring winter half-hardy species all abandoned our area and moved south. Food supply was believed to be a major factor as reported in the fall season report. Samples of the smaller numbers will be given below. Manure spread on the snow at the few remaining active dairy farms produced the expected field birds but with no unusual numbers. Even sparrows were considered scarce. A total of 132 species were reported, which matched last year's total.

The Christmas Bird Counts had favorable weather conditions. Only the C-CBC had some light precipitation, but it didn't seriously impact the count. The deep freeze did cause considerable early freezing of lakes. The 43rd U-CBC 12/19 produced counts of 87 species and 22,804 individuals. Two new high counts were recorded. The 45th C-CBC 1/2 had 88 species and 35,360 individuals. There were five new high counts. The 64th S-CBC 12/18 had 96 species and 128,690 individuals. Nine new high counts were recorded. The species counts on all three CBCs were above the long term averages as were the individuals total for C-CBC. The other two counts had total individuals below the long-term averages. This comment on the U-CBC (BE) sums things up for species often common on CBCs: "Several teams commented that birds were frustratingly hard to find this year. Notably scarce among the passerines were Cedar Waxwing, American Robin, several sparrow species, blackbirds, and finches." Yellow-rumped Warbler should be added to that list. It should be noted that all three CBCs have part of their count circles outside the county, but hopefully 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 based on data from 1961 to 1990. CBC data were supplied by Bob Mercer for the S-CBC, Diane Allison for the C-CBC, and Bill Etter for the U-CBC. A review of eBird entries contributed to this report.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported at CVP 1/1 (VD). Two were near Newtown 1/16, one was at CCP 1/30, and one stopped at NSP 2/26 (DFa). Possibly only 3 total birds were involved due to close proximity of three of the sites. A group of 9 **Cackling Geese** at PVP 12/12 (AM) was the highest single site count reported, and one to three could often be spotted in large goose flocks through the season (m.ob.). Small **Snow Goose** flocks up to 350 birds were reported throughout the period (m.ob.). The highest reports were 800 at Riegelsville 1/19 (EB) and 4000 at Erwinna 2/18 (PC). A **Canada Goose** with red collar H6N2 found at Uhlerstown 1/20 (AM, JMi) was banded about 18 miles north of Montreal, Quebec on 7/5/2007. It was a female born in 2006 or earlier. **Tundra Swan** made a better showing this year, with the highest reports being 30 at FTP 2/20 (AW), 15 at NSP 2/28 (DFa), and 7 at PVP on 2/28 (DFa).

A total of 15 **Wood Ducks** was tallied on the three CBCs, which again was above the long-term average. A few reports of one or 2 continued through the season. Probable migrant arrivals were 8 at State Game Land 56 2/19 (PC), 5 at NHP 2/20 (AM, JMi), and 12 at Giving Pond at Uhlerstown 2/28 (EB). The count of 64 **Northern Pintails** at PVP 2/17 (RFe) is a good local high. Normally scarce, a **Canvasback** was at PVP 12/29-31 (AM, KA) and again 1/16 (JF, DFa). Six were at CCP 2/18 (DM), with 2 still there 2/24 (BK). A large flock on the Delaware River was first reported 2/13 near MUI (DFa), and although no one noted them on the PA side of the river, presumably they crossed the border sometime. The high count there was 275 on 2/17 (AM, JMi). **Redhead** is rarely reported here, so 8 at PVP 12/8 are noteworthy (AM, JMi), as are 3 at MUI 2/13 (DFa). Three on the S-CBC 12/18 marked only the twelfth time in the long history of that count. Also, scarce here in winter, one or 2 **Greater Scaup** were noted at four sites on six dates (PC, DFa, BK, RFe). The mixed flock of approximately 65 scaup near MUI 2/13-17 contained at least 16 **Greater Scaup** (DFa, AM). A **Long-tailed Duck** at MUI 2/13-14 (DFa, BK) and one at PVP 2/27 (*vide KK*) were unusual for Feb. The highest single site count of **Common Goldeneye** was 91 at FTP area 2/20 (AW). Other high counts were 62 at NHP 2/6-13 (BHo, AM) and an estimated 50 at Morrisville 2/12 (DFa). A **Surf Scoter** stopped at NSP 12/8 (DFa). The 272 **Hooded Mergansers** on the S-CBC smashed the previous high count of 188.

Driven south by the early freeze, 3177 **Common Mergansers** on the S-CBC were more than five times the long and short-term averages. Other relatively modest high counts due to the early and late ice cover were 600 each at PVP 2/20 (AM) and CCP 2/28 (BK). Missed on CBCs most years, six **Red-breasted Mergansers** were tallied on the S-CBC 12/18. Two were at CCP 1/23 (DFa), with one there 2/4 (BK). Another was at PVP 2/26 (AM).

The CBC total of 134 **Wild Turkeys** was a significant improvement over the last couple of years. A **Common Loon** was at CVP 1/13 (MC), for the only report after 2 on the S-CBC 12/18. Grebes were scarce. There were only seven reports of **Pied-billed Grebe**, with four of those from the same general area and thus possibly the same bird (EB, DFa, BK, AM, S-CBC). One **Horned Grebe** was reported at Erwinna 1/30 (PC) for the only report. One **Red-necked Grebe** at NSP was only the third occurrence for the U-CBC 12/19 (BE). Three near MUI were first noted 2/13 (DFa) and reported through at least 2/22 (FW). The highest single site count of **Great Cormorant** was 16 at MUI 2/13 (DFa). One **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 2/13 at Silver Lake Park (DFa) constituted the only report.

An all white **Turkey Vulture** was reported flying over Tyler State Park 1/1 (ph. HH). Over 100 **Turkey Vultures** were over Chalfont 2/9 (RFR) near where a roost has been for several years. A Mid-Winter Eagle Survey route produced 8 **Bald Eagles** (3 adult, 5 immature) 1/9 along a 12.4-mile stretch of the Delaware River between Erwinna and Riegelsville (AR, BV, NV). Another 27-mile route at PWT area 1/7 tallied 13 **Bald Eagles** (one adult, 12 immature) (AJ). **Northern Harrier** was scarce again this winter, with 4 on the CBCs being about 30% of the previous ten-year average. Only 5 others were reported (SB, PC, DFa, AM, BS). There were none detected on the 38 mile Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) route centered in Bedminster Twp. 1/16 (AM, JMi) compared to the average of 4.4 for the previous ten year history. A 70-mile WRS route centered in Lower Makefield Twp. also produced no harriers (ABi, NB). Interestingly the northern WRS route produced a record 3 **Red-shouldered Hawks** compared to the previous 10-year average of 0.3 (AM, JMi). Possibly the snow cover drove them to spots more visible. The count of 14 **Red-tailed Hawks** on the northern WRS was the lowest in its eleven-year history compared to the previous ten year average of 31 (AM, JMi). The Milford Twp. all white but not albino **Red-tail Hawk** wintered for at least the ninth year (BL). Another with significantly white upper parts but a red tail was at Bedminster Twp. into late Dec. It returned after the warm front 2/17 and was seen through Feb (JH, ph. AM). A **Rough-legged Hawk** at Tinicum Twp. for the C-CBC 1/2 (JG) was the first since 2003 and only the seventh occurrence in the 45 year history. In general, it was a far above average year for Rough-legged Hawk, with one each at NSP 1/28 (DFa), Bedminster Twp. 1/16 (AM, JMi), Milford Twp. 2/7 (BW), and PVP 2/13 (VM, KI). Two were reported from Warwick Twp. 2/4 (CW). The 17 **American Kestrels** on the CBCs continue the relatively low numbers of recent years. Quakertown Swamp continued dry and then frozen, resulting in no winter Virginia Rail reports this year (BE, DFa).

A high count of 36 **Killdeer** 12/1 at CCP (DFa) is an indication of higher numbers lingering into Dec before the freeze. Only a handful of reports were received after the mid-Dec freeze (m.ob.). The lingering **Lesser Yellowlegs** at CVP reported in the fall season, was last noted 12/10 (BK) for a new fall late date. There have been a couple of odd later winter reports in the past. Two **Wilson's Snipe** were at Warminster Community Park 12/5 (GJ), and 4 were at CVP 12/18 (DT). Two were at Warwick Twp. 2/4 (CW). The first displaying **American Woodcock** were noted 2/18 at Bedminster Twp. (DFa) and PVP 2/21 (BHi).

#### CBC Gull Counts

Species	U-CBC	C-CBC	S-CBC	Total
<b>Laughing Gull</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Ring-billed Gull</b>	764	1134	4289	6187
<b>Herring Gull</b>	44	266	80670	80980
<b>Thayer's Gull</b>	0	0	1	1
<b>Iceland Gull</b>	0	0	16	16
<b>Lsr. Bl.-backed Gull</b>	49	78	357	484
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>	0	0	3	3
<b>Great Bl.-backed Gull</b>	10	33	1361	1404
<b>Total</b>	867	1511	86697	89075

Four **Laughing Gulls** at FTP 12/2 (BK) provided the last fall report. Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** at CCP 1/31 (GD) provided the only report. A first year **Thayer's Gull** was reported at Penn-Warner Tract 12/18 for the S-CBC (DFa, BW), and an adult was there 1/18 (DFa).

Sixteen **Iceland Gulls** on the S-CBC 12/18 were almost double the five year average and eight times the long term average. Twelve were still present 2/13 in that area at the Penn-Warner Tract (DFa). Surprisingly, there was only one report away from that area, with one at PVP 2/19-20 (ph. WL, *fide* ABn, AM). The count of 357 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** for the S-CBC was a new high. On 2/26, high single site counts were 187 at NSP and 123 at PVP (AM). The fall's first **Glaucous Gull** was at FTP 12/9 (BC). A **Nelson's Gull** (hybrid) was reported there 12/18 (ph. TS, *fide* TJ). A few putative **Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull** hybrids were reported from the Falls Twp. area (TJ).

There were no reports for Barn Owl, as usual. A **Barred Owl** was found on the U-CBC 12/19 (DFa, HMe) and two were noted in Tinicum Twp. 1/30 (PC). The reported PVP **Long-eared Owl** numbers were low this year, with the highest report being 3 in mid-Dec into early Jan (JH, BL). After an unusual number of **Short-eared Owl** reports in the fall season, one was tallied on the C-CBC 1/2 at PVP (AM, JT) and one was in Tinicum Twp. 1/20 (DFa). Eight and a half hours of owling in a sub-area of the U-CBC 12/19 yielded a mind numbing 114 **Eastern Screech Owls** (DFa, HMe). Another sub-area that includes parts of two other counties had 74 with seven hours effort (LM, KM). Overall, the total for the U-CBC was 237, which bested the previous high of 161 set in 2006. Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were tallied on the *Bucks* portion of the U-CBC 12/19 (DFa, HMe). Another, first spotted at PVP 12/13 (AM, JH), cooperated for the C-CBC 1/2, and was last reported 1/20 (AM, et al.). Another was seen at NHP 1/13 (BHo). Two hummingbirds were present near Yardley at feeders possibly as early as Oct (RSu, BSu). One was captured, identified, and banded as an immature female **Rufous Hummingbird** on 12/16 (SW). It was last seen feeding through the day 1/22 but not the next morning. This was the seventh county report and sixth since 2002. The first was in 1994. The Trenton average temperature on both 1/22 and 1/23 was 17°F, with an overnight low of 8°F between the two days. Winds were N-NW averaging in the mid-single digits but with gusts into the 20-30 mph range. Considering the supposed hardness of these birds, I won't postulate on its survival probabilities under those conditions. The other hummingbird went unidentified and was last seen feeding heavily in the early morning 12/15, indicating for sure it departed on its own power. The description given by the home-owners was that it was bigger, green, and had a red band across the throat, but not a full red gorget.

There were no Red-headed Woodpecker reports this winter. A possible **Red-shafted Northern Flicker** flew by Perkasio 12/19 but wasn't seen well enough to eliminate a hybrid (RFe). Per *Birds of Pennsylvania* (2000), this would be an extremely rare find in Pennsylvania, although apparently numerous hybrids have been caught here by banders. A record high 5977 **Fish Crows** on the S-CBC far surpassed the previous high of 3420 and was more than five times the previous ten year average. Several flocks of **Fish Crows**, numbering 30+ to 80+ individuals, were noted at Doylestown the third week of Feb (RH). One to three **Common Ravens** were reported from seven sites on seven dates between 12/11 and 1/25 (DFa, HMc, MR, VM). The count of 3 appeared to involve a pair driving off an intruder (DFa). The highest count for **Horned Lark** was 186 1/12 at MKF (RS, VS), where good numbers were found into Feb. Another high count was 123 in Hilltown Twp. 1/13 (AM). With the fairly large influx of **Black-capped Chickadee** into our area this fall, surprising was the total CBC count of only 49 compared to 798 **Carolina Chickadees** and 301 **Chickadee Species**. Many with **Black-capped Chickadee** characters were intermediate, and combined with more knowledge by local birders apparently resulted in a more conservative approach to identification. It is also possible that like so many species this winter many **Black-capped Chickadees** passed through the area rather than staying.

The fall movement of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** apparently passed through our area leaving an incredibly small total of 4 on the CBCs, a tiny fraction of the long term average. Most other reports came from Dec at less than ten sites, with only single individuals reported (m.ob.). A **House Wren** was reported for only the eighth time on the S-CBC 12/18 (GJ). **Winter Wren** provided a new record high 15 on the U-CBC, far exceeding short and long term averages. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** CBC counts were 48 (60% of the long term average) and 8 (40% of the long term average) respectively, supporting the impression of being hard to find this winter. The total CBC count of 346 **Eastern Bluebirds** was 40% of the previous ten-year average. It was an off year for **Hermit Thrush**, with only a total of 3 on the CBCs, which was about 10% of the ten-year average. There were only five other reports for the season (DFa, RH, GJ, PC, KS). The total of 2774 **American Robins** on the CBCs was less than 40% of the recent ten-

year average. One **Gray Catbird** on the S-CBC was the only report for the three CBCs compared to the previous ten-year average of 10. Only one was entered in eBird for the season (BK). A total count of 2 **Brown Thrashers** on the CBCs is consistent with their generally low numbers, but no others were reported indicating an unusual scarcity. MKF again had regular **American Pipits** in all three months, with the high count of 53 on 12/3 (RS, VS). CVP had 22 12/18 (DT) for the only other entry in eBird. The CBC total tally for **Cedar Waxwing** was only 131, or 23% of the previous ten-year average. There were only a handful of post CBC reports, not surprising considering the food shortage. Always nice to find, a **Lapland Longspur** was at MKF 1/8 and 1/27 (RS) and another was at Hilltown Twp. 1/13 (AM). One to 3 **Snow Buntings** were reported from five sites between 1/7 and 2/13 (RS, AR, BK, CR, AM).

The total of 65 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** on the three CBCs was 31% of the previous ten-year average. Post CBC reports in eBird were from only four sites totaling about 12 birds (GJ, EN, AM). A **Pine Warbler** 12/22-1/3 at NHP (BHo) was recorded for only the second time on the C-CBC, with eleven occurrences total in the long history of the three CBCs. A **Palm Warbler** on the S-CBC was only the seventh occurrence on that count and eighth for all three CBCs. An **Eastern Towhee** on the C-CBC was the only one on the CBCs, a small fraction of the long-term average. One each was at the Penn-Warner Tract into mid-Feb (DFa) and at PVP 2/9 (BHi). **American Tree Sparrow** was again in low numbers for the CBCs, with a total of 47. The only site with higher than single digits as entered in eBird was NSP with 20 1/8 (PC). Unlike the high numbers last year, there were no **Chipping Sparrows** on the CBCs. Post CBCs, one to 2 were at Solebury Twp. 1/18-24 (MR), another was at Bedminster Twp. 1/19 (DFa), and one was at NHP for about a week in early Feb (BHo). The **Savannah Sparrow** single site high count again came from MKF where 31 were noted 1/14 (RS). Only 7 **Fox Sparrows** on the CBCs was another species noteworthy for the small number. There were only 2 other reports, one being a probable returning migrant 2/19-2/26 at PVP (AM). The total of 1751 **White-throated Sparrows** on the three CBCs was only 45% of the previous ten-year average, supporting the comments about sparrows being in short supply. A **Dark-eyed Junco** near NHP 1/2 "looked good" to be a possible Pink-sided type, as did one at MKF 2/13 (both DFa). Two **Eastern Meadowlarks** on the C-CBC is a tiny fraction of the long-term three CBC average. There were no other reports. A CBC total of 38 **Rusty Blackbirds**, some of which were not in Bucks County, was above the long-term average. There were only three post CBC reports, all of less than 10 birds (DFa, EB, BF). The wintering NHP **Baltimore Oriole** continued through the period (SM) for the only report. After a moderate fall migration, **Purple Finch** abandoned our area leaving a total tally of only 2 for the CBCs versus a long-term average of 160. There were 6 at Solebury Twp. 12/11 (GG) and 2 at Riegelsville 1/8 (EB) for the only other reports. Three **Common Redpolls** 2/16 at Solebury Twp. provided a now rare occurrence here for the only report for the period. **Pine Siskin**, widespread in small numbers during the fall, also left the area with a total of 2 for the CBCs. Single digit counts were reported at PVP and six other sites sporadically through Dec and up to 1/27, with none later (m.ob.).

Observers: **August Mirabella 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales, PA 19454, (215) 368-0594, augustmirabella@aol.com**, Kris Ahlquist, Diane Allison, Alana Balogh (ABa), Sutera Betz, Al Bilheimer (ABi), Nancy Bilheimer, Adrian Binns (ABn), Alan Brady (ABr), Erich Boenzli (EBo), Paul Cooper, Marlin Corn (MCo), Bob Cunningham, Henry D'Alessandro, Vince DeAntoniis, Gerry Dewaghe, Howard Eskin, Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik (DFa), Rob Fergus (RFe), Doug Filler (DFi), John Finch, Ron French (RFr), Bob Friedermann, Roy Frock (RfO), Frank Gill, Gene Gladston, Lori Gladulich, Jim Greenwood, Ray Hendrick, Barbara Hiebsch (BHi), Bill Hoehne (BHo), Mike Homel (MHo), Henry Horn, Jessica Huff, Karen Isett, Adam Jacobs, Gail Johnson, Tom Johnson, Bill Keim, Ken Kitson, Wayne Lattuca, Butch Lishman, Victoria Mahmoud, Joe Majdan (JMa), Harry McGarrity (HMg), Bob Mercer, Holly Merker (HMe), Suzanne Meyers, Judy Mirabella (JMi), Dwight Molotsky (DM), Christopher Mortensen, Kirk Moulton, Lois Moulton, Ed Norman, Many observers (m.ob.), Ann Rhoads, Christina Riehl (CRi), Margie Rutbell, Cameron Rutt (CRu), Bob Shaffer, Kurt Schwarz, Richard Smith, Tom Smith, Vicky Smith, Chris Stieber, Barbara Sullivan (BSu), Richard Sullivan (RSu), Dave Tattoni, Shannon Thompson, John Tramontano, Benjamin Vizzachero, Nora Vizzachero, Steve Walker, Chris Walsh, Andrew Weber, Billy Weber, Lesley Weissman-Cook (LWC), Scott Weidensaul, Linda Widdop (LW), Frank Windfelder.

## Butler County

Locations: Birdwatchers Store (BS), Butler City (BC), Evans City (EC), Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC), Lake Arthur (LA), Miller Woods (MW), Moraine State Park (MSP), Poplar Forest (PF), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Township (SRT), Slippery Rock University (SRU), Wolf Creek Narrows (WCN).

December 2010 was meteorologically average with the first half of the month cool and relatively dry, abruptly changing to frigid and snowy in the latter half of the month. By the time the Butler CBC occurred 12/18, LA was completely frozen 4 inches thick, which allowed the annual army of ice fishermen to commence their sport on the earliest date since the lake was completed in 1972. Unfortunately, winter then settled in with a vengeance for the next two months, with a record 50 inches of snow accumulating in SRB by 3/1. The ornithological tip-off that our area was in for a challenging winter was the early arrival of flocks of **American Tree Sparrows** and **Dark-eyed Juncos** that flooded bird feeders in SRB, SRT, and SRU (GW, JW).

Needless to say, water birds were practically non-existent on the Butler CBC save for 51 **Tundra Swans**, one **Mallard**, and 6 **Common Mergansers** flying over the lake early in the morning (GW). However, earlier in the month an appreciable list of water birds was tabulated on LA 12/4 (MV): 172 **Canada Geese**, 3 **Trumpeter Swans** (2 adults, 1 juv.), 46 **Tundra Swans** (flyovers), 12 **Gadwalls**, 7 **American Black Ducks**, 10 **Mallards**, 2 **Redheads**, one **Greater Scaup**, 5 **Lesser Scaups**, 2 **Buffleheads**, 28 **Hooded Mergansers**, 3 **Common Mergansers**, 198 **Ruddy Ducks**, 5 **Pied-billed Grebes**, one **Horned Grebe**, and 180 **American Coots**. Three days before the lake completely froze, a lone **Greater Scaup**, 2 **Buffleheads**, 2 **Common Goldeneyes**, one **Hooded** and 6 **Common Mergansers**, one **American Coot**, 60 **Ring-billed Gulls**, and 20 **Herring Gulls** were counted 12/15 (DD). The ratio of Herring to Ring-bills was unusually high for the lake but perhaps indicated a rush movement to escape the 0-8°F temperatures that were recorded the next three mornings (GW).

Even without water birds, the Butler CBC had some interesting highlights and high counts (HC) for species: 88 **Wild Turkeys**, 2 **Rough-legged Hawks**, one **Short-eared Owl**, 4 **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, 8 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** (HC), 17 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 3 **Common Ravens**, 5744 **American Robins** (HC), 7 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (HC), 746 **American Tree Sparrows**, 1011 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 92 **Snow Buntings**, 4 **Rusty Blackbirds**, and 5 **Pine Siskins** (SB). Although small flocks of **Pine Siskin** were observed at bird feeders in BC 12/2-5 (MB), JEEC and MW 12/6 (GW), PF, SRU, and WCN (m.ob.), the species did not linger. Also, the huge irruption of the **Black-capped Chickadee** in the eastern part of the state never materialized in western Pennsylvania nor did other boreal species.

However, two unusual winter visitors did appear at the same bird feeders, often overlapping appearances in EC: a single adult female **Pine Warbler** 12/15-20 and an immature **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 12/12-18 (ML, RN). Both birds were well documented with photographs and written descriptions.

Observers: **Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145, genewilhelm@aol.com**, Betty Antal, Nancy Baker, Jim Barcasky, Jon Barcasky, Beverly Barnett, Steve Bickel, Birdwatchers Store personnel, Marcie Brown, Suzanne Butcher, Butler Outdoor Club members, Lee Carnahan, Ruth Crawford, Dave Darney, Debra Darney, Barbara Davis, Charles Davis, Sharon Davis, Cindy Dayen, Barb Dean, George Dean, Kathie Goodblood, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Robert Jamison, Sally Jamison, Bill Klobetanz, Linda Lenz, Henry Lenz, Melissa Little, Robert Madjaric, Bev McKinney, Clayton McKinney, Gina McKinney, Scott McKinney, Richard Nugent, Bob Pietz, Judy Pietz, Katie Schmidt, Cathy Setzer, Dawn Smith, Mark Smith, Alice Stehle, John Stehle, Mark Swansiger, Sandee Swansiger, Christy Tichy, Linda Wagner, Robert Walczak, Dorothy Weisberg, Joanne Wilhelm, Joe Young.

## Cambria County

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

Waterfowl at PG in early Dec were **Canada Goose**, **Mute Swan**,

**American Black Duck, Mallard, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Pied-Billed Grebe, and American Coot** (DG). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were in the Patton area 1/18 (DG). **Northern Flickers** were seen at several locations during the period, unusual for our area. A **Northern Shrike** was at PG 1/11 (DG). A single male **Eastern Towhee** wintered at my feeder near Patton (DG). **Lapland Longspurs** and **Snow Buntings** were seen in the Patton area (DG, JS). First **Red-winged Blackbirds** were at PG 2/20 (DG). A single **Eastern Meadowlark** was at PG 12/16 (DG). A single female **White-winged Crossbill** was at a feeder for a week during mid Feb at HA (GD).

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

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### **Cameron County**

No compiler.

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### **Carbon County**

Locations: Ashfield (ASH), Beltzville State Park (BSP), Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC), Little Gap (LG), Wild Creek Reservoir (WCR).

Frigid temperatures accompanied by frequent snow and ice storms in January and February made for few reports after December. Most bodies of water remained frozen from mid-Jan through the end of Feb.

The Wild Creek CBC, which includes portions of 3 bordering counties, was held 12/19. The *Carbon* portion of the count yielded 74 species totaling 3039 individuals. For the count, one first was recorded, 5 new highs were tallied, and several species made appearances after long absences.

A single adult **Ross's Goose** was seen leading a flock of **Canada Geese** 12/19 at BSP, representing the first record for the Wild Creek CBC (MB, MS, CH). A total of 50 **Snow Geese** were seen at BSP 12/8 (JB), and a single immature **Snow Goose** kept company with a flock of **Canada Geese** throughout the winter.

A total of 36 **American Black Ducks** was seen at WCR during the CBC (DA, JN, DW). One **Green-winged Teal** was observed at BSP 12/11 (RW, PW). The few diving ducks tallied this period, all at BSP, included: 2 **Redheads** seen 1/16 (RR, BR), 3 **Lesser Scaup** 12/7 (DW), **Common Goldeneye** ranging from 2 to 6 birds through early Jan, **Common and Hooded Mergansers**, and 2 **Ruddy Ducks** 12/11 (RW, PW). An **American Coot** was found 12/19 near Palmerton (RR, BR).

Several **Ring-necked Pheasants** survived the hunting season including 5 at BSP 12/8 (JB), one along Strohl's Valley Rd 12/19 (DA, JN, DW), and single bird that could be heard daily near the Pine Run Boat Launch at BSP through the end of the period. A single **Common Loon** was found at WCR 12/18, the only one for the count period (JN, DW). Four **Horned Grebes** were at BSP 1/18, just before the lake completely froze (DA). Two **Great Blue Herons** were counted during the CBC, one near Palmerton (RR, BR) and one near LGNC (JL).

A single **Turkey Vulture** was noted 12/18 near Trachsville, uncommon for *Carbon* during the winter months (JN, DW) and 2 more were seen 2/19 ASH (RR, BR). **Bald Eagles** continued to be seen daily at BSP and 4 were observed during the CBC, including 3 at WCR (DA, JN, DW). Two were also seen 2/27 at LGNC (JL). **Northern Harriers** were reported throughout the period around BSP, usually single birds hunting the grassy fields. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were well represented this winter. All were adults and all were seen near the vicinity of BSP unless indicated: one 12/8 (JB), 2 during the CBC (DA, JN, DW), one 12/28 (DW), one 1/6 (RR, BR), one 1/31 ASH (RR, BR), and one 2/14 (RR, BR). An adult **Northern Goshawk** was briefly seen perched during the CBC at WCR, a first for the count since 1997 (JN). A total of 28 **Red-tailed Hawks** was tallied during the CBC, but only one **American Kestrel** was found.

Gulls continue to by-pass the lakes around *Carbon* with the only bird of note being an adult **Great Black-backed Gull** observed during the CBC, recorded for the first time since the 1988 count (DA, JN, DW).

Two **Long-eared Owls** were found roosting at BSP during the CBC in a stand of White Pines (DA, JN, DW). At the same location 4 birds were found 1/17 (DW). A total of 11 **Eastern Screech-Owls** were recorded on count day, along with a single **Northern Saw-whet Owl** (JN, DW). Rounding out owls for the count were 7 **Great Horned Owls**

and only one **Barred Owl** (JN, DW).

