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Cover Photo: Gulls at Pittsburgh. For the second winter in a row, the Pittsburgh area experienced a major and record-breaking invasion of gulls during the deep and unrelenting cold of January and February. Eight species were recorded in 2015, including Pennsylvania's potential first Kelp Gull. This photo of a large flock of Ring-billed Gulls taking off from Pittsburgh's North Shore was made 26 February 2014 during last year's major event. (*Geoff Malosh*)

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Project SNOWstorm and PSO's owl "Erie" – an update

Scott Weidensaul

When thousands of snowy owls flooded the Northeast and upper Midwest in the winter of 2013-14—the largest such invasion in this region in almost a century—dozens of scientists, banders, wildlife veterinarians and pathologists launched a collaborative project to study the birds: Project SNOWstorm.

Although SNOWstorm had many components, the heart of the effort involved tagging snowy owls across the irruption zone with new GPS/GSM transmitters, which tracked the owls' movements with unprecedented accuracy and detail. The units record precise, three-dimensional GPS locations (latitude, longitude and altitude) and periodically send the data, via the cell phone network, back to us at Project SNOWstorm.

PSO's Owl, Erie

On 19 January 2014, researchers Mike Lanzone from Somerset County and Tom McDonald from Rochester, New York, trapped two snowy owls at Erie International Airport. One of the owls, nicknamed "Erie", carried a transmitter that was underwritten by a generous gift from PSO. For the rest of that winter, many PSO members followed Erie's progress, tracking his movements through the SNOWstorm website <www.projectsnowstorm.org>.

Of the 22 owls we tagged that first winter in seven states, Erie was certainly one of the most interesting. As Lake Erie froze in the ever-deepening cold, this young male owl did not leave the lakeshore for inland farmland, as we assumed he would. Instead, he moved out onto the ice, wandering back and forth across the U.S.-Canadian border, often remaining far from shore for weeks at a time. Like several other owls we tagged on the Great Lakes, Erie appears to have been hunting waterfowl in the cracks and leads of open water in the otherwise frozen lake, like one opening that formed off Long Point, Ontario. This was an echo of behavior that some adult snowy owls pursue in the Arctic,

when they spend the perpetual darkness of the northern winter on the pack ice, hunting sea ducks that winter in polynyas— permanent openings in the Arctic ice sheet.

In March 2014 Erie began moving, first west to Lake St. Clair, then onto the frozen southern tip of Lake Huron. By mid-April, Erie was meandering north, following the fast-eroding edge of the ice up eastern Lake Huron, then into Georgian Bay. He passed just below Sault Ste. Marie at the junction of lakes Huron and Superior, and was last heard from 27 April 2014, having flown within a few hundred yards of the tip of Whitefish Point, the famous migration observatory on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Not that anyone was watching; Erie passed at two in the morning, over an icy Lake Superior still locked in winter's cold.

After that, we lost track of him, as we expected. Our transmitters can only communicate with us through the cell phone network, and the system in eastern and central Canada generally extends less than a hundred miles from the U.S. border, and even less around Lake Superior. Once Erie flew just a short distance north, he was off the grid.

Would we hear from him again? We weren't really sure. We expected to hear again, eventually, from at least a few of the 18 tagged owls that survived that

first winter, but we couldn't be sure where or when. Snowy owls are unpredictable and nomadic; some stay put in the Arctic for years at a time, like those sea duck-eating birds on the polynyas. Others migrate south in successive years, but not always to the same location. Of course, life is rough for a raptor, and not all of them could be expected to survive. And even if they came south, there was no guarantee that they would penetrate far enough to reach the cell network.

But we could afford to be patient. The memory banks in the transmitters can store 100,000 GPS locations, which, at the rate ours were logging data, meant 12.5 years before they'd run out of storage capacity.

Erie Reappears

To our delight, though, some of those inaugural owls returned this past winter. The first was another bird from the Erie Airport, "Millcreek", which was tagged the same night as Erie. He reappeared 19 Nov 2014 in southeastern Ontario, and spent this past winter in the suburbs of Toronto.

Several other tagged snowies also came south, including one tagged in New York and another in Massachusetts. And less than a week into 2015, I got a very exciting text message: "CTT Data

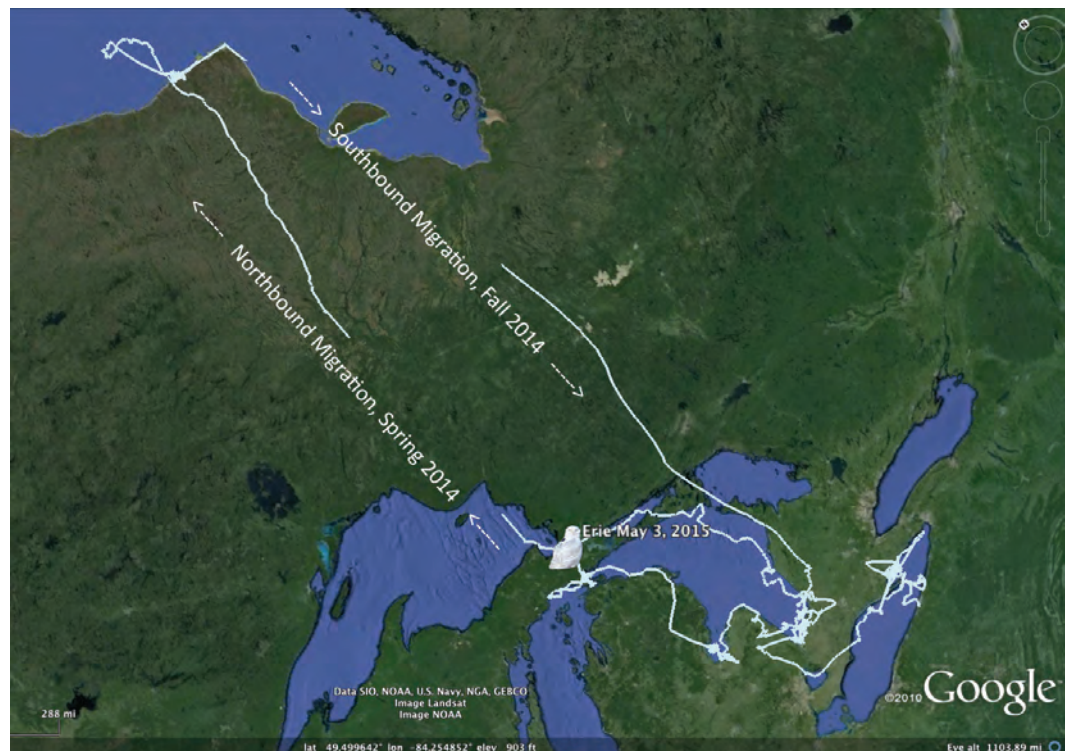


Figure 1. Track of the Snowy Owl nicknamed "Erie", 19 Jan 2014 to 3 May 2015. Erie was captured at the Erie International Airport, Erie County, Pennsylvania and fitted with a tracking device funded by PSO.

Update: Unit #89014103256345345747 (Erie - SY Male) has checked in."

Over the next few days, Erie's transmitter sent us huge blocks of data, tracing his movements during the previous eight months when he'd been beyond cell range. It was quite a story.

After passing Whitefish Point, Erie took his time, flying in slow stages north-northeast up through central Ontario, only averaging about 40 miles (64 km) a day, and rarely exceeding 29-35 mph (46-56 kph), markedly slower than a lot of our migrating snowies.

By mid-June, Erie had reached the edge of Hudson Bay between Cape Lookout and Cape Henrietta Maria, at the western terminus of James Bay. And he kept on going, out onto what apparently was the still-frozen bay. Looking at his data in Google Earth, Erie's tracks became almost whimsical—great, flattened loops and curlicues traced across the subarctic waters. What on earth was he doing? Then it hit me. He was riding icebergs, which were being pushed and pulled by wind and tides.

Eventually the ice went out, and Erie was forced to shore, spending the rest of the summer on the edge of the bay. In doing so, he became the most southerly of our tagged summer birds. By contrast, "Braddock", tagged in upstate New York, spent the summer in northern Nunavut, some 975 miles (1,568 km) farther north than Erie, west of Hudson Bay. Two other owls summered well to the east, in the northern Ungava Peninsula in Quebec, about 375 miles (600 km) farther north.

The data we got on Erie's summer activities, like those we've collected from wintering owls, are by far the most detailed record of a snowy owl's movements. Our recorders captured data every 30 minutes, and in some cases, every 30 seconds, right around the clock.

As the days grew shorter in autumn, Erie's transmitter, which, like all of our GPS/GSM units, has a solar panel for power -- went into hibernation once the rapidly diminishing daylight in the subarctic could no longer keep up with energy demands.

When the unit kicked on again and started collecting fresh data, Erie was on the move, now with none of the languid amble of his northbound trip. On 4 Jan 2015, he was arrowing south at speeds of up to 56 mph (90 kph), flying almost without pause for the next 24 hours through central Ontario and onto the Bruce Peninsula,

where he rested for a few days. That's where his transmitter connected with the cell network and started uploading its backlog of summer data. Then Erie moved back to the southern toe of Lake Huron, where he spent the bulk of this past winter.

SNOWstorm in 2014-15

It was another busy winter for us. Unlike 2013-14, when the center of the irruption was New England and the eastern Great Lakes, this past winter the scale of the invasion was smaller, and the bulk of the owls were in the western Great Lakes. We tagged another 12 snowy owls from eastern New York to Michigan (four in the latter state alone), which with the five returning owls from the previous winter gave us another treasure-trove of data.

As was the case the previous winter, March and April saw the first significant movement of the tagged snowies heading north. The ice came off the Great Lakes earlier this year than it had in 2014, and by mid-March, Erie had been forced onto land in eastern Michigan, though he found more ice—for snowy owls seem to love ice—on Saginaw Bay. In early April he flew quickly across the top of the "mitten" of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. He stayed for a week or so around the Straits of Mackinac, which connect lakes Huron and Michigan, until that area thawed. Then on 24 April he crossed the Upper Peninsula to the still-frozen bays around Sault Ste. Marie.

By coincidence, Erie and I were on the U.P. at the same time, though unlike him, I was there for the Whitefish Point Spring Fling festival. Our last

transmitter contact with him was 3 May when he was just off Pointe des Chênes on the Canadian side of the Soo. Erie was, by that point, the last of the 2014-15 tagged owls still in contact.

And then he was gone. The edge of the cell network in that area is barely 50 miles (80 km) north of his last location. Certainly he migrated beyond it, headed back to his northern home.

