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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

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

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In Focus..... Inside back cover

Cover: **Townsend's Warbler** (*Setophaga townsendi*). Pennsylvania's top avian celebrity this season was this confiding warbler seen by hundreds of birders at a private residence in Dickenson Twp., Cumberland County from early January through the season, shown here the day its identity was confirmed, 18 January 2012. (Tom Johnson)

... from the Editor

eBird? Say what?

Many of you who know me know that I have been a long-time holdout in participating in eBird. I always had a series of poor excuses, of course. When the project first started and for a number of years thereafter, I was always put off by the lack of quality control in the data. If it wasn't the lack of filters that were smart enough to assist with data entry (based on region and date, for example), then it was the lack of control in the results sets. It seemed as if anyone could just input whatever garbage they wanted and it was up to me (the user) to sift through the trash.

Of course, the folks at Cornell corrected these problems in short order. Better and better data entry filters were (and continue to be) implemented. Even more importantly, a large stable of statewide and county-level reviewers has been assembled, and these folks go about the daily work of reviewing and vetting all of the more unusual entries that are made to the database. The result is a greatly improved and very reliable data set.

So anyway, with that taken care of I turned to the next excuse: that I didn't have time for eBird. Birding is time consuming enough, and I keep my own database of sightings, which I have been maintaining for over two decades. Add in time spent on bird photography, and on *Pennsylvania Birds* (neither of which, by any stretch of the imagination, are negligible), and add *on top of all that* an 8-5, Monday to Friday professional career and the desire for some semblance of interests outside of birding, and yes, it was very easy to just say "forget it" to eBird after getting home from a day in the field.

So it was for another few years for me, as I blissfully went about being too busy for eBird, but in the end, even this excuse eventually fell away, and in April of this year, I finally decided to give it a try. Of course, eBirding proved to be just as easy as all of you seasoned eBird users know it to be. I find, of course, that it's important not to get behind on data entry (which is most

easily accomplished by entering data right away, either in real time via a smartphone in the field, or immediately upon returning home), but if you don't let that happen, then it really isn't much "extra" work at all. Now it's just part of the routine.

So, I am now officially an eBirder. I'm only, what, seven years late to the party? Better late than never! And if I may, to those fellow long-time holdouts reading this (and I know there are a lot of you out there), I encourage you to give eBird a try, if you haven't already. Chances are you already have an eBird account, if you entered any data online during the second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, you use the same account for eBird (both are Cornell databases). If you've never tried eBird before, hopefully you'll find (just like I did) that it isn't nearly as onerous as it seems. Of course, eBird is important, for many obvious reasons that do not need to be rehashed here, and so participation from as many birders as possible is also important, but even beyond that, it's also actually quite fun.

Of course, here at the *Pennsylvania Birds* home office, we're very interested in using eBird data as a source for the county reports and Summary of the Season. Indeed, eBird has become a primary source of data for many compilers, and for some, the only source. But *Pennsylvania Birds* and eBird are not integrated, and it's still a manual effort (and often a difficult one—I am an eBird convert, yes, but eBird is still not perfect) for a county compiler to scour through eBird for data. Their job is made much easier if you, as an eBirder, make sure you forward all of your eBird entries to your compiler. We're working on ways to more tightly integrate the process, but we're not there yet, and you should not assume that just because you entered data into eBird that the county compiler knows about it. Your compiler will thank you for it!

Compiler News

After compiling for *Lancaster* for more than a decade, **Jonathan Heller**

has decided to move on to new things. *Lancaster* is one of the most storied counties in Pennsylvania, with a long history of amazing birds and birders. We are lucky to have had Jonathan volunteer his time and talents for this important job for as long as he has. If you're a reader of the journal and see him around, make sure to thank him for his many contributions, which are greatly appreciated. In his place, **Pamela Fisher** has volunteered to take up the *Lancaster* duties. *Lancaster* is a big job, with many dozens of birders and tons of great locations and birds to cover, so please be sure to help her get started—especially you eBirders... make sure you get her your data!

As mentioned in the last issue, Kevin Crilley stepped down from the *Montgomery* compilership following the fall 2011 season. As of now we still do not have a replacement. In the interim, esteemed *Bucks* compiler August Mirabella graciously agreed to write a winter report for *Montgomery*, to ensure continuity for what is another storied and historically significant county in Pennsylvania birding. But his services are only temporary! I know there are many birders out there in the greater Philadelphia area... if you are interested in contributing to the journal as the *Montgomery* compiler, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

In addition to *Montgomery*, the following counties are also without a compiler, some of which have been vacant since I began my tenure as editor, and before: *Blair*, *Butler*, *Cameron*, *Elk*, *Northumberland*, *Susquehanna*, *Union*, and *Warren*. If you are interested in taking any of these on, please contact me.

Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief

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The 2011-2012 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania

Nick Bolgiano

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held for the 112th time from 14 December 2011 to 5 January 2012. (For the purpose of this report, the year is the one in which Christmas occurred; the 112th count is referred to as occurring in 2011.)

The weather in the preceding November and December was very mild, with December temperatures averaging 4-5°F above normal. Seventy sites reported; Tamaqua was a new site with Jonathan DeBalko as compiler. The 5664 party-hours were on par with recent years. The statewide species total of 173, plus 6 count-week species, was the second highest historically, fewer only than the 180 species reported in 2006.

The 2011 count was noteworthy for the number of rarities found. In addition, six cold-tolerant species—Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, and American Tree Sparrow—were found in unusually low numbers, while two half-hardy species, Turkey Vulture and Eastern Towhee, were found in unusually high numbers. The irruptive species of the winter season, Snowy Owl, was found at two Pennsylvania sites.

Species Numbers

Southern Lancaster County reported the most species with 107, followed by Harrisburg with 102, Southern Bucks County with 98, and Lititz with 96. The below table shows the top 10 list and Figure 1 shows a map of all sites with its species total.

Top 10 Sites by Species Counted

1	Southern Lancaster County	107
2	Harrisburg	102
3	Southern Bucks County	98
4	Lititz	96
5	Elverson	92
6	Bethlehem-Easton	90
6	Upper Bucks County	90
8	Central Bucks County	89
9	Western Chester County	87
10	Delaware County	85
10	Pennypack Valley	85

Hits and Misses

A “hit” is an unlikely species found in 2011 (recorded in less than 40% of previous 30 years), and a “miss” is an

expected species not found (recorded in more than 60% of previous 30 years). Compared to previous years, the hits were especially numerous in 2011.

Hits

Trumpeter Swan
Green Heron
White Ibis
Gyr Falcon
Prairie Falcon
Sandhill Crane
Lesser Yellowlegs
Long-billed Dowitcher
Little Gull
Thayer's Gull
Snowy Owl
Rufous Hummingbird
Say's Phoebe
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Marsh Wren
Varied Thrush
Ovenbird
Nashville Warbler
Green-tailed Towhee
Harris's Sparrow
Painted Bunting

Hits

Northern Bobwhite
Loggerhead Shrike
Vesper Sparrow
Evening Grosbeak

Count Highlights

Count week species included **Harlequin Duck** at Williamsport, **Red-necked Grebe** and **Purple Sandpiper** at Erie, **Black-headed Gull** at Butler County, and **Ash-throated Flycatcher** and **Townsend's Warbler** at Newville.

The 7 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were concentrated in the south-central region, with 5 at Bedford County and one at Johnstown, while one at Lehigh Valley was the only report from a typical southeastern site. **Ross's Goose** was reported from Audubon and Lehigh Valley. Seventy-five **Brant** were tallied at Southern Lancaster County and 2 at Reading. Most of the 35 **Cackling Geese** were reported from their usual southeastern locations, but 6 were at Dallas Area and one was at Butler County. The 262,000 Canada Geese were the second highest statewide total, fewer only than

the 306,000 in 2008. Single **Trumpeter Swans** were reported from Bedford County and Butler County; this swan has been reported during 5 of the past 7 Pennsylvania CBCs.

A single **Blue-winged Teal** was at Newville. The total of 1223 **Ring-necked Ducks** was a new state high, with 285 at Southern Bucks County. Good numbers of this species have been reported in 9 of the past 13 years. All three scoters were reported from Erie, with 18 **Surf**, 31 **White-winged**, and 6 **Black Scoters**. The total of 1858 **Hooded Mergansers** was a new state high, with 415 at Linesville.

The 50 **Ruffed Grouse** at Emporium were the most recorded on a Pennsylvania CBC. There were 4 **Red-throated Loons** at Erie and one at Butler County. There were 3 **Great Egrets** at Southern Bucks County, where they are most frequently found on the Pennsylvania CBC, and one at Newville. **Green Heron** was at West Chester, the fourth report since 2000. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Southern Bucks County. **White Ibis**, at Hamburg, was a new species for the Pennsylvania CBC.

The statewide total of 4552 **Turkey Vultures** was a new high, with 533 at Western Chester County. A single **Osprey** was at Newville. The total of 405 **Bald Eagles** was just shy of last year's record 415. This included 60 at Southern Lancaster County, 35 at Linesville, 23 at Southern Bucks County, and 20 at Western Chester County. The 2 **Northern Goshawks**, one each at Hamburg and Newville, were the fewest since 1968. The 12 **Rough-legged Hawks** were the fewest since 1958. The 34 **Peregrine Falcons** tied the statewide high set the previous year. **Prairie Falcon** was seen at Newville for the third consecutive year and the fourth year of the past six. **Gyr Falcon**, at Hamburg, was only the fifth on a Pennsylvania CBC and the first since 1993.

Virginia Rail was at Delaware County. The statewide total of 29 **Sandhill Cranes** was a new statewide high, with 16 at State College, 12 at Linesville, and 1 at Lititz. **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at Elverson. The **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Linesville was only the second on a Pennsylvania CBC, the other in 1958. The total of 10

Top 10 Owling Sites

	Barn	E Scr	GH	Barr	LE	SE	NSW	Total
1. Upper Bucks County	0	190	18	2	1	0	2	213
2. Lewiston	2	49	26	2	1	0	0	80
3. Southern Lancaster Co.	0	43	28	4	1	0	3	79
4. Central Bucks County	0	30	30	1	0	0	0	70
5. West Chester	0	60	7	2	0	0	0	69
6. New Bloomfield	0	44	13	3	0	0	4	64
7. Southern Bucks County	0	45	15	0	0	0	0	60
8. State College	2	32	21	3	0	0	1	57
9. Western Chester Co.	0	40	13	2	0	0	0	55
10. Elverson	0	36	14	1	1	0	0	52

American Woodcock was the most since 1994.

A year after no **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported, the statewide total was 1746 at six locations, with 936 at Linesville and 760 at Erie. **Little Gull**, at Erie, was the 13th for Pennsylvania. A total of 468 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported from nine sites, with 160 at Southern Bucks County, 150 at Central Bucks County, and 95 at Upper Bucks County. Although the three Bucks County sites ranked in the top 10 of North American sites for Lesser Black-backed Gulls, two Florida sites led the rankings for this count period. Southern Bucks County led all North American sites with 65,409 **Herring Gulls** and ranked second with 2555 **Greater Black-backed Gulls**. **Thayer's Gull**, at Southern Lancaster County, was the third statewide report of this species in the last four years. Fifteen of the 19 **Iceland Gulls** and 6 of the 7 **Glaucous Gulls** were at Southern Bucks County.

Snowy Owl at Delaware County and Erie, and a count-week bird at Pennypack Valley, were representatives of this past winter's only irruption into Pennsylvania, and were the first occurrences for this species in the Pennsylvania CBC since 2005. **Barn Owls** were found at Lewisburg (3), Lewistown (2), and Curtin (one). The 190 **Eastern Screech-Owls** tallied at Upper Bucks County again led the North American CBC; Upper Bucks County led all Pennsylvania sites for total owls by a large margin. Lewistown, New Bloomfield, and State College were central sites among the top ten; the others were from the southeast.

Rufous Hummingbird was reported from five sites: Lebanon County, Lehigh Valley, Pittsburgh, Wild Creek-Little Gap, and York. It

was first found on a Pennsylvania CBC in 1996; 2011 was the ninth in the past 16 years when one has been reported from a Pennsylvania site. However, in only one previous year was there as many as two.

The total of 28 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** included 20 at Gettysburg and one or 2 at each of seven other sites. **Say's Phoebe**, at Central Bucks County, was the seventh report from a Pennsylvania CBC, the last in 1997. A total of 14 **Northern Shrikes** were reported, more than the long-term average but consistent with recent years. The 380 **Common Ravens** set a new state-wide high, now found at 70% of sites. Figure 2 shows their 2011 distribution compared to 2001-05. Ravens are now appearing at more southeastern sites than previously. The 3182 **Horned Larks** were the fewest since 1978. Figure 2 shows their 2011 distribution compared to 2002-08, a span chosen as average. Though Horned Larks appeared in many of the same locations as previously, fewer sites reported high numbers during 2011.

Three swallow species were reported for the 112th CBC, one of the more uncommon occurrences of this count period. Pennypack Valley reported 150 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, where they were first detected in 2005, and Harrisburg also recorded two. Pennypack Valley also reported a **Barn Swallow**, a fourth Pennsylvania occurrence in CBC, while Southern Bucks County reported two **Tree Swallows**, a fifth occurrence.

The 106 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** tallied state-wide were typical of a non-irruption year. **House Wren** was reported from Harrisburg, Lancaster, and Southern Lancaster County, while **Marsh Wren** was reported from Pittsburgh South Hills.

Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were reported from Newville and one from Washington, the first occurrences of this species in a Pennsylvania CBC since 2006. **Varied Thrush** was at Butler County, only the fourth time one has been recorded on a Pennsylvania CBC.

Just one **Lapland Longspur** was observed for the second consecutive year, this one at Newville. The total of 14 **Snow Buntings**, with 12 at Linesville, was the lowest statewide CBC tally since 1953.

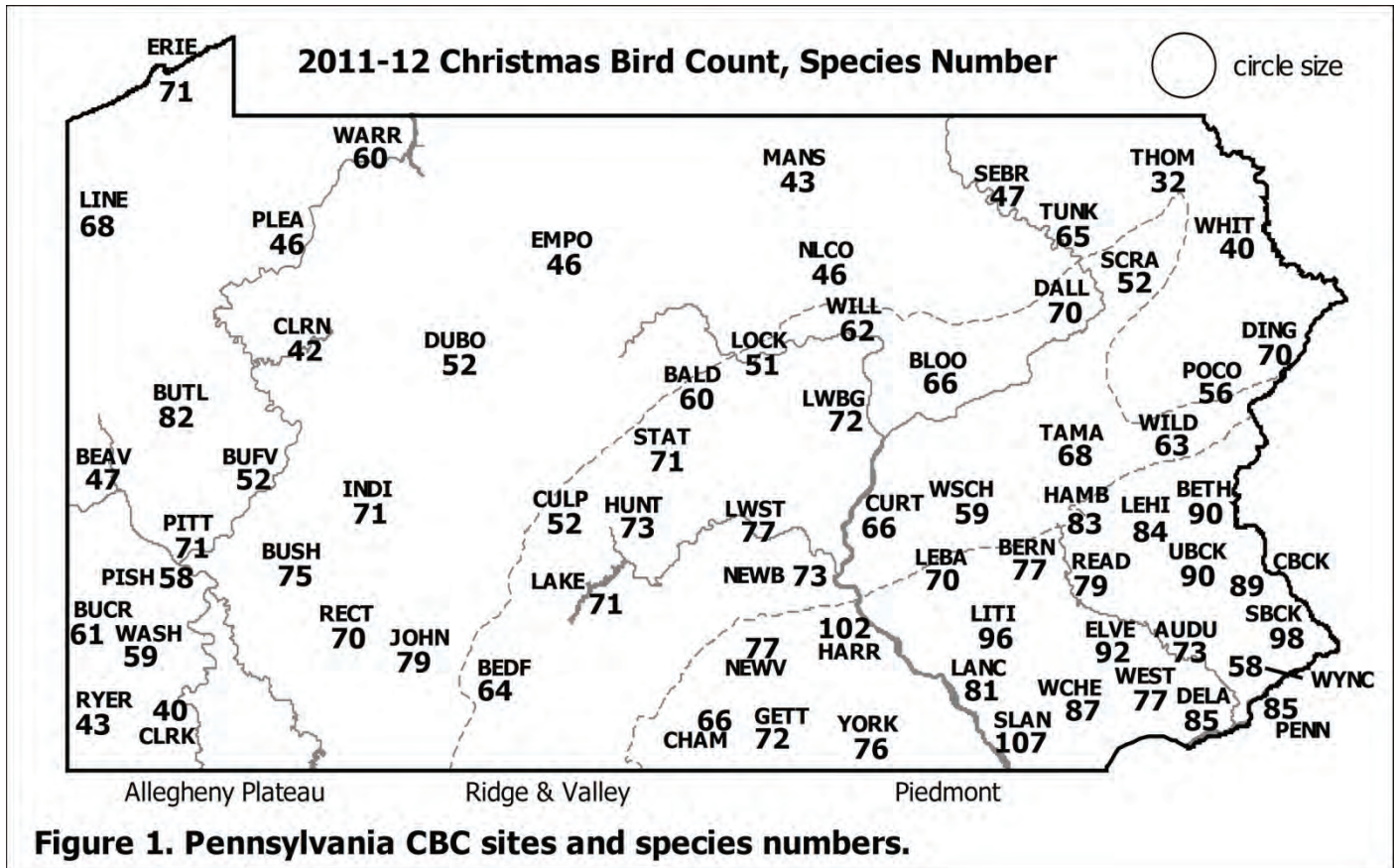
Among the warblers, **Ovenbird** was at Lehigh Valley, **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Pennypack Valley, Southern Bucks County, and Southern Lancaster County, **Nashville Warbler** was at Pittsburgh, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Dingman's Ferry.

Green-tailed Towhee was reported from Bernville; this was a second Pennsylvania CBC report, the previous record in 1994. The total of 508 **Eastern Towhees** was a new statewide high and included 136 at Delaware County, the latter a new statewide high for a site. The historical record shows periodic high counts of towhees, but no sustained trend. Figure 2 shows the 2011 Eastern Towhee distribution compared to 2006-2010, an average period. The high numbers during the recent count were concentrated in the southern corners of the state.

The statewide total of 2855 **American Tree Sparrows** was the fewest since 1951. This was the third consecutive year without **Vesper Sparrow** reported. **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Curtin, Southern Bucks County, and Tunkhannock. **Harris's Sparrow**, at Hamburg, was a fifth Pennsylvania CBC report.

Painted Bunting, a second Pennsylvania CBC report, was at Lancaster. There were 356 **Rusty Blackbirds** tallied statewide, including 150 at Elverson. This was the fourth year of the past five when this total was in the 350-370 range, which is a decent number. **Baltimore Oriole** was reported from Bedford County, Southeastern Bradford County, Southern Lancaster County, and Upper Bucks County.

There were 2 **Red Crossbills** at State College. There were 17 **Common Redpolls** at two sites, including 15 at Scranton, and 70 **Pine Siskins** at 14 sites. These numbers were typical of a non-irruption year.



Site Abbreviations

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

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	-	1	-	CW	1	-	2	-	1	2	CW	1	2	-	-	1	-
Red-tailed Hawk	84	25	11	18	49	99	69	67	5	41	26	75	64	14	20	14	72	18
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	3	8	2	16	14	3	38	24	7	13	15	4	21	9	6	10	28	2
American Kestrel	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gyrfalcon	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	4	-	-	1	-	11	-	-	-	-	555	11	CW	-	36	-	75	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	-	-	-	21	7	-	45	-	4	-	25	21	-	-	-	2	-
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	1	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	1	-	5	CW	-	-	1	-	-
American Woodcock	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	273	46	232	12	5021	2227	CW	-	4	1	216	1004	1	-	23	-	183	-
Herring Gull	5	3	7	-	300	36	-	-	1	-	4	97	-	-	-	-	8	-
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	1	56	-	-	-	-	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	488	311	274	711	724	1196	580	378	111	64	393	368	1690	79	296	371	920	227
Mourning Dove	853	98	76	312	286	640	274	480	38	203	332	397	1408	84	256	51	303	191
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	23	8	-	-	8	6	8	3	16	1	4	39	4	5	-	6	7	5
Great Horned Owl	7	10	1	-	7	6	18	1	6	1	1	30	14	-	10	1	14	-
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	25	5	3	4	10	23	8	8	3	5	4	21	23	2	3	5	4	6
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	218	28	22	19	68	108	36	145	12	65	58	151	93	17	22	25	65	6
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	12	6	1	-	4	12	1	12	1	3	1	8	5	-	-	-	4	-
Downy Woodpecker	231	42	41	38	72	161	90	153	12	54	71	104	153	40	12	30	76	30
Hairy Woodpecker	44	10	16	7	12	27	19	26	6	8	23	22	18	6	3	10	9	8
Yellow-shafted Flicker	94	16	6	16	11	38	8	84	7	18	2	56	23	-	8	2	20	1
Pileated Woodpecker	10	18	4	3	3	5	13	27	3	16	9	13	10	4	6	3	12	4
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Say's Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	552	143	58	69	153	284	139	271	49	144	129	567	151	108	62	22	119	48
American Crow	688	384	182	560	179	5286	522	511	94	466	232	976	243	641	108	189	447	275
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	-	13	2	-	-	-	-	754	-	-	-	-	4	4
Common Raven	-	12	CW	4	-	1	1	4	-	-	2	-	8	1	-	10	3	14
Horned Lark	18	-	-	100	180	75	-	12	5	50	12	63	354	3	-	60	26	-
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Barn Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	482	-	23	-	-	-	-	388	-	33	-	223	43	-	-	-	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee	-	125	68	138	53	361	160	-	31	14	180	3	160	243	-	46	116	145
chickadee sp.	19	-	93	-	105	-	-	-	18	172	-	76	-	-	72	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	351	92	80	80	126	285	174	266	38	160	118	178	183	67	45	38	199	36
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	3	-	1	1	-	1	2	1	1	2	-	6	-	2	-	2	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	201	52	45	43	68	152	79	171	14	74	72	105	108	61	17	36	69	57
Brown Creeper	20	4	1	1	8	5	7	3	-	7	7	3	12	-	6	6	5	8
Carolina Wren	195	9	23	11	99	118	34	66	7	20	11	104	70	-	6	12	68	20
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	5	2	-	-	2	10	-	2	-	3	-	6	12	-	-	1	4	-
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	10	12	5	11	4	8	38	8	27	5	2	20	7	6	5	5	7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	-	-	-	2	7	-	1	1	-	1	3	8	-	1	-	-	1
Eastern Bluebird	241	61	15	57	159	146	144	230	20	66	52	216	71	61	39	43	247	24
Hermit Thrush	1	1	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	2	-	5	2	-	1	-	-	2
American Robin	937	72	11	1	8	625	24	10	31	27	134	6268	49	366	79	-	3	15
Variied Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Catbird	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	69	11	2	8	77	85	48	30	1	21	3	96	94	1	11	7	42	4
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	6465	1223	714	976	6423	2697	1919	1592	170	882	2940	2504	7164	1625	1247	862	3959	1435
American Pipit	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	13	-	70	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	182	48	-	-	36	85	40	58	11	-	29	68	9	-	-	-	9	-
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nashville Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	26	-	2	4	2	4	-	9	-	63	1	51	4	-	9	1	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green-tailed Towhee	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	29	-	-	-	3	1	-	20	-	4	-	11	-	-	2	-	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	2	56	31	3	5	15	246	143	67	53	110	11	-	56	6	26	61	39
Chipping Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	26	1	-	-	8	3	1	19	-	9	-	20	2	-	-	-	6	-
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	3	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	423	12	51	8	154	219	58	142	23	75	17	192	83	8	7	8	151	19
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Swamp Sparrow	1	-	-	1	4	4	-	8	-	6	12	16	-	1	-	-	-	1
White-throated Sparrow	919	172	7	13	454	1044	122	62	31	47	12	877	295	3	9	22	172	36
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	1	1	-	22	38	21	1	125	-	8	1	7	66	-	4	-	46	-
Slate-colored Junco	1209	262	163	364	544	1262	701	299	65	377	227	619	840	310	65	144	709	393
Northern Cardinal	377	72	157	55	158	330	153	328	47	270	214	193	411	81	67	28	233	43
Painted Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	481	22	-	-	26	31	55	1	-	25	39	31	-	-	-	-	7	1
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	534	-	-	-	4	-	CW	-	-	2	337	71	4	-	-	-	1	2

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	1	-	-	50	36	6	-	-	-	19	139	26	-	-	-	5	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	5	-	-	-	1	2	7	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	5	-	-	-
House Finch	269	80	61	24	65	493	121	159	-	105	81	224	414	165	106	40	102	45
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	277	278	82	68	34	156	195	141	71	69	216	105	277	189	45	81	109	63
House Sparrow	276	230	579	363	209	339	209	359	15	330	203	97	1049	180	305	87	430	145
Number Individuals	55056	4433	3510	5169	18758	65160	7637	7251	1315	5257	8226	34079	17507	5354	3086	3025	9566	35385
Number Species	73	60	47	64	77	90	66	61	52	75	82	89	66	42	40	52	66	70
Party Hours	160	59.54	28	85.25	77.5	137	95.25	101	13	69.25	62	113.25	163	56.5	17	38	66.75	48.5

	DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Snow Goose	2115	-	1	1500	-	-	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1137	-	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Canada Goose	14824	436	249	3920	50	523	731	2905	2143	98	1058	947	222	5130	4369	29283	619	721
Mute Swan	-	7	-	4	-	4	15	5	3	2	-	3	-	4	2	7	-	2
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	62	-	-	-	CW	15	-	-	-	25	-	20	10	9	-	4	-	-
Wood Duck	10	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	13	2
Gadwall	20	-	-	42	-	21	-	36	40	-	CW	2	10	14	1	1	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	19	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
American Black Duck	66	2	3	42	-	30	6	24	79	-	30	34	11	78	-	36	10	5
Mallard	376	31	197	282	-	201	187	409	677	60	247	178	50	701	254	730	535	238
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	72	-	-	4	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	288	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	1	1
Green-winged Teal	263	5	-	3	-	-	2	2	26	-	4	-	4	12	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	2	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	4	78	90	-	169	-	-	5	4	17	85	-	-	2	48	3	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	2	1	-	-	-	86	-	-	2	-	3	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	10	8	11	4	-	80	-	-	19	1	20	25	12	5	-	4	6	-
Common Goldeneye	-	61	-	-	-	97	-	-	6	-	1	3	2	3	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	62	42	99	1	-	57	17	3	73	7	34	205	29	-	-	9	18	3
Common Merganser	23	17	-	30	-	2	16	8	22	-	16	12	12	57	22	19	59	35
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	766	-	-	-	-	1	7	-	-	1	2	-	-
Ruddy Duck	1	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	9	27	-	2	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	6	-	-	5	3	-	-	-	2	10	3
Ruffed Grouse	-	2	1	-	50	-	-	3	3	7	10	CW	16	-	-	3	2	-
Wild Turkey	13	36	CW	21	26	16	-	163	7	19	13	49	67	3	108	29	40	173
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	1	-	1	-	-	35	-	1	1	CW	1	10	2	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	9	-	-	1	-	5	1	-	1	1	8	6	7	3	2	1	1	1
Horned Grebe	1	-	2	-	-	22	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

	DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Double-crested Cormorant	29	-	2	3	-	28	-	-	CW	-	CW	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	30	-	1	27	-	24	7	18	76	1	4	7	3	24	14	29	20	32
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	77	3	-	144	-	-	99	126	56	36	-	-	14	111	46	10	12	76
Turkey Vulture	214	13	-	463	-	-	162	33	172	39	-	-	52	240	72	34	-	72
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	11	7	2	7	-	1	5	4	6	1	3	1	5	8	5	-	5	9
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	-	2	4	-	2	1	-	-	7	2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	16	2	1	7	-	-	5	11	17	3	5	1	CW	5	3	12	6	4
Cooper's Hawk	13	2	1	7	3	3	8	11	17	6	3	4	1	7	3	10	5	7
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	1	1	2	-	-	7	-	3	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	2
Red-tailed Hawk	59	9	5	64	8	12	56	127	77	58	47	29	58	54	74	96	80	123
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	CW	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	1	-	4	4	-	6	37	35	18	32	13	16	16	9	14	8	57	39
Merlin	CW	-	-	3	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Gyrfalcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	1
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	34	-	-	1	-	1487	3	-	23	-	79	36	CW	4	86	1	1	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	-	-	39	-	-	4	46	9	4	1	CW	-	3	3	1	5	18
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	4	1	-	15	3	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	7	10
American Woodcock	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	CW	-	-	760	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	677	1500	CW	9194	-	4643	22	12	1419	105	15	8	220	12777	97	42	200	67
Herring Gull	61	35	-	506	-	266	-	-	277	-	-	-	-	509	124	18	3	-
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucois Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	14	1	-	6	-	44	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	401	2	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	869	3	149	705	68	228	626	1506	1131	648	161	617	350	595	903	710	785	1380
Mourning Dove	520	119	141	473	321	58	294	1416	844	322	632	316	35	505	444	897	267	308
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	22	9	1	36	3	1	-	22	26	11	1	1	13	-	17	17	6	49
Great Horned Owl	11	3	1	14	1	-	3	8	17	20	4	5	3	9	7	14	2	26
Snowy Owl	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	-	-	1	CW	-	2	-	3	1	-	5	1	2	-	1	2	2
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	18	-	4	13	5	4	8	14	33	8	8	4	7	22	10	22	18	18
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	205	25	6	120	13	13	72	103	112	42	54	22	32	85	63	125	51	133

	DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	21	3	-	11	1	-	8	5	14	1	1	2	1	13	6	5	5	1
Downy Woodpecker	188	25	23	136	32	27	68	133	169	70	68	39	50	113	75	167	106	161
Hairy Woodpecker	36	3	8	33	23	9	21	18	27	10	18	15	8	20	13	25	16	35
Yellow-shafted Flicker	40	6	CW	43	1	2	31	43	48	16	9	2	10	40	15	25	16	47
Pileated Woodpecker	12	6	7	13	11	-	4	9	9	21	14	7	19	9	5	5	13	26
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Say's Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	CW	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Blue Jay	492	145	122	245	128	43	196	118	92	118	208	68	63	259	51	177	117	184
American Crow	712	109	375	836	123	189	185	832	2169	312	707	797	394	1221	1919	1338	919	897
Fish Crow	2	-	-	4	-	-	7	1	293	-	2	-	-	67	17	3	-	-
Common Raven	-	2	5	1	24	-	17	4	2	25	4	9	12	-	10	-	20	23
Horned Lark	-	-	-	146	-	-	-	330	6	3	-	657	-	52	2	96	17	73
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barn Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	448	-	-	353	-	-	74	-	348	-	-	-	-	302	-	33	-	6
Black-capped Chickadee	-	139	171	4	278	95	5	6	6	121	365	310	144	11	62	372	108	151
chickadee sp.	-	-	-	11	-	-	107	280	194	-	-	-	-	53	98	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	404	74	23	267	54	20	136	343	344	131	146	64	151	163	120	319	135	417
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	2	2	-	CW	2	1	2	5	17	4	3	-	-	3	2	-	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	185	35	20	175	188	37	88	177	130	79	113	54	51	56	71	138	71	162
Brown Creeper	9	3	1	3	5	-	1	11	31	10	14	3	5	29	6	6	13	61
Carolina Wren	144	7	2	104	3	1	37	133	136	42	22	5	57	140	39	72	16	147
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	16	-	-	4	1	-	2	10	13	1	1	2	1	12	9	7	1	3
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14	2	5	2	24	4	1	22	38	42	27	10	57	44	3	11	19	107
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	-	-	4	-	-	1	5	7	-	-	-	-	8	7	4	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	100	55	16	280	20	-	57	126	208	111	99	38	121	150	161	116	141	197
Hermit Thrush	5	4	-	22	1	-	1	2	8	7	2	3	2	2	2	7	1	3
American Robin	3274	25	36	24	5	90	27	11	188	13	15	4	10	21	55	92	5	19
Varied Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Catbird	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	70	1	-	74	-	-	58	108	89	13	10	1	15	55	34	87	36	79
Brown Thrasher	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	2330	583	891	2728	575	510	3097	7860	2173	1098	2175	2938	1368	2189	3419	7364	5622	9419
American Pipit	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	6	1	-	4	-	74	43	203	-	25
Cedar Waxwing	127	86	84	58	-	30	31	9	45	56	67	9	116	3	-	29	32	-
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nashville Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	2	-	-	1	1	17	11	4	15	7	-	5	-	55	1	1	-	9
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green-tailed Towhee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	136	2	-	25	2	-	-	3	3	-	1	-	-	9	3	2	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	8	30	28	10	17	74	2	93	20	118	67	83	202	2	47	3	21	4
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	3	8	-	-
Field Sparrow	14	2	-	34	1	-	3	2	5	10	4	CW	7	-	11	1	-	4

LINE	LITI	LOOK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK	SLAN
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	12	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Nashville Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	32	2	-	6	5	-	-	5	-	-	4	6	4	3	-	10	15
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green-tailed Towhee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	30	1	-	-	-	-	41	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	-	40	21
American Tree Sparrow	91	23	11	10	37	32	6	19	9	90	10	3	32	8	3	9	8
Chipping Sparrow	-	1	-	4	4	-	28	5	5	-	3	3	-	-	-	3	-
Field Sparrow	-	12	-	12	-	2	19	18	9	-	-	4	1	-	-	23	15
Savannah Sparrow	-	23	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	7	8
Fox Sparrow	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	12	9
Song Sparrow	8	265	21	3	141	71	74	93	233	2	22	180	71	15	10	239	364
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Swamp Sparrow	3	17	-	2	2	1	18	15	2	-	-	1	13	-	-	14	-
White-throated Sparrow	5	506	41	9	516	428	10	383	79	112	83	519	13	11	15	769	983
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	-	17	-	10	59	-	CW	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	2	58
Slate-colored Junco	179	583	268	61	825	859	220	181	205	410	343	608	401	95	325	640	1002
Northern Cardinal	54	294	109	18	474	300	15	109	255	407	64	238	190	72	89	266	484
Painted Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	-	82	-	-	52	-	32	-	-	-	1	-	46	-	-	1094	25898
Eastern Meadowlark	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Rusty Blackbird	CW	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	6	8
Common Grackle	-	55	-	510	76	-	272	5	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	8792	34350
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	126	-	3	4	-	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	3754
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Purple Finch	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	41	-	12	3	2	1	-	1
House Finch	27	240	48	57	120	128	46	207	73	131	21	276	43	57	53	159	112
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	65	95	80	43	195	93	55	68	184	376	83	104	61	91	120	63	102
House Sparrow	83	416	433	13	173	336	79	287	186	708	147	243	84	176	444	144	550
Number Individuals	9876	20463	5104	3619	9576	14674	2882	10768	23178	2387	4186	14072	4009	2025	30683	125767	110453
Number Species	68	96	51	43	73	46	85	58	71	46	56	79	70	43	52	98	107
Party Hours	42.5	128.75	46	42.3	82.5	99	39.6	57	188	169	48.5	49	111.5	49.5	31.25	61.75	125.25

SEBR	STAT	TAMA	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	274	-	-	6342	905	-	160	-	-	461	1
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	1917	793	231	170	1448	3875	706	164	9009	21503	1924	854	3464	9402	2381
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	4
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	3	-	-	3	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-

	SEBR	STAT	TAMA	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
American Coot	-	6	-	-	-	23	-	-	4	11	-	-	-	-	2	2
Sandhill Crane	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	3	-	-	4	39	-	-	76	34	-	-	-	2	1	-
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	19	CW	1	-	1	1279	151	-	2733	103	65	2	267	75	21	29
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	8	53	2	-	648	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	95	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	321	1191	481	37	556	307	415	49	1529	74	71	130	728	378	249	542
Mourning Dove	108	359	206	39	262	301	261	88	314	557	61	165	149	194	483	223
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	32	18	-	28	190	4	-	40	60	-	8	8	9	2	2
Great Horned Owl	1	21	12	-	8	18	1	-	13	7	-	11	1	3	4	2
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	3	2	-	-	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	1	3	-	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	1	3	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Belted Kingfisher	2	10	3	-	6	9	17	2	20	9	1	3	6	3	12	8
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	22	69	14	4	29	149	25	50	142	121	1	17	18	29	103	73
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	3	1	-	4	13	-	3	4	11	-	3	1	-	14	5
Downy Woodpecker	28	80	38	13	46	118	72	34	83	151	14	27	49	38	88	68
Hairy Woodpecker	7	29	11	11	10	23	14	11	24	24	12	7	7	3	29	13
Yellow-shafted Flicker	3	16	3	1	10	49	2	3	44	37	1	3	6	2	15	34
Pileated Woodpecker	10	20	8	3	8	6	6	5	8	9	4	2	6	1	1	1
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Say's Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	CW	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	64	196	46	45	146	643	147	74	338	454	78	58	65	42	196	81
American Crow	665	2312	931	77	466	703	238	74	664	859	256	626	1065	470	102	263
Fish Crow	-	14	-	-	-	4	-	-	12	59	-	-	1	-	-	-
Common Raven	9	12	5	3	12	1	6	-	-	-	1	8	14	4	-	-
Horned Lark	-	4	15	-	-	-	-	-	113	-	-	41	-	20	-	-
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barn Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	176	-	62	312	278	-	-	-	-	248	159
Black-capped Chickadee	187	233	190	92	178	238	389	64	-	-	138	96	87	-	-	20
chickadee sp.	-	-	2	-	53	22	1	22	11	58	-	-	-	104	-	40
Tufted Titmouse	36	185	138	2	80	265	60	72	184	212	23	90	93	88	127	115
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	7	6	1	3	2	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	48	138	25	13	52	82	88	20	141	180	25	20	48	54	90	82
Brown Creeper	-	15	8	1	1	4	14	2	5	8	-	1	4	6	5	4
Carolina Wren	10	45	21	-	34	79	5	20	134	129	1	15	26	37	58	60
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	SEBR	STAT	TAMA	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
Winter Wren	-	5	1	-	1	6	-	-	8	4	-	-	-	5	7	1
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	5	36	4	49	17	33	16	6	11	4	8	5	22	5	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	2	2	3
Eastern Bluebird	40	129	29	-	107	337	2	23	226	281	21	56	55	65	25	443
Hermit Thrush	-	8	4	-	-	29	-	2	3	5	-	7	-	1	-	3
American Robin	28	48	8	-	-	235	25	42	49	711	-	4	5	13	1705	11
Varied Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Catbird	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Northern Mockingbird	-	45	14	-	3	106	-	9	121	92	-	22	17	30	23	57
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	842	3462	2051	6	1190	2683	1790	425	8753	3242	659	624	1222	2194	1980	1670
American Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	80	283	-	-	6	200	342	-	-	47	-	-	8	-	-	2
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nashville Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	186	-	2	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	5
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	3	25	37	-	-	-	-	37	4
American Tree Sparrow	62	136	96	10	165	25	15	4	7	7	-	81	26	30	-	4
Chipping Sparrow	-	4	1	-	-	1	1	-	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	2	-	2	2	3	10	-	-	11	31	1	11	1	3	1	-
Savannah Sparrow	-	1	-	-	1	5	-	-	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	1	CW	-	-	10	-	1	3	7	-	-	1	-	1	1
Song Sparrow	12	24	54	-	46	274	7	10	294	334	-	103	33	78	109	116
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	-	2	2	-	1	18	2	1	9	16	-	8	-	-	1	3
White-throated Sparrow	46	246	203	-	115	995	16	17	531	778	-	344	103	185	585	271
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	-	1	-	-	-	36	3	4	19	9	-	3	-	-	-	6
Slate-colored Junco	356	644	820	51	485	1201	518	127	782	844	140	679	530	588	537	483
Northern Cardinal	54	233	138	6	120	267	144	127	253	355	14	178	88	114	191	180
Painted Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	-	24	-	-	13	33	1	1	4071	224	-	9	31	1	69	1
Eastern Meadowlark	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	27	-	-	43	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	-	-	1	-	1	5	-	7	2949	3811	-	-	-	1400	75	2828
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	4	-	102	23	38	1	540	22	-	-	-	24	-	12
Baltimore Oriole	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	31	-	1	9	8	9	7	14	-	-	6	2	16	-	-	1
House Finch	48	182	59	10	52	385	162	69	124	274	2	55	88	46	156	104
Red Crossbill	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	3	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-
American Goldfinch	144	119	81	19	189	108	159	68	90	136	-	102	76	183	108	179
House Sparrow	192	346	290	-	98	425	256	269	553	68	31	89	30	137	296	86
Number Individuals	5784	12543	6813	689	6755	17702	6697	2183	43810	38323	3820	5467	6534	10642	18054	11388
Number Species	47	71	68	32	65	90	60	59	87	77	40	63	62	59	58	76
Party Hours	58.05	121.29	56.75	12	57.15	130.25	119.5	22.7	122.75	130.42	59	45	57.75	44.5	72	69.25

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2011 CBC SUMMARY

SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT	SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT
Gr. White-fronted Goose	7	3	5	BEDF	American Kestrel	750	60	57	LWBG
Snow Goose	52338	23	31875	BETH	Merlin	25	16	3	**1
Ross's Goose	2	2	1	AUDU,LEHI	Gyrfalcon	1	1	1	HAMB
Brant	77	2	75	SLAN	Peregrine Falcon	34	20	3	**2
Cackling Goose	35	11	6	DALL,SLAN	Prairie Falcon	1	1	1	NEVW
Canada Goose	262135	70	30595	DALL	Virginia Rail	1	1	1	DELA
Mute Swan	241	29	45	SBCB	American Coot	3242	31	1487	ERIE
Trumpeter Swan	2	2	1	BEDF,BUTL	Sandhill Crane	29	3	16	STAT
Tundra Swan	1335	17	890	LITI	Killdeer	532	33	76	WCHE
Wood Duck	76	22	13	LWBG	Lesser Yellowlegs	1	1	1	ELVE
Gadwall	653	27	102	LITI	Long-billed Dowitcher	1	1	1	LINE
American Wigeon	111	14	31	LITI	Wilson's Snipe	81	21	15	GETT
American Black Duck	2679	57	443	SLAN	American Woodcock	10	9	2	HUNT
Mallard	20178	68	1070	BETH	Bonaparte's Gull	1746	6	936	LINE
Blue-winged Teal	1	1	1	NEVW	Little Gull	1	1	1	ERIE
Northern Shoveler	206	11	72	DELA	Ring-billed Gull	79522	58	15956	SLAN
Northern Pintail	371	13	288	DELA	Herring Gull	68619	35	65409	SBCB
Green-winged Teal	407	25	263	DELA	Thayer's Gull	1	1	1	SLAN
Canvasback	4	2	2	ERIE,NEWB	Iceland Gull	19	4	15	SBCB
Redhead	19	5	6	ERIE,JOHN	Lsr. Black-backed Gull	468	9	160	SBCB
Ring-necked Duck	1223	35	285	SBCB	Glaucous Gull	7	2	6	SBCB
Greater Scaup	59	3	46	ERIE	Great Black-backed Gull	3145	14	2555	SBCB
Lesser Scaup	139	15	86	ERIE	Rock Pigeon	35761	70	1690	CHAM
Surf Scoter	21	2	18	ERIE	Mourning Dove	22447	70	1416	HAMB
White-winged Scoter	32	2	31	ERIE	Barn Owl	6	3	3	LWBG
Black Scoter	6	1	6	ERIE	Eastern Screech-Owl	1009	58	190	UBCK
Long-tailed Duck	13	7	5	ERIE	Great Horned Owl	475	58	30	CBCK
Bufflehead	685	38	80	ERIE	Snowy Owl	2	2	1	DELA,ERIE
Common Goldeneye	296	22	97	ERIE	Barred Owl	67	35	5	JOHN
Hooded Merganser	1858	53	415	LINE	Long-eared Owl	11	8	4	TAMA
Common Merganser	3285	51	985	SLAN	Short-eared Owl	12	4	6	CLRN
Red-breasted Merganser	822	10	766	ERIE	Northern Saw-whet Owl	26	13	4	HARR,NEWB
Ruddy Duck	367	16	101	SBCB	Rufous Hummingbird	5	5	1	**3
Ring-necked Pheasant	136	33	25	CULP	Belted Kingfisher	671	68	38	SLAN
Ruffed Grouse	174	31	50	EMPO	Red-headed Woodpecker	28	8	20	GETT
Wild Turkey	3341	62	260	TAMA	Red-bellied Woodpecker	4420	70	218	AUDU
Red-throated Loon	5	2	4	ERIE	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	308	53	29	SLAN
Common Loon	102	22	35	ERIE	Downy Woodpecker	5246	70	231	AUDU
Pied-billed Grebe	141	35	30	SBCB	Hairy Woodpecker	1104	70	44	AUDU
Horned Grebe	45	14	22	ERIE	Yellow-shafted Flicker	1387	64	94	AUDU
Double-cr. Cormorant	157	17	55	SBCB	Pileated Woodpecker	610	68	27	BUCR
Great Cormorant	38	2	24	SBCB	Eastern Phoebe	13	12	2	SLAN
Great Blue Heron	846	62	76	HARR	Say's Phoebe	1	1	1	CBCK
Great Egret	4	2	3	SBCB	Northern Shrike	14	12	2	MAN,S,PLEA
Green Heron	1	1	1	WEST	Blue Jay	10766	69	643	UBCK
Black-cr. Night-Heron	1	1	1	SBCB	American Crow	63811	70	14616	PITT
White Ibis	1	1	1	HAMB	Fish Crow	3302	25	2015	SBCB
Black Vulture	1901	34	150	WCHE	Common Raven	380	50	35	NLCO
Turkey Vulture	4552	39	533	WCHE	Horned Lark	3182	37	657	JOHN
Osprey	1	1	1	NEVW	Tree Swallow	2	2	2	SBCB
Bald Eagle	405	57	60	SLAN	N. Rough-winged Swallow	152	2	150	PENN
Northern Harrier	101	35	7	LWBG	Barn Swallow	1	1	1	PENN
Sharp-shinned Hawk	305	61	18	SBCB	Carolina Chickadee	5209	29	482	AUDU
Cooper's Hawk	403	67	17	HARR	Black-capped Chickadee	7846	57	389	WARR
Northern Goshawk	2	2	1	HAMB,NEVW	Tufted Titmouse	10196	70	474	NEWB
Red-shouldered Hawk	100	39	9	SLAN	Red-breasted Nuthatch	106	37	17	HUNT
Red-tailed Hawk	3236	70	127	HAMB	White-breasted Nuthatch	5752	70	201	AUDU
Rough-legged Hawk	12	7	4	JOHN	Brown Creeper	516	61	61	LWST
Golden Eagle	7	5	2	EMPO,HARR	Carolina Wren	3586	65	195	AUDU

High Count notations: **1) BETH,ELVE,SLAN **2) DELA,LEHI,PITT,SBCB **3) LEBA,LEHI,PITT,WILD,YORK **4) HARR,LANC,SLAN **5) PITT,SBCB,WCHE **6) PENN,SBCB,SLAN **7) CURT,SBCB,TUNK **8) BEDF,SLAN,SEBR,UBCK

NINETEENTH REPORT
of the
PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
April 2012
Nick Pulcinella for the Committee

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter “PORC” or “the committee”) evaluates and archives documentation it receives of any species or recognizable form that is on the Review List for Pennsylvania. In addition it reviews documentation for new species or new subspecies for the state. This report covers 46 records of 26 species. The 41 records accepted represent an acceptance rate of 89%. Reports were received from 26 counties. Top reporting counties were: Erie (8), Cumberland (5), Chester (3), and Dauphin (3).

Highlights in this report include the first records for White-faced Ibis, Prairie Falcon and Anna’s Hummingbird, second records for Allen’s Hummingbird and Townsend’s Warbler, and fourth records for Tufted Duck and Bullock’s Oriole. The Official State List now contains 426 species, 418 in Class I and 8 on the Provisional List (Pulcinella 2011).

PORC encourages observers to document their sightings with photographs, videos or sound recordings when possible, but the committee also urges observers to include accompanying written documentation with all submissions. Written documentation may add details such as missing field marks or descriptions of behavior that are not captured in some photos. The committee continues to emphasize that the primary point of any documentation of a rare bird should be a detailed written description. There are several well written articles on documenting rare birds and observers are encouraged to consult the Committee’s web pages at <<http://www.pabirds.org>>, Dittman and Lasley 1992, and PORC 2000.

The Committee would like to emphasize the importance of submitting documentation directly to PORC. The posting of reports (including written details and photographs) on listservs or other online forums 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 (with 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 (2014) and Dave DeReamus (2013). Nick Pulcinella (2012) is the non-voting secretary. Jonathan Heller rotated off the committee after serving two terms and was replaced by Drew Weber (2014). Cameron Rutt took a temporary leave to assist with ornithological research in Hawaii replaced by Ramsay Koury.

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 <<http://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 subsequent 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).

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) (9)

Five were photographed at the Deer Valley Golf Course, *Dauphin* 30 May 2010. (Tom Johnson (p); Chuck Berthoud, Jan Getgood, Ramsay Koury, Ernie Johnson, Patricia Williams, Richard Williams; 102-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. First *Dauphin* record. A flock of ten were in Berwick, *Luzerne* 10-19 June 2010. (Jonathan DeBalko (p), Kevin Ripka (p) et al; 102-02-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V24(3):140 and cover. Two were along the Wyomissing Creek, Mohnton, *Berks* 3-8 August 2010. (Katrina Knight (p), Linda Fredericks, et al; 102-03-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. One was in Chambersburg, *Franklin*, 14-15 August 2010. (Dave Cooney (p); Vern Gauthier; 102-04-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. A first *Franklin* record. A single bird visited a small pond in Nottingham County Park, *Chester* 27 June 2010. (Rachel Bishop (p); 102-05-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. A first county record. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks made a strong push into the northeast and Midwest during late spring and summer of 2010 with observations from several neighboring states.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) (3)

One female associating with Ring-necked Ducks at Upper Uwchlan Twp. Water Treatment Plant, *Chester* 19-27 March 2010. (Holly Merker; Devon Bosler (p), Jeffrey Davis (p), Pam Fisher, Al Guarente, Drew Weber (p), m.ob.; 141-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V24(2) inside back cover. First *Chester* record.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (19+)

An adult male at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 20 February–17 March 2010. (Mark Vass; Jerry McWilliams (p); 149-01-2010; I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V24:38. One immature male found on the Juniata River, *Huntingdon* 19 December 2010. Present and seen by many through 1 February 2011. (Dave Kyler, Trudy Kyler; Wayne Laubscher (p), Drew Weber (p), m.ob.; 149-02-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. One immature male found on the Delaware River near the Martin's Creek Environmental Preserve, *Northampton* 28 December 2010–7 February 2011, a first county record. (Stephen Kloiber, Kathy Sieminski; Tom Johnson (p); Dustin Welch, (p), m.obs. 149-03-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:36 and NAB V65:381.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) (18+)

Three immatures photographed at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin* 23 August 2010. (Larry Imes (p); 093-02-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. One immature seen on the Juniata River, Millerstown, *Perry*, 14-16 August 2010. (Toby Petersheim; Chad Kauffman (p), et al; 093-03-2010; I-P). 7/0. This species continues to be a rare, regular visitor in late summer.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) (1)

One photographed in Southampton Twp. *Cumberland* 21 March 2010. (Vern Gauthier; Frank Haas (p), et al; 096-01-2010; I-P). 6/0. This long overdue first state record remained at this location for only five hours before flying off. Photograph published in PB V24(2), cover.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (5+)

One light morph adult observed flying over the Militia Hill Hawk Watch, Fort Washington S.P., *Montgomery* 22 October 2010. (Michael Rosengarten; 186-01-2010; Class III). 7/0.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) (1)

One adult along Mud Level Road, *Cumberland* 20 November 2010-16 February 2011. (Matt Sabatine, Wayne Laubscher (p), m.ob.; 201-01-2010; Class I-P). 6/1. Photograph published in PB V24:39. This bird has made this part of *Cumberland* its winter home for five years but no documentation was ever submitted to PORC. When the bird first appeared in 2005 there was some question as to its origin (wild vs. escaped falconer's bird), but with the bird returning and successfully maintaining a winter territory for five consecutive years, PORC felt that this bird was a true vagrant. Prairie Falcon has an easterly component to its extralimital occurrence and is rare but regular as a migrant and winter resident in both Missouri and Illinois, and there are a few accepted records for Ohio.