The adult **Northern Shrike** continued from last period along Pohopoco Rd at BSP until 12/31. Possibly the same bird or a new Shrike was found near the Pine Run Boat Launch at BSP 2/27 and continued into March (DH). **Common Ravens** continue to be seen and heard around BSP where they breed. Single birds were also reported near Palmerton 12/19 (RR, BR), LGNC 12/20 (CH), and LGNC 1/15 (DM). An impressive count of 250 **Horned Larks** was recorded 12/31 near Gerhards in Western *Carbon* (DK). A total of 120 **Black-capped Chickadees** were counted within the count circle, a decent number during the irruption year of this species into the south. The only report of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** for the season came in the form of 2 birds near Bowmanstown 12/19 (RR, BR). An early fall movement of this species brought ideas that they would be around in good numbers during the winter months. Only 2 **Winter Wrens** were found during the period, both during the CBC. Only 4 **Hermit Thrushes** were found this season, all at BSP. Two were found during the CBC (DA, DW), one 12/28 (DW), and one 1/17 (RR, DW). Two **Gray Catbirds** were reported within days of each other in mid-Jan. The first was at BSP 1/14 (DH, BR, FP) and the second 1/16 in ASH (RR, BR). **American Pipits** were recorded 12/7 at BSP with a small group of 5 feeding in the grassy fields near Christman Trail and a single bird was observed 12/31 at BSP (CH). **Cedar Waxwings** were impossible to find during the winter season, only 9 were recorded during the CBC.

An adult male **Eastern Towhee** was present at BSP 12/7-28 (DW). **American Tree Sparrows** were present in good numbers in all of the State Game Land plantings around BSP throughout the period. A total of 165 were tallied for the CBC. A single **Savannah Sparrow** was found 12/18 at BSP (JN, DW) and 3 more at BSP 12/28 (DW). Three **Fox Sparrows** were recorded during the CBC (JN). **Swamp Sparrows** were a tough find this winter with the only report coming from the CBC, 3 birds were found at BSP (DA, JN, DW). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were found in ASH on 1/31 (RR, BR), an unusually tough bird to find north of the Kittatinny Ridge in winter. A single **Lapland Longspur** was seen among a large Horned Lark flock near Gerhards 12/31 (DK).

Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were found near LG during the CBC (MS, CS). Two **Common Grackles** were seen at BSP 1/14 (DH, BR, FP) and the first **Red-winged Blackbird** of the year appeared at BSP 1/25 (DW). Small groups of **Purple Finches** were seen in the plantings around BSP all winter long, the highest count being of 10 birds 12/28 (DW). Two fly-over **Common Redpolls** were recorded at BSP 12/20 (DW), a day after 5 were located just a few yards from the southern *Carbon* line in *Northampton*. What seemed to be a sure sign of an irruption year in the county for this species ended there, no other reports occurred during the season.

Observers: **Dustin Welch, 7122 Arrowhead Rd, Bath, PA 18014, (484) 538-7486, DWelch5951@aol.com**, Dan Altif, Justin Bosler, Mark Boyd, Dave Hawk, Chris Hugosson, Corey Husic, Dave Krueel, Jon Levin, David McNaughton, Josh Nemeth, Fred Phillips, Barry Reed, Barb Rehrig, Rich Rehrig, Matt Sabatine, Corinne Schall, Mike Schall, Pat Williams, Richard Williams.

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### **Centre County**

Locations Abbreviated: B220 (between the Nittany Mall and Bellefonte exits), Benner Pike (BEN) near B220, Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Big Hollow Rd. (BIG), Cemetery Rd. in Penns Valley (CEM), Duck Pond (DUC), Howard (HOW), Millbrook Marsh (MM), Nittany Farms lane (NIT), Nixon Rd. (NIX), Penn State Campus, Tadpole Rd. (TAD), West Branch Road (WBR), Williams Rd. (WIL), Woodward (WOOD).

More information about some of these locations is available at <[www.scbirdcl.org](http://www.scbirdcl.org)>, the new PSO Site Guide at <[www.pabirds.org](http://www.pabirds.org)>, and from the recently published *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* (2010) by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove. 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](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html)>.

The State College CBC was held 12/19 with 29 participants in 18 groups who observed 67 species and 8848 birds. Notable species were **Black Vulture** and **Merlin**. The Bald Eagle State Park CBC was held 1/2 with 20 participants in 11 groups who observed 61 species and 4571 birds. Notable species were **Bald Eagle, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike, and Rusty Blackbird**.

A steady procession of at least 15 **Great Blue Herons** was seen

flying over Rte 220/199 in the direction of the fish hatchery area near Exit 76 1/26 (DG). About 100 **Snow Geese** in three flyover flocks were seen heading southeast over Bald Eagle Ridge 12/14 (AL); a mixed goose flock with one white-morph and eight blue-morphs were observed in fields on WIL 2/20 (DG). A **Cackling Goose** mixed in with a flock of **Canada Geese** was found at DUC 2/23 (DW) and photographed 2/23 (TS, JV). The following waterfowl species were found at BESP 12/8-2/28: **Horned Grebe, Snow Goose, Canada Geese, Tundra Swan, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green Winged Teal, Canvasbacks, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, and American Coot** (DW, AL, JC, JV, NF, MH, DG, LR).

A juvenile **Northern Goshawk**, seldom reported in this county, was perched in a small tree adjacent to the road near the frog pond at BESP 1/1 (JV). **Rough-legged Hawks**, both light and dark, were seen and photographed in various places by several people. The first one was reported at B220 12/14 (AL) and the last also at B220 2/26 (DG). In general, most of the sightings of both morphs were from the B220 area (AL, DW, JV, JD, JC, JG, CL, NK, DG, JL, NAB, NS). Other sightings occurred at BEN, CEM, WOOD, BIG, NIT, WBR, TAD, WIL, and HOW (IG, JL, NAB, NS, JD, JV, MH, TS, NF, DW, JP, DB, DG, NF, MM, JS); and one was found on Marsh Creek Rd. during a CBC on 1/2 (NAB).

A **Merlin** was seen flying over WIL and another was found perched in a tree at the Elks Club near Boalsburg 1/16 (JV); another was on Elks Club Rd. 1/26 (JV). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** landed on a building along W. College Ave in State College causing Rock Pigeons to scatter in various directions 2/16 (NB); on the same day, one was seen on the east of Penn State campus (JL, MM) and then later on the north side of campus (DW). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen flying over Shiloh Rd. and nearby fields 2/24 (DW, JV) and again 2/26 (TS).

The first **Northern Shrike** of the season was found near West Launch Rd. at BESP 12/26 (JC), was subsequently seen there and close by on Marina Rd. (JC, KB, MH, KH, DW, WL, NK, BS) and was last seen 2/14 (JC). A second was first seen at Upper Green's Run Rd. in BESP 12/28 (DR) and subsequently seen there until 1/7 (KH, DW, MH). Two **Cassiar Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen at a State College bird feeder 1/23-27 (JC). More **Lapland Longspurs** were seen this year than last: one with a flock of about 300 **Horned Larks** in a corn field off WIL 1/11 (TS, NF); one in a flock of 100+ **Horned Larks** on WIL 1/16 (JV); at least one in flock of about 100 **Horned Larks** WIL 1/20 (DG); one in with a flock of 43 **Horned Larks** on PA Furnace Rd. 1/22 (JK); one foraging with several **Horned Larks** along WIL 1/22 (NF, TS, MM, JS); and one with 11 **Snow Buntings** on NIX 1/23 (MH). After not seeing any **Snow Buntings** last year, we had several sightings during Dec and Jan: some mixed with **Horned Larks** on NIX 12/1 (KE); one in a flock of 30+ **Horned Larks** off WIL 1/13 (TS, NF); one with a small **Horned Lark** flock on NIX 1/22 (DW); in a small flock in a field on NIX with many **Horned Larks** 1/28 (JV); four with two **Lapland Longspurs** and a flock of about 40 **Horned Larks** on NIX 1/29 (DW); two along with larks and one longspur near NIX 1/30 (IG). Very few **Common Redpolls** were reported this quarter: one was found near Seibert Rd. east of University Park airport 1/11 (DW), and one was at a feeder in Stormstown 2/26 (MB). Several **White-winged Crossbills** flew over an area of conifers at Upper Green's Run 1/5 (DW).

Observers: **Bob Fowles, 814 238-1990, P.O. Box 266, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, rbf@psu.edu, and Nancy Butkovich, njbutkovich@verizon.net**, Diane Bierly, Katie Brashear, Margaret Brittingham, Nan Butkovich (NAB), Jack Cochran, Michael Dreibelbis, Jim Dunn, Kurt Engstrom, Nate Fronk, Jeff Gallo, Ian Gardner, Chet Gottfried, Greg Grove, Delia Guzman, Molly Heath, Katie Huber, Jon Kauffman, Nick Kerlin, Alex Lamoreaux, Chris Langman, Wayne Laubscher, Josh Lefever, Mark Mizak, Joshua Potter, Larry Ramsey, Dave Ryan, Timothy Schreckengost, Nora Serotkin, Jerod Skebo, Bob Snyder, Joe Verica, Drew Weber.

### **Chester County**

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), Coatesville Reservoir (CR), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), South Eastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA), Struble Lake (SL), Western Chester County CBC (WCC CBC).

Four Christmas Bird Counts with sectors falling in *Chester* gave

birders an opportunity to scour the county recording avian distribution in winter, providing interesting records. The West Chester CBC circle lies entirely within the county and tallied 78 species 12/18. That number was close to average for the last ten years, but better than the twenty year average. WCC CBC falls mostly within *Chester*, but has a few sectors sneaking into *Lancaster*. Ninety-two species were tallied 1/2. The Elverson and Valley Forge CBCs, both 12/26, also claim some territory in *Chester*, but fall mostly outside of the county.

Another winter with cold temperatures and measurable snow kept most bodies of water in a tight freeze from Dec through Feb. Despite the continuous wintery conditions, 26 species of waterfowl were found during the reporting period.

Reports of **Snow Geese** were sporadic through Dec and Jan; they were absent on the West Chester CBC, but recorded in *Chester* during WCC CBC. A single Snow Goose was found at Valley Forge National Park within *Chester* boundaries 12/28 (RW, EW). Interesting was a report from Honeybrook Twp. 2/20 of a flock of 500+ Snow Geese that held at least five "Blue" Geese (FH, BH). **Ross's Geese**, always a good find in *Chester*, were reported on three occasions. One was detected in a large skein of snow geese over SL 12/16 (LL, KP). Another was discovered with snow geese 2/17 in Honeybrook Twp (KF), and an immature was found foraging in a mixed goose flock 2/28 in the Cochranville area (KF). Again this year, **Cackling Geese** were present through the winter months at CR and CL. Two were recorded during the West Chester CBC (JM), and one during WCC CBC. Six birds provided a notable high count at CR 12/12 (LL, KP). **Tundra Swans** moved through the county starting in early Feb. During a rainstorm 2/28, 119 standing on the ice at SL was a high count (HM).

Ducks seeking open water for refueling and refuge were challenged this winter due to the dominating thick ice. Despite this, small numbers of notable species were reported in any open pools available. Single **Wood Ducks** were reported around the county into mid-Jan, with an observation at Waterloo Mills Preserve 1/17 (KF), a location that has historically hosted early spring migrants of this species. A single **Gadwall** took advantage of a small open area of water at MCSP 1/4 (HM). **American Wigeon** reports increased towards the end of Feb (m.ob.). A handful of **Northern Shovelers** took advantage of open water at the Fellowship Road sewage lagoons through Jan (m.ob.). Eight **Northern Pintails** were seen in flight over CL 12/12 (LL, KP), and 7 were recorded at CR 1/14 (NP). Reports of this duck increased at the end of Feb as they moved through the county. A small number of **Green-winged Teal** lingered through the winter months, with multiple reports from CR and CL (m.ob.). Two drake **Canvasbacks** were seen on the lake at MCSP 12/12-13 (HM, LL, KF, NP). A hen Canvasback was seen on open water at CL 2/26 (HM). Once again, **Redheads** spent several weeks in *Chester*: a hen was seen at MCSP 1/4 (LL), and three remained on CL from 1/14 through at least 2/3 (m.ob.). **Ring-necked Ducks** wintered at the Fellowship Rd sewage lagoons, and like **Ruddy Ducks**, were consistently found there and in most areas of the county with open water. Birders reported **Greater Scaup** from MCSP 12/13 (NP) and 1/3 (TJ, JG), and CL 2/28 (KF). **Lesser Scaup** were found irregularly throughout the period (m.ob.). Stormy weather encouraged **Long-tailed Ducks** to drop in for visits at MCSP, including one 12/12 at MCSP (HM, LL), 2 on 12/13 (KF, NP), and another 12/17 (HM). A single Long-tailed was a nice find during WCC CBC 1/2, at CL (ST, DW, NP). This marked the first time that species was recorded for that count. A female **Common Goldeneye** made a brief appearance in a shrinking pool of open water at MCSP 1/4 (LL, KP). **Hooded Mergansers** were sporadically reported, and included birds at Atwater Quarry 1/11 (NP), and multiple observations from MCSP, CL, and CR (m.ob.). **Common Mergansers** were also found in small numbers during Dec and Jan, with numbers increasing in mid-late Feb (m.ob.), this included a high count of 300 from the *Chester* side of Octorara Res. 2/26 (JM). A **Red-breasted Merganser** seen at MCSP 12/12 provided the only report during winter (LL, KP).

Four **Common Loons** were seen in flight during the West Chester CBC. This species had only been counted one time previously during the West Chester CBC, over seventy years ago in 1938 (BB). A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was recorded at CL during the WCC CBC (RR). A **Horned Grebe** was found on the lake at MCSP 2/12-13 (LL, NP, KF), and 2 were seen there 12/17 (HM).

Surprisingly, there were two reports of **Osprey** found lingering during Dec. One was seen and photographed along the White Clay Creek 12/3-4 (SM), and another was seen and photographed along the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek in West Bradford area 12/11 (HM). A new high count for **Bald Eagles** was established on the West

Chester CBC 12/18 (BB), 17 birds recorded in 13 sectors. A pair of adults returned to an established nesting site in the Cochranville area once again this year (m.ob.). Bald Eagles were regularly spotted at CL, MCSP, and CR during the winter months (m.ob.). A **Northern Goshawk** was reported from a yard in Devon during Dec and Jan (AC). It was a good winter for **Rough-legged Hawk** observations throughout the state, and *Chester* was no exception. All reports were of light-morph birds. Two were seen flying over Longwood Gardens 1/10(CM, JF); another was seen flying over Waterloo Mills Preserve 1/17 (KF). An adult male was discovered around SL 1/22-24 (JM). During a WRS, an observation of 2 in flight in Exton was serendipitous 2/4 (NP). **Merlins** spent the winter around CR once again, and were regularly seen by many observers. Four was a nice high count noted sitting atop spruce trees during a snowfall on the golf course surrounding CR 12/16 (LL, KP). A flyover at MCSP 12/23 was a nice surprise (LL). Scattered reports of **Merlins** came again from BCP, where they have made winter appearances the past few years (m.ob.).

Frozen mud did not help upland shorebirds that might winter locally. **Killdeer** were scarce until late Feb. One was in a small spring outflow in Honeybrook 1/4 (KF, HM). **Wilson's Snipe** were recorded on both the West Chester CBC and WCC CBC. Otherwise, there were no reports until mid-Feb, when up to four snipe were found around CL 2/14 (RR), continuing through the end of the reporting season.

Winter reports of **Iceland Gulls** are annual in the county, but these gulls aren't always easy to track down. A nice surprise at SL was a first winter gull 12/10 (NP); a good bird for the WCC CBC was a flyover recorded in Newlin Twp. (KF); the highlight of a bird walk was one seen flying over BCP 2/6 (m.ob.). Other reports came from SECCRA, an active landfill and gull smorgasbord in the West Grove area. Another first cycle bird was found there 1/11 (NP). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** are now reported with regularity in the county, and hold the position of the most likely dark mantled gull found in winter. SECCRA is a reliable place to seek them out. A high count of 5 was made there 1/20 (AG, DE). BCP, which provides a good position for viewing early morning gull flights, also hosted multiple flyovers (m.ob.). A first-cycle **Glaucous Gull**, an irregular county visitor, was a particularly nice find associating with hundreds of other gulls at SL 12/16 (LL, KP). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were seen at SL 12/12 (HM), BCP 1/9 and 1/30 (m.ob.), at SECCRA 1/11 (NP) and 1/24 (KF). Two others were seen in Kennett Square 2/13 (JS).

Owls are always a particular delight to birders, so having six species seen in the county this winter proved a nice treat for those who sought them. Despite *Chester's* extensive riparian habitat, **Barred Owls** are not always easy to find. This winter a few were discovered, including a pair in Pocopson Twp. during the West Chester CBC 12/18. This pair remains vocal in the area, and is presumed to be on territory (m.ob.). Two Barred Owls represented a record high count on the West Chester CBC, where this species has been recorded only twice previously, 1980 and 1987 (BB). Additional Barred Owls were found in the Mortonville area through the winter (LL), including one seen roosting in a tangle during a WRS 2/10 (HM, KF, JC). Communal roosting groups of **Long-eared Owls** were found in both Honeybrook Twp. during the Elverson CBC 12/26 (LL), and near Pomeroy before and during WCC CBC (LL). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen sporadically in the traditional Doe Run area in Dec and early Jan (m.ob.). After snowfall, no further observations of this owl were reported. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were discovered in a few places around the county this winter, which was not surprising after a decent fall irruption. One was found at the BCP 12/18 (JS, WR), another seen and heard on the *Chester* side of Octorara Res. 12/30 (CC, et al.), one at the Laurels Preserve 1/2 (JS), and another found in East Whiteland Twp 1/19-22 (HM, et al).

A record-late date for **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was established for *Chester* when a female banded 11/29 by NP was last seen visiting a feeder on the afternoon of 12/4, in Devon (JFI). A fascinating find was of a mostly-white female **Pileated Woodpecker** working a tree in Shaw's Bridge Park 1/16 (BS).

**Horned Larks** can reliably be found in the Honeybrook and Cochranville areas during the winter months, and as expected, reports of flocks of over a hundred came from these two regions of the county (m.ob.). A new *Chester* winter record for **Tree Swallow** was established when one was seen 1/4 at Black Rock Sanctuary, which lies along the Schuylkill R. The observer watched this bird flying over the meadow, and land atop a nest box. Further attempts to relocate and photograph this bird were fruitless (LM).

After a good irruptive movement in fall, **Black-capped Chickadees** were continuously reported throughout the county during

winter (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** attended feeders in small numbers (m.ob.) in scattered areas. A small number could be found regularly at traditional wintering locations, such as Nottingham County Park. A high count of five was made there 2/6 (HM, TR). A single **Brown Thrasher** was found during the West Chester CBC 12/18 (BB), and was the only report of this species for the season. **American Pipits**, sometimes scarce in winter, were found in appropriate habitat more easily this year. A single bird was recorded on the West Chester CBC for the first time since 1977. The flock of 18 found in Cochranville 2/4 was a high count (HM, KF).

Though not unexpected, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was the only warbler species reported in the county this winter (m.ob.). There were few reports of **Cedar Waxwings** this winter, so a nice flock of them with **American Robins** in Honeybrook 1/29 was noteworthy (FH, BH).

Five **Chipping Sparrows** were found during the West Chester CBC, which follows a trend of increasing reports of this species in winter. Surprisingly, no other reports were received through the end of the reporting period. **Savannah Sparrows** were reported in small numbers throughout the county (m.ob.). One of the best reports of the season was the first winter record in the county of **Lincoln's Sparrow**. This sparrow was attending a feeding station in Devon from 12/15 through at least 2/15 (AG). A single **Lapland Longspur** was combed out of a large flock of Horned Larks in Honeybrook Twp 1/24 (LL, KP). **Snow Bunting** reports included a flyover at BCP 2/7 (LL et al), one in Cochranville 2/14 (KF), and a high count of 8 in flight with Horned Larks over farm fields in Guthriesville 2/18 (KF).

A mostly white **Northern Cardinal** provided another interesting example of leucism in an otherwise colorful bird. This bird spent Dec through some of Feb visiting feeders in a West Grove yard (KFr). **Rusty Blackbird**, a species of continued concern throughout the county, is not easy to find in *Chester*, but scattered reports were noted by local birders this winter. An individual was pulled out of a large icterid flock at White Clay Creek Preserve 12/31 (WBH). Three were found on a bird walk at BCP 1/9 (LL, et al). One was spotted in Caln Twp. 1/11 (LL), another 3 visited a feeder in Avondale 1/30 (WBH). Five or six visited feeders in Coatesville 2/7 (JMV), and a male and female made a welcome appearance at a feeder in Honeybrook 2/17 (LW).

Remarkably, the same yard hosting the leucistic cardinal held one of the most fascinating reports of the season: up to four **Baltimore Orioles** spending winter in a yard in West Grove (KFr). Though this species is known to winter in *Chester* sporadically, four individuals is a good record. The homeowner reports that since winter of 2007, she has had an adult male Baltimore Oriole return to her yard, spending the winter. This year is the first that two adult males and two discernibly different immature birds have been present from mid-Dec through the end of the reporting season. These orioles enjoy grape jelly, orange halves, and sunflower chips, dutifully provided by the homeowners.

**Purple Finches**, which were in good numbers during fall, were sporadically noted in winter, and reports were mostly of single individuals (m.ob.). **Pine Siskins** were the only other "winter finch" found. Reports were of singles 12/19 in Willistown Twp (MP), West Goshen Twp 1/1, 1/11, and 1/19 (NP), and BCP 1/4 (LL, et al.). A high count was 70 visiting feeders in Chadds Ford 2/5 (KS). The observer reports 5-15 faithfully visiting feeders much of the winter. A photograph of a leucistic **American Goldfinch** was made in Chester Springs in Jan. This bird's overall pale appearance drew the homeowner's attention (AM).

**EXOTICS:** A single **Chukar** made an appearance on the deck of a homeowner in West Chester 2/27 (SB).

Observers: **Holly Merker, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335, (610) 733-4392, HCYbelle@aol.com**, Steve Bashton, Barry Blust, Chuck Chalfant, Alan Crawford, Janet Crawford, David Eberly, Joe Flood (JFI), Judy Ford (JF), Kathy Freeborn (KFr), Kevin Fryberger (KF), Janet Getgood, Al Guarente, Barbara Haas, Frank Haas, W. Brian Henderson, Tom Johnson, Larry Lewis, Carol Majors, Sue McLaughlin, John McNamara (JM), Jim McVoy (JMV), Lisa Miller, August Mirabella, Martin Page, Kathleen Pileggi, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Raub, Rick Robinson, William Ryan, Joe Sebastiani, Bill Stewart, Kim Steinger, Shannon Thompson, Laura Wagner, David Wilton, Richard and Eleanor Wolf.

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#### Clarion County

Locations: Curlsville (CV), Foxburg (FB), Mount Airy (MA), Mount

Zion (Piney Tract IBA/SGL 330) (MZ), Strattanville (ST).

For the winter of 2010-11, *Clarion* fared a little better than some of the eastern parts of the state, with enough open water present along the Allegheny River at FB and a few other areas to allow for some interesting waterfowl reports for the season. Fifteen **Tundra Swans** were noted at FB on the first day of the new year, as well as 20 **American Black Ducks**, one **Canvasback**, 2 **Greater Scaup**, and 2 **Hooded Mergansers** present there 1/16 (KC). At the same location 2 **Horned Grebes** and 2 **Bufflehead** were also noted 2/13 (KC). Along Summerville Rd. outside of Rimersburg, a small open area of water on some ponds there held 6 **American Black Ducks** along with some **Mallards** 2/5, unusual for their presence during this part of winter (CW).

As usual, the first **Turkey Vulture** showed up in late winter, one being seen outside of CV 2/20, on a mild afternoon with some sun (MW). During the 2010 CBC 12/18 an adult **Bald Eagle** was seen along the Clarion River near MZ (MLy, PC), and a pair was present 2/11 (CW). An adult bird was also seen at FB near the open water there on the Allegheny 1/1 (KC). At the Stockdill Rd. area of MZ, a male **Northern Harrier** was hunting over open grassland 2/20, and on the following day just a lone female bird was seen there as well (CW, MW). Numbers of these birds seem to be down over the past year, with no other reports for fall or winter. A single report of **Cooper's Hawk** was received at a feeder area in ST 1/27, as well as a **Red-shouldered Hawk** seen in that local area sporadically throughout the winter (RM), and another one near New Bethlehem 1/20 (CL). **Rough-legged Hawks** made a good showing for the county during the season with birds present on all WRS routes run, including one route in the western part of county that produced 8 birds (MLy, F&JM, CW). Rough-legs were first reported for the season 12/15 and reports continued through 2/17, areas reporting included CV and surrounds, New Bethlehem area, MA, MZ, areas in Beaver Twp. and outside of Knox in the west and Lake Lucy/Strobletown area in the northern part of the county, indicating the widespread habitat available here for these raptors (SD, ML, MLY, F&JM, RN, CW). Lastly for raptors, a **Merlin** was discovered at a small old cemetery near New Bethlehem during a WRS route 1/31, with habitat here including a small copse of old oaks and tall pines surrounded by plenty of open grassland (CW).

Another great species to add to the list already established for MZ, 4 **Sandhill Cranes** were spotted in flight over the Stockdill Rd area here 2/19, appearing to be settling in to land, calling as they approached (CW, MW). Despite efforts to relocate the birds, they were not found to further document. On SGL 63 outside of Shipperville, a late **American Woodcock** was seen 12/7 with snow already on the ground, this bird being flushed near open ground remaining along a wet ditch (TB).

**Short-eared Owls** were another bird with a good showing for the season, found in four sites in the county this year, all single birds; CV strips area 1/19, MZ 12/18 and 12/31, Rankin Rd outside of CV 12/12 and 1/3, and near Callensburg on Doc Walker Rd. 1/16 (CW). For the CBC 12/18 an excellent find was 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** discovered in a stand of pines along Culbertson Rd. outside of Knox (PC, MLy). Near CV a red **Eastern Screech Owl** continued to regularly roost in a barn, being joined by a gray bird 2/19 and continuing through the end of Feb (CW). **Northern Flickers** continue to make a small showing through the winter with one present near CV during the week of 1/16 (CW).

Only two reports were noted this season for **Northern Shrikes**, the first outside of Sligo on Walker Farm Rd, with the individual seen there during the CBC 12/18 and again 12/31 (RM, CW). At a second location, a bird was found near Stockdill Rd. at MZ 2/21, utilizing the excellent habitat present there (CW). As usual, scattered winter reports of **Common Raven** come in from varied parts of the county, with 2 birds seen at MA 2/17 (SD, ML, RN). The few records of **Horned Larks** for the season ranged from single birds to a high number of only 20, from CV and Knox areas as well as MA and Lake Lucy area (SD, ML, MLY, F&JM, RN, CW). As in past winters, a lone **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was present at feeders sporadically through the season near CV, as well as a **Carolina Wren** that called daily and fed occasionally at suet, making it through the winter successfully and still present through Feb (CW). An unusual find for the CBC, a **Winter Wren** was discovered along a small stream outside of Shipperville 12/18 (GE). **Northern Mockingbirds** are another species with a small but regular presence through the winter season now. A single bird was found at MZ during the CBC 12/18, and was noted again there 2/4 (GE, MLY, RM, CW), as well as one near CV during Feb (CW). A bird reported infrequently is **American Pipit**, with two noted for the season. The first was found

outside of Callensburg 12/18 (PC) and a second along the roadside at the CV strips area 2/17, a first for that site (SD, ML, RN).