Will Erie return again in 2015-16? We obviously hope so, in part because, as an adult entering his third summer, he may now be old enough to breed, though no one really knows at what age snowies reach sexual maturity. Although breeding snowy owls have been tracked with satellite transmitters in the past, none have been followed at the extraordinary level of minute-to-minute detail that the GPS/GSM transmitters allow. Certainly we are eager to know whether any new insights into the breeding ecology of these amazing owls are revealed by the SNOWstorm birds.

Of the 34 snowy owls we've tagged in the past two winters, Erie has been one of the most exciting and productive, in terms of new insights and fascinating discoveries. We couldn't have done it without PSO's support. We invite everyone to follow the continuing work we're doing at projectsnowstorm.org. If Erie comes back, you'll be the first to know.

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Figure 2. "Riding icebergs." Track of Snowy Owl "Erie" on the Hudson Bay in 56°N, 84°W. The slow looping patterns in the track indicate that Erie was sitting on icebergs drifting in wind and tide.

Two in a Row: Pittsburgh's Winters of Gulls, 2014 and 2015

Mike Fialkovich and Geoff Malosh

The Pittsburgh area experienced two consecutive invasions of gulls in the mid-winters of 2014 and 2015. The previous and first known invasion in the Pittsburgh area was in 2007 and was documented in this journal (Fialkovich and Malosh, 2007). This article serves to update climate data and Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data that were discussed in the 2007 article, and to summarize the gull observations during the winters of 2014 and 2015.

As mentioned in the 2007 article, it was quite likely that temperature and the subsequent freeze of the Great Lakes created conditions that forced gulls south in search of open water. The winters of 2014 and 2015 followed a similar pattern and reinforced that conclusion. However, this may not be the complete story. Especially in late February and early March, the flocks of gulls in Pittsburgh are probably augmented by northbound birds passing through the region but which stall out in the Three Rivers area, finding all water to the north still frozen. It is likely that at least a few individuals of the rare species recorded in Pittsburgh in late winter are true spring migrants. These rare gulls may pass north through the county annually, but are only detected when they are forced to pause in and near Pittsburgh in years when the lakes to the north are still locked in ice well into March.

Whatever the origins of the birds themselves, whether from the north or the south, the winters of 2014 and 2015 clearly demonstrated a strong correlation between excessively cold winters and gulls appearing in the Steel City.

Christmas Bird Count Data

Christmas Bird Count totals for Ring-billed and Herring Gulls from 2007-15 are summarized in Table 1, picking up where the 2007 article left off. The data illustrate the increasing numbers of the most common gulls on Pittsburgh's rivers in the context of their full history here. Yearly totals ranged widely, but in addition to showing an increasing trend, CBC totals are well below those tallied during the harshest part of the winter from mid-January through February, further demonstrating a correlation between spikes in the numbers of gulls in southwestern Pennsylvania and worsening conditions in the Great Lakes region.

Table 1. Counts of Herring and Ring-billed Gull on the Pittsburgh CBC, 2007-2014.

Year	Herring Gull total	Ring-billed Gull total
2007	11	17
2008	24	583
2009	289	1162
2010	18	68
2011	30	149
2012	17	306
2013	129	372
2014	19	212

Temperature Data

As mentioned, weather conditions in the winter months of 2014 and 2015 were quite severe and the Great Lakes were nearly frozen completely during this time. Using the data summary of the coldest months in Pittsburgh in the previous article we get a perspective of where the 2014 and 2015 data ranks compared to the coldest months ever. No month in the winter of 2014 ranked as one of the coldest months historically, and neither did January 2015, however February 2015 was the fourth coldest month on record in Pittsburgh (Table 2). That said, January and February 2014 average temperatures (Table

3) were the lowest since 2007 (note, January 2014 was virtually tied with January 2009). Of course, the average temperature in February 2015 was the lowest during the period since the previous gull invasion in 2007. (Note: the National Weather Service defines the average temperature as a rolling average of the temperature for a date over the past 30 years.)

Table 2. Coldest months at Pittsburgh, source: National Weather Service.

Rank	Month	Average Temp (°F)
1	Jan 1977	11.4
2	Jan 1940	17.4
3	Feb 1979	18.0
4	Feb 2015	18.3
5	Jan 1918	18.6
6	Dec 1989	19.2
7	Feb 1963	19.3
8	Feb 1934	19.7
9	Jan 1912	20.4
10	Jan 1981	20.5
11	Jan 1970	20.7
12	Feb 2007	20.8
12	Feb 1875	20.8
14	Jan 1982	20.9
14	Feb 1978	20.9

Table 3. Monthly average temperature and departure from normal (°F) in Pittsburgh for January and February, 2008-2015.

Year	Jan Avg.	Jan Dep.	Feb Avg.	Feb Dep.
2008	31.4	+3.0	29.4	-1.7
2009	22.0	-6.4	31.2	+0.1
2010	25.9	-2.5	26.4	-4.7
2011	24.2	-4.2	31.8	+0.7
2012	32.8	+4.4	35.4	+4.3
2013	31.5	+3.1	28.7	-2.4
2014	22.1	-6.3	25.7	-5.4
2015	25.3	-3.1	18.3	-12.8
30-yr. Avg.	28.4	--	31.1	--

Weather Notes – 2014 and 2015

Nationwide, the two-month period from December 2013 to January 2014 was the 33rd coldest such period on record. January 2014 was the coldest in the U.S. since 2011. In January and February 2014, all states bordering the Great Lakes ranked below average in temperature, with the exception of New York which averaged near normal in February but below in January.

February 2014 was the 37th coldest February on record in the U.S. By that time the Great Lakes were 75% frozen, the most ice cover for the period since 1996. In March, ice cover on the Great Lakes increased to 91%, the second largest amount of ice cover on the lakes ever recorded. (All data, NOAA)

In 2015, Buffalo, Chicago, and Cleveland each experienced their coldest February on record. New York State set record lows from January to March, the coldest in 90 years. Indeed everywhere from Michigan and Indiana eastward to New England, the winter of 2015 produced below normal temperatures. Contiguous snow cover in the U.S. in February 2015 was the 20th highest on record. (All data, NOAA)

Ice cover on the Great Lakes in February 2015 was as follows: Superior 92%, Michigan 63%, Huron 93%, Erie 98%, Ontario 83%. (National Ice Center)

Gull Activity in Pittsburgh

When present in winter, the gulls in Pittsburgh gather at the headwaters of the Ohio River in downtown Pittsburgh,



Image 1. A second cycle Glaucous Gull among a large flock of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls on the Ohio River 24 January 2015. (Geoff Malosh)

mostly on the Ohio River itself between Point State Park and the West End Bridge, but they have also roosted on ice on the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers in the immediate downtown area as well. Hereafter, this area will be referred to as the Point. Birds normally begin to arrive at the Point an hour or two before dusk, dropping out of the sky after they spent their day elsewhere. There is continual traffic flow as more and more arrive, some barely visible as they arrive at last light. The birds rest on the water or on ice (when available) where they preen, bathe, and socialize. The flocks drift downstream on the Ohio River towards the West End Bridge, and as they near the bridge, they fly back upriver to the Point where they land once again. Apparently the birds are unwilling to drift under the bridge; many gulls in the Pittsburgh area in general have been observed to fly over, rather than under bridges. It's thought the birds engage in this "conveyor belt" routine all night, in between rest sessions. At dawn the birds remain in this area, however by the first hour after daylight, the majority have taken off to disperse for the day, presumably to search for food.



Image 2. Second cycle Iceland Gull resting on ice on the Ohio River 31 January 2015. (Geoff Malosh)

The reason the birds prefer to roost specifically at the Point is uncertain, and has been discussed at length among the birders who frequent Pittsburgh's rivers in wintertime. One possibility is that river currents are possibly not as swift at the confluence as they are in other sections of the rivers. Another possibility is the width of the Ohio River—the confluence at the Point is the widest section of river in the entire region, so perhaps the birds feel more secure in this area.

In 2007 and during the other much more minor incursions since, it was never clear where bulk of the gulls spent the day.

While Ring-billed and Herring Gulls can be found almost anywhere along the rivers and even away from the rivers, it's difficult to determine a pattern of dispersal, and discoveries of rare gulls away from the Point were nearly unheard of until 2015. Occasional birds would be found along the rivers at boat docks, stream outflows or the locks and dams that are attractive to Ring-bills and Herring. Perhaps not coincidentally, these sites usually have access points for birders as well.

The success of solving this mystery in 2015, at least partially, was probably due to greater numbers of rare birds, particularly Great Black-backed Gulls, which increased the odds of finding at least this species during the day. Increased birder coverage compared even to 2007 was certainly another, probably more important, factor. All the rare species were found along all three rivers in Allegheny County away from the Point during the day, as well as on the Ohio River in Beaver County especially at the mouth of the Beaver River. One site in particular—Duck Hollow on the Monongahela River east of Pittsburgh—was a particularly productive daytime site in 2015. Throughout February, hundreds of gulls staged at Duck Hollow in the mid-afternoon hours before moving on to roost at the Point as evening approached. But the mystery is not completely solved. At times hundreds of gulls were also observed passing by Duck Hollow in the late afternoon, flying downriver on the Monongahela toward downtown, from parts unknown to the south or east of Duck Hollow. Certainly these birds used some area farther to the east or southeast of Pittsburgh during the day, possibly at one of the landfills in that section of the city, but the exact whereabouts of these hundreds (or thousands) was never discovered. It is known that some gulls use the Imperial Landfill in far western Allegheny County. Even in 2007, several hundred could be seen by day at Imperial, and in that year both Glaucous Gull and Great Black-backed Gull were seen at the landfill as well. In 2015, hundreds of gulls at Imperial were a daily occurrence once again, including at least one record of Iceland Gull.

Gull Reports – 2008-2013

To illustrate how rare these birds are in the Pittsburgh area during non-invasion years, Table 4 shows totals for each species during the winter season from 2008-2013. The two-year range totals include birds that were present from December to at least January of the following year. These data show that at least one of the rare gull species may make an appearance in Pittsburgh during non-invasion years. Their arrival usually coincides with weather systems such as a passing cold front or clipper system drops wanderers or migrants onto the area's rivers. Typically once the weather clears the birds move on. In these non-invasion years, rare gulls that appear on the rivers of Pittsburgh may well be passage migrants from south or east.

Table 4. Season totals of rare gulls at Pittsburgh for non-invasion winters 2008-2013. These totals cover all winter-season sightings from December to March. The year refers to the year in which January occurred (example: "2008" covers sightings from Dec 2007 to March 2008).