Image 1. Prairie Falcon 23 January 2011, Mud Level Road, *Cumberland* (Wayne Laubscher). At long last, the famous Mud Level Prairie Falcon has been added to the official Pennsylvania list.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyula martinica*) (6+)

One immature on an unidentified SGL, *Adams* 12 October 2010. (Mike Weible (p); 242-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. Another immature was photographed in Kane, *McKean* 19-24 October 2010. (Rocky Holland (p); 242-02-2010; Class I-P) 7/0. Photograph published in NAB V65:193 and PB V24(4) inside back cover. One adult photographed in the Spring Grove Area, *York* 31 May–1 June 2010. (Deb Kline (p); 242-03-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. It was a banner year for Purple Gallinules in Pennsylvania with a surprising three reports, including one spectacularly photographed in a residential area in far north *McKean* near the Allegheny National Forest. These were the first reports of this species since 2006.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) (16+)

One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 28 November 2010. (Jerry McWilliams (p); 331-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in NAB V65:74 and PB V24(4) inside back cover.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (14+)

One in first winter plumage was photographed at Yellow Creek S.P., *Indiana* 4 November 2010. (Justin Bosler (p); 357-01-2007; Class III). 7/0. Several committee members thought the photograph was too small and distant to identify the species but the accompanying written report clinched the identification. This report is a good example of why written documentation remains an important part of rare bird reporting.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (25+)

One adult in alternate plumage on the Susquehanna River, near Marysville, *Dauphin* 13-19 March 2010. (Ramsay Koury; Devin Bosler (p), m.ob.; 340-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. One observed in a small pond along Mud Level Road, *Cumberland* 20 March 2010. (Vern Gauthier, Ramsay Koury; Matt Sabatine (p); 340-02-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. First record for *Cumberland*. A surprise was an adult in alternate plumage photographed in Bristol, *Bucks* 1 August 2010. (Devich Farbotnik (p), Holly Merker (p); 340-03-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V24:202.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (11)

Several records from 2005 were submitted. One adult in basic plumage in Millcreek Twp., *Erie* 12 November 2005. (Ben Coulter (p) (v); 346-02-2005; Class I-P). 6/0. Another adult in basic plumage at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 20 November 2005. (Ben Coulter (p) (v); 346-03-2005; Class I-P). 6/0. A third bird in basic plumage Millcreek Twp., *Erie* 26 November 2005. (Ben Coulter (p) (v); 346-04-2005; Class I-P). 6/0. The Presque Isle area continues to be the place to look for this species with eight accepted reports thus far.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) (24+)

Two reports from 2004 were submitted for review. One first-cycle bird was videotaped at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 22 December 2004. (Ben Coulter (p) (v); 348-01-2004; Class I-P). 6/0. A different first-cycle bird was also videotaped at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 26 December 2004. (Ben Coulter (p) (v); 348-02-2004; Class I-P). 6/0.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) (7)

Two in alternate plumage along the Ohio River at Dashields Dam, *Allegheny* 29 May 2010, a first county record. (Geoff Malosh (p); 369-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. An outstanding find for western Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh area. Photograph published in PB V24:76 and NAB V64:253. (Malosh 2010)

Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) (5+)

One present and audio recorded at Fort Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon* 10 June–20 September 2010. (Jerry Howard; Ed Bellion (r), Gary Kinkley (r), David McNaughton, John Puschock (r), m.ob.); 463-01-2010; Class I-R). 7/0.

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) (1)

One adult female present in Shartlesville, *Berks* mid-Oct 2010–13 March 2011. (Renee Gery, Scott Weidensaul (p); Howard Eskin (p), Mike Fialkovich (p), Tom Johnson (p), Jeff Loomis (p), Geoff Malosh (p), Dustin Welch (p), m.ob.; 490-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. A long expected western vagrant, with documented records from MD and NY, this bird was first noticed by homeowner Renee Gery in mid-October. It was successfully trapped, banded and identified 21 November by Scott Weidensaul and thereafter seen by multiple observers during its long stay. Despite several nights of single digit temperatures, the bird was able to survive by taking insects from a nearby water treatment plant in addition to several well-supplied feeders in the neighborhood. Photograph published in PB V24:194 and NAB V65:74.

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) (2)

One immature male trapped, banded and identified at the Landis Homes Retirement Community near Lititz, *Lancaster*

7 November 2010. (Edith Bailey; Sandra Lockerman, Scott Weidensaul (p), Eric Witmer (p), m.obs; 496-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. This second state record, on the heels of last year's first record, was first noticed on 28 October 2010 when it visited a feeder. The bird remained cooperative and easily seen by many until it departed on 13 November. Photograph published in PB V24:204 and NAB V65:193.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (23+)

An adult male was in Thornhurst, *Lackawanna* mid-Dec 2009–12 March 2010. (Jennifer Grab (p); 666-03-2009; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V24:42.



Image 2. Varied Thrush, 10 January 2010, Thornhurst, *Lackawanna* (Jennifer Grab). This species continues to be a nearly annual winter visitor to Pennsylvania.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) (4+)

One in Upper Mifflin, *Cumberland* 1-5 June 2010. (Deb Siefkin, Jeffrey Davis (p), m.ob.; 699-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. A second bird was in Newville, *Cumberland* 26 May–13 August 2010. (Deb Siefkin; Lee Musser (p); m.ob.; 699-02-2010; Class I-P). 6/0. Breeding could not be confirmed in either instance.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) (11+)

One banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve, *Westmoreland* 1 May 2010. (Powdermill Nature Reserve Staff; 756-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) (7+)

One adult male seen, heard, and well described at Ohiopyle, *Fayette* 16 May 2010. (David Krueger; 746-01-2010; Class III). 7/0. The date falls nicely within this species' spring occurrence in Pennsylvania. Previous spring records are from 12-16 May.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) (2)

One adult female was at the Cobbs Creek Environmental Center, *Delaware/Philadelphia* 20-21 November 2010. (Anthony Croasdale; Holly Merker (p), Mike McGraw (p), m.obs; 738-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. A surprising find at a small urban wooded oasis. First record for both counties. Photograph published in PB V24:185 and NAB V65:75. (Croasdale 2010)

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) (10)

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 10-12 October 2010.

(August Mirabella; Devich Farbotnik (p); 829-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V24:205. Another found during the Elverson CBC at Struble Lake, *Chester* 26 December 2009–24 January 2010. (Rick Robinson; Jeffrey Davis (p), m.ob.; 829-02-2009; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V24:43 and NAB V64:254.

White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) (10+)

An old report from 2004 of a bird at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 30 April 2004. (Ben Coulter (p); 838a-01-2004; Class I-P). 6/1.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) (20+)

One was present and well photographed near Saegertown, Crawford, 17 November–8 December 2010. (Clair Landis; Scott Kinzey (p), Geoff Malosh (p), m.ob.; 780-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:40 and NAB V65:75. This was the second consecutive late fall/early winter record of this species in *Crawford*.

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

One adult male visiting feeders in Barto and Gilbertsville, *Montgomery* 31 December 2010–15 March 2011. (Karah Davis; Mary Ache; Howard Eskin (p), Tom Johnson (p), Holly Merker (p), m.obs; 874a-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in NAB V65:380. This bird was originally photographed in the Davis's yard and the photos were passed along to PORC member Cameron Rutt for identification. The bird remained in this yard for a few weeks then disappeared only to be found a few miles away on the Ache property where it remained (Rutt 2011). This was a first record for *Montgomery*. Photo published PB V25(1) inside back cover.

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.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

One described in flight at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Berks* 8 May 2010. Class IV-A; 171-01-2010. 1/6. Though probably correct, the written reports lacked sufficient detail for acceptance.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*)
One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 15 December 1974. Class IV-A; 520-01-1974. 5/2. This report was circulated for a third time upon request of one of the observers. The report was once again not accepted as no new documentation or information was submitted for review.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*)

Two at Imperial, *Allegheny* 31 March 2009. Class IV-B; 693-01-2009; 0/7. This is a species which should be on Pennsylvania's radar; however its status in the northeast is only accidental. The written documentation was incomplete especially for a record of such significance, and several similar species were not eliminated.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

One at the Trexler Nature Preserve, *Lehigh* 27 June 2010. Class IV-B; 862-01-2010. 0/7. The written report was incomplete and may actually refer to Common Grackle or American Crow.

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

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

One photographed in Pineville, *Bucks* 24 January 2009. Class IV-A; 115-01-2009. 4/3, 0/7. There was no question as to the identification, but the documentation did not include any information regarding behavior, presence or absence of leg bands or whether the bird was by itself or associating with other geese. These are all criteria PORC uses to assess Barnacle Goose reports.

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

Updates to the Annotated List of Birds of the Imperial Grasslands, Allegheny County

Mike Fialkovich

This is an update to the article published in *Pennsylvania Birds* Vol. 19, No. 1, "The Imperial Grasslands, Site Overview and Summary of Bird Records". In that article, all species recorded at the grasslands were summarized through December 2004. Since that time, fourteen species were added to the list, increasing the total to 244.

A number of changes have occurred at the grasslands in recent years. The site has been subjected to development including completion of a highway (under construction when the original article was published), which was followed by a small industrial park. In 2010-2011 the area around the pond at Bald Knob was cleared and the road was paved and moved closer to the pond. Sites for future corporate office and light industrial parks are in the beginning stages. Plans published in local newspapers appear to retain the main pond at Bald Knob, but it will be surrounded by buildings rather than grassland.

A new and surprisingly natural looking pond is near the entrance to a small industrial park and this pond has so far hosted two Ross's geese and a Red Phalarope.

A nearby area of extensive shrub habitat was recently mined and reclamation appeared complete in early 2012. A new pond was constructed with a sloping shoreline that shorebirds may not find appealing, however it may attract waterfowl. The area has been planted with grasses which should provide additional habitat for open country species.

Annotated Species List Additions: January 2005 – February 2012

Ross's Goose. Rare migrant, one record. Two were resting on a new pond at the entrance of a small office park at the intersection of Imperial-Burgettstown Road and Solar Drive 2/28-3/1/2011. Photo published in *Pennsylvania Birds* Vol. 25, No. 2.

Common Merganser. One record of a bird at the Bald Knob Pond 2/28/2011.

Peregrine Falcon. Rare migrant. One 8/22/2005 was noted as a dark race.

Two were found 9/5/2005 with one continuing to 9/12/2005. One 12/27/2008.

Common Moorhen. Rare migrant; two records. A bird at the main pond on Bald Knob 4/17-5/10/2005; one at a beaver pond on Potato Garden Run Road 5/12/2007.

Sandhill Crane. Rare migrant. One 4/6/2006 that apparently arrived during stormy weather. It remained at dawn 4/7/2006, but was not relocated later in the day when the weather cleared. Two in flight 6/2/2008 by a Breeding Bird Survey point counter along Burgettstown Road.

Willet. Rare migrant, one record. A single bird 7/23-27/2009 at the main pond at Bald Knob. Photo published in *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 23, No. 3. This provided the fourth Allegheny County record, the only one spanning more than a day, and the only record of a Willet away from the three rivers.

Whimbrel. Rare migrant; two records. A bird was at the Bald Knob Pond sometime during the last two weeks of May 1997, exact date unknown. One on the barren construction grounds near Bald Knob Pond 5/27/2011. The bird apparently arrived during a thunderstorm and remained until sunset when it began to become restless and vocal. At sunset it took off calling and continued migrating. Many photos taken; one published in *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 25, No. 2.

Red Phalarope. Rare migrant. One 10/31/1993, one 9/4-8/2005; photo published in *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 19, No. 4, and one 2/24-25/2012.

Iceland Gull. One record. A first winter bird was present at the Imperial Landfill 2/12/2007. It was probably commuting from the rivers in Pittsburgh to feed during the winter of 2007 when several settled on the rivers in Pittsburgh for a few weeks.

Glaucous Gull. One record. A first winter bird was present at the Imperial Landfill 2/12/2007 and was likely a commuter like the Iceland Gull above.

Bay-breasted Warbler. Migrant. One 9/4/2006, four 5/12/2007, and one 5/10/2008. This species is probably more common at the site than records indicate.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. One record. A bird was flushed from the grasses around the smaller pond on Bald Knob (now Westport) Road 9/27/2005 and relocated 9/28. First Allegheny County record.

White-winged Crossbill. Rare winter visitor that appeared during the 2008-2009 invasion. A flock of 17 were in the larch plantation 12/27/2008, providing the first record for the site. Up to 75 were tallied 1/5-12/2009. There was a lack of reports until 2/8/2009 when 30 birds were seen and up to 10 were found 2/21/2009.

Common Redpoll. Rare winter visitor. A flock of 27 were feeding in the larches 3/23/2008 providing the first record for the site. A flock of up to 8 were present in January 2009, which increased to 40 birds during February 2009, all at the larch plantation.

Acknowledgements

Many observers continually submit reports from the site which keeps this list active and up to date. These reports are also important as development continues to impact birdlife. Observers who contributed to the updates above in various ways include: Cory DeStein, Geoff Malosh, Wes Fritz, Dave Wilton, Ross Gallardy, Becky Smith, Mark Vass, Jim Valimont, Mike Fialkovich, Shannon Thompson, Chuck Tague, Joan Tague, Gigi Gerben, Dan Yagusic, Bill Judd, Vicky Judd, Kathy Saunders, Ben Coulter, and Shirly Mutz.

805 Beulah Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
mpfial@verizon.net

The 2012 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania

Greg Grove

The 12th Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) was conducted from 14 January through 20 February 2012 with routes run, for the first time, in all 67 of Pennsylvania's counties. WRS is a roadside survey with simple but specific guidelines. All raptors and vultures are recorded and data are also collected on sex/age/color form. Cumulative results from 2001-2007 were summarized previously (Grove 2010a, Grove and Bolgiano 2012).

Effort and Weather.

Two hundred routes were run, comprising 753 hours and 11,754 miles, the highest level of effort ever. Observers in *Lancaster* and *Centre* led the way, each logging 30 hours (Table 2). A state map showing details of most routes is on the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology website (PSO website).

Following three years with true winter weather, the winter of 2011-12 was benign. There was little snow, even in the northwest. At State College, January and February temperatures averaged 4°F above normal.

2012 Results

Record high counts were set for six raptors and both vultures. These high counts were primarily the result of the increased hours of observation, because most hourly detection rates were not unusually high. Of course, the mild weather may also have contributed. Results for individual counties are shown in the Appendix.

Red-tailed Hawk. The count of 3245 Red-tails was the highest ever (Table 1) but the hourly rate of 4.3 was similar to recent years, indicating that nothing unusual was happening within the winter population (Fig 1). Some observers reported many paired-up Red-tails, presumably local breeders wintering on their territory. Of 2453 Red-tails aged, 257 (10%) were immature, within the annual range of 9-16% observed since 2001.

As usual, Red-tails were found throughout the state with highest densities in the south, especially in the Susquehanna River valley (Fig 2). *Lancaster* led with a count of 247, almost twice that of runners-up *Perry* and *Northumberland* (Table 2). Among

counties with at least 10 hours of coverage, *Juniata* led with 11 per hour and *Adams*, *Chester*, *Lancaster*, *Northumberland*, and *Snyder* all averaged over seven Red-tails per hour.

American Kestrel. The total of 682 American Kestrels easily surpassed the previous high of 511 in 2007, primarily because of the high level of coverage, with, perhaps, some influence from the mild weather. The hourly rate of 0.91 was similar to recent years and represents a recovery from the low rate in 2011 (Fig 1). Of 568 Kestrels sexed, 370 (65%) were males, consistent with previous years (range: 59-66%).

As usual, most Kestrels were in the counties of the central and lower Susquehanna and Juniata River (Fig 2). The total of 57 in *Huntingdon* was the largest one-county count ever. *Cumberland* and *Northumberland* were next with 41 and 34 respectively (Table 2). In counties with at least eight hours of effort, *Huntingdon*, *Juniata*, *Schuylkill*, and *Union* averaged at least two Kestrels per hour

In the 6 southeastern counties (*Bucks*, *Chester*, *Delaware*, *Lehigh*, *Montgomery*, and *Northampton*) the combined Kestrel count increased from 12 last year to 19 this year (Table 3), but that increase is fully explained by more coverage, especially in *Montgomery*. The hourly rate (0.22) remained low, although higher than last year's record low. Fourteen of the 19 were tallied in *Montgomery* and *Northampton*, with those counties accounting for over half the 88 hours of observation. In 10 hours in *Bucks*, none were found.

Rough-legged Hawk. After a big year with 195 in 2011, Rough-legged Hawks fell back to just below average in 2012 with a total of 79. The statewide rate of 0.10 per hour was less than one-third the 2011 rate of 0.34 per hour (Fig 1). The number of Rough-legs on Pennsylvania CBCs was also very low for the 2011-12 count period (Bolgiano 2012). Of the 79 Rough-legs recorded, 56 (71%) were light morph (2001-11 range = 60-78%).

Despite the relatively small number of Rough-legs, the usual pattern of distribution was evident; most were found in northern tier counties and in the central

Susquehanna Valley (Fig 2). *Centre* led the way with 17 Rough-legs (21% of the state total), most of which came from just one route, in the traditional Rough-leg hot spot of Penns Valley in eastern *Centre*. *Crawford* reported seven and *Northumberland* had six (Table 2).

For the period 2001-2011, the annual WRS Rough-leg hourly rates have been shown to correlate well with spring counts in the corresponding years at the Derby Hill spring watch on the south shore of Lake Ontario in New York (Grove and Bolgiano 2012). This seems reasonable given the location of Derby Hill directly north of central Pennsylvania. Presumably, many Pennsylvania Rough-legs pass the watch at Derby Hill, skirting the eastern end of the lake on their trip north. With the 2012 Derby Hill count still ongoing as this report was written, the Rough-leg count has been low through what is normally the peak passage time there (Hawkcount website), in accordance with the low WRS count in 2012.

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

Species	2012	High Count
Bald Eagle	190	190 (2012)
Northern Harrier	101	133 (2008)
Sh.-shinned Hawk	41	55 (2009)
Cooper's Hawk	115	115 (2012)
N. Goshawk	0	5 (2004)
Red-sh. Hawk	67	67 (2012)
Red-tailed Hawk	3245	3245 (2012)
Rough-leg. Hawk	79	341 (2004)
Golden Eagle	3	4 (2009)
American Kestrel	682	682 (2012)
Merlin	9	9 (2012)
Peregrine Falcon	6	11 (2011)
Black Vulture	994	994 (2012)
Turkey Vulture	2804	2804 (2012)
Northern Shrike	10	10 (2012)
Hours	753	753 (2012)
Miles	11754	11754 (2012)

Northern Harriers. During the past three years, Northern Harrier numbers have dropped sharply from the record high year of 2008. This may reflect the relatively harsh weather of those three winters. This year the downward trend was stopped and perhaps slightly reversed. The total of 101 harriers was the fourth highest ever, although the hourly rate of 0.13 was no better than the long-term average (Fig 1).

Harriers were most numerous in the counties of the Susquehanna valley

Table 2. Top three counties by effort and selected species.

Rank	1	2	3
Hours	Lancaster (30)	Centre (30)	Berks (28)
Bald Eagle	Lancaster (54)	Chester (12)	Pike (11)
N. Harrier	Northumberland (26)	Lycoming (12)	Cumberland (6)
Cooper's Hawk	Lancaster (10)	Northampton (8)	Montgomery (6)
Red-sh. Hawk	Huntingdon (10)	Adams (6)	Fulton/Lawrence (5)
Red-tailed Hawk	Lancaster (247)	Perry (143)	Northumberland (130)
Rough-ig. Hawk	Centre (17)	Crawford (7)	Northumberland (6)
Am. Kestrel	Huntingdon (57)	Cumberland (41)	Northumberland (34)
Turkey Vulture	Lancaster (609)	Chester (306)	Cumberland (216)
Black Vulture	Lancaster (349)	Chester (137)	Bedford (78)

(Fig 2). In agreement with previous analysis (Wilson et al. 2010), the CREP fields of *Northumberland*, where 26 were tallied, were especially productive (D Hoffman, pers. comm.). Adjacent *Lycoming* ranked second with 12 (Table 2).

Vultures. Both vulture species reached record high numbers this year: 2804 Turkey Vultures and 994 Black Vultures (Table 2). While largely attributable to increased coverage, the hourly rate for each was second highest ever (Fig 1) suggesting that more than usual stayed north because of the mild winter. The combined Turkey Vulture count from all CBCs also was a new high (Bolgiano 2012).

There were also hints of an expanded winter range during this mild season (Fig 2). Turkey Vultures were reported from 31 counties, passing the previous high of 28 counties in 2009. They were reported in several counties where not routinely found on WRS routes: *Washington, Westmoreland, Fayette, Somerset, Bedford, Cambria, Clarion, and Lycoming*. Black Vultures were reported in 21 counties matching the previous high in 2010. Most notable was the flock of 78 on one route in *Bedford*.

Other raptors. Increased coverage contributed to record high counts of four other raptors, including Cooper's Hawk and Merlin (Table 1).

Most notable were the 190 Bald Eagles, more than double the previous record (Table 1). This increase resulted from more than just increased coverage. Presumably the mild weather played a role, as did, of course, their continued increase in population. *Lancaster* led the count with 54, followed distantly by *Chester* with 12 and *Pike* with 11 (Table 2).

Red-shouldered Hawks also easily passed their previous high with 67 recorded this year. *Huntingdon* counters found 10, the highest one-

county WRS count ever; nine of those were on the Stone Valley route in the northeast, an area with a healthy year-round population. At least 9 of the 67 (13%) were immature birds.

The ten Northern Shrikes was also a record count (Table 1). Two each were found in *Schuylkill* and *Wayne*, with singles in *Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Crawford, McKean, and Warren* – all northern or north-central counties with the exception of *Schuylkill*. Finally, a *Cumberland* Snowy Owl was tallied but alas, the *Cumberland* Prairie Falcon was a no-show on WRS day this year.

Table 3. American Kestrel counts and hourly rates in southeastern Pennsylvania (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton).

Year	Hrs.	Kestrels	Kestrels/hr.
2001	23	28	1.24
2002	23	30	1.33
2003	44	35	0.80
2004	49	11	0.23
2005	45	18	0.40
2006	63	18	0.29
2007	63	18	0.29
2008	77	22	0.29
2009	74	25	0.34
2010	63	16	0.25
2011	64	12	0.19
2012	88	19	0.22

Acknowledgements

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

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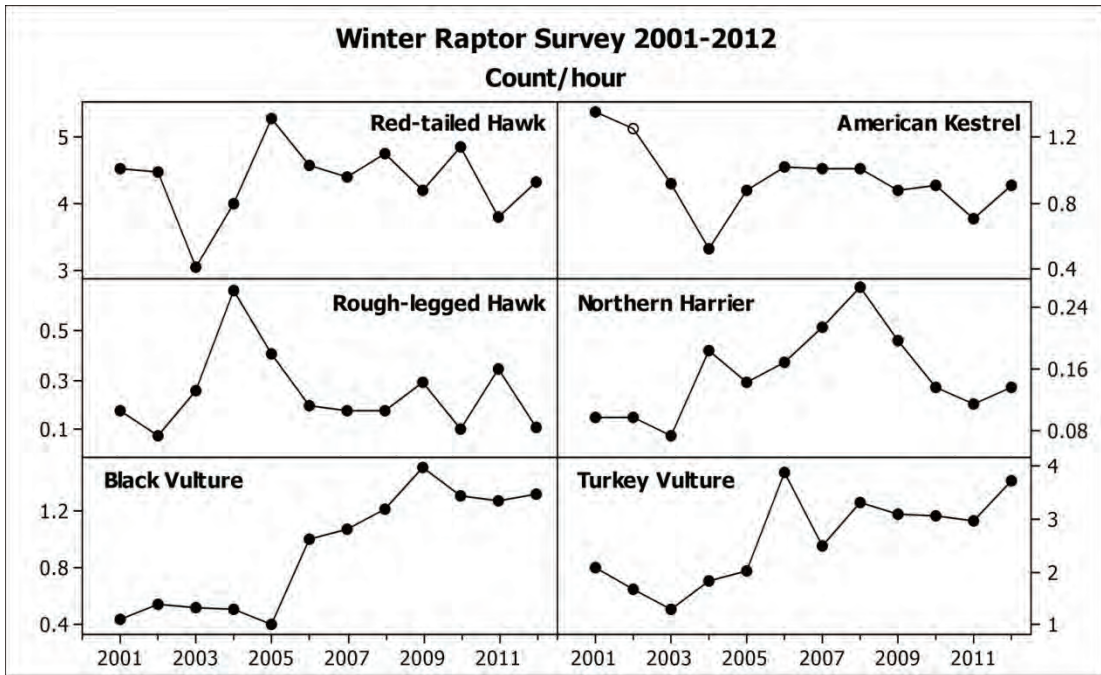


Figure 1. Pennsylvania WRS trends, 2001 – 2012. Results are expressed in birds/hour.

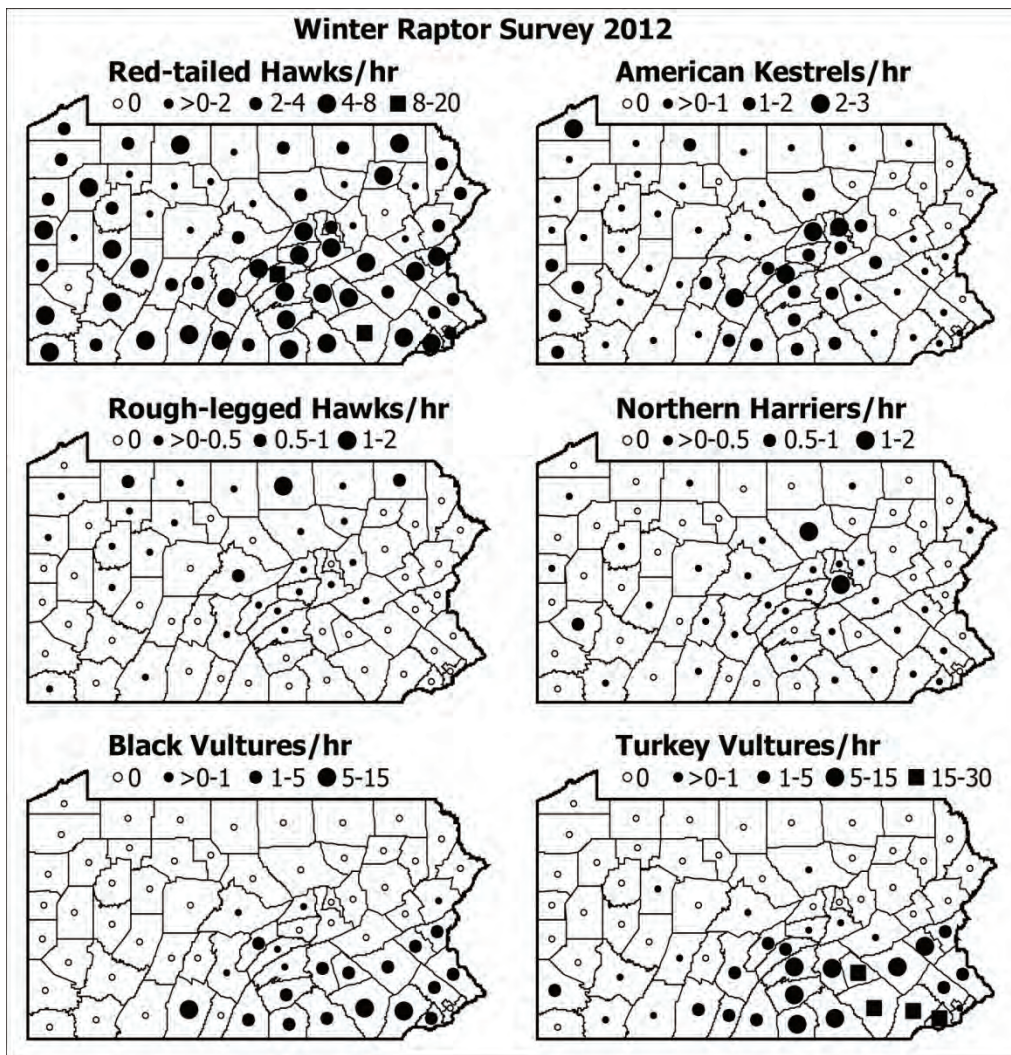


Figure 2. Pennsylvania 2012 WRS results. Data from all routes in a given county were combined and calculated as birds/hour.

Appendix: 2012 Winter Raptor Survey Results

County	Hours	Miles	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TV	BV
Adams	12	206	4	-	-	-	-	6	87	-	-	21	-	-	160	27
Allegheny	1.75	54	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Armstrong	10.5	163	1	-	-	3	-	-	58	1	-	8	-	-	-	-
Beaver	1.5	23	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
Bedford	11	260	2	3	-	4	-	1	51	-	-	9	-	-	18	78
Berks	28	431	5	1	3	3	-	1	111	-	-	26	-	-	193	65
Blair	5.75	114	1	1	-	-	-	-	16	-	1	6	-	-	-	-
Bradford	4	70	-	1	-	-	-	-	13	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
Bucks	10	112	3	-	-	-	-	2	38	-	-	-	1	-	34	11
Butler	6.25	153	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Cambria	5	93	-	-	-	1	-	-	17	-	-	4	-	-	1	-
Cameron	2	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carbon	8.75	151	1	-	-	1	-	1	17	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Centre	30	378	1	3	3	3	-	3	118	17	1	23	-	-	6	3
Chester	11.25	263	12	1	1	5	-	3	83	-	-	2	-	-	306	137
Clarion	19.75	307	1	3	1	1	-	-	44	4	-	13	-	-	-	-
Clearfield	8.75	198	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Clinton	10.5	203	-	2	-	1	-	-	19	-	-	6	-	1	-	-
Columbia	9.25	108	1	3	2	4	-	-	16	2	-	11	-	-	-	-
Crawford	18.75	277	10	1	2	1	-	4	56	8	-	12	-	-	-	-
Cumberland	23.75	332	2	6	1	4	-	3	113	-	-	41	-	-	216	45
Dauphin	10.5	180	2	1	2	2	-	2	66	-	-	14	-	-	153	16
Delaware	9	157	10	1	2	1	-	-	46	-	-	1	1	-	165	35
Elk	4.25	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erie	1.5	55	2	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Fayette	15.75	287	1	3	-	-	-	1	32	-	-	3	-	-	2	-
Forest	4.5	69	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Franklin	17.75	259	3	-	-	5	-	-	49	-	-	19	1	-	42	31
Fulton	5.75	66	-	-	-	2	-	5	34	-	-	7	-	-	8	-
Greene	15.75	251	-	-	-	1	-	1	93	1	-	23	-	-	-	-
Huntingdon	26	418	2	5	-	3	-	10	114	4	-	57	-	-	45	11
Indiana	21	295	-	2	-	2	-	1	98	-	-	17	-	-	-	-
Jefferson	16	237	-	-	-	-	-	1	28	1	-	5	-	-	1	-
Juniata	9.75	147	6	1	4	4	-	-	109	3	-	23	-	-	15	8
Lackawana	5.5	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Lancaster	30.25	423	54	2	4	12	-	2	247	-	-	23	2	2	609	349
Lawrence	15.5	182	2	4	-	1	-	5	85	-	-	10	2	-	-	-
Lebanon	8.5	139	-	-	-	1	-	-	40	-	-	8	1	-	176	11
Lehigh	10.75	154	2	1	1	3	-	-	66	-	-	2	1	1	108	19
Luzerne	1.5	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lycoming	9.75	139	1	12	-	1	-	1	26	2	-	12	-	-	1	-
McKean	5	90	-	1	-	-	-	1	23	1	-	9	-	-	-	-
Mercer	7.5	109	4	-	-	1	-	2	18	3	-	7	-	-	-	-
Mifflin	15	160	5	1	1	1	-	-	72	2	-	27	-	-	20	20
Monroe	6.75	121	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Montgomery	26.5	306	6	2	1	6	-	2	76	-	-	8	-	-	108	33
Montour	6.25	126	-	1	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	16	-	-	-	-
Northampton	19.75	284	7	-	2	8	-	-	93	-	-	6	-	-	93	49
Northumberland	17.75	227	5	26	1	4	-	-	130	6	-	34	-	-	2	-
Perry	21.5	291	6	-	1	3	-	1	143	1	-	32	-	-	204	20
Philadelphia	5.75	65	-	-	-	2	-	-	14	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Pike	6.25	26	11	2	3	2	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Potter	15.5	242	2	-	1	-	-	-	23	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
Schuylkill	14.25	236	9	5	2	3	-	-	66	2	-	28	-	-	14	-
Snyder	13	189	3	1	-	4	-	-	91	2	-	23	-	-	3	-
Somerset	19	303	-	-	-	3	-	1	92	1	-	9	-	-	1	-
Sullivan	3.25	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Susquehanna	6.75	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
Tioga	3	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	4	-	2	-	-	-	-
Union	8.75	143	-	2	-	2	-	-	45	1	-	20	-	-	-	5
Venango	8	158	-	-	-	1	-	3	45	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
Warren	7	123	2	-	1	2	-	1	25	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
Washington	4	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	4	-	-	11	-
Wayne	4.25	73	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westmoreland	15.5	237	-	-	-	1	-	1	77	-	-	3	-	-	10	-
Wyoming	4	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
York	11	254	-	1	2	-	-	1	49	-	-	17	-	-	78	19
TOTAL	753	11754	190	101	41	115	0	67	3245	79	3	682	9	6	2804	994

Summary of the Season – Winter 2011-2012

Greg Grove

After three years of real winters, the winter of 2011-12 was remarkably mild, seemingly (if not quite) snow-free. The oddness of the season was exemplified by the fact that two of the biggest snow events occurred in October and April, each over a month outside of our “winter” reporting period. Even the northwestern counties had little in the way of the usual lake-effect snow. At State College, the temperatures for all three months averaged 4-5°F above normal. One snowstorm around 1/20 produced accumulations measured in inches, not feet, and had very little effect on birds.

Reports were received from 53 counties, matching the number of the previous year. These county summaries are produced by a very dedicated group of compliers who deserve the thanks of the Pennsylvania birding community; their reports provide the great majority of the information included in this summary. Some additional information comes from the PABIRDS email list, eBird, and CBC results, the latter summarized elsewhere in this issue. I encourage readers to delve into the county reports; what follows below is only the tip of the iceberg.

As always, there were several outstanding rarities in the state; to mention just a few: **Pink-footed Goose**, two **Harlequin Ducks**, a **White Ibis** that stayed the entire season, **Say’s Phoebe**, **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, **Townsend’s Warbler**, **Green-tailed Towhee**, and two **Bullock’s Orioles**. It was an above-average year for **Snowy Owls**, **Rufous Hummingbirds**, **Northern Shrikes**, and **Common Redpolls**. The warm conditions appeared to have some effect on numbers of several species, including waterfowl, **Great Egret**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, gulls (13 species), **American Woodcock** (returning early), various warblers (14 species), and **Eastern Towhee**, to mention just some of the more obvious.

As might be expected in such a warm winter, waterfowl were numerous and widespread. Large numbers of geese were reported on CBCs, topped by 30,600 **Canada Geese** on the Dallas CBC in *Luzerne*. Many **Snow Geese** did not go south of the state, at least not for long. On 1/18, some 90,000 were counted passing over Green Pond in *Northampton*. A **Pink-**

footed Goose from the fall stayed one day into December in *Bucks*. **Greater White-fronted Geese** were in nine counties, mostly in the southeast (as usual) but reports also came from *Bedford*, *Somerset*, and *Washington* in the southwest. Most reports were from December, but there were a few each in January and February. A few **Ross’s Geese** were mixed in with the **Snow Geese** in the southeast. Reports of **Cackling Geese** continue to increase each year. This year, they were found in at least 15 counties, mostly in the southeast, but some in the northwest as well. *Lancaster* had most of the **Brant**, with 75 tallied on the Southern Lancaster CBC 12/18. In *Bucks*, Peace Valley was the place to find unusual geese with a Greater White-fronted x Canada hybrid found in January and a Snow X Canada in February.

The high count of **Tundra Swans** was 1300, in *Venango* 2/29. The only **Trumpeter Swan** was in *Butler* 12/8. The count of 15 **Mute Swans** on the Gettysburg CBC was considered a dubious highlight.

Winter summaries usually include lots of ducks from counties where the water does not mostly freeze over. This year, that applied to the entire state for most of the season. Even when a freeze-up occurred in colder areas, it wasn’t long before a thaw. Thus, there were lots of ducks even in January, but with all the open water, they were not highly concentrated. Several **Wood Ducks** lingered into CBC season; others began returning to the southeast by late February; most unusual was the single mid-winter male in *Clarion* 1/16. Triple digit **Gadwall** counts came from *Berks*, *Bucks*, and *Butler*. In *Lebanon*, 220 **American Wigeons** were found 2/23. The only **Eurasian Wigeon** was on the Susquehanna in *Lancaster* 1/31. Emblematic of the warm season were **Blue-winged Teal** apparently returning in February, unusually early for this normally late migrant. They were found in *Cumberland*, *Chester*, *Lebanon*, and *Philadelphia* in the southeast as well as *Beaver*. At the other end of the season, one Blue-wing lingered in *Bucks* until at least 1/17. A good **Northern Pintail** count of 280 was recorded in *Delaware* 12/17. More unusual were the 250 pintails in *Snyder* 2/17. The high count for **Green-**

winged Teal was 250 at Tinicum 12/1. One of the Eurasian form was there for a week beginning 12/3.

Early returning flocks on 2/26 at Conneaut Lake in *Crawford* included 222 **Redheads** and 250 **Canvasbacks**, and 338 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at Yellow Creek SP in *Indiana* 2/28. Single **Harlequin Ducks** were found in *Erie* 1/8 and *Lycoming* 12/20. Scoter reports were average. As usual, **White-winged Scoters** were reported more often, in five counties; the scarcer **Surf** and **Black Scoters** in two and three, respectively. *Erie* was the only county to host all three. In *Bucks*, 130 **Ruddy Ducks** provided the peak count 2/13. A high count of 100 on the Delaware R. in *Philadelphia* was considered poor in comparison to historical numbers; the *Delaware* compiler also noted the decline in Ruddy Duck numbers.

Merganser numbers were high. The most spectacular assemblage of ducks during the report period was the estimated 50,000-70,000 mergansers on open Presque Isle Bay in *Erie* in late January, a number described as “unprecedented” for mid-winter by compiler Jerry McWilliams. Most were **Common Mergansers**, but **Red-breasted Mergansers** were there as well. Winter reports of the latter are usually limited, but this season, presumably related to the weather, they were reported from 14 counties. From Bald Eagle S.P. in *Centre*, 12 were reported 2/4, notable as a mid-winter report from the center of the state rather than the southeast or northwest. Most other reports were from December with a just a few late February reports of returning birds. Back to Common Mergansers, over 1000 were at Peace Valley Park in *Bucks* 1/14-2/28, with peak counts exceeding 2000. **Hooded Mergansers** were reported from many counties as has been increasingly the case in recent years and there was an apparent Hooded Merganser x Common Goldeneye in *Erie*.

Fifteen **Red-throated Loons** were scattered in eight counties across the state, an above-average number for the winter season. All reports were in December except for two birds in *Crawford* 2/13. **Red-necked Grebes** were average for a non-invasion year. **Great Cormorants** were present as usual on the lower Delaware R.; a total

of 62 were at two *Bucks* locations 1/27.

The warm weather apparently influenced a few waders to stay north. Most remarkable of all was the juvenile **White Ibis** at Hamburg, *Berks* was originally found 11/10 which stayed through February. An **American Bittern** stayed in *Cumberland* until 12/5 and one hung on at Tincum in *Philadelphia* until at least New Year's Day. At least nine **Great Egrets** were reported—five in *Bucks* and one each in *Crawford*, *Cumberland*, *Erie*, and *Lebanon*. Most were found in December, but singles in *Erie* and *Bucks* stayed until at least 1/19 and 1/26, respectively. A **Cattle Egret** in *Lebanon* 12/25-26 was probably the first ever reported for the winter season. A **Green Heron** was in *Chester* 12/11 and one was at Tincum, *Philadelphia* as late as 1/6. **Black-crowned Night Herons** responded to the warm conditions; at least eight individuals were reported from five counties, mostly in the southeast and in December, but one was in *Beaver* 2/5 through the period, and one was in *Philadelphia* 1/26.

Perhaps another sign of the weather, three **Ospreys** were noted, not many more than the usual one or two found most winters; however, most reports are of December birds that presumably move on as the calendar nears January. This year, the reports were all January or February. One in *Cumberland* on the Newville CBC 1/2 was not out of line with previous winter reports. However, another was seen in the Mifflin area of *Juniata* 1/9 and 1/16 by the same observer. Finally, one was in *Chester* 2/9. This is quite early for a species usually not seen until late March, so it seems just as likely to have been an over-wintering bird.

It is expected that one may see lots of **Bald Eagles** in winter on the lower Susquehanna R. or some sections of the Delaware R. *Butler* Compiler Gene Wilhelm described an unusual congregation at Lake Arthur: "An extraordinary occurrence developed... when 24 **Bald Eagles**, 20 in the air at the same time, apparently were attracted by a massive die off of gizzard shad fish strewn over a broad area of mudflats 2/18." A similar gathering of 37 eagles occurred last winter at Lake Raystown in *Huntingdon*.

Very wayward was the **Swainson's Hawk** seen by several observers 12/31, the last day of the Second Mt. hawk watch in *Lebanon*. This may be the first winter record for

the state. It was a low year for **Rough-legged Hawks**, as evidenced by the WRS results described elsewhere in this issue. **Golden Eagles** away from hawk watches were reported from at least 14 counties.

Cumberland's famous **Prairie Falcon** came back for the sixth year, having convinced most that it is indeed a wild bird. In *Berks*, a possible **Gyr Falcon** was seen and sketched during the Hamburg CBC. **Merlins** and **Peregrine Falcons** continue to have an increasing winter presence in Pennsylvania, mentioned in at least 23 and 19 county reports, respectively. Record high numbers of **American Kestrels** were reported on the WRS, a nice recovery from low counts the previous winter.

Whether it was the mild winter or their increased presence in the east, so many **Sandhill Cranes** were reported that they do not even rate a mention in the Birds of Note. They were found in 11 counties, scattered widely around the state and throughout the report period. Double-digit reports came from several counties where cranes in numbers are not regular: 49 in *Crawford*, 29 in *Venango*, and 16 in *Centre*. A single **Virginia Rail** in December in *Philadelphia* provided the only report of the period.

With the exception of woodcocks (below), there was no obvious increase in wintering shorebirds that might be attributed to the warm conditions, although, as usual, there were a few oddities. **Lesser Yellowlegs** lingered into December, with four in *Lebanon* until 12/19 and one in *Chester* until 12/26. There have been at least six previous winter records, two each from *Delaware*, *Philadelphia*, and *Lancaster*; three of those reports occurred in January or February. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Tincum, *Philadelphia* 1/8; there are at least four previous winter reports, but none in January. A **Baird's Sandpiper** photographed in *Centre* 12/7 was surprising. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** stayed in *Lebanon* until at least 12/6; there is one previous winter record, 12/15/1979 at Tincum. A **Long-billed Dowitcher** first sighted in November remained in *Crawford* until at least 1/1. There is one previous winter record, at Tincum 12/20/1958. Perhaps most unexpected of all was the **Red Phalarope** found during stormy weather in *Allegheny* 2/24. This was presumably not an over-wintering bird, but how it got to western Pennsylvania

in February is a puzzle unlikely to be solved.

American Woodcocks are not common birds of the winter season, but a few stay for the CBC season some years, and when weather permits, a few trickle back to the state by late February. This season they clearly responded to the mild conditions; they were reported in 24 of the 53 county summaries received. There were a few reports of birds in December and on CBCs but most reports were of returning birds, as early as 1/31 in *Schuylkill* and early February in several counties. Some early February reports could have been of over-wintering birds, but there were no sightings explicitly mentioned between 1/7 and 1/31, so it would seem that few actually spent the whole winter in Pennsylvania.

One shorebird (other than **Killdeer** and **Wilson's Snipe**) that does show up winter almost every year, albeit under specialized circumstances, is **Purple Sandpiper**. Six were counted in December during the Sunset Point water bird count at Lake Erie, above the average December count for recent years. Nearly all reports in Pennsylvania come from Presque Isle. Finally, on a negative note, after spending the previous six winters on the Big Spring in *Cumberland*, the annual winter Least Sandpiper was not found this year. Perhaps Pennsylvania was too warm this year for that obviously hardy little guy!

Thirteen species of gulls were reported. Among the less-than-annual were one **Little Gull** in *Erie* 12/17, two **California Gulls** in *Erie* 1/16 and 1/29, single **Black-headed Gulls** in *Butler* 12/9 and *Lancaster* 2/5-15 and a **Franklin's Gull** in *Berks* 12/15-20. Somewhat less rare in winter were 44 **Laughing Gulls** in *Bucks* 12/8. The uncommon but annual gull species were found in above average numbers. About ten **Thayer's Gulls** were found, in *Bucks* (4), *Cumberland* (one), *Erie* (4), and on the Susquehanna between *York* and *Lancaster* (one). **Glaucous** and **Iceland Gulls** were found in eight and 11 counties, respectively. In late January, an estimated 15,000-20,000 **Herring Gulls** and a few hundred **Great Black-backed Gulls** assembled in the open waters of Presque Isle Bay, *Erie*.

Eurasian Collared Doves were reported as usual in *Franklin*; the only other reports were of single birds at separate locations in *Lebanon* 12/10

Table 1. Snowy Owls in Pennsylvania, Dec 2011-Feb 2012

County	Date	Location
Delaware	12/15-17	Eddystone
Philadelphia	12/16-2/1	Northeast Airport
Erie	12/17	Presque Isle S.P.
Erie	12/19	Presque Isle S.P.
Chester	12/19-2/6	Spring City
Cumberland	1/11-2/19	Mud Level Road
Somerset	1/12	Somerset Airport
Jefferson	2/20-24	Emrickville
Armstrong	2/23	Distant
Clearfield	2/24	Dubois

and 2/7.

This was a good year for **Snowy Owls** with ten confirmed (Table 1). Five were first found or reported within the five-day span of 12/15-19 and three others within the five-day period of 2/20-24. **Barn Owls** were reported from only four counties, a total of about six birds, one of which died in rehab—a bleak season for the species but average for recent years. Once again this year, the Upper Bucks CBC tally of **Eastern Screech Owls** was amazing, totaling 190. **Short-eared** and **Long-eared Owls** were reported in 20 and 11 counties respectively, about average. High counts were eight Short-ears in *Adams* and four Long-ears in *Schuylkill*.

There were no rare hummers this year—just the “usual” **Rufous Hummingbirds**. Following a very active fall, at least ten stayed into the winter season, in six counties (see the sidebar by Arlene Koch), with *Northampton* leading the way with four. Remarkably, at least six remained past New Year’s Day and two all the way through February, a testament to the mild weather but even more so to the dedication of hummingbird hosts to keeping the supply of food going every day through the winter. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen in at least 14 counties, all in the southern half of the state.

Two rare flycatchers made headlines. The first was a **Say’s Phoebe** found at Maple Knoll Farms in *Bucks* 12/13 through the season. There are about a dozen previous records for the state, mostly in the southeast, which span from October to April, with many clustered in the period from mid-December to mid-January. Providing a fifth state record, an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was found in a yard in *Newville, Cumberland* 1/4; it stayed only one more day. Like the Say’s Phoebe, all five records of the Ash-throated are clustered in early winter, spanning from 11/24-1/6. The previous records

were from *Northampton* (1997) and *Lancaster* (2000, 2001, 2006-07). Meanwhile, our own **Eastern Phoebes** were encouraged to try to winter, but only in the southeast, reported there in six counties. In *Berks, Chester, Delaware, and Philadelphia*, phoebes were found beyond CBC

season, with one in *Philadelphia* present from 12/18 until at least 2/18. One 2/20 in *Montgomery* was thought to be an early migrant. An observer in *Delaware* saw 3 phoebes sitting in the same tree as a **Northern Shrike** 1/6.

It was, in fact, a good winter for **Northern Shrikes**. A strong movement into the state had already been noted in the fall season report. For the official three-month winter season beginning 12/1, I counted a minimum of 44 shrikes in 27 counties, culled from county reports, PABIRDS list, and eBird. Nearly half of these were in the northwest, led by *Clarion* (7) and *Crawford* (4). Most of the rest were well east and south, with only one in the southwest. The count of 44 was about double that of each of the two previous winters, but well less than the 80 tabulated in 2007-08.

Common Ravens are increasingly living up to their name. Reported this year from all corners of the state, they were mentioned in 23 reports but are so routine as to not merit mention in some reports from the long-established core of their range.

As is now expected, **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** wintered at the Northeast Wastewater Treatment Plant in *Philadelphia*, with a peak count of 150. They were joined for a while by one **Barn Swallow**, which was seen as late as 12/17, providing a rare winter record. December Rough-wings were also reported in *Cumberland* (2) and *Lancaster* (one). A few **Tree Swallows** lingered in *Bucks* until 12/17 and, given the mild winter, it was not surprising that three arrived back in the state by 2/28 in *Crawford*.

This was not an invasion year for **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. Six **House Wrens** were reported, in contrast to the usual one or two. All were in the southeast, with three seen into February. The warm weather encouraged **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** to stay north. They are regular, if

S.A.

The winter season of 2011-2012 was a banner year for vagrant hummingbirds in Pennsylvania, all of which (at least all that were diagnostically examined) were Rufous Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*). It’s impossible to say exactly how many took up temporary residence or passed through the state, because undoubtedly, many went undetected. However, an unofficial count based on host and banding reports from the fall, many of which spilled over into the winter, results in at least 26 different counties from all parts of the state. In *Northampton* alone there were seven Rufous Hummingbirds along with reports or confirmations of several others in the contiguous counties of *Bucks* and *Lehigh*. Several of these birds stayed through the winter and a few remained through March and into early April, overlapping the normal time when Rufous Hummingbirds would be starting to nest on their breeding grounds.

A season as exceptional for vagrant western hummingbirds in Pennsylvania as this one may not occur again for a long time. Its cause can only be speculated, although weather, wind patterns, and population numbers certainly play into the equation. But two other major factors also now contribute heavily to the number of vagrant hummingbirds observed in the state. First, there is an ever-increasing number of people who maintain backyard hummingbird feeders far beyond the first of October, the time when in years past most people took their feeders down because almost all of the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were gone. Secondly, it is becoming accepted knowledge that vagrant western hummingbirds can and do show up after the Rubythroats are gone, a fact supported by the confirmation in recent years of a Calliope, two Allen’s, and an Anna’s Hummingbird in the state. So while the number of vagrant hummers in the state will fluctuate up and down from year to year, no doubt in the future other western species will be found. We’re long overdue for a black-chinned.

—Arlene Koch

uncommon, winter residents in the southeast, but reports this year came from at least seven counties elsewhere, three of which were post-CBC. One was in a *Huntingdon* yard 1/24-30 and singles were reported in *Centre* and *Crawford* 2/29 and 2/28, respectively. Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were in *Cumberland* 1/2.

A near-annual winter visitor, the only **Varied Thrush** this year was recorded in the *Mercer* section of the Butler CBC circle 12/17. Much rarer than Varied Thrush during mid-winter in Pennsylvania is **Wood Thrush**, one of which was seen and photographed 2/4-5 in *Lebanon*, unprecedented conclusive evidence of this species occurring so deep into the winter. Wood Thrushes occasionally linger into December but I found mention of only one possible accepted previous mid-winter report, a bird at Powdermill, *Westmoreland* on 1/14/1985. **Brown Thrashers** were in six reports, including birds in *Allegheny* and *Centre*; the *Centre* bird was a true mid-winter report 1/15. *Bucks* had four thrashers. Post-CBC **Gray Catbirds** were reported in at least six counties, but surprisingly mostly not in the southeast. There were January reports from *Allegheny*, *Montgomery*, *Washington*, and *Westmoreland*. One catbird survived until at least 2/1 in *Luzerne* and one was present all season in *Dauphin*.

With the lack of snow cover, it was not a good winter for finding field birds. **Horned Larks** generally were not concentrated in flocks as they are during deep snow. One exception was the flock of 1000 in *Berks* 1/22 following a moderate snowfall. The story was similar with **Snow Buntings** and **Lapland Longspurs**. Both were widely reported but in tiny numbers. Longspurs were reported from 13 counties with many reports clustered around the third week of January, coincident with one of the few snowstorms of the season.

Warblers responded to the warm temperatures. Fourteen species were recorded, compared to an average of about eight in recent years. The regular winter warblers were found in higher numbers than usual. The star of the season was the very cooperative **Townsend's Warbler** in *Cumberland*, found at the Green residence in early January through February. Dozens of birders saw it, usually also with a **Pine Warbler** and occasionally even a **Yellow-breasted Chat**!

Among other warblers this year, a **Blackpoll Warbler** in *Philadelphia* 12/17 provided the second winter record for the state. Also rare in winter, a **Northern Parula** in *Delaware* 2/9 was apparently successfully dealing with winter. There are only a few previous winter records, one in *Centre* in December 1978 and one in *Lancaster* in January 2002. Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found, in *Bucks* and *Cumberland*. The *Cumberland* bird was at West Fairview 2/18; last year, a Yellow-throated Warbler was reported at that same location 2/20. There are about a half dozen previous winter records of Yellow-throated Warblers.

One each of **Ovenbird**, **Cape May Warbler**, and **Yellow Warbler** were found. Each has a history of occasional winter records. Single **Nashville Warblers** were in four counties, nearly doubling the number of winter records for the state. A total of at least ten **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported in four southeastern counties, in comparison with an average of about two or three in recent years. The numbers of **Common Yellowthroats**, **Palm Warblers**, and **Pine Warblers** were at least average or above. Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found, not an unusual number for a species that has been reported over 30 times on Pennsylvania CBCs.

Two rare *Berks* sparrows from the fall season, the **Green-tailed Towhee** and the **Harris's Sparrow**, continued right on through the winter season, the former representing only the fourth for the state. In *Delaware*, **Eastern Towhees** were described as being "everywhere all winter". On the Glenolden CBC, 136 were tallied, topping the previous record of 84. Towhees were also above average in *Bucks*, *Chester*, and *Montgomery*. **Fox Sparrows** were found in 14 counties mostly in the southeast, but also in *Monroe*, *Wayne*, and *Crawford*. Five **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found in southeastern counties, a total similar to recent years. A **Painted Bunting** on the Lancaster CBC 12/31 stayed until at least 1/16, the first winter record in five years. There are over 20 Pennsylvania records, some of which may have been escaped birds. Unlike most previous Painted Buntings, this year's bird was not found at a feeder.