Sparrow reports for the season were slim, with just a note of a late arrival date for **American Tree Sparrow**, on 12/5 outside of CV, though lack of reporting a likely part of the problem. Also noted were some increased numbers of **White-throated Sparrows** at feeder locations in the same area, which had been down in the past two winters (CW). A nice sighting for the CBC 12/18 was a flock of 45 **Snow Buntings** outside of Knox (C&JR), as well as a flock of 60-70 birds on Nickleville Rd 2/4 during a WRS route (PC, GE, MLY, JW). In the northern part of the county, a small flock of 10 buntings were also found 2/12 at Long Acre Potato Farm (T&JK). **Eastern Meadowlarks** occasionally remain through the beginnings of winter when fields are still open; this season, two birds were seen on Rankin Rd near CV both 12/18 and remaining through at least 1/19 (GE, RM, CW). In Clarion, a very unusual report of a **Baltimore Oriole** was received for 12/8, with the bird reported briefly at a feeder, but then not seen again and further details were unfortunately unavailable for report (*vide* JH).

**Common Redpolls** showed up as predicted, with a single bird reported from FB 1/23 (KC), and a flock of 50+ present 2/20 in a large area of birches near Stockdill Rd. at MZ. This last flock also included the bonus of a single male and female **Hoary Redpoll** (AM, MS, MW). Also on 2/20 a small flock of 5 redpolls was found in a birch stand behind the Wal-Mart in Clarion (AM, MS, MW). To round out the season reports, **Pine Siskins** were reported in small numbers at a feeder outside of ST starting 1/21 and continuing through mid-Feb (RM).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net**, Ted Buckwalter, Paulette Colantonio, Pat Conway, Kurt Crosbie, Sheree Daugherty, Gary Edwards, Janice Horn, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Chris Langman, Mike Leahy, Melissa Little, Andy Markel, Ron Montgomery, Richard Nugent, Carl and Joan Rowe, Matt Sabatine, Mike Weible, Jack and Fran Williams, Jim Wilson.

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#### Clearfield County

Locations: Bimini Lake (BL), Luthersburg (LU), Westover (WST).

Waterfowl at BL were a single **Canvasback** and a **Common Goldeneye** 12/4 (DR). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was at LU 12/13 (DR). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at BL 12/4 (DR). A **Northern Shrike** was seen near LU 12/19 (DR). **Lapland Longspurs** and **Snow Buntings** were seen at LU during the period (DR). First **Red-winged Blackbirds** were at Westover 2/22 (DG).

Observers: **Dave Gobert, 287 Beech Rd. Patton, PA 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net**, Dan Richards.

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#### Clinton County

Locations: Castanea (CA), Hyner (HR), McElhatten (MN), South Avis (SA).

Some unusual waterfowl were reported during the first half of Feb. On 2/3 a pair of wing tagged **Trumpeter Swans** was found on Bald Eagle Creek near CA (SS). The tag numbers were reported to the USGS Bird Banding Lab and they were determined to have been tagged and banded near Toronto, Ontario in 2009 and 2010. There were indications that these birds may have been at CA as early as late Jan. They casually entertained many observers for many days. These swans were present through at least the third week of Feb. The first **Tundra Swans** of the season were reported on the Susquehanna River at MN 2/14 (CCH).

One **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at SA 1/16 (JD). Another was spotted at SA 2/15 (CCH). On 2/9, a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found at MN (CK, AT). A **Golden Eagle** was located at HR 2/19 (DF).

This winter's redpoll irruption, which involved several counties in the commonwealth, finally included *Clinton*. On 2/6, a large flock of over 100 **Common Redpolls** was discovered foraging on a mountainside near HR (DF).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA 17745-8153, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnet.org**, Jim

Dunn, Dave Ferry, Carol and Charles Hildebrand, Chad Kauffman, Steve Sneath, and Aden Troyer.

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### Columbia County

No report.

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

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### Crawford County

Locations: Atlantic Lake Road (ALR), Custards (CUS), Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva Marsh (GM), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Jamestown State Park (JSP), Lineville Christmas Count (LCC), McMichael Road (McM), Pymatuning (PYM), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Springboro (SPR), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarack Lake (TL), Wayland (WAY), Woodcock Lake (WL).

Ninety **Tundra Swans** flew over ALR 11/20 (MB), and 203 passed over SPR 11/20 (TCN). An excellent find at WL 12/4 was a **Ross' Goose** (GM). About 250 **Common Mergansers** were found at 11/25 PA (SK). I found 1695 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at PYM 11/21 (RFL) and the best count of **Hooded Mergansers** was 400 at PYM 12/4 (GM). One hundred and one **Black Ducks** were totaled on the LCC 12/19 (m.ob.). There were 6 **Northern Pintails** at the PS 1/1. Three **Wood Ducks** were noted at the FH 1/1 and 2/6, and one was at SL 1/20 (RE). Up to 28 **Redheads** were noted at PC and CL 2/27 (m.ob.). One to 10 **Canvasbacks** were seen off the PC through 12/27 (m.ob.). **Buffleheads** were seen in average numbers and in several locations, with 28 at CL 11/7 and at PC (RLL), SL (RE), WL, and PYM (SC). A **White-winged Scoter** was at JSP (PYM dam area) 11/28. Up to 78 **Ruddy Ducks** were found at PA 11/3; 2 remained at CL through 2/27.

A **Red-necked Grebe** was noted at WL 11/28. Four **Pied-billed Grebes** were counted at CL 11/10 (RM). The best count of **Common Loons** was 6 off the PC 11/21, below normal. Single **Red-throated Loons** were seen at PC 11/21 and 11/28. Up to 38 **Great Blue Herons** were counted at FH 11/21 and remained for the LCC 12/19 despite bitter weather (m.ob.). One was recorded at along SC near TL 1/16 (RE). **Great Egrets** (up to 3) remained at FH to 11/7 (SC, RFL). A very late **Green Heron** was seen at WAY 11/20. The high count of **Double-crested Cormorants** this period was 197 at PS 11/3 with one was last seen there 11/28.

A **Ruffed Grouse** was heard drumming near SL 11/20 (RE). On 12/19, 105 **Wild Turkey** were recorded on LCC (m.ob.), and 15 were near SPR 2/19 (TCN). **Sandhill Cranes** were well recorded up to 12/19 when one was found on LCC 12/19 (m.ob.). A good total of 32 were noted at HM 12/1 (JC) and 32 at PGMA (AM) 12/1.

A pair of **Turkey Vultures** was watched over Meadville 2/20 (CL). **Northern Harriers** were well represented at PA all period with 2 on 1/23 (SC, m.ob.). Three **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted on LCC 12/19 (m.ob.), with reports from 15 dates and five observers, most at feeders; and the same for **Coopers Hawks**. An adult **Northern Goshawk** was found near Westford, PA 11/12 and just north of FH 12/18. One to 3 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported all period (m.ob.). **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen on 27 days this period, most at PA and SL. Numbers ranged from one to 5 (m.ob.). A **Golden Eagle** was found at PGMA 11/6 (BG) and a late immature was well studied at PGMA 1/2. Despite PA being 99% iced over, 26 **Bald Eagles** were recorded on the LCC 12/19 (m.ob.) and 15+ were noted at PGMA 2/19 (SG). A **Merlin** was sighted at FH 11/7 (SC).

There were 11 **Wilson Snipe** at WL 11/12 (RCL) and 4 were found near FH 2/20 (SC). One **Pectoral Sandpiper** was recorded near FH 11/13 (MV, SS). **Dunlins** moved through this area 11/12-13 with 10 at WL 11/12 (RCL) and one at PYM 11/13 (MV). Three **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen at CUS 11/6 (AM), and 4 were at FH 11/13 (MV). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at the marsh across the road from the FH gate 11/13 (MV).

**Ring-billed Gulls** top total was a low 5300 at PA 11/28. A good total of 50 **Herring Gulls** was found at PC 2/19 (SK) considering the ice cover. Some 2660 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were noted at PA 11/28.

A pair of **Barred Owls** was located near HM 11/21 (MB) and one was at SL 12/18 (RE). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was noted near SL 1/4

(RE), and one was near SPR 11/13-12/2 (TCN). Two **Great Horned Owls** were recorded near HM (MB) and one was near SL 12/18 (RE). A **Belted Kingfisher** was noted near SPR 2/5 and 2/27 (TCN). Despite a hard winter here, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were recorded 2/5 near CL and at PC near Epsynville 2/16 (RFL).

Two **Northern Shrikes** were logged on LCC (m.ob.) 12/19, one at PGMA 1/2 and one at SPR 1/11 (TNC). RE recoded **Common Ravens** 12/2-1/3 near SL. A **Winter Wren** was located at FI 2/20 (SC), and one **Brown Creeper** was at McM-CM 1/5 (RN). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** well recorded all period with 4 on LCC 12/19 (m.ob.). A good total of 30 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** was seen 1219 on the LCC (m.ob.). Two were found at SPR 2/13 (TCN) and 6 were at FI 2/20 (SC). A total of 45 **American Robins** was logged on LCC 12/19 (m.ob.), along with 82 **Eastern Bluebirds** (m.ob.). For the second winter in a row, *Crawford* had a **Summer Tanager**, last year at HM, this time one was located north of Meadville at a feeder west of the WL dam. It was recorded from 11/22 (TCN) to 12/4 (m.ob.) and was well photographed. Six **Rusty Blackbirds** were found near CL 11/3. At least 150 **Common Grackles** were reported near HM 11/8 (MB) and 4 were noted at Shermonsville, west of CL 2/18. **Snow Buntings** were found all period as well; 122 on the LCC was the best total (m.ob.). They were also recorded north of Meadville and near SL. A **Lapland Longspur** was seen on PC 11/7 in with 38 **Snow Buntings**, and one was with **Snow Buntings** on LCC at PGMA along Rt. 285 (RFL). Four **White-crowned Sparrows** were watched at SPR 12/5 and 2 at a feeder SPR 1/1 (TCN). A **Fox Sparrow** was seen at FI 11/13 (RCL). Three were at SPR 11/9 (TCN). Four **Purple Finches** were tallied on LCC 12/19 (m.ob.). From one to 12 **Pine Siskins** were found all period mostly at feeders (m.ob.).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Marvin Byler, Jack Christman, Shawn Collins, Richard Eakin, Steve Gosser, Bobby Green, Scott Kinzey, Robert C. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, Chris Lundberg, Anthony Marich Jr., Geoff Malosh, Thomas & Clare Nicolls, Richard Nugent, Steve Sanford, Mark Vass.

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### Cumberland County

Locations: Big Spring (BS), Boiling Springs Children's Pond (BSCP), Huntsdale Hidden Pond (HHP), Mudlevel Road (MLR), Newville CBC 1/2/11 (NV/CBC), State Game Lands 169 (SGL169), State Game Lands 230 (SGL230).

Cold, ice, and snow: three words that well describe the 2010-11 winter in *Cumberland*. Yet there was even more of each to be found in New York, New England, and Canada, which probably played a large part in the unusually high number of **Short-eared Owls** and **Rough-legged Hawks** that were reported in the county during the season. Of course some things remained the same as well, with our overwintering **Prairie Falcon** paying a visit for a fifth consecutive winter, only to be outdone by our hardy **Least Sandpiper** that paid a visit for a sixth consecutive winter. On the other hand, the weather conditions along with a sparse crop of berries made **American Robins** and **Cedar Waxwings** sparse during the season, as reflected in the Newville CBC numbers for both species.

Waterfowl made a fairly decent showing during the period. Two **Snow Geese** were reported on BSCP 1/29 (VG), and 2 more on MLR 2/15 (AM). One **Northern Pintail** was present at BSCP 1/28-2/6 (m.ob.) and 4 were at the pond on Creekview Road 2/21 (VG). There were the usual 50+ **American Wigeons** at the BSCP, and 3 were on the Big Spring. Other species found on the BSCP included a **Northern Shoveler** 1/1-29 (m.ob.) and a **Ruddy Duck** 12/12 (MS). There was one **Green-winged Teal** at a retention pond near the intersection of Pine and Schafer Road in Huntsdale 1/2-2/3 (m.ob.). There were two instances of single **Canvasbacks**, first a female at Dykeman's Pond in Shippensburg 1/20-25 (m.ob.), and then a male on the Conodoguinet near the Big Spring Sportsmen's Club 2/22 (AM). Also found at this location was one **Common Goldeneye** with a female **Bufflehead** mixed in with **Common Mergansers** 1/25 (AM). Perhaps the most surprising find of waterfowl in the period were 17 **Redheads** (16 male and one female) on a small farm pond Briton and Ridge Roads, forced down by snow 2/21 (AM, VG).

It was quite a good period for both **Rough-legged Hawks** and **Short-eared Owls**. One light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported on Booz Road near the County Landfill 1/12 (AM). One dark and one

light morph were reported on MLR 1/14 (DG). A light morph was observed near the intersection of Pine and Blue Pond Roads south of Newville 1/23 (AM, MS), with a dark morph seen near the Cumberland County rail-trail east of Duncan Road 2/6 (ME). One seen repeatedly was a dark morph on Stuart Road in Carlisle 1/22-2/11 (m.ob.).

There was one **Short-eared Owl** reported on Shady Road Newburg 1/20 (AM), 2 at the end of Bridgewater Road SGL169 in a field near the propagation ponds 1/24 (AM), one north of Newville on Center Road, and two at Chamberlin Road Newberg 11/27-29 (MS, BK, BKe). The stars of the Short-ear show, however, were the 4 to 7 that appeared most days at the intersection of MLR and Duncan Road from 2/6 through the end of the period (m.ob.). To the delight of birders and photographers alike these birds would often become active between 3:30 and 3:45 in the afternoon and put on quite a display as they interacted with **Northern Harriers**, hunted, and called out.

As for other raptors, the **Prairie Falcon** was present on the MLR area for a fifth consecutive year throughout the period (m. ob.) and there was an adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** present on the BS for a third consecutive winter 12/29–2/5 (m.ob.). There were two highs for raptor species on the NVCBC, with 108 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 23 **Northern Harriers**. The average count for Harriers on the CBC is 6, so they were present in very high numbers.

The NVCBC also turned up a surprising first for the count, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** (AM) which was reported at the Green Spring Fish Hatchery on Fish Hatchery Road. It was found in a flock of 30+ **Great Blue Herons** that were gathering in the fish hatchery late in the afternoon. During the period, up to 44 Great Blue Herons gathered in the field late in the afternoon.

Also found at the fish hatchery were 2-16 **Wilson's Snipe** through the month of Jan (m.ob.). The **Least Sandpiper** also made an appearance on the BS for the sixth consecutive winter. As with the previous winter it was not as regular as in the first four previous winters. It was reported 6 times from 1/7-30 (VG, AM, MS). Unusual was an **American Coot** reported on the Laughlin Mill pond in Newville 1/1 (VG, AM). Unfortunately it did not stay around to be counted on the NVCBC. If it had it would have been only the second appearance it the 20 years of the count.

There was an unusual winter find of 5 **Bonaparte's Gulls** reported at the BSCP 1/29 (MK, ST, DW), followed up with 40 found at the BSCP the next day (RK). Among the Bonaparte's was an even more surprising **Little Gull** (RK), a great find!

Another good find for the period was a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** at Windy Hill Farm on the BS 1/29 (MS, BK, VG, ST, DW), 2/3 (VG, AM), and 2/6 (AM). One **Fish Crow** was present at Green Ridge Village, at least 2 at BSCP, and 2-3 at HHP throughout the period.

There was a new high for **American Pipits** on the NVCBC as 53 were reported for the count. There were a few **Snow Buntings** reported on Oakville Road (12/11) (MS), up to 6 on MLR between Britton and Duncan 1/12–2/3 (m.ob.), and 4 at the Duncan and MLR intersection 2/4. In early Feb there were up to 8 **Lapland Longspurs** reported on a manure spread on Duncan Road (m.ob.), and 2-3 on MLR.

**American Robins** and **Cedar Waxwings** were scarce throughout the period. An example is the NVCBC with a 20-year low count of 14 **American Robins**, 12 of them found at Green Ridge Village, and only 50 **Cedar Waxwings** when the 20-year average for the count is 121. **Pine Siskins** were also scarce as the only reports were of single birds for a few days at feeding stations in Newburg (AM) and Carlisle (HW).

There was one **Brown Thrasher** reported on SGL230 2/6 (AM), and 2 on 2/9 (TB, VG). Also at SGL 230 was a **Pine Warbler** 2/6 (AM). The only other warbler of note was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** observed at West Fairview boat launch a short distance up the Conodoguinet 2/20 (RK). This is most likely the same bird that was reported the previous fall at the same location 10/30/10.

There was a boom of **Rusty Blackbirds** in *Cumberland* for the period as the 219 reported for the NVCBC smashed the previous 20-year high of 23. The many other reports, including 43 at BS 1/7 (VG), 20 at BS 1/8 (VG, AM), 80 at Montesera Road Huntsdale 1/8 (VG, AM), 20 at Encks Mill Road Huntsdale 1/8 (VG, AM), 100 at Green Spring Fish Hatchery 1/13 (AM), 156 at BS 1/22 (DF, HM), 40 at Big Spring 1/23 (CK, JD), 50 at SGL169 1/25 (BS, BK), 80 at BS 1/29, 115 at BS 1/31, (VG, DW, ST), and 83 2/1, 60 2/3, and 53 2/5 at BS (VG).

Other birds of note reported during the period included one **Common Redpoll** at a Carlisle feeding Station 2/15-16 (NLF), one **Eastern Towhee** at SGL169 1/25 (BK, DS), and one at a Newville feeding station 2/9 (TB, VG). Also at that feeding station were 2 **Fox Sparrows** (TB, VG).

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Tim Becker, Jim Dunn, Mike Epler, Devich Farbotnik, Nora Lee Falk, Bill Hintze, Chad Kauffman, Bob Keener (BKe), Bob Koontz, Ramsay Koury, Mike Kotz, Andy Markel, Annette Matthes (AnM), Holly Merker, Matt Sabatine, Dan Snell, Nathan Thomas, Shannon Thompson, Herb Weigl, Billy Webber, Dave Wilton.

## Dauphin County

Locations: Blue Mountain (BMt), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Hummelstown (HUM), Milton S. Hershey School (MSHS), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR from Harrisburg (SRHB), SR from Royalton (SRRT), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), West Hanover Twp. (WHT), Wildwood Lake (WL).

This was a colder than normal winter, although most of the major snowstorms missed us to the south and east. The SR and area ponds and streams began to freeze by mid-Dec. and remained mostly ice covered through mid-February. The SR maintained a few narrow open channels through this period.

A lone **Tundra Swan** was viewed on the SR from Wormleysburg 1/1-2 (RK, P&RW). Two "large flocks" of **Tundra Swans** flying in V-formations were observed 2/27 over HUM (TB). A dusky subspecies of the **Canada Goose** was found along Spring Creek near the original chocolate factory in HER 12/24 (AL), and a single **Cackling Goose** was in a flock of **Canada Geese** along Hershey Park Dr. 1/4 (TJ). Another **Cackling Goose** and two **Snow Geese** were observed with about 400 **Canada Geese** along Crest Lane on the MSHS campus 1/14 (P&RW). Large flights of **Snow Geese** were reported 2/19 when thousands were counted over WHT (P&RW) and 2/22 in Hershey where "wave after wave" were enjoyed flying overhead (AS).

A variety of dabblers remained at WL into mid-Dec, the beginning of our winter freeze. **Wood Ducks** returned to WL 2/17 (CR) and **Northern Shovelers**, **Green-winged Teal**, and **Gadwalls** were back by 2/22 (MM). One **Canvasback** and 12 **Greater Scaup** were among the waterfowl species 12/18 at SRHB during the HBG CBC (RW, et al.). It was a good Feb for **Redheads** and **Canvasbacks**. On 2/12 **Redheads** were reported at two locations. Three were observed on the Swatara Creek near Middletown (P&RW, TB) and, three were near the rapids at the Rockville Bridge SRMV (CM, MM). On 2/18, 12 **Redheads**, along with two **Wood Ducks**, 43 **Northern Pintails**, 39 **American Wigeons**, and one **Canvasback** were noted on SRWF (RK). This was the beginning of the SR's thaw and the beginning of the waterfowl and gull migration. Two **Canvasbacks** were observed on the SR from Wormleysburg 2/20 (P&RW) and more than a dozen **Canvasbacks** and about ten **Redheads** were viewed 2/27 SRWF (CK, CM).

A single **Greater Scaup** was found SRMV 2/11; one **White-winged Scoter** was reported 12/5 SRWF; and a single **Long-tailed Duck** was observed SRMV 2/27 (RK). Although **Common Goldeneyes** were reported all quarter, a raft of 35 observed 12/30 SRRT was noteworthy (P&RW). A single **Red-breasted Merganser** was noted on the SR at Millersburg for the Curtin CBC 12/29 (RK, JR), and one was reported at SRWF 2/28 (RK). Single **Ruddy Ducks** were reported at SRHB 12/12 and again 12/29 (P&RW).

A **Common Loon** was found on the SRHB during the Harrisburg CBC 12/18 (DH). A week earlier, on 12/12, two **Horned Grebes** were observed on SRWF (RK, MS). **Horned Grebes** returned to the SR with a sighting of three at SRWF 2/18 (RK).

**Black Vultures** were reported from many locations throughout the county including 17 at Dauphin 1/2, more than 20 during the WRS in the southeastern portion of the county 1/15, 19 during another WRS 1/16 between Millersburg and Gratz (RK, JR), and 21 on 2/4 during another WRS through the Hanover Twp region between BMt and the Swatara Creek (BC). There were also many reports from the HER-HUM area.

While doing the Bald Eagle Survey 1/2, four were observed just north of Harrisburg, one immature near the Rockville Bridge and one adult and two immatures at Dauphin (P&RW). Five **Bald Eagles**, including three adults, were observed over the SR from Liverpool 2/6 (KH). As with every quarter there were a number of individuals sighted at various locations throughout the county (m. ob.). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed near the MSHS Environmental Barn through much of Jan (NM). A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** was observed nest building in Clarks Creek Valley in late Feb into early March (*vide*

SB). This was a good winter for **Rough-legged Hawks**. The first report was from the Curtin CBC 12/29 (AT, et al.). A light phase was observed along Valley Rd. during the southeastern county WRS 1/15 (P&RW). This same hawk was viewed again and photographed 1/16 (AL) and, reported again 1/29 (CM). Another light phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was found during a northern county WRS 1/16 (RK, JR). Another Rough-leg was observed in the HIBA 1/17-23 (GK, BW, P&RW). A dark phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported along Valley Rd. 2/9 (CBe). This species was also observed in the Dauphin and Loyalton areas in Jan and Feb. (SB). A juvenile **Northern Goshawk** was observed in a Paxtang neighborhood 12/17-18 (CBI, DH). A **Merlin** was perched on a light post at the Colonial Park Mall 12/29 and another was observed along Hill Rd. during a WRS 1/15 (P&RW). A third **Merlin** observation was made 2/28 at SRWF (RK). Two **Peregrine Falcons** were perched on an upper balcony of the Rachel Carson Building in HBG near their nest site 2/13 (P&RW). There were a number of single **Peregrine Falcon** reports from in and around HBG (m.obs.) throughout the season and, one was observed near the Clarks Ferry Bridge 2/27 (CK).

At SRMV, 17 **American Coots** were reported 12/20 (DM). One was noted on a Hockersville Rd. quarry in HER 2/15 (TB) and, two were observed on SRWF 2/26-28 (PM, MM). Three **Wilson's Snipe** were found during the Curtin CBC in the Millersburg area 12/29 (RK, JR). During a WRS 1/15, two Wilson's Snipe were observed along Roundtop Rd. (P&RW), and two were reported at the same location 2/9 (EC). A very late **American Woodcock** was observed in the HIBA 1/3 (TJ, JG). This is the first Jan record for this species in the county.

A **Laughing Gull** was observed on SRWF 12/18 for the HBG CBC (RW, S&BB, BC, LU). This was a new species for the Harrisburg County and a new winter season record for the county. More than 50 **Great Black-backed Gulls** and two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were also recorded along the SRHB for the 12/18 CBC (DH, et al.). A week earlier, 12/12, a single **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported on SRWF (RK, MS) and two were observed at SRHF 1/1 (MW).

Five **Northern Bobwhites** were found along the south face of BMT 12/18 for the HBG CBC (JC). Two **Short-eared Owls** were reported south of HER 12/30 (KA) and one or two were observed near the intersection of Peter's Mt. Road and Rt. 325 north of Dauphin from 1/6 (RK) through 1/11 (AL, IG). Another **Short-eared Owl** was reported along Hillsdale Rd. east of Middletown 2/11 (ME). One **Long-eared Owl** was counted in EHT during the Lebanon CBC 12/18 (SR et al.) and another was found in the northern part of the county on the Curtin CBC 12/29 (RK). The lone **Long-eared Owl** in EHT was observed again 1/6 (P&RW), but by the end of Feb. as many as four were present at this site (SD, SR, S&RZ).

**Fish Crows** were reported from various locations along the SR at HBG throughout the quarter (m.ob.). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was observed at feeders in SHT 2/9 (P&RW) and one was noted at Zoo America 2/17 (TB). The only **Northern Shrike** reported was found at FIG 1/18-20 (DM, JD). A late season yard visitor in SHT was a **Brown Thrasher** 12/2 (P&RW). Single **Common Yellowthroats** were found at two locations for the Curtin CBC 12/29 (RK, AT, et al.).

An **Eastern Towhee** visited a property just south of HUM mid-Dec. through mid-Feb. (CM, PB). **American Tree** and **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported regularly along Swatara Rd. within the HIBA during the quarter (P&RW, et al.). A **Chipping Sparrow** was first noted visiting feeders in Halifax 2/1 and remained through Feb. (SB). Four **Field Sparrows** were counted 12/29 for the Curtin CBC (RK, JR) and two were found along the Hummel Nature Trail 1/9 (IG). Two **Savannah Sparrows** were found along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA 1/14 (IG) and three were reported from there 1/19 (P&RW). Another report of **Savannah Sparrow** came 2/6 from Hershey where one was visiting feeders (AS). A **Fox Sparrow** visited feeders in SHT 1/29-2/3 (P&RW), another was noted at MSHS feeders in Jan and Feb (NM, TB), and one paid a visit to feeders near Halifax 2/26 (SB). **Swamp Sparrow** was recorded near Millersburg for the Curtin CBC 12/29 and, one was found at Fort Hunter 1/1 (RK). Two **Lapland Longspurs** and two **Snow Buntings** were found within a flock of 75+ **Horned Larks** on the MSHS agricultural fields 1/14 (P&RW, NM, & TB). Near this location, ~150 **Snow Buntings** were reported 1/27 (TB, NM).

**Red-winged Blackbirds** continued through the quarter as regular feeder visitors at the Olewine Nature Center at WL (SL, CR, et al.). One **Rusty Blackbird** was observed at WL 1/8 (CM, MM), and one came to feeders in Lower Paxton Twp. 2/12 (RS). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was observed in the HIBA for the Lebanon CBC 12/18 (SR) and one, possibly the same, was present at this location late Dec into early Jan (S&RZ). **Common Grackles** returned 2/18 and were noted at WL (CR)

and in SHT (P&RW).

**Pine Siskins**, which began appearing in Nov, continued with two in SHT 12/1 (P&RW) and five in SHT 1/1 (JG). Siskins were observed regularly through Jan and into Feb at feeders atop BMT (M&RB) and at Halifax (SB). This species was also visiting feeders in SCV in late Feb (BH).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Kyle Aldinger, Paul Banks, Sandy & Bill Baum, Tim Becker, Chuck Berthoud (CBe), Scott Bills, Carolyn Blatchley (CBI), Toni Buck, Ed Chubb, Joe Church, Bernie Crist, JarradDerr, Suzanne Donovan, Ian Gardner, Jan Getgood, Deuane Hoffman, Jenni & Barry Horton, Barb Huffman, KittHunsecker, Tom Johnson, Gary Kinkley, Ramsay Koury, Karl Kugle, Alex Lamoreaux, Sandy Lockerman, Chris Markiewicz, Mark Markiewicz, Nate McElvie, Dave McNaughton, Paige Morabito, Steve Rannels, Chris Rebert, Matt Sabatine, Art Schiavo, Rosemary Spreha, Aden Troyer, Larry Usselman, Brian Weaver, Patricia Williams, Martin Wilson, Sally & Rich Zaino.