Species	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Thayer's	0	0	1	0	0	0
Iceland	1	0	0	0	1	1
Glaucous	2	0	0	0	0	0
Lesser BB	2	0	3	0	2	1
Great BB	0	0	5	0	2	0

Summary of Gull Sightings – Winter 2013-14

January and February 2014 will probably be more remembered by Pittsburgh birders for the remarkable incursion of waterfowl, especially White-winged Scoter and Long-tailed Duck, than for its showing of gulls. But the same harsh icing of the Great Lakes that drove the ducks to Pittsburgh also ushered in the first major gull invasion for the city since 2007. The first rare gull, an Iceland, appeared 3 January to kick off the festivities, which extended into early March before ending abruptly in the middle of the month. The first truly big day of the season was 6 February when a total of six species was first tallied.

Ring-billed Gull – Ring-billed Gulls are a mainstay of winter along Pittsburgh's rivers, however numbers are typically low in mild winters. During the winter of 2014 numbers maxed at 7000 (an approximated total).

Herring Gull – Herring Gulls are residents and breeders in Allegheny. Numbers increase in winter as birds from the Great Lakes Region and perhaps points further north (or south) join the local residents. Herring Gull numbers were estimated to nearly reach 1000 during the season, a record for this area at the time. When present in numbers in late February, nearly all Herring Gulls are adults, and they are frequently seen engaging in pair bonding at the roost at the Point. They migrate earlier than the masses Ring-billed Gulls (which linger well into March) though the exact date of departure for the Herrings probably depends at least partially on conditions to the north; in 2014 non-resident Herring Gulls were mostly gone by the end of February.



Image 3. An adult Kumlien's Iceland Gull (bottom right) with a third cycle Great Black-backed Gull and Herring Gulls at the mouth of the Allegheny River, downtown Pittsburgh 6 March 2015. (Geoff Malosh)

Thayer's Gull – Two adults and one first cycle were recorded. The two adults were recognizable as different individuals. Whether or not there were multiple first cycle birds is unknown.

Iceland Gull – In 2014 Iceland Gulls appeared in the highest

numbers recorded in Allegheny County to that point. Two first cycle birds were present for most of January and early February until birds of other age classes arrived. On 2/8 a second cycle bird was present with three first cycle birds. An adult appeared 2/9, making at least five individuals present during the event.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – Also appearing in record numbers, a first cycle bird was found several miles up the Monongahela River from Pittsburgh at Duck Hollow 12/20. In February, four adults were present at the same time and first and second cycle birds were found during the winter.

Glaucous Gull – While all the other species arrived by the second week of January, the first Glaucous Gull (a first cycle bird) was not discovered until early February. By mid-month an unprecedented four adults were present along with singleton second and third cycle individuals, bringing the total to at least six birds. At least one lingered in to March, the first record for that month for Pittsburgh.



Image 4. Adult Glaucous Gull at the mouth of the Ohio River 16 February 2014. It was one of four adults present for the 2014 season; prior to 2014, Allegheny County had just one record of an adult Glaucous. (Geoff Malosh)

Great Black-backed Gull – First and third cycle birds were present along with an adult. Four birds were present 2/15, among these were an adult and first cycle. Despite their presence in numbers on Lake Erie, Great Black-backed Gull has always been rare in Pittsburgh, perhaps even more rare than Lesser Black-backed Gull. That is, until the invasion of 2015.

Summary of Gulls – Winter 2014-15

The winter of 2015 was exceptional for the numbers of rare gulls in Pittsburgh. Totals of each species were higher than the previous invasions in 2007 and 2014 and nearly all age classes were represented. An Iceland Gull on 9 January was the first indication of things to come, and it was followed the very next day by a first cycle Glaucous, which represented the first January record of this species for Allegheny County. They were mere harbingers. For some rare species, the season total in 2015 ended up exceeding the totals from all previous years combined. As in 2014, the show ended rather abruptly in mid-March.

Ring-billed Gull – Numbers maxed at 5000 which is consistent with the previous invasions.

Herring Gull – Estimated high counts during the season were near 1000. Like the Ring-billed Gull, max numbers (and timing) were consistent with the 2014 invasion.

Thayer's Gull – A first cycle bird was observed the last three days of January, and an adult was present 17-20 February.

Identification of Thayer's Gull is tricky and details must be studied carefully. The first cycle was as about as good as one can get for a first cycle Thayer's, and there wasn't much question at all about the adult.



Image 5. The Great Black-backed Gull invasion of 2015 in Allegheny County was unprecedented by an order of magnitude. These six on ice on the Allegheny River at downtown Pittsburgh 6 March 2015 were among a total of 73 that afternoon, the highest single count in Allegheny history. Prior to 2015 the highest single day total for the county was 5. (Geoff Malosh)

Iceland Gull – The first Iceland Gull was a first cycle bird on 9 January. First and second cycle birds and adults were seen throughout the season. In total there were at least five first cycle birds, at least two second cycle, and several adults but there could have been more. This showing just about tripled the minimum season tally of five in 2014 and the six in 2007; the latter had been the record for the area.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was at the Point 14 January. At least two second cycle, two third cycle and three adults were tallied during the season. The highest count at one location was five at the Point 18 February that included two second cycle birds and three third/adult.

Glaucous Gull – This species appeared in record numbers with a high one-day count of six at the Point 1/30 that included two first cycle, one second cycle and 3 adults. In the past two at once was considered exceptional so a tally of at least six birds was unprecedented for Allegheny County.

Great Black-backed Gull – This species stole the show with totals that surpassed all other invasions combined. All ages were represented. The initial sighting of the season was a first cycle bird at the Point 10 January. High counts at the Point included 41 from 13-14 February and an amazing 67 on 18 February. Interestingly only 39 were counted 20 February but numbers rebounded, and a record 73 were counted 6 March, an unexpectedly late date for such a tally, if one assumes that Great Black-backed Gull would more or less follow the same timing of migration as Herring Gull. That said, on 28 February the estimated count of Herring Gulls was still at least 1000. These late-season masses perhaps lend some credence to the idea that by late February, the gulls in Pittsburgh include many northbound migrants.

Numbers of this species also gathered on the Allegheny River during the day in the Chapel Harbor and Highland Park Dam area, upriver from Pittsburgh. The high count there was 24 on 22 February. Duck Hollow was also a popular gathering spot for this species during the late afternoon as birds made their way back to the Point for the night. The high count there was 15 on 19 February. One third cycle individual was easily identified due to an injured leg or foot, so at least one

individual's movements could be tracked. This bird was often seen at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela River late in the afternoon.

Kelp Gull – The most amazing find of the season, and indeed one of the most extraordinary birds ever found in Pennsylvania, was an adult Kelp Gull first identified and photographed at the Point 17 January. The bird was resting on an ice sheet and its structural and plumage characters were noted. Photographs were made, importantly including a video of the outstretched wing. It was seen again briefly the following morning before it left the Point for the day. It appeared once again at Duck Hollow late in the afternoon 18 January where it was seen at close range and photographed. The photos provided an opportunity for discussion and identification of this potential state first. As always with gulls, identification must be made carefully and hybridization must be considered, particularly for a rarity such as this, but it was agreed the photos do show an actual Kelp Gull. Several out of state experts also endorsed the identification. The record is currently under review by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee.



Image 6. Pennsylvania's potential first Kelp Gull (at left, Great Black-backed Gull at right) was discovered on the Ohio River late on 17 January 2015 by Ben Coulter. It was seen again there very early on 18 January and again in the afternoon 18 January at Duck Hollow. (Ben Coulter)

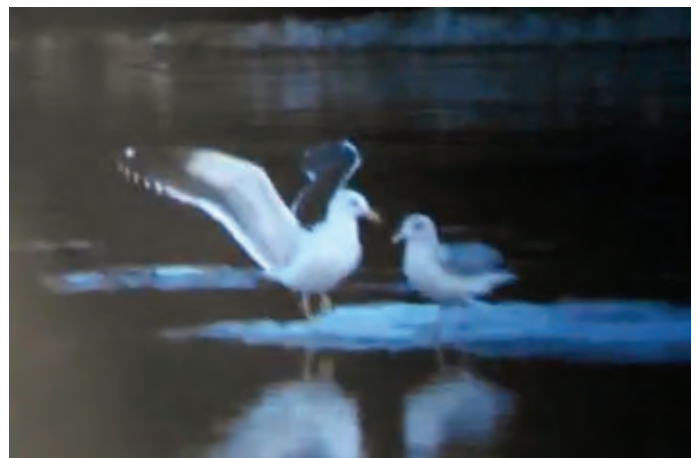


Image 6. This video grab shows the Kelp Gull's telltale single white mirror on P10. This record is currently under review by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. (Ben Coulter)

Great Black-backed x Herring Gull – An interesting bird that was thought to be a hybrid Great Black-backed x Herring Gull was at the Point 26 February. This bird was never relocated, but it was photographed.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the numerous birders who braved the elements to keep track of the gulls during these invasion years and entering observations into eBird, posting them to the PABIRDS listserv, or reporting them directly to the Allegheny County compiler. Thanks to Pittsburgh CBC Compiler Brian Shema for providing 2014 Pittsburgh CBC data which was not available on the CBC website at the time of this writing.

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A large flock of Ring-billed Gulls takes flight from Pittsburgh's North Shore, 28 January 2015. (Geoff Malosh)

The 2014-2015 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania

Nick Bolgiano

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held for the 115th time from 14 December 2014 to 5 January 2015. (For this report, the year as the one in which Christmas occurred; the 115th count is referred to as occurring in 2014.)

Temperatures were seasonal and inclement weather was a problem only on 3 January 2015, when rain and freezing rain occurred. Seventy-six sites reported, the same number as the previous year. Penns Creek, *Centre* was a new site, with Cathy Pierce as compiler, and Thompson did not report.

The long-time Elverson compiler, Bob Cook, passed away 3 February 2015. Bob became compiler in 1950 and his dedication exemplified the CBC tradition. Bob will be missed for his mentoring and genial manner.

The 6019 party-hours statewide was a new high for effort. The statewide species total was 162, which is about average, plus 3 count-week species. The 2014 count was notable for an irruption of **Pine Siskins**.

Species Numbers

Southern Bucks County and Southern Lancaster County tied for the top spot with 101 species, and Harrisburg was third with 99. The below table shows the top 10 list and Figure 1 shows a map of species totals by site.

Top 10 Sites by Species Counted

1	Southern Bucks County	101
1	Southern Lancaster County	101
3	Harrisburg	99
4	Upper Bucks County	96
5	Lititz	95
6	Lancaster	94
7	Bethlehem-Easton	92
8	Wild Creek-Little Gap	90
9	Delaware County	89
10	Central Bucks County	88

Hits and Misses

A “hit” is an unlikely species found in 2013 (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). There were 13 hits and 3 misses.