Eastern Meadowlarks were reported from 16 counties, with reports scattered throughout the season. In some cases, first reports were from

mid- or late February, presumably returning birds. But January birds in *Adams*, *Centre*, *Huntingdon*, *Lawrence*, *Lebanon*, *Washington*, and *York* were probably over-wintering. Few reports came from the mild southeast, though it is unclear whether they are simply routine there, or in fact rarely winter there. *Bucks* compiler August Mirabella specifically mentioned that meadowlarks were not found in that county during this past winter. *Montgomery* had only a single report of one bird. In *Berks*, the only report was of two on 2/29, probably returning birds. Perhaps meadowlarks do not find acceptable winter habitat in the southeast, despite the moderate weather. A **Brewer's Blackbird** was found in *Chester* 2/11. **Yellow-headed Blackbird** reports were typical, with a total of five found in large blackbird flocks in *Chester* and *Lancaster*, all 12/26-1/15. **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported from many locations, nearly all in the southern half of the state. The best number was 76 at Tinicum 1/7. Away from the southeast, numbers tended to be lower, but the many reports were somewhat encouraging for a species considered in serious decline. Most were through early January or after mid-February.

Two **Bullock's Orioles** were found this winter. A female showed up at a feeding station in *Huntingdon* in mid-February and stayed into March. A male in *Montgomery* returned to the same location where one was found last year, presumably the same bird. The count of six **Baltimore Orioles** was about average. Four were found in the southeast, but there were two mid-December birds in *Bedford* and *Bradford*. One in *Lancaster* stayed through the season, one in *Bucks* 2/27 presumably was present all winter.

This was not a big year for winter finches. Most notable was a mild influx of **Common Redpolls**, reported in low numbers in at least 16 counties. **Purple Finches** were reported in only very small numbers. A single **White-winged Crossbill** was seen, and that only because it struck a window in *Northampton*. **Red Crossbills** were also nearly missed, with just one bird in *McKean* and two on the *Centre/Huntingdon* line. Six **Evening Grosbeaks** were in *Schuylkill* 12/12 and one was in *Indiana* 12/29.

4343 McAlevys Fort Road
Petersburg, Pa. 16669
gwug2@psu.edu

Birds of Note – December 2011 through February 2012

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.

Pink-footed Goose* – *Bucks*: one from the fall at Pine Run Dam was last seen 12/1 (m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Greater White-fronted Goose – *Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Northampton, Somerset, Washington*.

Ross's Goose – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 12/10 (Steve Shreiner); *Centre*: one at Colyer L. 12/22 (Joe Verica); *Chester*: one in flight over Doe Run area 2/23 (Kevin Fryberger); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek 1/31 (Justin Bosler, Tom Johnson); *Northampton*: adult at Green Pond 12/29 (Tom Johnson), one at Nazareth Quarry 1/19 (Billy Weber), and a blue morph bird on Seiple's Pond 1/27 (Rick Wiltraut).

Brant – *Berks*: 2 on the Reading CBC 12/18; *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon S.P. 12/10 (Paul Cooper); *Chester*: one at Somerset Lake near Landenberg from 1/15 to the end of the period (Megan Kasprzak, Shannon Modla, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: total of 75 on Southern Lancaster CBC 12/18.

Eurasian Wigeon – *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna R. at the Conejohela Flats 1/31 (Mike Epler).

Blue-winged Teal – *Beaver, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Lebanon, Philadelphia*.

Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal* – *Bucks*: 2 were near LaSalle College, Newtown 1/17-27 (Mark Gallagher, *doc submitted*) and were seen later at Upper Makefield Twp. through the season.

Harlequin Duck* – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 1/8 (Shawn Collins); *Lycoming*: one on Susquehanna R. at Williamsport 12/19-22 (Nate Fronk, Wayne Laubscher).

Surf Scoter – *Butler*: one at South Shore 2/18 (Mark Vass); *Erie*: 3 at Presque Isle S.P. 2/9-23 (Shannon Thompson, Jerry McWilliams).

White-winged Scoter – *Berks*: 3 at Lake Ontelaunee 12/3 (Ken Lebo). *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle S.P. 12/24 (Joe Verica); *Erie*: 10 at Presque Isle S.P. 2/4 through end of period (m.ob.); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek S.P. 12/6 (Margaret Higbee, et al.); *Philadelphia*: one in Delaware R. on CBC 12/17.

Black Scoter – *Berks*: 2 at Blue Marsh L. 12/7-8 (Joan Silagy); *Erie*: rare after Dec, one or 2 were at Presque Isle S.P. 1/17-2/23 (Shannon Thompson, Jerry McWilliams); *Philadelphia*: one in Delaware R. 2/16-17 (Todd Fellenbaum).

Red-throated Loon – *Berks, Bucks, Butler, Centre, Clearfield, Crawford, Montgomery, Wyoming*.

Red-necked Grebe – *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek S.P.

1/16-17 (Amy Davis, Holly Merker, Nick Pulcinella), one at Kurtz's Fish Hatchery 1/24-2/10 (Holly Merker, m.ob.), and one, possibly the same individual, at Struble L. 2/11 (Jeff Wahl); *Erie*: total for the Sunset Point waterbird count was 5 (Jerry McWilliams); *Huntingdon*: one on L. Raystown 1/31 (Greg Grove); *Lancaster*: one on Conowingo Pond 2/29 (Bob Schutsky); *Westmoreland*: one at Beaver Run Res. 1/19-2/4 (Ken Byerly).

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: a combined total of 62 on 1/27, including 42 at Bristol and 20 near Mud Island, is believed to be a high one-day count for *Bucks* (Devich Farbotnik); *Philadelphia*: 6 on mid-winter census 1/7.

American Bittern – *Cumberland*: one at Huntsdale Hidden Pond 12/5 (Paul Banks); *Philadelphia*: one at Tincum from the fall was last noted 1/1 (Doris McGovern).

Great Egret – *Bucks*: 3 on Southern Bucks CBC 12/17 (Bob Mercer), one at Penn-Warner Tract 1/10 (Devich Farbotnik), and reports at Peace Valley Park 1/25 (Roy Frock) and in nearby Doylestown Twp. 1/26 (Don Parlee) may have been of the same bird; *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning 12/1-4 (Mark Vass, Richard Nugent); *Cumberland*: one at Big Spring 12/12-31 (Vern Gauthier); *Erie*: one at Horseshoe Pond 12/24-1/19 (Jimmy Matz, Mike Weible); *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek 11/26-12/6 (Anne Hurst, Randy C. Miller).

Cattle Egret – *Lebanon*: one at Ono 12/25-26 represented a first winter record for Pennsylvania (Tim Becker, Kathy Becker, m.ob.).

Green Heron – *Chester*: one at Longwood Gardens 12/11 (Larry Lewis, et al.); *Philadelphia*: one from the fall at Tincum was last reported 1/6 (Todd Fellenbaum).

Black-crowned Night Heron – *Beaver*: an immature at Brighton Boat Launch 2/5 was the first winter record for the county (Ed Richards); *Bucks*: 2 at Silver Lake Park 12/11, with one remaining 12/17 (Devich Farbotnik), and one at Penn-Warner Tract 12/17 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland/Dauphin*: one on the Susquehanna R. at West Fairview 12/16 (Deuane Hoffman); *Lancaster*: one at Alcoa Marsh 2/16-17 (Justin Bosler, Bruce Carl); *Philadelphia*: one on the Schuylkill R. at the Waterworks 12/5 (Linda Widdup), and a juvenile photographed at Manayunk Canal 1/26 (Ken Januski).

White Ibis* – *Berks*: the juvenile found at Kaercher Creek Park, Hamburg 11/10 stayed throughout the entire winter season, the first winter record for Pennsylvania (m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Osprey – *Chester*: one on the Schuylkill R. near Pottstown 2/9 (Lisa Miller); *Cumberland*: one on the Newville CBC 1/2 (Mary Craig); *Juniata*: one at Clearview Reservoir 1/9 and nearby Zook's Dan 1/16 (Deb Brackbill).

Swainson's Hawk* – *Lebanon*: a dark morph juvenile at Second Mountain Hawkwatch 12/31 (Morris Cox, Dave Schenck, m.ob., *no doc*).

Gyrfalcon* – *Berks*: a bird described and sketched during the Hamburg CBC 12/30 was identified as a probable Gyrfalcon (David Hughes) with additional possible sightings of the bird in flight for several days thereafter.

Prairie Falcon* – *Cumberland*: present from Nov through at least mid-Feb at Mud Level Rd. area for the sixth consecutive winter (m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Virginia Rail – *Philadelphia*: one at TI heard 12/4 (Lynn Roman) and re-found during the Glenolden CBC 12/17 (Doris McGovern, Rob Bierregaard, Denis Brennan).

Sandhill Crane – *Adams, Berks, Centre, Clarion, Crawford, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lebanon, Northampton, Somerset, Venango*.

Spotted Sandpiper – *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 1/8 (Ryan Ford, Cory DeStein).

Lesser Yellowlegs – *Chester*: one calling in flight over Struble L. during Elverson CBC 12/26 (Larry Lewis); *Lebanon*: 4 at Reisterville and Prescott Rd. Pond, first seen 12/6 and again 12/19 for the latest county record (Stan Stahl, Randy Miller).

Baird's Sandpiper – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle S.P. 12/7 represents the first winter season report for Pennsylvania (Alex Lamoreaux, et al.).

Pectoral Sandpiper – *Lebanon*: one at Reisterville and Prescott Rd. Pond 12/6; the latest county record (Stan Stahl, Randy Miller).

Purple Sandpiper – *Erie*: at least 6 during the Waterbird Count 12/2-18 (Jerry McWilliams, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton).

Long-billed Dowitcher – *Crawford*: one at Miller's Pond first found in Nov remained until at least 1/1 (Mark Vass, Ronald Leberman, Shawn Collins).

Red Phalarope* – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 2/24-25 during the passage of a strong cold front with gusty winds (Gigi Gerben, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Black-headed Gull* – *Butler*: one at Moraine S.P. 12/9 (Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton, *doc submitted*); *Lancaster*: a first-winter bird at the Conejohela Flats 2/5-15 (Eric Witmer, *doc submitted*).

Little Gull – *Erie*: adult flying offshore at Presque Isle S.P. during the Erie CBC 12/17 (Adam Erb).

Laughing Gull – *Bucks*: 44 at Falls Twp. Park 12/8 (Bill Keim), one at Nockamixon S.P. 12/11 (Terry Bronson).

Franklin's Gull – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh S.P. 12/15-20 for *Berks*' second record (Tim Becker, m.ob.).

California Gull* – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 1/16 (Mike Weible, *no doc*), and a different bird of the *albertainensis* race at Presque Isle 1/29 (Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*).

Thayer's Gull* – *Bucks*: first winter birds were reported as Thayer's/Iceland at Falls Twp. Park 1/2 (Matt Sabatine) and 2/2 (Tom Johnson), and at Nockamixon State Park 1/25 (Bill Etter) and 2/4 (Matt Sabatine); *Cumberland*: an adult at Mud Level Rd. 1/19 (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, *no doc*); *Erie*: the season total was four, all but of which one were adults, in Presque Isle Bay 1/4-2/14 (Jerry McWilliams, Mike Weible, *doc submitted for one record*); *Lancaster/York*: one on the Susquehanna R. at

Muddy Creek for the Southern Lancaster CBC 12/18 (Bob Schutsky, Randy Phillips, *no doc*).

Glaucous Gull – *Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Crawford, Erie, Lebanon, Philadelphia*.

Eurasian Collared-Dove* – *Franklin*: continued presence in Shady Grove and Greencastle (Dale Gearhart, *doc submitted*); *Lebanon*: one at Campbeltown 12/10 (Kathy Becker, Tim Becker) and one at the Lebanon landfill 2/7 (David McNaughton).

Barn Owl – *Dauphin*: one along Swatara Rd. within the Hershey IBA 1/19 (Melissa Roach, Tom Johnson), and another there 2/7 (Steve Kersting); *Franklin*: one at a farm near St. Thomas 2/29 (Dale Gearhart); *Juniata*: one reported via eBird 1/14 (Ramsay Koury); *Philadelphia*: one in the nw. section of the city died in rehab, and another report near Northeast High School in early Dec was not confirmed.

Snowy Owl – *Armstrong, Clearfield (2), Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Erie (2), Jefferson, Philadelphia, Somerset*. See details in Season Summary.

Rufous Hummingbird - *Allegheny (2), Chester, Lebanon, Lehigh, Northampton (4), York*.

Say's Phoebe* – *Bucks*: one at Maple Knoll Farms from 12/13 through the season provided a first county record (Richard Smith, Vicky Smith; *doc submitted*).

Ash-throated Flycatcher* – *Cumberland*: one at Newville 1/4-5 represented a first county record and fifth for Pennsylvania (Vern Gauthier, *doc submitted*).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – *Cumberland*: 2 at the Camp Hill Prison provided a first record for the Harrisburg CBC 12/17 (Ann Furth, Larry Linder, Scott Walker); *Lancaster*: one at Lancaster Area Sewage Authority 12/11 (Eric Witmer); *Philadelphia*: wintered again at Northeast Water Treatment Plant with high count of 150 (m.ob.).

Tree Swallow – *Bucks*: 2 near Tullytown provided the first record for the Southern Bucks CBC 12/17 (Don Jones), and 6 arrived at New Hope very early 2/25 (Bill Hoehne); *Crawford*: 3 at Custards 2/28 (Shawn Collins, eBird).

Barn Swallow – *Philadelphia*: one at Northeast Wastewater Treatment Plant 12/1-17 with Northern Rough-winged Swallows (m.ob.).

House Wren – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 12/10 (Anne Bekker); *Chester*: one at Bucktoe Creek Res. 12/5 (Larry Lewis, et al.); one at Somerset L. 2/19 (Joe Sebastiani); *Cumberland*: one at Mechanicsburg during the Harrisburg CBC 12/17 (Deuane Hoffman); *Philadelphia*: one at Naval Business Center 12/3 and presumably the same bird there 2/22 (Todd Fellenbaum, m.ob.).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – *Cumberland*: 2 at Green Ridge retirement community 1/2 (Carol Cash).

Wood Thrush – *Lebanon*: one found 2/4 (Jonathon Heller) and photographed 2/5 (Justin Bosler) in SGL 145.

Varied Thrush* – *Mercer*: male at a feeder at a Bartramian Audubon wildlife sanctuary northwest of Slippery Rock Borough during the Butler CBC 12/17 (Henry Lenz, Linda Lenz, *doc submitted*).

Ovenbird – *Allegheny*: one supposedly photographed under bizarre circumstances, date unknown, see the county report (*vide* Shawn Collins); *Philadelphia*: one in the gardens of the Bell Atlantic building (17th & Arch Sts.) 1/6-8 (Doug Wechsler).

Orange-crowned Warbler – *Bucks*: one in Bristol Twp. 12/17-18 (Mick Jeitner, Linda Rowan), and another at Langhorne 12/28 may have been the same one reported

there 11/18 and marks the fourth fall/winter record in five years at this site (Gerry Dewaghe, Chris Dewaghe); *Chester*: one attending a suet feeder in downtown West Chester 1/21 through Feb (Mary Alice Knox, m.ob.), this same yard hosted an Orange-crowned Warbler in the winter of 2009, possibly the same bird; *Lancaster*: one on Southern Lancaster CBC 12/18 and one at Wood's Edge Ponds 2/2-26 (m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: at least 5-6 overwintered at Pennypack on the Delaware, John Heinz NWR, and the Naval Business Center (m.ob.).

Nashville Warbler – *Allegheny*: one in Fox Chapel during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/31 was a first for the count (Steve Thomas, Sue Thomas); *Bucks*: one in Bristol Twp. 1/29 (Devich Farbotnik); *Montgomery*: one feeding at an azalea bush in Huntingdon Valley 12/29-1/3 (ph. Cindy Ahern); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 1/5 (Frank Windfelder).

Common Yellowthroat – *Bucks*: one at Falls Twp. Park 1/11 (Devich Farbotnik); *Centre*: one 12/2 at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, two there 1/24-25, and one 2/28 (Megan Orien, Joe Verica, Drew Weber, Alex Lamoreaux); *Crawford*: one on the Linesville CBC 12/18 was only the second in 70 years; *Philadelphia*: 5 at Northeast Wastewater Treatment Plant 1/7 (Keith Russell), and one at Pennypack on the Delaware 12/5-1/17 (Frank Windfelder); *Snyder*: one near Selinsgrove 1/16 (Jason Weller).

Cape May Warbler – *Montgomery*: one in Perkiomenville 12/12 (Ron Grubb).

Northern Parula – *Delaware*: one at Ridley Creek SP 2/9 (Eric Weislogel).

Yellow Warbler – *Philadelphia*: one in Fairmont Park 1/7 (Erica Brendel, John Goschke).

Blackpoll Warbler – *Philadelphia*: one at Northeast Wastewater Treatment Plant 12/17 (Frank Windfelder).

Palm Warbler – *Bucks*: a bird of the western race was discovered near Maple Knoll Farm 12/16 and remained through the season (Richard Smith, Vicky Smith); *Cumberland*: one at Mud Level Rd. 1/20-22 (David Kidwell, et al.); *Lancaster*: multiple birds present at Lancaster Area Sewage Authority (Eric Witmer, et al.); *Philadelphia*: as many as 5 at the Northeast Wastewater Treatment Plant and at Pennypack on the Delaware through at least 1/7 (m.ob.).

Pine Warbler – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 12/18 (Joan Silagy); *Chester*: one at Okehocking Preserve 12/17 (Mike Rosengarten), and one at Waterloo Mills Preserve 2/28 was thought to be an early migrant (Kevin Fryberger); *Cumberland*: one at the Green residence in the Montesera section of Dickinson Twp. from early Jan through Feb (Tom Johnson, Alexander Green, m.ob.); *Dauphin*: one in South Hanover Twp. 12/9 through at least 2/4 (Tom Johnson, Melissa Roach, Jan Getgood).

Yellow-throated Warbler – *Bucks*: one of the yellow-lored form in Bristol Twp. 1/7 (ph. Gail Johnson) through at least 1/20 (ph. Devich Farbotnik), the first winter record for the county; *Cumberland*: one at the West Fairview Boat Launch 2/18 (Ramsay Koury).

Townsend's Warbler* – *Cumberland*: a male at the Green residence in the Montesera section of Dickinson Twp. from early Jan through Feb provided a first county record and fourth Pennsylvania record (Tom Johnson, Alexander Green, *doc submitted*).

Yellow-breasted Chat – *Cumberland*: one present on multiple occasions at the Green residence in the

Montesera section of Dickinson Twp. (Alexander Green); *Delaware*: presumably the same bird was reported at Ridley Creek S.P. three times: 12/21, 1/10, and 1/13 (Martin Page, Bryan Barnes).

Green-tailed Towhee* – *Berks*: one present from 11/20 remained all season at Blue Marsh Lake, supplied with feed daily by Paul Michaly and others (m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Chester*: one at Kirwood Preserve 12/11 (Win Shafer); *Philadelphia*: one from the fall continued at Pennypack on the Delaware through 1/4 (Frank Windfelder, Todd Fellenbaum, Tony Croasdale, Adrian Binns).

Vesper Sparrow – *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 1/14-15 (Alex Lamoreaux, Josh Lefever).

Lincoln's Sparrow – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract during the Southern Bucks CBC 12/17 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one photographed in Exton 12/10 remained all winter (Kelly Colgan-Azar), and another was reported from the Spring City area 12/25 (*fide* Edie Parnum); *Cumberland*: one at Mud Level Rd. 12/14 (Matt Sabatine); *Montgomery*: one near Haverford 12/24 (Win Shafer).

Harris's Sparrow* – *Berks*: one from the fall remained into Mar along the Old Philly Pike near Kempton, supplied occasionally with seeds by birders (m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Painted Bunting* – *Lancaster*: one at Washington Boro 1231-1/16 (Justin Bosler, *doc submitted*).

Yellow-headed Blackbird – *Chester*: one with a large blackbird flock in Cochranville 12/26 (Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton); *Lancaster*: a female was in a large blackbird flock west of Kirkwood 12/30 (Devich Farbotnik, Jason Horn, Matt Sabatine), 2 were seen in a large flock of blackbirds along Goshen Mills Road 1/8 (Alex Lamoreaux, Drew Weber), and one along Spruce Grove Rd. 1/15 (Chuck Chalfant).

Brewer's Blackbird – *Chester*: one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 2/11 (Larry Lewis).

Bullock's Oriole* – *Huntingdon*: an adult female at Neelytown from mid-Feb into March (Jim and Lorraine Hamilton, *doc submitted*) provided the first record for the county; *Montgomery*: the male reported last year returned as an adult to the same two residences in Douglass Twp. (Mary Ache, Ben Davies, *doc submitted*), from 1/29 through the period.

Baltimore Oriole – *Bedford*: one at Bedford during the CBC (Mike and Laura Jackson); *Bradford*: an immature male near Hollenback, first observed 12/10 and again on the SE Bradford CBC (Marvin Baker, Nancy Baker); *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 12/13 (August Mirabella) and again 1/1 (Henry D'Alessandro), and another was near Kintnersville 2/27 (Carol Easter, Larry Sassaman, ph.); *Lancaster*: one on the Southern Lancaster CBC 12/18 remained through the season (Bob Schutsky); *Montgomery*: a female at Green Lane Reservoir 12/18 (Kevin Crilley).

Red Crossbill – *Centre/Huntingdon*: 2 flyovers on Tussey Mt. 12/18 (Joe Verica); *McKean*: one in Bradford 12/10 (John Fedak).

White-winged Crossbill – *Northampton*: one struck a window in Williams Twp 2/2 recovered to eventually fly away (Dawn Kaniper).

Evening Grosbeak – *Indiana*: one at Creekside 12/29 (Joyce Griffith); *Schuylkill*: 6 at a private residence 12/12 (Barb Jucker).

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). These two birds, representing *Washington's* second record of this species, were present at a horse farm in Peters Twp. 19 to 23 February 2012 (here 22 Feb). (Mike Fialkovich)



Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal (*Anas crecca*). These two strays from the Old World (far left and second from right) appeared at Newtown, Bucks 17 January 2012 where they remained for the next ten days (here 18 January); later they were seen in Upper Makefield Twp. through the season. (Bill Keim)



Greater White-fronted Goose x Canada Goose. This apparent family group of an adult white-fronted (at left) and an adult Canada with three presumed hybrid offspring (one center, two at right) were photographed as they traveled together at Middle Creek WMA, Lancaster 31 January 2012. (Tom Johnson)



Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). This first year male spent one day off the lighthouse at Presque Isle State Park, Erie 8 January 2012, where it was seen and photographed by a lucky few. (Jerry McWilliams)



Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). A family group at Green Pond, Northampton 30 November 2011. (Tom Johnson)



Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). Representing probably just the second December Cattle Egret in the state's history, this bird was at Ono, Lebanon 24 to 27 (here 26) December 2011. (Tom Johnson)



Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*). This bird with a pink wing tag bearing the number "223" was found to have been tagged 25 March 2009 in Massachusetts. Research by the photographer revealed that it had subsequently been seen a total of 17 times, including in New Jersey (where it summers), Connecticut, New York, and even Cordorus S.P., York before landing in Falls Twp., Bucks, here 15 December 2011. (*Bill Keim*)



Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*). Berks' second Franklin's came in the form of this first winter bird at Blue Marsh Lake 15 to 20 (here 19) December 2011. It was occasionally seen directly next to a first winter Glaucous Gull, which provided an interesting and unlikely comparison. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*). This interesting portrait of a study in contrast was made at the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster 5 February 2012. The black-headed was present there until 15 February. (*Meredith Lombard*)



Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*). Butler's third of this species was present 9 to 29 (here 11) December 2011 at the South Shore Day Use Area at Lake Arthur, which interestingly is the exact same site as the previous two Butler Black-headed Gulls. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*). This beautiful owl was photographed 30 December 2011 in the most unlikely of places: roosting in an ornamental evergreen directly next to a house in an entirely typical suburban neighborhood near Muse, Washington. It was seen periodically in the same tree through at least 15 February 2012. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*). It was a good season for Snowy Owls in Pennsylvania. This bird at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 17 December 2011 was one of 10 confirmed records for the winter reporting period. (*Jerry McWilliams*)



Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). This bird, representing Pennsylvania's fifth and a first for *Cumberland*, was present in a Newville yard 4 to 5 January 2012, but it was not seen thereafter. (*Dale Gearhart*)



Common Raven (*Corvus corax*). Ravens continue their rampant expansion into new regions of Pennsylvania. This bird, very rare for *Philadelphia*, was photographed at Pennypack 3 February 2012. (*Tom Johnson*)



Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). It was a strong but not record-setting season for shrikes, with reports from 27 counties. This bird was wonderfully photographed at Beltzville State Park, *Carbon* 26 February 2012. (*Dustin Welch*)



Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*). It was certainly a mild winter here in Pennsylvania, but this Wood Thrush was still a totally unexpected surprise at SGL 145, *Lebanon* 4 to (here) 5 February 2012, representing just the second mid-winter record of this species for the state. (*Justin Bosler*)



Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). It was not a good year for Snow Buntings (or for wintering field birds in general), but they were reported sporadically nonetheless. This fine portrait was made at Conneaut Lake, Crawford 29 January 2012. (*Shawn Collins*)



Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*). Berks' long-staying celebrity towhee spent the entire winter season at Blue Marsh Lake, where it was ultimately seen by hundreds of birders from several states. Shown here 27 November 2011. (*Ed Norman*)



Orange-crowned Warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*). This bird was present at a West Chester, Chester feeder from 21 January through the season. This same feeder hosted an Orange-crowned Warbler in the winter of 2009. (*John McNamara*)



Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*). This hardy little sparrow took advantage of the mild weather and wintered for the entire season at Exton, Chester, shown here 25 December 2011. (*Kelly Colgan Azar*)

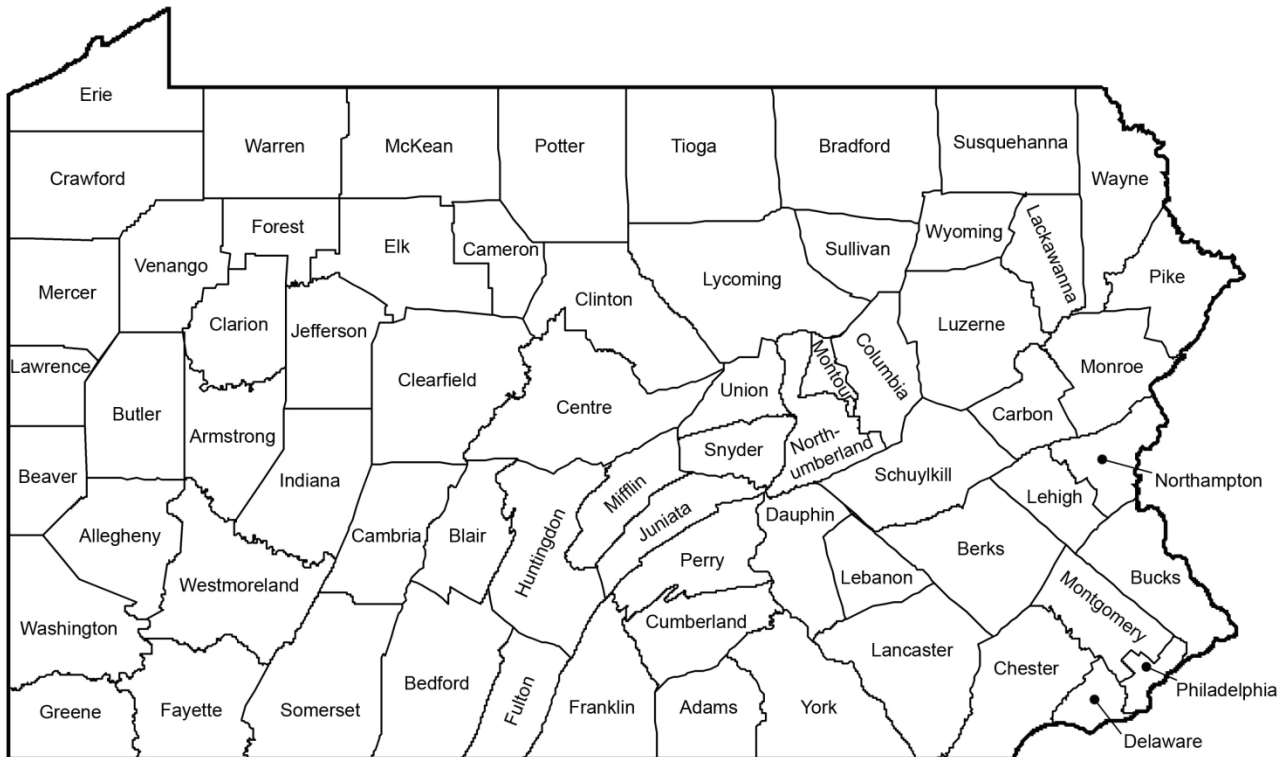


Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*). Alongside the Townsend's Warbler at the Green residence in Dickenson Twp., Cumberland was this Pine Warbler, present from early January 2012 to the end of the season (here 18 February). This duo of winter warblers delighted the hundreds of observers who came to see them. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*). This female, the latest in a recent spate of Bullock's in Pennsylvania, was present at a feeder near Neelyton, Huntingdon from mid-February 2012 to the end of the season (here 25 February). Unsurprisingly, it was a first for Huntingdon. (*Geoff Malosh*)

Local Notes – December 2011 to February 2012



ABBREVIATIONS

B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey	max	maximum	R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
C.A.	Conservation Area	min	minimum	Res.	Reservoir
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count	m. ob.	many observers	Rte.	Route
C.P.	County Park	Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain/Mountains	S.F.	State Forest
Cr.	Creek	N.A.	Nature Area or Natural Area	SGL	State Game Land
et al.	and others	N.F.	National Forest	S.P.	State Park
Ft.	Fort	N.M.	National Monument	S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant
G.C.	Golf Course	N.P.	National Park	subad(s).	subadult(s)
G.P.	Game Preserve	N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge	Twp.	Township
Hwy.	Highway	PAMC	Pennsylvania Migration Count	vr.	voice recording
imm(s).	immature(s)	ph.	Photographed	vt.	videotape
Jct.	Junction	Pt.	Point	W.A.	Wildlife Area
juv(s).	juvenile [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), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Gettysburg Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Huntingdon Township (HUNT), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Mountain Rd (MTN), Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve (SHNP), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

With the mild winter providing open water, the waterfowl count was decent; 18 species were reported. **Tundra Swans** remain annual visitors along Germany Rd. First appearing 1/29, the high count was 75 on 2/25 (PK). Fifteen **Mute Swans** on the 12/17 CBC earned honors as the most unfortunate highlight for this reporting period. Other waterfowl of note was a **Wood Duck** on the CBC and a **Common Goldeneye** at LPRR 12/18 (KH).

Four WRS routes produced typical results for the more common species, but Northern Harrier and Rough-legged Hawk were absent from any of the WRS. A late report of a **Bald Eagle** roost in the Lake Meade area (*fide* ME) was a surprise. The high count was 15 during the period, and the roost remained active until at least mid-Mar. The roost consisted mostly of immature birds. The CBC produced a great count of 37 **American Kestrels**. GNMP continues to provide occasional

Peregrine Falcon sightings with one found 1/8 (KH).

The county's first **Sandhill Crane** since Sep 2008 was at the intersection of Rte. 116 and Bullfrog Rd 2/26 (KH). **Killdeer** were found on the CBC, and 4 were at Possum Hollow Rd 1/22(PK). The CBC produced a count of 15 **Wilson's Snipe**.

GNMP provided regular **Short-eared Owl** reports 12/23-2/22 (m.ob.) with a high count of 8 on 1/8 (KH). Some sightings involved **Northern Harriers** as well with the harriers typically vacating the area as darkness enveloped the fields. Possum Hollow Rd provided the other Short-eared Owl location with a sighting 2/29 (PK). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at GBG 12/19 (JP), SHNP 12/14 (JP), and throughout the period at MTN (RDS). Six reports of **Common Ravens** continue the upward trend of county sightings. The sole **Horned Lark** report was of 5 birds from Possum Hollow Rd 1/21 (PK).

The CBC produced one **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, one **Brown Creeper**, 2 **Winter Wrens**, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, and one **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**. A harbinger of their presence throughout the period was the count of 37 **Carolina Wrens** on the CBC. **Hermit Thrush** was found on the CBC. A Jan sighting of 3 **Eastern Towhees** at SHNP 1/24 was noteworthy (DS). Sparrow sightings were normal. **American Tree Sparrows** were at MTN and HUNT from 1/21 to the end of the period (RDS, DJG). **Chipping, Field, and Fox Sparrows**

were all found on the CBC. An additional Fox Sparrow report came from MTN 1/3 (RDS). There were four reports of **Swamp Sparrows** 12/18-2/22. As in the prior year, this year's CBC provided a good count for **White-crowned Sparrows** with 60 found. They were also present throughout the period (DJG) at HUNT.

The *icterids* were fairly well represented. There were three reports of **Red-winged Blackbirds** 1/19-2/22 with a high count of 19 from GNMP 1/19 (AW). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at GNMP 1/18-2/29, including a nice count of eight 2/22 (TB). Single **Common Grackles** were found on the CBC, 2/19 (DJG) at HUNT, and 2/22 (AW) along Emmitsburg Rd. **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were first reported 1/21 (PK, DJG) at EB and HUNT. The EB report was a single day event of 6 birds, while the HUNT sightings continued through the period.

The CBC count of 45 **Purple Finches** was noteworthy but no additional sightings were reported. Seemingly underreported was **American Goldfinch**. Perhaps it being a typically common species led to non-reporting, but this compiler's backyard feeders and field observations also suggested low numbers. The one exception was a count of 36 from MTN 1/13 (RDS).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 109 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Paul Banks, Jr., Timothy Becker, Mark Eisenhart, Bill Frantz, Ron & Pat Freed, Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Keith & Deb Gingrich, Kevin Hall, Nancy Locher, Nick Lund, Joshua Markel, Mike O'Brien, Jason Pietrzak, Dave Sheads, Ralph & Deb Siefken (RDS), Dan Snell(DS), Mike Weible, Patricia & Richard Williams, Andy Wilson (AW), Anne Winters.

Allegheny County

Locations: Imperial (IMP), Wingfield Pines (WP).

It's difficult to know where **Tundra Swans** come from in Jan, but a flock of 100 flying over Plum Borough 1/4 (PM) were probably migrating north. A late evening trip to a grocery store in Monroeville 2/28 was rewarded by the sound of a flock of **Tundra Swans** flying over (RM). Two **Mute Swans** were at IMP 1/28; only the second record for that location (MF). They were still there 2/3 (MV). A **Gadwall** was at Imperial 12/2 (SC) and one was at WP 1/4-2/11 (JM, et al.). Three **American Wigeon** were at IMP 2/27 (GG). **American Black Ducks** were present all season but only reported from three locations: Brunots Island (MV), Pine Twp. (PL, SL) and the Moody Rd. ponds in Findlay Twp. (MV). A **Green-winged Teal** was at WP 1/22 (PK) and still there 2/11 (MD). Only 2 **Ring-necked Ducks** were reported: one at the Moody Rd. ponds 12/10 (MV) and one at Brunots Island 1/14 (MV). A **Lesser Scaup** at Fox Chapel 12/11 (DY) was the only report of that species. **Common Goldeneye**, **Hooded Merganser** and **Common Merganser** were reported in small numbers most of the season. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at Brunots Island 12/25 (MV).

Up to 6 **Pied-billed Grebes** were on the Ohio R. at Brunots Island the entire season (MV, PB). A **Horned Grebe** was there 2/25 (MV). A **Bald Eagle** was at Brunots Island in the Ohio R. just downstream from downtown Pittsburgh 12/25 (MV). This has been a reliable location in recent winters for eagles. One was along the Youghiogheny River at Boston 1/10 (JP) and one was at Duck Hollow 1/14 (GG). One was seen flying over Penn Hills 2/13 (JK). The pair that nested in Crescent Twp. last year was observed at the nest 2/18 (MV). A **Northern Harrier** at Harrison Hills Park 1/15 (SG) provided the first known record of that species for the park. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was feeding on a road killed opossum at Imperial 2/18 (PK). Single birds were in Plum 12/28 (AH, PM), Beechwood Farms 12/31 (BSh) and Natrona Heights 2/20 (PH). A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen on a nest in the northern part of the city of Pittsburgh 2/13 (MB); the second year in a row this individual was reported. A few **Merlins** were in the area. One was at WP 1/4 (JM) where they've been seen in previous winters and one was at Duck Hollow 1/7 (BMi) and 1/10 (TM, NM). One was at Schenley Park 2/18 (MF), the first at the former roost site in years. In 2011, a single female **Peregrine Falcon** was noted at the Tarentum Bridge (Allegheny R.). She was seen with another bird (presumably a male) 12/18 (RP, SG) and through the season—exciting news because there is now potential for another breeding pair in the county. One was also seen regularly on the Sewickley Bridge in Jan (GM). **Turkey Vultures** remained in the area this season with reports from ten locations. The highest count was 15 in Franklin Park 12/31 (JO). A **Common Loon** was on the Allegheny River in O'Hara Twp. 12/22-24 (PB) and possibly

the same bird was on the Ohio River at Emsworth 12/31 (PB) and at Brunots Island 1/20 (MV).

Two late **Killdeer** were in Ohio Twp. 12/29 (PB). Four were at WP 1/15 (GG) and 2 were there until at least 2/11, apparently overwintering (m.ob.). One was heard in Monroeville 2/28 (RM), the first report of a spring migrant/arrival. A **Red Phalarope** was at Imperial 2/24 (GG, m.ob.) during the passage of a strong cold front with gusty winds; the second record for that location. It remained the morning of 2/25 (DYe), but despite gusty winds and snow squalls, it was gone by afternoon.

Bonaparte's Gulls are uncommon in winter here, so 3 at the Highland Park Dam on the Allegheny River 12/10 (DY) were noteworthy. Nine were at the point in Pittsburgh 2/13 (MD). A first winter **Iceland Gull** was found with 150-200 **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls** at the Point in Pittsburgh 2/11 (GM) during a blustery snowy evening. It was not relocated the following day. A **Great Black-backed Gull** was at The Point in Pittsburgh 1/16 (DY).

A pair of **Eastern Screech-Owls** occupied a nest box in Brentwood in January (DF); one was gray and the other red. One was calling in Squirrel Hill 2/2 (DWe) and another in Hampton Twp. 2/26 (DN). A **Great Horned Owl** was heard in Hampton Twp. 12/27 (DN) and two were in Pine Twp. 1/28 followed by three 2/3 (PL, SL). A **Barred Owl** was found in Fox Chapel during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/31 (BSh). A **Short-eared Owl** was at IMP 12/22 (SC). *Allegheny's* 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, first reported in Nov, continued in Carnegie and Squirrel Hill (SK, PK). The Carnegie bird was last seen 1/9 (SK) and the Squirrel Hill bird 1/11 (PK).

A leucistic **Blue Jay** was spotted with a normal bird in Crafton 2/19 (LA). It was described as overall white, but had the black collar. In general, Blue Jays were scarce this season. During the Pittsburgh CBC none were found in Frick Park or Schenley Park, locations where Blue Jays are normally always present. Two **Fish Crows** were in Squirrel Hill 2/26 (CD). Single **Common Ravens** were reported from new locations including Springdale 1/5 (DH) and Hampton Twp. 1/10 (DN). One was at Duck Hollow 12/31 (MVV) and 1/8 (JS, SS). One was seen in flight over the Strip District in Pittsburgh 1/15 (RT), one was in Fox Chapel 1/20 (AH, PM). Two were at Wood's Run on the Ohio River 1/31 (OM); one continued there in Feb. (MV). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in Frick Park 12/31 (MVV). **Winter Wrens** are found in a few locations each winter. Single birds were at Duck Hollow 12/25 (JS, SS), Fox Chapel 12/31 (BSh), WP 1/22 (PK) and Schenley Park 1/28 (KSJ). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** may have lingered due to the mild weather because they are normally long gone by Dec. One was in Etna 12/10 (DY) and a great total of 5 were in Fox Chapel 12/31 (BSh).

A **Hermit Thrush** was at Beechwood Farms 12/31 (BSh) and one was at Frick Park 1/15 (MD). Two late mimids were great finds this winter: **Gray Catbird** was at Frick Park 1/9 (MD) and a **Brown Thrasher** was there 12/31 (MVV). Five **American Pipits** were at WP 1/15 (GG), 4 were there 1/22 (PK) and 2 were at Brunots Island 1/20 (MV). A bird along the shore of the Allegheny River across from the Point in Pittsburgh 2/13 was a surprise (MD). Very unusual was a **Nashville Warbler** in Fox Chapel found during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/31 (STh, SuT), the first for the count. The only **Yellow-rumped Warbler** report was of three birds in Rosston 2/7 (SK).

There was an odd photograph of an **Ovenbird** posted on Whatbird.com perched on a demonstrator's shoulder at the Occupy Pittsburgh movement in downtown Pittsburgh (*fide* SC). The caption stated the bird was seen in Pittsburgh from Oct through Jan, but that could have been erroneous. The observers thought it was a type of sparrow so perhaps they confused it with House Sparrows during that time period, or perhaps this oddly behaving Ovenbird did spend the winter among the protesters.

A late **Chipping Sparrow** was in Ohio Twp. 12/31 (PB). A **Field Sparrow** was in Renzie Park in White Oak 12/23 (SC) and one was in Fox Chapel 12/31 (BSh). A **Swamp Sparrow** was a nice find at the wetlands in Frick Park 12/31 (PH). One was also in Fox Chapel that day (BSh) where a few are usually found each winter. Two were found at WP 1/4 (JM) and one was at Harrison Hills Park 1/15 (SG). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were in Harmor Twp. 12/31 (JV).

There were some late blackbird reports and a few early spring migrants. Two **Red-winged Blackbirds** were in Findlay Twp. 12/10 (MV), one visited a feeder in Pine Twp. 2/24 (PL, SL) and 2 were singing at IMP 2/26 (GM). A late **Common Grackle** was found at IMP 12/2 (SC). A few presumably spring migrants included one at North Park 2/20 (PL, SL), one in McKees Rocks 2/23 (SV) and one in Natrona Heights 2/23 (PH). A late **Brown-headed Cowbird** was in Natrona Heights 12/13 (PH).

The only **Purple Finch** was a single bird in Kilbuck Twp. 12/31 (PB). A **Common Redpoll** was seen at a feeder in Moon Twp. 12/3 (LH) and one flew over a field in Cheswick 1/28 (DYE).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfiat@verizon.net**, Loraine Asturino, Michael Boris, Paul Brown, Shawn Collins, Michael David, Karyn Delaney, Cory DeStein, Donna Foyle, Gigi Gerben, Steve Gosser, Larry Helgerman, Amy Henrici, Deborah Hess, Paul Hess, Maureen Hobma, Jay Kadane, Scott Kinzey, Margie Kern, Peter Keyel, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Pat McShea, Ryan McDermott, Jeff McDonald, Bob Machesney, Geoff Malosh, Oscar Miller, Ben Milleville (Bmi), Nancy Moeller, Tom Moeller, Dick Nugent, John Orndorf, Jim Pemberton, Rob Protz, Kate St. John, Kathy Saunders, Judy Schryer (JSh), Tony Schryer (TSh), Brian Shema (BSh), Sam Sinderson (SSn), Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Steve Thomas (STh), Sue Thomas (SuT), Ryan Tomazin, Jim Valimont, Mark VanderVen (MVV), Mark Vass, Susanne Varley, Dan Weeks (DWe), Dan Yagusic, David Yeany (DYE).

Armstrong County

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

Canada Goose maxima included 240 at CC 1/1 (TR) and 500 at KT 1/22 (MH, RH, DL). Four **Tundra Swans** visited CC 1/15 (TR, TS). An **American Wigeon** at RT 1/22 (TR) was the only one reported. CC harbored single **American Black Ducks** 1/8 (SG) and 1/15 (TR); a marshy area near Dayton yielded 28 on 1/22 (MH, RH, DL). Top **Mallard** count was a mere 8 at KR 1/22 (MH, RH, DL). There were only single reports for the following four species: 25 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at KR 1/15 (TR); on 12/20 a **Long-tailed Duck** visited RT (DY); on 2/12, 4 **Buffleheads** stopped at CC (VR, MVT), and 4 **Common Goldeneyes** were spotted at RT (TR).

CC yielded a **Hooded Merganser** 1/8 (SG); KR harbored 10 on 1/18 (MH, RH) and 4 on 1/22 (MH, RH, DL), the same day 2 were at RT (TR). Congregating at CC were 81 **Common Mergansers** 12/20 (MVT); by 1/8 (SG) 85 were present. Top count was 120 on 2/12 (TR).

First **Turkey Vulture** arrived at Buffalo Creek 2/28 (RN). Three **Bald Eagles** were found at CC 1/7 (TR); that same day, 2 adults were observed sitting on the ice at KR (MH, RH). Two **Cooper's Hawks** were found near Ford Cliff 1/4 (JV) and one preyed upon an unidentified sparrow 1/19 (JV). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed near Belknap 1/22 (MH, RH, DL). WRS routes yielded 5 **American Kestrels** 1/22 (MH, RH, DL) and 2 on 2/6 (MM).

Fifteen **Ring-billed Gulls** 2/12 (TR) and 5 **Herring Gulls** 1/17 (MVT) were the high tallies at CC. Two Herrings were near the old nest at KT 1/14 (MH, RH). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** found near Ford Cliff 12/16-17 (JV) was the lone report. CC's **Barred Owl** was sighted 12/17 (VR, MVT) and 2/2 (PR, VR); another was near Cadogan 1/8 (TR).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a surprising find 1/22 southeast of Templeton (MH, RH, DL). The only **Common Ravens** reported were those at CC (m.ob.). Thirty-nine **Horned Larks** were counted near Belknap 1/22 (MH, RH, DL). A single **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was reported at RT 2/4 (TR) and an **Eastern Towhee** appeared at CC 1/8 (SG). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were nice finds 1/22 (MH, RH, DL) in Cowanshannock Twp.

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Steve Gosser, Roger Higbee, Dennis Lauffer, Mark McConaughy, Richard Nugent, Theo Richert, Pat Rossi, Vic Rossi, Tom Skubel, Josie Valasek, Marjorie Van Tassel, David Yeaney.

Beaver County

Locations: Independence Marsh (IND), New Brighton (NB), Rochester (RCH).

Beaver received little coverage this period. The county's birders tend to become tied to the Ohio and Beaver Rivers in the winter season, and therefore most reports received during this time are of waterbirds. This season's summary is a perfect example of this effect. The winter was quite mild overall, which kept bodies of water other than the rivers

(such as the ponds at IND) open for most of the season, but also kept waterfowl from concentrating at open patches on the rivers, as they often do during harsh seasons. It was a rather poor *Beaver* CBC as well, with only 47 species found and in generally low numbers. Light snow and plenty of open water on count day likely depressed results.

A **Cackling Goose**, *Beaver's* third, was at IND 2/6 (MV). Subsequent searches were unsuccessful. Top count of **Canada Goose** at IND was 56 on 12/31 (MV). No wintering **Wood Ducks** were noted, which is a bit surprising considering the overall mild conditions; last fall migrant was noted at RCH on the *Beaver* CBC 12/17 (MV), and first returning spring migrants were 2 at IND 2/26 (MV). A single **American Wigeon**, a casual wintering species, was at NB 1/14-15 (MV). **American Black Ducks** had a very good season. Four to 6 were variously reported between NB and RCH 12/16-2/29 (MV, TJ, PK), and IND contributed 3 from 12/31-1/1 (MV, JB), 2 on 2/6 (MV), and 2 on 2/26 (MV). Late fall aggregations of **Mallard** at IND topped out at 102 on 12/2 (MV) with numbers dwindling thereafter; 60 at NB 1/14 (MV) was also a good count. **Blue-winged Teal** was notable on both ends of its migration: one bird at IND 12/2 (MV) was late, and one that appeared at RCH 2/11 (MV) and remained to at least 3/9 was early. As in nearby *Washington*, reports of **Northern Pintail** were better than average. Six at IND 12/16 (MV) grew to a high of 10 by 1/1 (MV, JB). Two were back at IND already 2/6, and 2 were also present there 2/26 (both MV). An apparently injured female **Green-winged Teal** showed up at RCH 2/4 (MV) and remained to at least 3/9. Besides this bird, first migrants were 6 at IND 2/29 (GM). A male **Canvasback** at RCH 2/9 (BS) was the only report. **Ring-necked Duck** lingered at IND to 12/2 (MV); first northbound birds appeared there 2/18 (PK). A **Lesser Scaup** was at NB 1/21 (MV), followed by one or 2 at RCH 2/10-26 (MV). **Bufflehead** reports consisted of one at NB 1/14 (MV), 12 at Beaver Falls 1/29 (TJ, KG), and 2 at RCH 2/12 (MV). **Hooded Merganser** was present in small numbers on the Beaver R. 1/22 to the end of the season (TJ, KG, MV). Two male **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at RCH 2/10 (MV).

A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** was found on Cork-Bocktown Road in Independence Twp. 2/29 (JM). **Pied-billed Grebes** took advantage of the mild conditions and wintered in small numbers on the Beaver River between NB and RCH 12/16-1/21 (m.ob.). The only report of **Double-crested Cormorant** was one at RCH 12/16 (MV). The most surprising bird of the season was an immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** on the Beaver River across from NB 2/5 (ER), which represented the first known winter record for *Beaver* and one of only a handful overall. It was sometimes difficult to relocate but was occasionally seen through at least 3/7 (m.ob.). Earliest **Turkey Vulture** was at IND 2/6 (MV). At least one immature and 2 adult **Bald Eagle** wintered on the Beaver River (m.ob.). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted on the CBC 12/17, and in four other locations: Chippewa Twp. 1/21-29 (TJ), Hereford Manor Lake 1/27 (MV), Beaver Falls 2/18 (TJ), and near a residence in Center Twp., where a pair may well have been setting up to breed by season's end (CA). Reports of **American Kestrel** were limited to one on the CBC 12/17 and 2 during a WRS route 1/25 (SG). For the third consecutive winter a **Merlin** was spotted on top of the Grace Lutheran Church in Beaver, this year on 12/29 (MV). **Peregrine Falcons** were noted near Monaca through the season.

One to 4 **American Coots** were present on the Beaver River in Jan (MV). First **Killdeer** returned to Independence Twp. 2/24 (MV). A **Bonaparte's Gull** at RCH 1/29 provided a rare Jan marker (TJ, KG). **Ring-billed Gulls** appeared in good numbers on the two rivers in Feb, when thousands were simultaneously gathering in downtown Pittsburgh. Top counts at the boat launch on the Beaver River in NB were 304 on 1/14 and 270 on 1/21 (both MV). Seven **Herring Gulls** were counted on the CBC 12/17.

The following birds were all reported only during the CBC 12/17: one **Great Horned Owl** (the only owl reported for the whole season) at SGL 173 (KD, SC, MD), **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Common Raven**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, and **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. **Carolina Wren** was fairly well reported during this mild winter, especially around Economy Borough (KD, et al.). They were also seen at IND in Jan and Feb (JB, MV). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were very scarce; 3 were at SGL 173 on the CBC 12/17 (KD, SC, MD), and they were also reported at Raccoon Creek State Park (eBird) in small numbers. **Swamp Sparrows** wintered at IND; one was found 1/1 (JB) and 3 were there 2/6 (MV). First returning **Red-winged Blackbirds** were at Independence Twp. 2/24, when a flock of 24 was found (MV).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Cheryl

Abel, John Boback, Shawn Collins, Michael David, Karyn Delaney, Karen Gregg, Scott Gregg, Tim Johnson, Peter Keyel, Rick Mason (Beaver CBC Coordinator), Jeff McDonald, Ed Richards, Becky Smith, Mark Vass.

Bedford County

No report.

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

Berks County

Locations: Breneman's Quarry, Spring Twp. (BQ), Blue Marsh L. (BML), L. Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands #110 (SGL). Christmas Bird Counts: Reading 12/18 (RCBC), Hamburg 12/30 (HCBC), Bernville 12/31 (BCBC).

This very mild winter saw only one January snowfall greater than a dusting. The ground and waters were only lightly frozen for brief periods. February precipitation was below average. Open water allowed many waterfowl and gulls to linger, and spring migration of many species started one to three weeks earlier than usual. The long staying **Green-tailed Towhee** at BML's Stilling Basin produced the Patagonia picnic table effect, in which birders seeking a rarity incidentally report many other species.