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### Delaware County

Locations: Brinton Lake (BL), Crum Reservoir (CR), Darby Creek (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Delaware county Winter Raptor Survey 1/15, 2/12 (WRS), Glenolden CBC 12/18 (CBC), Haverford College (HC), Hildacy Farm (HF), John Heinz NWR at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Swarthmore College (SC), Tyler Arboretum (TY), Waterloo Mills (WM).

Similar to last year, this winter was again colder and snowier than average. Snow cover came early and stayed for most of the season. Unlike last year, when it was postponed due to weather for the first time in memory, the local Glenolden CBC came off without a hitch. Participation was good but the species count was below average on what most agreed was a slow day. There were no particularly unusual species to report. Like others we had a significant **Black-capped Chickadee** invasion. Along with these came the challenge of sorting out what appeared to be a high number of hybrids.

There were a decent number of reports of **Snow Geese** this winter. The earliest report was 200 over Middletown 1/21 (AG). Peak flight was in mid-Feb: 130 over Thornbury 2/16 (AG); 400 SC 2/17 (JS); 600+ Middletown twp 2/18 (SJ). A **Cackling Goose** was reported in a small flock of **Canada Geese** over Middletown twp 2/16 (*fide* DM). The **Canada Goose** total for the CBC this year was just short of 14,000. High count for the Glenolden CBC is just short of 16,000. **Tundra Swans** were observed on the DR 12/8-1/15 (AG); high number was 34 near the Barry Bridge 1/15 (AG, DE).

A pair of lingering **Wood Ducks** at WM 12/18 (KF) and two early arriving pairs at TI 2/17 (AG) and Ridley Park Lake 2/17 (NC) were reported. Wintering duck highlights included **Gadwall** on SR 2/28 (AG), 8 **Northern Shoveler** at TI 12/18 (SC et al), **Northern Pintail** at TI 12/18 (SC et al), on SR 2/18 (AG), 12 **Ring-necked Ducks** on SR 2/18 (AG), 2 **Greater Scaup** at BL 12/2 (AG), 27 **Lesser Scaup** on DR 12/23 (AG), **Long-tailed Duck** on SR 12/17 (WS), **Common Goldeneye** on SR 12/8 (AG), a maximum of 30 **Hooded Mergansers** at their reliable location on CR 12/18 (CaPe), and a maximum 119 **Common Mergansers** at TI 12/18 (SC et al). There were reports of only 3 **Ruddy Ducks**, 2 on the CBC at DR 12/18 (AG), and one at SR 12/17 (WS). Numbers of this species are dramatically down in *Delaware*. The CBC average count for this species prior to 1986 was 5256, with 20,000 counted in 1979. Since 1986 the average CBC count is 31.

Still uncommon outside the Tinicum area, 12-15 **Wild Turkeys** were observed while there was snow on the ground in Ridley Park (NC) but they were not seen after the snow melted in mid-Feb. Although none were reported on water a **Common Loon** flew over RCSP 12/18 (CL). Uncommon in *Delaware*, 2 **Horned Grebes** on DR 12/18 (AG) provided a welcome report.

**Black Vultures** were present in high numbers: 191 were tallied on CBC (previous high 144 in 2008) and 60 were counted on WRS. A high count of 322 **Turkey Vultures** was tallied on the CBC (previous high 226 in 2008). **Bald Eagles** were seen regularly along DR throughout the season (AG). A pair of adults built a new nest near the old nest SR (AG, DE). A total of six **Bald Eagles** were counted along the DR on the WRS 1/15 (AG, DE, et al.) including 3 first year birds cavorting together

near the far shore (New Jersey side) of the DR at the Barry Bridge. At least 2 **Northern Harriers**, including a "gray ghost" male were found at PHL on the CBC and WRS 1/15 (AG, DE, et al.). Seemingly on the increase in *Delaware*, **Red-shouldered Hawk** reports were plentiful in multiple locations. Seven individuals were counted on the CBC (m.ob.) and 2 on the WRS (AG, DE, et al.). One of the CBC birds was an individual that has been hanging out feeding on House Sparrows for the last four winters at a home in heavily suburban Woodlyn. Probably not coincidentally, the owner of the home is an aunt of both NP and AG! **Merlins** were also present in several typical suburban locations including a large city park in Chester on the CBC (CW), a large cemetery in Marple Twp. 12/5 (CPE) and an industrial park in Chichester WRS-1/15 (AG, DE, et al.). A species of concern in *Delaware*, only 2 **American Kestrels** were found on the CBC (SC et al., JH) and 2 males were observed at PHL 12/26 (AG); by contrast there were 66 **American Kestrels** counted on the CBC in 1977. Two **Peregrine Falcons** were found perched on the Barry Bridge DR WRS1/15 (AG, DE, et al.). Nesting at this location has been previously documented.

An **American Woodcock** was an uncommon CBC species at WM 12/18 (KF). Very rare in mid-winter, an **Eastern Phoebe** was reported at TY 1/19 (TR, et al.), confirmed by several observers in the group. There was snow cover at the time and its presence was attributed to the numerous berries on the trees at the arboretum.

**Black-capped Chickadees** were reported regularly throughout the season from many locations (m.ob.). **Black-capped x Carolina Chickadee** hybrids were reported by a few observers brave enough to make the call. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were regular throughout the county as well. **Red-crowned Kinglets**, uncommon any winter, were unusually hard to find. A few are just about always reported on the CBC, there were none this year. There were three reports of this species: Middletown 1/26 (AG), Thornbury 2/16 (AG), and TY 12/8 (TR). An uncommon winter holdover, a **Brown Thrasher** visited a feeder in Middletown through Dec and was recorded on the CBC (DMi, JM). The bird was last seen 3/1 but was carrying sticks suggesting nesting.

Two **American Pipits** were a surprise on the CBC at WM (KF). Warbler reports came only from the CBC. Six **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (MR, SK, CP) and 3 **Pine Warblers** were found (CSm, BK, JM), which shattered the previous CBC high of two. A more than usual number of **Chipping Sparrows** were around; seven were tallied on CBC (m.ob.), a group of 6 were seen at RCSP 2/14 (GB) and one at a feeder in Havertown 2/23 (MM). What was presumably an early migrant rather than a holdover, a **Fox Sparrow** was at a feeder in Swarthmore 2/21 and 2/27 (DE).

In keeping with a national trend only one **Rusty Blackbird** was located on CBC (CP). It was a slow winter for **Purple Finch**. The only report for the season was of a flock of 8 on the CBC. **Pine Siskins**, present in low numbers, were reported in Dec and Jan from TY (TR), Middletown (AG), and Swarthmore (DE).

Observers: **Dave Eberly, 112 S. Princeton Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081 (610) 543-3499 david.eberly@gmail.com.**, Brian Byrnes, Skip Conant, Nick Crocetto, John Damico, Kevin Fryberger, Al Guarente, John Hand, Lois Hunn, Rich Horwitz, Sheryl Johnson, Steve Kapski, Bob Kelly, Amy Langman, Chris Langman, Doris McGovern, Mike McGraw, Tom McParland, Dolly Mignogna (DMi), Jim Molyneaux, Mike Morell, Carl Perretta (CPE), Mariana Pesthy, Chris Pugliese, Nick Pulcinella, Marie Rafferty, Win Shafer, Charles Smith (CSm), Jacob Socolar, Tom Reeves, Carol Storey, Chris Walters.

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#### **Elk County**

No compiler.

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#### **Erie County**

The first major snow fall of the season arrived the first week of December in *Erie* dumping as much as 55 inches of snow in one area of the county. Presque Isle Bay began to freeze over 12/9 and the bay was nearly completely frozen over 12/14. The early onset of winter basically shut down most of the waterfowl movements over Lake Erie by the third week of December. Presque Isle Bay began to open up again on the weekend of 1/1-2 with about fifty percent of the bay remaining open until at least 1/5. Upwards of 40,000 gulls moved into the bay during that period. Presque Isle Bay refroze 1/6 and all the gulls moved

out. Heavy snowfall and very cold temperatures continued through the end of the period. Quite unexpected was the appearance of a **Tree Swallow** in early Jan, which remained for at least two weeks. It was a good winter for redpolls with a few **Pine Siskins** lingering from the fall movement. As expected with **Common Redpoll** invasions, **Hoary Redpolls** were among them. No other northern finches were reported. The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PISP) unless noted otherwise.

An untagged adult **Trumpeter Swan** of uncertain origin was carefully studied 12/18 in the channel (MW). Occasional reports of the swan continued for a couple of weeks following its discovery. The total of 980 **Redheads** tallied on the water bird count (hereafter, WC) 12/14 was rather high for any time of the year (JM). A total of 180 **Long-tailed Ducks** was a good number for the WC 12/14 (JM).

Quite unexpected was a **Merlin** that first appeared 12/12 and remained through the winter period in the vicinity of East 33rd Street in Erie (MP). A pair of banded **Peregrine Falcons** took up residency in an old smoke stack in front of the Blasco Library in Erie in mid-Feb. The birds were frequently seen copulating and flying in an out of a north-facing opening in the stack through the end of the period (MW, et al.). It is hopeful they will nest in the smoke stack, which would be the first for this species in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Always exciting to see were two **Purple Sandpipers** passing Sunset Point during the WC 12/2 (JM). The only **Little Gull** reported was an adult on 12/3 and 12/6 at the head of Presque Isle Bay (PH, RH, respectively). An adult **Thayer's Gull** was a first for the WC when one passed Sunset Point 12/18 (JM). Another adult **Thayer's Gull** was observed in Presque Isle Bay 1/8 (MW). A combined total of five **Iceland Gulls** were counted from the Lake View Landfill and Presque Isle Bay periodically from 12/10 through the period (JM). Approximately eight **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** was the final total for the season from Presque Isle Bay (JM, MW). At least nine different **Glaucous Gulls** were reported from 12/7 through the end of the period in Presque Isle Bay (JM).

The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** seen briefly in Fairview 2/6 was one of the few *Erie* winter records (PHo). Two **Northern Shrikes** were found in the county this winter. One was at SGL 314 (Roderick) 12/19 to at least 1/9 (MW), and the other was on Kimball Hill Rd. in Union City 2/19 (TW). Totally unexpected was a **Tree Swallow** that was spotted over Fry's landing 1/9 and remarkably remained near a tiny patch of open water at the mouth of Horseshoe Pond until 1/24 (ST, et al.).

A **Gray Catbird** managed to hang on at SGL 314 to at least 1/31 (MW, DW). Quite rare in winter was an **American Pipit** that was seen periodically 1/19-2/10 at the Erie Wastewater Treatment Plant (JD). The first *Erie* winter record of **Orange-crowned Warbler** was established when one was seen at a feeder along Port Access Rd. in Erie 12/8 (MW). Despite several days of watching this feeder following its discovery, it was never seen again. A very tardy **Ovenbird** came to a feeding station 12/4 near Waterford, but was not seen again (CG).

Rarely reported in winter, a **Field Sparrow** fed on spilled grain at a storage facility near Erie Bluffs S.P. 1/16 (MW). The first true winter record of **Savannah Sparrow** was established 1/31 when one visited the same site where the **Field Sparrow** was found (DW). The spilled grain site near Erie Bluffs S.P. also attracted **Snow Buntings**, and occasionally up to five **Lapland Longspurs** 12/19-1/30 (MW). **Common Redpolls** were reported throughout the county, mainly at feeding stations, but the largest flocks were seen on Presque Isle S.P. where as many as 150 were seen at times through the period (m.ob.). As expected with an influx of **Common Redpolls**, there were **Hoary Redpolls** among them. At least two individuals were documented with photographs. The first was present from 1/18-31 (JB, MW) and the second was present from 1/23-25 (JM).

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Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd. Erie, PA 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Jason Berry, John DePaul, Chuck Gehringer, Paul Hess, Ross Hollenbeck, Pat Howell (PHo), Mike Plyler, Shannon Thompson, Tom Wasilewski, Mike Weible, Dave Wilton.

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#### **Fayette County**

A few new observers are finding their way into *Fayette*, so recently I'm receiving (or reading on the PABIRDS Listserv) more reports for the county, which is great.

**Tundra Swans** were heard after dark at SGL 151 on 2/10 (DW, ST). An **American Black Duck** was seen in Point Marion 2/4 (TB). Six

**Northern Pintail** were on the Cheat River in Point Marion 2/4 (TB). Two **Ring-necked Pheasants** were seen during a Winter Raptor Survey 1/15 (MB, EH). A large flock of 130 **Wild Turkeys** was observed at a roost site in Point Marion 1/11 (TB). A flock of 33 were at Lake Lynn in Point Marion 2/4 (TB).

Three **Black Vultures** were a great find in Wharton Twp. 1/15 (MB, EH). A **Bald Eagle** was observed in flight at Ohioyle State Park 12/29 (FM, CM). One was in Point Marion 1/11 and 2/4 (TB). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** provided an uncommon winter report at Point Marion 1/11 (TB).

An **American Coot** was found at an unusual location. Hikers at Bear Run Nature Reserve 12/15 found a single coot was perched on a snow covered rock in the middle of the forest. When discovered, it walked through the snow and plunged into a stream (FM, CM). Three at Point Marion 1/11 were at a more expected location along the Monongahela River (TB).

A **Barred Owl** was heard calling at SGL 51 on 1/31 and 2/15 (CD, LM, RF, RM). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard in the same area 1/31 and 2/13 (CD, LM, RF, RM) and 2 were heard there 2/19 (DW, ST). Other birds in Point Marion included a **Belted Kingfisher** 1/11 and a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** 1/11 and 2/4 (TB).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Mark Bowers, Terry Bronson, Cory DeStein, Ryan Ford, Eric Hall, Lucas Musher, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Ryan McDermott, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton.

## Forest County

Locations: Tionesta (TI)

Highlights include **Long-tailed Duck**, **Double-crested Cormorant**, many **Bald Eagle** sightings, a dark-phase **Rough-legged Hawk**, and **Common Redpolls**.

Fifty-three **Tundra Swans** were observed 1/3 flying over TI (FM, JM). **American Black Ducks** were reported 1/2 and 2/23 on the river near TI (JS, RS, et al.); also 2/12 at the Tionesta Outflow (TK, JK). A **Lesser Scaup** was noted 2/23 at TI (FM, JM). A **Long-tailed Duck**, a **Bufflehead**, and a **Hooded Merganser** were found 1/2 near TI on the Pleasantville CBC (JS, RS, et al.). **Common Mergansers** are regular on open water on the river near TI. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed 2/23 near TI (FM, JM).

**Bald Eagle** sightings included two adults 1/7, three immatures perched in a tree 1/10 (AKL, RM); two adults 1/4 (JQ, JB, MR), single adults 1/12 and 2/23 (FM, JM), all near TI. Two adults were seen perched on a sign 2/12 along the Clarion River near Cook Forest (TK, JK). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted 1/2 on the Pleasantville CBC (JS, RS, et al.). A dark-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted 1/24 during the WRS in the Red Brush area (FM, JM).

A flock of about 50 **Horned Larks** was found 1/24 at Red Brush. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were regular at feeders near TI (FM, JM), and one was reported 2/12 from MA (DY). The only **Golden-crowned Kinglet** sighting occurred 1/2 on the Pleasantville CBC (JS, RS, et al.). A **Brown Creeper** was present 1/30 in a yard near TI (FM, JM). **American Tree Sparrows** were seen 2/12 in Marienville and were regular throughout the period near TI, with a high of 8 on 12/13. A **Field Sparrow** and a **White-throated Sparrow** were found 1/2 near TI on the Pleasantville CBC (JS, RS, et al.). The first **Red-winged Blackbird** was spotted 2/21 near TI. **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were noted on several occasions near TI (FM, JM).

**Purple Finches** were reported 2/12 from Marienville (DY), and were observed fairly regularly throughout the winter at feeders near TI (FM, JM). A **Common Redpoll** was found 2/12 in MA (DY); nine were noted 1/24 at Red Brush; they were seen from 2/7 throughout the reporting period, at feeders near TI, with a high count of 20 on 2/24. A single **Pine Siskin** was present at feeders near TI throughout Dec; several were spotted 2/5, remaining throughout the reporting period, with a high of 5 on 2/27 (FM, JM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Ln., Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Jason Bowers, Brian Devore, Dale Luthringer, Amy Keitzer-Wallace, Tom Kuehl, Janet Kuehl, Ricky McKee, Jim McGuire, Jason Quinn, Michael Reno, Randy Slater, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Charlie Vevers, David Yeany II.

## Franklin County

Locations: Chambersburg Area (CA), Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Shady Grove Area (SGA).

Seventy-nine species were reported for our county CBC. The most notable species were **Snow Goose**, **American Wigeon**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Horned Grebe**, **Rough-legged Hawk**, **Merlin** (2), **Winter Wren** (4), **Hermit Thrush** (2), and **Pine Siskins** (21). The count was centered near CA.

The reservoir hosted various waterfowl during the period: **Mallard**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Canvasback**, **Redhead**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Ruddy Duck**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **American Coot**, **Killdeer**, and **Ring-billed Gulls**. Many of these waterfowl were only present for several days or less. **Common Mergansers** were with some **Canada Geese** on the Conococheague Creek north of Greencastle 2/18. There have been numerous sightings of **Bald Eagles**, mature and immature, in different parts of the county causing many people besides birdwatchers to become excited.

**Northern Harriers** were reported near Letterkenny, northeast of Scotland and Clay Hill but no Short-eared Owls ever joined them in the evenings. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** visiting many feeders in the county brought some complaints from some who think they should not eat at their place. A white-morph **Red-tailed Hawk** spent a day or two 1/25 south of Mercersburg to the surprise of some birders, posing with its beautiful white coat.

**Wilson's Snipe** were observed various times south Greencastle along a stream and near CA 2/21. Three **American Woodcocks** made their first appearance of the year in Stillhouse Hollow.

An **Eastern Screech Owl** (grey phase) has occupied a hole in a Locust Tree about 75 feet from the Grindstone Hill Road since early Jan. A pair of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** came to a feeder near SGA for several weeks in Jan and Feb. **Hairy Woodpeckers** (both male and female) visited feeders near SGA regularly. **Common Ravens** were seen regularly this winter particularly in the area east of I-81.

Large flocks of **Horned Lark** (as many as 350 together) were observed at various locations in the county during the period. **Snow Buntings**, **American Pipits**, and **Lapland Longspurs** were sighted with the **Horned Larks**. On 1/28 a huge number of **Snow Buntings** appeared with **Horned Larks** near Murray Road north of Shady Grove. At least 45 were counted and at least 29 were sitting in a tree at one time, which was uncommon to see. **Fox Sparrows**, as many as 8 or more, were reported in SGA, CA, and Caledonia near feeders, along with an occasional **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in Caledonia. An **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported near Letterkenny 1/15. Over 100 **Pine Siskins** were counted at a feeder in the Caledonia area in mid-Feb.

Observers: **Dale Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256, (717) 860-5799, dgearth01@comcast.net**, Valerie Barnes, Dave Cooney, Carl Garner, Bob Keener, Bill Oyler.

## Fulton County

Locations: CREP1- Plum Run survey route, CREP2- Pleasant Grove survey route, CREP3- Hustontown survey route, James Buchanon State Forest (JBSF).

Using the Pennsylvania Game Commission CREP Routes, three winter raptor survey routes were run in the county. Each route was between 12 to 15 miles. On 1/16 CREP1 netted one **Northern Harrier** and 4 **Red-tailed Hawks** (DS). On 2/16, 6 **Turkey Vultures**, 4 **Black Vultures**, and 2 **Red-tailed Hawks** were detected along CREP2. On 2/16, CREP3 survey results included 2 **Turkey Vultures**, 5 **Black Vultures**, 4 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 2 **American Kestrels**, and one juvenile **Golden Eagle** (DS).

On 1/16 the JBSF-Redbud area hosted 3 **American Black Ducks** in the creek (DS). A Needmore feeder hosted several hardy species 12/26: a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, 2 **Purple Finches**, 2 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **American Tree Sparrows**, and 2 **Chipping Sparrows** (AE). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found two places in the county: two on the JBSF Akersville Tract 2/16 (DS), and two at a Needmore feeder 12/26 (AE).

OBSERVERS: **Dan Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan\_snell@hotmail.com**, Amy Evans.

## Greene County

Locations: Claylick Road/Center Township (CT), East View (EV), Franklin Township (FT), Hunting Hills Game Preserve (HH), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Morgan Township (MT), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Rogersville (RGV), Sycamore (SY).

This winter season even **Canada Geese** were absent for a short while. They returned by early Feb. A flock of 30 was noted 2/22 at a park in Waynesburg (TD) but a group of that size is not unusual. Many split into pairs and were staking out nesting territory by late Feb. A lone **American Black Duck** took up residence 1/1 and visited nearly daily until 1/26 at SY. "It walked around the yard and would sit on the house porch or in the garage. I shoveled the side walk one day while it sat about 15 feet away and watched", states JC, who named the bird "Daffy". **Mallards**, a **Northern Pintail**, and several male and female **Wood Ducks** were found mingling with the Canada geese at SGL 223 on 2/26 (KR, MH). The same observers also found a female **Redhead** and a **Belted Kingfisher** at SGL 179 on the same date. Later that day on Garard's Fort Road they found a scaup species alone on a farm pond. The earliest reported kingfisher was 1/29 in FT (KK). On 3/14 a total of five **Northern Pintails** (2 females and 3 males) were still at SGL 223 (SS). **Great Blue Herons** returned the last week of Jan with one seen 1/26 in FT in Ten Mile Creek (KK) and one noted 1/30 in northwestern *Greene* during Winter Raptor Survey (MH).

The usual **Wild Turkeys** apparently changed their normal travel pattern in Jan and Feb. MLP reported at LCR she had not seen any for weeks until 2/16 when 20 returned to forage under her feeders. However, she noted their visits were varied and unpredictable which was not their norm. At EV a **Ring-Necked Pheasant** visited the feeders regularly thru the period until 2/9 and was not seen again (MH).

**Turkey Vultures** arrived early, first noted 1/30 in northwestern *Greene* (MH). A **Cooper's Hawk** flew into a window in FT in west Waynesburg 12/23 reports RKB. It could not fly so he was called upon to check it over. He believes it was taken to a rehab center in Morgantown, West Virginia (the nearest). **American Kestrels** and **Red Tailed Hawks** were noted around the county by observers for the winter raptor counts (three counts are run); however the numbers were down considerably over last year's totals.

One unidentified "seagull" was reported flying over the McDonald's in FT 2/24 (TD).

A group of four **Killdeer** were found 2/18 at HH (SS). **Mourning Doves** descended on the feeders at LCR with 12-14 counted daily in Feb (MLP). **Northern Flickers** and **Pileated Woodpeckers** were heard throughout the period calling at RBF (RKB). While performing the WRS in northwestern *Greene*, 3 **Pileated Woodpeckers** were noted during the 3 hours of the trip (MH). The **Yellow Bellied Sapsuckers** were reported on various dates throughout the period all over the county, 12/9 at EV (MH), 1/30 in Jefferson Township (KK), and one on the suet in RGV mid-Feb (MG). Another sapsucker came as a regular visitor until mid-Jan in SY (JC). One day it was observed chasing a **Red-Bellied Woodpecker** out of the lilac bush and away from the feeders.

A nice group of 14 **Blue Jays** came to the feeders regularly at CT (R&LA). Three to five **Eastern Bluebirds** were observed throughout the period at RBF (RKB) and were reported late Jan at EV (MH) and in mid-Feb at CT (R&LA) and at LCR (MLP). At EV a **Brown Creeper** was noted 2/6 (MH) and at LCR 2/14 spiraling up the tree trunks (MLP). At LCR, 3 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were noted in the yard 2/18.

Everyone seemed happy to see **American Robins** arrive this year. Many non-birding acquaintances mentioned it was good seeing Robins. There were some around all winter as RKB reports at RBF. A group of 63 was discovered 1/31 in southwestern *Greene* during a Winter Raptor Route (MH). A **Northern Mockingbird** visited the feeders at SY starting 2/02 daily (JC). **European Starlings** like the feeders at CT with a group of 30 showing up regularly (R&LA). A pleasant surprise in RGV was a flock of 15 to 20 **Cedar Waxwings** eating the bittersweet berries in mid-Feb (MG). As usual, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** camped out in the Holly trees all winter at RBF but this year only 6 stayed as there were very few holly berries produced (RKB).

A lone **Eastern Towhee** hung out in FT all season coming into the feeders (RKB). One **Chipping Sparrow** at the feeder in MT 1/8 prompted the question as to whether it was late or early (CDB). **American Tree Sparrows** were present all Jan at the feeders in EV (MH) and for a few days at HH (SS). Observers reported **Song Sparrows** at feeders daily. All season there were 4 to 6 **White Throated Sparrows** at the feeders at RBF (RKB). **Fox Sparrows** were

noted 12/7 at RBF (RKB) and at SY since 12/15 (JC). Copious numbers of **Dark-eyed Juncos** were reported for the period with a high of 26 found at CT 2/21 just in time for the Great Backyard Bird Count (R&LA) and a flock of 25 came in to the feeders at LCR (MLP).

The **Northern Cardinals** did not lack in numbers again this year with 14 showing up nearly daily at CT (R&LA), usually 12 at LCR (MLP), and 12 to 14 coming to the feeders at RBF (RKB). **Red-winged Blackbirds** were welcomed by several observers, with the earliest noted 1/10 at SY (JC). More were noted 2/17 with Jerry Wolfe finding two at his feeder in Jefferson Twp., and a flock of 40 in FT 2/25 (TD). Several observers reported **Rusty Blackbirds** showing up throughout the period. They seemed to come in two distinct time periods. In EV 12/14 and 12/15 one Rusty dined at the feeders (MH), and one male and one female arrived in MT 12/16 (CDB). One Rusty posed very obligingly for a picture at CT (R&LA). Another was reported in Morris Twp 1/30 (MH). At SY one Rusty showed up one day only on 2/24 just a couple days after a **Brewer's Blackbird** (unconfirmed) had visited 2/21 through 2/23 (JC). At SY a **Common Grackle** showed up 2/15 (JC), at EV one arrived 2/18 (MH), and at FT feeders 2/26 three turned up (TD).

Not many observers reported **Pine Siskins** this season in contrast with last year. They were at the feeders at HH (SS), and one was at EV 12/19 (MH). One **Purple Finch** came to SY for a meal 2/12 (JC). **American Goldfinches** abounded at CT with 17 or 18 showing up regularly at the feeders (R&LA). Thanks to all observers for their contributions.

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

## Huntingdon County

Locations: Huntingdon (HU), Juniata River (JR), Lake Raystown (LR), Stone Valley (SV), Summit Schoolhouse Road (SSR).

During the Huntingdon CBC 12/19, 65 species were tallied, including two new to the count. One was **Mute Swan**, a species we might prefer not to find again. The second was far more exciting—a male **Harlequin Duck** found on the JR. This bird provided the second county record (first was a female in 2003) and was seen by many visitors as it stayed until at least early Feb. Initially, it kept company with **Mallards**, but later, and more appropriately, it joined up with a few **Common Goldeneyes** and **Buffleheads**. Other notable species on the CBC included one each **Long-eared Owl**, **Eastern Phoebe**, and **Eastern Towhee**. High counts were established for **Great Horned Owl** (26) and **Hermit Thrush** (17).