Hits

Barnacle Goose
Eared Grebe
Greater Yellowlegs
Forster’s Tern
Snowy Owl
Rufous Hummingbird
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Black-and-white Warbler

Lark Sparrow
Harris’s Sparrow
Rose-breasted/Black-headed Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Yellow-headed Blackbird

Misses

Northern Bobwhite
Vesper Sparrow
Lincoln’s Sparrow

Count Highlights

Count-week species were **Trumpeter Swan** at Lake Raystown, **Black-headed Gull** at Butler County, and **Thayer’s Gull** at Erie.

Most geese continued their previous expansions. **Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported from Central Bucks County. Large numbers of **Snow Geese** were reported for the second consecutive year, primarily in eastern Pennsylvania. High counts included 105,000 at Lehigh Valley, 46,000 at Bethlehem-Easton, 11,000 at Wild Creek-Little Gap, and more than 1000 at six other eastern sites (Figure 2). The total of eight **Ross’s Geese** was a new high for the state CBC, with two each at Lititz, Pittsburgh, and Wild Creek-Little Gap, and singles at Bethlehem-Easton and Dubois. Two **Barnacle Geese** were at Wild Creek-Little Gap, a fourth Pennsylvania CBC report. The total of 44 **Cackling Geese** from 14 sites was also a new high.

Ducks in above-average numbers were **Gadwall** (for the fourth consecutive year), **Northern Shoveler** (also in 2012), and **Ring-necked Duck** (for the 11th year in the past 16). **Surf Scoters** included 13 at Dubois, 6 at Erie, and 2 at Wild Creek-Little Gap; **White-winged Scoters** included 97 at Erie and 5 at Southern Bucks County; **Black Scoters** were 5 at Erie and one at Johnstown.

The 94 **Ruffed Grouse** was better than 2014’s 51, but remained historically low. Erie reported five **Red-throated Loons**; only one other time have more Red-throated Loons been reported by a Pennsylvania site (18 at Erie in 2001). Two **Red-necked Grebes** were at Upper Bucks County, with singles at Dubois and Erie. **Eared Grebe** was at Erie, the seventh Pennsylvania CBC report and the fourth from Erie, in the past 20 years. **Great Egret** was at Harrisburg and Linesville and **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Erie.

Both **Black** and **Turkey Vultures** have been increasing for decades, with Turkey Vultures dominant. During 1980-2004, Turkey Vulture numbers exceeded Black Vulture numbers by a factor of three. More recently, Turkey Vultures

have been leveling off while Black Vultures still climb. If this continues, Black Vultures may eventually become the numerically dominant vulture in the Pennsylvania CBC.

Osprey was at Pennypack Valley. The 610 **Bald Eagles** represented a 31% increase over last year’s then-record, and included 73 at Southern Lancaster County, 39 at Southern Bucks County, 32 at Linesville, 28 at Lititz, and 27 at Tunkhannock. They were concentrated in the northwest and the Susquehanna and Delaware Valleys (Figure 2). **Red-shouldered Hawks** again set a new high, with 171 statewide, including 16 each at Gettysburg and Harrisburg. Red-shouldered Hawks were concentrated in the west, the south-central and several sites in the northeast (Figure 2). The Bald Eagle and Red-shouldered Hawk distributions are similar to observations of the second breeding bird atlas and the Winter Raptor Survey. The 17 **Rough-legged Hawks** was a low number; it wasn’t until the snowy second half of winter that a more-noteworthy influx occurred. The 8 **Golden Eagles** included 4 at Hamburg, a new single-site high.

Two **Virginia Rails** were at Pennypack Valley. The 77 **Sandhill Cranes** included 75 at Linesville, the usual hotspot, and one each at Bethlehem-Easton and Lehigh Valley; this was the third consecutive season with increased crane numbers. The **Greater Yellowlegs** at Delaware County was a state CBC first since 1992.

The Delaware Valley continues to host some of North America’s largest wintering concentrations of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and **Herring Gulls**. The 847 Lesser Black-backed Gulls statewide exceeded the previous high of 617 set in 2006, and included 320 at Central Bucks County, 260 at Southern Bucks County, 196 at Upper Bucks County, 53 at Bethlehem-Easton, and up to 4 at six other sites. The nearly 46,000 Herring Gulls at Southern Bucks County was a continent-wide CBC high. Also at Southern Bucks County were 14 of the 20 **Iceland Gulls** and 2 of the 3 **Glaucous Gulls**. **Forster’s Tern** was at Bedford County, only the second report of this species in a Pennsylvania CBC.

The four **Barn Owls** included three at Lewistown and one at Penns Creek. Upper Bucks County again led the state owl totals (see table), including 163 **Eastern Screech-Owls**, the most of this species continent-wide. Two **Snowy Owls** were reported from Erie, the only rebound birds from last year’s irruption. The 10 **Long-eared Owls** and 5 **Short-eared Owls** were low numbers; the

Top 10 Owling Sites

	Barn	EScr	GH	Barr	LE	SE	NSW	Total
1. Upper Bucks Co.	0	163	9	1	0	0	1	174
2. Lewistown	3	52	37	0	2	0	0	94
3. So. Lancaster Co.	0	35	17	5	0	0	7	64
4. Wild Crk.-Little Gap	0	33	19	2	0	0	1	55
5. Central Bucks Co.	0	39	10	0	0	0	0	47
6. Elverson	0	35	9	0	0	0	1	45
7. Audubon	0	35	7	0	0	0	0	42
7. West Chester	0	38	2	2	0	0	0	42
9. Lehigh Valley	0	14	20	1	0	1	1	37
10. Pittsburgh	0	24	11	1	0	0	0	36

Short-eared Owl total was the lowest since 1984. **Rufous Hummingbird** was reported from Pittsburgh, the fifth consecutive year with at least one reported from a Pennsylvania CBC site. Woodpeckers were especially plentiful; has the emerald ash borer, which is spreading eastward, increased their productivity or likelihood to overwinter? New highs for **Red-bellied** and **Pileated Woodpeckers** continued or exceeded established trends; **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpeckers** and **Northern Flickers** saw small increases without an apparent trend.

The 47 **Merlins** and the 37 **Peregrines** were new highs and continued their trends of recent decades. The single **Northern Shrike**, at Delaware County, represented the fewest shrikes reported since 1993. **Common Ravens** continued their increasing

trend; 461 was a new state high total for the CBC, even when adjusted for effort.

The now-annual **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was reported in usual numbers at Pennypack Valley, where 120 were tallied, and 2 were also reported at Audubon. The 276 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was typical of a non-irruption year. **House Wren** was at Central Bucks County, Curtin, and Southern Bucks County. The seven **Marsh Wrens** was an unusually high number and included four at Pittsburgh South Hills. **Eastern Bluebirds** nearly reached the historically high levels of 2006-2008 after a modest five-year dip. The 469 **Hermit Thrushes** was exceeded historically only by 2005's 493.

The single **Lapland Longspur** at Hamburg was the only one reported, the third year in the past five with just one. Longspurs have never been plentiful—

the state CBC high was 56 in 1960. The **Black-and-white Warblers** at Harrisburg and Ryerson were the only unexpected warblers. Also unexpected were a **Lark Sparrow** at Newville (fourth report in a Pennsylvania CBC) and a **Harris's Sparrow** at Bethlehem-Easton (sixth report).

Two *Pheucticus* sp. (Rose-breasted or Black-headed Grosbeak) were reported from Washington (eighth report), and an **Indigo Bunting** was at Lewistown (fourth report). **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was at Gettysburg, **Brewer's Blackbird** was at Bethlehem-Easton, and **Baltimore Oriole** was at Wyncote and York Springs.

Pine Siskin was the only winter finch to irrupt; the statewide total of 1823 was modest compared to other irruption years, but they were widespread and reported from two-thirds of Pennsylvania sites. The highest CBC counts tended to be at higher elevation and near extensive forest (Figure 2). A more extensive spread of siskins throughout the state occurred with colder weather in the second half of winter. Other uncommon finches included two **White-winged Crossbills** at Erie, a total of 13 **Common Redpolls** at four sites, and two **Evening Grosbeaks** at Washington.

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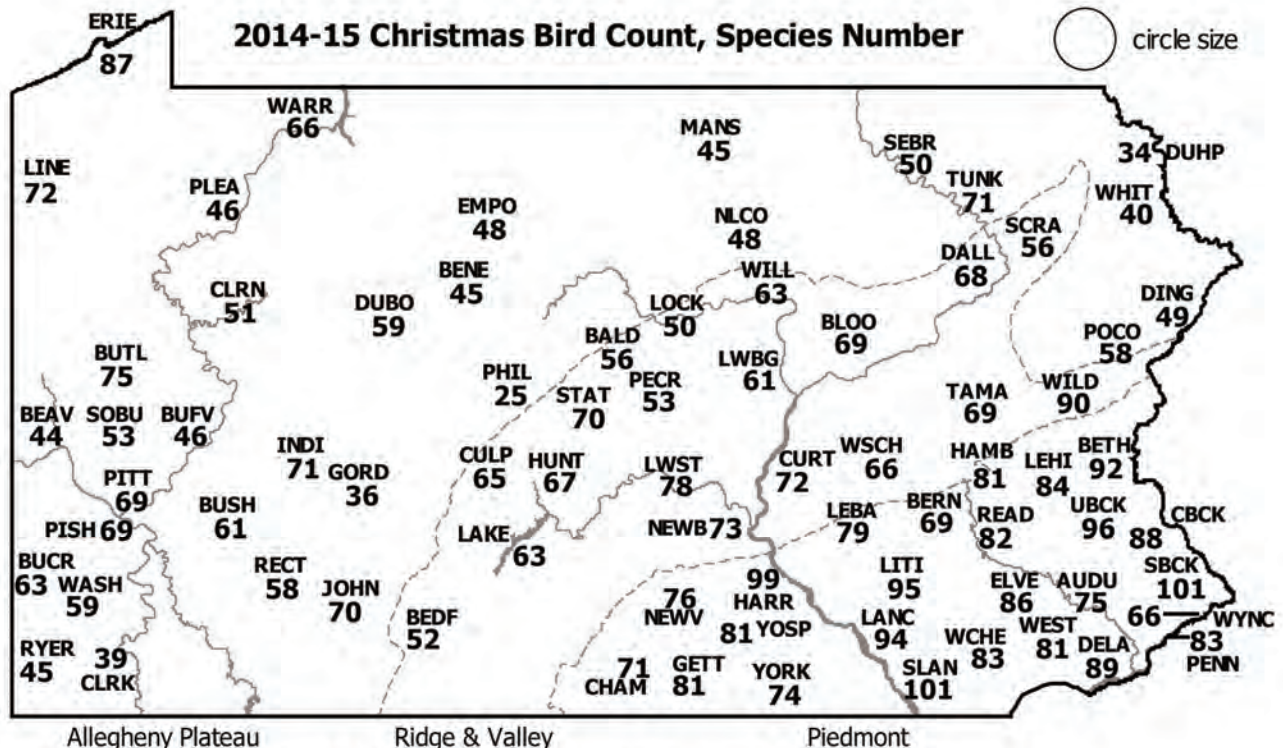


Figure 1. Pennsylvania CBC sites and species numbers.