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** were among **Canada Geese** at LO 2/5 (MW). This species has been recorded in *Berks* in 14 of the past 17 year (1995-2012), the exceptions being 1996, 2000 and 2006. Before 1995, they were recorded in only seven of 22 years from 1972 (first *Berks* record) through 1994. The increase in sightings after 1995 coincides with an increase throughout the northeast. Greenland is probably the source of most of these birds, but this is not certain. The best statewide treatment of this species is "Occurrence and Identification of Greater White-fronted Goose in Pennsylvania" by Cameron Rutt in *Pennsylvania Birds* Vol. 20, No. 4, which can be read online at <www.pabirds.org>. The trends Rutt documented continue. **Snow Geese** from large flocks wintering east and west of *Berks* were seen all winter, the numbers increasing with the start of spring migration in Feb as usual. Two **Brant** were a rare find on the RCBC. A few **Cackling Geese** were reported 12/30-2/25, the high count of 4 at BQ 12/30 (DW). A very large and stirring exodus of Canada Geese was heard day and night 2/27-28 as birds took advantage of good flying weather. The large resident population of **Mute Swans** continued at LO, where 17 birds were seen most of the winter (RK). **Tundra Swans** were seen in good numbers, such as 45 over Henningsville 12/31 (PS) and 40 at LO 2/18 (AL). In midwinter, many ducks were reported in numbers more typical of late Feb: 120 **Gadwall** at LO 2/9 (MS), 40 **American Wigeons** at BML 1/30 (PM) and 77 at LO 2/2 (RK), 47 **Northern Pintails** at LO 2/1 (RK), 30 Ring-necked Ducks at BQ 1/3 (TB), 28 **Long-tailed Ducks** at BQ 1/28 (NW), and 1000 **Common Mergansers** at LO 2/2 (RK). Ducks that wintered at BQ included 2 or 3 **Northern Shovelers**, a pair of **Lesser Scaup** and of **Bufflehead**, and 30-40 **Ruddy Ducks** (PM). Four or fewer each of **Redhead** and **Greater Scaup**, uncommon ducks here, were reported this season. Single date duck sightings were of 3 **White-winged Scoters** at LO 12/3 (KL), 2 **Black Scoters** at BML 12/7-8 (JS) and 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at LO 12/11 (RK). Two to 5 **Common Goldeneyes**, a mostly midwinter duck here, were at LO 1/7-2/10 (MA, MS, MW, KK).

A **Red-throated Loon** was at BML 12/17-20 (RK, JS). Open water allowed 3 **Common Loons** to linger at BML 1/2-10 (KL, JS) and one until 1/30 (PM); ditto for a **Horned Grebe** still at LO 1/9 (KL). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** on the RCBC provided only the second record for the count. A few cormorants were here even in Jan, one or 2 of them at BML 1/11-12 (BR, MW) and one at LO 1/1 (RK). The juvenile **White Ibis** first seen at Kaercher Creek Park, Hamburg 11/10 was still there in Mar, the first time this species has wintered in Pennsylvania. During the brief times when the lake was mostly frozen, the ibis was thought to have foraged in the creek below the dam.

Black Vultures and **Turkey Vultures** were common and widespread all winter. **Bald Eagles** were found on all three CBC's and were often seen during winter at several places. **Northern Harriers** were scarce and **Rough-legged Hawks** unreported; both species are more common in hard winters. Raptors continue to migrate down the

Kittatinny Ridge after the official close of Hawk Mountain's counting season 12/15. Post-season hawkwatchers on North Lookout saw 3 **Bald Eagles**, a **Northern Goshawk** and nine **Golden Eagles** 12/24 (DH), 5 **Golden Eagles** 12/23 (RH) and 3 **Bald Eagles** 1/5 (JS). At least 2 **Merlins** again wintered at BML (JS). One or 2 adult **Peregrine Falcons**, perhaps attracted by abundant gulls, were occasionally seen at BML 12/9-2/4 (JS), and the Reading pair was in residence all winter. On the HCBC, wildlife artist David Hughes described and sketched a bird he identified as a dark **Gyrfalcon**. No other observer conclusively identified it, though many searched for several days, some reporting a "large, dark falcon" usually rapidly flying away.

American Coots wintered in significant numbers, with 30-60 at BQ in Jan and Feb, and 70 at LO 2/2 (RK). A **Sandhill Crane** lingering since fall was seen at BQ 12/7 (KL), 12/21 (MW) and 1/17 (MW). The mild fall produced good **Killdeer** counts on all three CBC's, and returning birds were reported starting 2/17 (RK). The high count of **Wilson's Snipe** was 11 on Sheridan Rd., Marion Twp. 12/11 (RK, JS), and 2 were still there 2/4 (JS). An **American Woodcock** seen near Birdsboro 1/7 (CS) was probably a rarely encountered wintering bird. Four woodcock displaying on River Rd., Hamburg 2/27 (MW) were right on time for spring migrants.

Ice-free conditions helped produce the most interesting gulling in many years. Gull numbers and variety peaked in two waves, one in Dec and another in Feb. BML was gull central as usual; among thousands of **Ring-billed Gulls** and hundreds of **Herring Gulls** were some notable rarities. *Berks's* second **Franklin's Gull**, a first winter bird, was found at Dry Brooks Day Use Area (aka "the beach") 12/15 (TB) and was seen by many birders until 12/20. On 12/17, this tiny gull—that should have been wintering in South America—was photographed (TJ) standing among Ring-billed Gulls a few feet from a burly sandy colored juv. **Glaucous Gull** visiting from the arctic, an improbable combination in the scope glass. The Glaucous also stayed until 12/20 (m.ob.). Another Glaucous Gull appeared 1/29 (RK) and was seen and photographed by many birders until 3/6 (RK). This proved to be a second winter bird, as it had begun to show a pale gray mantle by the end of its long visit. About 4 **Iceland Gulls** were seen at various times during each wave. Mostly juveniles, these spanned the color range from light to dark. One of the darker birds seen 12/11 (RK) seemed close to Thayer's type gulls in color and markings. A dark juv. at the beach was reported and described on eBird 1/19 as a "**Thayer's/Iceland Gull**" (TJ). The high count of seven (4 adult, 3 second winter) **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** was made at BML 12/11 (RK), and lower numbers were reported off and on all period. **Great Black-backed Gulls** peaked at 13 at BML 1/29 (KK) and were seen till 2/23.

Barred Owls calling in Longswamp Twp. 2/3 (fide PS) are probably breeding in a large, moist woodland. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** responded to playback near the Port Clinton Firetower 12/30 (DK). A flock of 1000 **Horned Larks** was seen on a manured field in Heidelberg Twp. 1/22 (PM). Since these manure colored birds are best seen on snow covered ground, few other reports followed. An **Eastern Phoebe** seen at the Rt. 662 bridge over the Maiden Creek 1/22 (KH) had apparently found enough insects to survive to that date. It was not searched for later. The only **Northern Shrike** was on Mountain Rd., Albany Twp. 12/18 (DR), but it was not relocated a few days later (RK). It is not uncommon for a few **Fish Crows** to winter, but the flocks of 15 at BML 2/9 (JS) and of 16 at Hamburg 2/23 (MW) were early arriving migrants. **Common Ravens** continue to be reported from new areas south of the Kittatinny, such as 2 over Womelsdorf 2/12 (KLu). Ravens seen at LO around Evansville all winter (and during the rest of the year), and a pair at Reading, Mt. Penn (KK), act like residents, not wanderers.

After the CBCs, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** could hardly have been reported in lower numbers. A VA pine grove at SGL produced one 1/31 and 2/21 (TC, KG), and another was in conifers at Boyertown Reservoir 2/22 (MA). A **Winter Wren** was in District Twp. 2/18 and 2/23 (RK). About 3 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and about 3 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**—plus the occasional **Yellow-rumped Warbler**—were seen by towhee watchers at BML during the period. **Eastern Bluebirds**, beneficiaries of mild winters, were common, but **American Robins**, **Hermit Thrushes**, and **Cedar Waxwings** were scarce. A **Gray Catbird** was near Topton 12/4-18 (SF). **American Pipits** are as hard to see on bare ground as Horned Larks. Some were identified by flight calls, but the high count of 60 was seen at Clauss Rd., Hamburg 2/24 (MW). Two **Lapland Longspurs** on Sunday Rd., Hamburg 1/23 (MW) in a flock including 6 **Snow Buntings** and many Horned Larks were the only ones reported. A **Pine Warbler** ate fat at a BML feeder 12/18, but was not seen later (JS).

The **Green-tailed Towhee** first reported at BML 11/20 was still there in Mar, enjoyed by many birders from several states, thanks to a steady supply of seed replenished daily by Paul Michaly and others. As a result of this bounty, the red-cedar at the Stilling Basin probably stood over the most productive bird feeder in *Berks*. Besides dozens of common feeder birds, the food attracted such uncommon wintering species as **Eastern Towhee**, **Chipping Sparrow**, and **Fox Sparrow** all season. One or two Chipping Sparrows were also seen on New Holland Rd. 12/4-29 (MSI), one was near Oley 1/1 (RK) and one in Hamburg 1/14 (ST). The first winter **Harris' Sparrow**, first seen 11/26 along Old Philly Pike near Kempton, was also still present in Mar. This skulker became easier to see after birders started scattering seed along the roadside, but was typically in view only briefly and required patience.

Hundreds of **Red-winged Blackbirds** were already being seen in mid-Feb. The only **Eastern Meadowlarks** reported all winter were 2 on Evansville Rd. near LO 2/29 (PM). A flock of 18 **Rusty Blackbirds** near Hamburg 2/17 (KG), one bird at BML 2/18 (JS) and a flock of 30 at LO 2/29 (PM) were all that birders reported. **Purple Finches**? What Purple Finches? After a paltry number on the CBCs, the only report was of one at a feeder in District Twp. 2/12 (RK).

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512, (610) 845-7310, rckeller@dejazzd.com**, Mary Ache, Tim Becker, Tom Clauser, Catherine Elwell, Steve Fordyce, Kerry Grim, Ken Haas, Ron Homa, David Hughes, Tom Johnson, Katrina Knight, Dave Kruel, Alex Lamoreaux, Ken Lebo, Kevin Lutz, Peter Montgomery, Dave Rieger, Barbara Ritzheimer, Peter Saenger, Joe Scholtes, Joan Silagy, Mike Slater (MSI), Chris Smith, Matt Spence, Shannon Thompson, Drew Weber, Nelson Weber, Matt Wlasniewski.

Blair County

No compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: SE Bradford County Christmas Bird Count centered at Wyalusing [if location is not noted, area of circle will follow in parentheses, e.g. (se), (e)] (CBC), Echo Beach Road (EBR), Peck Hill (PEH), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Woods Rd. (WRD).

Winter here was amazingly warm and low in snowfall, which may have been responsible for the early arrival of some species, such as **Hooded Mergansers** and **American Woodcocks**, and the presence of some birds, such as **Baltimore Oriole**, during the winter. The unusual weather also may have played a part in the low number of species reported on the CBC, and the few species in this slim winter report.

Two **Hooded Mergansers** were observed 2/21 on a sandbar in the SUR at EBR (DN, KN). There were numerous sightings of **Bald Eagles**: 10 (9 adults and one immature) were counted 1/2 on the CBC: one immature and an adult (nw) (MBo, JPa, MP), 2 adults on the SUR at the Standing Stone (TG, LH, CP, RYo), 2 adults near Wyalusing (SG, JH, JPo, JT), one adult (e) (MC, CD, JD, AT), 2 adults at French Asylum (RYa), and one adult at EBR (DN, KN). On 1/3 two adults were seen at EBR (DN, KN), and an immature was at Towanda 1/10 (CM, GM). The *Bradford* Bald Eagle survey 1/14 found 9 eagles along the SUR: 2 adults at Ulster, an adult on the Chemung River, 2 adults at Hornbrook, 2 adults at French Asylum, one immature at Macedonia, and one adult at the Wysox boat launch (TL, RG, JPe, DA, BM, LB, CB). On 1/22 an adult and 2 immature were at EBR (DN, KN), and one was found 2/26 at Lake Rd. north of Wysox (SR). A male **Northern Harrier** was seen hunting over fields near Spring Lake at midday 1/18 (TG), on 1/30 a male was counted on the sw. *Bradford* WRS (BL), and one was present at PEH 2/6 (AV, GV). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was counted 2/3 on the sw. *Bradford* WRS (BL). A **Merlin** was seen 12/22 at S. Elmer Ave, Sayre (MZ).

An unusual and delightful visitor to PEH was a tooting **Northern Saw-whet Owl** first noted 2/6, and then 2/18, 2/20-21 and continuing, calling about every night (AV, GV); one was also heard calling 2/27 on TNE (TG). **American Woodcocks** began displaying early this year: on 2/17 at WRD (CM); and 2/29 at Quick's Bend (DB). There were 19 **Ring-billed Gulls** on the CBC 1/2: 8 on the SUR south of Wyalusing (DB, MBu, FH), one on the SUR near Macedonia (TG, LH, CP, RYo), and 10 (sw) (BG, DG, RM). On 2/19 one was at PEH (AV, GV).

There was a total of 55 **American Tree Sparrows** during the CBC 1/2; one was seen at a feeder at TNE1/23 (TG); between 2 and 5 were counted at PEH 2/17-20 (AV, GV). Unusual in the winter, 2 **Field Sparrows** were seen 1/2 on the CBC at EBR (DN, KN). A total of 46 **White-throated Sparrows** were found on the CBC on 1/2; one or 2 were infrequently seen at PEH during the winter (AV, GV); 2 were at TNE 2/14 (TG) and on 2/17, one at WRD (CM). The only **Brown-headed Cowbird** observed was 1/9 at PEH (AV, GV). The most unusual sighting on the CBC 1/2 was an immature male **Baltimore Oriole** near Hollenback, which was first observed 12/10 eating frozen apples on a tree (MBa, NB). Thirty-one **Purple Finches** were counted on the CBC 1/2; on 2/8 there was a small flock near New Era (MG); a pair 2/12, and one 2/17-18 at PEH (AV, GV). Only a few **Pine Siskins** were present during the winter: 3 on the CBC 1/2 (MBa, NB); 2 at a feeder at TNE 1/10 (TG); and 3 on 2/17-20 at WRD (CM).

Observers: **Trudy Gerlach, 6907 Wyalusing New Albany Rd., Wyalusing, PA 18853, (570) 746-9270, tgswoods@epix.net**, Dick Allyn, Marvin Baker (MBa), Nancy Baker, Marty Borko (MBo), Chris Bremmer, Les Bresee, David Buck, Melody Buck (MBu), Mark Catalano, Chris DeMarco, Joe DeMarco, Michelle Georgescu, Trudy Gerlach, Sandy Goodwin, Brandan Grey, Doug Gross, Rich Gulyas, Liz Hart, Jeff Hartman, Fred Hill, 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, Carol Parker, Jason Petlock (JPe), John Polascik (JPo), Sharon Richards, Franz Schmitt, Alan Thatcher, Jon Thomas, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Lisa Williams, Ron Yanney (RYa), Ron Young (RYo), Marsha Zwierlein.

Bucks County

Locations: Central Bucks CBC (C-CBC), Southern Bucks CBC (S-CBC), Upper Bucks-Montgomery CBC (U-CBC), Falls Township Community Park (FTP), Maple Knoll Farms-Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Pine Run Dam (PRN), Upper Makefield Twp. Firehouse (UMT).

Both December and January averaged 7°F above normal, with Feb close at 6°F above normal. Precipitation was about 0.3 inches above normal for the period, with the very small amounts of snow melting quickly and having no significant impact on birds. The ground never froze other than a brief crust. In general, very mild weather, a good food supply, and lack of snow resulted in above average lingering of some half-hardy species, but it was a mixed bag as will be shown below. Lack of frozen lakes resulted in unusually high activity and a few unusual reports. Reports of six warbler species for the season are noteworthy. Winter irruptive species were very low. The CBCs had favorable weather conditions with open water and no snow cover. The 44th U-CBC 12/18 produced counts of 92 species and 17,702 individuals. The 46th C-CBC 1/1 had 89 species and 34,079 individuals. The 65th S-CBC 12/17 had 98 species and 127,180 individuals. It should be noted that all three CBCs have part of their count circles outside the county, but hopefully any unique species not reported in the county were left out of the details below. The tally of 138 species for the season was six more than last year's total. One Eurasian subspecies was reported.

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 the three decade climate normal data from 1981 to 2010. 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.

The **Pink-footed Goose** found last season continued at Pine Run Dam until 12/1 (AM, et al.). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported at Core Creek Park 12/20 (ph. MG), one was at PVP 12/28 (HD) and 1/30 (SR), and another stopped at Bradford Dam 1/17 (GJ). A **Greater White-fronted x Canada Goose** was at PVP 1/14-2/2 (AM). Another fairly identical bird was at Churchville Park 1/18 (DFa). The identification was based on the picture in the large Sibley guide. The highest and only significant count of **Snow Goose** was an estimated 2300 at Riegelsville 2/20 (EB). A **Snow x Canada Goose** was at PVP in Feb (MH, ML, AM). A well-described **Ross's Goose** was reported at PWT 12/10 (SSh), providing our twelfth county report. A single **Brant** at NSP 12/10 (PC) was the only report. A group of 5 **Cackling Geese** at

PVP 2/2 (AM) was the highest single site count reported, and one to 4 were reported there and from multiple sites through the season (m.ob.).

The mild weather probably contributed to above average numbers for some duck species, while others were late to arrive or arrived in lower numbers than normal for the same reason. **Wood Duck** was well above average, reported from at least 15 sites (m.ob.) with most of the reports in the low single digits and spread across all three months. Noteworthy winter high single site reports were of 16 at UMT 1/7 (AM, JM) and 2/13 (MG). Although **Gadwall** is expected in the southern part of the county in winter, 138 on 1/2 at the former US Steel, Falls Twp. was a particularly noteworthy single site count (DFa). The mild weather resulted in unusual lingering of **Gadwall** at multiple sites in the upper half of the county. High counts included 7 at NSP 12/18 (FG, BE), multiple counts of 15 to 22 at PRN 12/19-2/28 (m.ob.), and 10 at PVP 1/19 (AM). A female **Blue-winged Teal** lingered through Dec until at least 1/17 at FTP (BC ph., Dfa, TBe). This adds to only a handful of Dec reports and provided our first Jan report. UMT consistently had **American Black Duck** in unusual single site numbers this winter, with the high counts of 53 on 1/31 (MG) and 54 on 2/10 (BK). **Northern Shoveler** apparently also benefited from the warm weather and provided a new high count of 54 for the S-CBC 12/18. A count of 35 at PWT 1/22 (PC, MG) indicated they continued beyond the CBC period. Following no reports after 12/3 (MG), about 20 **Northern Pintails** at PVP 1/26 (DFa), 28 there 1/28 (AM, et al.), and 6 at Giving Pond 1/28 (PC) marked the beginning of the northward movement. Only single digit counts were reported after that (m.ob.).

Normally scarce in winter, **Green-winged Teal** were reported from at least 13 sites during the season (m.ob.), with at least three sites having counts of 10 to 16 (MG, GJ, BK). Although 38 Green-winged Teal on the S-CBC 12/17 may not seem like many, it was a new record high and far above the previous 10-year average of 6. **Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)** has been reported the last few years in the southern part of the county. Two were near LaSalle College, Newtown 1/17 (ph. MG), and one or both of these birds were reported there until 1/27 (m.ob.). Both birds were rediscovered at UMT 2/15 (MG), and one or both were sporadically reported there through the end of the period. A bird believed to be a **Green-winged Teal (American) x Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)** was noticed with the others on 1/18 (ph. BK) and again 1/25 (ph. AM), but the horizontal white stripe was barely discernible compared to the vertical stripe. Three **Redheads** at Milford Twp. 2/26 (GF) and 2/27 (DFa), and one at FTP 2/28 (DFa) were the only reports. The single site high counts of **Ring-necked Duck** were rather low, with 90 at SGL 56 on 2/21 (PC), 101 at Milford Twp. sewer ponds 2/26 (GF), and 128 at the Buckingham Twp. sewer ponds 2/28 (RH). Scarce anytime, the highest of a handful of reports of **Greater Scaup** was 7 at Falls Twp. 12/17 (SKa). All but one **Lesser Scaup** report came from Falls Twp. sites, with a single site high count of 30 on 2/14 (MG). The same area produced only one for the S-CBC 12/17, compared to the previous 10-year average of 61. The eBird entries indicated they did not arrive until Jan and in smaller than normal numbers. Single **Long-tailed Ducks** were at PVP 12/4 (AM), PVP 12/25 (CS), and NSP 2/4 (DFa). The highest single site count of **Bufflehead** was 90 at FTP (BK). The highest single site count of **Common Goldeneye** was 120 near Morrisville 1/19 (BK). With the warm weather through the CBC period, a total of only 221 **Common Mergansers** was made, compared to the thousands during last year's early freeze. In general, counts remained modest, with the estimated highest counts being 540 at Core Creek Park 1/29 (MG), 400 at Churchville Park 1/7 and 1/28 (HD), and 2500 at PVP 2/1 (JM). PVP had reports of over 1000 consistently 1/14-2/28 (AM), with over 2000 present 1/28-2/7 (AM) and was the exception to counts being modest. **Red-breasted Merganser** is normally rare in winter but was reported from at least five sites in low single digit numbers (m.ob.). One or 2 were at PVP most of the period (m.ob.). The high report for **Ruddy Duck** was 130 on 2/13 at FTP area (BK).

The CBC total of 47 **Wild Turkeys** reversed the improvement in numbers noted last year. A **Red-throated Loon** was at PVP 12/3 (SK), and 3 at one time at NSP 12/4 (SS) was unusual. One to 3 **Common Loons** were at PVP 12/1-4 (m.ob.). A single bird was reported at NSP 12/8 (DFa), 12/18 (FG, SC), and 12/23 (DR), with 2 there 12/24 (DR). One was at Giving Pond 12/13 (EN), and singles were at PWT 12/17 (SKa) and 1/22 (DFa). One stopped at PVP 1/28 (KA). The mild weather resulted in many lingering or wintering **Pied-billed Grebes** through the season (m.ob.). The CBC total of 37 was well above average. A surprising high count for Jan occurred 1/11, with 18 at PWT and 9 at the FTP area (DFa). Unusual in winter, 2 **Horned Grebes** were present at the FTP area through 12/11 (DFa, BK), with one continuing

through 1/11 (DFa, BK, GJ, MG). Even more surprising, being away from the lower county, were 2 at NSP 1/21 (DFa) and one at PVP 1/27 (MH). Reflecting the mild weather, a new S-CBC high of 55 **Double-crested Cormorants** was tallied 1/17. That was more than twice the recent 10-year average. Small numbers were reported through Dec. They were barely noted in eBird for the rest of the season. A total of 62 **Great Cormorants** 1/27—42 at Bristol and 20 near Mud Island—is believed to be a record high for the county (DFa). Even the S-CBC maximum count in 65 years is only 32. Three **Great Egrets** together were reported on the S-CBC 1/17 (BM), for only the eighth occurrence. More unusual was a very rare Jan sighting of one bird at PWT 1/10 (DFa). Probably unprecedented away from the lower county in Jan, one was at PVP 1/25 (RF), and presumably the same bird was at a pond in nearby Doylestown Twp. 1/26 (DP). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at Silver Lake Park 12/11, with one still there 12/17 (DFa). Another was at PWT 12/17 (DFa).

The 23 **Bald Eagles** on the S-CBC was a new record high. Note that the count of 45 that made it into the CBC records and various CBC summary reports last year, including the annual CBC summary in this journal, was supposed to have been corrected to 15, but attempts to fix it before publication failed. Mid-Winter Eagle Survey routes were run again but with little success. Only one **Bald Eagle** was tallied 1/14 on the 13 mile stretch of the Delaware River between Erwinna and Riegelsville (BV, NV). The PWT area 1/13 surprisingly also produced only one (AJ). At PVP, 3 were submitted for the survey 1/14 (AM). A dead adult was found in the middle of a cornfield near Core Creek Park 1/10 (MF). It was not one of the local pair and cause of death is unknown. Rarely reported here, a well described adult **Northern Goshawk** was reported from Nockamixon Twp. 2/2 (KT, TT). It was another low year for **Northern Harrier**, with only 5 on the CBCs equaling just 33% of the 10-year average. In addition, single day sightings from nine sites were reported (m.ob.). Winter reports of **Red-shouldered Hawk** from at least 12 sites (m.ob.) may reflect a continuing increased winter presence here. The count of 33 **Red-tailed Hawks** on the Bedminster Twp. centered WRS showed a rebound from last year's low of 14 and was slightly above the 12 year average (AM, JM). A single **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Tyler State Park 2/23 (MC) for the only report. Rarely reported here, a **Golden Eagle** circled over PVP 2/15 and headed north (AM). The total of 5 **American Kestrels** on the CBCs was even less than the already terrible previous five-year average of 13. In comparison, the historical CBC high counts show the precipitous crash in wintering numbers here: U-CBC 185; C-CBC 49; S-CBC 62. Despite being very wet and not frozen, no reports of Virginia Rail were received. The S-CBC had 663 **American Coots**, more than double the previous 10-year average, and open water resulted in small numbers at central and upper county lakes during the season.

Multiple counts in the teens of **Killdeer** through 12/19, along with many smaller counts, indicated an unusual number lingering due to the mild conditions. The highest count of 26 was near Quakertown 12/18 (DFa). There were only three eBird entries for Jan, but regular low single digit reports occurred starting 2/14 as returning birds began arriving (m.ob.). Similarly, **Wilson's Snipe** was reported throughout the period due to warm wet conditions. Mostly single digit counts came from seven sites. The highest counts were 11 at MKF 12/14 (RS, Dfa, AM) and 16 at PRN 2/11 (KR). **American Woodcock** often goes unreported in winter. Multiple sightings and even calling was reported through Dec from Nockamixon Twp. and 2 were there 2/11 (HM). One was heard at PVP 1/17 (SB). Returning birds were reported at four sites 2/20-29 (PC, Bhi, SS). **Laughing Gulls** lingered at FTP where expected, with 44 still there 12/8 (BK). One at NSP 12/11 (TBr) was very late for that far north in the county, and was the last report received for the season. One **Bonaparte's Gull** was at PVP 12/24 and 1/19 (both AM) for the only reports. Possible first winter **Thayer's Gulls** were reported as **Thayer's/Iceland Gull** in eBird at FTP 1/2 (MS) and 2/2 (TJ), and NSP 1/25 (BE) and 2/4 (MS). The **Iceland Gull** count of 15 was again on the high range for recent years for the S-CBC 12/17. The 2 at PVP for the C-CBC 1/1 (AM) provided only the third occurrence, all since 2005, and a new high for that count. They were reported through the season at the usual southern county gull hotspots (m.ob.). More unusual was the duration and numbers of this species at central and upper county sites through the season. They were present almost daily starting 12/24 at PVP, with peak counts of 4 on 1/14, 2/10, and 2/15 (AM). At NSP, the first report was 1/18 (DFa). An unusual 4 for Jan were there 1/25 (BE) but surpassed by 6 on 1/28 (AM, JM). A total of at least 9 different individuals based on age and plumage were believed seen at NSP over the period (ABr). Reports continued through the period (m.ob.). Single

site high counts of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** included 226 at NSP 12/3 (ABr, HE), 219 at NSP 1/28 (AM, JM), and 429 at PVP 1/28 (AM). The latter was a new high for PVP, but was quickly surpassed 2/15 with 431 (DFa). There were no **Glaucous Gull** reports away from the lower county, but they were reported there throughout the season (m.ob.). At least 4 presumed hybrid gulls of various combinations were suspected at FTP 1/27, including at least one probable **Nelson's Gull** (DFa).

CBC Gull Counts

Species	U-CBC	C-CBC	S-CBC	TOTAL
Ring-billed Gull	1279	1004	12547	14830
Herring Gull	53	97	65409	65559
Iceland Gull	0	2	15	17
Ls. Bl.-backed Gull	95	150	160	405
Glaucous Gull	0	0	6	6
Gr. Bl.-backed Gull	3	28	2555	2586
TOTAL	1430	1281	80692	83403

There were no reports for Barn Owl. The U-CBC count of 190 **Eastern Screech-Owls** matched the second highest number for that count recorded in 2008. Again a significant number came from outside the county. A **Barred Owl** at Quakertown Swamp was tallied for the U-CBC 12/18 (BE), one provided the fourth occurrence for the C-CBC 1/1, and one was seen a few times in Dec and Jan at PVP (JB, DB, AM), where it has only recently been present. There were also reports from Nockamixon Twp. in Jan and Tinicum Twp. in Feb. (PC). Unless just related to increased birder activity, this species may be slowly increasing here. The reported PVP **Long-eared Owl** numbers were low again this year, with the highest report being 2 in Dec and Jan (m.ob.). One was tallied for the U-CBC 12/18 at NSP (FG, SC). A **Short-eared Owl** was at PWT 12/11 (DFa) for the only report. Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were at Richland Twp. 12/18, with one noted there again 1/1 (DFa). **Belted Kingfisher** was another species remaining in higher numbers due to open water. CBC totals were about average, and there were many reports in eBird from over 20 sites (m.ob.).

Providing rare winter reports, a pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** wintered at UMT (MG), and one appeared at a feeder in Nockamixon Twp. 2/7-2/9 (KT, TT). **Pileated Woodpecker** provided a new high count for the second year in a row, with 13 for the C-CBC 1/1. An **Eastern Phoebe** was at PVP 12/3 (fide KK) and another was at Giving Pond 12/23 (MG, MRe). A **Say's Phoebe** at Maple Knoll Farms provided a first county record and one of very few for the state. It was first noted 12/13 and remained through the season (RS, VS, doc., ph.). The micro-environment provided by two adjacent dairy farms and a very large steaming mulch pile at a processing facility kept the bird well supplied with food. Difficult to find in the county in recent years, a **Northern Shrike** was at MKF 1/9 (DFa). A record high 754 **Fish Crows** on the C-CBC far surpassed the previous high of 55 last year and reflects both the apparent increase of this species and warm weather. **Common Raven** reports were light, with one at New Hope 1/1 (DFa), one at Doylestown Twp. 1/22 (BG), 2 at Nockamixon Twp. 1/29 (HM) and 2/19 (PC), and one near Rushland 2/9 (SC, FG). The only site reporting **Horned Lark** regularly was MKF, with the high count being 125 1/22 (RS). Two **Tree Swallows** near Tullytown provided the first ever occurrence on the S-CBC 12/17 (DJ). Six **Tree Swallows** at New Hope 2/25 (BHo) were the first spring arrivals. With no or nearly no movement of **Black-capped Chickadee** into our area this fall, the total CBC count of only 31 is probably the lowest ever. All but 3 were on the U-CBC. It was only the third time in the 65 year history of the S-CBC that it was not reported on that count. **Carolina Chickadee** numbered 676, and **chickadee sp.** totaled 209. It would be interesting to know what DNA tests would reveal about our chickadees.

The tiny fall movement of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reflected in a total of zero in the *Bucks* portion of the CBCs. There was one reported through most of Dec at PVP (CA, HE, AM), Three at NSP 2/27 (BE) were surprising and the only other report. A **House Wren** at PVP 12/10 (ABe) was the only report. CBC counts for **Golden-crowned Kinglet** (37) and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (12) were about half the 10-year average despite the mild weather. However, there were reports of low single digit counts throughout the season from several sites (m.ob.). **Eastern Bluebird**, down last year, was back to the 10-year average on the CBCs, with 567 tallied. **Hermit Thrush** reports were mostly of one individual at a time, but reports were steady throughout the season (m.ob.). Twenty-two in one sub-area of the U-CBC at NSP (FG, SC) accounted for most of the 29 on that count and the total of 34 for all three CBCs. The total was a little above average. **American Robins**

also benefited from the good food supply and weather, with the CBC tally of 7594 being 15% above the 10-year average. Despite the good conditions, **Gray Catbird** was inexplicably uncommon, with only 3 on the CBCs, and eBird entries for the period totaling 4 birds (BE, MG, EN, JP). A total count of 4 **Brown Thrashers** on the CBCs was a relatively good showing for this consistently scarce winter species. One at PWT 1/9 was one of the same birds counted on the S-CBC (DFa) and was the only post CBC report. **American Pipit** was noted by the many birders chasing the Pink-footed Goose at PRN 12/1-2, with the highest report being 41 on 12/1 (SKl). MKF provided the most reliable reports thereafter in Dec and Jan, with a high count of 70 on 1/1 (RS). Strangely, none were noted there in Feb. However there was a report of 7 2/9 at UMT (MG). The CBC total of 337 **Cedar Waxwings** was 80% of the 10-year average despite the good weather and food crop. However, they did remain throughout the season with a mix of mostly single and double digit counts, but multiple triple digit counts came from PVP (m.ob.). The highest report was an estimated 400 in one flock at PVP 2/29 (JM). The expected Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting were not reported.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Bristol Twp. 12/17-18 (MJ, LR) for the sixth occurrence on the S-CBC. Another at Langhorne 12/28 may have been the same one reported there on 11/18 and marks the fourth fall/winter out of the last five that one has stayed there for some period of time (GD, CD). A **Common Yellowthroat** was at FTP 1/11(DFa). The total of 247 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** on the three CBCs was about 25% above the previous ten year average, with 186 of them on the U-CBC. A rare winter **Palm Warbler (Western)** was discovered near MKF 12/16 and remained through the season (RS, VS). Certainly the rarest warbler of the season was a **Yellow-throated Warbler (yellow-lore)** that was discovered at Bristol Twp. 1/7 (ph. GJ) and continued through at least 1/20 (DFa ph.). This is the first winter record for this species in the county and a rare occurrence of the yellow-lore variety in the state at any season, per *Birds of Pennsylvania* (2000) by McWilliams and Brauning. A **Nashville Warbler** was spotted at the exact same site as the Yellow-throated Warbler at Bristol Twp. 1/29 for our first ever Jan report (DFa). There were two in Dec 2008 for our only other winter reports. In general, sparrows were counted in numbers near or above the 10-year average on the CBCs. After only one on the CBCs last year, **Eastern Towhee** was one of the most represented half-hardy species that lingered this winter. A total of 52 on the CBCs was several times the long-term average. Post CBC reports continued from at least 16 sites with multiple sites reporting more than one individual (m.ob.). **American Tree Sparrow** continues to be in low numbers, with 45 on the CBCs equaling about 25% of the 10-year average. The few eBird entries were all in the low single digits. Again the CBC historical high counts give some idea of the status change here: U-CBC 479; C-CBC 334; S-CBC 652. Despite the weather, **Chipping Sparrow** was barely reported. There were only a total of 4 on the CBCs, one was at PVP 12/1 (AM) and 1/19 (EN), and 3 were in Doylestown Twp. 1/17 (MH). Almost all the **Savannah Sparrow** reports were from MKF, with a high count of 17 on 1/15 (RS). The total CBC count of 34 **Fox Sparrows** was almost twice the 10-year average, and the species was reported throughout the season in small numbers (m.ob.). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at PWT 12/17 was only the third ever for the S-CBC and added to the handful of historical winter reports (DFa). **Eastern Meadowlark** was unreported despite the warm weather. Considering the historical high counts on the CBCs, the change in status here is striking: U-CBC 63; C-CBC 77; S-CBC 189. A CBC total of 51 **Rusty Blackbirds**, the majority of which were not in the county, was again above the long term average. Of the handful of reports, the highest count was 25 at Silver Lake Park 2/26 (PJ). Not surprising given the weather, there were multiple reports of huge blackbird flocks made up of mostly **Common Grackles**. The highest counts were mostly in Dec into early Jan, including over 100,000 at PWT (DFa) and an estimated 20,000 near Rushland 12/28 (FG, SC). A **Baltimore Oriole** was at PVP 12/13 (AM) and again 1/1 (HD). Another was seen briefly near Kintnersville 2/27 (CE, LS ph.). The near absence of **Purple Finches** continued into winter. Thus, it was surprising to see 9 reported by one group on the U-CBC 1/18, which were also the only ones on the CBCs. There were only five other reports totaling 9 birds, all in Dec except one 2/29 (DFa, DR, AM, JM, VM). A **Pine Siskin** at Kemper Park, Warminster 2/1 was the only report (GJ). Comments that **American Goldfinches** were in low numbers or missing from feeders was substantiated by the CBC total of 276, which was about 45% of the 10-year average.

CORRIGENDA: In Volume 25, No. 1, I indicated that the record

high **Eastern Screech-Owl** count of 237 surpassed the previous high of 161 in 2006. The second highest count was actually 190 in 2008, which was matched again this year.

Observers: **August Mirabella 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales 19454, (215) 368-0594, augustmirabella@aol.com**, Kris Ahlquist, Diane Allison, Alana Balogh (ABa), Timothy Becker (TBe), Anne Bekker (ABe), Dave Belford, Alan Brady (ABr), Erich Boenzli Sharon Brauer, Terry Bronson (TBr), Jean Burch, Paul Cooper, Marlin Corn (MC), Sally Conyne, Bob Cunningham, Henry D'Alessandro, Vince DeAntoninis, Chris Dewaghe, Gerry Dewaghe, Carol Easter, Howard Eskin, Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik (DFa), Doug Filler (DFi), George Franchois, Roy Frock, Mark Gallagher, Frank Gill, Bill Graham, Ray Hendrick, Brian Henderson (BHe), Barbara Hiebsch (BHi), Bill Hoehne (BHo), Mike Homel, Karen Isett, Adam Jacobs, Phil Jeffrey, Mick Jeitner, Gail Johnson, Tom Johnson, Don Jones, Steve Kacir (SKA), Bill Keim, Ken Kitson, Stephen Kloiber (SKI), Mike Line, Victoria Mahmoud, Harry McGarrity, Bob Mercer, Judy Mirabella, Dwight Molotsky, Christopher Mortensen, Kirk Moulton, Lois Moulton, Ed Norman, Many observers (m.ob.), Don Parlee, Jessica Pellien, Michael Rehman (MRe), Ken Rieker, Linda Rowan, David Rupp, Margie Rutbell (MRu), Matt Sabatine, Larry Sassaman, Casey Setash, Steve Shreiner (SSh), Richard Smith, Steve Smith (SSm), Vicky Smith, Katherine Throckmorton, Timothy Throckmorton, Benjamin Vizzachero, Nora Vizzachero.

Butler County

Locations: Birdwatchers Store (BS), Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC), Lake Arthur (LA), Moraine State Park (MSP), Poplar Forest (PF), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Township (SRT), South Shore (SS), South Shore Day-use Area (SSDA), Waterfowl Observation Area (WOA).

The CBC this year was 12/17. What a difference a year makes for weather. On 12/18/2010, LA was completely frozen four inches thick, the landscape covered by several inches snow, and the wind chill hovered around zero degrees. Actually there was more ice fishing folk than birds. Conversely, LA in 2011 was totally open, attracting an adequate number of water birds. There were above normal temperatures and appropriate precipitation: three inches of rain and six inches of snow in December, two inches of rain and 13 inches of snow in January, and 1.5 inches of rain and nine inches of snow in February. The meager 28 inches of snow in 2011 compares to the 54 inches in 2010. Violent thunderstorms with heavy lightning, strong winds, and 1.5 inches of rain ended the winter season 2/29.

Waterfowl represented in the 2011 CBC at LA included one **Cackling Goose** (new for count), 607 **Canada Geese**, 3 **Tundra Swans**, a juvenile **Trumpeter Swan** (new for count, AL, SC), 55 **Gadwalls**, 5 **American Black Ducks**, 57 **Mallards**, 2 **Redheads**, 3 **Lesser Scaup**, 51 **Buffleheads**, 4 **Common Goldeneyes**, 44 **Hooded**, one **Common** and one **Red-breasted Merganser**, and 83 **Ruddy Ducks** (m.ob.). The WOA remained open through the season with 105 **Gadwalls** 12/23 and declining to 17 thereafter, but were joined by 3 **American Wigeons** 12/29, then increased to 36 on 2/18 (MV). Also notable were 3 **Northern Shovelers**, one **Northern Pintail**, and one **Green-winged Teal** with 142 **American Coots** 12/23 (MV). Spring migration was evident when 11 **American Wigeons**, 3 **Canvasbacks**, 9 **Redheads**, 54 **Ring-necked Ducks**, one **Surf Scoter**, and 41 **Common Mergansers** were counted along the SS 2/18 (MV).

Other CBC waterbirds included one **Red-throated** and 3 **Common Loons**, 3 **Horned Grebes**, 4 adult **Bald Eagles**, 555 **American Coots**, 7 **Bonaparte's**, 216 **Ring-billed**, and 4 **Herring Gulls**, and 4 **Belted Kingfishers** (m.ob.). A lone **Black-headed Gull** was discovered 12/9 resting on the grass at the SSDA swimming area in MSP with 5-8 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 124 **Ring-billed Gulls**, and 2 **Herring Gulls** (ST, DW). MV saw the bird later in the day. This rare *Larus* attracted another of its kind the following week, was photographed often, and although it was missed on the CBC day itself, one bird lingered until 12/29 (MV).

An extraordinary occurrence developed in the upper part of the Muddy Creek segment of LA when 24 **Bald Eagles**, 20 in the air at the same time, apparently were attracted by a massive die off of gizzard shad strewn over a broad area of mudflats 2/18 (DD). Were these eagles migrating together and spotted the prey aloft or were they resident birds congregating at the site? This happens in southeastern

Alaska every autumn when eagles congregate along the Chilkat River in November, some individuals traveling over 200 miles for the last dying salmon run of the year. Seven eagles were still there 2/21 in the company of 19 **Bonaparte's**, 777 **Ring-billed**, 33 **Herring**, and one juvenile **Great Black-backed Gull**, 29 **American Crows**, and 2 **Common Ravens** (side by side), all still feasting on the dead fish (GW). A juvenile **Golden Eagle** was photographed at the WOA 2/21 (JD).

Besides the appreciable numbers of water birds, the Butler CBC recorded two unusual species of land birds: a **Northern Shrike** originally discovered 11/13 that thoroughly explored the entire SS area at least until the end of the season (GW) and (by far the best bird of the count) a beautiful male **Varied Thrush** at a feeder on a Bartramian Audubon wildlife sanctuary northwest of SRB (HL, LL). Luckily the owners documented this avian vagrant with three diagnostic color photographs, never before recorded in *Mercer* nor in a previous CBC (SB). Seven species of possible woodpeckers, 2 **Common Ravens**, one **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, a single **Gray Catbird**, 4 **Rusty Blackbirds**, and 6 **Pine Siskins** were other noteworthy birds for the count with a total of 82 species, but just 816 individuals (SB). The 23 siskins that visited the BWS 12/18 paid daily appearances to the score of bird feeders, gradually declining in number to the end of the season (CS, MV). No other northern finch was reported at any time during the season. Both the **American Tree Sparrow** and the **Dark-eyed Junco** were much later in arriving in the season (early Dec) in SRB, SRT, MW, and WCN and in far fewer numbers than last year (GW).

Observers: **Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145, genewilhelm@aol.com**, Dave Adams, Nancy Baker, Jim Barcaskey, Jon Barcaskey, Beverly Barnett, Tom Baumgardner, Steve Bickel, Larry Brown, Marcia Brown, Gene Butcher, Suzanne Butcher, Bob Clouse, Deanna Clouse, Shawn Collins, Helen Coyne, Ruth Crawford, Dave Darney, Debbie Darney, Barbara Davis, Charles Davis, Sharon Davis, Cindy Dayen, Jay Dayen, Barb Dean, George Dean, Jake Dingel, Donald Eyth, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Robert Jamison, Sally Jamison, Alex Lamoreaux, Henry Lenz, Linda Lenz, Melissa Little, Robert Madjaric, Reenie Merlina, Richard Nugent, Bob Pietz, Judy Pietz, Susan Race, Ed Scurry, Cathy Setzer, Becky Sheeler, Chuck Smith, John Stehle, Mark Swansiger, Shannon Thompson, Christy Tichy, Gary Uber, Robert Van Newkirk, Linda Wagner, Robert Walczak, Dorothy Weisberg, Joanne Wilhelm, Joan Wilver, Joe Young.

Cambria County

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

The lake at PG had open water most of the period as a result of the warm weather. Waterfowl put on a good show with **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon**, **Northern Pintail**, **Canvasback**, and **Lesser Scaup** the highlights. A **Turkey Vulture** at CP 1/31 was our first Jan record (DG, JS). **Northern Harriers** were seen at several locations. The only report of a **Rough-Legged Hawk** was at PA 1/19 (DG). First **American Woodcock** was at PG 2/26 (DG). Two **Short-eared Owls** were seen in the grass fields just outside of PG in Dec and Jan (DG, JS). Two **Northern Shrikes** were seen at PG during the period (DG, JS). A single **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at PA 1/15 (DG). Up to 25 **Snow Buntings** were seen in the fields at CP 1/20 (DG, JS). Unusual for our area were several small flocks of **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Common Grackles**, and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** that were seen in every month of the period.

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

Cameron County

No compiler.

Carbon County

No report.

Compiler: **Dustin Welch, 7122 Arrowhead Road, Bath, PA 18014, (484) 538-7486, DWelch5951@aol.com**.

Centre County

Locations: PSU Arboretum (ARBOR), Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP), Colyer L. (COL), Jo Hayes Vista (JHV), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), Toftrees pond and gamelands (TOF).

According to an FAA/USDA investigation, large congregations of waterfowl at the Duck Pond (a.k.a. Centre Furnace Pond), are "of concern and... a potential hazard" to University Park Airport, which has seen several bird strikes in recent years. The Duck Pond dates back to 1895 and is an excellent waterfowl hotspot. Many rare waterfowl lingered this year because many local lakes remained all or partially free of ice this winter. Information for this report were obtained from the State College Bird Club listserv and eBird, with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove 2010 (B&G, 2010) and "Wildlife Hazard Assessment for University Park Airport (KNUV) State College, Pennsylvania," Final Report December 2010, USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service. Unless otherwise noted, all species are uncommon in the county during the winter.

Eight or 9 **Snow Geese** were at Nittany Farms Pond 2/27-28 (JoL, DW, AL, GG) and up to 48 were at COL (MD, et al.) This species has never been observed here in Feb. Late migrating **Tundra Swan** included 27 on 12/8 at Unionville (AnF), one at BESP 12/11 (MD, JoL, DW, AL, AnF) and 24 on 12/18 (JV). A rare Jan report included two flocks of about 60 each 1/2 TOF (DW). Tundra Swans are common during spring migration, with widespread reports, including 172 on 2/29 BESP (DE, NaB). Three **Mute Swans** were noted 2/10 at State College (KE). This species is rarely observed here, and most birds ... are domestic or feral (B&G, 2010).

Gadwall and **American Wigeon** are rare in Jan and Feb. Up to 7 **Gadwall** were reported 12/2-2/29 at Duck Pond (IG, et al.); reports from BESP included a pair 12/29 (BS), 3 on 2/11 (DW, MM, NF), and 28 on 2/24 (JoL, et al.). Curtin wetlands hosted one or 2 on 2/26-29 (JV, MD, DE, NaB), and IG found one 2/29 at BMSP. Two **American Wigeons** were reported 12/16 at COL (AnF), and NF noted one 1/5 at Duck Pond. A male and female were spotted 2/6 at BESP (JoL, AL, MM, DW). Birds began migrating through the area in late Feb. A fallout 2/24-25 produced 39 at BESP (AC, et al.) and 20 on 2/24 at Blanchard (AL, DW, JoL, JW). Smaller numbers were reported at COL 2/23-25 (StB, et al.), BMSP 2/29 (IG), and Nittany Farms 2/27-28 (DW, GG). Up to 19 **American Black Ducks** wintered at Duck Pond (NB, et al.) They were also regulars at BESP (DeG, et al.), with 171 reported 1/12 (JV). Sightings of up to 7 birds were recorded at nine locations, and JD found 25 on 2/12 at Old Fort. **Northern Shoveler** and **Northern Pintail** are rare during winter. Nonetheless, one to 3 **Northern Shovelers** were reported 12/7-13 (NF, TS, AC, CE) and 1/2 at Duck Pond (NB, JV, DW). Eight were spotted 2/24-29 at BESP (AL, et al.). Up to 7 early **Northern Pintails** were at Curtin wetlands 2/3-24 (MD, et al.) Many reports were from BESP 2/17-29 (NF, et al.), with 125 counted during a fall-out 2/24 (JoL, et al.) One to 12 were spotted 2/27 at Nittany farms pond (IG), 2/25 near Tait farms (DR), 2/7 COL (MD) and 2/23-24 COL (StB, JoL, AL, DL, MD). Small numbers (up to 5) of wintering **Green-winged Teal** were intermittently reported 12/2-1/2 Duck Pond (IG, NB, DW), and were regulars 1/3-2/27 MMNC (JV, et al.), with 9 seen 2/14 (NF). Nine were also reported 2/24-26 at BESP (AL, et al.) The PSU Bathgate Retention Pond had 3-8 from 2/1-2/19 (DW, JoL, AL), and 2 were found in Old Fort 2/12 (JD). Two were also located 2/28-29 Old Gatesburg Rd. (DW, AL, JoL). Twenty-eight **Canvasbacks**, another rare winter duck, were spotted 2/24 at BESP (AL, et al.), although only one remained 2/25 (JD, et al.)

A **Redhead** was recorded 2/4-6 at Curtin wetlands (JV, et al.), up to 3 at Duck Pond 2/19-29 (CE, et al.), and as many as 54 at BESP 2/24-26 (AL, et al.) A male **Ring-necked Duck** wintered 12/1-2/29 at Duck Pond (MeO, et al.), with one or 2 others also occasionally noted. Sporadic observations were reported at COL 12/8-2/24 (MD, TS). A female was seen 12/21 at BESP (MD). That number swelled to 48 on 2/24 before declining to 12 on 2/25 (AL, et al.). SCO had up to 5 between 2/22-25 (MD, DR, JV). 2/29 was a good day with one reported at Curtin wetlands (NaB, DE), 4 at BMSP (IG), and 3 at Buffalo Run pond (DW). Both scaup are rare during winter. Nine early migrating **Greater Scaup** were observed 2/24 at BESP (AL, et al.) An adult male **Lesser Scaup** was present 1/24-2/20 at Duck Pond (JoL, et al.) One was seen 12/10 BESP (MaJ), and up to 41 were reported there 2/17-24 (NF, et al.). MD located 2 at SCO 2/26-28, and one was noted 2/25-27

at COL (DR, MD, AL, DW, IG). JV saw a single **White-winged Scoter** 12/24 at BESP; 8 **Long-tailed Ducks** were observed also there 12/24 (JV, et al.). COL had up to 15 **Bufflehead** 12/3-21 (JD, et al.). Most observations were from BESP 12/6-2/24 (AnF, et al.). Four were located 2/8 at Curtin wetlands (MD). Although rare, up to 20 **Common Goldeneyes** were reported 12/11-12/29 at BESP (MD, et al.). As many as a dozen were also present there 1/12-2/25 (AL, et al.), except for 2/24, a fallout that day yielded 49 males and 16 females (AL, et al.). One or two were also seen 12/20-21 at COL (JV, KE, CE). Up to 62 **Hooded Mergansers** were noted at BESP 12/3-2/29 (DeG, et al.). There were also several reports from COL 12/7-12/23 (AL, et al.) and 2/2-27 (DR, et al.). Three were observed 12/21 at Duck Pond (AC, JV), and 2 were spotted there 2/25-29 (DW, et al.). Other locations with up to 4 birds included SCO 2/22-23 (DR), Curtin wetlands 2/24 (AL, JoL), Granny Lane pond 2/18 (MD), and TOF 2/22-29 (NK, JV). **Common Mergansers** are common; but some large numbers were reported, including 300 being harassed by a second year Bald Eagle 2/11 at BESP (BS). One **Red-breasted Merganser** was spotted 12/31 at BESP (JD); 12 were reported 2/4 at BESP (CE), and up to 9 on 2/24 at BESP (JoL, et al.). All **Ruddy Duck** observations were from BESP, with a pair noted 12/31 (BS), 3-4 on 2/24 (DW, et al.), and 2 on 2/29 (MD).

Four **Ring-necked Pheasants** were reported 12/6 on a survey of property recently released by Rockview Penitentiary to Penn State (JW, et al.). Single **Ruffed Grouse** were observed at 8 locations during the winter; 3 were noted 12/6 at Unionville (AnF) and near Stormstown 1/4 (MD). Three **Red-throated Loons** were observed 12/7 at BESP (GZ), and one was spotted at 12/7-9 COL (NF, TS, IG). Up to 9 **Common Loons** were reported 12/2-1/15 at BESP (TS, et al.), and one was heard calling 12/20-22 COL (KE, et al.). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was noted at 12/1 TOF (NK), 3 at BESP 12/3 (DeG, GL), and one 12/9 at COL (TS, NF). DW found one 1/15 at Johnston Rd. pond. **Horned Grebe** is rare after mid-Dec. Up to 7 were spotted 12/3-26 at BESP (DeG, et al.). Reports of one continued at BESP 1/7-15 (BS, AL, JoL, DW, JV). Up to 19 were spotted as early migrants paused at BESP 2/24-29 (DE, et al.). One was also reported 2/24 at COL (MD). Six late migrating **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen at 12/2-7 BESP (TS, et al.). Other than BESP, where up to 10 **Great Blue Herons** were observed 12/2-31 (TS, et al.), winter reports were of one to 3 birds dispersed widely throughout the county, mostly in Jan (AnF, et al.)