The Lake Raystown CBC was held 12/27, with 60 species recorded (average = 65). A first for the count was a lone **Ruddy Duck**, number 108 overall. Record highs were established for **Common Merganser** (282) and **American Crow** (717). Ruffed Grouse and Cooper's Hawk were notable misses. Strong wind may have been the cause of record lows for **Downy Woodpecker**, **Tufted Titmouse**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglet**.

On 2/11, a **Trumpeter Swan** was found dead along the JR, possibly killed by a shotgun blast (DK, TK). Assuming the bird was shot in the county, this represents a first county record. Ironically, just five days later, two more **Trumpeter Swans** were found (alive) in a pond near HU. These birds had no visible wing tags (DK, TK). Unusual in mid-winter, a **Red-breasted Merganser** was at the LR dam spillway 2/11 (IG).

On 2/27, a remarkable count of 37 **Bald Eagles** was made at LR. Of these, 27 were counted at the Entriaken overlook and bridge area, near the southern end of the lake. Most of these birds were immature, only about 5 were adults. The nest of the pair that has nested for years at the dam area at the northern end of LR fell this winter; as of this writing, it appears the pair has begun re-building at that location.

**Northern Harriers** wintered on SSR again this season; as many as 8 were counted there in early Jan (JK, DK, TK, DW, GG). Numbers appeared to decline by early Feb when an ice storm covered the fields, but at least three were there in late Feb. As elsewhere in the state, **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen throughout the county. The combined totals from county WRS routes included 5 **Northern Harriers**, two **Bald Eagles**, one **Cooper's Hawk**, 3 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 72 **Red-**

**tailed Hawks**, 14 **Rough-legged Hawks**, and 26 **American Kestrels** (DB, RF, GG, DK, TK, NK).

Up to two **Short-eared Owls** were seen on a few occasions on SSR (JD, GG, JK). A **Northern Shrike** was located in SV 1/6 (JK).

Flocks containing 250 **Horned Larks** and 60 **American Pipits** were found near Pennsylvania Furnace 1/7 and a **Lapland Longspur** was found there in a flock of **Horned Larks** 2/22 (JK). An early **Fox Sparrow** arrived at the Kyler's feeders at HU 2/19, coinciding with a brief warm-up. A few **White-crowned Sparrows** wintered as usual near Cottage (GG).

Observers: **Greg Grove**, 4343 **McAlevys Fort Road**, **Petersburg, PA 16669**, [gwg2@psu.edu](mailto:gwg2@psu.edu), Diane Bierly, Nick Bolgiano, Jim Dunn, Ron Freed, Ian Gardner, Deb Grove, Jon Kauffman, Nancy Ellen, Kiernan, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Doug Wentzel.

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### **Indiana County**

**Locations:** Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Yellow Creek Lake started to freeze in late November and was completely frozen by 12/10 and remained frozen throughout the winter. **Canada Goose** maxima included an estimated 1200 heading south over IN 12/12 (LJ, JS) and 400 over LV 1/4 (MC). A **Tundra Swan** was last observed at YC 12/7 (LC). First northward bound swans were heard 2/27 (MC) over LV at night.

A single **American Black Duck** was found on moving water near Margus Lake 12/27 (GL, GS), and 5 were on a spring-fed pond during a WRS 1/15 (MH, RH, DL). High **Mallard** counts included 126 at McCreary's Pond in IN 12/27 (ED, MS, JT) and 40 on a treatment pond near SH 1/9 (MH, RH). Last of the season, 21 **Canvasbacks** stopped at YC 12/7 (LC). An early **Ring-necked Duck** appeared in a small patch of open water in Little Yellow Cove at YC 2/26 (MH, RH, LW). Last noted were 38 **Lesser Scaup**, 14 **Buffleheads**, and 28 **Hooded Mergansers** at YC on 12/7 (LC). **Common Merganser** sightings included 4 drakes at Smicksburg 1/4 (NS) and 3 near Conemaugh Dam 1/29 (MH, RH, DL). A single **Red-breasted Merganser** and 42 **Ruddy Ducks** at YC on 12/7 (LC) were last.

The IN CBC yielded only one **Ruffed Grouse** 12/27 (DC, MC); only 3 other grouse were reported. Four **Pied-billed Grebes** lingered at YC through 12/7 (LC). The last reported **Great Blue Heron** occurred near IN 12/30 (KM).

The first 3 **Turkey Vultures** arrived over a yard near LV 2/27 (MC). The only **Bald Eagle** report mentioned an adult near Coral 1/31 (BK). **Northern Harriers** were listed at YC 12/7 (LC); the CBC yielded 2 (m.ob.) and WRS #2 on 1/15 (MH, RH, DL) produced one harrier near Marion Center. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were listed at seven locations during the period, **Cooper's Hawk**, at 11 locations (m.ob.). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted only on WRS #1 on 1/22 (MH, RH, DL). Two WRS routes in the northern part of the county yielded 36 **Red-tailed Hawks** 1/15 (MH, RH, DL) and 41 on 1/22 (MH, RH, DL), and the more southerly route yielded 33 on 1/29 (MH, RH, DL). Light morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were near Marion Center 1/22 (MH, RH, DL) and at West Lebanon 1/25 (EF, MF). The three WRS routes yielded a low total of only 11 **American Kestrels** (MH, RH, DL).

**American Coots** at YC had dwindled to 548 by 12/7 (LC), the last date any were noted. Last **Killdeer** were 2 near HC 12/1 (LC) and one at YC 12/7 (LC); first spring returnee arrived 2/27 (MC) near LV.

Flying over a yard near SH 2/21 (MH) were 31 **Ring-billed Gulls**. Only 2 **Eastern Screech-Owls** were reported, one 12/27 (PJ) roosting near Two Lick Reservoir and the other peering from a cavity near IN through 12/29 (KB). **Great Horned Owls** were listed at four locations this winter (m.ob.). A **Barred Owl** was heard only at SH 1/13 and 1/17 (RH) and 2/20 and 2/26 (MH, RH).

Among several reports, **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** noted included 3 on the CBC 12/27 (m.ob.), one visiting an IN feeder on multiple days in mid-Jan. (SD), and one at Nolo 2/12 (CL, GL). **Common Ravens** were consistently found in the YC area throughout the period (m.ob.); one was at Smicksburg Park 1/4 (EP), and 2 were near Blairsville 1/29 (MH, RH, DL). **Horned Lark** maxima were 35 near Brookside Dairy 12/26 (MH, RH), 194 on WRS #2 on 1/15 (MH, RH, DL), and 65 on WRS #3 on 1/29 (MH, RH, DL).

The CBC yielded 11 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at 7 locations (m.ob.); one to 3 were found near SH (MH, RH) throughout the period,

and Two Lick Reservoir yielded one 12/19-21 (PJ). A **Winter Wren** appeared near Homer City 12/27 (SP). YC produced one **Hermit Thrush** 12/21 (LC, TG, MH) and 2 on 12/27 (m.ob.); a single bird was near LV 1/02 (MC) and another was spotted on WRS #1 on 1/22 (MH, RH, DL). Three **American Pipits** in a field near IN 1/14 (GS) provided only the second Jan *Indiana* sighting on record.

A male **Eastern Towhee** continued at a feeder near LV (MC) where it was seen almost consistently through the winter. Single **Fox Sparrows** were noted near SH between 12/1-14 (MH, RH) and near LV 12/4 (MC). First northward-bound returnee appeared at Nolo 2/21 (CL, GL). A **Swamp Sparrow** loitered at YC through 1/14 (LC, MH). **White-crowned Sparrows** numbered 3 on the CBC 12/27 (m.ob.) while a mixed sparrow flock near Blairsville contained at least 4 **White-crowned Sparrows** 1/29 (MH, RH, DL).

An **Eastern Meadowlark** was found near Brush Valley 12/27 (GL, GS). Top **Rusty Blackbird** count at YC was 70 on 12/1 (JB); a singleton visiting a SH feeder 12/14 (MH) was last. One **Common Grackle** near SH 2/27 (MH, RH) was the first arrival. A **Brown-headed Cowbird** lingered near LV 1/8 (MC). Single **Common Redpolls** were noted near Penn Run 12/25-26 (BF, TF), along Crooked Creek near SH 2/21 (MH), and near LV 2/27 (MC). **Pine Siskin** reports included single birds near SH 12/10 (MH) and near LV 12/17 (MC), 2 near LV 1/3 (MC), 6 at Nolo 1/6 (GS), and 6 near IN throughout the period (CG).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee**, 3119 **Creekside Road**, **Indiana, PA 15701-7934**, [bcoriole@windstream.net](mailto:bcoriole@windstream.net), Justin Bosler, Lee Carnahan, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Tom Glover, Carol Guba, Roger Higbee, Pat Johnner, Linda Jones, Bill Kozele, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Ken Marshall, Donna Meyer, Ed Patterson, Sara Pulliam, Nancy Smeltzer, John Somonick, Mark Strittmatter, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Linda Wagner.

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### **Jefferson County**

No compiler.

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### **Juniata County**

**Locations:** Cedar Springs Road (CSR), Licking Creek Valley (LCV), Lost Creek Shoe Shop (LCSS), Texas Hollow (TH).

Highlights during this season were 86 species entered into eBird, with 18 species of waterfowl, 9 species of raptor, 4 species of owl, all 7 species of woodpecker, and 7 species of sparrow. The CBC was conducted 12/18. A total of 73 species was tallied, with 2 count week species. We had a total of 16,843 birds counted which amounts to 215 birds per hour, 50 birds per mile, and 543 birds per counter.

The first **Rough-legged Hawk** was at CSR 1/9 (CK, JV, DW). Two were at Oakland Mills 1/16 (HP). Quite a raptor bonanza was had 1/15, with 2 light phased **Rough-legged Hawks**, 6 dark-phased **Rough-legs**, a **Bald Eagle**, **Northern Harriers**, **Red-tailed Hawks**, **American Kestrels**, and many vultures were counted around the county (CK). The WRS was conducted 1/27, recording 80 **Turkey Vultures**, 86 **Black Vultures**, 4 **Northern Harriers**, one **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 2 **Coopers Hawks**, one **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 45 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 7 **Rough-legged Hawks**, 28 **American Kestrels** and 4 **Bald Eagles**, with a total of 49 species of birds counted during the day (CK, BM, MM, AT).

The first **Fish Crow** of the season was in Mifflintown 2/22 (CK). A **Pine Warbler** visited 12/19, staying two days, off Cuba Mills Road. (ES, RS, LS). **Common Grackles**, **Red-winged Blackbirds**, and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** began returning 2/18 (CK). A **Rusty Blackbird** came to a feeder at LCV 2/2 and stayed 5 days (DB). On 1/16, 20 **Snow Buntings**, and 2 **Lapland Longspurs** were found in a large **Horned Lark** flock near Oakland Mills (HP). Single **Common Redpolls** visited feeders at Thompsontown 2/2 (TP) and LCSS 2/21 (CK, DT, AT).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman**, 91 **Kauffman Lane**, **Mifflintown, PA 17059**, (717) 436-8257, (717) 994-6715, [chadkauffman@earthlink.net](mailto:chadkauffman@earthlink.net), Deb Brackbill, Butch McCahren, Michael McCahren, Henry Petersheim, Toby J. Petersheim, Esther Swarey, Leroy Swarey, Raymond Swarey, Aden Troyer, David Troyer and Joe Verica.

## Lackawanna County

As usual, there is either a lack of birders in *Lackawanna* or a lack of birders who post their sightings. My contact information is below. If you know any Lackawanna birders, please put them in touch with me. If you have any sightings that are not on the PABIRDS Listserv, please contact me.

Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were seen on Lake Scranton 12/4 (KR). On 12/25, there was an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 2 first cycle **Iceland Gulls**, and a **Great Black-backed Gull** amongst many **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls**.

The following observations were gathered from eBird. Eight **Ruddy Ducks** and a **Pied-billed Grebe** were reported during the week of 12/21. A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen during the week of 1/26. A pair of **Common Ravens** was seen during the week of 12/11. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen the weeks of 12/18 and 1/26. **Hermit Thrush** was seen the week of 1/26.

Observers: **Joe Greco, 3116 Township Woods Rd., East Greenville, PA 18041, (717) 571-2933, certhid@gmail.com**, Kevin Ripka.

## Lancaster County

Locations: Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Long Level (SRL), Middlecreek WMA (MC).

This year winter temperatures in *Lancaster* were below normal while snowfall was about average. Even though there was one day where the low temperature was below zero, in most areas it wasn't bitterly cold, just consistently cold over most of the period.

The Southern Lancaster CBC was held 12/19, with 43 participants recording 100 species. This total was slightly below normal and the highlights included 3 **Cackling Geese**, 2 **Wood Ducks**, 78 **Bald Eagles**, **Merlin**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Barn Owl**, **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, 25 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, **Eastern Phoebe**, 2 **Brown Thrashers**, **Pine Warbler**, 3 **Chipping Sparrows**, **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, and **Brewer's Blackbird**.

The Lititz CBC was held on 12/26, with 40 participants identifying 87 species. Highlights included 2 **Cackling Geese**, 2 **Mute Swans**, **Wood Duck**, **Rough-legged Hawk**, **Merlin**, 3 **Peregrine Falcons**, 2 **Long-eared Owl**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Common Raven**, 5 **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Gray Catbird**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat**.

The Lancaster CBC was held 1/2, with 38 participants identifying 81 species. This species tally was a bit below average. The highlights were 2 **Mute Swans**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Lesser Scaup**, 30 **Bald Eagles**, 2 **Northern Goshawks**, 4 **Peregrine Falcons**, **Eastern Phoebe**, 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Palm Warbler**, and **Pine Warbler**.

There were no great rarities this season, but it was a fairly typical winter for birds in the county. One **Cackling Goose** was at MC 12/9 (PF, BH) and another 2/18-20 (m.ob.). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was seen 2/20 with a flock of 1000 **Canada Geese** on Conestoga Creek Road, just west of Maxwell Hill Road (BH, FH). By 2/20, the **Snow Geese** had reached an estimated number of 55,000 at MC. A nice variety of waterfowl was on the Susquehanna River near Wrightsville 1/28 including 10 **Redheads** and 2 **Greater Scaup** (JBo). There were one or two female **White-winged Scoters** in the Susquehanna River across from the Accomac Inn 2/6-7 (MS, RK, BC) and one was still present to at least 2/24. Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were at the same location 2/9 along with a variety of other more common species.

A **Green Heron** at Wood's Edge Pond 12/3 and 12/7 was unusually late (JBo, DH). One of the more unique reports this quarter was of a pure albino **Turkey Vulture**. The bird was seen 1/16 by KE and his comments follow: "While driving through Lancaster County this morning I stopped near New Holland to look for the Rough-legged Hawks. I spent about an hour in the area where they have been seen but did not have any luck. However, while heading north from Lancaster on 283, I spotted a small group of about 4 or 5 **Turkey Vultures** circling over the highway just south of the Salunga exit. One of the birds turned out to be a pure albino. Luckily, I had my sunroof open as I often do on sunny winter days and got an excellent view through the sunroof as I drove under the bird. I never thought I would say this about a **Turkey Vulture** but the bird was absolutely stunning against a blue sky."

A **Northern Goshawk** was seen 12/23 along Slate Hill Road about 4 miles from Peach Bottom village (BS). **Rough-legged Hawks** were

seen regularly this season with multiple reports from several locations. A light morph and a dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** were seen flying/hunting over the fields along Wissler Road between Snapper Drive and Five Points intersection 1/9 (DS). One intermediate **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed flying/hunting over the fields at the intersection of Vogelsville and Amsterdam Roads 1/9 (DS). Up to 3 **Rough-legged Hawks** were also seen on the *Lancaster* side of MC 1/19 (RB, et al.). **Rough-legged Hawks** continued to be reported from these areas through Feb. A **Merlin** was seen on Legallow Rd. between Bridgeville Rd. and Fetterville Rd. 2/21 (BH, FH). There were also multiple sightings near New Holland this winter. The CREP grasslands about 7 miles north of Peach Bottom produced a **Peregrine Falcon** 12/14 (BS). **Peregrines** were seen on all three CBCs with record counts on Lititz and Lancaster. They were seen regularly around Safe Harbor Dam, the Wrightsville bridges and downtown Lancaster throughout the period. One of the **Peregrines** on the Lititz CBC was on the frozen lake at MC (LC, JH) and was seen again 1/19 (RB, et al.). A winter raptor survey conducted in the southwestern part of the county 2/12 produced 18 **Black Vultures**, 85 **Turkey Vultures**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 10 **Red-tailed Hawks**, one **American Kestrel**, and one **Peregrine Falcon** (BS, NS). Another winter raptor survey conducted in the southwestern part of the county on 2/13 found 9 **Black Vultures**, 57 **Turkey Vultures**, one **Bald Eagle**, 3 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 3 **Cooper's Hawks**, 74 **Red-tailed Hawks**, one **Rough-legged Hawk**, and 3 **American Kestrels** (BC).

There were 2 **Short-eared Owls** 1/7 at the CREP Grasslands near Wakefield (BS). **Short-eared Owls** also wintered at MC again this year as normal. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was on the Susquehanna River near Wrightsville 1/31 (CC).

A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was seen at Wissler's run along the Susquehanna River 12/5 and 12/7 (JBo). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Muddy Run 12/18 was a new late date for the county. It was seen near the intersection of Susquehannock Drive and Silver Spring Road (TA). There were 2 **Lapland Longspurs** 1/12 among a flock of 600+ **Horned Larks** along Musser School Road near its intersection with S. Groffdale Road (JBo). Another **Lapland Longspur** and 4 **Snow Buntings** were seen along Voganville Road 1/30 (BC).

Two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were seen 12/18 just north of Octoraro Lake along Route 472 at Sproul Road; one male, one female. They were with a large flock of mostly **Red-winged Blackbirds** with a few cowbirds and grackles. They were flying in from the east and landing right along Route 472 (TR). The male was seen again the next day. Winter finches were rather scarce again this year, but **Purple Finches** and **Pine Siskins** were reported sporadically in small numbers at various locations this season.

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, Larry Coble, Pamela Fisher, Tom Garner, Barbara Haas, Dan Heathcote, Kitt Heckscher, Barbara Hunsberger (BHu), Tom Johnson, Ramsay Koury, Alex Lamoreaux, Joe Meloney, Holly Merker, Randy Miller, Meredith Lombard, Tom Raub, Rick Robinson, Matt Sabatine, Bob Schutsky, Dave Schwenk, Jim Smith, Drew Weber, Eric Witmer.

## Lawrence County

Locations: Wampum - Mt. Air Road in New Beaver (WM), Black Swamp (BS), Mason Road pond (MR), Volant Strips (VS), Mahoning River (MHR), Heather Heights Area (HH), New Wilmington Area (NW), Edinburg Lake (EL), New Castle (NC).

Of unusual size for this area of western Pennsylvania, a flock of 26 **Snow Geese**, including nine blue-phased, was found by MV and photographed by GM in a field 2/27 at WM. As will no doubt also be reported for *Allegheny*, where another large flock was also seen by GM, flocks of this size are a rarity in southwestern Pennsylvania. **Tundra Swans** moved through the area beginning with a high flying flock of 24 reported 12/9 over VS (RN), and an unusual mix of 60+ flying in formation with 10 **Canada Geese** in the lead was reported 2/27 also over VS (AH, PM). A **Mute Swan** family, two adults and an immature, was seen 12/31 at MHR (CH).

Of note among duck reports this season was one male **Northern Pintail** reported 1/24 at HH (SK), and a **Northern Shoveler** 12/3 at MR (MV). Three **Wood Ducks** were also a nice find 1/25 at MHR (CH).

Four **Redheads** were observed 12/11 at EL, and a nice count of 15 was had 2/27 at MR, along with 5 **Canvasbacks** and 6 **Gadwall** there that day as well (all MV). Late in the season, 5 **American Wigeons** were seen 2/27 at MR (MV). As we'll see in the spring report, their Eurasian cousin made an appearance in *Lawrence* at least once 3/5 at BS (STh).

The usual mix of raptors were reported this season, with **Cooper's Hawk**, **American Kestrel**, **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Northern Harrier**, and **Red-shouldered Hawk** all represented, the Red-shouldered appearing in a residential yard 12/26 at NC (CG), in addition to being reported on the WRS, done in difficult weather conditions 2/5 (LW, CGu, SB, MH). Again this season both light and dark phases of **Rough-legged Hawk** were seen, beginning with reports 12/9 at NW (RN), with the last report 1/26 at VS (CH).

The **Sandhill Crane** population boomed again this winter, the earliest report of 25 on 1/6 at BS (RN), with the highest count being 40 spotted 2/12 at VS (AH). **American Coots** were spotted in ones and twos 12/3 at TR, 12/11 at EL, and 2/27 at MR (all MV). A good group of 7 **Wilson's Snipe** was reported 1/7-2/12 at HH (m.ob.).

A **Great Horned Owl** was reported on a nest 2/10 in *Lawrence*, and it was nice to get a report of one **Short-eared Owl** 1/7 at BS (CD, LM, RM). **Northern Shrike** will also be showing up in the spring report, and the juvenile reported in the fall was again seen 12/9 at BS (RN).

**Horned Larks** were seen in large numbers, generally in the "hundreds", in the company of "hundreds" or even a thousand **Snow Buntings** and a few **Lapland Longspurs**, from 12/9-2/27. More specifically, one **Lapland Longspur** was reported 1/7 at VS (DW), two 12/24 in NW (SG), three were spotted 1/24 at NW (SD, BV), and a high count of four was had 1/26 in NW (CH). They were also seen as late as 2/5, three being found during the WRS (LW, CGu, SB, MH).

An **American Pipit** seemed to overwinter in NW this season, one being reported there at various times from 1/7 through 2/19 (m.ob.). A nice Christmas gift was a **Field Sparrow** reported 12/25-26 at a feeder in a residential yard in NC (CG), feeding on the cracked corn and millet there. And a little unusual for late Jan were four **White-crowned Sparrows** seen 1/26 in NW (CH). **American Tree Sparrow** was reported in good numbers from 12/9-2/27, with a high count of about 100 seen 1/23 at VS (KSJ). Hinting at summer were reports of one **Eastern Meadowlark** reported at VS from 12/9-1/24 (m.ob.). First report of **Common Grackle** was 2/23 in NC, and the first report of **Red-winged Blackbird** was two days later in the same location (both CG, DC).

Returning to birds more of the season, a nice flock of 70 **Common Redpolls** was reported 2/27 at GC (AH, PM). They were also seen as early as 12/28, a pair being reported at NW (RN, ML). Once again, stay tuned for the spring report to read about the Hoary Redpoll that joined them in that season.

Observers: **Stephen Tirone, 135 Isolda Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15209, (724) 719-8643, stephen.tirone@gmail.com**, Suzanne Butcher, Don Cratty, Sheree Daugherty, Corey DeStein, Carol Guba (CGu), Candy Gonzalez, Steve Gosser, Amy Henrici, Margaret Higbee, Craig Holt, Scott Kinzey, Melissa Little, Ryan McDermott, Pat McShea, Geoff Malosh, Lukas Musher, Richard Nugent, Kate St. John, Shannon Thompson (STh), Bob Van Newkirk, Mark Vass, Linda Wagner, Dave Wilton.

## Lebanon County

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

This year's winter left snow cover from early January to nearly the end of the quarter. This had the effect of concentrating flocks of **Horned Larks** to areas where manure application was consistent. Similarly, most of the lakes remained completely frozen until the middle of February but by the last week in the quarter, waterfowl were plentiful.

The Lebanon County CBC was held 12/18 and there were four new high counts: **Cooper's Hawk** (12), **Hairy Woodpecker** (11), **Pileated Woodpecker** (11), and **Tufted Titmouse** (176). No new species were added to the Lititz CBC.

A **Mute Swan** was first seen 12/18 at MLSP (RCM). A single **Mute Swan**, a rare Jan sighting, was with a large group of **Canada Geese** 1/4 (TB, CB, MC) and two birds were present 1/13-20 (DM). A sighting of a

female **Long-tailed Duck** 2/3 at Millard's Quarry Pond (CB) was a first for Feb. It was seen again at Millard's 2/7 (TB) through 2/24 (BW). There were six other species of duck at Millard's 2/3 including two **Redheads**, which, with a **Green-winged Teal** at a small pond on Farmers Drive in Bethel Township, made eight duck species for the day. **Red-necked Grebe** was seen 2/26-28 at MLSP. It was first found by TB, who was actually looking for (and found) **American Woodcock**.

The most satisfying results from this season's Second Mountain Hawk Watch was the amazing number of 218 **Bald Eagles**, smashing the old record of 161 set in 2007. In addition, on 9/14 a high count of 11 **Bald Eagles** was recorded. The next day that record was tied. **Golden Eagle** numbers were up over the past several years with 117 counted, which is well above the average of 79. The total of 8820 birds was 96% of average, which was deemed good considering the **Broad-winged Hawk** count of 2490 was 1000 below average. Except for **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, up 130%, all other species, although improved from last year, were 63% to 92% below average. Of concern was **Red-shouldered Hawk** with a total of 92 (63%), the poorest showing in the 23 years of full coverage.

Multiple **Bald Eagle** reports were filed throughout the quarter by TB, CB, IG, and TS at four locations. *Lebanon* shared in the abundance of statewide sightings of **Rough-legged Hawk**. Three were seen at 2Mtn, the first was actually seen in the fall on 11/2. One was seen by MJ in East Hanover Twp 12/25. MC had the most consistent sightings. A single bird was seen at Chapel Road and along Rt. 897 on 1/15 (JF), 1/19 (RB), 1/30 (BC), and 2/3 (CB). Another bird was seen along Hopeland Road 1/16 (AH) and 1/20 (RCM). A light phase Rough-legged Hawk was seen in the FIG area twice at different times of the day 1/14 (AK, CB) and again 1/20 (DM). Lastly, one dark-phase bird was seen in Fredericksburg 1/23 while BWv was looking for **Horned Larks**.

RCM was pleased to find a **Golden Eagle** at SGL 145 on 1/17 in the same area where EH and SH found one 10/31, giving the impression that it may be overwintering. Another **Golden Eagle** was noted on Cold Springs Road, FIG 1/5 (TB). eBird **Merlin** reports were filed 12/22 (TB) near the Freeport Mills Golf Course in Bethel Township, 1/4 MLSP (PW, RW), Range Rd, FIG on 1/24 (JD) and 1/29 along Rt. 322 west of the Rt. 72 intersection (JH). During an owl survey at FIG 12/15, MC, JD, and DM had a cat-like response of **Long-eared Owl** but were not able to visually confirm it. It is harder to see **Short-eared Owl** at MC when the Auto Tour roads are closed for hunting, so a single bird along Hopeland Road in MC 1/20 was a good find (AH). A **Barred Owl** was calling in the evening 1/29 in Spring Hill Acres, Cornwall (JH).

A single **Northern Shrike** found by JD at FIG off of Cold Spring Road 1/3, a new early date. A second shrike was found on restricted portions of FIG 1/4 (JD, DM). The shrike was often not visible along the public road but since there were three birds in the same habitat (with another in the *Dauphin* side of FIG) several observers were lucky to find one: 1/5 (MC), 1/6 (CB), 1/29 (JH), and sporadically in Feb. It was seen 2/13 for a new late date (RK, JR) and through the end of the quarter (GB, BP on 2/26). A **Common Raven** was seen away from the mountains in Lebanon City 1/2 (DM) and also 1/30 just north of Palmyra (GK).

Single **Winter Wren** sightings were found at SGL 145 on 1/17 (RCM) and along the Quittapahilla Creek 1/20 (CB). Two reports of **Hermit Thrush** (JD and DN) came from the FIG area: ML 1/11 and in a restricted area along Cold Springs Road a few days later. **American Pipits** were found during a Winter Raptor Survey (GB, FH, RL, AS) 1/15 in Jackson Twp at the corner of Lengle Road and College Street. Pipits were also found along Hostetter Road, North Annville Township 1/21-2/7 (TB) with a high count of 53 on 1/25 (DM).