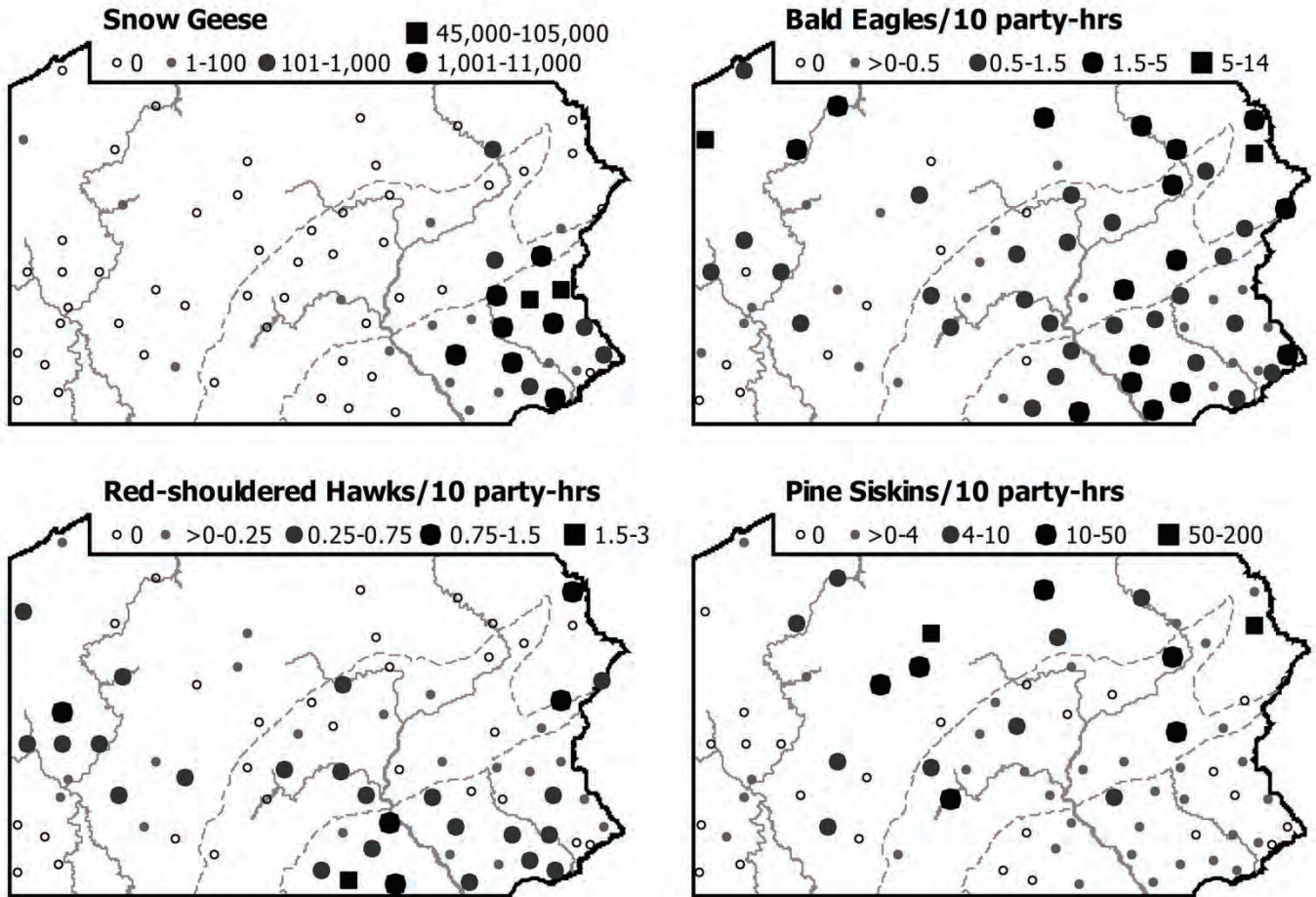


Figure 2. Individual species maps.

Site Abbreviations

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

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BENE	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Gr. White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	55	-	-	-	-	76	45853	2	-	-	-	-	814	-	2	-	-	-	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barnacle Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	1	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	cw
Canada Goose	7948	268	256	164	-	1383	8117	1182	246	177	336	394	11918	1678	890	278	137	48	894
Mute Swan	4	-	-	-	-	11	9	-	4	-	4	-	16	-	-	-	-	4	-
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	3	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	23	11	-	2	-	-	-	-	cw
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
American Black Duck	19	11	-	6	-	7	41	21	2	-	35	2	29	8	-	-	1	6	46
Mallard	403	201	43	92	-	183	464	220	134	38	446	76	420	906	140	62	98	209	255
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	1	-	-	-	4
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	58	-	-	-	-	55	3	-	-	-	-	-	52
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	40	-	-	-	-	-	19	2	-	-	-	38	11	-	-	-	4	11	29
Common Goldeneye	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	5	-
Hooded Merganser	28	5	-	-	-	-	10	5	3	-	24	18	2	-	6	8	1	73	-
Common Merganser	43	153	11	6	-	-	88	237	2	11	221	14	161	-	-	-	9	87	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	1	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	10	-	-	-	-	38	-	-	-	-	75	1	-	-	-	3	-	106
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	4	-	2	1	3	12	-	2	2	1	-	18	-	11	12	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	4	-	4	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	2	3	1
Wild Turkey	-	5	16	cw	12	5	18	125	127	6	134	143	1	75	30	2	5	24	31
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	3	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	cw	-	9	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	24	4	-	1	-	10	15	6	3	1	6	2	20	17	1	1	5	10	6
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-cr. Night-Heron2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	190	-	-	33	-	169	86	-	-	-	-	-	53	-	-	-	-	17	cw
Turkey Vulture	62	-	-	2	-	-	135	-	11	-	-	-	142	2	-	-	-	29	-
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	6	2	2	1	5	7	5	7	1	3	7	6	7	4	1	-	4	1	11
Northern Harrier	5	-	-	-	1	-	1	13	-	-	-	5	2	4	8	1	4	4	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	2	-	-	-	4	10	1	3	-	4	3	8	13	1	-	2	5	2
Cooper's Hawk	11	3	2	-	1	8	10	3	3	1	-	8	7	13	6	3	2	10	5
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	3	5	3	4	3	-	-	4	-
Red-tailed Hawk	88	16	17	14	13	84	98	49	63	17	30	39	89	93	49	9	38	47	24
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	-

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BENE	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	31	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	134	1	-	-	-	24	-	75
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	14	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	cw	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	303	67	69	6	-	1324	8732	7	-	-	1	356	1186	-	-	-	-	-	4
Herring Gull	2	1	9	-	-	40	204	37	-	2	-	5	143	-	-	-	-	1	9
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	-	-	-	-	1	53	-	-	-	-	-	320	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	310	399	415	145	-	534	719	37	159	164	319	107	379	1269	456	375	239	385	565
Mourning Dove	791	335	258	126	128	577	696	633	581	41	924	248	493	1477	254	119	172	321	180
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	35	9	-	1	1	9	1	6	4	2	1	5	37	-	-	-	-	7	11
Great Horned Owl	7	1	-	-	-	10	7	14	4	8	-	2	10	9	2	-	4	3	18
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	3	-	2
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	cw
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	21	5	5	2	2	12	19	9	15	-	8	4	18	13	-	2	4	2	3
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	1	-	-	cw	-	2	-	-	3	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	172	29	21	20	16	85	135	53	221	27	62	46	109	184	33	13	35	52	39
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	17	3	-	-	-	6	24	2	6	-	1	-	21	10	-	2	2	3	-
Downy Woodpecker	241	51	48	31	37	69	190	86	161	33	65	74	154	216	60	9	35	51	56
Hairy Woodpecker	44	14	12	5	21	13	34	17	55	5	21	27	40	31	22	1	13	13	22
Yellow-shafted Flicker	153	15	9	5	1	36	62	8	79	5	16	5	100	70	2	5	10	23	22
Pileated Woodpecker	9	8	10	10	17	2	14	21	42	11	21	18	18	20	17	6	15	7	10
American Kestrel	3	2	5	8	2	17	3	50	20	7	10	8	8	26	6	10	13	19	1
Merlin	3	-	2	-	-	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	1
Peregrine Falcon	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	154	110	115	137	435	80	147	324	410	68	186	263	95	579	288	77	228	102	187
American Crow	688	269	218	125	136	206	5002	499	661	121	556	174	471	185	596	114	134	430	314
Fish Crow	22	-	-	-	-	-	48	4	-	-	-	-	42	-	-	-	-	3	cw
Common Raven	2	4	-	3	47	-	2	2	3	-	2	1	2	12	6	1	22	-	11
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	-	44	77	15	90	-	-	120	103	377	100	-	40	135	1
N. Rough-winged Swallow	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	507	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	571	-	54	-	305	-	-	-	-	8	-
Black-capped Chickadee	-	175	67	83	287	9	351	221	-	86	52	215	7	-	310	-	84	119	220
chickadee sp.	1	-	69	-	-	132	-	-	-	6	103	-	57	291	-	38	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	375	92	93	49	44	91	295	165	388	55	105	113	304	189	78	13	70	15	131
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	2	-	2	3	1	5	2	1	-	1	1	1	5	11	-	-	1	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	245	67	50	37	99	79	198	117	298	35	72	82	162	196	88	13	66	52	107
Brown Creeper	22	1	3	-	18	7	8	5	10	2	7	11	16	15	4	-	2	4	3
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Winter Wren	17	2	-	1	-	2	8	-	2	-	-	-	6	7	-	-	7	5	3
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BENE	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Carolina Wren	189	19	8	5	11	72	116	50	190	15	32	16	152	113	6	16	16	37	31
Golden-crowned Kinglet	23	8	2	1	30	5	7	2	27	6	20	4	11	27	3	-	15	6	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	4	3
Eastern Bluebird	246	88	27	52	20	161	110	204	246	34	92	46	148	139	47	46	38	153	97
Hermit Thrush	6	-	-	-	-	6	8	5	4	-	-	-	14	7	-	-	3	4	-
American Robin	2265	11	20	24	4	59	437	73	96	12	4	34	530	192	2	26	54	9	14
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	1	-
Northern Mockingbird	38	15	14	18	1	48	42	55	44	2	31	3	60	143	5	8	6	31	4
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	2370	898	573	664	25	4164	2700	2340	2258	214	735	871	5082	7413	824	597	962	2465	581
American Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	7	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	-	101	6	-	1	15	87	22	184	7	28	145	13	25	-	-	12	1	4
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-
Black-and-white Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	21	-	-	-	-	2	8	1	6	-	10	-	15	16	-	2	3	1	cw
Eastern Towhee	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	34	-	5	-	2	4	-	-	3	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	20	105	9	20	64	31	27	105	49	9	10	104	10	14	41	-	43	21	193
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	45	-	1	-	1	4	5	2	9	-	1	-	23	8	-	4	2	2	2
Lark Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	18	-	-	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	1
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	2	-	cw	1	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	438	21	48	4	15	174	122	109	285	32	74	36	205	211	1	5	12	55	101
Swamp Sparrow	5	3	1	1	-	9	1	-	10	1	4	2	8	1	-	1	4	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	961	119	1	2	6	524	740	181	218	60	31	24	476	663	15	2	133	157	98
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	72	27	1	93	3	17	-	3	116	-	-	16	25	-
Slate-colored Junco	1286	260	125	89	341	328	906	876	243	154	235	314	777	1648	292	32	406	433	461
Northern Cardinal	430	63	159	47	55	143	233	189	461	81	147	184	253	601	60	72	77	118	116
Pheucticus sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indigo Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	55	-	-	-	-	9	182	20	-	1	-	-	52	21	-	-	-	-	14
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	11	-	-	-	-	7	4	1	-	-	cw	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	20	-	-	-	-	108	34	-	3	80	700	1	5	15	-	2	51	500	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	12	-	22	5	-	-	19	-	-	-	4	-	17	4	-	8	7	-
House Finch	193	61	62	58	5	185	269	83	169	11	55	49	208	449	34	16	55	95	215
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	8	6	-	10	86	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	cw	16	-	60	2	61
American Goldfinch	286	173	159	67	156	82	237	189	281	67	86	152	159	702	95	16	107	136	196
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	142	45	447	287	69	304	276	352	647	58	161	151	181	1395	196	171	228	142	164
Individuals	22227	4360	3498	2549	2236	11903	78776	9101	9963	1781	6374	5096	26810	21994	5143	2172	3866	6630	6001
Species	75	56	44	52	45	69	92	69	63	46	61	75	88	71	51	39	65	72	68
Party Hours	153.8	44.75	30.33	36.5	47.75	90.5	103	100.75	126.75	29	47	62	153	146	79.1	18.5	63.5	70.75	56.5