Although **Turkey Vultures** are uncommon to absent in the winter (B&G, 2010), and **Black Vultures** are seldom seen any time, both were widespread this winter. **Black Vultures** were clustered in three areas: State College – Boalsburg: 14 reports of at least 55 birds (KE, et al.), Pleasant Gap – Rockview Penitentiary – Spring Cr. Canyon: 7 reports of 16 birds (AL, et al.), and State College – Pine Grove Mills: 7 reports of up to 4 birds (AC, et al.). Other sightings included BESP 2/6 (AL, MM, JoL) and 2/25 (MB), and Rte. 22/322 near Potters Mills 2/20 (CK, AT). Single **Turkey Vultures** were seen 12/2-1/29 at six locations (TS, et al.) Other observations included 3 on 12/18 Linden Hall Rd. (JD), 14 on 12/20 Rte. 45 near Boalsburg (JL), and 2 on 1/22 Twigs Ln. near Boalsburg (NF, IG, AL, JoL, DW). February reports were numerous and widespread with a high of 26 reported 2/25 near Bellefonte (DR). The famous **Bald Eagles** pair chose a different nest location this year at BESP, after having used the old tree for 7 years. As many as 8 of varying ages were reported at BESP (JL, et al.), including an imm. that died of unknown causes. Necropsy results are not yet available, but there were no visible signs of injury (BV *fide* BS). According to the banding certificate issued to BV, the male eagle was banded 5/25/2010 in New York. Elsewhere there were 16 reports of up to 8 birds each in 14 locations 12/6-2/28 (JW, et al.).

Single **Northern Harriers** were widely observed 12/18-2/29 throughout the county (MD, et al.). Three were found near Woodward 1/16 (IG, DW), and two males were reported 2/4 Penns Valley and Brush Valley (StH, BH). All **Sharp-shinned Hawk** observations except one were of single birds between 12/2-2/27 (IG, et al.). **Cooper's Hawks** followed a similar pattern 12/11-2/28 with many records of single and some of multiple birds (AnF, et al.). In contrast, **Red-shouldered Hawks** were lightly reported, with 10 observations of single birds from 6 locations (CG, et al.). Four were recorded 1/21 near Snow Shoe (DW, NaB, NF, AL). Many **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported 12/4-2/20 (MD, et al.), including 6 light phase adults and 3 dark phase adults in Penns Valley and Brush Valley 2/4 (StH, BH). Up to 6 **Golden Eagles** were spotted 12/3-6 at Unionville (AnF), and up to 8 at JHV 12/8-16 (CW, et al.). CW also saw two 12/26 at JHV. Feb reports included one adult at BESP 2/6 (AL, JoL, MM) and one hunting at COL 2/18 (KE, CE).

Single observations of Merlins came from Unionville 12/12 (AnF), Elk Country Club near Boalsburg 12/16-1/10 (StB, et al.), Laurel Hills pond 12/16 Laurel Hills pond (StB, NaB, AL) and Tadpole Rd./Fairbrook wetlands 1/26 (AL, JoL, NaB, JV). Two were spotted 2/12 (JD), one in Old Fort, and one along Rte. 45 between Woodward and Aaronsburg. A juv. **Peregrine Falcon** was ph. 2/8 at Rock Hill Pond (AL, DeG, MD, JoL, NaB), and DeG reported another juv. 2/28 at Brush Valley Rd. near the intersection with Rock Hill Rd. The last report was of one 2/18 at Rte. 322/Park Ave. interchange (DW).

Up to 15 **American Coots** wintered at Duck Pond (MeO, et al.). BESP had several reports, with 6-8 noted 12/11 (MD, JoL, DW, AL, AnF) and smaller numbers 12/18 (JV), 1/7 (BS), and 2/25 (DR). One was seen 2/4-11 at Curtin wetlands (BS, NF, StB, MM, DW), and DW, AL, JoL located one at Axemann Rd. pond 1/28. A State College C.B.C. highlight was a flock of 16 **Sandhill Cranes**, which were ph. in flight near State College 12/18 (DW, StB, AL, NaB, JW). **Killdeer** were reported regularly and widely (AnF, et al.). The first winter record of **Baird's Sandpiper** occurred 12/7 at BESP (AL, JoL, NaB, StB). This winter's first **Wilson's Snipe** was reported 1/1 at Forest Rd. (FM, AM). JV noted 8-10 at Ramblewood 1/23, and DE located 1 MMNC 2/5; however, most observations were 1/15-2/19 at Tadpole Rd./Fairbrook wetlands (DW, et al.) where up to 31 were reported (1/23, JoL, AL). MD recorded the county's first **American Woodcock** 1/1 at BESP. DO observed a single woodcock on a display flight 2/23 at Unionville, and DR encountered one 2/29 at SCO.

A few notable larids were observed at BESP. A few rare winter **Bonaparte's Gulls** were spotted, including an adult 12/6 (AL, JoL, StB, NaB); BS observed 2 on 12/26. Up to 3 adults were reported 1/2-14 (DW, et al.), and JV located 14 on 2/4. Two reports also came from other locations, including one on 1/22 at Walnut Springs Park (NaB) and one near Orviston 1/28 (StS, WL). All **Herring Gull** reports were from BESP; up to 5 were seen 12/21-1/15 (MD, et al.) and one on 2/1-19 (MD, NF, NaB, DE).

A single **Barred Owl** was reported 12/18 at Greens Valley Rd. (AnF). The same night two were heard at Linden Hall Rd. (JD, DiB). A single owl was heard 12/22 at Bear Meadows (JD), and 2 were noted there 2/20 (JV). Two were heard calling 1/5 at Tow Hill (MD), and one or 2 were heard at SCO 2/5-22 (JD, CE, NB, DiB, JL). JV found 2 near University Park Airport 2/28. A probable **Long-eared Owl** was noted near the airport 1/10 (AL, JoL). Although not confirmed at that time, JV made a positive identification 3/3-4 in approximately the same location. **Short-eared Owls** were regulars at or near University Park Airport 1/4-30 (DW, et al.) but were only observed twice in Feb: 2/4 (JV) and 2/20 (MD). A few **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were noted, including one 12/17-18 at N. Meadows Rd. (DW, StB, NaB, AL) and at another Bear Meadows 12/18 (DW, AL, NaB, JW). One was also heard at SCO 2/17 (DiB) and 2/28 (JV).

Belted Kingfishers were widely and regularly reported, usually one per checklist (DeG, et al.). Three were observed 12/3 at BESP (DeG, GL). Single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were noted at scattered locations in Dec and Jan (DW, et al.). Three were reported 1/1 along Bald Eagle Cr. (NiK). There were very few Feb reports: at TOF 2/3 (JV), Lederer Park 2/2-7 (JeA, et al.), and Unionville 2/14 (DO). **Northern Flickers** were regulars; NiB found 7 along Bald Eagle Cr. 1/1. The **Northern Shrike** first reported at BESP in Nov continued 12/8-2/19 (BB, et al.). No evidence was found to indicate that more than one bird was present. Elsewhere, a juv. was reported 1/21 in a reclaimed strip mine area north of Snow Shoe (AL, DW, NaB, NF), and an adult was identified at Rusnak Hill Rd. 2/5 (JV).

State College Borough and Penn State conducted crow harassment activities this winter in an effort to keep large flocks of **American Crows** and **Fish Crows** from becoming a nuisance (BF, 2/22). Mixed flocks of up to 1000 of both species were noted 1/3-5 at State College (JV, NB). **Fish Crows** are uncommon outside of State College. Sightings of up to 2 birds were reported 12/11 (AL) and 12/23 at BESP (JV), 2/5 at Fairbrook wetlands (JD), 2/10 at SCO (MM), 2/15 at University Park Airport (AC), 2/23 at COL (StB), and 2/29 at Tadpole Rd. (AL, JoL). Small numbers of **Common Ravens** were widely and regularly reported (AL, et al.). Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported 12/18: one at Walnut Springs Park (CE) and one on Linden Hall Rd. (JD). Another was noted 1/16 at State College (NK), and one 2 were recorded 1/29-2/9 at Lederer Park (JV, et al.). There were 11 reports of single **Brown Creepers** (NaB, et al.). Four were seen 12/8 at Bear Meadows (DW, StB, AL), and 2 each on 12/18 at the Science Park-Nixon Rd. area (AM, FM), 1/1 BESP (BS), 1/21 Snow Shoe area (AL, DW, NF, NaB), and Unionville 2/14 (DO). One or two **Winter**

Wrens were spotted at MMNC 12/2 (MeO) and 1/24-2/20 (JV, et al.). Two were reported at Bald Eagle Cr. 1/1 (NiB) and single birds at Unionville 12/10 (AnF), Spring Cr. Canyon 1/10 (MM), 1/11 ARBOR (JoL, AL), and Duck Pond 1/17 (DE) and 2/20 (AL, JoL). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at feeders 12/18 during the State College CBC (DW), and DO noted one 2/29 at Unionville.

Hermit Thrush were observed 12/6 on PSU Rockview property (JW, et al.), and 12/10 TOF (AL, DW, NaB). Jan reports were widespread (AM, FM, et al.). Three birds were spotted in Feb, 2 in State College 2/9 (AnW) and 2/11 (CE), and one in TOF 2/19 (JV). Many **American Robins** wintered here. They were reported widely with highs for each month including 25 on 12/18 PSU central campus (MeO), 47 on 1/13 ARBOR (NaB), and 906 on 2/21 TOF (AL, JoL). A county-first winter **Brown Thrasher** was observed 1/15 and 1/22 at MMNC (DR). MD reported an **American Pipit** 12/18 at Sharer Rd. Most sightings were 1/18-2/11 at Tadpole Rd./Fairbrook wetlands area (MD, et al.) where AL reported up to 60 on 1/21. Smaller numbers were observed 1/20-27 at University Park Airport (JK, et al.), 1/21-2/14 Nixon Rd. (AL, et al.), and 1/23 Ramblewood (JV). Two **Lapland Longspurs** were reported. One was ph. 1/22-23 at Tadpole Rd. (NF). JV found the other 2/12 Nixon Rd. A male **Common Yellowthroat** was reported 12/2 at MMNC (MeO), and a male and a female were observed there 1/24-25 (JV, DW). The male continued through 2/28 (AL, et al.). JD located a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** near University Park Airport 2/4.

HP spotted an **Eastern Towhee** 12/24 at Park Forest. Four **Chipping Sparrows** were located at Sunset Park-ARBOR 12/18 (JB). One visited State College feeders 12/19-1/5 (ph. RC), and DR reported one 2/19 at State College. There were a few **Field Sparrows** seen 12/4-18 at the PSU Rockview fields (AL, et al.). One was reported along Bald Eagle Cr. 1/1 (NiB), and DW located 2 at BESP 1/14. A single bird was reported 1/15-21 at State College (DR). The PSU Rockview property also produced one or 2 **Savannah Sparrows** 12/6-18 (JW, DW, AL, NaB). Two were spotted 2/12 at Wagner Rd. (DW). A single **Fox Sparrow** was reported 12/6 on PSU Rockview property (JW, et al.). Three **Swamp Sparrows** included one each at TOF 12/2 (DW), Tadpole Rd. 1/15 (DW), and Bullit Run 1/27 (JV). **White-crowned Sparrows** were also observed, including 4 on 12/4 at Manor Rd./Middle Rd. pond (DW) and 5 at BESP 12/6 (AnF). MD found three at different locations near Stormstown 1/4-22. BF observed 11 on 2/5 while doing a winter raptor survey along Rte. 550 near Filmore. MD spotted two near Stormstown 2/25. The last report was 2/25 of 3 at Whitehall farms (JV). Single birds were noted at 4 locations (JV, et al.).

Red-winged Blackbirds were widely reported (AL, et al.), with a high of 220 on 1/25 at MMNC (JoL, NaB, AL). One **Eastern Meadowlark** was observed 12/18 in the Tusseyville area (MD). Others were spotted on Rock Rd. 1/21-28 (JV), one at Fairbrook wetlands 1/29 (MD), one at PSU Bathgate Retention Pond 2/1 (DW), and one on B2BE 2/28 (MD). A male **Rusty Blackbird** was spotted 12/10 at TOF (AL, DW, NaB), and JV located one 12/23 at Circleville farms. One was identified 1/8 at MMNC (CE), one 1/28 TOF (DW, AL, JoL), and 2 on 1/29 at MMNC (CE). The last winter report was of 21 at TOF 2/29 (JV). **Common Grackles** were regularly encountered (DeG). High counts included 1200 on 1/21 at Whitehall Rd. (AL), and 500 on 2/28 at TOF (NK). **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were noted 12/13 at MMNC (CE). Most sightings were in Jan, with a high of 200 on 1/28 at Whitehall farms (JV). One or two were seen at TOF 2/23 (JuV, et al.), 2/21 TOF (AL), and at MMNC 2/28 (NF).

Single **Purple Finches** were noted 12/2-11 at TOF (TS), and 12/11 at Unionville, (AnF), while 2 females and a male were located 12/24 at Musser Gap (KE). NK found eight 1/23 on the Radio Park bike trail. There were at least 2 **Red Crossbills** 12/18 at David's Vista (JV).

Observers: N.J. Butkovich, 550 TOF Ave. #248, State College, PA 16803, (814) 234-6086, njbutkovich@verizon.net, Jeremy Arvelo (JeA), Nadia Barkawi (NaB), Bald Eagle SP eTT Data, Barry Bermudez, Diane Bierly (DiB), Joe Bishop, Nick Bolgiano (NiB), Susan Braun, Steve Brenner (StB), Margaret Brittingham, Alyssia Church, David Cornman, Ron Crandall, Mike Dreibelbis, Jim Dunn, Darlene Emers, Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom, Anna Fasoli (AnF), Bob Fowles, Nate Fronk, Ro Fuller, Ian Gardner, Chett Gottfried, Sue Gottfried, Greg Grove, Delia Guzman (DeG), Bob Haas, Steve Haas, Molly Heath, Sarah Hurteau, Mark Johnson (MaJ), Chad Kauffman, Jon Kauffman, Nick Kerlin, Nancy Ellen Kiernan (NEK), Michael Kiernan, Eric Knoll, Alex Lamoreaux, Gretchen Lasser, Wayne Laubscher, Jen Lee, Josh Lefever (JoL), Dan Lehrman, Alan MacEachren, Fran MacEachren, Mark Mizak, Meghan Oberkircher (MeO), Dan Ombalski, Howard Pillot,

Tom Pluto, Joshua Potter, PS (UP) Ornithology Class, PS (UP) Ornithology Lab, Larry Ramsey, Mary Ramsey, Dave Ryan, Tim Schreckengost, Nora Serotkin, Steve Sneath, Bob Snyder, James Thies, Aden Troyer, Justin Valentine, Bill Vandenberg, Joe Verica, Drew Weber, Justine Weber, Nelson Weber, Stephen Werner, Chuck Widmann, Ann Wilkin (AnW), Beth Zbegner (BeZ), Gene Zielinski.

Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Coatesville Reservoir (CORES), Exton Park at Church Farm School (EP), Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), Honey Brook Water Treatment Plant (HB WTP), Longwood Gardens (LWG), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), South Eastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA), Struble Lake (SL) West Chester Christmas Bird Count (WC CBC), Western Chester County Christmas Bird Count (WCC CBC).

The season began with milder temperatures than in recent years. Winter's grip never took hold, allowing for open water and softer ground. There was little snowfall in the region. These conditions encouraged the persistence of several "half-hardy" species that were found in small numbers throughout the season, and invited a wide diversity of water birds to drop into our lakes and ponds.

Ice-free bodies of water hosted 27 waterfowl species. Big movements of **Snow Geese** occurred during the *Chester* CBCs; 905 were counted during WC CBC 12/17 and 6342 during WCC CBC 1/1. Other big flocks came in Feb during migration. One lucky observer picked a single **Ross's Goose** from a migrating skein in the Doe Run region 2/23 (KF). Uncommon in the county and rare visitors in winter, a **Brant** was took up residence among wintering **Canada Geese** at Somerset Lake near Landenberg, 1/15 to the end of period (MK, SM, m.ob.). The Richardson's subspecies of **Cackling Goose** is uncommon but regular in winter, and was found repeatedly in areas with high concentrations of Canada Geese, especially CORES, where up to 3 could be found at a time in Jan (m.ob.). **Tundra Swan** reports were sporadic until mid-to-late Feb when migration was in full swing. A high count was 100 in flight near OCTRES 2/27 (PM).

A single **Wood Duck** found at SL 1/22 (AD) was the only report of this species until late Feb. **Gadwall** and **American Wigeon** were in higher than average numbers. **Gadwall** could be found on most lakes and some ponds, with a high count of 37 at HB WTP 1/18 (HM). **American Wigeon** were observed regularly through the season with numbers building in late Feb, and bringing a high counts of 200 at Fellowship Rd WTP 2/22 (BBr), and 208 at HB WTP 2/27 (HM). **American Black Ducks** concentrated at CORES, with a high count of 30 on 1/13 (KF). A good count of 82 **Mallard** was made at EP 1/12 (GT). An early migrant **Blue-winged Teal** was found at SL 2/27 (RR). As with the other dabbling ducks, **Northern Shoveler** appeared consistently through the season in many locations (m.ob.). A report of 50 **Northern Pintail** came from EP 2/2 (GT). **Green-winged Teal** were found in small handfuls all winter (m.ob.).

Solo **Canvasback** drakes were found at MCSP 1/29 (WBH), and at CL and CORES 2/13-19 (RR, HM, m.ob.). The high count was 8 on 1/24 (LL). Two **Redhead** spent time at Wedgewood Pond in Thorndale 1/18-2/1 (m.ob.). Another 2 were found at CORES 2/19 (DF, HM). **Ring-necked Ducks** are a staple wintering duck in *Chester*, and are commonly found on most ponds and lakes. Reports of over 200 came from LWG Jan-Feb (CM, JF). A probable hybrid **Lesser Scaup x Ring-necked Duck** was noticed at CORES 2/19 (DF, HM). The dark back and bright flanks set it apart from other *Aythya* ducks present. Two **Greater Scaup** were found at MCSP 1/20-22 (HM, DF, AD). Scattered reports of **Lesser Scaup** came from multiple locations (m.ob.). **Common Goldeneye**, a species not often seen in Dec, was found at LWG and counted for the WC CBC 12/17 (JM). Additional observations of single birds or a pair were made at MCSP 1/18 -2/28 (m.ob.). A single female **Red-breasted Merganser** seen on MCSP 2/26 was the only report of this species for the period (AD).

Exton Park is one of the more reliable sites in the county for finding **Wild Turkey**, and reports from that area came 12/30 (BQ), and 1/29 (CK). The **Red-throated Loon** is an uncommon winter visitor, but MCSP hosted one 2/10-18 (HM, m.ob.). A single **Common Loon** was found at the same time there, and remained through 2/21 (m.ob.). A southbound flyover Common Loon seen during the WC CBC 12/17 (HM, SK, MS) was only the third record of this species in the near 100 year history of this count circle (BB).

Pied-billed Grebes turned up in scattered locations either alone or in pairs. During a rain event 1/23, 2 **Horned Grebes** sat on the lagoon at the Fellowship Rd WTP (HM). The only other report was of a single bird found at MCSP 2/19-2/20 (WBH, HM, BB). Remarkably, three locations hosted single **Red-necked Grebes** this winter. The first was discovered 1/16 at MCSP and continued through the morning of the following day (AD, HM, NP). Another was found and lingered at Kurtz's Fish Hatchery 1/24-2/10 (HM, m.ob.). Possibly the same individual was found at SL 2/11 (JW). Probably a result of the mild weather, a **Double-crested Cormorant** was found at MCSP during the Elverson CBC 12/26 (AD, JD). Other observations of a single bird there were from 1/16-28 (m.ob.). A birdwalk at LWG 12/11 surprisingly yielded a **Green Heron** lingering around a pond (LL, et al.). This bird continued long enough to be counted for the WC CBC 12/17. This marked the first record of this species on that count since 1965 (BB).

An **Osprey** along the Schuylkill near Pottstown 2/9 was a surprise (LM). **Bald Eagles** continue their upward trend, and a high count of 7 was made during a WRS in NW *Chester* 2/6 (JC, KF, HM). A sub-adult **Golden Eagle**, a rare winter visitor, was seen near the Downingtown exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike 1/17 (AB). Sadly, the decline of **American Kestrels** in *Chester* was apparent when not a single individual was recorded for the WC CBC. The compiler notes that this was the first year since 1917 that this species was not counted. The previous high count on the CBC was 91 in 1977, but numbers have been declining greatly in the last decade (BB). Three WRS run in the county also yielded low numbers of kestrels (JC, KF, HM). A good location to find a **Merlin** in winter is CORES, which again hosted at least one (m.ob.). An immature **Peregrine Falcon** was noted on multiple occasions in Dec-Jan at SL (LL).

Some winters, **Killdeer** are scarce. With soft ground available this year, Killdeer were reported widely, with a high count of 28 found in a horse pasture in the Marshallton area 1/8 (HM). Seventy-six counted for the WCC CBC was an historical high count for the circle (LL, RR). A surprise and highlight of the Elverson CBC 12/26 was a calling **Lesser-Yellowlegs** over SL (LL). **Wilson's Snipe** were found lingering through winter, especially in EP and Brandywine Rd Wetlands.

A **Bonaparte's Gull** patrolling the lake was a surprise at MCSP 12/19 and 12/22 (HM). An imm. **Iceland Gull** was found at SECCRA 12/31 (LL). A New Years Day surprise yard bird in Kennett Square was an overhead **Iceland Gull** (GT). Found consistently in winter at SECCRA, **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** peaked with 3 there 2/2 (HM, KF). One was also found at SL 1/20 (KF), and another there 2/26 (AD). **Great Black-backed Gulls** also enjoyed the SECCRA landfill smorgasbord, and a surprising 6 individuals were seen there 2/2 (KF, HM). Other reports of single birds came from MCSP 1/16 (HM), SL 1/28 (AD), and BCP 2/26 (LL, et al.). A sub-adult **Glaucous Gull** was seen among scores of Ring-billed and some Herring Gulls, making for a nice size comparison at SL 1/16 (CC).

Without a doubt, the most exciting bird of the winter season was a **Snowy Owl** found in Spring City 12/19 and seen sporadically through 12/26. A plentiful lemming population in the Arctic produced a highly successful breeding year, thus forcing many Snowy Owls long distances in search of ample resources. *Chester* was a destination for one such bird discovered 12/19 atop a late model Ford Mustang in Spring City. Mike Wene, the owner of S&W Race Shop, arrived at his business 12/19 and spotted what he thought was a bag of trash atop the car. A closer look revealed a Snowy Owl! After a few days of wondering why this bird was so far from its northern home, employees at the shop connected with the birding community, and allowed visits from many birders eager to see this winter wonder.

Again this winter, **Barred Owls** were observed in Newlin and Pocopson Twps., where a small population seems to be thriving (m.ob.). A single report for **Long-eared Owl** came from the Honey Brook area during the Elverson CBC 12/26 (LL, et al.). Most winters, this species is found in localized communal roosts, but this year was an exception. There was only one report of a **Short-eared Owl** this winter, which was seen at SL 1/31 (HM). Similarly scarce, only a single **Saw-whet Owl** was found during the Wilmington CBC 12/17 (JS, WBH).

When a hummingbird was reported from Paoli during the Great Backyard Bird Count, 2/17-20, the state reviewer (SL, who happens to be one of few hummingbird banders in the state) immediately contacted the observers for further details (BG). The observer reported first noticing the bird in the yard 12/10. Feeders were maintained daily thereafter to provide it a food source. A banding effort revealed it to be a second year female **Rufous Hummingbird** (SL, NP). This hummingbird was present through the end of the reporting period, and sets the first

record of this species overwintering in *Chester*. Irregular in winter, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** are always of interest to local birders. Two imm. Red-headed spent winter in separate locations: one continued from fall at BCP (m.ob), and another continued at the Laurels Preserve (KF, JS, m.ob.).

Milder temperatures likely assisted **Eastern Phoebe**s in lingering into winter months. Reports of this half-hardy flycatcher came from: Cheslen Preserve 12/11 (JM), WC CCBC 1/1, MCSP 1/9 (DH), and SL 1/24 (LL). One of the better locations for finding wintering **Northern Shrike** is around SL. This year, one was found being harassed by a mockingbird 1/22 (AD, JD). Earlier that same day, CC spotted what was probably the same bird along nearby Talbotville Rd. This sub-adult Northern Shrike was only reported twice thereafter: 1/24 (DR, LL), and 2/16 (HM, AG, BE, GW). The county's second record of **Common Raven** was established 2/19 when lucky birders touring EP were alerted to a vocal bird in flight (AG, VS, GT). Being a non-irruption year for the region, **Black-capped Chickadees** were not to be found. In trend with a similar low irruptive year, there were only a few reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. A pair was found through winter at LWG (m.ob), one was reported from EP on several occasions (BQ, AD), and another at WMP 2/22 (KF). Two reports of a **House Wren** were surprising, since this species is not typically present in winter. One seen at BCP 12/5 was probably a late migrant (LL, et al). Another was found around Somerset Lake 2/19 (JS).

Another half-hardy species, **Gray Catbirds** were found sparingly, including one during WCC CBC 1/1 and 2 found at EP 12/20 (GT). Good habitat at MCSP contained one 2/20 (BB) and two 2/23 (NF). Okehocking Preserve held 3 on 2/21 (EW). **Brown Thrasher** reports trickled in from multiple locations in Dec and early Jan, and then again in late Feb (m.ob.). A high count of 12 **American Pipits** was made in the Cochranville area 1/21 (HM), where the farming practices create attractive habitat for this species. Other reports were scattered, and of single birds in flight. Nearly absent this year, **Cedar Waxwings** were reported in small groups from scattered locations (m.ob.). A calling **Lapland Longspur** was heard flying over SL 1/24, and was the only report of this uncommon winter visitor (LL).

One of the most intriguing birds this winter was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** regularly visiting a suet feeder in downtown West Chester. First noticed 1/21, this bird was diligently recorded through the reporting period (MAK, m.ob.). Remarkably, this very same city yard hosted an Orange-crowned Warbler through winter of 2009. Because of the coincidence in location, and the rare nature of this species spending winter here, speculation arose that this could be the same individual returning. Individual **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported sparingly through winter. A **Pine Warbler** was found at Okehocking Preserve 12/17 (MR). In areas of *Chester* that typically host this species through winter, they were not found. A report of one from WMP 2/28 was thought to be an early migrant (KF).

Reported regularly this winter, **Eastern Towhees** were present in nice numbers, probably a result of warmer weather (m.ob.). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was reported during a CBC scouting effort at Kirwood Preserve 12/11 (WS). Once uncommon in winter, **Chipping Sparrows** seem to be trending towards a later departure, and were seen irregularly into early Jan (m.ob). An unexpected visitor to a feeding station, a **Lincoln's Sparrow**, rare for the county in winter, was found and photographed in Exton 12/10. This bird was seen almost daily in that spot all winter (CCA). Another Lincoln's Sparrow was reported from the Spring City area 12/25 (fide EP).

A single **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was teased out of a large blackbird flock in Cochranville 12/26 (ST, DW). With the population in decline, **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted sparingly through the season. A good high count of 23 was found at CL 2/15 (RR). A surprise visitor to the feeders at BCP was a single **Brewer's Blackbird**, which briefly stood out among the blackbirds present 2/13 (LL). This bird was seen once more in a field within the preserve, but not detected thereafter.

Winter finches were scarce. Purple Finches were altogether absent. A single **Common Redpoll** was spotted getting a drink from a tiny stream within BCP 1/30 (JS, et al). A few weeks later, a Common Redpoll was heard during a birdwalk at BCP (BH, PM, LL, et al.). There were only two reports of **Pine Siskins**, both of which at feeders: one 2/11 in Chadds Ford (KS), and another 2/18 in Wagontown (TJ)

Observers: **Holly Merker, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335, (610) 733-4392, HCYbelle@aol.com**, Kelly Colgan-Azar, Barry Blust, Brian Byrnes (BBr), Chuck Chalfant, Janet Crawford, Amy Davis, Jeff Davis, Barb Elliot, Devich Farbotnik, Nikki Flood, Judy Ford, Kevin

Fryberger, Bruce Gerrard, Al Guarente, W.Brian Henderson, Tracey Johnson, Megan Kasprzak, Susan Killeen, Mary Alice Knox, Carol Kuniholm, Denice Hardtmann, Larry Lewis, Sandy Lockerman, John McNamara, Carol Majors, Patrick Millar, Lisa Miller, Shannon Modla, Edie Parnum, Nick Pulcinella, Dirk Robinson, Rick Robinson, Mike Rosengarten, Win Shafer, Joe Sebastiani, Vince Smith, Kim Steining, Margie Stevens, George Tallman, Brian Quindlen, Gerry Teig, Shannon Thompson, Jeff Wahl, Eric Weislogel, Dave Wilton, George Wrangham.

Clarion County

Locations: Cook Forest (CF), Clarion (CL), Curllsville (CV), Foxburg (FB), Kahle Lake (KL), Mount Airy (MA), Mount Zion (Piney Tract/SGL 330) (MZ), New Bethlehem (NB), Strattanville (ST).

The winter season saw improved numbers for some species as well as some unusual species for the county. The mild temperatures and decreased snowfall also allowed both fall and spring migration to overlap into this season's report. The first evidence of this was the later than usual sightings of **Tundra Swan**, with 6 seen over Limestone 12/31 and 75 over CL 1/4 (FW), and another 75-100 also in CL 1/19 (DF). Two **American Black Ducks** were seen at MA 12/26 (RM) and on open water near Rimersburg 2/19 during the GBBC (CW). Rather unusual in mid-winter, a single male **Wood Duck** was noted along Redbank Creek in NB 1/16 (CW), with 2 also seen on the Allegheny River near FB 2/25, along with other waterfowl including 2 **Gadwall**, 2 **Ring-necked Ducks**, and 3 **Lesser Scaup** (KC). **Hooded Mergansers** were noted near Rimersburg, with a pair present there 2/19 during the GBBC (CW), and a single bird also present near FB 2/17 (KC). Two **Common Mergansers** were seen on Redbank Creek in NB 1/16 (CW,) and on the Clarion River near CF 13 birds were present doing courtship displays 2/10 (ST).

The spring return of **Turkey Vultures** occurred, as often happens, during the winter, with the first bird sighted 2/17 near FB and 7 there 2/25 (KC). **Bald Eagles** were seen regularly along the open Allegheny R. at FB this winter, with 2 present 1/2 and up to 3 seen regularly through the end of Feb (KC). On 1/19, 2 adults were present at a previously known nest site near Emlenton (KC). **Northern Harriers** have not been as common recently in winter but this season with fields open most of the time there were several reports. One male was present 12/2 at MZ (ML), an immature and a female were noted on Spring Rd. near West Freedom 12/3 (CW), and 2 males were also seen in the western part of Clarion during a WRS survey there 2/7 (PC, GE, ML). Though the number of birds was not as high this year, **Rough-legged Hawks** were still found taking advantage of Clarion's extensive grassland areas. On 12/8 a single bird was seen near Leeper, and one light and one dark bird also near Lake Lucy 1/9 (ML). On a WRS survey in northern Clarion 1/20, 2 light birds were found (F&JM). On another WRS survey in southern Clarion, 2 light birds were seen as well, one at MA and one near Rimersburg (CW). The last bird noted for the season was again a light bird found near Knox 2/15 (ML). **American Kestrel** can be difficult to find in winter here, but this season birds were seen regularly in CV and near Limestone through mid-Jan (CW, FW), and also in higher numbers in WRS surveys done late Jan in southern Clarion (CW).

Believed to be a record number, 29 **Sandhill Cranes** were found 12/21 feeding in a corn-stubble field on the north side of KL along Neely Rd (GE, JS). **Killdeer** returned somewhat earlier this year with the first bird seen during heavy snow 2/25 near CV (CW). Near the same location **Wilson's Snipe** made their record early spring return with a single bird present 2/28 in a flooded pasture where they are regular in spring (CW). **Ring-billed Gulls** were first seen for the year at the CL Walmart during a snowstorm 2/4 (CW), and then 4 birds near FB 2/17 as well as 5 **Herring Gulls** (KC).

Short-eared Owls made a good showing this winter both at the Clarion CBC 12/17 and through the season. A single bird was found on Spring Rd. near West Freedom 12/3, in a recently reclaimed large strip mine area (CW), and on Rankin Rd. near CV, up to 4 birds were found regularly from mid-Dec through 2/18 (CW). Another area that has been very consistent for owls in the past several years is at MA. This year's first there was a single bird 12/2 (ML), and 5 were seen during the CBC 12/17 (PC, DF, RM). Up to 4 birds continued to be seen there through mid-Jan (RM). They were also at the CV strips area, where one owl was noted both 12/31 and 1/1 (CW). All areas except MA are large

reclaimed strip mine grasslands.

Northern Shrikes made an excellent showing at the start of the season, but numbers declined by mid-Jan. On 12/3 one was seen at MZ on Mt Zion Rd and a bird was seen also in this same area 2/5 (KC, CW). A single bird was seen at MA 12/26 (RM) and also near the CV strips area 12/11 (CW). Along Stockdill Rd area at the edge of MZ, two birds were found both feeding in open fields perched close to each other 1/8 (CW). One was an adult and the second an immature brownish bird. On this same day along a trail there from a parking area a third and separate young bird was also found (CW). The last reported sighting was near the CV area on Hill Rd. 1/7 and again 1/16 at the same location (CW). This would make the total count of individual birds for the county 7, certainly an increase from the last season.

Common Ravens once again continue their regular presence throughout the year, with reports from several locations around CL of one or 2 birds 12/12 and 1/1 (DF, FW). Several were also reported regularly through early Feb near FB (KC) and 3 at CF on 2/10 (ST). There were only a few reports of **Horned Larks** this winter with 6 seen in northern *Clarion* during a WRS survey 1/20 (F&JM) and approx. 50 seen in an Amish farm field near the same area 2/15 (ML). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were absent this season from bird feeding stations, but in their possible breeding areas in CF, 4 were noted along the *Clarion R.* there and 7 at the campground area 2/10 (ST). On this same date **Brown Creepers**, which are confirmed breeders there, were already actively singing with 8 reported (ST).

The only sparrow sighting of note this year was a **Swamp Sparrow** seen 1/23 in marshy habitat where they are regular breeders near CV (CW). This would be a first winter record for this writer in 18 years, but warmer temperatures and lack of snow cover likely played a role. Only one report of **Snow Buntings** was received, of 13 birds found outside of Sligo 12/3 on bare gravel and dirt piles in a grassland area, now a newly drilled Marcellus shale gas well (CW). **Eastern Meadowlarks** can occasionally be found lingering into winter in open fields, but none were noted this season. They often return by the end of February and this year the first bird was noted 2/15 in northern *Clarion* (ML). **Red-winged Blackbirds** made their first appearance 2/16 near CV (CW). Just one **Purple Finch** was seen this winter, a single bird present at a feeder near CL 1/8 (FW). **Pine Siskins** arrived at a feeder near ST 12/28, where several were present sporadically through 1/17 (RM), with 2 also noted near CL at another feeder 1/14 (FW). Though there were no large flocks present at feeders this year as in irruption winters, in the northern part of the county at CF, with its large areas of favorable habitat, varied flocks totaling up to 140 birds were reported there 2/10 foraging on hemlocks (ST).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net**, Paulette Colantonio, Kurt Crosbie, Gary Edwards, Deb Freed, Mike Leahy, Flo and Jim McGuire, Ron Montgomery, Richard Nugent, Shannon Thompson, Fran Williams.

Clearfield County

Locations: Bimini Lake (BM), Dubois (DB), La Jose (LJ), Luthersburg (LU), Sabula Lake (SL), State Gamelands 77 (SGL77).

A single **Northern Pintail** was at SL 2/1 (DR). Four **Common Goldeneyes** and a single **Red-throated Loon** were at BM 12/7 (DR). A late **Double-crested Cormorant** was at BM 12/11 (DR). Three **Northern Harriers** were at the reclaimed strip site near LJ 2/10 (DG). A lone **Rough-legged Hawk** was at LU 12/16 (DR). A **Golden Eagle** was sighted at SGL 77 on 12/10 (DR). Three **Wilson's Snipe** were at the Beaver Meadow Walkway near DB 1/6 (DR). A late **Bonaparte's Gull** was at BM 12/20 (DR). A single **Short-eared Owl** was at LJ from late Dec through mid-Jan (DG). First **Red-winged Blackbirds** returned to LJ 2/23 (DG).

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

Clinton County

American Woodcocks arrived at their usual spring site in Swissdale 2/22—about two weeks earlier than usual, likely due to the unusually early warm weather (WL). On 2/9 a **Northern Shrike** was

observed in the Jew's Run area near South Renovo (GG). There was a near complete lack of northern finches during the period. The exception was a large flock of **Pine Siskins** reported at feeders in the Woolrich area 1/14 (CCH).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA 17745-8153, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnet.org**, Greg Grove, Carol and Charles Hildebrand.

Columbia County

No report.

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

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Jamestown State Park (JSP), Custards (CUS), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva Marsh (GM), Linesville Christmas Count (LCC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Springboro (SPR), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarrack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

This area had, as did most of the east, one of the warmest winter seasons in many years. Considerably decreased snowfall and very mild temperatures prevailed over the period.

Twelve **Tundra Swans** were seen at SL 12/12 (RE). Three were at PGMA 2/5 (MV) and 75 were reported 2/29 near SPR (TCN). Fourteen **American Wigeon** were seen at JSP 1/29 (RFL). Somewhat unusual were the 9 **Northern Pintails** noted at JSP 1/29 (RFL). The 222 **Redheads** found on CL 2/26 (RFL) provided the best total, as did the 250 **Canvasbacks** also there 2/26 (RFL). One **Long-tailed Duck** was present at CL 1/7 (RFL), one was at PC 2/14, and 2 were at CL 2/26 (SC). **Common, Red-breasted, and Hooded Mergansers** were found in the area all period in small numbers.

A **Ruffed Grouse** was flushed north of CL (RFL), one was near SL (RE) 12/11, and one was noted at WL's Bossard Trail 2/22 (SC). The 23 **Common Loons** recorded on the LCC was the best count in several years (m.ob.). A pair of **Red-throated Loons** was found at PC 12/13 (SC). Two late **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen 2/1 (SK) at FI. A late **Great Egret** was found at FH 12/4 (RN). A lone **Turkey Vulture** was seen east of Meadville 12/5 (RFL), and south of Meadville 2/28 (SC). The top count of **Bald Eagle** was 38 on the LCC 12/18. Open water seemed to attract more eagles to winter here than normal. One to 4 **Rough-legged Hawks** were noted all period.

A good total of 49 **Sandhill Cranes** was reported at PGMA 12/2 (AM) and 12 were seen 12/18 on the LCC (m.ob.). Three were spotted 2/28 at CUS (SC). MV had 260 **American Coots** at CL 1/28. The **Long-billed Dowitcher** MV found at PGMA in Nov remained through Dec. A hunter walking by MP on 1/1 flushed the bird but it remained at the pond (RFL, MV, ECN, SC). Two **Glaucous Gulls** were noted at PC 1/7 (RFL) and one remained there 2/2. An estimated 8100 **Ring-billed Gulls** was the highest total recorded 12/11 at PA (RFL), and 936 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen 12/18 on LCC (m.ob.) with 15 noted at PC 1/1 (RFL).

A **Short-eared Owl** was found at PGMA on the LCC 12/18 (RFL), 2 were observed west of SPR 12/19 (TCN), and 2 near WL 1/23 (SC). A **Northern Shrike** was tallied near SL 12/3 (RE), and singles were noted PA, SPR, and ENWR (RFL, TCN, SC). Twelve **Horned Larks** were seen at PGMA 1/22 (LM, BG, JG, RFL) and at least 100 were near the ENWR 2/13 (SC). **Carolina Wrens** were found at WL, PYM, and ENWR (4) 12/20-2/29. A **Winter Wren** was seen across from FH gate 2/1 (SC). Single **Brown Creepers** were located near SPR, PA, and WL all period (m.ob.). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen at Tuttle Point PYM 1/16 and 2/28 (SC). Six **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found on the LCC 12/18, and one was at FI 2/26 (RFL), with 3 there 2/1 (SC). One **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen 2/28 at Tuttle beach (SC). Also a good find was a **Hermit Thrush** east of CL 12/22 and one at FI 2/1 (SC). An **American Pipit** was noted at PGMA 12/11 (RFL) and (SC) had 5 there 1/16. Twelve **Snow Buntings** were seen at PA 12/18 LCC (RFL), 30 west of CL 1/11 (RFL), and 50 in a field near ENWR 2/13 (SC). A total of 4 **Lapland Longspurs** appeared on the PC 1/11 (RFL), and a pair was noted near ENWR 2/13 (SC). The 32 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** found on the LCC 12/18 may represent a record high, and a **Common**

Yellowthroat on the LCC 12/18 was only the second in 70 years of the count. A **Fox Sparrow** was found near CL 12/4 (RFL), and one was at Meadville 1/3 (SC). A carefully studied **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported from Rundeltobern 1/7 (AT). An **Eastern Towhee** was seen near SPR 1/3 and 1/15 (TCN).

The high count of 35 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** was near SPR 1/7 (TCN). A single **Eastern Meadowlark** was noted in Beaver Twp. 2/14 (TCN). A **Purple Finch** was noted at Meadville 1/3 (SC). Four **Common Redpolls** were seen at or near ENWR 2/2 (SC).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Shawn Collins, Richard Eakin, Bonnie Genader, Janice Grindle, Scott Kinzey, Robert C. Leberman, , Anthony Marich, Clare Nicolls, Richard Nugent, Andrew Troyer, Mark Vass.

Cumberland County

Locations: Big Spring (BS), Boiling Springs Children's Pond (BSCP), Harrisburg CBC (PAHR), Huntsdale Hidden Pond (HHP), Mudlevel Road (MLR), Newville CBC (PANV), State Game Lands 169 (SGL169), State Game Lands 230 (SGL230).

Overall this period was very mild with unseasonably warm temperatures and little snow. December and January had a good amount of rain, but February was fairly dry. The **Prairie Falcon**, which had returned in November for a sixth straight winter, was reported through the middle of February, but the Least Sandpiper did not return for what would have been a seventh consecutive winter. Three January vagrants—**Townsend's Warbler**, **Ash-Throated Flycatcher**, and **Snowy Owl**—made the county a popular winter destination for birders from around Pennsylvania and surrounding states.

December. It was a warm Dec with no snow and low numbers of waterfowl. There was also no invasion of northern finches. Surprisingly, there was a good selection of raptors reported, and there were some unexpected surprises in the PAHR.

Up to 61 **American Wigeon** were reported at the BSCP 12/24 (HW). An **American Bittern** was reported at HHP 12/5 (PB). This is possibly the same bird reported at that location in Nov. The 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** from Oct remained at Stoughstown Pond through 12/5 (VG). One **Great Egret** was reported on BS 12/12-31 (VG, m.ob.), and one **Black-crowned Night Heron** was reported on the west bank of the Susquehanna, just downstream from the West Fairview boat lunch during count week for the PAHA (DH). This is the second year in a row this species showed up for an area Christmas Bird Count.

Cumberland's over-wintering **Prairie Falcon** was seen through the month (m.ob.). A **Peregrine Falcon** did fly-bys at MLR 12/1 (JC) and 12/8 (MS), and one **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported from MLR 12/18 (HW, KW). A **Merlin** was near the intersection of MLR and Duncan Road 12/10-11 (MS, VG, MB) and one was at the SGL169 Marsh 12/14 (MS). A juv. **Northern Goshawk** was seen at a Newville residence beginning 11/27 where it was after some chickens. Two chickens were taken by the bird before the top was enclosed. The bird was seen through Dec (BF, LF).

Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were found at the Camp Hill Prison. The birds were a count first for the PAHR 12/17 (AF, LL, SW). Other birds of interest from that count included one **Eastern Phoebe** and one **House Wren**, which were reported from near Mechanicsburg, and one **Pine Warbler** from Lisburn 12/17 (DH). Other birds of note for the month were one **Fox Sparrow** along the Big Spring 12/28 (VG), one **Lincoln's Sparrow** at the MLR marsh 12/14 (MS), 30 **Snow Buntings** at MLR 12/10 (MB), and 6 from the same location 12/13 (TF), and a male **Eastern Towhee** was at the intersection of Hair and Smith Roads just south of Newville 12/29 (VG).

January. Believe it or not, it was a great month for warblers, with five species reported in *Cumberland* during Jan, including a **Townsend's Warbler**! Jan was also a great month for vagrants. Besides the *Townsend's*, *Cumberland* also had an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** and **Snowy Owl** to round out a vagrant trifecta.

Eight **Snow Geese** were reported at BSCP 1/2 (PB), with one other at Laughlin Mill Pond BS 1/28 (BF, LF). The only **Tundra Swans** reported were on the ponds off Bridgewater Road of SGL169 on 1/30 (MS). Six **Wood Ducks** were reported on the Yellow Breeches Creek near Huntsdale 1/13 (AG), 2 more at HHP 1/23 (TJ), and another 2 at Cabin Road of SGL169 on 1/25 (VG). One to 4 **American Black Ducks** were reported in at least 5 different locations 1/1-7 (KA, LC, NF, VG,

RK). One **Blue-winged Teal** was observed freshly killed in a hunters bag at HHP (RK), One **Northern Pintail** was seen on the BS Mill Pond 1/14 (JP) and a flock of 28 at a pond on Zion Road near Mount Holly Springs 1/28 (VG, DG).

One **Pied-billed Grebe** was present on the BS 1/11 (VG). This was most likely the same bird that has been seen occasionally at this location since early Nov. A **Great Egret** remained through 1/17 on the BS (DS, m.ob.). The bird was a first for the PANV. One was also reported from the Green Spring Fish Hatchery 1/14 (CB). This was very possibly the same bird as this is only a few miles from the BS.

The **Prairie Falcon** continued through 1/31 (m.ob.). One **Peregrine Falcon** was also reported at MLR 1/22 (MS). One **Merlin** was reported 1/11 just east of the intersection of Mud Level and Briton Roads (VG) and again a short distance away on Foltz Road 1/13 (PB). One was also reported 1/27-31 (perhaps the same bird) in the area of Duncan and Mud Level Roads (m.ob.). The **Northern Goshawk** from Nov remained through 1/2 (BF, LF, KK, SS) and was included in the PANV. A highly unusual Jan **Osprey** was reported as a first time species for the PANV 1/2 (MC). Two reports of **Rough-legged Hawk** were received during the month, with one off of Route 81 near Burnt House Road 1/14 (ME) and a light-phased at Huntsdale 1/22 (ST).

Eight **American Coots** were reported at the Tichy Park Ponds of Mount Holly 1/2 (PB), and another was at the Brookside Ave. marsh in Shippensburg 1/18 (DS). One **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen on MLR 1/18 (AGU), and most likely the same bird at the county land fill 1/19 (VG). One **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported at MLR 1/29 (NP). One adult **Thayer's Gull** was reported with 10 **Herring Gulls** in a field on MLR, 0.4 miles southwest of Duncan Road 1/19 (DB, JB).

A pleasant surprise was a **Snowy Owl** that was present on Mud Level Road 1/11-31 (AGU, m.ob.) It was the sixth county record since 1985. The bird was seen anywhere between just west of the intersection with Kelso to near the school house west of Briton Road. One **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported on Springdale Road 1/2 (NVCBC) and one was at Gephart Road 1/19 (MS). Those that usually overwinter at Waggoner's Lane were not reported. In a poor year for northern finches and other boreal species, there was only one report of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in *Cumberland* for the month, at the Pine Plantation of King's Gap 1/23 (TJ).

Another Jan surprise was the **Ash-throated Flycatcher** found in a Newville yard eating berries from a euonymus bush. The bird was present 1/4-5 (EG, VG, AM, LF, CC, HW, ph. DGe, ChC). The bird was a first for *Cumberland*, and the fifth record for the state. It was also a count week bird for the PANV. Another unusual winter species was **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**; 2 were seen on the grounds of the Green Ridge Village retirement community 1/2 (CC). They were a first for the county, but unfortunately the birds were not relocated.

American Pipits, which can be hard to find in *Cumberland* during Jan, were relatively common during the month. One or 2 **Lapland Longspurs** were reported on MLR 1/19 (DB, JB, DH), and again 1/21 on a manure spread at the corner of MLR and Duncan (VG). Six were found at the same location 1/22 (TJ, EJ, JG, MR). One **Snow Bunting** was reported on MLR 1/13 (RK), and again 1/19 (DB, JB), 2-4 were reported on MLR 1/22 (TJ, EJ, JG, MR).

Perhaps the best surprise of the month, season, and the year to come was the male **Townsend's Warbler** found at the Green residence in the Montesera section of Dickinson Twp. from early Jan through 1/31 (TJ, AG, m.ob.) This spectacular find was a *Cumberland* first and a fourth state record. If that wasn't enough, one **Pine Warbler** was also at the Green residence through 1/31 (TJ, AG, m.ob.), and in addition a **Yellow-breasted Chat** had been making occasional appearances since Nov, the second consecutive winter the bird has been present (AG). This terrific trio made the report of one **Palm Warbler** from MLR 1/20 (DK) and again 1/22 (TJ, EJ, JG, MR) seem almost pedestrian. The fifth species of warbler for the month was the one that is expected in Jan: **Yellow-rumped Warbler**.

Sparrows of note for the month included one **Savannah Sparrow** on MLR 1/20 (DK), 2 **Fox Sparrows** at a feeder 1/21-22 (ML) and another at both HHP and the Pine Plantation of King's Gap 1/23 (TJ), and 3 **Field Sparrows** at HHP 1/23 (TJ). One **Eastern Towhee** was reported at SGL230 (PL), and 23 **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported 1/2 at HHP (PANV), 6 on Pine Road 1/20 (DGo), and one on the BS 1/21 (VG). No **Purple Finches** were reported and only one **Pine Siskin** was reported for the month, at the Green property 1/19 (HW, KW).

February. The mild temperatures continued through the month, and it was fairly dry. There were 16 species of waterfowl reported in *Cumberland* for the month. The most notable included 3 **Tundra Swans**

reported at the pond on Zion Road Mount Holly 2/6 (PB) and 3 more at Tichy Park Ponds Mount Holly 2/27 (PB), 6 **Snow Geese** at BSCP 2/3 (PB), and one **Blue-winged Teal** at BSCP 2/10 (VG). **Northern Pintail** seemed more plentiful than usual, reported in several locations in flocks of up to 25-30 individuals. There was a flock of 10-12 **Gadwall** at the SGL169 Mountain Road marsh for the latter half of the month (VG, PB).

It was a good year for over-wintering **Red-shouldered Hawks**. From anecdotal accounts this species may be an increasing winter resident of *Cumberland*. The **Prairie Falcon** was last reported at MLR 2/18 (LC). This is relatively early for the bird to leave the area as in the previous five years it was last reported anywhere between the middle of Feb and early Mar. Perhaps the mild weather had something to do with its early departure and also with the lack of reports of **Rough-legged Hawks**, of which there were none in Feb, and **Short-eared Owls**, of which there was only one, at the intersection of Rock Run and Brick Church Roads just north of Newville 2/26 (VG). The **Snowy Owl** that was last reported on MLR 2/19 (CBI) may have been forced to move on with the plowing of fields in the area. The other raptors of note include one **Peregrine Falcon** at Mud Level Road 2/3 (CA) and then again 2/9 (VG), along with a **Merlin** at MLR 2/5 (SC, PK, MD) and one at the Big Spring High School 2/29 (BF, LF). The one report of **Long-eared Owl** came 2/8 from the Conifer Road area (VG).

An **American Coot** was reported from three locations, Kuhn's Pond 2/19-29 (VG), Enck's Mill Road 2/23-29 (VG), and at Tichy Park Ponds 2/25 (PB). There was only one report of **Wilson's Snipe** for the month—2 south of Newville on Farm Road 2/27 (VG), while reports of up to 6 **American Woodcock** (MS) displaying on mild evenings at SGL169 continued. The first report was from 1/1 (AM).

The sparseness of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued, with only one of the former reported in the MLR area at Gephart Road 2/7 (VG), and 2 of the latter at the Pine Plantation of King's Gap 2/2 (MS). The only report of **Snow Bunting** was 2 at MLR 2/19 (CBI). Both the **Townsend's Warbler** and **Pine Warbler** were reported through the end of the month (AG), and a sixth *Cumberland* winter warbler was reported, this time a **Yellow-throated Warbler** 2/18 at the trail near the West Fairview Boat Launch (RK). One **Fox Sparrow** was at 1133 Pine Road 2/29 (AG) **Rusty Blackbirds** included 3 at 1133 Pine Road 2/3 (MS) and another 4 at the BS 2/4 (BP, BF, LF, VG). This was certainly been a poor winter for this species compared to the past few years.

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Charlie Alban, Kyle Aldinger, Paul Banks, Tim Becker, Chris Blazo (CBI), Chris Bortz, Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, Michael Britt, Greg Burgdorf, Chuck Chalfant (ChC), Lou Carpenter, Carol Cash, Linda Chittum, Shawn Collins, Jeff Culler, Mary Craig, Michael David, Mike Epler, Nora Lee Falk, Todd Fellenbaum, Pamela Fisher, Bill Franz, Linda Franz, Ann Furth, Al Guarente (AGu), Alexander Green, Dale Gearhart (DGe), Jan Getgood, Dave Grove, Doug Gochfeld (DGo), Kevin Hall, Bill Hintze, Devane Hoffman, Barry Horton, Jennifer Horton, Tom Johnson, Ernest Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Peter Keyel, David Kidwell, Ramsay Koury, Kathy Kuchwara, Margaret Leaman, Larry Linder, Peter Lusardi, Andrew Markel, Annette Matthes (AnM), Mark Markiewicz, Frank Marengi, Bill Oyler, Jason Pietrzak, Bob Peda, Nick Pulcinella, Joan Rennigner, Melisa Roach, Matt Sabatine, Dan Snell, Sue Strassner, Shannon Thompson, Amanda Treher, Scott Walker, Herb Weigl, Kathy Weigl.