One **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found by SW and DW near Camp Shand along the power line cut during the Lititz CBC 12/26. This sets the new late date for the county. A review of the CBC historical records between 1900 and 2009 shows only 33 records, mainly in southeast Pennsylvania with the first record in 1954.

**Fox Sparrow** was first found 2/21 at MLSP (TB) and at ML 2/28 (DM). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** on Second Mtn. 12/20 (RB) set a new late date by two months. An **Oregon Dark-eyed Junco** showed up at a feeder set up at Shuey Lake, FIG 1/11. Pictures were provided by JD. Two **Lapland Longspurs** were found on Hostetter Road 1/21 (CB) and a single bird was seen by TB 2/7. At Shirksville Road, Bethel Township 1/22 (SF) had two longspurs. A single **Snow Bunting** was first seen 1/31 along Hostetter Road (CB). Their numbers increased in Feb to 3 on 2/3 (CB) and 15 on 2/7 (TB). Over on Shirksville Road a similar increase was noted: 7 on 2/3 (CB) and 30 on 2/7(TB). There was one other **Snow Bunting** report from the Reistville area 2/9 (BB).

There was a weak influx of **Common Redpolls** in PA this winter and so it was nice to record one at feeders set up at ML 2/20 (MC). Forty-one **Pine Siskins** were attracted to the ML feeders 1/26 (DM). An estimated 60-70 siskins were present 2/26 (GB, BP). The only other siskin reports were from the Hostetter yard feeders in Mt. Gretna beginning 10/31 and seen throughout the quarter.

Observers: **Chuck Berthoud, 47 Brookside Avenue, Hershey, PA 17033, (717) 533-7136, cberthoud@verizon.net**, Tim Becker, Gerry Boltz, Randy Brenner, Greg Burgdorf, Brian Byrnes, Bruce Carl, Morris Cox, Jarrod Derr, Jim Fiorentino, Scott Fisher, Ian Gardner, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Evelyn Hostetter, Sid Hostetter, Ann Hurst, Gary Kinkley, Arlene Koch, Ramsay Koury, Richard Light, David McNaughton, Mike Johnson, Randy C. Miller, Bob Peda, Joan Renninger, Art Schiavo, Timothy Schreckengost, Rosemary Spreha, Brian Weaver (BWv), Billy Weber, David Wheeler, Susan Wheeler, Pat Williams, Richard Williams.

### Lehigh County

Winter in the Lehigh Valley was slightly colder than average. January's mean temperature of 23.6°F was 3.5°F below the 30-year norm. Twenty days with snow in January resulted in 14 inches on the ground by the end of the month. February brought significantly milder temperatures and a relatively quick thaw. (Source: NOAA / National Weather Service data for Allentown archived at <<http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=phi>>). The Lehigh River did not freeze over except for a few days. Several local quarries held at least some open water through the season, providing interesting waterfowl reports. A total of 106 species was reported in *Lehigh* this season, including 84 species within the county on the Allentown Christmas Bird Count (ACBC) 12/18 (MB, compiler). Other events referenced in this report include the Upper Bucks Christmas Bird Count (UBCBC) 12/19 (BE, compiler), the northern Lehigh Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) 1/22 (BH, compiler), and Lehigh Gap Nature Center's Winter Bird Survey (WBS) 1/15 (m.ob.). Stats from both CBCs refer to *Lehigh* totals only, excluding observations from other counties within the respective circles.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** spent New Year's Eve at Fogelsville Quarry (TW), a one-day record. A total of 6702 **Snow Geese** were tallied for the ACBC; individuals and small groups were reported around Allentown throughout the season. At the northern end of the county, a fly-over flock of 3700 **Snow Geese** in Heidelberg Twp 1/15 was less expected as there are no quarries nearby (JH). Another fly-over flock in Allentown 2/28 included a probable **Ross's Goose** (BW). The same observer studied an apparent **Snow x Ross's Goose** hybrid in Lynn Twp 2/24. We had 8 reports of **Cackling Goose**, with a max count of 3 at Fogelsville 1/7 and at Dorney Pond 2/27 (TV).

**Gadwall** were present at several locations beginning 1/12 with a max of 14 at Lehigh Canal Park (LCP) 2/13 (BW). An **American Wigeon** wintered at Dorney Pond (12/17 through the quarter), where it seemed to have a good deal of success stealing food from divers including **Ring-necked Duck**, **Ruddy Duck**, **American Coot**, and even **Mallards**! (Mallards employ diving as a common feeding method at Dorney Pond, which is just a little too deep for so-called "dabbling" ducks to dabble in, apparently.) Elsewhere, a max count of 21 wigeons was at Quarry Street in North Whitehall Twp in late Feb (BW). The only **Northern Pintail** report (2) was from Dorney Pond 2/23 (m.ob.). A lone **Green-winged Teal** was at Trexler Park in west Allentown 1/21 to 1/25 (BE). A **Redhead** discovered at Fogelsville on the ACBC 12/18 stayed to at least 1/16 (JH, FB). Other interesting ducks at Fogelsville on the ACBC included **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Duck** (30), **Greater Scaup**, and **Ruddy Duck** (5). A growing flock of **Ring-necked Ducks** at Cold Spring Pond in North Whitehall reached a max count of 38 by late Feb (BW). A **Lesser Scaup** was at Fogelsville 1/7-16 (TW). A lone drake **Bufflehead** was at Dorney Pond 12/6-20 (BE). At LCP, a pair of **Common Goldeneye** was present 2/6 (MB). The previously mentioned **Ruddy Duck** wintered at Dorney Pond and was seen daily 12/1-2/14 (BE).

**Pied-billed Grebe** was noted on the Lehigh River in Allentown multiple times 1/23-2/27 with a max of 2 on 2/24. Far less usual for *Lehigh*, a **Red-necked Grebe** was discovered on the Lehigh River in Allentown 2/20 (MB) and remained into March. This is an exceptional record for *Lehigh*. Aside from multiple records during the remarkable state-wide Red-necked Grebe invasion in early spring 2003, this is only

the second sighting for the county in recent decades; a bird present for 3 days in Feb 1994 seems to be the only other record at hand.

A WRS at the northern end of the county resulted in 36 raptors of 6 species (TB, BH, JH), a much lower total than last year's 105 birds. The WRS produced 29 **Red-tailed Hawks**; the ACBC tallied 95. As last year, **American Kestrel** was scarce on both counts (one and 3 respectively). There were several **Merlin** reports, including a regular around Dorney Park in Cetronia that was present at least 1/6-2/4 (BE, BW). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** located in Heidelberg Twp on the WBS 1/15 remained in the area through at least 1/29 (BH, JH, TW). Peregrines were noted near the Allentown 8th Street Bridge nest site throughout the period (MB, DA, m.ob.).

The only mid-winter **Killdeer** report was from Lynn 1/8 (MB). Reports became more common immediately following a slight thaw 2/15. **Wilson's Snipe** (3) was found on the ACBC 12/18, and a lone bird was in Lynn 2/13 (BW).

There was a number of interesting gull reports this winter. Up to 2 adult **Iceland Gulls** were present on the Lehigh River at Bethlehem 1/15-29 (BW), one of which was a dark wing-tipped Kumlien's-type. A puzzling gull was at Dorney Pond 2/24. This first-cycle bird was identified as "at least" a Kumlien's Gull, though no single character (or lack thereof) could definitively rule out a first cycle Thayer's Gull (BE). Given the uncertainty regarding the differences between these two taxa (barring a specimen, or at least excellent photographic documentation), the observer remains uncertain of the wisdom in attempting to positively identify a first winter individual of the latter species in southeastern Pennsylvania. File this one under "Kumlien's Gull". Winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** numbers continue to increase in *Lehigh*. The species was present almost daily at Dorney Pond from late Dec through the period with a max count of 48 on 1/19 (BE). Just four days later an even more impressive total of 91 were noted 1/23 at LCP (MB), a new county high count! A third cycle **Great Black-backed Gull** was at Sand Island in Bethlehem 1/15, and an adult was at Dorney Pond 1/29 (BW).

On the UBCBC, over 60 **Eastern Screech-Owls** were found in the portion of the count circle that falls within *Lehigh* (KM, LM)! The block owners have had great success over the years in locating this species within many of the woodlots in this particular CBC block. Owling conditions 12/18 were almost perfect and resulted in excellent totals all around the UBCBC circle. Ten **Great Horned Owls** and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** were also tallied within this block. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard 1/1 at Trexlerstown (BW). A **Barred Owl** was a nice find on the ACBC 12/18 (TM). Along the Appalachian Trail near Bake Oven Knob, a **Long-eared Owl** was discovered 12/31 (JH).

An immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** continued to be seen in Lynn (m.ob.). The traditional crow roost in the Fountain Hill area was alive and well this winter. A count of 4540 crows 1/2 exemplifies the numbers that can be found there in winter (ES). **Common Raven** sightings came from Cementon 12/25 and 1/13 (ML); much further south, a lone raven was noted flying north into *Lehigh* from *Bucks* near Coopersburg 1/30 (BW). Some of the season's higher counts of **Horned Larks** came from Albutis 1/7 (~400, TW), Heidelberg 1/23 (145, BE), and Lynn (~300, BH).

Following a slew of fall season reports, chickadees specifically identified as irruptive **Black-capped Chickadees** became far less frequent, with the last being noted from Allentown 1/31. As usual, most **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports came from Cetronia and west Allentown, 12/11-2/20 (BCM, BE), with an additional report from Trexlerstown 1/22 (BW). A singing **Winter Wren** was especially notable 1/3 at Jordan Creek Parkway (JH). **Gray Catbird** was found at Salisbury Twp 1/31 (MB, MS), and Lynn Twp 1/16 (BW).

**American Pipit** was noted from multiple locations within Heidelberg and Lynn 1/15-31 with a max of 15 near Leaser Lake 1/16 (m.ob.). **Lapland Longspur** was at Albutis 1/7-10 (max 2, m.ob.), and Leaser Lake 1/10-31 (max 2, m.ob.). Similarly, **Snow Bunting** was present at multiple locations within the county 1/9-29 (m.ob.). Reports of **Snow Bunting** came from Albutis, Upper Whitehall, Heidelberg, and Lynn. Most reports were of one to 3 birds, with the notable exception of 40 along Golden Key Road in Lynn 1/12 (BW).

The ACBC 12/18 produced a number of interesting sparrows, including **Eastern Towhee** (one), **American Tree Sparrow** (64), **Savannah Sparrow** (one), **Fox Sparrow** (3), **Lincoln's Sparrow** (one), and **Swamp Sparrow** (19). An apparent immature **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** was discovered 1/29 in Heidelberg and remained through the end of Feb (BW). **Purple Finch** was scarce this winter, with just one on the ACBC 12/18, and 2 at Leaser Lake 1/12 (BW). Finally, **Pine Siskins** were at feeders at Upper Milford Twp (2) 12/27 (BM, PM)

and at North Whitehall (15) 1/26 (BH).

Observers: **Bill Etter, 209 E. South St, Slatington, PA 18080, (215) 964-3613, billetter01@gmail.com**, Dan Atlif, Ted Beltz, Mark Boyd, Fritz Brock, Linda Freedman, Joe Greco, Bob Hoopes, Jeff Hopkins, Matt Loyko, Barbara Malt (BCM), Terry Masters, Bernie and Pauline Morris, Kirk and Lois Moulton, Matt Sabatine, Peter Saenger, Ed Sinkler, Todd Watkins, Billy Weber.

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### Luzerne County

Locations: Dallas Area CBC (DCBC), Harveys Lake (HL), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Plymouth Flats (PF), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River @ Luzerne County Recreation Fields (SRLCR), Sweet Valley (SV), Northwest Area High School (NWAHS).

The winter season for *Luzerne* was longer and more severe than it has been in the past decade, and set record lows in some parts of the county. Many of the local lakes were frozen over before the DCBC took place. Despite the unfavorable weather, the count turned out to be a success with a higher number of species recorded than last year. Throughout the rest of the season, bird reports were spotty perhaps due to the poor weather conditions on many of the weekends.

Four **Wood Ducks** were reported throughout the season at HL (m.ob.), with the first report 12/5. A drake **Canvasback** overwintered at HL (JH, et al.). There were 6 **Redheads** observed throughout the entire winter season on HL (JH, et al.). Other ducks of note during the season were 3 **Long-Tailed Ducks** first reported 12/12 at HL (JH) and which stayed for the DCBC, **Common Goldeneyes** at HL on 1/1 (RM, RMo), and high numbers of **Ruddy Ducks** throughout the county from 12/05-1/1. This winter season was the first time in memory that Pied-billed Grebe was missed.

**Black Vultures** overwintered in the county again at NWAHS (BW). This year, the committee soared to a record high of 50 birds. An early **Turkey Vulture** was seen 2/18 (JH) in Shavertown. A respectable count of 4 **Northern Harriers** was recorded on the DCBC 12/18. One adult **Red-Shouldered Hawk** was observed 1/1 at the NWAHS near the **Black Vulture** roost (RK, JH).

The DCBC reported 5 species of owls including **Eastern Screech-Owl**, **Great-Horned Owl**, **Long-Eared Owl**, **Barred Owl**, and **Northern Saw-whet Owl** (SGo, JHa, BW). In addition to the success of the owl findings, the falcon category was also swept listing **American Kestrel**, **Merlin** (SG, SGo, RK, BW, JHa), and **Peregrine Falcon** (SGo, BW, JHa) on the DCBC.

A very nice find was an **American Woodcock** 12/18 during the DCBC (BT, LA). This was an unusual find during the season, especially with the harsh winter being experienced. No other shorebirds were reported. **Fish Crows** were also heard calling 1/1 in Mocanaqua (RK JH).

Also of note for the DCBC was a **Winter Wren** (SGo, BW, JG). A good total of 3 **Hermit Thrush** was noted on the DCBC (KR, MK). Additionally, a small group of **American Robins** was sighted during the entire winter season (m.ob.). A flock of 100 **Snow Buntings** was observed 1/15 on the border of *Wyoming* and *Luzerne* near HL (JH). On 12/18, **American Tree Sparrows** were listed on the DCBC (m.ob.) along with 10 **White-crowned Sparrows** (RM, RMo, DF). The **American Tree Sparrows** were first recorded 11/13 and continued straight through winter.

The winter finch population this season was very good with reports of **Common Redpolls** and **Pine Siskins** at numerous feeders. **Pine Siskins** were first reported in Nov and continued throughout the winter into spring (m.ob.). **Common Redpolls** were first reported 1/4 (DF) at a feeder in SV and continued through the entire season as well. No reports of Crossbills for winter were received and the Evening Grosbeaks left shortly before the start of the season.

Observers: **David Fisher, 222 North Mountain Road, Sweet Valley, PA 18656, (570) 477-2846, David.Fisher@prudential.com**, Lynn Alldrich, Jonathan DeBalko, Stan Galenty (SG), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Jeff Hartman (JHa), Jim Hoyson (JH) Don Kapral, Mark Kasper, Rick Koval, Dave Kruel (DKr), Robert Moase (RM), Ruth Moase (RMo), Kevin Ripka, Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

### Lycoming County

Locations: Cogan House Township (CHT), Jackson Township (JT), Loyalsock Creek in Loyalsock Township (Loyal), Susquehanna River (SR), Rider Park (RPark), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Williamsport Dam, Susquehanna River (WDSR).

This seasonal report incorporates observations submitted to the on-line database eBird, as well as bird records and Williamsport CBC results from 12/18, compiled by Dave Ferry in the bimonthly Lycoming Audubon newsletter.

Two female **Green-winged Teal** were spotted during the Williamsport CBC 12/18, and 6 were submitted to eBird along a stretch of the SR 2/18 (NFro). A variety of waterfowl were found at the WDSR including a **Redhead** 1/15, 2 **Ring-necked Ducks** 1/15, and a **Common Goldeneye** 1/8 (NFro). Two **Greater Scaup** were found near the mouth of the Lycoming Ck on the Williamsport CBC 12/18 (WE) and another at WDSR 1/1 (NFro). Four **Lesser Scaup** was seen at RVL 12/21 (NFro). **Bufflehead** could be found in open water below WDSR through the season, with 15 counted 1/8 (NFro). Infrequently reported, 2 **White-winged Scoters** found by JY at WDSR were seen about a week, until 2/19 (NFro). A lone **Ruddy Duck** was seen on the SR Montoursville Boat Launch 2/19 (NFro), and reported on the SR 12/18.

A **Common Loon** was sighted in SR at Maynard Street 12/18 (WE) and 12/25 at the WDSR (NFro). An **American Coot** was at WDSR 12/21 (NFro). One **Herring Gull** 1/5 and 50 **Ring-billed Gulls** 2/18 were found below WDSR (NFro).

Getting the New Year off to a great start, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found along Hagerman Run Rd 1/1 (NF, AW). **Short-eared Owls** were found at two locations this winter: 2 at Mill Hall Rd 12/19 and one along Mill Hill Rd 1/1 (NFro). The first **Turkey Vultures** of the season were seen in Picture Rocks 2/17 and first **Fish Crow** was in Muncy Creek Twp (WE).

A **Brown Creeper** was reported to the CBC 12/18 (NFre). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found on-and-off through the period in flooded woodlands along the lower Loyal (DB). **Field Sparrows** were seen by a variety of observers until 1/2 (AW, NF). Three **Swamp Sparrows** at SGL 114 were notable 1/2 (NF, AW).

Seven **Common Redpolls** on Steam Valley Rd 1/23 (NFro) were a highlight of the season. Counts of 150 **Snow Buntings** and 200 **Horned Larks** along Caldwell Rd 1/7 (NFro) were highs for the season. **Pine Siskins** were reported sporadically through the season, including as many as 52 on 12/24 at RPark (NFro), 20 on 12/8 with **Purple Finch** (RB), and 5 again there 1/15 (NFro).

Observers: **Dan Brauning, 1920 Inverness Rd., Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 433-0309, dbrauning@state.pa.us**, Ron Beach, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Norwood Frederick (NFre), Nate Fronk (NFro), Wayne Laubscher, Jake Person, Andrew Weber, Joe Yoder.

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### McKean County

No compiler.

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### Mercer County

Locations: N. Forrester Rd (FR), Grove City (GC), Otter Creek / Rattlesnake Swamp (RSS), Shenango R. Res (SRR), E. Valcourt Rd (VR), Williamson Rd (WR), Zahnizer Rd (ZR).

The harsh winter with record-setting snowfall affected arrival or departure dates of several species. The last skein of **Tundra Swans** of the fall migration was 12/14. First of the spring were 6 lined up on a small, shallow, melted section of SRR 2/17. The first spring skein was 2/26 (HT). Feb is an unusual month to see any **Tundra Swan**. One pair of **Wood Ducks** was along ZR 2/27, **American Black Duck** and **Ring-necked Duck** were at RSS 2/28, and a small flock of **Common Mergansers** flew over WR 2/28 (NT).

A kettle of **Turkey Vultures** soared over GC 2/28. **Bald Eagles** probably vacated the area in Dec and Jan, but a few returned to some open water under the Rte. 18 Causeway 2/20. **Bald Eagles** were also seen at the nests at Sagulla's and VR 2/17 (HB, LD). A **Northern Harrier** was cruising fields at VR 2/17 (HB, LD), and **Rough-legged Hawks** were present all period (NT).

The first **Killdeer** was heard along FR 2/17 (HT). Hunting open

fields along Airport Road all Dec was a **Short-eared Owl** (JT). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was a great find at a GC peanut feeder 1/8-12 (HB). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was also reported from GC 1/20 (HB). **Carolina Wrens** were generally wiped out, except in the southern part of the county, where a pair survived at GC.

Present all period was **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, and **Northern Mockingbird** was reported most of Jan. **American Tree Sparrow** was first noted 12/13 (HB). A yard along FR produced 2 **Savannah Sparrows** 2/13, and **Snow Buntings** were plentiful during the quarter (HT, NT). A feeder at WR hosted **Common Redpolls** 2/26, with 6 there 2/27 (NT).

Observers: **Marty McKay, 841 E. Lake Rd. Transer, PA 16154, (714) 962-7476**, Harriet Bauer, Lynne Doolan, Harry Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Neil Troyer, Ruth Troyer, Samuel Troyer.

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### Mifflin County

Locations: Back Mt. Rd. in Big Valley (BMR), Belleville (BE), Big Valley (BV), Kishacaquillas Creek in Big Valley (KC).

The combined totals from *Mifflin* WRS routes included one **Bald Eagle**, 3 **Northern Harriers**, 2 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 59 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 6 **Rough-legged Hawks**, and 16 **American Kestrels**, as well as one **Turkey Vulture** and 10 **Black Vultures** (BF). The Kestrel number was low compared to previous years; Rough-legs were up. **Bald Eagles** were active at their nest in the eastern end of BV, with one seen 1/15 and the pair there 2/12 (JZ, m.ob.).

Unusual in mid-winter were a **Wood Duck** drake and a female **Northern Shoveler** in BV 1/9 (GG, DG, JD). JZ reported a female **Green-winged Teal** in the creek on his farm near BE 1/18. As usual, 2 or 3 **Killdeer** wintered in KC, as did several **Wilson's Snipe** (JD, GG, JZ). At least one **Long-eared Owl** returned to a winter roost site in BV where 3 spent the previous winter (IB, IBJ, JZ). A few **Red-headed Woodpeckers** wintered in BV, at known locations on BMR and Old Three Cent Lane (GG, JD, JZ).

The biggest **Horned Lark** flock observed contained 500 birds, found on manure along Knepp Rd near BE 2/3 (DK, TK). **Snow Buntings** were seen on several excursions to BV, with a flock of over 100 noted at Knepp Rd 2/4 (GG). Always hard to find, single **Lapland Longspurs** were found in BV 1/8 (GG) and 2/5 (JD). As usual, a few **White-crowned Sparrows** wintered 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, dsq4@psu.edu**, Ivan Byler, Ivan Byler, Jr. (IBJ), Jim Dunn, Bob Fowles, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Jay Zook.

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### Monroe County

Friend and naturalist, photographer, writer, and conservationist John Serrao has left his tracks all over the Poconos for the past twenty-five years. Recently John, and his wife Felicia, followed a trail to Florida where they will be enjoying a well-deserved retirement. This compiler will sorely miss John and his incredible knowledge, endless enthusiasm, and companionship in the field. Also missed will be John's (always much anticipated) handwritten list of bird sightings that were diligently sent to me each and every season and enriched this report four times a year. A heartfelt thank you to John for his many years of contributing to this report and for his tireless efforts teaching about and protecting the Pocono environment.

The season was notable for its high snowfall and low temperatures. Deep snow covered the ground for much of the period making life difficult for wildlife. For example, a local rehabilitation center reported treating at least ten **Eastern Screech-Owls** for starvation. The 31st Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count (PMCBC) was held 12/19 and recorded 54 species and 4454 individuals, average totals for this count. Some highlights follow.

The 7 **Wood Ducks** on PMCBC represented a count high (the previous high was 4 in 1990). The single **Northern Harrier** on PMCBC was the first recorded on this count since 1994, and the 5 **Red-shouldered Hawks** also represented a PMCBC high, with a previous high of 2 in 1986. The single **Ruffed Grouse** was PMCBC's first since

1997.

Winter finch reports were few. A single female **White-winged Crossbill** was an exciting find at a Mt. Pocono feeder 2/20-21 (PF), and one **Common Redpoll** was reported at a Shawnee feeder 2/9 (JW). This same Shawnee feeder also had a single **Pine Siskin** 2/21 (JW), while a flock of 10 at a Bartonsville feeder were the only **Pine Siskins** recorded on PMCBC.

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Joe Bedrick, Chris Benzinger, John Benzinger, Bill Clark, Nancy Clark, Jeff Cook, Elizabeth Cortright, Ron Cortright, Bob Duryea, Dan Duryea, Andy Fedor, Pat Fellion, Wayne Grove, Matt Jardel, Brad Orey, Carol Paulus, Emily Paulus, Vic Paulus, Sue Predl, Conrad Schmidt, Darryl Speicher, Megan Taylor, Cathy Trinkle, Chris Turn, Greg Turn, Jim Wyckoff, Dan Zmoda.

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### Montgomery County

Locations: Evansburg State Park (ESP), Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Haverford College (HC), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Frederick Twp (UFT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge Audubon Society (VFAS), Valley Forge National Park (VFNP).

The winter season featured below average temperatures and above average precipitation. Snowfall for western *Montgomery* totaled 39 inches, and extensive snow cover persisted from early January until mid-February. Ice on Green Lane Reservoir and other water bodies persisted until the third week of February.

Waterfowl variety in the county was excellent, with 26 species recorded. Highlights were many, including a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Walt Road, GLR 2/22-26 (DF, m.ob.). Even better was a **Barnacle Goose** there 2/23-27 (AG, MD, m.ob., ph.). If accepted by the PORC, this will be GLR's third record for the species. Unlike some counties west and north of us, *Montgomery* is not known for large numbers of **Snow Geese**. A flock of up to 3000 at Walt Road 2/23+ was a nice surprise (m.ob.). Also noteworthy were 450 at Norristown Farm Park 2/16 (WBH). **Cackling Geese** (one or 2) were noted at both GLR and nearby Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (m.ob.). **Tundra Swans** were more regular than in recent years, and reached a high count of 64 on the ice at Walt Rd. 2/28 (KC). Away from GLR, 5 were seen at Mill Grove 2/26 (WBH).

Dabbling ducks were highlighted by a male **Eurasian Wigeon** at Walt Road 2/20-27 (JW, m.ob., ph.). During its stay, the bird also spent time at Church Road, GLR. If accepted by the PORC, this will be the first GLR record for the species. **American Wigeon** reached a maximum of 95 at Walt Road 2/21, and **Northern Pintails** topped out at 80 there 2/27 (GAF). A total of 42 late fall **Green-winged Teal** were at Walt Road 12/9 (GAF), and 2 northbound spring birds were noted there 2/20 (JG). Two early **Northern Shovelers** were at the same venue 2/28 (GAF). A male **Wood Duck** at Hill Road, GLR 2/22 was another mid-winter surprise (L&JH). Away from GLR, **Green-winged Teal** were noted at NFP and Valley Forge National Park on several dates in Jan and Feb (WBH). Diving ducks also had a nice showing at GLR and elsewhere. Two **Redheads** were on the Schuylkill River at VFNP 12/16-26 (RG, JG), and again 2/6 (WBH). Two **Canvasbacks** were at Walt Road, GLR 12/29 (TL, *fide* GAF), and 4 were seen there 2/27 (GAF). At GLR, **Ring-necked Ducks** peaked at 226 on 2/28 (GAF), and NFP held an impressive 105 on 2/22 (WBH). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at Walt Road, GLR 2/22 (KC), and 6 were present 2/28 (GAF). Left over from fall migration were 250 **Ruddy Ducks** at Walt Road 12/3 (GAF). One **Ruddy Duck** was at NFP on the unusual date of 1/8-9. (WBH, BH).

GLR's resident **Bald Eagle** pair was on eggs by mid-Feb, very near their average incubation date (m.ob.). A **Northern Harrier** was near Walt Road, GLR on several dates 1/12-2/17 (GAF). Another was in Douglas Twp. 1/3 (A&JM). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** in the Unami Creek Valley 12/19 was our only report for the quarter (A&JM). A dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Evansburg State Park 2/19. **Merlin** was a nice find in Upper Frederick Twp 1/22 (RG) and also at Haverford College 2/13 (SJ).

The season's first **American Woodcock** was flushed at Church Rd, GLR 2/26 (KC), and was followed by another at NFP 2/27 (BH).