	DELA	DING	DUBO	DUHP	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	GORD	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	
Gr. White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	1059	-	-	-	4596	-	-	-	-	4820	1	-	-	3	-	38	1	105301	-	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barnacle Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	3	-	-
Canada Goose	5476	91	765	44	4246	-	821	774	9	3382	3237	142	284	1276	45	4471	2316	16942	835	-
Mute Swan	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	15	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	4	1	4	-	-
Tundra Swan	80	-	-	-	9	-	49	3	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	50	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Gadwall	78	-	8	-	6	-	29	7	-	76	147	-	-	20	-	34	9	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	-	-
American Black Duck	117	7	7	-	210	-	60	3	-	41	119	-	32	33	-	24	9	61	3	3
Mallard	604	60	444	1	411	-	331	165	41	373	792	73	169	971	47	830	139	680	254	-
Northern Shoveler	314	-	-	-	9	-	-	1	-	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	-	-	35	-	1	-	15	-	-
Green-winged Teal	37	-	-	-	10	-	-	5	-	-	33	-	-	3	-	15	-	25	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	206	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	99	-	3	12	-	4	8	-	10	-	1	-	-	53	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	2	-	-	-	233	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	1	-	1	-	781	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	13	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	11	1	20	-	16	-	89	1	-	-	47	-	18	27	5	1	-	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	1	-	35	-	3	4	3	-	-	1	-	65	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	45	4	21	-	31	-	89	9	-	-	56	5	16	94	41	5	-	3	-	-
Common Merganser	91	9	-	-	111	-	59	3	-	2	45	-	15	11	27	24	2	26	39	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	345	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	10	-	-	-	119	-	83	-	-	-	2	-	6	19	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	3	-	-	13	-	-	-	5	7	-	-	3	7	-	-	1	1	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	1	1	-	6	-	-	1	4	2	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Wild Turkey	5	20	80	91	67	88	57	-	5	87	13	1	116	66	3	11	78	50	-	-
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	1	-	3	-	5	-	8	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Horned Grebe	-	-	2	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	90	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	31	2	-	-	24	-	16	6	-	20	49	-	2	-	4	18	16	35	14	-
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-cr. Night-Heron2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	120	-	-	-	40	-	-	62	-	94	59	5	-	-	-	184	20	71	61	-
Turkey Vulture	84	2	-	-	143	-	-	153	-	118	117	1	4	-	-	368	38	57	-	-
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	12	6	2	3	9	-	5	6	-	9	8	3	1	2	3	17	8	2	10	-
Northern Harrier	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	17	-	1	1	9	2	-	3	1	6	4	3	3	-	1	4	3	11	4	-
Cooper's Hawk	20	-	-	1	8	2	7	5	1	14	13	2	4	3	2	13	7	13	9	-
Northern Goshawk	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	13	1	-	1	5	1	1	16	1	3	16	3	2	-	1	3	1	1	1	-
Red-tailed Hawk	70	13	23	5	75	16	26	54	7	116	48	29	48	14	30	59	82	136	64	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	DELA	DING	DUBO	DUHP	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	GORD	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG
Carolina Wren	182	11	8	4	88	11	2	53	-	158	178	28	28	3	35	159	54	112	66
Golden-crowned Kinglet	33	16	6	4	8	3	11	7	-	106	38	54	23	-	17	49	11	8	8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	36	17	1	-	-	2	8	3	6	1
Eastern Bluebird	129	36	13	17	340	34	-	100	10	403	289	145	115	6	120	161	184	95	115
Hermit Thrush	12	2	-	cw	31	3	-	7	-	11	23	11	-	-	4	5	12	19	4
American Robin	3135	6	1	-	25	-	38	84	3	171	292	33	21	2	256	263	10	155	12
Gray Catbird	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	1	2	2	cw	-	1	-	-	3	-
Northern Mockingbird	55	-	-	-	66	-	1	70	-	91	48	7	22	1	7	40	45	72	42
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
European Starling	2223	40	466	248	1448	239	3613	2260	52	6522	3429	1604	679	1452	942	4437	1837	10915	3465
American Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	2	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	17	44	-	cw	71	72	-	17	-	378	182	379	9	50	163	159	317	2	24
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	cw	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Black-and-white Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	6	-	-	-	5	-	27	16	-	23	18	14	1	-	2	5	1	4	1
Eastern Towhee	24	-	-	-	13	-	3	5	-	1	12	1	3	-	3	10	1	7	-
American Tree Sparrow	35	34	32	18	28	39	153	12	-	83	32	146	37	101	122	42	228	28	35
Chipping Sparrow	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	33	1	-	cw	26	3	-	19	-	9	2	3	2	1	1	22	16	10	7
Lark Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
Fox Sparrow	11	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	2	-	-	cw	-	1	-	-	1
Song Sparrow	645	13	9	5	300	19	9	140	4	337	343	57	67	-	44	309	141	347	69
Swamp Sparrow	30	-	7	-	11	1	1	12	-	7	8	3	7	2	2	7	8	17	1
White-throated Sparrow	1265	107	14	26	898	56	13	454	-	1200	651	194	50	16	161	1167	575	1795	293
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	57	-	21	17	9	6	-	31	31	40	81	17
Slate-colored Junco	1556	452	448	96	850	492	24	868	32	2466	994	694	421	302	484	663	1127	2105	390
Northern Cardinal	482	83	61	12	297	55	59	199	19	446	483	82	192	60	112	417	158	506	160
Pheucticus sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indigo Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	398	-	-	-	75	3	-	1000	-	31	7	-	2	-	126	-	-	120	-
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	43	-	-	-	13	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	16	-	-	-	18	-	-	302	-	10	19	-	3	-	-	30	2	12	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	-	-	-	6	2	3	100	-	116	2	1	7	8	-	3	-	128	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	4	-	1	-	22	11	-	1	34	24	4	7	8	2	5	1	-	3	11
House Finch	240	2	199	-	161	26	38	154	2	563	245	53	228	51	16	223	180	669	182
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pine Siskin	14	-	78	1	-	390	3	-	-	14	31	26	85	-	146	3	53	-	-
American Goldfinch	317	32	163	20	115	251	7	112	21	475	430	302	158	49	188	343	215	315	115
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	529	17	109	68	223	96	158	79	14	716	377	126	409	261	83	262	187	661	346
Individuals	24350	1714	4773	1213	26931	3600	30022	9275	532	30517	20767	6856	5690	6834	4524	69198	14433	149322	9212
Species	89	49	59	34	86	48	87	81	32	81	99	67	71	70	63	94	79	84	61
Party Hours	173.5	34.5	62.25	9.75	85	55	41.5	75.3	16.75	144.4	123.5	71	108.75	59.5	45	112.2	81.75	112.5	94.75