Dauphin County

Locations: Blue Mountain (BMT), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Haldeman Island SGL 290 (HI), Hershey Important Bird Area #45 (HIBA), Lower Paxton Twp. (LPT), Millersburg (MBG), Milton S. Hershey School campus (MSH), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR at Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR from Harrisburg (SRHB), SR from Marysville (SRMV), SR from Royalton (SRRT), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

This winter will be remembered as one of the mildest on record. The biggest snowfall in the Harrisburg area was on Halloween, which says it all about this winter. Reports of individual **Snow Geese** included one from WL 12/30 (MM) and another from HER 1/25 (TB). Small flights of Snow Geese reported included 65 in SHT 2/4 (JG) and about 300 during the GBBC 2/18 from HER, as well as about 100 on 2/28, also

from the HER area (TB). Two **Cackling Geese** were found with a flock of **Canada Geese**, near the old HER Chocolate Factory 1/21 (TB). One **Tundra Swan** was reported from along River Rd. in the northwestern corner of the county 1/28 (DH), and two independent reports were logged 2/4 with a flight of 38 over SHT (JG) and of about 50 flying over EHT (BC, JC). On HI 2/29, 160 Tundra Swans were among the species reported (SBI). The only **Mute Swans** were 2 at the Middletown boat launch 1/1 (DH). Due to the mild temperatures, lakes, ponds, and the SR remained ice free throughout the season. As a result, a visit to WL most any day might have yielded observations of **Gadwall**, **American Black Duck**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Northern Shovelers**, and **Northern Pintail**. **Wood Duck** was still present at WL to the first week of Jan and returned by the end of Feb. A pair of Wood Ducks was observed 2/4 on a pond in EHT and remained through the season (NC). An impressive count of 450 Northern Pintails was recorded 2/29 on HI (SBI). Some of the other interesting waterfowl reports included: a single **Ruddy Duck** at WL 12/1 (staff), and a drake **Canvasback** along the waterfront SRRT 1/24 (P&RW). There were two reports of **Greater Scaup** from SRMV with four observed 2/2 (MS) and two 2/5 (MM). There were also two reports of probably the same 5 **Long-tailed Ducks** on the same date (2/4), one report from each side of the SR, SRMV (RK) and SRFH (DM). Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** were observed at SRMV 1/15 (RK) and two were reported from SRHB 1/31 (DH). Red-breasted Mergansers in Jan are somewhat unusual; they are more common on the SR in Mar and Apr.

A **Common Loon** was observed 12/17 SRWF for the HBG CBC, and another was reported 1/31 at SRHB (DH). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported 2/29 SRRT (TB). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed SRMV and a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported at SRWF, both 12/16 (DH). However, neither species was relocated for the next day's HBG CBC. This was a very late date for both species.

Northern Harrier was reported near MBG 1/22 (RK), in the HIBA 1/24 (GK) and 2/7 (SK), from FIG 1/26 (DM), and from the farmlands near Gratz 1/28 (DH). The Gratz farmland area was the location of the only reported **Rough-legged Hawk** 1/28 (DH). A **Merlin** was found in the Paxtang neighborhood for the HBG CBC 12/17 (S&GL), and likely the same bird was noted again near this location 1/5 (DH). Another Merlin was along Canal Rd. in EHT 2/9 (TB). **Peregrine Falcon** was reported throughout the quarter from both the HBG vicinity as well as from Fort Hunter and the Rockville Bridge area (m.ob.). Peregrine Falcon was also reported from atop BMT 2/4 (M&RB). By the end of Feb the resident pair of Peregrines nesting on the Rachel Carson Building in HBG appeared to be on track for another successful nesting season. The male was observed bringing food offerings to the female and breeding activity appeared to be normal. Eggs were laid during the second week of Mar. Follow their progress at: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon/recent_news.html>.

Two **Ring-necked Pheasants** were found in the Gratz grassland 1/28 (DH) and one was observed along Koser Rd. in the southeastern corner of the county (GD). **American Coot** was present at WL in Dec and Jan (m.ob.). **Killdeer** remained throughout the winter with reports of two from SHT 1/19 and two along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA 2/8 (PW,RW). The first **American Woodcock** of the season was noted 2/7 in EHT (S&RZ).

A single **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was noted for the HBG CBC 12/17 SRFH (DH). **Great Black-backed** and **Herring Gull** were also observed along the SR throughout the season (m.ob.). With the ice-free conditions and mild spring-like temperatures, the gull movement along the SR began in earnest in early Feb. Among the hundreds of **Ring-billed Gulls** observed 2/7 SRFH was a first winter **Glaucous Gull** (PW, RW). This is only the third record for this species in *Dauphin*. A **Barn Owl** was observed at dusk along Swatara Rd. within the HIBA 1/19 (MR, TJ) and another was at the HIBA 2/7 (SK). Two **Short-eared Owls** were found working the fields near Gratz in the northern part of the county 1/28 (DH). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed along River Rd. in the northwestern corner of the county 1/28 (DH).

Red-breasted Nuthatch was tallied for the Lebanon CBC 12/17 near the HER Corporate Center on Sandbeach Rd. (SR). Other reports came from Deibler's Gap 1/28 (DH) and WL 2/6 (EB). A **Gray Catbird**, first noted 12/16, was present all winter at WL, usually observed along the East Shore Trail (SL, CR). More than 20 **American Pipits** were reported in the MSH farm fields 1/5 (TB). Other pipit reports included one in SHT 1/7 (TJ), six near MBG 1/22 (RK), and three near Gratz 1/28 (DH). A single **Snow Bunting** was observed near MBG 1/22 (RK) while the only report of **Lapland Longspur** was of three near Gratz 1/28 (DH). A **Pine Warbler** proved to be a regular visitor to feeders in SHT

12/9-2/4 (TJ, MR, JG). More than 50 **American Tree Sparrows** were tallied in FIG 1/4 (DM). A good winter count of 12 **Field Sparrows** was reported from SCV 12/31 (AM). Both **Chipping** and **Field Sparrow** were found 2/1 FIG (DM) and single **Fox Sparrows** were reported from Paxtang 1/5 (DH) and from LPT 2/19 (AM). Three **Savannah Sparrows** were observed 1/23 in HIBA (TJ) and two were reported from this location 2/24 (PW, RW). Another good location for Savannah Sparrow were the MSH farm fields where two were found 1/17 (TJ) and 12 were counted 1/23 (TB). The best place to find **Swamp Sparrow** this winter was WL from where, during Jan and Feb, there were a number of reports (JB, RK, et al.). The first **White-crowned Sparrow** report of the season was from Fort Hunter Park 12/14 (EB). Six **Rusty Blackbirds** were found 1/2 at WL (DH). Along the northern border of the county at Diebler's Gap, 2 **Purple Finches** and 4 **Pine Siskins** were reported 1/28 (DH).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Kyle Aldinger, Steve Back (SBk), Paul Banks, Tim Becker, Scott Bills (SBi), Justin Bosler, Mary & Randy Brenner, Lou Carpenter, Jennifer Cather, Ed Chubb, Nancy Cladel, Bernie Crist, Gordon Demmig, Mike Epler, Ian Gardner, Vern Gauthier, Jan Getgood, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Steve Kersting, Gary Kinkley, Ramsay Koury, Sandy & Gary Lockerman, Anette Mathis, Dave McNaughton, Chris Markiewicz, Mark Markiewicz, Steve Rannels, Chris Rebert, Melissa Roach, Deborah Rudy, Matt Sabatine, Art Schiavo, Clifford Tooker, Patricia Williams, Sally & Rich Zaino.

Delaware County

Locations: Brinton Lake (BL), Crum Reservoir (CR), Darby Creek (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Delaware county Winter Raptor Survey 1/28, 2/4 (WRS), Earle's Lake (EL), Glenolden CBC 12/17 (CBC), Haverford College (HC), Hildacy Farm (HF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Swarthmore College (SC), Tyler Arboretum (TY), Waterloo Mills (WM).

A warm winter indeed! Somehow, PHL reported a season total of 4" of snow but it's hard to remember when. There were a few indicators of how the weather affected the winter bird population. There was a record number of **Eastern Towhees** on the CBC, but near total absence of winter finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Perhaps more than an average number of fall migrants lingered into mid-Jan.

Snow Geese moved through on CBC day. A front moved through at mid-day and the afternoon sky was filled with many skeins headed northeast to southwest. A local CBC record of 2115 individuals was tallied 12/17 (m.ob.). A high count 62 **Tundra Swans** were also found on count day on the DR 12/17 (NP). Presumably reflecting the warm winter, a near record 10 **Wood Ducks** were found on the CBC 12/17 (CW, WS, DM). There were only a few wintering duck highlights including 2 **Gadwall** at DR 12/17 (NP) and 2 at BL 2/13 (BB), 4 **Northern Shoveler** at DR 12/17 (NP) and 280 **Northern Pintails** at DR 12/17 (NP). **Ring-necked Ducks** were present in small numbers with 2 at SR 1/7 (AG), one at EL 1/28 (AG, DE), 16 at SR 2/4 (AG). There were two reports of **Lesser Scaup**: 2 at SR 12/17 (WS), and 32 at SR 1/7 (AG). A count of 6 **Ruddy Ducks** was made at SR 12/11 (WS).

A band of "numerous" **Wild Turkeys** were seen in a neighborhood near Crum Creek in Upper Providence Twp. near Media after 1/1 (*fide* DM). Reports of this species away from the DR/TI area remain uncommon. A wing-tagged **Turkey Vulture** perched in Upper Providence Twp 1/5 (DM) was found to have been tagged as a nestling about one mile away in Smedley Park this past summer, by researchers from Hawk Mountain. Nine **Bald Eagles** were counted on the WRS 1/28 (DE, AG, CP, BK) besting the previous high of 6 in 2011. A **Bald Eagle** was on the same nest in the county as in the past several years 2/25 (DE). Thanks to the warm winter, 15 **Wilson's Snipe** at TI 2/26 (AG, DE) were a few weeks earlier than average. One **American Woodcock** was seen but not heard displaying in the predawn at DT 2/26 (DE).

A **Snowy Owl** was reported to the PA Game Commission 12/15-17 DR (AM). The bird was being harassed by a pair of **Peregrine Falcons** at the PECO power plant in Eddystone. It was photographed perched on a large coal pile. The plant is a secure area, so there was no birder access. It was confirmed to be present 12/17 by one of the

plant workers (*fide* AM) so it was listed as a feeder bird on the CBC. This was the fifth *Delaware* CBC record for this species and the first since a count week bird in 1980.

A record 205 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were tallied on the CBC besting the previous record of 163. What must have been a sight to remember, especially for early Jan, was 3 **Eastern Phoebe**s sharing a tree with a **Northern Shrike** 1/6 at TI (*fide* DM). The **Northern Shrike** was originally found in the *Philadelphia* section of TI but spent enough time during the winter in *Delaware* to be worthy of mention in this report.

With habitat becoming scarcer, only a single **Horned Lark** was reported in the county 1/28 PHL (AG). In contrast to multiple reports last year, no **Black-capped Chickadees** were reported this season, and there were only two reports of perhaps the same **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at TY 1/31 (AG) and 2/1 (TR). Late **Gray Catbirds** were found at RCSP 12/4 (DE) and 2 individuals were found on the CBC 12/17 (SJ). Exceptionally rare in winter, but well described, was a **Northern Parula** at RCSP 2/9 (EW). Presumably the same very late **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found on the Bridle Path RCSP 12/21 (AE), 1/10 (BB, MP), and 1/13 (MP). **Eastern Towhees** were everywhere all winter (m.ob.). The CBC total of 136 individuals eclipsed the previous high of 84 in 2005. The Glenolden CBC average count for this species over the previous 24 years is 33, and I am told this was the highest total ever recorded on a Pennsylvania CBC. The warm winter would be a logical explanation, but my review of average temperatures for the 5 previous CBCs, during which more than 50 towhees were counted, shows that although certainly not cold, these were fairly average winters. **Rusty Blackbirds** were scarce. Three individuals on the CBC were the only reports received. In keeping with the paucity of winter finches, only one **Pine Siskin** was reported at RCSP 12/4 (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, Art McMorris, Tom McParland, Jim Molyneaux, Martin Page, Carl Perretta, Chris Pugliese, Nick Pulcinella, Win Shafer, Charles Smith, Tom Reeves, Chris Walters, Eric Weislogel.

Elk County

No compiler.

Erie County

It was possibly one of the mildest winters on record with only two major snow falls, totaling less than a few feet. Anywhere from 120 to over 200 inches is the norm for most winters in the Erie area. Even the temperatures were above normal, which allowed Presque Isle Bay to remain ice-free the whole season, apparently for the first time in over one hundred years. The open bay attracted thousands of ducks that typically would winter in open areas of Lake Erie or farther north. On 1/25 approximately 50,000 to 70,000 mergansers were estimated in Presque Isle Bay, with at least half of them **Common Mergansers** (JM). Never before has Presque Isle Bay hosted this many mergansers in winter. Merganser numbers remained high through the period with about 30,000 birds present most of the time. Gulls also amassed in huge numbers with **Herring Gulls** totaling up to 20,000 individuals by late January (JM). Among the Herring Gulls were an unusually high number of hybrid gulls, as well as one leucistic **Ring-billed Gull**. The usual assortment of white-winged gulls was also frequently reported throughout the season. It was not a year of the winter finch, since only a few individuals or small groups of **Pine Siskins** and **Common Redpolls** were reported, mostly from feeding stations.

The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PISP) unless noted otherwise. Up to three **Surf Scoters** were present around PISP 2/9-23 (ST, JM). Ten **White-winged Scoters** were tallied from 2/4 through the period, mostly in Presque Isle Bay (m.ob.). Rarely reported after Dec, one or two **Black Scoters** were reported 1/17-2/23 (JM, ST). One of the most outstanding sightings of the season was the immature male **Harlequin Duck** that was present for only one day off one of the breakwaters near the lighthouse 1/8 (SC). Very peculiar and quite bizarre looking was the **Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser** male that was first spotted in the marina 2/4 and remained there through the period (CG, JM).

A season total of 5 **Red-necked Grebes** was about average for Dec at the waterbird count from Sunset Point (JM). Totally unexpected was the **Great Egret** that appeared in Horseshoe Pond 12/24-1/19 (JMa, MW). **Turkey Vultures** continue to be seen in winter in *Erie*, so it wasn't a total surprise when a kettle of 6 soaring over Girard was detected on the early date of 2/7 (JB). **Purple Sandpipers** are worth getting excited about, so it was even more interesting when at least six different birds appeared between 12/2 and 12/18 during the WC or at Gull Point (JM, ST, DW). A very early **American Woodcock** 2/6 was only the third winter record for this species in *Erie* (BW).

The only **Little Gull** reported this season was a single adult seen flying offshore near the lighthouse on CBC day 2/17 (AE). The nearly annual **California Gull** was identified at the foot of Port Access Rd. in *Erie* 1/16 (MW) and another bird, likely of the race *albertaensis*, was present at the north pier 1/29 (JM). A dark-mantled **Herring Gull** was well studied at the foot of Port Access Rd., *Erie* 1/10, but it could not be determined whether it was one of the Herring Gull subspecies or a hybrid (MW). A few probable adult **Herring Gull x Great Black-backed Gulls** were noted from 1/15-29 at the foot of Port Access Rd., *Erie* (MW) and another was in Presque Isle Bay 2/1 (JM). Of a season total of 4 **Thayer's Gulls**, all but one were adults. They recorded 1/4-2/14 in Presque Isle Bay (JM, MW). **Iceland Gulls** were recorded in Presque Isle Bay 1/4-2/14 with a season total of about 12 birds (JM, MW). The expected **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was recorded in modest numbers with a season total of 7 birds through the period (DW, MW, JM). **Glaucous Gulls** were especially numerous and regular from 12/17-2/14 totaling at least 20 different birds, mostly immature (MW, JM). An immature **Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull** was spotted 1/16 and it remained to 1/23 in the bay off the foot of Chestnut Street (JM).

Even though we didn't see the large number of **Snowy Owls** that appeared in other regions of the U.S., we managed to find and photograph 2 different individuals on PI, one at Gull Point on the CBC 12/17 (BC, et al.) and a darker bird on a breakwater off Sunset Point 12/19 (KA). Rare in winter was the **Long-eared Owl** off Dead Pond Trail 2/26 (MW). Single **Northern Shrikes** were recorded throughout the county through the period (JD, JM, TV) with one bird spending the entire winter at the Fairview Industrial Park (m.ob.).

Contributors: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd. Erie, PA 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Katie Andersen, Jim Baxter, Shawn Collins, Ben Coulter, Julie Dell, Adam Erb, Chuck Gehringer, Jimmy Marz (JMa), Shannon Thompson, Mike Weible, Bob Wellington, Dave Wilton.

Fayette County

January was quite mild and calm with few weather systems. Some snow and cold temperatures arrived in mid-February. Raptors made up the bulk of the few reports submitted.

Despite heavy rain 2/29, the only duck at Greenlick Run Lake was a male **Common Merganser** (MF). Highlights from a WRS 1/16 included a **Turkey Vulture**, **Northern Harrier**, and **Red-shouldered Hawk** in Franklin Twp. (MMC). A **Northern Goshawk** was seen 1/18 at SGL 51 (CD), presumably the same bird that was seen there regularly last summer. A **Bald Eagle** was at Ohiopele 12/4 (GG).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in Farmington 11/25 (LD). With this report and others in recent months, there must be a population in the county. Hopefully, reports will continue. A flock of 30-40 **Horned Larks** was found during a WRS 1/14 (MB, EH). Ten **Rusty Blackbirds** were a nice find in Wharton Twp. 1/14 (MB, EH).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Mark Bowers, Cory DeStein, Larry Durgin, Gigi Gerben, Eric Hall, Mark McConaughy (MMC).

Forest County

Locations: Tionesta (TI).

Although the Allegheny R. did not freeze, waterfowl reports were slim. Six **American Black Ducks** were seen 2/27 on the Allegheny just south of TI (FM, JM). **Mallards** were reported 1/1 on the Allegheny near TI during the Pleasantville CBC (JS, RS, et al.). **Common Mergansers** were regular on Tionesta Creek and the Allegheny throughout the period, with a high count of 10 on 1/30 (FM, JM).

Ring-necked Pheasants do not usually survive the winter in *Forest*; one spotted 1/1 near TI was noteworthy (JS, RS, et al.). A **Great Blue Heron** was reported 1/1 near TI (JS, RS, et al.). **Bald Eagles** were seen regularly. A light-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted 1/30 during the WRS in the Red Brush area (FM, JM). A **Ring-billed Gull** was reported 1/1 near TI (JS, RS, et al), and 19 were noted 2/29 at the mouth of Tionesta Creek, near TI (JM). A **Common Raven** was reported 1/1 near TI (JS, RS, et al); three were seen and heard 2/5 at Buzzard Swamp (FM, JM).

The only **Golden-crowned Kinglet** sighting occurred 1/1 on the Pleasantville CBC (JS, RS, et al.). The first **Red-breasted Nuthatch** of the season was seen 2/5 at feeders near TI, where it is fairly regular (FM, JM). The first **Red-winged Blackbird** was spotted 2/22 near TI, the first **Common Grackle** 1/30 near TI. **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were noted beginning 1/3 near TI, with a high of 8 on 1/21 (FM, JM). **Pine Siskins** were present at feeders near TI only from 1/14-28, with a high of 8 on 1/20 (FM, JM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Ln, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, W. Dewayne DelGrande, Brian Devore, Jim McGuire, Randy Slater, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Charlie Vevers.

Franklin County

Locations: Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Bender's Pond (BP), Chambersburg Area (CA), Path Valley (PV), Shady Grove (SG), Zullinger (ZA).

On 12/17 CG reported a **Cackling Goose** on GR, and huge numbers of **Canada Geese** and **Tundra Swans** were observed after a heavy rain near CA 2/29 (CG, DG). For much of the period, a **Gadwall** and a pair of **Green-winged Teal** were near Clay Hill (DG) and CA or in nearby springs. A pair of **American Wigeons** was in a small spring pond in Dec on a farm near Clay Hill. **Wood Duck**, **American Black Duck**, **Northern Pintail**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Hooded Mergansers**, **Common Mergansers**, and **American Coots** were also present numerous times at CA, GR, BP and PV (DG, CG, BO), particularly during the beginning and end of the report period.

Wild Turkeys were seen at various locations in the county, even in backyards of several homes. Along the Falling spring stream **Great Blue Herons** were observed at several locations. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were reported at or near many feeder sites, to the disapproval of the homeowners. However, to the delight of many, **Bald Eagles** were seen in many areas throughout the county, probably the pair that nested near GA in 2011, but recently at least one more pair has been observed and possibly nesting locally. The pair near Greencastle nested again this year (2/14, DG). A **Golden Eagle** was seen in Horse Valley 2/26 (BO). **Wilson Snipe** were noted south of GA (DG) and near CA (DG, BO) in Dec and in late Feb. **American Woodcock** were seen early along Stillhouse Hollow Road 2/26 (BK). The **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continue their presence in good numbers in SG (DG) and also in Greencastle.

A **Barn Owl** was present 2/29 (DG) at a farm near St. Thomas, and a lone **Eastern Screech-Owl** (DG) remained throughout the period in a locust tree opening along Grindstone Hill Road. Several **Great Horned Owls** were on nests 2/29 near SG and CA (DG). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen near CA (BO) and were feeding in ZA (CG) 12/14-1/21. They were also seen at SG (DG) at various times throughout the period. **Hairy Woodpeckers** at SG (DG) were regular visitors 12/1-2/29.

Fish Crows and **Common Ravens** were present at different locations near SG (DG) and CA during the period (DG, BK). Large flocks of **Horned Lark** were observed 12/1-2/29 near CA (DG, BO) and SG (DG). Both **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were observed along the Falling Spring 1/28 (BO). A **Hermit Thrush** was a regular visitor at feeding station near Caledonia State Park (VB). Three **Pine Siskins** finally appeared at the same feeder for a brief stay until 2/13. Thirteen **Cedar Waxwings** were reported 1/24 by (DH) near Pond Bank. A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was feeding at ZA (CG) 1/20-2/10. A large number of **American Pipits** and at least 5 **Snow Buntings** and 3 **Lapland Longspurs** were located near CA 2/11 (DG, BO). As many as 8 **White-crowned Sparrows** were at ZA 12/1-2/29 (CG), and 4-5 **Fox Sparrows** were observed at SG (DG) through the period.

Observers: Dale Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256, (717) 860-5799, dgearhart01@comcast.net, Valerie Barnes, Dave Cooney, Carl Garner, Donna Hocker, Bob Keener, Bill Oyler, Dan Snell.

Fulton County

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

On 1/02, Meadow Grounds Lake hosted 6 **Common Mergansers** and one **Pied-billed Grebe** (DS).

Five winter raptor surveys (a new high) were run in the county: four using the PA Game Commission CREP Routes, and a newly created route. Each averaged between 12 and 15 miles in length. On 2/11 CREP1 survey netted 2 **Turkey Vultures** and 15 **Red-tailed Hawk** (new high) (BK, DS). One of the fifteen Red-tails was a high flying leucistic bird near Plum Run. On 2/20, 15 **Turkey Vultures**, 7 **Red-tailed Hawks**, and one **Cooper's Hawk** were detected along CREP2 (MS, DS). The 1/28 CREP3 survey results included 2 **Turkey Vultures**, 3 **Black Vultures**, one **Cooper's Hawk**, 7 **Red-tailed Hawks**, and one adult **Peregrine Falcon** (MS, DS). The Peregrine Falcon was along Dublin Mills Road and first time ever recorded on a *Fulton* survey. The CREP4 survey 2/15 included 6 **Turkey Vultures**, 2 **Coopers Hawks**, 11 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 5 **Red-shouldered Hawks** (new high), and 4 **American Kestrels** (MS, DS). A new WRS was conducted in the northern portion of the county, and resulted in several **Red-tailed Hawks** and **American Kestrels** (GG). Away from WRS routes, a juvenile **Golden Eagle** flying over Gem 2/15 (MS, DS) was noteworthy. The mild winter weather might have been a factor in favoring first year buteos. Typically it is most years to find first year Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks wintering. Outstanding was the 3 juvenile Red-shoulders recorded on the CREP4 2/15 (DS).

A good find at Buck Valley was a vocal and territorial **Fish Crow** 2/15 (MS, DS). Although the southern portion of the county has excellent habitat for wintering corvids, distinguishing silent Fish Crows from American Crows at pine roost sites can be difficult. This record probably constitutes an early spring arrival and not a winter record. A 1/07 Redbud Nature Area walk yielded several hardy species, notably **Winter Wren** and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (DS).

Observers: Dan Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan_snell@hotmail.com, Greg Grove, Bob Koontz, Marilyn Snell.

Greene County

Locations: Claylick Road (CL), East View (EV), Franklin Township (FT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Sycamore (SY).

With the mild winter observers found hundreds of **Canada Geese** on the two county CBCs. **Wood Ducks** were last seen at SY 12/3 (JaC). Found on the Ryerson CBC was a pair of **Hooded Mergansers** at a small pond in Freeport Twp. On 12/3 a **Ruffed Grouse** was found at SY (JaC). At LCR 25 **Wild Turkey** were seen in the pasture 2/18, and then on 2/21 "6 big toms were displaying and putting on quite a show" with a total of 37 birds seen (MLP). During a WRS a **Great Blue Heron** was spotted at Lake Wilma 1/24 (MH, JaC).

Turkey Vultures remained through 12/23 when three were spotted flying over RBF (CDB); they were not seen again until two were spotted 1/29 (AB). A **Northern Harrier** was found in Cumberland Twp. 12/18 (KK, MH, JM) and again 1/28 (KK, MH). While conducting WRS routes in the western part of the county 1/24-25 an adult **Bald Eagle** was seen in Richhill Twp., and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found in Whiteley Twp. In Aleppo Twp. a pair of **Red-tailed Hawk** were found courting, and at Lake Wilma a light phased **Rough-legged Hawk** was a nice surprise (JaC, MH). A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen often during this period at RBF, and 8 **American Kestrel** was first noted 2/28 (RKB).

A **Killdeer** was found in FT 12/1 (KK) and again 2/6 at SY (JaC). On 2/28 two **American Woodcock** were displaying on a farm in Freeport Twp (LW) and in SY they seem to have been present all winter (JaC). On 2/12, at Big Lots shopping plaza in FT, 12 **Ring-billed Gulls** were noted (MH).

A **Great-horned Owl** was heard calling 1/25 at SY (JaC). On the

Ryerson CBC, a **Barred Owl** provided great looks in a pine stand near the edge of the road (JaC, JuC, MH). A **Belted Kingfisher** was found 12/18 during the Clarksville CBC (A&PH, LW). At CL **Red-bellied Woodpecker** and **Downy Woodpecker** were constant visitors at the feeder (R&LA). A **Yellow Bellied Sapsucker** was reported 1/12 at SY (JaC). **Pileated Woodpeckers** were seen throughout the period including one calling 12/25 at EV (MH).

A total of 27 **Blue Jays** were constant visitors at CL (R&LA). At RFB **Common Raven** were often heard while flying over the farm, as were **American Crows**, including more than 50 in the fields 2/25 (RKB). At LCR **Carolina Chickadee**, **Tufted Titmouse**, and **White-breasted Nuthatch** were drinking drops of melting frost in the early morning sunshine 2/6 (MLP). On 12/29 at EV a **Brown Creeper** was found (JH). **Golden Crowned Kinglets** were noted at EV 12/3 (MH). Approximately nine **Eastern Bluebirds** were observed throughout the period at RBF (RKB) and were reported in mid-Feb at CL checking out the nest boxes (R&LA). **American Robins** were around all winter at RBF with 221 coming in to roost in the evergreen trees and holly bushes 12/7. A **Northern Mockingbird** was there 2/18 (RKB). As usual **Yellow-rumped Warblers** camped out in the holly trees all winter at RBF with 9 coming in nightly to roost (RKB). An **Eastern Towhee** was heard calling on the neighbor's farm 12/15 (RKB).

Eight **American Tree Sparrows** visited a bird feeder in Jackson Twp 12/17 (BC). At RBF, 3 **Chipping Sparrows** were found at the feeder 12/2, and one remained throughout the period (RKB). **White-throated Sparrows** were present all season at several locations. **Fox Sparrows** were noted 3/4 at SY (JaC). On 12/3, amongst the flock of **Dark-eyed Juncos** at feeders at LCR, a junco with white cheek patches was found that looked like a "small puffin" (MLP).

The **Northern Cardinals** did not visit feeders as often this winter, leaving observers wondering why (RKB). **Red-winged Blackbirds** were welcomed by several observers, with the earliest noted 2/19 at CL (R&LA). **Eastern Meadowlark** was first found in Morgan Twp 2/23 (KK). At EV a **Common Grackle** showed up 1/22 (MH). Five **Purple Finches** were at a feeder in FT for the Clarksville CBC 12/18 (JS).

Observers: Marjorie Howard, 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 852-3155, birdwatcher108@comcast.net, Ron and Lyn Argent (R&LA), C. David Bell (CDB), Ralph K. Bell (RKB), Andy Berchin, Judy Cholak (JuC), Jan Churney (JaC), Bobbi Cressey, Allen & Peggy Hill (A&PH), Jerry Howard, Kathy Kern, Mary LaPlante (MLP), John Markle, Jean Scott, Llew Williams.

Huntingdon County

Locations: Aitch Access (AA), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Ennisville (ENN), Huntingdon (HU), Juniata River (JR), Old Crow wetland (OC), Stone Valley (SV), Summit Schoolhouse Road (SSR).

The bird of the season was the **Bullock's Oriole** that appeared in mid-Feb at the home of Jim and Lorraine Hamilton, near Neelyton in the se. corner of the county. Not surprisingly, it represented a first record here. The female, probably an adult, was first noticed at suet and seed feeders; the Hamilton's then put out orange and grapefruit halves, which were fed on readily by their western visitor. Later, she accepted more economical grape jelly. Seen and photographed by a number of birders, she was still present in early March.

The Huntingdon CBC was held 12/18, reporting a record-tying 73 species. Record high counts were established for **Red-tailed Hawk** (58), **American Kestrel** (32), **Turkey Vulture** (38), and **Red-winged Blackbird** (100) (DG, et al.).

On the Lake Raystown CBC 12/26, 71 species were recorded (avg = 66). New for the count were a **Long-tailed Duck** and an **American Woodcock**; **Green-winged Teal** was found for only the second time. Record high counts included 58 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 16 **Ruffed Grouse**, 12 **Common Ravens**, 202 **American Tree Sparrows**, and 201 **Red-winged Blackbirds** (GG et al.).

Despite the mild weather, waterfowl reports were unremarkable. Six **Green-winged Teal** at AA were late 12/20 (DK). Seven **Common Goldeneyes** were in the JR 12/21 and 12/29 (DK). A **Common Loon** on Lake Raystown 1/2 was late (DK). Some early migrants entered the county by mid-Feb, including **Green-winged Teal** at OC 2/21 (AL, et al.) and a few **Wood Ducks** on the JR 2/25 (S&AK). Counts of 8 **American Wigeons** 2/17 and 12 on 2/21 at OC were notable, as was a raft of 30 at AA 2/25 (GG, AL).

WRS routes resulted in 26 hours of observation. An encouraging 57 **American Kestrels** were counted. Also high was the count of 10 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, of which nine were found on the McAlevy's Fort route in SV, an area home to a long-established year-round population. The count of 114 **Red-tailed Hawks** was also excellent. In addition, there were 5 **Northern Harriers**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, three **Cooper's Hawks**, and 4 **Rough-legged Hawks** (DB, RF, RFu, DG, GG, DK, TK, NK).

Again this winter, at least one **Short-eared Owl** spent part of the season at SSR; seen first on 12/23 (DK, TK) and again 12/26 (m.ob.) but not thereafter despite several searches. At least one **Long-eared Owl** wintered again in a dense red cedar stand on private land near ENN (JC). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** and 2 **Barred Owls** were at Masseyburg 12/30 (JD).

Two adult **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found near Spruce Creek 12/30 (JK). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was in a yard in HU 1/24 and 1/30 (DK, TK). A **Gray Catbird** attempted to winter near ENN, seen during the Huntingdon CBC 12/18 and again in early Jan (m.ob.). Rare for the winter season in *Huntingdon* were 8 **Savannah Sparrows** at OC 2/21 (AL). JV reported **Red Crossbill** flyovers 12/18 on the ridgeline of Tussey Mt. on the *Huntingdon/Centre* line.

Observers: **Greg Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, gwg2@psu.edu**, Diane Bierly, John Clickner, Jim Dunn, Ron Freed, Roana Fuller (RFu), Deb Grove, Stan and Alice Kotala (S&AK), Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Alex Lamoreaux, Nancy Ellen Kiernan, Joe Verica, Doug Wentzel.

Indiana County

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

Canada Goose maxima included an estimated 1000 heading south over IN 12/9 (GF) and 542 on TL 1/16 (LC). Winter **Tundra Swan** reports included 7 at TL 1/21 (LC) and 2 at YC 2/14, 17 (LC). An early **Wood Duck** appeared at YC 2/17 (LC). YC Lake remained open for most of the season with just a few days of freeze-up. Many ducks lingered in the county into mid-Jan and those that left returned by late Feb. **Gadwalls** were not reported in the county after 1/21 (MH, RH, DL) when 8 were spotted near Blairsville, until 2/25 (MH, RH) when 19 were listed at Margus Lake; high counts included 16 at YC 12/24 (LC) and the 19 Margus Lake birds mentioned above. **American Wigeons**, too, loitered in *Indiana* with the last 2 spotted at YC 1/6 (TS); first 2 returnees were observed there 2/7 (LC, SD, MH). The top tally of 20 occurred at YC 2/14 (LC). **American Black Ducks**, however, were present throughout the winter, with best YC counts of 30 on 2/17 (LC) and 62 on 2/28 (LC, MH, ML, RN). High **Mallard** counts included 126 at TL 12/15 (LC) and 152 at YC 2/19 (LC). First **Northern Shoveler** arrived at YC 2/26 (TR); 3 were counted there two days later (LC, MH, ML, RN). **Northern Pintails**, listed on 8 dates, were more sporadic with 4 found at Musser's Pond 12/26 (BB, TB); the next sighting occurred 1/31 (LC, MH) when 4 were noted at YC; high tallies included 52 on 2/21 (LC, MH) and 42 a week later (LC, MH, ML, RN), both at YC. Last **Green-winged Teal** were 4 at YC 12/26 (GL, GS); first 2 spring arrivals occurred 2/19 (LC); by 2/28 (LC, MH, ML, RN) 12 were present at YC.

Canvasbacks, with up to 3 listed on 11 dates, evaded the Indiana CBC and could only be listed as a count-week bird; by 2/28 (LC, MH, ML, RN) 17 were on YC Lake. One to 3 **Redheads** were present through 1/3 (LC) when the last 2 were sighted. Small numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** wintered at YC and Margus Lake, but the first 43 spring returnees arrived at YC 2/7 (LC, SD, MH); numbers started to peak at 139 at YC 2/21 (LC, MH) and had reached 338 by 2/28 (LC, MH, ML, RN). One to 8 **Lesser Scaup** were listed at YC through the end of Dec; 3 were still present 1/1 (LC, MH, RH, DL, TP, MJS); northward bound migrants appeared 2/17 (LC) at YC and 2/18 (JT) at Musser's Pond; top count of 15 was achieved at YC 2/28 (LC, MH, ML, RN). **White-winged Scoter** and **Long-tailed Duck** were respectively represented by singletons at YC 12/6 (LC, JD, TG, MH, DM) and 12/26 (GL, GS), the lone reports. Small groups of **Buffleheads** remained at YC through 1/10 (LB, LC, RK, RN, TS) when the last 2 were found; 2/14 (LC) marked the arrival of 2 migrants. YC harbored one to 2 **Common Goldeneyes** until 2/19 (LC) when 9 were noted; 4 were still present 2/28 (LC, MH, ML, RN). Musser's Pond yielded 24 **Hooded Mergansers** 12/26 (EF, TF, TG) while numbers at YC peaked at 51 on 2/19 (LC). **Common**

Merganser sightings included 2 drakes and a hen at Smicksburg 1/7 (MH, RH), 2 birds at TL 1/10 (LC, TS), and multiple sightings of 1-2 at YC beginning 1/10 (LB, LC, RK, RN, TS) through 2/28 (LC, MH, ML, RN) when 22 were listed. Four **Red-breasted Mergansers** and 5 **Ruddy Ducks** at YC on 1/3 (LC) were last.

The IN CBC yielded 10 **Ruffed Grouse** 12/26, up from only one last year; only 5 other grouse were reported. **Wild Turkey** maxima included 60 at Nolo 12/28 (CL), 39 north of IN 1/11 (SB), and 35 at Waterworks Conservation Area 2/1 (SD). Last **Common Loon** was 1/1 (m.ob.). A **Pied-billed Grebe** lingered at YC through 1/8 (LC) and did not reappear until 2/7 (LC, SD, MH). YC yielded the last 20 **Horned Grebes** 12/6 (LC, JD, TG, MH, RH, DM); singletons were next noted 2/19 (LC) at TL and 2/26 (TR) at YC. Eight **Double-crested Cormorants** flew over Clymer 12/1 (CL, GL); YC harbored a single cormorant 12/20 (LC, TG, MH) and 12/23 (LC).

The first **Turkey Vulture** arrived over a yard north of IN 2/29 (SB). **Bald Eagle** reports included individuals at YC, TL, and Conemaugh Dam (m.ob.). **Northern Harriers** were listed only near LV 1/21 (MC) and on WRS #1 on 2/4 (MH, RH, DL), which produced 2 harriers near Marion Center. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were listed at 6 locations during the period; **Cooper's Hawk**, at 8 (m.ob.). Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were noted on the IN CBC 12/26 (GL, GS) and on WRS #1 on 2/4 (MH, RH, DL). Two WRS routes in the northern part of the county yielded 31 **Red-tailed Hawks** on 1/28 (MH, RH, DL, TS) and 25 on 2/4 (MH, RH, DL), and the more southerly route yielded 37 on 1/21 (MH, RH, DL). The three WRS routes yielded a low total of only 11 **American Kestrels** (MH, RH, DL, TS). A **Merlin** was found at YC 12/2 (RN).

American Coots at YC had dwindled to 54 by 1/10 (LB, LC, RK, RN, TS), but a singleton remained on the lake 1/17 (LC); none were seen again till 2/14 (LC) when 4 appeared; by 2/28 (LC, MH, ML, RN), the flock had increased to 49. Last **Killdeer** was one near Oakland Cemetery in IN 12/26 (MH, RH); one at the Conservation Waterworks Area 2/1 (SD) was either wintering or rather early; next 2 returnees arrived 2/25 (LC) at YC. An early **American Woodcock** was peenting near Creekside 2/22 (MH, RH).

Single **Bonaparte's Gulls** were sighted at YC 12/20 (LC, TG, MH), 12/23 (LC), and 1/24 (LC, MH). A flock of 171 **Ring-billed Gulls** landed on YC Lake the evening of 2/25 (LC). Only 2 **Eastern Screech-Owls** were reported, one using an owl box near SH 12/26-2/5 (MH, RH) and another near LV 2/2 (MC). **Great Horned Owls** were listed at five locations (v.o.) this winter. A **Barred Owl** was observed near Penn Run dining on squirrel 12/21 (AB, DB) and another was heard near SH 2/12 (RH). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** noted included one near LV 12/12 (MC), one on the CBC 12/26 (BM, KM, CW, PW), another visiting suet near Homer City 1/1-21 (LC), and one sporadically visiting a Nolo feeder between 1/4-2/12 (CL, GL).

Two **Fish Crows** were actively calling at Fifth and Water Streets in IN 12/26 (MH, RH); another visited the IUP campus 1/6 (TS). **Common Ravens** continue to be widespread with many reports from the YC area; ravens were also noted at Rexis, Homer City, Rochester Mills, and Saylor Park (m.ob.). **Horned Lark** maxima were 100 near Rochester Mills 1/14 (TS), 72 on WRS #3 on 1/21 (MH, RH, DL), and 80 on WRS #2 on 1/28 (MH, RH, DL, TS).

The CBC yielded 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at 3 locations; one or 2 were found near SH (MH, RH) throughout the period while one was observed n. of IN 1/29 and 2/16 (SB). A **Winter Wren** appeared at YC 12/26 (MH, RH). YC produced 2 **Hermit Thrushes** 1/1 (LC), the lone report. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** reports included 2 at Smicksburg Park 1/7 (MH, RH), 4 at Saylor Park 1/11 (LC), and one near SH 2/1, 3 (MH).

An **Eastern Towhee** continued at a feeder near LV through 12/12 (MC); a female towhee wintered near SH where it remained through the end of the period. At least 4 **Swamp Sparrows** lingered at YC through 1/1 (MH, RH, DL, TP, MJS). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was noted at YC 1/1 (TS). Feeders near LV yielded a **Common Redpoll** 1/5 (MC) and 2 on 2/1 (MC). Three **Pine Siskins** were found near Home 2/11 (JT).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Louise Bem, Bill Betts, Tom Betts, Sid Blair, Lee Carnahan, Marcy Cunkelman, Sue Dickson, Jon Dunn, Gary Ferrence, Elise Fuller, Tom Fuller, Tom Glover, Roger Higbee, Rita Kornberger, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Melissa Little, Beth Marshall, Ken Marshall, Donna Meyer, Richard Nugent, Tom Pearson, Theo Rickert, Tim Schreckengost, Mary Jane Seipler, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Cris Williams, Paula Williams.

Jefferson County

Locations: Bells Mills (BM), DuBois Regional Airport (DA), Emerickville (EM), Falls Creek (FC), Horizon Drive (HD), Kramer Road (KR), Kyle Lake (KL), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MT), Punxsutawney (PX), Ringgold (RG), Wilson Road (WR).

A count of 25 **Canada Geese** was made at KL 12/11, and 29 were on KR 2/18 (TS). A flock of 39 flew over the MT 12/17 (TG) and 12 were in RG 2/18 (AK). One **Turkey Vulture** was in RG 2/18 (AK). The MT yielded one of its resident **Bald Eagles** 12/25. The MT also had one **Red-tailed Hawk** 12/25, and TS found one on HD 2/18 and one at DA 2/26. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was at DA 2/26 (TS). A **Golden Eagle** was reported in FC 12/10 (MW). Fourteen **Ring-billed Gulls** were at the DA 2/14 (TS). This winter's invasion of **Snowy Owl** came to Jefferson; TGA saw one near EM 2/20 and DR saw the same owl also near EM 2/24. One **Barred Owl** was on KR on 12/26 and 2/27 (TS).

One **Belted Kingfisher** was on the MT 12/25 (TG). Woodpeckers were common find in Jefferson this season. Single **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were in PX 1/13 and KR 2/26 (TS). **Downy Woodpecker** was found on three occasions, one on KL 12/11 (KM), one on WR 1/20 (JM), and 3 in RG 2/18 (AK). **Hairy Woodpecker** showed up on the MT with one seen 12/25 (TG), and 2 at KL 2/11 (TS). One **Pileated Woodpecker** was on KR 2/19 (TS). One **Common Raven** was on WR 1/20 (JM). One **Horned Lark** was on KR 2/14 and 5 were there 2/18 (TS).

One **Brown Creeper** was at KR 2/19 and **Carolina Wrens** at were two different locations, one at KR 2/19 and one at PX 2/21 (all TS). One **Golden-crowned Kinglet** showed up on the MT 12/25, and 4 were at KL 2/11 (TS). A flock of 16 **American Tree Sparrows** were on KR 1/9 (TS). There were 2 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 3 **Common Grackles** at DA 2/24 (TS), and 2 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** on KR 2/18 (TS).

Observers: **Thomas Glover, 210 Highland Ave. Punxsutawney, PA 15767-2416, tomnglover@comcast.net**, Trudy Garvey (TGA), Avis Keener, Jackson Martini, Kyle Meley, Dan Richard, Tim Schreckengost, Mike Weible.

Juniata County

Locations: Oakland Mills (OM).

The Lewistown CBC was conducted 12/17 and reported 76 species, a fairly typical number, and a total count of 25,453 individuals. Highlights included one **Northern Pintail**, one **Pied-billed Grebe**, one **Peregrine Falcon**, 3 **Rusty Blackbirds**, and 2 **Eastern Meadowlarks**.

A remarkable report was of an **Osprey** seen at Clearview Reservoir 1/9 and at nearby Zook's Dan 1/16 (DB). **Bald Eagles** nested again in the Locust Run and Macedonia areas (CK, AT). Light-morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen 1/28 at Metz Rd and at East Salem (KH). On 2/9, a **Golden Eagle** flew over Lost Creek Ridge (EP).

The eastern Juniata WRS 1/24 produced 3 **Bald Eagles**, 54 **Red-tailed Hawks**, and one dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** (CK, GG, AT, DH). The western WRS route 1/31 produced 3 **Bald Eagles**, 55 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 2 light-morph **Rough-legged Hawks**, and 18 **American Kestrels** (CK, AT, BM, MM). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found at their established location at the Juniata County Saddle Club (CK). A **Northern Shrike** was found 12/17 and stayed through the season near OM (AT, CK, et. al.). Few finches were reported. Most notable were a single **Common Redpoll** 1/28 at a feeder in Mifflintown (BW, MM) and 20 **Pine Siskins** 2/2 near the village of Center (EP).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 994-6715, chadkauffman@earthlink.net**, Deb Brackbill, Greg Grove, Deuane Hoffman, Kirk Heckscher, Butch Macahren, Michael McCahren, Elmer Petersheim, Aden Troyer, and Barb Wengard.

Lackawanna County

Locations: Dunmore Reservoir #1 (DR), Lake Scranton (LS), Lackawanna County Courthouse (LCC), Downtown Jermyn (JER).

About 50 **Ruddy Ducks** were spotted 12/29 at Lake Scranton. Also

present on the lake that day were 6 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** and one **Hooded Merganser** (KR). A **Horned Grebe** was spotted 3/21 on LS (CF).

On 12/29 at DR, the majority of about 200 gulls were **Ring-billed Gulls**. Some **Herring Gulls** were mixed in along with one **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and one immature **Iceland Gull** (KR). Similar sightings of Herring Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls were made throughout most of the winter at LS (KR). On 3/21, 2 **Great Black-backed Gulls** and 6 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were spotted at LS (CF).

A banded **Bald Eagle** was seen at DR 12/29 and another was spotted on the same day at LS (KR). The 2 **Peregrine Falcons** that are presumed to be a pair were found again at the LCC 3/29. One appears to be banded (JF). Up to 5 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen at feeders in JER 12/29 (JG).

Observers: **Jeffrey Greco 3116 Township Woods Rd, East Greenville, PA, 18041, (484) 941-2667, jeef20@gmail.com**, Jason Farmer, Chris Fisher, Kevin Ripka.

Lancaster County

Locations: Lancaster Area Sewer Authority (LASA), Middlecreek WMA (MC), Octoraro Lake (OL), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRFC), Susquehanna River Long Level (SRLI).

Temperatures in Lancaster were well above normal and among the warmest on record. Snowfall was far below average with the bulk of the snow from the unusual October snowstorm.

The Southern Lancaster CBC was held 12/18; 49 participants recorded 109 species. This was a good total and the highlights included 75 **Brant**, 6 **Cackling Geese**, 4 **Wood Ducks**, 98 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 110 **Hooded Mergansers**, 47 **Wild Turkeys**, 2 **Double-crested Cormorants**, 9 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, **Merlin**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Thayer's Gull**, **Long-eared Owl**, 3 **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, 2 **Eastern Phoebe**, **Northern Shrike**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, and 8 **Rusty Blackbirds**.

The Litz CBC was held 1/1, with 40 participants finding 96 species, a very strong tally. Highlights included 5 **Mute Swans**, 3 **Wood Ducks**, 102 **Gadwall**, 13 **Bald Eagles**, **Rough-legged Hawk**, **Golden Eagle**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Bonaparte's Gull**, **Long-eared Owl**, 4 **Short-eared Owls**, **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Northern Shrike**, **Common Raven**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, and **Gray Catbird**.

The Lancaster CBC was held 12/31 and 36 participants identified 83 species. This species tally was a bit below average. The highlights were 4 **Mute Swans**, **Iceland Gull**, **Merlin**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Palm Warbler**, and **Painted Bunting**.

The **Painted Bunting** found in Washington Boro 12/31 (JBo, m.ob.) was Lancaster's major contribution to the parade of statewide rarities this quarter, but there was a lot of activity during the period.

The goose extravaganza at MC began in Jan this year because of the mild winter. On 1/31 a high of 28 **Cackling Geese** were seen along with 2 adult "Greenland" **Greater White-fronted Geese** and a **Ross's Goose** (JBo, TJ). Another **White-fronted Goose**, this time an immature, was at MC 2/5-6 (JBo, et al). **Ross's Geese** are annual in the county, but a rare blue morph was observed at MC 1/12 (CC). A more typical white morph was at MC 2/6. Three **Cackling Geese** were at MC 2/6 and another 2/17. **Snow Goose** numbers were not as high as in some years, but 55,000 were estimated 2/22 (PA Game Commission). Away from MC a **Greater White-fronted Goose** and 15 **Cackling Geese** were seen 2/28 along Beechdale Road near Bird-in-Hand (JBo) and another 5 **Cackling Geese** were seen 2/28 in the Greenfield area (JBo).

Eurasian Wigeon was a nice find at SRFC 1/31 (ME), but unfortunately it didn't stay around. A **Long-tailed Duck** was at SRFC 12/22 (TJ). A **Common Goldeneye** was on a small pond at the intersection of Redenback Road and Spruce Street on the north side of New Holland (FH). This is reasonably common species on the SR, but quite unusual on a small pond like this. **Red-necked Grebe** was observed on the SR near Peach Bottom Village (BS). One subadult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen 2/16-17 at the Alcoa March off of South Fruitville Pike in the city of Lancaster (JBo, BC).

A dark morph **Red-tailed Hawk** was at MC 1/8 from Girl Scout Road looking from a distance into the refuge (EW). This bird was seen very sporadically in Jan and Feb and is likely the same bird seen in previous years. **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen regularly this season

with reports of a single light morph bird from MC throughout the season. Three Rough-legged Hawks were seen in fields west of New Holland 12/26 (TR). An immature **Golden Eagle** was found at MC 1/1 (JH, m.ob.) and was likely the same bird that remained in the area all winter. **Merlins** and **Peregrine Falcons** were both reported frequently this winter from a variety of locations. A **Sandhill Crane** was seen at MC 1/1 and was present through the end of the period and seen by many.

A **Thayer's Gull** was seen 12/18 on the SR at Muddy Creek (BS). This was the first record for the Solanco CBC. A first-winter **Black-headed Gull** was discovered 2/5 at SRCF (EW) just upriver from the Blue Road Road boat launch. It remained at least through 2/15 (m.ob.). An **Iceland Gull** was on the Susquehanna River south of Columbia 12/31 (JH) and others at SRCF 2/11 (BS) and 2/13 (BC). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen near the same area. There were 4 **Short-eared Owls** at MC 1/1/12 and up to six were present through the end of the period (m.ob.). Single **Long-eared** and **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were also reported from MC 1/1/12 and both species were reported from Octoraro Lake 12/18 as well.

There were two reports of **Northern Shrike** in Lancaster. The first was a brief sighting 12/18 at Muddy Run. The second showed up at MC in late Dec (JBo, et al.), was recorded on the Litzitz Count 1/1, and was present through at least 2/22. It has been awhile since there has been a Northern Shrike that was so dependable in Lancaster. A shrike species was also noted perched on a blind at SRCF 2/3 (JBo). **Common Ravens** are regular in the northern portion of the county, but increasingly they are being seen in other locations as well. A report and photographs of three in a field between Maytown and Elizabethtown 12/22 (TJ) were quite noteworthy. A check of the LASA produced a late **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** 12/11 (EW), but unfortunately it did not hang around for the CBC.

Orange-crowned Warblers were reported from two locations this season. There was a sighting at OL 12/18 on the Solanco CBC and another at Wood's Edge Ponds from 2/2-26 (ML, m.ob.). **Palm Warblers** were present through the period at LASA (EW, et al.). The previously mentioned **Painted Bunting** found 12/31 (JBo m.ob.) remained at least through 1/16. It was well photographed and believed to be a hatch year male. The bird was discovered in a patch of brush along the railroad tracks at the intersection of River and Rockfish Roads in Washington Boro. This bird would probably not have been discovered except for the thorough coverage of this area during the Lancaster CBC. A large flock of **Horned Larks** held 3 **Snow Buntings** and 2 **Lapland Longspurs** near Springville 1/22 (CC). Both of these species were in short supply this winter.