More surprising given the date, a **Wilson's Snipe** was at NFP 2/2 (WBH). A first-year **Iceland Gull** at Church Rd, GLR 2/25 was yet another good find (DF, m.ob.).

A **Long-eared Owl** was in eastern *Montgomery* 1/2 (location withheld, PD). This was our only report for the period. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were widely disbursed this winter, with reports from East Norriton Twp, FWSP, HC, NFP, Pennsburg, UCV, UFT, and UPVP (m.ob.).

High counts of 50 **Horned Larks** were in Douglas Twp. 1/29 and 2/7 (JG), and 25 were tallied in Franconia Twp. 1/16 (AJM). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were extremely hard to find, with a report of one bird at a feeder in Elkins Park throughout the period (PD). **Brown Creepers** were not quite as scarce, with reports from ESP, GLR, NFP, UFT, and Whippain Twp. (BH, GAF, RG, m.ob.). **Winter Wrens** were tallied at Haverford College (SJ), East Norriton Twp, NFP, and VFNP (WBH). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at HC was another nice winter find 2/12-13 (SJ). A **Gray Catbird** in Elkins Park 1/28-29 was another good find (PD). Better yet was a **Brown Thrasher** at NFP 1/22 (BH). A high of 9 **American Pipits** was in Franconia Twp. 1/15 (AJM) and one was at VFNP 2/6 (WBH).

An **Eastern Towhee** was at NFP 12/26 (BH) and 2 were found on the VFAS CBC (*fide* VS). Three **Chipping Sparrows** were at NFP 1/10 (WBH), and a high of 6 were at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 1/23 (PD). A **Savannah Sparrow** was at NFP 12/7 and 12/9 (WBH), 3 were tallied on the Valley Forge Audubon CBC 12/26 (*fide* VS), and 15 were at PERT 1/22 (PD). A **Fox Sparrow** was at NFP 1/20 (BH) and at HC 2/24 and 2/26 (SJ). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at PERT 1/20 and 2/10 was unexpected for mid-winter (PD). **Swamp Sparrows** were observed in NFP on various dates ranging from 12/2-1/22 (WBH) and one was in UCV 12/19 (AJM). **White-crowned Sparrows** were well represented, with a high of 6 at Pennsburg 12/9+ (GAF), 11 on the VFAS CBC 12/26 (*fide* VS), one in Douglas Twp. 1/3 (A&JM), and 4 at NFP 1/6 (BH). Two **Snow Buntings** were at Church Rd, GLR 1/16, and another was there 1/22 (KC). Two were also seen at Walt Road, GLR 1/29-30 (JG).

An **Eastern Meadowlark** was at Walt Rd, GLR 2/17, marking our only report (GAF). In a season of rarities, a **Bullock's Oriole** in Douglas Township 12/31-2/28 caused plenty of excitement (KD, CR, ph.). This may be the first county record, if accepted by PORC. **Purple Finches** were again scarce this season, but were present all quarter at a UFT feeder, with a high count of 9 there 2/9 (RG). Finally, after much anticipation of a big irruption, a lone **Common Redpoll** visited a Pennsburg feeder briefly 2/20 (DR, ph.).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, P.O. Box 100, Sumneytown, PA 18084, (215) 234-6867, greatgray@verizon.net**, Ken Davies, Martin Dellwo, Paul Driver, Devich Farbotnik, George Franchois (GAF), Joe Greco, Ron Grubb, Anita Guris, W.B. Henderson, Barbara Heibsch, Len & Judy Hillegas, Sheryl Johnson, August and Judy Mirabella, Diana Rudloff, Cameron Rutt, Vince Smith, Dennis Tidwell.

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### Montour County

No compiler.

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### Northampton County

Locations: Delaware River, Martins Creek Environmental Preserve, Nazareth Quarry.

Despite a very cold winter with an early freeze-up, birding was fairly productive. Hardy birds like **Eastern Towhee** and **Common Yellowthroat** lingered. *Northampton* was a hot spot for birders in late Dec with the discovery of a male **Harlequin Duck**.

At NQ on 12/14, there were 10,000 **Snow Geese** (DD). A **Ross's Goose** was observed in the Martins Creek area 1/1 (JH, MSa). Also at NQ, a **Cackling Goose**, a **Redhead**, **Northern Pintail**, and **Ruddy Duck** were found 12/16 (DD). There were 2 **Redheads** on the DR at Portland 1/1 (DF). Near the Riverton Hotel on the DR, there was a female **Lesser Scaup** 1/28 (NE). At Northampton Quarry there were 3 **Greater Scaup** 1/10. The male **Harlequin Duck** was located 12/28 on the DR on the Tekening Trail at MCEP amongst **Bufflehead** and **Common Goldeneye** (SK, KS). The **Harlequin Duck** continued through 2/20 and it represents the first documented record for the county. A lone male **Long-tailed Duck** was amongst 40+ **Ring-necked Ducks** 2/28 in a small open area of water on the ice-covered NQ (MS).

There were 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at MCEP 2/23 (AS, DW).

Two **Ring-necked Pheasants** were located along Copella Rd, Moore Twp during the 12/19 Wild Creek/Little Gap CBC (ASm, DD, SK). During a search for the **Harlequin Duck** 1/17, a **Great Cormorant** was seen flying over the DR near Martins Creek (BE). Also notable during the searches were frequent sightings of **Bald Eagles** near the DR. Four different **Rough-legged Hawks** spent some time in the county. A light morph was at the Koch Farm 1/2-17 (AK, KS) while a second was seen at Graver's Hill 2/11-12 (DW, RR). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were at MCEP with a light morph at the ball fields 1/31 (DW) and a dark morph was a regular fixture near the fly-ash ponds in Feb (DW, m.ob.). A rare winter sighting of a juv **Golden Eagle** occurred at MCEP 1/17 (MSa). There was a **Merlin** at MCEP 1/31 (DW). Two **Peregrine Falcons** were seen in the Bethlehem area 2/15 (BW). Another pair of **Peregrines** frequented the Keystone Cement Plant area near Bath 1/6-2/22 (DW). On 1/6, one of the **Peregrines** was observed plucking a freshly caught **Mourning Dove** along Arrowhead Rd (DW).

Quite unexpected was a report of a **Spotted Sandpiper** perched on rocks on the DR at MCEP 2/11 (LS). The earliest record I have is in April. Also unexpected was a high number (169) of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** on NQ 12/7 (MS). High numbers of this species have been more common in late winter/early spring. An **Iceland Gull** was found near Sand Island, Bethlehem on 1/5 and 1/31 (BW). On 2/16, a **Short-eared Owl** was seen at MCEP (PK). There were 2 **Short-eared Owls** at MCEP 2/19-22 (AS, MT). Three **Pileated Woodpeckers** were at Jacobsburg SP 2/11 (RW). In Kesslersville, an adult **Northern Shrike** was observed 1/2 (MSa, MB, CH).

Hardy passerines included a **Common Yellowthroat** 1/2 on Heinsohn Rd, Washington Twp during the Merrill Creek/Martins Creek CBC (RW) and an **Eastern Towhee** visiting a feeder in Nazareth in mid Dec. Another **Eastern Towhee** visited a feeder in Seemsville 2/2-3 (BM). There were no shortages of **Lapland Longspur** and **Snow Bunting** sightings. Longspurs were found from late Jan through Feb in E. Allen Twp with a high of 3 on 1/25 along Arrowhead Rd (DW). **Snow Buntings** were at Graver's Hill (DA), E. Allen Twp (DW), and in Moore Twp (DW) with a high of 60 on 1/23-25 at Graver's Hill (DW, EV).

At the Koch Farm, an **Oregon Dark-eyed Junco** was present 2/12 (AK). Also at the Koch Farm, a first fall or immature female **Baltimore Oriole** visited the feeders 12/3-9 (AK). The Housenick estate area in Bethlehem Twp held 30 **Rusty Blackbirds** 2/19 (CH). Along the Blue Mountain near Little Gap, 6 **Common Redpolls** were observed 12/19 during the Wild Creek/Little Gap CBC (RW, SB). Lastly, 6 **Pine Siskins** were fly-bys in Moore Twp 12/19 (ASm, SK, DD).

EXOTICS: Quite bizarre was a female **Orange Bishop** seen sporadically at Arlene Koch's property. I was able to photograph the Bishop 1/9.

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, 610-737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Dan Altif, Steve Boyce, Mark Boyd, Dave DeReamus, Nick Ernst, Bill Etter, Jason Horn, Chris Hugosson, Corey Husic, Paul Karner, Stephen Kloiber, Arlene Koch, Betsy Mescavage, Richard Rehrig, Adam Sabatine, Matt Sabatine, Lillian Shupe, Kathy Sieminski, Adam Smith, Mark Tolino, Ed Vermillion, Billy Weber, Rick Wiltraut, Dustin Welch.

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### Northumberland County

No compiler.

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### Perry County

The bird of the season was definitely a gray morph **Gyrfalcon** that delighted a number of dedicated observers 12/6 at Waggoner's Gap. The bird was in view for over five minutes and circled around for great looks. The last Gyrfalcon at Waggoner's Gap was seen in 1986.

The New Bloomfield CBC was held 12/27. The 81 species found was an average total for recent counts. Highlights were a record seven **Bald Eagles**, a **Merlin**, one **Northern Saw-whet Owl** and one **Long-eared Owl**, 38 **Pine Siskins** and 12 **Purple Finches**.

The invasion of **Rough-legged Hawks** this winter was very evident in *Perry*. In late Dec, KK discovered three **Rough-legged Hawks** on Ridge Road, west of Liverpool. On a WRS route 2/13, an amazing 25 **Rough-legged Hawks** were found on a 22-mile route running west from Liverpool (DG, DO, GW)! At least 16 of them were still around a week later (DG).

Other highlights include a small number of **Common Redpolls** in Tyrone Township 12/2 (DT). **Eastern Meadowlarks** are a very difficult bird to find in the county in winter, so a flock of eleven along Nekoda Road 1/28 was especially nice (RK).

Observers: **Ramsay Koury, 123 Old Ford Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011, (717) 761-1871, rkoury123@aol.com**, Dave Grove, Chad Kauffman, Kay Kramer, Ramsay Koury, Don Orris, Dave Thompson, Gene Wagner.

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### Philadelphia County

Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Darby Creek (DC), Delaware River (DR), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Naval Business Center aka Navy Yard (NBC), Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant (NEWPCP), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Philadelphia Mid-Winter Bird Census 1/8 (PMWC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Snow or ice covered *Philadelphia* for all but two weeks between 12/26 and 2/28. Even though the Glenolden and Pennypack CBCs 12/18 preceded the worst of the freeze, results were average or below and no exceptional species were found in the Philly portion of these counts (BS, DE). This winter brought conditions that could seriously affect the **Carolina Wren** population. Spring census data will tell us how great the impact was.

A surprise snowstorm during the 25th Philadelphia Mid-winter Bird Census 1/8 did not deter birders from finding 90 species and over 19,000 individual birds, slightly below the 92 species and 26,000 individuals count average. On that count, in addition to 30 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** over-wintering at the NEWPCP for at least the past seven years, 2 **Yellow Palm Warblers**, 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** and an **Eastern Phoebe** were also gleaning insects from the water channels used by the swallows. Days earlier, 2 **Palm Warblers** 1/4 (TJ) and 3 **Palm Warblers** 1/5 (MSa) were seen along with an **Orange-crowned Warbler** on both days (MSa, TJ). The swallows have caused a mini "Patagonia picnic table" effect with local birders and visitors alike. Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at TI were the first pair reported and the 4th record for the count (DM, MD, AS). A **Red-breasted Merganser** on the DR was the 5th count record (CW, WS, AM). Nine expected species, including such basic birds as **Ring-necked Duck**, **Cedar Waxwing**, **Turkey Vulture** and **Common Grackle**, were missed. The snow made binoculars almost worthless for a few hours.

As the impoundment at TI began to thaw, two optimistic **Wood Ducks** returned 2/18 (FW). **Gadwall** numbers dwindled from 70 (12/2) to only 17 at FDR 1/8 (FW). High counts of only 17 **American Wigeons** and 250 **American Black Ducks** were disappointing. **Northern Shovelers**, relatively abundant wherever there was open water, never numbered less than 150. Glen Foerd mansion was the best location on the DR to view 130 **Canvasbacks** (WS, FW) while on the SR Green Lane Bridge allowed good views of 7 **Redheads** including 3 drakes 1/30-2/8 (JS). **Northern Pintails** and as many as 100 **Green-winged Teal** also began to return to open water 2/18 (FW, WS).

From more than 35 reports of scaup on the DR, I suggest there were two rafts of approximately 40 **Greater Scaup** and 40 **Lesser Scaup**, which recombined in various proportions as feeding conditions changed. **White-winged Scoters** were seen from Glen Foerd 2/22 (WS) and **Black Scoters** flew south on the DR 12/11 (FW). A **Long-tailed Duck** was seen on the DR from POD 12/18 (FW). Six **Goldeneyes** were a welcomed high count 1/29 (FW) after last winter's poor showing. On the PMWC, 23 **Hooded Mergansers** and 190 **Common Mergansers** were found along with the **Red-breasted Merganser** mentioned above. For the first time in over a decade, 650 **Ruddy Ducks** were at TI 12/2 (FW, m.ob.). In contrast, until 1986 the average **Ruddy Duck** count on the Glenolden CBC was 5256. The total of 32 **Great Cormorants** 1/8 was fine, but only one **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen even though more than a few typically over-winter.

The Spring Lane vulture roost held 25 **Turkey Vultures** 1/2 (FW), but not a single bird was found 1/8. However, 33 **Black Vultures**

provided a high count for the PMWC since they were first reported in the 1990s. Our **Bald Eagle** and **Peregrine Falcon** pairs were active this season and expected to nest again this year. A **Merlin** was at POD in early Jan (FW). Other than scattered accipiters and the usual *buteos*, no rare raptors were reported.

A **Wilson's Snipe** was flushed from the grass at POD 12/24 (FW). Ten adult **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were seen floating down the DR on ice 1/20 (FW). A lone **Iceland Gull** was at POD 1/2 and a first cycle **Iceland Gull** was there 2/10 (FW). Both species are regular at the landfill on the DR north of the *Bucks-Philadelphia* county line, but they rarely drift into Philly.

On 2/16, a **Barn Owl** rested on the 20th floor ledge at 5th & Walnut (SH). On 2/18, a **Barn Owl**, presumably the same bird, was found in a stair well on 18th St. and taken to rehab where it died (JS). A **Short-eared Owl** made a brief appearance the evening of 2/20 at POD (CC). Once a breeder at PHL, this owl is rarely seen now. The Muntean family located a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** again and again after they first sighted it 12/18. LM was especially sharp in finding this tiny owl. **Great Horned Owl** numbers continue to be low due to West Nile Virus, but **Eastern Screech-Owl** is doing well with 45 reported 1/8, 26 of them in the upper WC (DB, JB).

Eight **Horned Larks** were a good find at POD 1/8 (MSH). **Black-capped Chickadees** and/or hybrid *poecile* came south in good numbers. As mentioned above, the first week of Jan had 3 **Palm Warblers**, 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, and an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at NEWPCP. At the Temple Univ. campus 12/13, an **Ovenbird** was seen (PM) adding to a host of winter records for this species, one as late as 1/8 in 2005. KR documents a long history of winter **Ovenbird** sightings both in Center City, where it is assumed they are attracted to retained heat, but also in more natural areas that would have normal seasonal temperatures. **American Tree Sparrow** was present in small numbers with FW calling a group of six his high count 12/24 at POD where he also reported the only **Savannah Sparrow** 1/2. **Rusty Blackbird** numbers foraging at their favorite places at FDR were greatly reduced by snow cover. Instead of 100 **Rusty Blackbird** as usual at FDR, 17 represented the high count at TI 12/12 (FW), where they were seen throughout the season (DB). A lone **Pine Siskin** was at PEC feeders 12/19 (BS).

Contributors: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern100@comcast.net**, Cindy Ahern, David Belford, Jeff Belford, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Skip Conant, Clyde Croasdale, Martin Dellwo, Dave Eberly, Steve DuPont, Gregg Gorton, Al Guarente, Sarah Hood, Ken Januski, Tom Johnson, Pete Kurtz, Art McMorris, Charles Muntean, Lili Muntean, Rebecca Muntean, Penelope Meyers, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Matt Sabatine, Brian Schultz, Matt Sharp, Alice Severeid, Win Shafer, Judy Stepenaski, Chris Walters, Frank Windfelder.

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### Pike County

No compiler.

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### Potter County

No report.

Compiler: **David Hauber, RR 2 Box 153, Coudersport, PA 16915, (814) 274-8946, haubers3@penn.com**.

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### Schuylkill County

Locations: Landingville (LVD), Tuscarora State Park (TSP), Western Schuylkill CBC (WSCBC), Tamaqua CBC (TCBC).

The big freeze that gripped most of the state did not spare *Schuylkill*, which, along with the fact that we have few open waterways during a normal winter, kept waterfowl numbers low. The established Western Schuylkill CBC on 12/18 was joined this winter by the preliminary year of the Tamaqua CBC in the se. section of the county 1/2. Thanks to Jonathan DeBalko for his efforts in getting this going. Both counts produced some of the best birds of the season.

**Tundra Swan** flyovers were reported on both CBCs, and 8 were at Landingville 2/26 following a major thaw (BJ). Two **American Wigeon** were at the same location on 2/17 (BJ, RJ). A pair of **Hooded**

**Mergansers** was found at Lebanon Reservoir 12/7 (DK).

Vultures have returned to their regular roost in Forest Hills, Pottsville, with a single **Black Vulture** returning on Super Bowl Sunday, 2/6. By the end of the week, 25 **Turkey Vultures** had returned, and by the end of Feb, up to 70 vultures had been seen (MW). Two **Bald Eagles**, one an immature, were found 1/29 during a WRS in nw. *Schuylkill* (MW, PL), another was seen flying over LVD 2/18 (BJ), and 3 were found during the WSCBC 12/18. **Northern Harrier** numbers were generally low this winter, though 18 were reported during the WSCBC, during which a rare **Northern Goshawk** was reported. The cold weather provided **Rough-legged Hawks** on WRS 1/29 and 2/13 (MW, PL). A **Merlin** was seen outside Pine Grove 1/15 (DK).

**American Woodcock** were heard early this year, in both Summit Station (SS) and Calvary Cemetery (DK, NK) 2/17 and 2/18 respectively. Owling was very successful during both CBCs, with **Barred Owls** and **Short-eared Owls** found on both counts, and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on the WSCBC. Extremely rare, a **Long-eared owl** was heard calling during the TCBC (DK).

The **Empidonax sp.** at TSP was last seen 12/2 (JoD). Photos taken suggest a **Least Flycatcher**. **Horned Larks** didn't seem to care about the weather and were found in good numbers in fields throughout the county. An excellent total of 9 **Brown Creepers** was reported during the WSCBC, along with 3 **Winter Wrens**. The latter species was also heard at Swatara State Park 1/15 (DK). Fields outside Pine Grove produced a **Lapland Longspur** and 12 **Snow Buntings** 1/15 (DK). A longspur was also reported during the TCBC.

**Rusty Blackbirds**, not a regular find in our county during winter, were reported, with a single bird at Summit Station 1/20 (SS) and 7 recorded during the WSCBC. Surprisingly, only a single **Common Redpoll** was found during the cold winter months, during the WSCBC 12/18. **Pine Siskin** numbers were also low; a single bird was found during the WSCBC, and another at a Pottsville feeder 2/04. **Purple Finches** were also scarce.

Observers: **Mike Ward, 86 Sherwood Road, Pottsville, PA 17901, Pm5Le@aol.com**, Roland Bergner, Barb Birosik, Brian Clauser, Jonathan DeBalko (JoD), John DeBalko (JD), Denise Donmoyer, Kerry Grim, Barb Jucker, Rene Jucker, Dave Krueel, Nancy Krueel, Pam Leib, Anne-Marie Liebner, Sandy Schwartz.

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### Snyder County

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

Five **Redheads**, three **Ring-necked Ducks**, and eight **Lesser Scaup** were counted near Selinsgrove during the GBBC 2/18, and four **Wood Ducks** were found near Oriental during the count weekend. On the Isle of Q, 16 **Common Mergansers** were reported 2/6 (JW), and four were noted near the Hoover Island Boat Launch 2/26 (DS).

A **Bald Eagle** was observed at the Hoover Island Boat Launch 2/12 (DS). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were observed during a WRS through the western half of the county 1/16 (D&GG, CK). One was reported along Salem Rd. 2/6 and six **Rough-legged Hawks** were counted on two WRS routes in the eastern half of the county 2/13 (JK). An unusually high count of 17 **American Kestrels**, equaling the number of **Red-tailed Hawks**, was recorded during a WRS 1/16 west of Rte. 104 (CK, GG). This is especially noteworthy in that **American Kestrel** numbers continue to show decline with recent WRS data.

A single **Wilson's Snipe** was reported near Middleburg 1/17 (JW). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed 2/6 along Clover Dr. just north of Kreamer (JK). Also, nine **American Pipits** were counted on Isle of Q near Selinsgrove 2/6 (JW). Ten **Snow Buntings** were noted near Oriental 1/29 (KC). A single **Eastern Meadowlark** was observed near Middleburg 1/17 (JW). Six **Common Redpolls** and five **Pine Siskins** visited feeders near Middleburg 1/17 (JW).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Kay Cramer, Deb & Greg Grove, Chad Kauffman, Jon Kauffman, Dave Spier, Jason Weller, Patricia Williams.

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### Somerset County

Locations: Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count

(CBC), Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills (SM), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

For the second year in a row, there was a hard winter with snow cover most of the period except for a few days around New Year's. Overall snow depths were not as deep as in winter 2010, but with consistent 1-2 feet snow cover and below freezing temperatures, birding was somewhat slow.

The 1129 **Canada Geese** on the CBC 12/19 quickly dropped to a few small flocks as most water froze, resulting in a disappointing late season resident goose hunt. The geese returned in large numbers at the very end of Feb. A single **Snow Goose** was found in BA 2/19 (CP). Overall 15 waterfowl species were found on the CBC, several just singles in count week. A **Mute Swan** was killed at QR 12/16 because of their invasive status (AM). The first **Tundra Swan** migrants were reported from SM 2/28 with 30 birds flying over (EB). One **Common Loon** was at QR 12/11-13 (AM).

A few **Ring-necked Pheasants** were found near Somerset, these being overwintering game farm raised birds. The Pheasants Forever project of stocking wild-caught, western U.S. pheasants may be in its last year of stocking with a reported 300 birds being placed in one area in BA. Results to date have been disappointing with low survival and low nesting success. Perhaps saturation stocking will yield better results, or perhaps the resulting concentration of avian and mammalian predators will be blamed for the project failure?

An adult **Bald Eagle** was reported over winter at QR by WCO Travis Anderson. **Rough-legged Hawks** were in BA 1/1 (JP, CP), Somerset 2/12 (JP), SM 1/26 (EB), and 2 in Buckstown 2/26 (NB, KB). Of the 30 **Red-tailed Hawks** on the CBC, a striking standout was a nearly all white individual at the Flight 93 site (MM, JM, JP, JW). The bird had a small smudge of gray on caudal crown and some black vertical streaking in retrices. The first **Turkey Vulture** was seen 2/14 in Bando (AM). One **Eastern Screech Owl**, 5 **Great Horned Owls**, and one **Barred Owl** were found on the CBC. Two **Short-eared Owls** were in SM 1/20 (EB), which probably represents wintering.

The first **Killdeer** was at SM 2/16 (EB) followed by one at Markleton 2/28 (AM). A nice find was a **Northern Shrike** on the CBC 12/19 near Shanksville (MM, JM, CP, JP). **Horned Lark** numbers were low overall due to deep snow, but 230 were found on the CBC. A decent count of 27 **Eastern Bluebirds** were found during the CBC. An **American Pipit** on CBC was a good find (SD, RM). Scarce in the county in cold winters, **Northern Mockingbird** was reported in SM 1/20 (AM).

An **Eastern Towhee** overwintered in Markleton (AM). **Snow Buntings** were scarce overall but a nice flock of 72 on 1/20 was on a Summit Twp strip mine (AM). Otherwise singles were seen 12/17 and 2/1 with larks near SM (EB). A few **Pine Siskins** were in Markleton (AM) and at PP between 1/4-19.

Observers: **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, WCO Travis Anderson, Norman Bono, Elmer Brennenman, Ken Byerly, Sally Dick, Anthony Marich, Rosemary McGlynn, Meg Moses, Jim Moses, Chris Payne, Jim Wysocki.

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### Sullivan County

There is a single report from the county for the winter of 2010/11. I made the trek from home to the county 11 to spend the night in our cabin. That allowed me to rise before dawn the next day and participate in the Southeast Bradford County CBC. It was a cold and dreary day. There was no snow cover although standing water was frozen and no waterfowl were found. I did find one **Belted Kingfisher** perched over the outlet to a pond in downtown Dushore. **Black-capped Chickadee** was the most abundant species with fifteen individuals counted. Unexpected finds were a lone **American Kestrel** and a small flock of five **Red-winged Blackbirds**. Three **American Tree Sparrows** were seen in the Shady Nook area. These were the only sparrows found. Two **Wild Turkeys** were seen in Cherry Township. A total of eleven species were recorded on the day. More expected species included **Red-tailed Hawk**, **American Crow**, and **Common Raven**.

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

**Susquehanna County**  
No compiler.

**Tioga County**

Locations: Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), the new section of Pine Creek Rail Trail at Rte 287/Marsh Creek Road (henceforth Marsh Creek Rail Trail or MCRT), Mansfield-Wellsboro CBC Count Circle (PAMA).

Most of this winter's report is derived from the 111th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count held in *Tioga* 12/18 (PAMA circle). The weather for this year's CBC was the nicest we have had in several years, which compensated somewhat for the lower bird numbers. Temperatures were in the mid 20s, there was no wind, and the skies were sunny, all of which made for comfortable birding. This year's total was 4,508 individual birds compared to 5,244 in 2009. This year we saw 48 species compared to last year's 45. This year we had very little open water—only the faster sections of small streams. Last year there was quite a bit of open water in the larger lakes, and the difference showed in the waterfowl sightings: 68 **Canada Geese** and 48 **Mallards** last year; one **Canada Goose** and 4 **Mallards** this year. There was very little snow cover again this year, which in my opinion makes it harder to find the birds. However, we did set some all time records: 413 **Black-capped Chickadees**, which beat last year's count of 402, itself a record at the time. We saw a record number of **Red-tailed Hawks**: 58 versus 41 in 1995. We also beat last year's record of 16 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** with 18 this year. Incidentally, the **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, which at one time was considered to be more of a southern bird, has been moving steadily into our area over the last several decades. The first one to be reported in our CBC counts was in 1981 (our CBC started in 1963), but the next not until 1995. Sightings did not make the double digits until 2004, when 15 were seen. Other birds: 1034 **European Starlings**, 657 **Rock Pigeons**, 569 **American Crows**, and 17 **Eastern Bluebirds**. Irruptive species did not make much of a showing again this year. A small flock of 13 **Snow Buntings** was seen near Niles Lumber west of Wellsboro (LBi, KM), and 13 **Pine Siskins** were seen at a few other locations. Only 3 **Rough-legged Hawks** and 5 **American Kestrels** were reported this year. Other raptors include 2 **Northern Harriers** and 3 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**. No **Bald Eagles** were reported this year, but a **Golden Eagle** was seen near Mansfield (LBr). Another bird of interest was a **Winter Wren** seen at the Muck (JC).

An eagle survey conducted 1/10 on Pine Creek produced two adult **Bald Eagles** sitting on their nest near the Darling Run Access to the Pine Creek Rail Trail (PK). **Rough-legged hawks** were reported 1/17 at the Liberty Exxon off Rte. 15 and on Rte. 15 just south of Mansfield (SB). The only owl for the period, a **Great-horned Owl**, was reported 1/5 north of Wellsboro (AP).