	LWST	LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PECR	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA
Golden Eagle	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	837	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	21	-	-	-
Sandhill Crane	-	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	cw	-	3	-	-	-	8	-	-	14	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	4	-	2	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	1159	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	-	2427	445	1	1500	15	10	12	-	585	-	5	212	-	39	908	-	-	3332
Herring Gull	-	13	24	-	2	-	1	1	-	119	-	3	19	-	-	119	-	-	7
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	1719	58	926	384	291	345	600	128	334	710	108	89	710	79	51	1161	25	13	632
Mourning Dove	697	87	782	71	95	356	543	48	45	395	49	513	826	50	87	871	60	165	139
Barn Owl	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	52	-	5	-	-	12	2	-	6	10	-	16	24	3	6	11	5	-	1
Great Horned Owl	37	-	9	-	1	12	6	-	5	4	2	1	11	-	1	7	-	-	-
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	-	-	1	-
Long-eared Owl	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	19	6	22	2	-	12	16	1	4	5	-	6	9	6	9	12	4	5	-
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	190	48	134	12	13	103	114	13	35	48	-	124	284	20	38	113	40	53	11
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	23	-	10	1	-	19	11	-	2	2	-	3	7	-	4	23	2	2	-
Downy Woodpecker	227	81	138	79	40	148	111	21	74	107	4	229	287	56	82	141	49	42	40
Hairy Woodpecker	52	16	23	9	13	28	12	6	7	19	-	41	61	24	24	25	18	8	17
Yellow-shafted Flicker	122	14	116	5	-	67	78	8	4	20	-	76	59	-	20	54	3	21	-
Pileated Woodpecker	37	9	13	1	4	37	5	4	14	cw	1	26	38	6	12	8	16	16	7
American Kestrel	23	2	15	4	2	13	24	2	7	-	24	5	1	-	-	10	2	8	2
Merlin	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	cw	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	496	206	254	108	143	242	226	181	196	35	12	418	772	150	239	145	123	150	211
American Crow	442	124	1022	223	307	738	139	292	269	49	24	686	21371	119	248	410	190	192	5509
Fish Crow	-	-	79	-	-	1	-	-	-	19	-	-	1	-	-	10	-	-	1
Common Raven	27	-	1	1	11	13	3	30	8	3	-	4	2	14	1	2	3	4	1
Horned Lark	77	-	253	-	15	102	166	75	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	72	-	-	-
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	8	-	62	-	-	45	99	-	-	166	-	352	131	-	-	184	7	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee	270	301	95	131	218	146	44	102	174	-	11	7	214	436	321	-	233	-	342
chickadee sp.	-	-	216	-	-	119	42	-	-	-	-	307	461	-	-	248	-	113	-
Tufted Titmouse	465	79	243	114	45	372	123	121	121	70	3	341	680	131	275	258	122	89	68
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	7	2	2	1	6	1	2	8	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	5	-	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	242	88	170	36	32	200	113	46	88	103	6	153	258	129	145	178	86	85	75
Brown Creeper	65	16	19	2	-	20	51	3	3	15	-	5	11	7	5	13	5	1	1
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	22	3	15	1	-	13	15	-	2	24	-	-	9	4	3	9	1	-	-
Marsh Wren	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Species	LWST	LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PECR	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA
Carolina Wren	150	2	138	15	5	154	137	10	12	76	2	119	295	31	35	83	17	7	11
Golden-crowned Kinglet	83	39	17	3	2	44	22	4	34	13	-	29	35	12	4	32	33	4	10
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	-	2	-	-	5	15	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	9	-	-	1
Eastern Bluebird	413	49	186	18	49	320	153	109	87	13	2	102	120	15	145	178	59	70	4
Hermit Thrush	36	-	9	1	-	16	13	-	3	3	-	2	-	1	14	16	-	-	1
American Robin	50	-	161	29	1	406	267	15	3	247	-	577	1707	7	8	87	-	14	11
Gray Catbird	1	-	2	-	1	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	67	-	61	3	2	82	67	4	12	27	-	32	127	-	8	40	2	1	6
Brown Thrasher	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	3219	315	4483	1557	530	1513	4020	516	660	922	90	1229	3386	216	802	2953	796	261	364
American Pipit	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	61	-	261	8	28	52	220	102	28	1	-	32	130	10	155	81	-	-	102
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-and-white Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	1	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	16	2	2	1	-	10	47	-	-	15	-	3	3	-	3	2	1	1	-
Eastern Towhee	3	-	28	-	-	5	1	-	-	5	-	5	5	1	-	1	5	8	-
American Tree Sparrow	97	222	204	25	130	51	79	36	53	46	10	26	11	46	19	10	42	3	26
Chipping Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	9	-	30	-	-	33	13	-	1	18	-	40	-	-	-	11	1	3	1
Lark Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	29	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	-	4	6	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
Song Sparrow	261	18	467	11	4	203	246	9	33	140	-	180	398	10	24	190	36	60	18
Swamp Sparrow	1	5	26	-	-	-	27	1	-	8	-	5	2	-	1	7	-	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	571	4	888	97	4	979	969	24	95	536	-	65	223	23	66	771	18	36	60
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	112	1	20	3	-	43	129	-	1	-	-	73	-	-	2	8	8	1	-
Slate-colored Junco	910	112	1075	283	382	1223	675	198	318	439	22	391	610	366	576	808	149	101	388
Northern Cardinal	572	171	352	113	32	369	323	68	76	141	6	516	598	113	111	220	76	74	81
Pheucticus sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indigo Bunting	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	1	-	68	-	-	10	1	-	-	35	-	15	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	1	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	-	-	1	20	-	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	-	52	-	53	20	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	-	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	6	9	1	-	5	20	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	5	-	2
House Finch	345	34	268	109	92	173	253	31	85	75	17	217	316	2	49	378	30	49	151
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	-	3	-	61	18	-	38	11	-	-	2	3	32	-	9	36	-	9
Pine Siskin	18	-	329	173	187	243	188	384	329	99	6	187	597	111	180	284	60	73	188
American Goldfinch	556	82	329	173	187	243	188	384	329	99	6	187	597	111	180	284	60	73	188
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	530	329	551	151	116	294	459	42	100	290	13	274	646	138	149	350	75	103	536
Individuals	14729	15759	25299	4910	5148	10182	12228	2949	3872	7551	460	8892	37526	2721	4847	22797	2882	2244	13088
Species	78	72	95	50	45	73	76	58	53	83	25	69	69	46	58	82	58	45	56
Party Hours	107.5	46.5	119.35	30.75	46	74	94.5	45.75	24.25	60	7	217	251.5	76.25	70.9	102	40.5	36	59.45

	SBCK	SLAN	SEBR	SBUT	STAT	TAMA	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK	YOSP
Gr. White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	248	100	-	-	-	350	612	6829	-	-	60	149	-	11255	-	-	2	-	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Barnacle Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	12442	5173	1316	495	265	337	1362	10957	1010	151	6314	8012	188	2864	896	74	2806	1717	1288
Mute Swan	36	-	-	-	-	6	1	3	2	-	-	11	-	2	-	2	2	1	1
Tundra Swan	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	21	-	6	-	-	-	2	-	10
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	9	4	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Gadwall	160	97	-	-	9	-	-	123	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	13	41
American Wigeon	40	6	-	-	4	-	3	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
American Black Duck	28	241	49	-	19	16	61	88	19	5	149	38	-	25	17	18	15	20	10
Mallard	651	384	71	68	389	240	141	616	645	117	512	392	240	516	319	121	364	171	574
Northern Shoveler	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	49	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	1	2	-	-	2	2	8	18	1	-	6	1	-	2	-	-	-	8	-
Green-winged Teal	7	14	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	5	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	499	10	-	-	-	-	2	49	1	-	44	106	-	3	4	-	4	31	-
Greater Scaup	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	49	8	-	-	-	-	2	1	74	-	4	19	24	13	57	-	-	5	5
Common Goldeneye	34	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	5
Hooded Merganser	59	28	-	-	-	10	49	49	29	-	7	9	37	57	10	1	6	53	14
Common Merganser	329	460	59	-	-	152	73	227	227	-	52	53	2	68	2	4	4	24	427
Red-breasted Merganser	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	61	2	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	2	2	21	-	4	1	2	-	-	50
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	15	-	-	9	4	5	2	9	1	2	-	-	4	1	2	-	3	7
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	3	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	3	68	8	142	20	13	125	2	65	19	-	-	48	22	8	1	-	25	50
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Common Loon	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	8	-	3	-	3	-	-	50
Pied-billed Grebe	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	1	-	-	-	1	5	-	1	16	-
Horned Grebe	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	48	46	1	1	19	1	2	20	3	-	24	19	-	2	5	3	9	8	20
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-cr. Night-Heron2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	9	130	-	-	-	7	-	58	-	-	179	131	-	11	-	1	3	9	83
Turkey Vulture	53	124	-	-	-	-	-	233	-	-	72	170	-	6	-	1	9	79	172
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	39	73	8	-	2	11	27	9	21	-	18	3	15	10	7	19	1	11	7
Northern Harrier	2	3	1	-	6	1	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	2	4	-	-	-	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9	8	3	-	2	3	3	12	1	2	3	7	-	4	-	1	4	4	4
Cooper's Hawk	7	10	1	4	9	6	2	12	6	4	6	13	3	7	2	5	5	6	6
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	9	-	3	2	-	-	4	-	-	2	7	-	2	-	1	-	6	6
Red-tailed Hawk	76	82	67	22	52	35	36	107	17	8	50	81	1	48	31	32	28	25	134
Rough-legged Hawk	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

	SBCK	SLAN	SEBR	SBUT	STAT	TAMA	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK	YOSP
Carolina Wren	133	198	25	20	50	19	42	148	18	24	102	129	2	44	18	50	73	62	98
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16	41	1	1	8	25	2	23	13	10	12	18	2	41	16	26	7	9	13
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	10	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	2	1	-	3	-	-	8	6	12
Eastern Bluebird	47	205	216	11	159	127	132	305	11	17	128	257	39	161	131	87	14	128	253
Hermit Thrush	4	34	2	-	7	10	6	8	1	1	1	13	1	25	2	5	2	15	16
American Robin	404	18	14	72	31	11	12	152	7	61	42	677	-	10	90	2	841	18	228
Gray Catbird	5	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	47	72	-	9	22	36	5	65	-	7	70	53	-	36	9	24	17	46	105
Brown Thrasher	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	16868	2638	619	413	2097	1177	691	4468	986	366	3194	2150	798	648	3048	923	2013	1384	5378
American Pipit	-	128	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	2	182	12	155	112	114	-	117	-	46	15	32	-	250	33	122	2	54	68
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	3	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
Black-and-white Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	37	8	-	-	-	-	-	61	1	-	6	11	-	5	cw	-	2	25	31
Eastern Towhee	7	40	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	25	8	-	1	-	-	-	13	2
American Tree Sparrow	38	11	49	12	42	109	104	73	26	7	16	49	48	146	115	82	-	14	25
Chipping Sparrow	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Field Sparrow	12	21	2	-	2	cw	1	18	-	8	31	6	-	3	1	5	5	-	10
Lark Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	20	4	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	6	-	1	-	-	-	3	-
Fox Sparrow	9	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Song Sparrow	353	667	14	28	47	101	37	218	8	40	299	301	4	123	20	154	151	141	286
Swamp Sparrow	59	28	-	-	5	2	3	12	-	2	15	19	-	1	-	6	6	11	14
White-throated Sparrow	1643	1665	44	13	349	306	97	467	24	14	663	666	-	346	121	413	766	667	767
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	1	45	-	-	17	7	-	12	-	-	52	6	-	5	4	4	1	4	32
Slate-colored Junco	835	1081	236	197	521	1453	517	1102	517	84	1082	1026	175	1455	321	606	761	534	871
Northern Cardinal	456	432	123	167	170	159	176	268	129	73	240	335	14	191	84	145	192	179	312
Pheucticus sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indigo Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	172	7840	15	-	8	4	-	305	-	4	679	127	-	25	-	-	25	4	89
Eastern Meadowlark	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	26	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	9	2536	-	-	2	-	-	23	-	-	1380	40041	-	-	-	1	-	501	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	30	182	-	-	-	2	cw	382	1	-	343	-	-	2	-	40	2	15	275
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Purple Finch	7	26	-	-	3	7	1	5	-	6	-	-	-	4	11	19	-	4	15
House Finch	156	195	170	78	147	114	86	313	132	70	143	263	24	199	65	46	186	92	154
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	5	22	-	3	68	12	-	72	2	6	19	214	6	8	11	30	2	4
American Goldfinch	185	324	107	104	161	149	122	187	287	61	120	200	70	185	209	195	175	132	149
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	238	399	119	189	268	263	148	349	184	146	340	57	43	82	93	110	380	66	295
Individuals	96482	82776	5081	3289	10123	7688	7517	34843	6819	2320	19867	58267	2755	21947	8284	5337	10698	8414	17322
Species	101	101	50	43	70	69	71	96	66	59	83	81	40	90	63	66	66	74	80
Party Hours	133.75	147	47	56.5	101.2	58.42	64.25	144	109.75	22.7	107	110.49	11	100	54	45.5	79.25	64.5	87.25