A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen in a large blackbird flock west of Kirkwood 12/30 (DF, JH, MS). Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen 1/8 among a very large flock of blackbirds along Goshen Mills Road (AL, DW) and at least one was still present 1/15 (CC) along Spruce Grove Road. A **Baltimore Oriole** was discovered in Peach Bottom 12/18 and spent the winter in the area. Winter finches were almost completely absent this year so a **Common Redpoll** 2/19 at Landis Woods (JBo) was a bit of a surprise.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller, 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042, jonathan.heller@comcast.net**, Jim Binder (JBi), Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler (JBo), Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfant, Mike Epler, Devich Farbotnik, Pamela Fisher, Tom Garner, Frank Haas, Jason Horn (JHo), Tom Johnson, Alex Lamoreaux, Meredith Lombard, Joe Meloney, Randy Miller, Meredith Lombard, Tom Raub, Matt Sabatine, Bob Schutsky, Jim Smith, Drew Weber, Eric Witmer.

Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Three Rivers Gravel Pond (TR), New Wilmington Area (NW), Copper Road Marsh (CR), Schollards Wetlands (SW), Pulaski Township (PT), Baird Road (BR), Glacial Sand and Gravel Pond (GSP), Volant Strips (VS).

A good find for this region, a lone **Cackling Goose** was reported 12/30 at TR along with 51 **Canada Geese** (MV). No reports of swans were received this winter with the exception of a **Mute Swan** at BS (KSJ). Despite mild temperatures and mostly ice-free conditions throughout the season, reports of waterfowl were light. At CR 2 **Northern Pintails**, 14 **Gadwall**, and 10 **American Black Ducks** were present 12/11 along with 224 **Mallards**. The same day, one **Greater Scaup**, 12 **Ring-Necked Ducks**, 4 **Ruddy Ducks**, and 7 **Bufflehead**

were at TR (MV). Eight **American Wigeons** were present at BS 2/28 (MVT). Three **Common Mergansers**, 2 males and one female, were present at GSP (BD).

Merlins were the highlight of this winter's raptor report; there were multiple sightings at many locations. During the county's WRS a tally of 27 **Red-Tailed Hawks**, 4 **Red-Shouldered Hawks**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, and one female **Merlin** were tallied (BD). **Northern Harriers** continued to entertain birders with their evening show at VS and BR.

Sandhill Cranes continue to spread throughout the county and state. The flock at BS remained steady during the season with a high count of 16 at BS 2/20 (CD). Unusual for winter, **American Coots** were regular at multiple spots throughout Lawrence.

This was not the winter for **Northern Shrikes** in Lawrence, with no reports of the birds since the fall when one was present at McConahy Road. **Short-Eared Owls**, however, remained at all their usual spots, including a sighting of 5 at BR 1/18 (BD). A **Barred Owl** called at BS throughout the winter, and was seen multiple times (CD). As in previous years, a **Great-Horned Owl** was observed on a nest in Lawrence.

Two **American Pipits** were observed 1/22 in a wet field in PT (MV). Lawrence's sole report of **Lapland Longspurs** was 1/22 in PT (MV). Flocks of up to 200 **Horned Larks** along with sightings of **Snow Buntings** were also reported throughout the winter (m.ob.). **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported once at VS 1/21 (CH). The first **Red-winged Blackbirds** arrived 2/29, signaling the end to a winter that never seemed to arrive.

Observers: **Cory DeStein, 419 Edison Street, West Mifflin, PA 15122, (412) 953-2667, cdestein@gmail.com**, Barb Dean, Steve Gosser, Craig Holt, Kate St. John, Rosie Noll, Richard Nugent, Marge Van Tassle, Mark Vass.

Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), General Mills Quarry (GMQ), Lion's Lake (LL), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Pine Road (PR), Reistville and Prescott Road Ponds (RPP), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mnt).

Second Mountain Hawkwatch concluded their season 12/31 with a dark morph juvenile **Swainson's Hawk** and 4 **Golden Eagles** highlighting the final day's count. The **Swainson's Hawk** also set a new county late date (MC, DS, m.ob.). It was a memorable season at the mountain with several records set. A total of 14,063 birds were counted, surpassing the previous record of 13,102. Season counts of 1347 **Turkey Vultures** and 226 **Bald Eagles** also set new highs.

Participants in the thirty-second annual Lebanon County CBC 12/17 found a total of 70 species. Highlights were as follows. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at MLSP (RCM). Found in various sections of FIG were one **Ring-necked Duck**, 47 **Wild Turkeys**, 3 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, and 3 **Eastern Towhees** (GB, JD, DM). Other areas of the county produced a **Killdeer**, 8 **Winter Wrens**, 43 **American Pipits**, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, and 2 **Red-winged Blackbirds** (GB, FH, SR, RS). At the home of KB and TB near Grantville, the continuing **Rufous Hummingbird** provided a first CBC record (RS, GK).

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was sorted out from the huge **Canada Goose** flock at GMQ north of Palmyra 1/20 (TJ). A single **Cackling Goose** was spotted among the pack of **Canada Geese** at MLSP 12/7 (DM). One was also at MLSP 2/27 (RCM). A **Cackling Goose** was in the mix at GMQ 1/20-22 (TJ, ST) and one was spotted flying over SGL 145 on 2/23 (RCM). Two **Cackling Geese** were at LL 2/17 (TB). A **Mute Swan** was at LL 2/17-23 (TB). At MLSP, 100 **Tundra Swans** were found 2/29 (TB). A new county high of 220 **American Wigeons** were counted at MC 2/23 (RK), along with 174 **Ring-necked Ducks** (BH). Two **Blue-winged Teal** at MLSP provided a new early date 2/25 (SF). Single **Redheads** were noted at MLSP 1/14 (TB) and at GMQ 1/22 (ST). Nine **Redheads** dropped into MLSP 2/29 (TB). A female **Goldeneye** was found at MLSP 2/4 (GK) and 2/17 (JD, DM). A flock of **Common Mergansers** was joined by a single **Red-breasted Merganser** at MLSP 12/16-18 (DM, RCM, TB).

Ruffed Grouse have become rather scarce in the county. One flushed during a walk in Swatara State Park, led by DM 1/28, was a nice surprise for the group. At MC a **Great Egret** continuing from 11/26 remained until 12/6 for a new late date (AH, RCM). A Christmas **Cattle Egret** was found in a pasture along Lincoln School Rd near the town of Ono 12/25 (JD). Some of the locals informed EC that it had been there

as early as 12/24. The egret remained through 12/27 for a new county late date, and a first winter record for the state (KB, TB, m.ob.).

Black Vultures continue to increase in the county. Fifty-five were counted on a visit to the Palmyra Walmart 12/27 (MC). **Bald Eagles** are becoming a common sight at MLSP and nearby ML, where they terrorize the ducks and gulls. Two were at MLSP 12/8 (TB), and 3 were at ML 12/15 (JD, DM). Single **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen at 2Mnt 12/2 and 12/26 (RB, DS, m.ob.). A juvenile **Golden Eagle** wandered into county air space at MC 2/22 (EB). A **Merlin** was noted in the Lebanon area 12/30 (MS). A female **Merlin** provided a nice find along Mt. Zion Rd during a WRS route 1/28 (GB, FH, AS). **Peregrine Falcons** are a rare Jan find in the county. One flying over the Quittapahilla Creek Nature Park provided a new early date 1/2 (TB).

Due to the mild winter the large **American Coot** flock remained at MLSP through the period, with 69 counted 1/14 (TB). At least 2 **Sandhill Cranes** were reported from fields south of Harper's Tavern 12/5 (MC). One made frequent appearances at the small ponds off Hopeland Rd at MC 2/20-29 (NP, MM, PB, m.ob.). Four additional **Sandhill Cranes** were in the fields along the west side of Hopeland Rd at MC 2/27 (TB).

The flooded fields at RPP continued to host shorebirds right into Dec. Four **Lesser Yellowlegs** and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** 12/6 supplied late dates for both species. Probably the same 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were still at RPP 12/19 for an even later record (RCM, SS). The first **American Woodcock** of the season was heard "peenting" at MLSP 2/10 (TB). Brushy areas near the Middle Road parking area of MLSP are good for this species. Three were calling there 2/28 (TB).

Lion's Lake is a popular winter spot for loafing gulls, being relatively close to the Lebanon landfill. Good numbers of **Ring-billed Gulls** and **Herring Gulls**, along with some **Great Black-backed Gulls** can be expected. Twenty-one **Great Black-backed Gulls** were at LL 1/14 (DM). Two juvenile **Iceland Gulls** and 2 adult **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at LL in the gull mix 1/14-19 (TB, DG, TJ, AM, MR). Three **Iceland Gulls** were counted here 1/16 (JH, RCM). An **Iceland Gull** spotted at the Lebanon Landfill provided a new county late date 2/16 (DM). All **Iceland Gulls** sighted in the county were in first winter plumage. Three **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at LL 1/11 (TB). A first-winter **Glaucous Gull** was reported at LL providing a fifth county record 1/15 (BR). Another reliable gull roost is MLSP, but here the gulls arrive at sunset and leave very early in the morning. They are also quite skittish due to frequent **Bald Eagle** visits. Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** came into MLSP with the large mixed gull flock late on 12/7 (TB).

A **Eurasian Collared Dove** resting on a wire along Rte. 322 east of Campbelltown was a nice surprise 12/10 (KB, TB). This site hosted two up to 2 **Eurasian Collared Doves** during the summer of 2010. One was also sighted on a wire near the Lebanon landfill 2/7 (DM).

Two **Barred Owls** were heard on an owling trip to SGL 211 on 2/22 (TB, JD). A **Short-eared Owl** was reported from MC 1/1 (JF). Middle Creek is the only reliable county location for this species. But even here they are difficult to find before the wildlife loop road opens in March. The Cold Springs section of SGL 211 has a good supply of hemlock. A morning owling trip there provided a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** response 1/7 (TB, JD, DM).

A **Rufous Hummingbird**, continuing from 11/11 at the home of KB and TB near Grantville, was gracious enough to remain into the New Year. It was last seen feeding on the afternoon of 1/4. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported from a home along PR 2/5 and 2/20 (MJ). This is not far from where a pair spent the summer, in the dead snags along the old canal. A melanistic **Downy Woodpecker**, which had been coming to a suet feeder at the home of Soon Slayman in Palmyra for about 5 weeks, was photographed 2/28 (S&EH).

The training areas of FIG had produced several **Northern Shrikes** during the previous winter quarter. The first of this winter was found 12/14-15 in one of the same restricted access locations (JD, DM). A **Northern Shrike** was seen in the same general area 1/25 (JD, DM, TB). Two **Common Ravens** were found at MLSP 2/27 (RCM). It was a difficult winter for locating field birds, with little snow to concentrate them along the roadsides and fresh manure strips. Twenty-six **Horned Larks** were at RPP 12/30 (RCM). Sixty were in a field west of Bellgrove 1/23 (TB). Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were heard in the Goldmine area of SGL 211 on 1/31 (TB). A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported from a feeder along PR 2/5-20 (MJ). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at the home of TB and KB 12/5 (LC).

A spruce planting within SGL 145 provided a great find of a **Wood Thrush** 2/4 (JH). This provided a second state winter record. The thrush was relocated and photographed in the same area 2/6 (JB,

RCM). Six **Fox Sparrows** provided a good winter find at SGL 145 on 2/11 (JH). A single **Snow Bunting** was seen with 15 **Horned Larks** along Shirksville Road 2/11 (SF). In the aftermath of a snowstorm 7 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were huddled close to the road, along the edge of Muir Army Airfield at FIG. These provided a new county early date 1/23 (JD, DM). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at MLSP 2/27 (RCM).

Winter finches were hard to find in the county this year. The only **Purple Finches** reported were one or two from a feeder on PR 2/5-20 (MJ). A **Common Redpoll** was observed by TJ while gull-watching at LL 1/30. A small flock of **Pine Siskins** was heard in the Goldmine section of SGL 211 on 2/14 (TB). A single **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder on PR 2/19 (MJ).

EXOTICS: An **Egyptian Goose** was at the small ponds bordering the athletic fields of Lebanon Valley College 2/1-2 (DB, AS). The resident **Swan Goose** at LL has a family of five **Canada Goose hybrids** in tow (DM). These are referred to as "Swoose" according to one old reference.

Observers: **Timothy Becker, 10283 Jonestown Rd, Grantville, PA 17028, tjbecker81@aol.com**, Paul Banks, Kathy Becker, Ed Bernot, Dale Bicksler, Gerry Boltz, Justin Bosler, Randy Brenner, Greg Burgdorf (GBu), Lou Carpenter, Ed Chubb, Morris Cox, Jarrod Derr, Jim Fiorentino, Scott Fisher, Doug Gochfield, Fredrick Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Barbara Hiebsch, Sid and Evelyn Hostetter, Anne Hurst, Mike Johnson, Tom Johnson, Rudolf Keller, Gary Kinkley, Mark Markiewicz, Andrew McGann, Randy C. Miller, Peter Montgomery, David McNaughton, Nick Pulcinella, Steve Rannels, Barbara Ritzheimer, Melissa Roach, Matthew Sabatine, Art Schiavo, Dave Schwenk, Rosemary Spreha, Stan Stahl, Shannon Thompson.

Lehigh County

No report.

Compiler: **Bill Etter, 209 E South St., Slatington PA, 18080, (215) 964-3613, billetter01@gmail.com.**

Luzerne County

Locations: Dallas Area CBC (DCBC), Harveys Lake (HL), Dunmore Reservoir (DR), Sweet Valley (SV), Northwest Area High School (NWAHS), White Haven (WH).

Consistent with the rest of the northeast, and comparable with much of the U.S., *Luzerne* experienced a very mild winter—the fourth warmest on record. Coinciding with the above average temperatures, winter migrants were sparse while a few summer avian residents lingered. Contributing to frequent reports of common waterfowl, many of the local lakes remained mostly unfrozen or at least retained pockets of open water throughout the season. For the DCBC this year, storm systems to our north provided record numbers of migrating geese, while the fair weather and lack of snow buoyed our count to a mixed bag of 72 species.

Within the DCBC circle 12/17, 6 **Wood Ducks** were seen at two different locations (m.ob.). Another drake **Wood Duck** was reported with a group of **Mallards** on a farm pond at Hillside Farms Dairy throughout the season (m.ob.). An infrequent visitor to the area, a **Gadwall** was first sighted at HL 1/14 (DF, HF) and was reported through 1/26 (JD). A female **Redhead** was observed at HL from 1/17 (RK) through 1/26 (JD). **Lesser Scaup** were first seen 1/17 at HL (RK) and stayed throughout the season (m.ob.). One **Greater Scaup** was sighted 1/17 at HL (RK). Contrasting with last year's winter season when high numbers were reported, only one **Ruddy Duck** was seen at HL 2/5 (RM, RMo). Rarely recorded on the DCBC, one **Northern Shoveler** was seen at Lee's Swamp in SV (DF, HF). Making a nice turnaround from last year, **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported at HL 1/17 (RK) through 1/26 (JD). One **Horned Grebe** and one **Common Loon** were sighted at Lake Silkworth and Moon Lake respectively during the DCBC 12/17 (DF, HF).

Along with many other CBCs, *Luzerne* was no exception in experiencing a historic count of migrating geese. Large skeins of geese were observed by every group participating in the DCBC. In all, over 31,000 geese were tallied by 7 teams of observers. Highlights include an amazing 30,600 **Canada Geese**, 545 **Snow Geese** (high number of an uncommon DCBC count bird), and 6 **Cackling Geese** (a DCBC

count first) (MK, KR, JSt, SG). Also rarely sighted during the DCBC, 60 migrating **Tundra Swans** were recorded (BT, JH, JT). One **Great Blue Heron** stuck around for the DCBC as well (JS, JSh). A remarkable find was an **Iceland Gull** reported 12/29 at the DR (KR) and again at the same location 1/03 (BC).

The **Black Vulture** roost at NWAHS was active again with 35 overwintering birds (BW). This year, the committee received their 15 minutes of fame on an episode of PA Outdoor Life. A very early **Turkey Vulture** was seen 2/18 (JH) in Shavertown. One late **Red-Shouldered Hawk** was reported in Shickshinny 12/01 (BW) and another early sighting occurred 2/26 in SV (DF, HF). **Fish Crows** were observed throughout the entire season (m.ob.).

An uncommon find during our winter season was a **Ruffed Grouse** sitting openly on the branch of a tree 1/20 in SV (DF). A **Ring-Necked Pheasant** was recorded on the DBDC 12/17 (EH, DB, MB). Most likely the result of the mild winter, **American Woodcock** were first reported 2/24 in both SV (DF) and WH (EH); steady reports of **American Woodcocks** in numerous other locations continued throughout the rest of the season. A very early sighting of 3 **Killdeer** was reported 2/28 in WH (EH). No other shorebirds were reported.

DCBC participants reported 5 species of owls again this year: **Eastern Screech-Owl**, **Great Horned Owl**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Barred Owl**, and **Northern Saw-whet Owl**. Absent was Long-eared Owl. Seemingly a regularly occurring species in *Luzerne*, **Merlins** and **Peregrine Falcons** were sighted frequently by many throughout the season. **American Kestrel** was reported in two different locations during the DCBC; however, no others were reported for the period.

A great find was a **Northern Shrike** at HL 12/06 (JD). Passerine numbers were notably low for the DCBC. Low numbers of **Black-Capped Chickadees** (145), **Tufted-Titmice** (36), **American Tree Sparrows** (39), **Song Sparrows** (19), and **White-Throated Sparrows** (36) were observed on the DCBC. A lingering **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, rarely recorded for winter, was sighted during the DCBC (JH, JT, BT). An unusual sighting was of a **Gray Catbird** 1/31 in Wilkes-Barre (JStr). A mere 2 **Snow Buntings** were sighted flying over the dyke in Forty-Fort during the DCBC count week. Winter finches remained absent during the mild winter save for a few reports of **Pine Siskins**, which were sporadically reported in low numbers beginning 1/14 at a bird feeder in SV (DF) and continuing through the winter season. One female **Purple Finch** 1/06 (RM, RMo) and a male **Purple Finch** 1/24 (DF) were both attending feeder stations in SV. No other winter finches were reported.

Observers: **David Fisher**, 222 North Mountain Road, Sweet Valley, PA 18656, (570) 477-2846, David.Fisher@prudential.com, Helen Fisher, Jonathan DeBalko, Stan Galenty (SG), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Jeff Hartman (JHa), Jim Hoyson (JH) Mark Kasper, Rick Koval, Robert Moase (RM), Ruth Moase (RMo), Kevin Ripka, Jim Shoemaker (JS), Jacob Shoemaker (JSh) Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski, Jonathan DeBalko, Jeff Stratford (JStr), Jon Thomas, Jeramiah Stone (JSt), Mark Blauer, Ellie Harding, Dave Birchler, Bruce Lockard, Peter Carlen, Bill Chupko, Ed Johnson.

Lycoming County

Locations: Susquehanna River at Williamsport (SR), Rose Valley Lake (RVL).

The mild winter resulted in open water throughout the winter and many interesting waterfowl sightings. A flock of about 250 **Snow Geese** was noted on the unusual date of 12/21 along the SR (NF). A **Cackling Goose** was noted 1/3 along Mill Hill Road with about 750 **Canada Geese** (NF). A raft of 15 **Northern Pintails** was found on the SR above the control dam 2/19 along with about 250 **Canada Geese** and a half-dozen **Common Mergansers** (JY).

A **Ring-necked Duck** was at RVL 12/28 (TS). A single **Lesser Scaup** were seen on RVL 12/17 for the CBC, and 7 were at the Greevy Boat Launch on the SR 1/7 (NF). Three **Lesser Scaup** were joined by a lone **Bufflehead** above the control dam on the SR, along with hundreds of **Ring-billed Gulls** in the air and on the water 2/26 (JY). The most unexpected bird of the season, a **Harlequin Duck** was seen in the SR below dam 12/19-22 (NF, WL). A **Common Goldeneye** was at RVL 1/2 (NF) and one at SR 1/3 (NF). A **Common Loon** was seen from the West Branch Motor Boat launch, SR 1/3 (NF).

Two **Turkey Vultures** were seen from River Walk in Williamsport

2/19 (JY). Three **Bald Eagles** were spotted over Hansen quarry in Montoursville 1/28 (DB). A **Merlin** was located during the Williamsport CBC over Sheridan St 12/17 (WL). First displaying **American Woodcock** this season were in Old Lycoming Twp. 2/27 (DF).

A **Short-eared Owl** was seen at Mill Hill Road (the most reliable location for this species in the county) 1/3 (NF). As daylight faded during the afternoon of 2/5, the northern horizon revealed two **Northern Harriers** loping slowly and occasionally dropping down in the grass, or disappearing over the hill to an adjoining field, out of sight. Looking again a few minutes later one Harrier buzzed a **Short-eared Owl** in a lone tree nearby (LW). Poetry.

A **Northern Shrike** was discovered in native grass in SGL 252 on 12/29 (NF), the only report for the season. A **Fish Crow** was noted along the SR 12/17 (NF). A **Red-winged Blackbird** appeared in Warrensville 2/22 (RL), probably a wintering individual. Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were discovered 1/1 at SGL 252 (NF).

Observers: **Dan Brauning**, 1920 Inverness Rd, Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 433-0309, dan@thebraunings.net, Laurie Cressman, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Nate Fronk, Wayne Laubscher, Rosemary Lunz, Charlie Schwarz, Tim Schreckengost, Laurie Shaffer, Larry Waltz, Joe Yoder.

McKean County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Colombia Hill (COH), Hamlin Lake (HL), Klondike (KLON), Marshburg (MAR), Marilla Reservoir (MRES), Redbridge (RBR), Valley Crossroads (VAC).

It is hard to comprehend writing a winter report this year. Where was winter? The normal array of birds was present, but there were no large groups of birds. We did, however, start an interesting new citizen science project in the county, to augment other projects like the WRS and the PAMC. We had some rather interesting results!

Canada Geese and **Tundra Swans** were still moving in Dec, with 27 Canada Geese and 11 Tundra Swans noted in Bradford 12/10 (JF). On the VAC 1/29, 2 **Common Mergansers** were observed (LC). Tundra Swans started their return through the county 2/4, when a flock was noted flying over Kent Hollow (LG).

Raptors seemed to be the birds of note this quarter. On 12/8, a single **Cooper's Hawk** was observed on the VAC (LC). In Bradford, a lone **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen with 3 **Red-tailed Hawks** and a **Common Raven** 12/10 (JF). A **Northern Harrier** was reported from Irish Hollow 1/16 (LG). Another harrier was observed on a WRS route 1/22, along with one **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 16 **Red-tailed Hawks**, one **Rough-legged Hawk**, and 4 **American Kestrels** (JF). A third Northern Harrier was observed 2/19 near Smethport (LC). Records of Northern Harrier are few and far between in this mostly forested county, so three the same quarter is remarkable.

Citizen science is a wonderful thing. After seeing the Golden Eagle Project (GEP) program at the 2011 PSO Annual Meeting in Bedford, three different GEP stations were set up in *McKean* in Jan. The station set up in SGL 62 hosted both **Bald Eagles** and **Golden Eagles** during the recording period (JD, HD). A GEP site set up in the ANF had numerous Golden Eagles from 2/14-27. It also attracted Common Ravens and Red-tailed Hawks (ET, SS). The third GEP site in the county, also the northernmost site in Pennsylvania, attracted 2 Red-tailed Hawks, numerous **American Crows**, and beginning 2/28 until the end of the quarter, hosted the same Golden Eagle (DS, JF). The plumage the eagle sported was distinctive, almost like a fingerprint. Adult Bald Eagles were observed flying up and down the Tununqwant Creek valley all period (LJ).

An **American Woodcock** was heard "peenting" 2/29 in Kent Hollow (LC). On 12/10, a large flock of 47 **Ring-billed Gulls** was circling the mall parking lot in Bradford (JF). The only owl was a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at Burning Well (LG). On 2/17, the VAC turned up a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (LC). This species has been increasing in the county by leaps and bounds. A **Northern Shrike** was observed 1/22 during a WRS (JF). Another was seen 2/19 in Kent Hollow (LG). A lone **Carolina Wren** was reported in Bradford 12/10 (JF). A late report of 5 **Eastern Bluebirds** on the VAC was submitted (LC). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported in Bradford 1/14 (LF). Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and a **Brown Creeper** gave a show on the VAC 2/17 (LC). Two more Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in northern *McKean* 2/20 (LC). The only report of **American Tree**

Sparrow was 1/14 in Bradford (JF). Winter finches, contrary to many reports, at least started to make an appearance 12/10 in Bradford, with 7 **Purple Finches**, 5 **Pine Siskins**, 26 **American Goldfinches**, and the only report of a single **Red Crossbill** (JF). Siskin and goldfinch flocks continued through the period with high numbers including 39 American Goldfinches and 36 Pine Siskins in Bradford 1/14 (JF, LF, DF, BF).

In *McKean* and the rest of the northern tier, the AHBC is continuing to grow. Observers from the club are helping to fill in data gaps in our birding knowledge of the county. I look forward to more comprehensive reports as time goes on. eBird has also started to play a role in reporting. The only problem is that I do not know all of the observers and contacting observers through eBird can be difficult. I am asking everyone that uses eBird to please send me a copy of each of your entries, which makes the task of compiling this column much more efficient.

Observers: **John Fedak, 26 Race Street, Bradford, PA 16701, (814) 366-2500, jlfedak@atlanticbb.net**, Allegheny Highlands Bird Club (AHBC), Harry Barkley, Lisa Chapman, Holly Dzemyan, John Dzemyan, Kathy Ebeling, Bailey Fedak, Danny Fedak, Lisa Fedak, Len Groshek, Lester Jones, Melissa McGuire, Madeline Miles, Donovan Sevrey, Scott Stoleson, Emily Thomas.

Mercer County

Locations: Forrester Rd (FR), Lake Latonka (LL), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Sandy Lake (SL), Shenango Propagation Area (SPA), Shenango R. Res (SRR), Williamson Rd. (WR), Zahnizer Rd. (ZR).

The winter season was an outstanding one for *Mercer*. A superb rarity was discovered and above normal temperatures contributed to lingering and over-wintering migrants. LW and SRR iced over briefly in January, but SL remained mostly open.

Four **Cackling Geese** were found at LW 1/3 mixed with a flock of **Canada Geese**, which represented the first county record (NT). The last skein of southbound **Tundra Swan** was seen 12/28 (NT), with five individuals still in dark plumage, and the first north-bound birds were found at SRR 2/29 (MM).

Waterfowl departed after the lakes iced over in Jan, but they returned in Feb. Two **Gadwall**, 3 **American Wigeons**, 9 **American Black Ducks**, 3 **Northern Shovelers**, and 5 **Hooded Mergansers** were found at SPA near the PGC Headquarters building 2/5 (MV). SS found 16 **Northern Pintails** there 2/17. A flock of 50+ **Mallard** and 2 **Green-winged Teal** were found at SGL 294 on 1/7 (NT, ST). A flock of 33 **Ring-necked Duck** and an exceptional 27 **Common Goldeneyes** were found at SRR 1/3 following the passage of a frontal system. Five **Ruddy Duck** were at LL 12/16 and one **Pied-billed Grebe** was at SL 2/21 (NT, ST).

An impressive high count of 39 **Great Blue Herons** were found at SPA 1/1 (MV). The first northbound **Turkey Vulture** was observed soaring over FR (HT). Both light and dark morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were present at Cannery Road 1/16 (SS) and a dark morph was seen along Airport Road 1/22–2/2 (JT, NT). A **Merlin** was a great find along Hopper Road 1/11 (MM).

Killdeer remained at SRR with a high count of 3 on 1/3 (NT). Up to 25 **Bonaparte's Gulls** remained at SRR until at least 1/7, along with 300+ **Ring-billed** and several **Herring Gulls** (NT, ST). **Belted Kingfisher** remained at LL until 12/24 and one was found at SGL 294 on 1/6 (NT, ST). A **Northern Shrike** was found along Strausser Road by a hunter with a causal interest in birds 12/3 (HH).

The best bird of the season was a **Varied Thrush** coming to a feeding station in Liberty Twp. 12/10–21, representing the first record for *Mercer*. Unfortunately, no other birders were notified, but photos were submitted to the compiler and documentation has been submitted to PORC (LF, *fide* SB).

American Robins and **Cedar Waxwings** were found in small numbers around LL through the period (NT). A single **Lapland Longspur** was found along ZR 1/1 with a small flock of **Horned Larks**, and remained until at least 1/15 (JH, NT, ST). Two **Snow Buntings**, representing the only report of the season, were also found there 12/18 (NT). Up to 4 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found at SGL 294 on 12/10 and remained until at least 1/6, feeding on an abundant crop of poison ivy berries (HT, NT, ST). An **Eastern Towhee** was also heard there 12/10 HT and as many as 50 **American Tree Sparrows**, one **Field Sparrow** and 4 **White-throated Sparrows** were also noted at the

same game lands 1/6 (NT, ST). A single **Savannah Sparrow** lingered until 12/18 at ZR and 3 were found at the same location 2/26 (NT, ST). One **White-crowned Sparrow**, the only one of the period, was found along Brennemen Road 1/25 (SS).

Red-winged Blackbirds and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were seen in small numbers around LL and a flock of 500+ **Common Grackles** was also seen periodically in the LL area (NT). Four **Purple Finches** were found along ZR 2/22 (NT) and a flock of **Pine Siskins** was heard in flight at SGL 130 on 12/28 (MT).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137**, Suzanne Butcher, Lenz Family, Harvey Hochsletler, Joseph Hochsletler, Marty McKay, Steve Sanford, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Melvin Troyer, Ruth Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Mark Vass.

Mifflin County

Locations: Big Valley (BV).

Excellent counts of **Red-tailed Hawks** and **American Kestrels** were found on three WRS routes. The combined totals from all routes included 5 **Bald Eagles**, one **Northern Harrier**, one **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, one **Cooper's Hawk**, 72 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 2 **Rough-legged Hawks**, and 27 **American Kestrels** as well as 20 **Turkey Vultures** and 20 **Black Vultures** (BF, DS).

A **Golden Eagle** was observed over the Lewistown area 1/22 (DW, AL, NF, IG, JL). In BV, a **Long-eared Owl**, apparently quite a tolerant bird, used a single dense pine next to a busy Amish home as a winter roost, as was the case in 2009–10 (IBJ, JZ). The BV area has a number of locations with nesting **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, some of which usually winter; however, none were found this year. Perhaps the poor acorn crop caused them to leave for the season. With the lack of snow, large flocks of **Horned Larks** were less conspicuous than usual in BV. Some were found following a snowfall 1/22, with a few **Snow Buntings** mixed in.

Observers: **Greg Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg PA 16669, gwg2@psu.edu**, Ivan Byler, Jr. (IBJ), Bob Fowles, Nate Fronk, Ian Gardner, Alex Lamoreaux, Josh Lefever, David Swarey, Drew Weber, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

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

This was the winter that wasn't. Overall, mild temperatures prevailed through the season and what little snow fell did not stay around long. The 32nd Pocono Mountain CBC (PMCBC) on 12/18 recorded a total of 56 species with some details to follow.

A late movement of geese was impressive 12/17 in DWGNRA—nearly 4000 **Canada Geese** and 300 **Snow Geese** were counted passing in high flocks (AF, BH, MT). In Brodheadsville 12/21 a flock of 100 Snow Geese were observed feeding in a cornfield (BH, RS). The 12 **Hooded Mergansers** on PMCBC represented only the third count record for this species. Additionally, a single bird was at Skytop 12/6 (RK) and a pair was seen in the Tannersville Bog 1/26 (BH). A flock of about 60 **Double-crested Cormorants** passed high over Smithfield Beach in DWGNRA 12/17 (AF, BH, MT).

Turkey and **Black Vultures** were seen scattered in the county during the period, but surprisingly, none were tallied on PMCBC (BH, RK, CT). A roosting flock of 50 vultures near DWG 2/2 grew to at least 200 birds 2/7, with the majority Turkey Vultures (BH). The PMCBC recorded 7 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, topping last year's previous high count of 5. Two **American Coots** were found in a Shawnee wetland 12/17 (AF, BH, MT).

Golden-crowned Kinglet was notable for its *absence* on PMCBC; this is only the third time this species was missed on this count (34 were recorded on the 2010 PMCBC). A single **Gray Catbird** was found on the PMCBC, and another in a Shawnee yard 1/1 was the first bird seen in the new year for the surprised observer (JW).

American Tree Sparrows continue their downward trend on PMCBC with a low count of 10. Through 1999 the average count for this

species was 89, but since that time the average has dropped to 13. A **Fox Sparrow** lingered at the MCEEC feeders until 1/24 (BH, JR), and the leucistic **Dark-eyed Junco** first seen at the MCEEC feeders in mid-Nov stayed through the entire season (JR). The 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** on PMCBC represented only the fourth count record and the first since 2002. The only finch reports were of a single **Purple Finch** at Skytop 1/22 (RK), a single **Common Redpoll** in a Saylorburg yard 1/15 (RW), and one **Pine Siskin** at Skytop 1/15 (RK).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Chris Benzinger, John Benzinger, Bill Clark, Nancy Clark, Bud Cook, Elizabeth Cortright, Ron Cortright, Bob Duryea, Dan Duryea, Andy Fedor, Wayne Grove, Randy Halstead, Matt Jardel, Stephen Kloiber, Rick Koval, Vic Paulus, Sue Predl, Jenifer Rituper, Conrad Schmidt, Darryl Speicher, Roger Spotts, Megan Taylor, Craig Todd, Rick Wiltraut, Jim Wyckoff.

Montgomery County

Locations: Fort Washington State Park (FWSP), Haverford College (HC), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Upper Bucks-Montgomery CBC (U-CBC), Upper Perkomon Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge National Park (VFNP).

I am compiling this report this for just this season and hope a permanent compiler will step up. Those of us who know Kevin Crilley and followed his reports, thank him for his 14 years of valuable service. His experience and knowledge will be missed.

The weather was the big story this winter. The temperature averaged 6 to 7 °F above normal for each month, with precipitation average or below average. What little snow there was vanished quickly. Similarly, if the ground surface or water froze, it was very short lived. Birds presumably had an easy go of it. Half-hardy species status was hard to generalize, as some were more common and some were not. Irruptive species stayed north and probably some waterfowl did, too, including some that remained here rather than going on. Many of the species mentioned below will provide samples of the impact of weather and good food supply. Much of what I have included below came from eBird. The U-CBC data and summary was provided by Bill Etter. George Franchois and Kevin Crilley provided valuable help in writing this report.

On 1/27, 2 banded **Canada Geese** at HC turned out to be a male and female pair hatched in 2006 or earlier and banded 8/2/2007 at the far northern site of 12 W. Pamiok Island, Quebec (SJ). The next day, another banded goose was determined to be a female hatched in 2005 or earlier and was banded 6/26/2006 at Delaware Bay Park, Lake Dardanelle, Yell County, Arkansas (SJ). The highest and only significant reports of **Snow Goose** were an estimated 1500 on 12/25 and 500 on 1/8 flying over Huntingdon Valley (CA). **Cackling Goose** was reported at GLR starting 12/1 (KC), with the high count of 4 on 2/18 (SK). NFP had 2 on 12/7 (BHi) and 3 on 12/24 (SK). **Tundra Swan** was reported on three dates at GLR 2/2-2/19, with the high count of 8 on 2/15 (TB). Eight flew over Prophecy Creek Park 2/27 (BHe).

Wood Duck lingered into early to mid-Dec with reports from three sites (m.ob.), including one tallied 12/18 on the U-CBC. The next eBird entries were of returning birds at three sites starting 2/17 (BHe, WS, AM, JM), with the high report of 10 on 2/28 at VFNP (BHe). The mild weather saw more **Gadwall** wintering than usual, with monthly high counts of 71 on 12/2, 65 on 1/11, and 54 on 2/8 (all GAF). Surprisingly, the rather low high report of 26 **American Wigeon** at GLR 2/25 (GAF) was surpassed by 40 on 1/29 at a small private pond in New Hanover Twp. (AM, JM). All other reports except one were in Feb and of low single digit counts (m.ob.). **American Black Duck** was well represented in all three months at GLR (m.ob.), with unusual high counts of 58 on 12/18 (KC, et al.), 75 on 1/8 (GAF), and 54 on 2/17 (AM, JM). The only **Northern Shoveler** reported in eBird was at Lakeview Park near Royersford (JE). Two **Northern Pintails** at GLR 12/2-3 (GAF, KC) were the last for fall, and the first returning birds were 3 there 2/12 (GJ). The high report of 34 **Northern Pintails** 2/22 (GAF) is low compared to the long-term historical numbers. Normally rare in winter, one to 3 **Green-winged Teal** were reported sporadically at UPVP and GLR (m.ob.).

Ring-necked Duck at GLR had a low high count of 40 on 2/14 (GAF). The few other entries in eBird all were in the single digits except for 36 on 12/18 at Lake Skymount, Marlborough Twp., for a surprisingly

low new record high on the U-CBC (AM, JM). Apparently there were no large numbers of **Bufflehead**, with the double-digit counts all at VFNP and the monthly highs being 36 on 12/18 (JH), 40 on 1/28 (MR), and 21 on 2/28 (BHe). The only **Common Goldeneye** entries in eBird were 2 on 1/16 at VFNP (KA) and 3 on 2/2 at GLR (MA). **Hooded Merganser** was present throughout the period and reported at nine sites in eBird, with the highest report 33 on 12/14 at UPVP (KC). There were apparently no very large gatherings of **Common Merganser**, as the high eBird entry was 100 on 1/24 at GLR (GAF). Four **Ruddy Ducks** 2/20 at GLR (MA) provided the only entry in eBird.

The only site with double digit **Wild Turkey** counts in eBird was Pennypack Trust, with a high of 20 on 2/18 (BHi). A **Red-throated Loon** was at GLR 12/3-6 (KC, GAF, LM, KR, JG). A **Common Loon** was there 12/3 (JT) and 12/17 (KR). A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Norristown Riverfront Park 1/3 and 2/20 (BHe). One or 2 were reported on multiple dates through the period at GLR (m.ob.), with the high of 3 from 12/17-18 (KC, KR). A migrant **Horned Grebe** at GLR 2/28 (GAF) was slightly ahead of the expected migration period. Rare in winter, a **Double-crested Cormorant** was on the Schuylkill River 1/14 and 1/28 in Lower Merion Twp. (RB, WS).

The long established GLR **Bald Eagle** nest was lost when the tree fell in a storm. A new site in the vicinity has been located on private property and is inaccessible to the public at the landowner's request. A new nest site in Skippack Twp. is too accessible, and I am told may be becoming a side show of the human kind and annoying at least some of the local residents. There were at least 5 different birds at GLR in early Dec (KC). **Northern Harrier** was scarce with reports from three sites, all in Jan (MA, AM, JM, KC). About 6 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were at six sites, 4 of them in Feb, for a decent showing (m.ob.). **American Kestrel** was reported from nine sites with at least 9 individuals (m.ob.). **Merlin** was reported in each month for a total of at least 7 birds at seven sites (m.ob.). The decline in **American Kestrel** and increase in **Merlin** makes it possible that reports of the latter could shortly outnumber the former in winter. The U-CBC, which includes some of *Montgomery*, had counts of **American Kestrel** in triple digits up to 1991, but the recent five year average just above 5 shows the crash in numbers. **Peregrine Falcon** was reported from five sites across the county (m.ob.). A good mid-winter high report of 43 **American Coots** was at GLR 1/8 (GAF). They were reported at six sites thanks to the mild weather.

The period started with 22 **Killdeer** lingering at NFP 12/1 (BHe). Surprising considering the weather, only four other reports from three sites were in eBird through 12/17 (CA, BHi, LM, KR). Then the next reports were of returning single birds starting 2/10 (BHe), with reports through the month from seven sites (MA, BHe, PH). **Wilson's Snipe** was very obvious for not being reported at all despite being expected due to the weather. The same goes for **American Woodcock**. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** is slowly increasing at GLR, with high counts of over 20 birds in each month recorded on six days. The highest count was 35 on 12/22 (GAF). Other eBird reports were from five sites, with one to 3 birds being the norm (m.ob.). Interestingly, there was only one **Great Black-backed Gull** reported in eBird at GLR 2/2-4 (JT, MA). One was at VFNP 1/20 (BHe) and one to 3 were reported in the Norristown riverfront area 1/15 (MR), 2/10, and 2/20 (BHe).

Open water resulted in reports of **Belted Kingfisher** throughout the period, with over 20 sites entered in eBird (m.ob.). A rare **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in Upper Hanover Twp. near Fruitville 12/28 (MA). Interestingly, this site was about a mile and half from a former nesting site that existed decades ago, making one wonder if there still may be nesting in the area. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was well reported through the period, with about 25 sites entered in eBird (m.ob.). An **Eastern Phoebe** at PERT 2/20 was likely an early migrant (PD). A **Common Raven** was at UPVP 12/18 (GFR) for the first ever occurrence on the U-CBC, and one was at GLR 2/28-29 (JG, KC).

Despite nearly no movement of **Black-capped Chickadee** into our area this fall, it was still surprising that a report at Douglass Twp. 1/21 (MA) was the only entry in eBird (MA). The same site provided the only entry of **Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee** (JB) and there were no entries for **Carolina x Black-capped Chickadee (hybrid)** either. Apparently, at least for most eBird users, birders are pretty convinced that the **Black-capped Chickadee** is gone here. One of the observers who reported **Carolina Chickadee** as the norm at VFNP over 30 years ago and lives in the northwest corner of the county, believes all breeding chickadees he sees and hears in the county are **Carolina Chickadee** (RG).

Nearly absent this winter, it was surprising to see that **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports came from five sites in eBird (MA, MF, JS,

MW). **Brown Creeper** remained in the area in good numbers, with 20 sites entered in eBird (m.ob.). **Winter Wren** was also well reported through the season, with 16 sites entered in eBird (m.ob.). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** reports came from 10 sites, with all counts in the low single digits (m.ob.). Some thought this species was in below average numbers. Single **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** reports came from all three months, with at least eight sites in eBird (m.ob.). The perception was that they were above average. **Hermite Thrush** was reported through the season from at least 8 sites in eBird (m.ob.) and was at least in average numbers if not above. One would expect **Gray Catbird** to be far above average this winter, but it was the opposite. One was at FWSP 1/10 (KJ), another was in Souderton 2/17 (ZM), and one was in Elkins Park 2/20-28 (PD). **Brown Thrasher** is consistently a rare winter bird. Singles were at NFP 12/9 (BHe), FWSP 12/10 (PD), and FWSP 2/1 (BHe). One **American Pipit** was at Prophecy Creek Park 12/9 and 1/11 (BHe). Four were at UPVP 1/29-31 (JM, AM). There were no other reports, but more would have been expected in this mild winter.

A first year male **Cape May Warbler** at suet in Perkiomenville 12/12 (RG), certainly surpasses the normal Oct fall late date and may be unprecedented for the county. For the record, the experienced observer said, "I had a good look at it through bins at 10-15 yards. Bird had the white wing patches. It was yellowish on the face and throughout the breast and belly, with fine black streaking throughout to the vent with yellowish rump. Of course it had no chestnut cheek patch. Naked eye the bird gave a very yellowish appearance and the wing patches were very noticeable." A rare winter **Nashville Warbler** was at Huntingdon Valley 12/29-1/3 (CA ph.). As often seems to be the case for this species in winter, it was feeding at an azalea bush.

Eastern Towhee was one of the most represented half-hardy species that lingered this winter. It was reported throughout the period in eBird. There were 16 sites with multiple individuals at several of those sites (m.ob.). The highest reports were an estimated 20+ wintering at Ashbourne Country Club (PD), an estimated 18+ wintering at FWSP (PD), and 11 at NFP 12/24 (SK). **American Tree Sparrow** was reported mostly in low single digit counts from 10 sites (m.ob.); some site high counts included 14 on 12/14 at GLR (GAF), 7 at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 1/10 (BHe), and 6 at PERT (PD). One to 3 **Chipping Sparrows** were at NFP on four dates between 12/24 and 2/7 (BHe). Two were at Ashbourne Country Club 1/14 (PD). PERT has had high winter counts of this species that are unique and rather surprising for winter in the region. A total of an estimated 30 was the high count 1/22 (PD). **Savannah Sparrow** was reported at three sites, with PERT having an unusual high of an estimated 35 on 1/22 (PD). **Fox Sparrow** was felt to be in high numbers at GLR through the period with a high of 6 1/22 (KC). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** near Haverford 12/24 (WS) provided a rare winter report. **White-crowned Sparrow** was in short supply if the available reports are representative. It was only reported in eBird at five sites, with one entry of 3 and the rest only one (m.ob.). There were also probably only 7 in the county portion of the U-CBC (KC et al., BDe, DS).

A rare winter **Eastern Meadowlark** was at Fair Way Farms, Huntingdon Valley 1/2 (MW), for the only report. A **Rusty Blackbird** was at NFP 12/7-9 (BHe, BHi). Two were at Jarrett Nature Center, Horsham Twp. 1/26 (GJ). Prophecy Creek Park, Whitpain Twp. produced 2 on 1/4, 2 on 1/31, and 14 on 2/27 (BHe). The male **Bullock's Oriole** reported last year returned as an adult to the same two residences in Douglass Twp. (MA, BDa). It was first reported 1/29 and remained through the period (MA, BD). It was well documented with photos (EN, HE). A female **Baltimore Oriole** was at GLR 12/18 (KC) for the U-CBC. **Purple Finch** reports came from five sites, with low single digit counts for a species near absent this winter (m.ob.).

Observers: **August Mirabella 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales 19454, (215) 368-0594, augustmirabella@aol.com**, Mary Ache, Kate Atkins, Timothy Becker, Rob Bierregaard, Justin Bosler, Kevin Crilley, Ben Davies (BDa), Butch DeBonis (BDe), Paul Driver, Howard Eskin, Jesse Estlow, Bill Etter, Mark Fallon, George Franchois (GAF), Gary Freed (GFr), Joe Greco, Ron Grubb, Brian Henderson (BHe), Paul Heveron, Barbara Hiebsch (BHi), Joe Hudson, Gail Johnson, Sheryl Johnson, Lisa Miller, Judy Mirabella, Zach Moyer, Ed Norman, Elizabeth Porter, Ken Rieker, Mike Rosengarten, Win Shafer, Jennifer Sherwood, Dale Souder, Jaime Thomas, Mike Wilson.

[Editor's Note: Montgomery is still without a compiler. August Mirabella generously volunteered to compile and submit this report to ensure continuity of coverage for this county as we continue to search for a permanent replacement.]

Montour County

No compiler.

Northampton County

Locations: Green Pond (GP), Koch Farm (KF), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Martins Creek Quarry (MCQ), Minsi Lake (ML), Nazareth Quarry (NQ), Seiple's Pond (SP).

It was nice having a mild winter with above average temperatures and almost no snow to speak of. The average temperature was about 7°F above normal. The cold never settled into the Lehigh Valley to freeze-up lakes and ponds. Wildlife should have fared well. There were 4 **Rufous Hummingbirds** that continued into Dec and the female in Walnutport stuck around until 2/28. The **Snow Goose** migration was spectacular with 20-30,000 wintering in the county. Rare birds found included **Ross's Goose**, **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Iceland Gull**, **Northern Shrike**, and **White-winged Crossbill**.

Birders had no problem locating **Cackling Goose**. There were 3 at SP 1/27 (RW), one at NQ 12/26 (MS, CCS), 3 at GP 12/18 (DD), and 3 at MCEP 1/1 (MS, CCS, BH). There was a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at GP 12/23 (AC) and maybe the same goose was at NQ 12/26 (MS, CCS). On 2/4-6, a **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at MCEP (MSa). At least part of the **Snow Goose** migration goes through the county every year and on 1/18 an estimated 90,000 passed over GP near sunset (ML). Other **Snow Goose** estimates were 20,000 passing over Nazareth 12/28 (BE) and 10,000 at GP 12/25 (DD). On NQ, there were 20,000 on 12/26 (MS, CCS) and 30,000 in the Nazareth area in late Feb (BE). With so many **Snow Geese** around, it is not surprising that birders located several **Ross's Geese**. An adult was at GP 12/29 (TJ). At NQ, a **Ross's Goose** was observed 1/19 (BW), and a blue morph **Ross's Goose** was on SP 1/27 (RW).

Waterfowl at Echo Lake included a female **Canvasback**, 2 **Greater Scaup**, 30 **Bufflehead** and 75 **Ring-necked Ducks** 12/27 (AS). On 1/29, there were 4 **Redhead** at Echo Lake (AS, MT). A lone **Northern Shoveler** was at GP 12/31 (CH). At SP, there were 2 **Northern Shovelers** 3/1 (BS), 2 **Gadwall** 1/12 (ML) and 4 **Gadwall** 2/13 (MS). At MCQ, a **Wood Duck** was flushed 1/1 during the Merrill Creek CBC (MS, CCS, BH).

On the Blue Mountain above Danielsville, there were 2 **Ruffed Grouse** 1/5 (BS). An adult **Bald Eagle** was sitting on its nest by the Portland Generating Station 2/18 (MS, CCS). A **Golden Eagle** was observed at Richmond Rd near MCEP 2/14 (MSa). Starlings were being chased by a **Merlin** near the 25th exit, Easton 1/15 (DD) and another **Merlin** was after goldfinches on Hanoverville Rd, Bethlehem 2/2 (EV). At the Arrow Island Overlook of the Delaware Water Gap NRA 1/28, 2 **Peregrine Falcons** were observed (SK) and another was near the nest box at MCEP 1/1 (MS, CCS, BH).

The **Sandhill Crane** seen by many at GP this autumn was last reported at SP 12/23 (AC). The only shorebird was a **Wilson's Snipe** 12/18 at E. Best Rd. Moore Twp (DD). Gull numbers seemed to be highest in Dec, though this may have been more a function of coverage. **Ring-billed Gulls** represented the majority and ML was a hot spot. An **Iceland Gull** and 114 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at NQ 12/12 (DD). On 12/31, NQ had 56 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and an **Iceland Gull** (MS). At ML, there were 2 **Iceland Gulls** 1/7-8 (MSa) and 2 **Iceland Gulls** and 17 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** 1/29 (AS, MT). Another **Iceland Gull** was at MCEP 2/5 (MS, CCS).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was flushed at the edge of a cedar stand at MCEP 12/26 (MS, CCS). Two **Barred Owls** called at sunrise 2/18 at Bear Swamp (MS, CCS). A pair of **Long-eared Owls** was found at an undisclosed location in the northern tier of the county 12/27 (AS). Another **Long-eared Owl** was at Grand Central Environmental Center 1/13 (EK).

Pennsylvania had quite a few rarities in other counties late in 2011, and though not as rare anymore, all the **Rufous Hummingbirds** that made this county home brought much attention. It is thrilling to report that 4 **Rufous Hummingbirds** were in *Northampton* in Dec, and that a female stuck around until 2/28. An HY female that arrived in late Oct in Wind Gap was banded by Scott Weidensaul 12/22 and stayed until 12/30 (T&SF). The **Rufous Hummingbird** in Delabole was last seen 12/23 (T&MS). The adult male that showed up at Jacobsburg State Park and moved to a home on nearby Jacobsburg Rd. was last seen 1/3 (PH). It visited the feeder 19 times before departing. The fourth **Rufous Hummingbird**—in Walnutport—was last seen 2/28 (D&RW). The

owners used a heat lamp to keep the food supply from freezing.

The KF hosted a **Northern Shrike** 12/31-1/4 (AK). An adult Northern Shrike was a nice find 2/19 at E. Best Rd., Moore Twp. (MS, CCS). **Common Raven** has traditionally been found only along Blue Mountain. This seems to have changed as there may be breeding pairs using quarries in the county. There were 2 ravens at the Martins Creek quarries 1/1 (MS, CCS, BH). Around NQ, 2 were reported 2/15 and 2/27 (BE). A **Winter Wren** was singing at Penn Pump Park 1/8 (DZ). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was observed on the CBC at MCEP 1/1 (MS, CCS, BH) and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were at MCQ that same day. **Brown Creeper** was also at MCQ 1/1.

A **Gray Catbird** and a **Chipping Sparrow** were found during the 12/31 Bethlehem/Easton CBC at Archibald Johnston Conservation Area (CH). The fields at Summit Rd., Moore Twp. had 2 **American Pipits** 2/14 (AS). A **Chipping Sparrow** visited a feeder in Pen Argyl 12/10 (DZ) and 5 in a group were at the KF 2/2 (AK). Also at the KF was a **Fox Sparrow** 2/23 (AK). An immature **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** was found along Stone Church Rd., Lower Mt. Bethel Twp. 1/19 (BW). The only report of **Lapland Longspur** came from Summit Rd., Moore Twp., where 2 longspurs and 7 **Snow Buntings** were observed 2/14 (AS). At nearby Graver's Hill, there were 32 **Snow Buntings** 2/22 and 23 on 2/24 (MS, CCS).

A singing **Eastern Meadowlark** was on Mt Pleasant Rd., Lower Mt Bethel Twp. 2/18 (MS, CCS). Winter finches would not be mentioned in this summary if not for one unfortunate but lucky bird: a **White-winged Crossbill** struck a window in Williams Twp. 2/2 (DK). It was only stunned and recovered to eventually fly away.