Again, there were very few reports of irruptive species this winter. Two **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported 12/14 at a feeder along Hager Road off Rte. 414 west of Canton (MW). **Common Redpolls** were seen on several dates in Feb at a feeder near HCSP, with a flock of about a 100 seen 2/23 (GT). One **Pine Siskin** was seen 12/26 near HCSP (GT), and a few others were seen at various locations 12/18 within the PAMA Count Circle (GT).

Observers: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA 16901, (570) 724-5789, gwt720@yahoo.com**, Scott Blanchard, Audrey Patterson, Matt Wlasniewski; CBC participants included Larry Biddison, Arlene Brown, Larry Brown, Martha Copp, John Corcoran, John Erich, Rich Faber, Charlotte Goldsmith, June Hill, Roy Hill, Jeff Holbrook, Phil Krajweski, Ken Meyer, Nancy Ridell, Kathy Riley, Ann Vayansky, and Beth Walker, Ed Washington.

**Union County**  
No compiler.

**Venango County**

Locations: Allegheny River between Franklin and Oil City (AR), Fisherman's Cove (FC), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City (OC), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP), Windy Hills (WH).

A **Northern Goshawk** at OCSP during the Pleasantville CBC (NB, KG) was the seasonal highlight and two the **Black Scoters** at KL 12/1 (GE) was a close second. Several other sightings are worth mentioning.

Over 700 **Canada Geese** stopped at KL 12/9 when the lake was 95% frozen (GE, RS). One **Mute Swan** was observed on the AR several times (GE, JW). It may have been one of a pair that shows up periodically. Duck sightings of note, all on the AR unless otherwise indicated, include **American Black Ducks** 2/11 (GE, JW); **Northern Pintails** 1/20, 1/21, and 2/11 (GE, JW); one **Long-tailed Duck** 1/5 (GE). **Common Goldeneyes** and **Common Mergansers** were plentiful on the AR during Jan. and Feb; a high count of 90 goldeneye was made 2/11 (GE, JW). Also at AR were a **Hooded Merganser** and a **Red-breasted Merganser** 2/24 (GE, RS, JW).

**Turkey Vultures** returned 2/27 (RS). **Bald Eagles** were on three nests visible from local roadways by late Feb (GE, RS). One **Rough-legged Hawk**, our only seasonal observation, was at KL 2/17 (GE). RS reported a **Herring Gull** on the AR 2/27. **Common Raven** was seen 1/11 (GE, ML, JW) and 1/17 (GE). **Horned Larks** were scarce this year with only a handful of sightings.

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce, but present all season at some locations (GE). A **Winter Wren** was seen near President on the Pleasantville CBC (JS, RS). **Hermit Thrush** was present at OCSP 12/16 (JS, RS) and at FC 2/11 (GE, JW). A **Lapland Longspur** was at WH 12/16 (JS, RS). **Snow Buntings** were found on only three dates, 12/9 at KL (GE), 2/15 at KL (RN), and 2/16, when about 50 were at WH (JS, RS). **American Tree Sparrow**, **Pine Siskin**, and **Common Redpoll** numbers were low, but each species was present all season at some locations (GE, RS). A late **Fox Sparrow** was seen 12/14 (NB).

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net**; **Russ States, 111 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pabirder@verizon.net**; Nancy Baker, Kathie Goodblood, Meg Kolodick, Michael Leahy, Richard Nugent, Jerry Stanley, Jim Wilson.

**Warren County**  
No compiler.

**Washington County**

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Avella (AV), Bavington (BAV), Robinson Township (RBT), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

There were few reports this season, but those received were varied and included some interesting sightings. Very rare here in spring, a flock of 16 **Snow Geese** were seen in flight near Bentleyville 2/28, possibly headed somewhere to roost (AB). As extreme cold descended in Jan, large flocks of **Canada Geese** utilized what open water they could find for roosting. Top count at AMD was 482 on 1/8 (MV), followed by 375 at Bentleyville 1/14 (AB). First northbound **Tundra Swan** was seen at a pond in RBT 2/25 (MV). The same pond held 11 Tundra Swans the next day (GM). Four were over Peters Twp. 2/27 (GG).

The artificially warm waters of AMD have a tendency to attract and hold wintering waterfowl for extended periods of time. For example, this season the following were found there: one **Gadwall** 12/25-2/1, one **Northern Pintail** 12/25-1/13, two **Redheads** 1/17-2/28, one **Ring-necked Duck** 1/22-2/28, and one **Ruddy Duck** 12/25-2/3 (m.ob.). Four **American Wigeons** at R4 on 2/26 were the first for the spring and the only report during the three-month period. Single **American Black Ducks** were at AMD 1/1-13 (MV) and Lake Jo-Ann 2/21 (GG). Like Canada Geese, **Mallards** took advantage of AMD for roosting during the cold of Jan; top count was 145 on 1/1 (MV). The female **Northern Pintail** was present at Washington Cemetery again this season beginning 12/19; it has been present every winter since at least 2003 (*vide* PB). Another was at About Rd. 2/26 (MV). A single **Canvasback** was among a superb count of 104 **Redhead** at R4 on 2/26 (MV). Seventeen **Ring-necked Ducks** and 2 **Lesser Scaup** were at R4 that day as well.

**Ruffed Grouse** were reported from AV 1/15 and BAV 1/16 (both JB). A rare Jan sighting of 2 **Turkey Vultures** was made at AV 1/5 (JB). More timely were the first spring migrant vultures at Greencove Wetlands 2/13 (RN). Rare in *Washington* (but perhaps not for much longer) is **Bald Eagle**. This season one adult was at AMD 1/13 (MV) and another adult was seen on the Monongahela R. at Coal Center

through 2/21 (AT). **Northern Harrier** was not reported at their traditional wintering site in RBT until 2/26 (SC). Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were in AV 1/15 (JB). **Rough-legged Hawks** were found in Bentleyville 1/14 (AB) and RBT 1/24 (MV). An **American Kestrel** was seen periodically in RBT through 2/11 (m.ob.). A **Merlin** was seen at Washington Cemetery 12/19 (LC) but was not reported thereafter.

The resident **American Coot** was at AMD again this winter, and was joined by one or two more for several weeks through the end of the season. First **Killdeer** was over Bentleyville 2/12 (AB), where the first **Wilson's Snipe** was also reported 2/19 (AB). Nine **Ring-billed Gulls** were at Lake Jo-Ann 2/21 (GG).

**Great Horned** and **Eastern Screech-Owl** were heard in Peters Twp. 12/25 (GG). A **Long-eared Owl** was seen in East Washington 12/24 (SG *vide* LC). Later in January, a picture of this bird appeared in the *Observer-Reporter*, a small newspaper covering *Washington* and *Greene*. Two **Short-eared Owls** were in RBT 2/11 (MV). Wintering **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were widely reported from five locations through 1/31 (m.ob.).

First **Eastern Phoebe** was in AV 2/28 (JB). A huge roost of **American Crows** near Coal Center was estimated in the tens of thousands 1/17 (AT). Two **Common Ravens** were found at AV 1/15 (JB). A day spent in the Buffalo Creek IBA 12/19 netted 60 **Horned Larks** (AT). Good numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** wintered at Washington Cemetery and BAV, as usual. **Brown Creeper** reports were one at BAV 1/3 (JB), one at AV 1/3 (JB), and 2 at BAV 1/16 (MV). A **Winter Wren** was a nice find at AV 1/15 (JB). Following a good fall flight for them, **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were limited to one at Washington Park 12/18 (PB) and 4 at BAV 1/16 (MV). Single wintering **Hermit Thrushes** were at BAV 1/3 (JB) and AV 1/15 (JB). An **American Pipit** was a bit of a surprise at AMD 1/8 (MV). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found at Washington Cemetery 12/18 (PB) and R4 on 1/9 (JB).

A feeder in East Findlay Twp. was good for **Eastern Towhee**; one was there 12/13 and 2 were seen 2/16 (both PH). Wintering **Swamp Sparrows** were found at Greencove Wetlands 1/9 (JB) and 2/13 (RN). Small numbers of **White-crowned Sparrows** stayed the season at RBT and Greencove Wetlands (m.ob.). **Purple Finch** reports were limited to one at Washington Park 12/9 (LC) and 5 in East Findlay Twp. 2/16 (PH). Unexpected were two reports of **Common Redpoll**: 2 in East Findlay Twp. 2/16 (PH) and 4 in Peters Twp. 2/20 (GG). AV was the only place for **Pine Siskin**, where a single was found 1/3 and 1/15 (JB).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Andy Berchin, John Boback, Paul Brown, Shawn Collins, Lauren Conkle, Gigi Gerben, Sayre Greenfield, Pat Hutchinson, Richard Nugent, Amy Taracido, Mark Vass.

### Wayne County

Locations: Buckingham Rd. / Rt. 652 (BR), Keen Lake (KL), Lake Wallenpaupack (LW).

The winter season started mildly, but January and February brought frigid temperatures and frequent precipitation (mostly snow) to the county. With most open water freezing over by mid-late December, not much was reported by way of waterfowl. KL held 5 **Common Goldeneyes**, 37 **Hooded Mergansers**, and one **Ring-necked Duck** 12/2 (CF). The *Wayne* side of LW held 39 **American Black Ducks**, 25 **Common Goldeneyes**, 72 **Hooded Mergansers**, 14 **Common Mergansers**, and 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 12/18 on the White Mills CBC.

Raptor highlights on the CBC 12/18 included 26 **Bald Eagles**, 4 **Northern Harriers**, one **Cooper's Hawk**, one **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 21 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 2 **Rough-legged Hawks**, and 2 **American Kestrels**. **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported from several sites this season with at least seven individuals involved, including three in the area of BR seen regularly throughout the winter (BL, CF, DA), two along Gager Rd. 1/29 (DA), one along Alden Rd. 2/14 (CF), and one over the north end of Honesdale 1/24 (BL, CF). Two female **Ring-necked Pheasants** were found on Beach Grove Rd. 12/22 (CF).

One **Northern Shrike** was reported off Rt. 652 near Marshall Farm Lane 1/29 (DA). A single **Hermit Thrush** was a highlight of the CBC 12/18. The high count for **Snow Buntings** was 40 on BR 1/20 (CF), with additional flocks found on Cavage Rd. 1/16 (CF) and in a field near

Lakewood 1/23 (TG). Notably absent this winter were any **Horned Larks**. **American Tree Sparrows** were observed throughout the county (BL, CF, TG), with a high count of 44 on the Fischer property 2/17. Our winter treat, **Common Redpolls** were widely distributed throughout the county, with reports starting in mid-Jan (BL, CF, DA, JPS, KD, TG). A high count of 30 was reported at a feeder near Lakewood 1/23 (TG). A possible **Hoary Redpoll** was reported in Honesdale 1/11 (SWP).

Observers: **Chris Fischer, c/o Bugaj/Fischer, PC, P.O. Box 390, Honesdale, PA 18431, (570) 446-9597, cfischer17@gmail.com**, Daniel Altif, Kathy Dodge, Trudy Gerlach, Barbara Leo, Jim and Pat Sanders, Sandra Ward Povse.

### Westmoreland County

Locations: Acme Dam (AD), Bridgeport Dam (BD), Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Crabtree Farming Area (CFA), Delmont (DEL), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Lake-Derry (EL), Hess Property Area (HP), Kuehl Property Area (KP), Keystone State Park (KSP), Loyalhanna Reservoir (LR), Mammoth Park Lake (MPL), Murrsville Community Park (MCP), New Stanton (NS), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Twin Lakes (TL), Tree's Mill (TM), Trout Run Reservoir (TRR), Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT).

It was a rather cold winter, although we were spared the heavy snow that we had in 2010, and like last year, there were few breaks in the cold that were long enough to melt the snow. The *Bushy Run* (compiled by Dick Byers) and *Rector* (compiled by Mike Lanzone) Christmas Bird Counts were held during the reporting period. The *Bushy Run* count had a record number of participants and party hours in pursuit of its 66 species. Significant record species counts for the *Bushy Run* Count were 7 **Bald Eagle** and 952 **Dark-eyed Junco**. Highlights of the *Rector* count not otherwise mentioned in the narrative included 253 **Tundra Swans**, one **Short-eared Owl**, one **Wilson's Snipe**, 2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, and 2 **Red-winged Blackbirds**. The total species count was 77.

**Great Blue Herons** were reported by various observers during the winter season at BRR, at LR-Livermore, MPL and on Loyalhanna Creek. A number of **Tundra Swan** flyovers were reported in Dec with LH reporting a high count of 16 on 12/3. There were few waterfowl observations this year due to extended ice over of lakes and reservoirs, resulting in just a few scattered reports to pick up the various species observed over the winter season. On their traditional 1/1 outing MH, RH, and DL observed one **Snow Goose**, along with 2 **American Black Ducks**, and a **Hooded Merganser** at BRR, and a pair of **Mute Swans** at Lady of the Lake. They also had one **Northern Pintail**, 4 **American Black Duck**, and one live (and 2 dead) **American Coots** at EL. Twenty-six **American Black Ducks** were at EL 2/11 (KB). The only **American Widgeon** and **Lesser Scaup** observations for the winter season were at BD 2/26 (KB). KD reported a **Ring-necked Duck** on a farm pond near her home on 2/25. Eleven **Redheads**, 8 **Ring-necked Ducks** and 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at TRR 2/28 (BL). KB reported one **Common Merganser** at BRR 2/27. A **Long-tailed Duck** was on the Allegheny R. at Brackenridge 1/29 (BB).

The **Turkey** and **Black Vultures** that winter-over in the Ligonier Valley were reported by several observers during the winter season, and included a high count of 6 **Black Vultures** by the KB-DB party doing the *Rector* CBC 12/15. A male **Northern Harrier** was observed near the HP 1/15 (LH). Among other field and CBC reports both **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were periodically observed at the Hess and Kuehl feeders. KB and TK-JK had several sightings of a **Red-shouldered Hawk** in TM over the season. Sightings of **Rough-legged Hawks** were occasional rather than regular. Two light-phase **Rough-legged Hawks** were spotted on Bulltown Road 12/28, and one at the same location 1/24 (MVT). TK, JK, and KB had one light-phased near the KP 1/8. One **Rough-legged Hawk** near Ligonier (KB-DB Party) was one of two reported for the *Rector* CBC 12/15. KD sighted a light morph near her home 1/26. A single **Golden Eagle** was reported near Ligonier 1/15 (DM). **Bald Eagles** were regularly reported by a number of observers during the winter season. High counts were 5 at BRR on the *Bushy Run* Christmas Count 12/19 (TK/JK) and 9 or more (2 mature) for several weeks in Jan at Bush Dam reported by TL, who surmised that the high count was probably the result of open water at that location while other area reservoirs in the area were iced over. The only falcon species observed during the season was the **American Kestrel**.

The only report of a **Ruffed Grouse** was one flushed in Derry Township 1/16 (KL). TK/JK found **Ring-billed Gulls** on the Allegheny River and 2/26 one flew south to north over Rt. 22 in Delmont in front of TK and MM, and there was a fly over sighing in Latrobe 2/28 (TV). **Killdeer** returned to the county in Feb: Greenburg 2/22 (TV) and in New Stanton 2/24 (MF). A number of passes at a traditional seep-location in the CFA failed to yield a **Wilson's Snipe** this winter. One **Yellowlegs sp.** (likely a Greater) was at MLP 2/27 (TV).

A **Short-eared Owl** was reported on the Rector CBC and observations were made on Distillery Road near Stahlstown 12/3 and 1/1 (LH). A reflection of the cold winter, the only **Belted Kingfisher** sighting was a fly over near Turtle Creek in Murrysville 1/29 (TK). **Common Ravens** continue to be observed at lower elevations: at the HP 12/9 (LH), and in Latrobe 2/24 (TV). Several flocks of **Horned Larks** were observed in the Crabtree farm area 1/8 (TK, JK, KB).

Expected but uncommon species that were reported on both CBCs included **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Cedar Waxwing**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Swamp Sparrows**, **Rusty Blackbirds**, **Common Crackles**, **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, **Purple Finch**, and **Pine Siskin**.

An early **Fox Sparrow** was at the Matuza home feeders 1/8 (DM), and 2 were at PNR 2/28 (BL). **White-crowned Sparrows** were found in their usual location in the CFA 1/8 (TK, JK, KB). **American Tree Sparrows** were plentiful both in the field and at feeders this winter. A flock of **Fields Sparrows** was found just off the KP 1/22 (TK). A **Chipping Sparrow** was observed in DEL 2/20 (KB). Sixteen early returning **Red-winged Blackbirds** were at PNR 2/23 (BL). DB reported 12 **Purple Finches** 12/8. It was not a big year for **Pine Siskins**; LH reported Pine Siskins at the HP in early Dec, and KB had one in DEL 1/26. The only report of **Common Redpoll** was of one at HP 1/8.

And finally, in a follow up from the Fall report, readers will be pleased to know that as of this writing in late March a pair of **Carolina Wrens** continue to nightly stuff themselves into a wicker pocket under the side porch at the KP.

Observers: **Tom Kuehl**, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724) 325-1918, [tjkuehl@comcast.net](mailto:tjkuehl@comcast.net), Bill Brown, Dick Byers, Ken Byerly, Karen DeSantis, Mike Fialkovich, Len and/or Linda Hess, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Janet Kuehl, Tom Lace, Mike Lanzone, Denny Laufer, Bob Leberman, Kevin Lutz, Dale Matuza, Mark McConaughy, Donna Mohnney, Marjorie Van Tassel, Andrew Vitz (PNR), Tim Vechter, Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club.

### Wyoming County

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

It was a fairly usual winter for *Wyoming*... with nothing particularly noteworthy. It is clear that the **Bald Eagle** continues in strong and increasing numbers. I'm seeing more regular reports of **Fish Crow** in the county than I remember in the recent past. I can't say whether that's a result of the continuing expansion of Fish Crow range, or if birders in the county are just better at identifying the species.

Only one **Snow Goose** was reported during the period, that during the Tunkhannock CBC 12/20 at SF (SG, RM). While the species is uncommon for the CBC, I usually get several reports of migrating Snows at least during the migration season. Not so this year. Other Anatidae reported include: 2 **Wood Duck** during the CBC, uncommon for the count; **Ring-Necked Duck** at LC (JD) 12/7; **Lesser Scaup** at LC (JD) 12/7; **Bufflehead** at MP (JD) 12/2; **Hooded Merganser** at various locations (m.ob.); and a single **Ruddy Duck** that stayed at LC for almost a week (JD) 12/2-7. These are among the usual waterfowl we see in *Wyoming* this time of year.

We experienced high total numbers of several raptors during the CBC, including 20 **Bald Eagles**, 11 **Northern Harriers**, and 53 **Red-tailed Hawks**. I draw no conclusions about this, except to say that the eagle population continues to grow and thrive. I had a particular thrill when my son and I witnessed 5 **Bald Eagles** soaring together above the Susquehanna River during the CBC. One **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was reported as well, not unusual on the count, but certainly uncommon. Outside the count, two observers reported **Short-eared Owl** at SF (RM) 12/19 and (SG) 12/20. I don't get many reports of Short-eareds in the county. Normally, I observe them in good numbers

in neighboring *Susquehanna*. I had reports from several additional locations outside of *Wyoming*, this year, so I'm wondering whether this was a year of more than the usual numbers or just more than the usual number of observations.

One exciting observation was that of an early **American Woodcock** 2/28 (PC) as the bird flew in front of his car just before daybreak near Falls. One **Northern Shrike** was reported during the CBC, an uncommon species for the count. I usually get only one or two reports a winter, although I believe there are more than one or two birds about the county at that time of the year.

There were some other interesting species during the CBC as well. They include: 2 **Fish Crows**, uncommon for the count (in fact new to the count last year); 14 **Common Ravens**, an unusually high number for the species (I reported last year's 9 as a high number, up to then, for this CBC); 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** (a low number in a year I when expected we might see many more, based on reports of nuthatch numbers to the north); an uncommon **Hermit Thrush**; 2 uncommon **Yellow-rumped Warblers**; 2 **Field Sparrows**, an uncommon species for the count; 4 **Savannah Sparrows**, a high number for this count; one **Fox Sparrow**, a new species for our CBC; and 4 **Swamp Sparrows**, another bird uncommon to the count. Three other species were reported on the CBC, each uncommon to the count: 50 **Snow Buntings**, one **Brown-Headed Cowbird**, and 2 **Pine Siskins**.

Observers: **Joe DeMarco**, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468, [jdemarco@epix.net](mailto:jdemarco@epix.net), Peter Carlin, Bob Daniels, Mark Catalano, Sandy Goodwin, Rick Koval, Rebecca Lesko, Ruth Moase, Jon Thomas.

### York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd (ALT), Brunner Island (BRUN), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Codorus State Park (CSP), Dillsburg (DILL), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Glen Rock (GR), Hanover (HNVR), Hawk Lake (HAWK), Kralltown (KRALL), Lake Williams (LWMS), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Long Level Marina (LLM), Mine Ponds - Rte. 94 (MP), Ski Roundtop (SRTTP), Spring Grove (SG), Sunnyside Rd - SGL (SUN), Wrightsville (WRIT).

This year's CBC, conducted 12/18 and led by Bernie Frick, had 29 participants finding 84 species. The count took on a bit of western flavor with a well-studied group of 7 **Brewer's Blackbirds**, a first for this CBC.

Waterfowl reports were fairly typical with 25 species reported. A flock of 400+ **Snow Geese** made a stopover at ALT 2/25 (RP). There were three reports of **Tundra Swan**. The first was of evening movement of good numbers over HNVR 12/14 (PJR). The final report came from WRIT 2/25 (LC) with a massive movement estimated at 2500+ birds. Single reports of **Canvasback** 1/16 (PJR) and **Redhead** 1/2 (CH) came from MP and GPSP, respectively. **White-winged Scoter** was found at the LLM 2/24 (RC). A trip to BI 1/10 (RK, CRU) yielded a single **Bufflehead**, two **Common Goldeneyes**, and a **Pied-billed Grebe**. **Hooded Mergansers** were reported from four sites while the only **Red-breasted Merganser** report was of two individuals at LAR 12/5 (PJR). Single **Horned Grebes** were found at LAR 12/5 (PJR) and GPSP 1/2 (CH). The highest **American Coot** count was 45 at CSP 12/5 (PJR).

A **Double-crested Cormorant** was found at CSP 1/2 (RP). The existing **Great Blue Heron** colony at SG is active once again as strong nest building activity was noted 2/25 (PK). *York* is not recognized as a **Wild Turkey** stronghold but they are sporadically reported. Therefore, a count of 60 along Bull Rd 1/17 (JJP) was truly noteworthy. A review of historical sightings suggests this represents a high count for the county.

It was a good season for raptor enthusiasts. Five sightings of **Bald Eagle** were highlighted by the "Harley" eagles once again undertaking nesting. Will this unlikely nest setting yield eaglets in 2011? Stay tuned! There were numerous **Northern Harrier** reports from three locations. One was along Bermudian Church Rd 1/16 (PJR), sightings of singles at KRALL 1/16-2/13, and the hotspot, ALT, provided sightings 1/9-2/15 with a high of four 1/25-26 (AP, RP). Eclipsing the harriers in popularity and interest were **Rough-legged Hawks** at KRALL and ALT. Additionally, one was found on the CBC, a first for the count. After initially being seen at KRALL 1/14 (BM), there were regular reports through 2/13 with a high count of two 1/19 and 1/23 (RC). The first sighting at ALT was 1/23 (RC) with a high count of two 1/30, coinciding with the last report from this location. This species represents the 112th (RP) at this location, providing another example of a birding success

story involving a reclaimed landfill. A **Merlin** was seen at HAWK 1/4 and 1/10 (LC). **Peregrine Falcons** continued to be spotted in downtown York 12/16-22 and 1/21 (AE). A WRS route run 2/6 (RC, et al.) was highlighted by a **Northern Harrier** and **Rough-Legged Hawk**.

**Herring Gull** was found at GPSP 1/2 (CH) and at LLM 2/26 (RP). Three **Great-backed Gulls** were also at LLM 2/26 (RP). **Short-eared Owl** remains a reliable wintertime visitor to ALT. First seen 12/18 (RC), they were observed (LC, RC, AP, RP) throughout the period with a high count of five. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was at GR 12/17 (RP). GPSP offered regular Jan sightings of **Red-headed Woodpecker** with a high of 3 on 1/17 (RK). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** reports came from seven locations 12/5-1/30. **Horned Lark** reports were somewhat fewer than expected. High counts were 30 at SUN 1/9 (RP) and 40 along Worthington Rd 1/30 (CR).

The **Black-capped Chickadee** irruption was evident in the county with regular reporting 12/3-1/30. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was more sporadic with three Dec sightings and only one carrying into Jan-Feb (CR) at DILL. **Brown Creeper** was found throughout the period while **Winter Wren** sightings (4) spanned 12/11-1/15. **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby Crowned Kinglets** were reported at multiple locations.

**Hermit Thrush** and **Gray Catbirds** appeared to be deciding whether to ride out the winter at LWMS as they were reported from 12/11-1/31 (CK). A count of three **Hermit Thrushes** came from CSP 1/2 (RP). **American Pipits** were found at Snodgrass Rd 1/21 (AP). A high count of 85 **Cedar Waxwing** came from along Rte. 216 near CSP 12/5 (PJR). A **Palm Warbler** was a nice find at SG on the CBC (RP).

It was a decent winter for sparrows with the following highlights: 12 **American Tree Sparrow** at ALT 1/9 (RP); **Chipping Sparrow** on the CBC and thru 12/19; **Field Sparrow** at multiple locations; 12 **Savannah Sparrows** at Admire/Biesecker Rds 1/27 (LC) and 5 at ALT 1/6 (RP); **Fox Sparrow** on the CBC and at DILL 2/22 (CR); **Swamp Sparrow** at

three locations with a high count of 3; and a few **White-crowned Sparrow** reports. The sole **Snow Bunting** report (CR) was a single bird among the flock of 40 Horned Lark mentioned earlier.

Nice winter counts of 11 **Eastern Meadowlarks** came from ALT 1/9 (LC) and 6 along Pinetown Rd 1/27 (LC). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at York 1/27 (AP). The highlights of CBC, 7 **Brewer's Blackbirds**, were studied for up to 20 minutes with binoculars and scopes with various field guides on hand. All observers (TS, et al.) were comfortable that the extended viewing time and relative close distance afforded them sufficient opportunity to eliminate the more likely Rusty Blackbird. Additionally, the open field agricultural location is more consistent with Brewer's habitat preference. A flock of 250 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** on Admire/Biesecker Rds 1/17 (LC) was noteworthy. Ten were also seen at DILL 2/3 (JD). **Purple Finch** reports were limited to two at SRT 12/3 (CH) and three at LWMS 1/24 (CK). The sole **Pine Siskin** report came from DILL 1/30 (CR).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, 717-259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Lou Carpenter, Richard Cleary, Jon Dale, Amy Evans, Bernie Frick, Carolyn Hoffman, Chuck Kling, Ramsay Koury, Bob Moul, Ann Pettigrew, Randy Phillips, John and Jean Prescott (JJP), Chris Rebert, Peter Robinson (PJR), Cameron Rutt (CRU), Tish Swam.

**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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## IN FOCUS



*Harlequin Duck, Huntingdon County. See p. 59. (Wayne Laubscher)*



*Baltimore Orioles, Chester County. See p. 51. (Kathy Freeborn)*



*Short-eared Owl, Cumberland County. See p. 54. (Meredith Lombard)*



*Bullock's Oriole, Montgomery County. See pp. 29 & 65. (Tom Johnson)*

## PHOTO QUIZ #30



Answer in the next  
issue.