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Andy Cuttic, Dave DeReamus, Bill Etter, Tom & Sylvia Harrington, Pat Houck, Corey Husic, Bob Hoopes, Tom Johnson, Dawn Kaniper, Stephen Kloiber, Arlene Koch, Edward Komito, Matt Loyko, Adam Sabatine, Matt Sabatine (MSa), Corinne Campbell Schall, Brad Silfies, Tom & Mora Swope, Mark Tolino, Billy Weber, Ed Vermillion, Dave & Rhonda Wagner, Rick Wiltraut, Dan Zmoda.

Northumberland County

No compiler.

Perry County

The New Bloomfield CBC was held 12/26. The weather was not ideal with winds of 10-20 mph. Despite this, a strong owling effort was made by several observers, netting a total of 64, including 4 **Northern Saw-whet Owls**. Had the weather been more conducive the totals could have been two or three times higher. Record high counts were found for five species. A group of 55 **Northern Pintails** was a great find and set a new high for that species. **Red-tailed Hawks** were found in good numbers, including two large concentrations. The mild winter certainly encouraged **Turkey Vultures** to winter farther north than usual. Every CBC group found some. **American Pipits** are rarely found in the county, so it was a surprise that two groups found a total of 25 birds. **Common Grackles** are also a very uncommon bird in the county during the winter, but again the mild weather probably encouraged a large flock of over 500 birds to stick around for count day.

Observers: **Ramsay Koury, 123 Old Ford Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011, (717) 761-1871, rkoury123@aol.com**.

Philadelphia County

Locations: Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Darby Creek (DC), Delaware River (DR), Delaware River Trail (DRT), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Morris Arboretum (MA), Naval Business Center (aka Navy Yard) (NBC), Northeast Wastewater Treatment Plant (NEWTP), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Philadelphia Mid-Winter Census 1/7 (PMC), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR).

Winter was mild and dry with a bit of snow on two occasions, and

temperatures well above freezing for extended periods of time. Except for a few hard freezes, shallow water was accessible to waterfowl and good numbers of dabblers and divers remained throughout the winter. Three CBCs (Glenolden, Pennypack and Wyncote) conducted 12/17 each have a portion of their count-circle in *Philadelphia* and they usually contribute some good species or exceptional counts to this summary, but not this year. Except for the **Northern Shrike** that was seen and photographed at TI and the **White-winged Scoter** on the DR, results in the *Philadelphia* portions of the counts were unremarkable. However, the 26th *Philadelphia* Mid-Winter Census 1/7, when shallow water was frozen but daytime temperatures reached 63°F, produced 107 species, the second highest count since 109 species were tallied in 1998. Keith Russell holds this winter census later than the CBC to get a true winter snapshot of the entire county's avifauna. Only one winter finch was found, but swallows and warblers were abundant. Also found were a **Snowy Owl**, 8 species of warbler, two species of swallow, a raven, and a shrike. *Philadelphia* is the second smallest of the 67 counties in the Commonwealth and the most urban by far, but the species count even in a bad year is quite good: 135 this season.

Groups of 100-200 **Snow Goose** passed over the city sporadically from mid-Dec to mid-Jan. Among a group of 200 on 1/7 were six blue-morph Snow Goose (CH) with a lone blue-morph goose on the ball field at POD 2/23 (FW). **Cackling Goose** was found at FDR 12/24 (AB) and was seen until 2/19 (MD). The PMC turned up another Cackling Goose at the Army Corps of Engineers property (CW, AM, WS). Given the lack of freezing temperatures, it's not surprising that 5 **Wood Ducks** were found 1/7, two at TI (TC) and three in the Pennypack (LW). At FDR 55 **Gadwall** provided a good count 1/30 (TF), but **American Wigeons** were scarce with 9 birds at FDR being the high count and only two other reports of more than 5 birds. Forty **American Black Ducks** on the DR in the northeast were a poor showing for a species once reported in the hundreds. A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** returned 2/15 at POD (PS) and 2/22 at TI (MD). **Northern Shoveler** is our most numerous non-breeding duck. Present throughout the season, shoveler numbers reached 200 at TI 2/23 (MD, BB) while at least 100 were at FDR. **Northern Pintail** usually start off with good numbers, such as 140 on 12/1, but always dwindle, and this year was no exception except that 20 individuals 2/28 was a higher total than usual. The PMC tallied 73. More than 250 **Green-winged Teal** were on the TI impoundment 12/1 (AB), but thereafter teal could be counted on one hand anywhere birders looked. However, the PMC birders' diligence resulted in 52. A **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** (Common Teal) was at TI for several days 12/3 (AB, TF, m.ob.) and was last seen 12/10 (FW).

SK found 159 **Canvasback** at the high security EPR 1/7. Our only **Redhead** was at TI 12/1 (FW). **Ring-necked Ducks** were scattered along the DR, at FDR and TI in single digits. Any scoter is a great bird in Philly, but **Black Scoter** is the rarest; TF found one on the DR amid the decaying piers alongside the DRT 2/16-17 (ph.). A **White-winged Scoter** stayed just long enough on the DR to be recorded 12/17. On the PEC CBC, 2 **Long-tailed Ducks** flew south on the DR (FW, TF) and two were also found at Allegheny Ave. (aka Pulaski Park) (RH, et. al) and at the Packer Marine Terminal (KR, et. al) for the third PMC record. The high count of **Bufflehead** was 81 on the PMC with the largest group of 31 seen from Orthodox St. (TF, FW). Up to 6 **Common Goldeneyes** were reported. The PMC tallied 26 **Hooded Mergansers**. **Common Merganser** numbers were normal with 106 on the PMC and from 200 at TI 2/1 (TF) to 100 at TI 2/22 (MD). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** was a great find on the TI impoundment 2/21 (TF); they much prefer the DR. The long decline of **Ruddy Duck** on the DR has been amply documented, making the 100 Ruddy Duck at Orthodox St. notable 1/22 (FW).

Fifteen **Pied-billed Grebe** 1/7 reflected small groups at TI, FDR and on various small ponds that are usually not monitored. **Horned Grebes** were at TI 12/17-18 (DM, RB, MD CH) and on the DR at POD 1/14 (TF). Over-wintering **Double-crested Cormorant** outnumbered **Great Cormorant** 28 to 6 on 1/7, but surely both species were undercounted due to the ever decreasing access to the river. The 11/26 **American Bittern** at TI was seen as late as 1/1 (FW), but was missed on the Glenolden CBC and the PMC (DM). The **Green Heron** lingering at TI since 11/25 was last reported 1/6 (TF). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was on the SR at the Waterworks 12/5 (LW) and a juvenile bird was at the Manayunk Canal 1/26 (ph. KJ).

The vulture roost at Spring Lane continues to be active and produced 42 **Black Vultures** 12/17 (GR) and contributed to the PMC high counts of 68 Black Vultures and 90 **Turkey Vultures**. Because two pairs of **Bald Eagles** breed in Philly, a total of 6 eagles 1/7 was not

surprising. POD hosted 3 **Northern Harrier** 1/22 (TF). Wintering **Cooper's Hawk** (20 on 1/7) and some breeding individuals that do not migrate means that species now outnumber **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (13 on 1/7). In addition to 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** at TI, three others were present 1/7. Single reports of **Merlin** came from FDR, TI, POD and the Northeast Airport. Numerous **Peregrine Falcons** were maintaining breeding territories by the end of the season.

Eleven resident **Wild Turkeys** were tallied at TI 1/7 (DM) and can be seen regularly in the vicinity of the visitor's center. A **Virginia Rail** first seen in the "first horseshoe" at TI 12/4 (LR) was also recorded on the Glenolden CBC 12/17 (DM, RB, DBrennan). **American Coots** numbered 230 on 1/7. **Killdeer** and **Wilson's Snipe** could have been more abundant, but each managed just one listing 1/7. **American Woodcocks** were dancing at NBC 2/24 (DBeer) and TC found one in a Center City train tunnel 1/3. TF photographed one of two **Iceland Gulls** 1/3 at the Columbus Ave. Trash Transfer Station where he and FW also found 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. On the PMC an **Iceland Gull** was found (RH, GA) and a darker first cycle bird was at DRT 1/21 (TF, FW). Probably the same bird was seen at DRT 2/5 (MD). At POD, FW looked up at just the right moment as a **Glaucous Gull** flew south 12/11.

A **Barn Owl** from the NW section of the city died in rehab (JS) and almost as disappointing given this species' extirpation from the county, a report of a Barn Owl near Northeast High School in early Dec could not be confirmed. Even with comparable effort on the PMC, both **Eastern Screech-owl** and **Great Horned Owl** numbers were lower than past years. However, a **Snowy Owl**, the first since 1998 (KR), found and photographed at the Northeast Airport by 'security guard Charlie' 12/16, did more than compensate. It was seen through 2/1 by FW who is doing a bird study at the airport.

KJ's **Red-headed Woodpecker** molted into adult plumage during its five-month stay at WC and was last reported 2/22. Our **Red-bellied Woodpecker** population continues to expand with a new high of 180 on the PMC. At NEWTP, in close proximity to the clean water tanks and the midges which sustain the overwintering swallows, is dense vegetation, which is probably filled with midges when the north wind blows. Birders found an **Eastern Phoebe** there 12/8-2/18. The **Northern Shrike** found 11/24 (AB) was still being seen 3/13 (AB). No surprise, since good birders find good birds.

TJ was on I-95 driving through Philly 2/3 when he saw a **Common Raven** soaring with Black Vultures. He stopped on the entrance road to POD and photographed the raven before it landed inside the Riverview Homes privacy fence. This is his second Common Raven since the bird he found 9/20/2009, also while driving through. The moral is, birders who live here should drive around more often so we can find a Common Raven too. **Horned Lark** was a rare find at TI 12/1 (TF).

At the NEWTP, the now famous overwintering flock of 150 **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** flourished in the warm winter along with a single **Barn Swallow** 12/1-17 (m.ob.). In the warmth 1/7 and possibly on other mild days, KR suspects the swallows disperse to feed which would explain why seven swallows were at the NBC and 13 were at the Army Corps of Engineers property that date. Just one **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported from PEC 12/29 (MW). A **House Wren** greeted many birders who came to see the Northern Shrike 12/3 and TF found this wren at NBC 2/22. **American Pipit** was a good find at TI 12/11 (TF). As many as 5 **Snow Buntings** rested and fed at POD 12/17 (FW, TF) where two were consistently seen 12/26-1/28.

An **Ovenbird** in the gardens of the Bell Atlantic building (17th & Arch Sts.) was only a third PMC record 1/6-8 (DW), but another record in a long string of lingering and/or overwintering Ovenbirds in the county. Philly had an **Orange-crowned Warbler** invasion with up to two birds at POD from 11/14-2/8 (FW, TF) and single birds at the NBC 1/7-2/19 (GA, TF) and at TI 1/11 (AB). The TI warbler was not seen subsequently, but we still had 5-6 Orange-crowned Warblers overwintering, which is noteworthy. An amazing late find was a **Nashville Warbler** at POD 1/5 (FW). KR aggressively pursued 5 **Common Yellowthroat** in the vegetation at NEWTP 1/7 and he narrowly avoided arrest by security personnel at this sensitive homeland security site. Presumably, a single female Common Yellowthroat was also at POD 12/5-1/17 (FW). **Yellow Warbler** was a third PMC record. This warbler was found in the West Park section of FP (EB, JG). Our third amazing warbler was a **Blackpoll Warbler** 12/17, also seen at the very productive NEWTP (FW). As many as 5 **Palm Warblers** with 2 *palmarum* (Western) and one *hypochrysea* (Yellow) were at POD 1/4 (TF, AB, TC), at NEWTP 12/17-1/7 (MG, KR). Three Palm Warblers were present 12/17 (MG) and 1/7 (KR) and during census week at POD (TF, TC, AB). Nine **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were tallied on the PMC

with four at the NEWTP where TF found a group of 13 on 2/19.

A bumper crop of 40 **Eastern Towhees**, a census record, were tallied in this urban county on the PMC. **American Tree Sparrows** were present in small numbers, never more than ten. At Houston Meadows as many as 16 **Chipping Sparrows** overwintered 1/16-2/17 (AB, TF, KJ). The **Clay-colored Sparrow** from 11/12 continued at POD through 1/4 (FW, TF, TC, AB). A **Vesper Sparrow** was reported also at POD 1/14-15 (AL, JL) where 10 **Savannah Sparrow** were seen 12/17 (FW, TF). Twelve of the 22 **Fox Sparrow** tallied on the PMC came from TI, which did not host a single Eastern Towhee all winter! A single **White-crowned Sparrow** was a count-week bird on the PP CBC.

PMC birders found 77 **Rusty Blackbirds** with all but one at TI. MW reported the only **Purple Finch** 12/19-1/15 in the Pennypack. Several **Common Redpolls** were a one-day wonder at NBC 1/30, with many **American Goldfinches** in a stand of alder trees (TF).

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484 mcgovern100@comcast.net**. George Armistead, Kate Atkins, Debbie Beer, Rob Bierregaard, Adrian Binns, Erica Brendel, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Tony Croasdale, Mary Dellwo, Cory DeStein, Steve DuPont, Todd Fellenbaum, Ryan Ford, Matt Garvey, Al Guarente, John Goschke, Cliff Hence, Rich Horwitz, Ken Januski, Tom Johnson, Steve Kerr, Alex Lamoreaux, Josh Lefever, Art McMorris, Gin Ranly, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Pat Schmitt, Brian Schultz, Win Shafer, Matt Sharp, Gary Stolz, Chris Walters, Doug Wechsler, Linda Widdup, Mike Wilson, Frank Windfelder.

Pike County

No reports were received for *Pike* from observers and no reports were posted to the PABIRDS list. All reports that follow were culled from eBird. Two **American Black Ducks** were present 12/1-5 and 6 were present 2/16-20. Two **Hooded Mergansers** were present 12/1-5 and between 1/1-5. A pair of **Common Mergansers** was present between 12/16-20, a singleton 2/6-10 and a foursome between 2/16-20. A single **Northern Pintail** was present 1/1-5.

Flocks of up to 25 **Wild Turkeys** were seen 1/1-10 and 2/1-5. Seven **Bald Eagles** were in mid-Dec, 4 in early Jan, 7 from 2/16-20, and 5 between 2/24-29. First **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen at the end of Feb. A **Great Horned Owl** was found around 1/1, and in Feb one **Eastern Screech-Owl** and 2 **Barred Owls** were found.

A single **American Woodcock** put in its 2012 debut by 2/25. A hardy **Belted Kingfisher** was seen in early Jan, taking advantage of the mild weather. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was spotted the week of 1/26 and another 2/21-25. **Pileated Woodpeckers** were present singly throughout the period.

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen in late Feb and a lone **Brown Creeper** was reported in early Jan. Three **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen 1/1-5 and 8 **Cedar Waxwings** 1/6-10. Three **American Tree Sparrows** were seen 1/1-5 and two in late Feb. Blackbirds returned to *Pike* during the week of 2/15 with a lone **Red-winged Blackbird** and a flock of 150 **Common Grackles**.

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

Potter County

No report.

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

Schuylkill County

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

The winter was abnormally warm with temperatures averaging 5-6°F higher than normal. In addition, there was very little snowfall. The county's water bodies, which consist primarily of small reservoirs and farm ponds, did not freeze over for any extended period, as occurs most winters. A good deal of data for this narrative was gleaned from the

county's two CBCs. The WSCBC took place 12/17 and the TCBC 12/27. Thanks go to Dave Krueel and Jonathan DeBalko, respectively, for heading those efforts. A lot of good data were also found on eBird.

The number of waterfowl species on the CBCs was up from previous years. Eight species were reported on the TCBC (compared to 4 last year) including **Gadwall**, **Wood Duck**, **Hooded Merganser**, and **Common Merganser**. **American Wigeon** was found on the WSCBC for the first time and **Hooded Mergansers** were found for the first time in five years. An early **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at LVD 2/27 (BJ).

Turkey Vultures usually leave the county for the Piedmont during the winter months but this year they were reported through Jan and Feb (m.ob.). The vultures returned to the Forest Hill roost 1/28, the earliest return date recorded (MW). **Bald Eagles** were present in larger numbers this year. Four were reported on the WSCBC and eight on a WRS in the county; both were new highs. The 16 **American Kestrels** recorded on the WRS was the highest number in ten years (MW). A **Merlin** was seen near Rte 895 and Hawk Mountain in late Dec (LG).

American Woodcocks were reported early this year; the first on 1/31 (DK) was followed by birds on 2/4 (WRS) and 2/6 (SS). Five species of owls were reported on the TCBC including 4 **Long-eared Owls** and 3 **Northern Saw-whet Owls**. Four species of owls were reported on the WSCBC including Saw-whet. There were no Short-eared Owls reported in the county this year.

A **Northern Shrike** was found at TSP 12/30 (JD). **Common Ravens** have been increasing over the last three years on SGL110 (KG). **Horned Larks** were generally absent this winter despite the abundance of farm fields. Only 20 individuals were reported on the WSCBC which is roughly 10% the normal total. An additional 60 were seen 1/21 (DK, NK). **Winter Wrens** were reported as late as 2/8 at SSP (BR) and LVD 2/19 (DK, NK).

Unusual sparrows included late **Fox Sparrows** 12/22 (MM) and 12/27 (TCBC) and a **Savannah Sparrow** on a WRS in western *Schuylkill* 2/4 (DK, MW). One **Lapland Longspur** was reported this winter 1/21 (DK, NK). Six **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen at a private residence (BJ) 12/12. **Pine Siskins** were seen on both CBCs but were not reported otherwise.

Observers: **Dave Rieger**, 401 Stoney Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com, Jonathan DeBalko (JD), Denise Donmoyer, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Barb Jucker, Dave Krueel, Nancy Krueel, Anne-Marie Liebner, Mary Mekosh, Barb Ritzheimer, Sandy Schwartz, Mike Ward, Scott Weidensaul.

Snyder County

Locations: Isle of Que (IQ), Faylor Lake (FL).

The small lake between Rte. 11/15 and the Susquehanna River near Selingsgrove held the following highlights: 12 **Tundra Swans** 2/12 (JW), 2 **Gadwall** 2/28 (CK), 4 **Redheads** 2/28 (CK), and 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 2/28 (CK). About 250 **Northern Pintails** were seen feeding on the Susquehanna River at the IQ 2/17 and a dozen were found at FL 2/20 (JW). A single **Bald Eagle** was observed near the Sunbury/Selingsgrove Bridge 2/12 (PD). Another was found below Port Trevorton 2/16 (TB). Two dark morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were found during a WRS near Beavertown 1/15 (CK, GG, JW). A single **Wilson's Snipe** was found during a WRS near Beavertown 1/15 (CK, GG, JW). An **American Woodcock** was observed at a residence outside of Selingsgrove 2/29 (JW). About 20 **American Pipits** were found during a WRS near Beavertown 1/15 (CK, GG, JW). An immature male **Common Yellowthroat** was found at an abandoned farm outside of Selingsgrove 1/16 (JW). Two **Swamp Sparrows** were observed at FL 2/15 and again 2/18 (JW).

Observers: **Jason Weller**, Timothy Becker, Paul Dennehy, Greg Grove, Chad Kauffman.

Somerset County

Abbreviations: Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (APAS-CBC), Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Area (SA), Somerset Lake (SL), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Summit Mills (SM).

It was the winter that was not. *Somerset* saw less than three feet of snow, none of which lasted more than a week. Temperatures were mild with frequent rain instead of snow. The APAS-CBC had a record 79 species with 6 more count week. Some waterfowl over-wintered and migrants were evident by mid-February. The county enjoyed its first well documented (albeit elusive) Snowy Owl, part of the wide spread irruption.

Three blue morph **Snow Geese** graced BA fields and marshes 2/4-12 (JP, CL, ML, TM). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found at Indian Lake for the APAS-CBC and was relocated 1/3 (JP, CL). It had also been seen earlier in Dec at SL (ML, TM). In addition, 16 other waterfowl species as well as **Common Loon**, **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Pied-billed Grebe** and **Horned Grebe** were also found on the CBC. A good early accumulation of waterfowl appeared on the unfrozen SL 2/28 including 64 **Tundra Swans**, 10 **Northern Pintails**, 2 **Green-winged Teal**, 68 **Gadwall**, 50 **American Wigeons**, 2 **Canvasbacks**, 23 **Redheads**, 67 **Ring-necked Ducks**, one **Lesser Scaup**, 2 **Buffleheads**, 29 **Hooded Mergansers**, and 4 **Common Mergansers**.

Great Blue Herons were present all winter in SM (EB) and BA (JP). **Turkey Vulture** was first spotted near Markleton 2/5 AM. **Black Vultures** were seen on their way out 12/16 and on their way back in 2/13 at SM (EB). **Bald Eagle** was spotted on the CBC, then again 2/26 (ML). **Rough-legged Hawks** were scarce with 4 reported on the CBC and one in BA 1/23 (JP). A great find on the APAS-CBC was **Merlin** (SB). Surprisingly another turned up in SA 2/21 (JP). **American Coot** was reported from all 3 months. **Sandhill Cranes** at BC were seen as a pair in early Dec, but occasionally only one bird was present (RC). It is unknown if this represented 2 or 3 individuals. The pair was last reported 12/21.

Killdeer were near Somerset 12/21 (JP) and in SM 2/5 (EB). **American Woodcock** had only a short absence, with 2 displaying birds at PP 12/3 (JP, CP) followed by the first to return to the SA by 2/26 (ML, TM). The bird of the season was a **Snowy Owl** discovered 1/12 near the Somerset Airport (ML). It could not be relocated there but was reported near a landfill mid-Feb (*fide* AM, *fide* JP) but once again could not be located despite considerable searching. **Eastern Screech-Owl**, **Great-horned Owl**, and **Barred Owl** were all found for the APAS-CBC (ML, et al.). A rare winter bird for the county was a **Red-headed Woodpecker** in BA 1/22 (ML, TM, TK, JK) and again 2/7 (ML, TM).

A **Brown Creeper** was found 1/26 (ML). **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Eastern Bluebird**, and **American Robin** were present throughout winter, and **Hermit Thrush** was at PP 12/1 (JP), near QR 12/18 and in SA throughout Jan (ML, TM). **Northern Mockingbirds** were in Berlin 2/4 (JP, CL) and SA 2/15 (ML, TM).

A **Snow Bunting** was near the airport 1/13 (JP) and a single was found 2/21 (ML, TM). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were still present in Jan (ML, TM). Both **Field** and **Swamp Sparrow** singles were found in Jan (ML, TM). A **Lapland Longspur** was with **Horned Larks** during a brief snowstorm 1/3 in BA (JP, CP). **Red-winged Blackbird** males were back 2/15 in SA (ML) and PP (JP). **Common Grackles** returned by 2/29 (JP, ML). Single **Pine Siskins** were near Indian Lake 12/20 (JW) and Somerset 1/26 (ML).

Contributors: **Jeff Payne**, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin PA 15530, (814) 267-5718, Scott Bastain, Elmer Brenneman, Robert Croner, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Carolyn LaBute, Michael Lanzone, Trish Miller, Chris Payne, Jim Wysocki.

Sullivan County

I made three trips to the county this winter: for the SE *Bradford* CBC 1/2, and return trips 1/7-8 and 1/16. I averaged fewer than a dozen species for each trip, but did have some good finds.

New Years Day was overcast and rainy in *Sullivan* and eventually left a coating of snow overnight. Standing water was frozen but soft. Two **Common Ravens** were seen flying near the Red Rock Job Corps Center on Route 487. An adult **Northern Shrike** was at Shady Nook and allowed me to approach to a moderate distance. Also at Shady Nook were **Blue Jay** and **Black-capped Chickadee**. A **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen in Cherry Township. A pair of **Northern Harriers** was hunting one of the fields at Kinsley's Corners. A separate party led by DG visited Splashdam Pond on 1/1. The group encountered 2 **Common Raven**, 2 **Black-capped Chickadee**, and 4 **Dark-eyed Juncos**.

The weekend of 1/7-8 was warm for winter in *Sullivan*, with temperatures in the 40s. Two **Ruffed Grouse** were found in a wood patch near a small pond in Forks Township. The same woodlot also held a **Hairy Woodpecker**, several **Black-capped Chickadees** and a **White-breasted Nuthatch**. Forks Township also held two **Red-tailed Hawks** and a light phase **Rough-legged Hawk**. The most abundant birds were **Rock Pigeon**, **Mourning Dove**, **Blue Jay**, **American Crow**, and **European Starling** with individual counts of 10-15. A lone **American Goldfinch** was seen along Rte. 87 near Forksville.

I ran a WRS route across the county 1/16 covering 75 miles in 3.5 hours. Weather conditions included about one half inch of snow cover on a cold and windy but mostly sunny day, with temperatures around 25°F. Skies were either clear or with a thin layer of clouds, and the wind was strong. I did not have great expectations for the raptor survey. *Sullivan* is mostly forest and at high enough elevation to keep ponds and lakes frozen for the winter. Snow depth has the potential to be considerable. Therefore it was not a surprise to find only four birds. My primary motivation was to ensure that the county was included in the overall state wide program. So I was rather pleased when after only a few miles into the survey I found a **Golden Eagle** on Dutch Mountain Road in Colley Twp.! Other raptors included a light phase **Rough-legged Hawk** in the same branch of the same tree where I had one the previous week in Forks Township, and 2 **Red-tailed Hawks** also in Forks Township (one imm. and one adult). Feeders in Forks held several **American Goldfinch** and **House Sparrows**, and, surprisingly, 2 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, Robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Doug Gross.

Susquehanna County

No compiler.

Tioga County

No report.

Compiler: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA, 16901, (570) 724-5789, gnats3@ptd.net**.

Union County

No compiler.

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR); Franklin (FR); Kahle Lake (KL); Pleasantville CBC (PL CBC)

As a result of the fairly warm winter and open water, we had waterfowl species we normally do not see. KL, which is often frozen into April. This year it had ice cover for probably less than 10 days. The following waterfowl were seen at KL unless otherwise noted: 2 **Snow Goose** 2/17 (RS), **Tundra Swan**, to 12/28 and after 2/20, with 1300 on 2/29 (JS), **Gadwall** from 2/21, **American Wigeon** to 12/18 and from 2/17, **Northern Pintail** from 2/16, with a high of 41 on 2/28, **Redhead** from 2/27, with a high of 75 on that date, **Ring-necked Duck** from 2/17, **Greater Scaup** from 2/17, **Common Goldeneye** from 1/10 on the AR, **Red-breasted Merganser** 12/11, and **Ruddy Duck** to 12/11.

Otherwise, it was a tough winter for birding. **Ruffed Grouse** numbers are picking up, though they are still not easy to locate. The PL CBC had 14 grouse, which was the third highest number in 46 years; last year was the highest. **Common Loon** was present only to 12/15 and **Horned Grebe** to 12/11. The only **Double-crested Cormorant** appeared 12/3. **Turkey Vultures** stayed until 12/22 and re-appeared 2/18, a fairly early date for *Venango*. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were more common this winter than they were in the last few. A **Merlin** was found 1/10 in FR (JW, GE).

Providing a record high count, and more than all other records combined, 29 **Sandhill Cranes** were in fields near KL 12/29 (JS, GE). A total of 27 **Ring-billed Gulls** on the PL CBC was notable. Noteworthy by their absence were Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers; none were recorded. **Northern Flicker** re-appeared 2/19. The PL CBC had 2 **Northern Shrikes**, both in the Pithole region 1/1, but there were no other records

of this fairly regular bird.

There was only one record of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** for the season, that on the PL CBC 1/1. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** numbers were low, and there were no sightings 1/29-2/27. Four **Hermit Thrush** were found on the PL CBC again this year in Oil City S.P. (KG, NB). The only **Snow Bunting** for the winter was a flock of 90 at KL 12/15 (GE). **American Tree Sparrows** were in low numbers, as were **White-throated Sparrows**. Three **Common Grackles** were found on the PL CBC (BD, GD, RW), for only the seventh time in 46 years. Three **Pine Siskins** on PL CBC were the only report of this species.

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd., Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676 3011, gedwards@conline.net**; **Russ States, 111 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pabirder@verizon.net**, Nancy Baker, Suzanne Butcher, Barb Dean, George Dean, D. Dwayne DeGrande, Joyce Fleming, Kathie Goodblood, Jeff Hall, Meg Kolodick, Mike Leahy, Randy Slater, Jerry Stanley, Judy Vogus, Linda Wagner, Robert Walczak, Jim Wilson.

Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Avella (AV), Bentleyville (BENT), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Peters Township (PET), Robinson Township (RBT), Washington Cemetery (WCEM), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

Washington's rarest birds this season were 2 **Greater White-fronted Geese** in PET 2/19-23 (ph. LGK, GG), which provided the second record for the county. The birds spent most of their time at or near a pond at the Empress Arabians horse farm, but were also seen at nearby Peterswood Park and at a small pond off Timberlake Drive during their stay. Top count of **Canada Geese** at AMD was a meager 38 on 1/10 (MV). Flocks of **Tundra Swans** were reported in Jan outside of their peak southbound and northbound migration periods: 27 at BENT 1/3 (AB), 20 in South Strabane Twp. 1/4 (GG), and 32 in BENT 1/21 (AB). More on schedule were 55 southbound over BENT 12/9 (AB) and 3 northbound at Lake Joann 2/29-3/1 (GG). **Wood Duck** wintered in small numbers; 14 were reported at Richeyville 12/26 (AB) and one was present in late Jan and early Feb at WCEM (PB, LC). One at PET 2/22 (GG) was probably an early migrant. One or 2 **American Wigeon** were in BENT 12/22-31 (AB), and one was in WCEM 2/4 (ST). Accompanying the wigeons in BENT 12/22-31 were up to 5 **American Black Ducks**, but the only other report was of one at AMD 1/30 (MV). Top counts of **Mallard** were 130 at BENT 12/31 and 180 at AMD 1/23 (MV). An early **Northern Shoveler** spent a few days in RBT 1/29-2/3 (ST, m.ob.). A few **Northern Pintail** wintered in *Washington* as well, including a female which spent yet another winter at WCEM beginning 12/10 (MV, et al.). This bird has been seen every winter since 2003 (*vide* PB). Other pintails included 5 at BENT 12/31 (AB), one in Clarksville 1/14 (AB), and 2 in Eighty Four 1/21 (AB). First returning **Green-winged Teal** was at CL 2/21 (GG). Six **Redhead** were present at AMD 1/23-2/9 (MV, et al.) and one continued there to at least 2/27. This pond also held a long-staying Redhead late in the winter of 2009-10. A **Ring-necked Duck** was also present at AMD 1/23-2/27 (MV, et al.); otherwise the only report of this species was 36 at R4 on 2.22 (LC). Two **Hooded Mergansers** and a **Common Merganser** were found in Clarksville 1/14 (AB).

Ruffed Grouse was reported twice at AV, 12/18 and 2/16 (JB). A flock of 43 **Wild Turkeys** in PET 1/27 (GG) was the best count. Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were located at R4 on 1/7 (GG) and at CL 2/27 (MV). The **Great Blue Heron** colony in North Strabane Twp. had 18 birds already present 2/7 (PB). A **Turkey Vulture** at AV 1/7 (JB) was a rare Jan find; first obvious migrant was one at WCEM 2/22 (LC). An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen at Boone Res. 1/12 (SaG *vide* LC) and 2/7 (GG). Perhaps what was the same eagle was seen elsewhere in PET 2/6 (GG). Eagles of course are historically a very rare wintering species in *Washington*, but one which can now be expected to appear considerably more often, especially during mild winters like this season when bodies of water other than the Monongahela River remain mostly open. **Northern Harrier** was noted wintering only at RBT (m.ob.). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen a few times at AV where they nest

annually (JB). **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen carrying nesting material in PET as early as 2/7 (GG). **American Kestrels** were seen in several places; RBT is a traditional wintering area, but they were also reported in PET and three separate west-central locations during the period (m.ob.). A **Merlin** was at the National Cemetery 1/9 (GG), and one was seen in PET 1/29 (GG). The resident **American Coot** was present at AMD all season. Eighteen **Killdeer** were still in Richeyville 12/26 (AB); first spring migrant was one at CL 2/20 (MV). A lingering **Wilson's Snipe** was at CL 12/10 (MV).

Eastern Screech-Owl, **Great Horned Owl**, and **Barred Owl** were all reported, and Barred particularly well with reports from Bavington (MD), AV (JB), and PET (GG). Without a doubt the most surprising bird of the season was a **Long-eared Owl** found in a small and entirely typical suburban yard near Muse 12/29. The homeowner reported the bird to his friend RG who confirmed the identification. Amazingly, the bird was roosting in a medium-sized ornamental evergreen directly next to the house! The location was not publicized but word was spread offline, and several people were able to see this remarkable owl though at least 2/15. **Short-eared Owls** were at RBT all season (m.ob.). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen on the Arrowhead Trail in PET 1/12 (GG).

A roost of upwards of 10,000 **American Crows** developed near the campus of California University in early Dec (AT), bringing with them the usual complaints of excessive noise and mess. University officials eventually tried various tactics to drive the birds off, but they succeeded in only driving them to another area of town. The birds were still present in California in mid-Feb, by which time their presence drew the attention of local television stations, whose stories about the townspeople's crow woes (which, inevitably, all referenced Alfred Hitchcock's 1963 classic *The Birds*) were eventually picked up by national outlets such as the Associated Press and the Huffington Post. Residents were certainly quite relieved when the birds finally dispersed in the spring, but they are likely now in store for more crow invasions in future years. **Common Ravens** continued through the season at AV, where they nested last year (JB), and 2 were also seen in Eighty Four 1/21 (AB). It was a poor year for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in southwestern Pennsylvania, but Bavington and WCEM are always exceptions in down years like this; up to 4 were noted variously in BAV through Feb (JM, m.ob.), and one or two were reported on all trips made to WCEM during the season (m.ob.). **Carolina Wrens** were found in AV (JB) and PET (GG) this year, following a reduction in their numbers over the past few (considerably more severe) winters. **Winter Wren** was also noted in AV 12/25 (JB) and PET 1/12 (GG). A **Gray Catbird** was found at WCEM during the Washington CBC 12/17 (PB), and it was still present 1/11 (JB), providing a very rare true winter record for *Washington*. Three **American Pipits** were reported at AMD 1/16 (LGK, GG).

Wintering **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found at AV 1/8 (JB), RBT 2/3 (MV), and WCEM 2/3 (LC). A few wintering **Eastern Towhee** were also reported: 3 at Greencove Wetlands 1/1 (JB), one in BENT 1/15 (AB), and 2 in East Findlay Twp. 1/20 (PH). Two **Fox Sparrows** at WCEM 1/11 (PB) were a nice find. **White-crowned Sparrow** wintered at Greencove Wetlands as usual, first reported 1/1 (JB). Seven **Eastern Meadowlarks** were attempting to winter in Eighty Four 1/21 (AB). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** in Eighty Four 1/19 (AB) were the only reported. Blackbirds returned to CL 2/22 when 27 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 6 **Common Grackles**, and 80 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** came to roost at the lake (MV). Surprisingly, considering the poor season statewide, some winter finches were found. Single **Purple Finches** were at feeders in PET 1/3 (GG) and East Findlay Twp. 1/20 (PH). That same East Findlay feeder held a **Common Redpoll** 1/20 (PH), and 3 **Common Redpolls** and a **Pine Siskin** were at WCEM 2/3 (LC).

ADDENDUM: Two significant reports were inadvertently omitted from the Fall 2011 report in Vol. 25 No. 4. A **Peregrine Falcon** was found in BENT 11/21 (AB). This species is still rare in *Washington*, despite several active nests in nearby counties. A late **Pectoral Sandpiper** was also found in BENT 11/21 (AB).

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, Michael David, Ross Gallardy, Gigi Gerben, Luke Gerben Kaspar (LGK), Sayre Greenfield, Pat Hutchinson, Scott Kinzey, Jeff McDonald, Richard Nugent, Kate Rodgers, Amy Taracido, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass.

Wayne County

Locations: Buckingham Road/Rt. 652 (BR), Fischer Property in Dyberry Township (FP).

Raptor highlights on the CBC 12/17 included 10 **Bald Eagles**, 2 **Northern Harriers**, 2 **Cooper's Hawks**, 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 4 **Red-tailed Hawks**, one **Rough-legged Hawk** (off BR), and one **American Kestrel**. Four adult **Bald Eagles** were observed along Rt. 652 between Honesdale and Beach Lake 1/29 (MS). One **Northern Shrike** was reported on private property adjacent to Varden Conservation Area 12/9 (TC), and another was observed off Rt. 652 near Marshall Farm Lane 12/17 (CF). A **Fox Sparrow** was reported on private property just north of Honesdale 12/4 (SWP). As usual, **American Tree Sparrows** were observed regularly throughout the county (CF, SWP), including a high count of 32 on FP 2/24. A very early **Eastern Meadowlark** was observed flying low for a short distance over a field at the intersection of S. Preston and Poytelle Rds. near Lakewood 2/11 (TG). A flock of approximately 30 **Common Redpolls** was found in the treetops along S. Preston Rd. (one mile south of Lakewood) 2/18 (TG). **Pine Siskins** were regular visitors to a feeder on private property just north of Honesdale 1/1-2/21 (SWP). The only other report was 2 on FP 1/14 (CF).

Observers: **Chris Fischer, c/o Bugaj/Fischer, PC, P.O. Box 390, Honesdale, PA 18431, (570) 446-9597, cfischer17@gmail.com**, Tony Croasdale, Kathy Dodge, Trudy Gerlach, Barbara Leo, Mike Shanley, Sandra Ward Povse.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Crabtree Farming Area (CFA), Donegal Lake (DL), Kuehl Property Area (KP), Keystone State Park (KSP), Loyalhanna Reservoir (LR), Mammoth Park Lake (MPL), Murrysville Community Park (MCP), New Stanton (NS), Northmoreland Park (NP), PNR (Powdermill Nature Reserve), Sewickley Creek Wetlands (SCW), Tree's Mill (TM), Trout Run Reservoir (TRR), Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT).

Compared to the heavy snows of 2009-10 and the continuous cold of 2010-11, the winter of 2011-12 was the winter-that-wasn't. Despite open water, waterfowl numbers were minimal. Irruptive species were also in short supply. The county missed out on Snowy Owl, and unusually there were no Rough-legged Hawks reported for the season. Also, no observations of Red-breasted Nuthatches were recorded.

The Bushy Run (compiled by DB) and Rector (compiled by ML) CBCs were held 12/18 and 12/19, respectively. Bushy Run had 75 species, with **Turkey Vulture** (one) and **American Pipit** (13) added as new species for the count. With only 6 waterfowl species, the Rector Count did well to log a total of 73 species. Including count week observations, the reports of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Northern Goshawk**, **Short-eared Owl**, and **Northern Saw-whet Owl** from the Rector Count were the only reports for the season in *Westmoreland*. MM photographed a **Merlin** near Ligonier during the Rector Count, also the only observation for this species for the season.

Many observers visited the Rt. 380 Overlook of the Beaver Run Reservoir. The most significant find was of one **Red-necked Grebe** first reported 1/19 KB. Sightings continued through 2/4. **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes** were also reported at BRR at various times during the winter season (m.ob.). The following waterfowl species were reported just once during the season: **Snow Goose** on DL 1/7 (DM), **Northern Pintail** at St. Vincent Wetlands 1/2 by the Higbee/Lauffer party, **Redhead** at BRR 12/1 (MVT); and **Common Goldeneye** at BRR 12/5 (KB). One **Double-crested Cormorant** was at SCW 12/12 (MF).

The **Turkey** and **Black Vultures** that winter in the Ligonier Valley were reported by several observers. Both species were tallied for the Rector CBC 12/19. In Wilpen, just north of Ligonier, Donna Mohny counted 70 perched Turkey Vultures 2/4, which well might have been early migrants. One **Northern Harrier** was observed near Ligonier during the Rector CBC 12/19 (AC). Among other reports for both **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks**, TV photographed an accipiter (likely Cooper's Hawk) in Latrobe that swam to the shore of Loyalhanna Creek with a captured **Belted Kingfisher**. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were also on both CBCs and were observed in several other locations, including near NP 2/25 (MVT). **Bald Eagles** were regularly reported by

a number of observers. In addition to numerous sightings at BRR, there were multiple sightings along Loyalhanna Creek in the gorge between Latrobe and Ligonier, and a single sighting not far from the Allegheny River on Rt. 66 near Leechburg 1/7 (TK, JK). Two were also reported at the Conemaugh Dam 1/30 (MVT). *Westmoreland* is sharing **Peregrine Falcons** with *Allegheny*; a pair was reported at the Tarentum Bridge 2/25 (RN). Three WRS were conducted by TK and JK. All were dominated by observations of **Red-tailed Hawks**: 13 on 1/15 (CFA), 29 on 1/29 (Northeast section), and 19 on 2/18 (Ligonier Valley).

Perhaps the mild winter resulted in the early return of **American Woodcock**. One was displaying at Pleasant Valley Park 2/17 (TD). There were multiple displays in the evenings of 2/27 and 2/28 in the reclaimed strips surrounding the KP (TK). There were multiple reports of **Wilson's Snipe**: at Jacob's Creek Wetlands 12/30 (MF) and at the long-time productive seep on Helen Road near Crabtree, where sightings included one 12/18 (MM) and again 1/15 (TK, JK).

Red-headed Woodpeckers continue at Rolling Rock in Laughlintown, with one observed on the Rector CBC (AC). Two flocks of **Horned Larks**, totaling 70 birds, were observed in the CFA area 1/15 (TK, JK). **Eastern Bluebirds** were observed on all of the WRS (JK, TK). Early returning **American Robins** were reported as early as 2/6 in TM (KB) by several observers during Feb. A **Gray Catbird** was reported in Delmont 1/15 (KB).

A late **Chipping Sparrow** was observed in Delmont 12/14 (KB), and 4 returned early to NP 2/25 (MVT). **Brown-headed Cowbirds** and several of the blackbird species apparently overwintered this season. The Higbee/Lauffer party had a single count of 150 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** 1/2 on Helen Road where 15 **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed 12/18 (MM). **Red-winged Blackbirds** were tallied on both the Bushy Run and Rector CBCs. The Higbee/Lauffer party reported 460 **Common Crackles** 1/2 along Rt. 819. Three **Purple Finches** were tallied on the Rector CBC and 2 were observed at NP 2/25 (MVT). Irruptive species reports were limited to a **Northern Shrike** near the Arnold Palmer airport in Latrobe 1/7 (AC), a single report of 5 **Common Redpolls** 1/27 (AV-PNR), and then two days of **Pine Siskin** (one 2/4, 2 on 2/8) at feeders in Wilpin (DM).

Observers: **Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724)-325-1918, tjuehl@comcast.net**, Dick Byers, Ken Byerly, Annie Crary, Tammy Deemer, Karen DeSantis, Mike Fialkovich, Janet Kuehl, Chuck Kutcha, Mike Lanzone, Bob Leberman, Mark McConaughy, Donna Mohney, Richard Nugent, Marjorie Van Tassel, Andrew Vitz (PNR), Tim Vechter, Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club.

Wyoming County

Locations: Lake Carey (LC), Sordoni's Farm (SF)

I want to mention the January 9, 2012, passing of an intrepid birder, Mr. Bruce Lockard, of Factoryville. Bruce eagerly pursued birds (one of his several passions), contributed to regional counts, and brought wonderful enthusiasm as a birding companion, delighting all who spent time with him chasing birds.

It was an unusually warm winter in *Wyoming*. The significantly reduced ice cover and warm temperatures certainly contributed to some unusual results for the period. One example: I received many inquiries from county residents about what they described as an unusual lack of birds at their feeders. Was this resulting from availability of natural food, or of delayed migration from the north? Another example: the Tunkhannock CBC recorded 66 species, just below the average of the previous five years (69); however, the total of individuals came in at 6751, well below the average of the previous five years (9223) and the second lowest of the six years.

Eight **Snow Geese** were observed 12/11 along the Susquehanna River between Tunkhannock and Factoryville (BC). Late Feb brought reports of unusually heavy flights of northbound **Canada Geese** over *Wyoming*, similar to reports from other regions. Interestingly, a flock of over 1000 *southbound* geese were reported 12/31, just two months earlier (RL). The warm weather probably contributed to the presence of 2 **American Wigeons** on a small pond in *Wyoming* throughout the winter, uncommon here. The owner then reported 23 on 2/28 (MR). All but a few departed in a few days. Seven **Tundra Swans** were observed 12/30 (LC, JD). The birds stayed on LC for a few days before departing. We seldom see this many at once in *Wyoming*. Among the usual winter waterbirds that we observe, several less common species stood out this

season: one **Common Goldeneye** 12/30 (LC, JD) and another 2/27 (MR); 2 **Common Loons**, a rare sighting for the 12/18 Tunkhannock CBC (LC, RK) and 2 others 1/31 (LC, JB); one **Red-throated Loon** 12/8 (LC, JD); and one **Pied-Billed Grebe** 12/18, another rarity for the CBC, on the Susquehanna near Tunkhannock (RK).

One **Golden Eagle** was reported 12/18 over the river near Tunkhannock, a rare sighting for this count (RK). Again this year, **Short-eared Owl** was reported 12/18 (rare for the CBC) and 12/20. Two birds were observed (SF, RK).

Other standouts from the 12/18 CBC included: 4 **Killdeer**, rare and the most ever for this count; 28 **Eastern Screech Owls**, a high number; one **Eastern Phoebe**, rare; 49 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, a high number; 34 **Carolina Wren**, a high number; one **Northern Shrike**, rare; one **Eastern Towhee**, rare; 3 **Field Sparrows**, uncommon, one **Savannah Sparrow**, rare, one **Lincoln's Sparrow**, new to the count; one **Swamp Sparrow**, uncommon; 13 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, uncommon; one **Common Grackle**, rare; and 102 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, uncommon. Unusual for Dec was one **Eastern Meadowlark** reported 12/3 with a flock of **European Starlings** (SF, BL).

Observers: **Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468, jdemarco@epix.net**, Dave Bircher, Jim Borden, Sarah Carr, Mark Catalano, Bill Chupko, Bob Daniels, Chris DeMarco, Stan Galenty, Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Ellie Harding, James Hoyson, Rick Koval, Joe Lesko, Rebecca Lesko, Bruce Lockard, Mary Robbins, Jeremiah Stone, Alan Thatcher, Jon Thomas, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd (ALT), Brunner Island (BI), York Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Codorus State Park (CSP), Dillsburg (DILL), Fairview Township (FRVW), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Sheppard Myers Reservoir (SMR), Spring Grove (SG), Sunnyside Rd. (SUN), Wrightsville (WRIT)

Highlights for the reporting period were **Rufous Hummingbird**, **Iceland Gull**, and **Thayer's Gull**. An added bonus was all three were reported during CBCs.

Open water throughout the mild winter resulted in regular sightings of waterfowl. A flock of 150 **Snow Goose** at ALT 2/28 (RP) contained two blue morphs. **Tundra Swan** was noted at four locations 12/22-29 but high count was limited to 19 birds at GPSP 2/25 (VG). A single **Wood Duck** was found 2/18 (CK) at LW. Although **Gadwall** are regularly reported in winter, this year, both their numbers and the duration of their stay were noteworthy. SG held Gadwall throughout the full period with a high count of 35 on 2/16 (RP). A nice count of 47 **American Wigeons** came from GPSP 2/25 (VG). A **Common Goldeneye** was at CSP 2/4 (AW). **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers** were regularly reported, but **Red-breasted Mergansers** were limited to one at LW 2/18(CK) and two at SMR 12/22 (RC).

Common Loons were confined to one or two birds from LR and CSP. A **Horned Grebe** was at Shank's Mare 1/1 (LC). **American Coot** sightings came from SG and CSP with a high count of 155 from CSP 2/17 (DS). Dec sightings of **Double-crested Cormorant** were from LR 12/5 (RS) and WRIT 12/20 (TJ). SG's **Great Blue Heron** rookery showed nest building activity 2/28 (PK). The sole **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at Thomasville 2/25 (RS). The 12/17 CBC had a new high count for **Wild Turkey** with a count of 62. A total of 21 were along Canal Rd 2/25 (PK).

Black Vulture gained some local press, and as one might expect, they were not portrayed in the best light. A reported 500+ birds found Glen Rock subdivisions to their liking and established a winter roost. Even after numbers diminished to 50 or less by mid-Mar, their presence remained unappreciated. **Bald Eagle** sightings were almost commonplace with 16 separate reports. **Merlin** sightings came from Loganville 1/30 (DD) and, as in prior years, at the same CSP location 12/22 (RC). **Peregrine Falcon** was found at SG 12/13 (PK), a pair was at a Hanover industrial water tower throughout Dec (JS), and the *Lancaster* pair was seen over Wrightsville 12/20 (TJ).

This winter's gull reports were the best in many years. A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at GPSP 12/24 (RK). High count for **Ring-billed Gull** was 600+ at LR 12/3 (TR). The six **Herring Gull** reports came from LR and GPSP with a high count of 5 at GPSP 1/1 (CH). The **Thayer's**

Gull (doc. submitted) and **Iceland Gull** were both first year birds found at Muddy Run Boat Launch on the 12/18 Southern Lancaster CBC (RP). This small sliver of the Susquehanna River within York is likely underbirded in winter and sightings such as these are in indication of the potential for York rarities. **Great Black-backed Gull** was found at LR, GPSP, and WRIT with a nice count of 10 coming from WRIT 12/20 (TJ).

Short-eared Owl was at ALT 12/19-1/20 (RP, RC, DF) and at CSP 2/4 (AW). The CSP sighting was most unusual with the bird circling high overhead at 14:15 and being mobbed by crows and Ring-billed gulls. The **Rufous Hummingbird** at a South Hanover home, which first arrived the second week of Oct, was reportedly still present into Feb (*fide* KL). The bird was banded 12/15 (SL). GPSP continues to be a wintering site for **Red-headed Woodpecker**; one was there 1/1 (SPC). There were reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** from five locations with a nice count of 3 from FRVW 12/15 (DN). **Pileated Woodpecker** reports remained encouraging, with seven sightings.

A nice count of 80 **Fish Crows** came from CSP 2/4 (AW). **Common Ravens** continue to expand to new areas with two 2/4 (AW) at Gnatstown and one at Muddy Run 12/18 (RP) for the Southern Lancaster CBC. The latter sighting, from the extreme southeastern corner of the county, may be a first for that locale, as it was for the Southern Lancaster CBC. Two **Horned Lark** at Pinchtown Rd 2/15 (LC) was the only report.

Although not an irruption year, there were five reports of **Black-capped Chickadee**. Reflecting the mild winter, 15 locations reported **Carolina Wren** and 60 were found on the CBC. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were at four locations with a high of 7 at GPSP 2/8 (AM). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were found on the CBC and at New Market 1/1 (LC). Brightening the CBC was a record count of 443 **Eastern Bluebirds**. **Hermit Thrush** was found at GPSP 2/8 (AM) and LW 2/16-18 (CK). Remarkably, there was only one report of **Cedar Waxwing** outside of the CBC low count of 2. However, that one report was of 45 birds at CSP 2/4 (AW). Jan provided a 1/8 (NZ) sighting of **Eastern Towhee** at LW in addition to the 4 found on the CBC.

Nine sparrow species were found. There were three reports of **American Tree Sparrow**, 4 on the CBC, one at DILL 12/23 (DG), and 2

at SUN 1/28 (RP). The only **Chipping Sparrow** was at Springettsbury Twp. 12/18 (DH). There were three reports of **Field Sparrow**. **Savannah Sparrows** were found at ALT 2/2 and 2/28 (AM), and single **Fox Sparrows** were present for the CBC and at LW 1/8 (NZ). **Swamp Sparrows** were 3 on the CBC, 2 at SUN 1/28 (RP), and a single at BI 2/15 (LC). The only **White-crowned Sparrows** were 6 on the CBC and 3 birds in Dover Twp. 1/1 (LC).

Red-winged Blackbirds were found throughout the period. High count was 75 at LW 2/22 (RS). All **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at ALT 1/31-2/28 (AM, RS, RP, AP) with a high count of 6 on 1/31. Three **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were at FRVW 12/21 (DN) and 12 were found on the CBC. Mild winters cheer the general population, but "finch fans" were not happy with the near complete absence of northern finches. The sole exception was a **Purple Finch** on the 12/17 CBC.

EXOTICS: The **Ringed Teal** first noted at BI 11/18-20 was sighted 1/1 (LC).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Jeremy Arvelo, Lou Carpenter, Richard Cleary, Travis Clemens, Steve & Pamela Collins (SPC), Doug Daniels, David Farmer, Bernie Frick, Vern Gauthier, Dave Gibson, Dan Heathcote, Carolyn Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Chuck Kling, Ramsay Koury, Karen Lippy, Sandy Lockerman, Andrew McGann, Henry McLin, Joshua Markel, Dean Newhouse, Ann Pettigrew, Randy Phillips, Beth Pugliese, Tim Reichard, Russ Ruffing, Robin Smith, Dan Snell, Jim Staub, Andy Wilson, Nathan Zalik.

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



White Ibis, Kaercher Creek Park, Berks County. See p. 43. (Photo by Tom Johnson)



Painted Bunting, Washington Boro, Lancaster County. See p. 59. (Photo by Justin Bosler)



Red Phalarope, Bald Knob, Allegheny County. See p. 41. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)



Harris's Sparrow, Kempton, Berks County. See p. 43. (Photo by Dustin Welch)



Say's Phoebe, Maple Knoll Farms (Buckingham Twp.), Bucks County. See p. 44. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)



Bullock's Oriole, Douglass Twp., Montgomery County. See p. 64. (Photo by Ed Norman)