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT
Gr. White-fronted Goose	1	1	1	CBCK
Snow Goose	189414	28	106301	LEHI
Ross's Goose	8	5	2	**1**
Barnacle Goose	2	1	2	WILD
Cackling Goose	44	14	8	CBCK
Canada Goose	161122	74	16942	LEHI
Mute Swan	173	31	36	SBCK
Tundra Swan	914	17	599	LITI
Wood Duck	46	14	11	PENN
Gadwall	1066	26	160	SBCK
American Wigeon	184	14	84	YOSP
American Black Duck	2435	59	305	LITI
Mallard	24459	74	1708	LINE
Northern Shoveler	491	11	314	DELA
Northern Pintail	266	24	82	READ
Green-winged Teal	201	21	37	DELA
Canvasback	33	7	12	ERIE
Redhead	287	11	206	ERIE
Ring-necked Duck	1154	28	499	SBCK
Greater Scaup	244	4	233	ERIE
Lesser Scaup	838	15	781	ERIE
Surf Scoter	21	3	13	DUBO
White-winged Scoter	102	2	97	ERIE
Black Scoter	6	2	5	ERIE
Long-tailed Duck	16	7	5	ERIE
Bufflehead	743	35	89	ERIE
Common Goldeneye	183	18	65	LANC
Hooded Merganser	1204	50	94	JOHN
Common Merganser	4878	55	494	LINE
Red-breasted Merganser	409	13	345	ERIE
Ruddy Duck	820	26	119	ELVE
Ring-necked Pheasant	196	38	18	CLRN
Ruffed Grouse	94	31	13	PLEA
Wild Turkey	2964	64	241	PISH
Red-throated Loon	5	1	5	ERIE
Common Loon	54	16	16	ERIE
Pied-billed Grebe	97	32	16	YORK
Horned Grebe	55	15	14	JOHN
Red-necked Grebe	4	3	2	UBCK
Eared Grebe	1	1	1	ERIE
Double-cr. Cormorant	175	11	90	DELA
Great Cormorant	43	3	24	SBCK
Great Blue Heron	782	62	49	HARR
Great Egret	2	2	1	HARR,LINE
Black-cr. Night-Heron	1	1	1	ERIE
Black Vulture	2323	35	227	READ
Turkey Vulture	2817	36	368	LANC
Osprey	1	1	1	PENN
Bald Eagle	610	66	73	SLAN
Northern Harrier	109	40	13	BLOO
Sharp-shinned Hawk	242	57	17	DELA
Cooper's Hawk	421	71	20	DELA
Northern Goshawk	5	5	1	**2**
Red-shouldered Hawk	171	48	16	GETT,HARR
Red-tailed Hawk	3485	76	136	LEHI
Rough-legged Hawk	17	13	3	PECR

High Count notations: **1** LITI,PITT,WILD **2** DELA,GORD,STAT,UBCK,WILD ***3** BLOO,CLRN,LEHI,LITI,TAMA **4** CBCK,CURT,SBCK

SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT
Golden Eagle	8	5	4	HAMB
Virginia Rail	2	1	2	PENN
American Coot	2806	26	980	ERIE
Sandhill Crane	77	3	75	LINE
Killdeer	114	24	14	CHAM,PENN
Greater Yellowlegs	1	1	1	DELA
Wilson's Snipe	56	16	12	SLAN
American Woodcock	2	2	1	LITI,WEST
Bonaparte's Gull	1609	6	1159	LINE
Ring-billed Gull	79573	55	19368	SLAN
Herring Gull	52809	41	45723	SBCK
Iceland Gull	20	5	14	SBCK
Lesser Black-backed Gull	847	10	320	CBCK
Glaucous Gull	3	2	2	SBCK
Great Black-backed Gull	2241	13	1500	SBCK
Forster's Tern	1	1	1	BEDF
Rock Pigeon	30961	75	1719	LWST
Mourning Dove	28881	76	2053	LEHI
Barn Owl	4	2	3	LWST
Eastern Screech-Owl	809	62	163	UBCK
Great Horned Owl	401	56	37	LWST
Snowy Owl	2	1	2	ERIE
Barred Owl	65	33	6	BENE
Long-eared Owl	10	6	3	LITI
Short-eared Owl	5	5	1	**3**
Northern Saw-whet Owl	34	21	7	SLAN
Rufous Hummingbird	1	1	1	PITT
Belted Kingfisher	580	68	28	SLAN
Red-headed Woodpecker	52	16	10	GETT
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5472	75	284	PITT
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	473	54	24	BETH
Downy Woodpecker	7305	76	287	PITT
Hairy Woodpecker	1680	75	61	PITT
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2787	69	153	AUDU
Pileated Woodpecker	990	74	42	BUCK
American Kestrel	667	68	67	SLAN
Merlin	47	27	4	BETH
Peregrine Falcon	37	24	5	SBCK
Eastern Phoebe	14	13	2	YOSP
Northern Shrike	1	1	1	DELA
Blue Jay	15027	76	772	PITT
American Crow	110992	76	41336	LANC
Fish Crow	3940	28	2271	SBCK
Common Raven	461	62	47	BENE
Horned Lark	5394	37	545	SLAN
N. Rough-winged Swallow	122	2	120	PENN
Carolina Chickadee	6045	32	571	BUCK
Black-capped Chickadee	10199	64	472	WILD
chickadee sp.	4537	29	543	HAMB
Tufted Titmouse	12395	76	680	PITT
Red-breasted Nuthatch	276	51	37	HUNT
White-breasted Nuthatch	8514	76	298	BUCK
Brown Creeper	731	67	65	LWST
House Wren	3	3	1	**4**
Winter Wren	478	54	34	SLAN
Marsh Wren	7	2	4	PISH

High Count notations: **3** BLOO,CLRN,LEHI,LITI,TAMA **4** CBCK,CURT,SBCK

SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT
Carolina Wren	4828	75	295	PITT
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1306	72	106	HAMB
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	219	36	36	HAMB
Eastern Bluebird	8826	75	413	LWST
Hermit Thrush	469	52	36	LWST
American Robin	14653	70	3135	DELA
Gray Catbird	47	26	5	SBCK
Northern Mockingbird	2299	65	143	CHAM
Brown Thrasher	10	6	4	SLAN
European Starling	159298	76	16868	SBCK
American Pipit	584	8	400	READ
Cedar Waxwing	5122	61	379	HUNT
Lapland Longspur	1	1	1	HAMB
Snow Bunting	51	7	33	TUNK
Black-and-white Warbler	2	2	1	HARR,RYER
Common Yellowthroat	3	3	1	**5**
Palm Warbler	7	2	6	PENN
Pine Warbler	3	2	2	AUDU
Myrtle Warbler	501	47	61	UBCK
Eastern Towhee	306	39	40	SLAN
American Tree Sparrow	4182	73	228	LEBA
Chipping Sparrow	36	16	4	**6**
Field Sparrow	547	53	45	AUDU
Lark Sparrow	1	1	1	NEVV
Savannah Sparrow	117	19	29	LITI
Fox Sparrow	59	17	11	DELA
Song Sparrow	10106	74	667	SLAN
Swamp Sparrow	440	53	59	SBCK
White-throated Sparrow	27806	73	1795	LEHI
Harris's Sparrow	1	1	1	BETH
White-crowned Sparrow	1250	47	129	NEVV
Slate-colored Junco	46070	76	2466	HAMB
Northern Cardinal	15229	76	601	CHAM
Pheucticus sp.	2	1	2	WASH
Indigo Bunting	1	1	1	LWST
Red-winged Blackbird	11546	38	7840	SLAN
Eastern Meadowlark	47	7	23	GETT
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	1	1	GETT
Rusty Blackbird	144	11	43	DELA
Brewer's Blackbird	1	1	1	BETH
Common Grackle	44875	30	40041	WEST
Brown-headed Cowbird	3368	41	700	BUSH
Baltimore Oriole	2	2	1	WYNC,YOSP
Purple Finch	396	47	34	GORD
House Finch	10811	75	669	LEHI
White-winged Crossbill	2	1	2	ERIE
Common Redpoll	13	4	6	WARR
Pine Siskin	1823	51	390	EMPO
American Goldfinch	14352	76	702	CHAM
Evening Grosbeak	2	1	2	WASH
House Sparrow	19052	76	1395	CHAM
Individuals	1258156		149322	LEHI
Number of Species	162		101	SBCK,SLAN
Party Hours	6019		251.5	PITT

High Count notations: **5** HARR,LITI,WSCH **6** CHAM,DELA,JOHN,WEST,YORK

The 2015 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania

Greg Grove

The 15th Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) was conducted from 10 January through 22 February 2015 with at least one route in 65 of 67 counties, the first time since 2011 that data was not received from every county. WRS is a roadside survey with simple but specific guidelines. All raptors and vultures are recorded and data are collected on sex, age, and color form. Cumulative results were summarized previously (Grove 2010, Grove and Bolgiano 2012).

Effort and Weather

A total of 218 routes were run, comprising 796 hours and 11,976 miles of observation, the second highest level of effort ever. Lancaster observers logged 35 hours to lead the state (Table 2). A map showing details of most routes is at the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology website <www.pabirds.org>.

As in 2014, the 2015 WRS season was marked by severe winter weather. January was relatively benign, with slightly above average temperatures and mostly minor snow events. The real story was February, which brought unrelenting, intense cold. It was one of the coldest (in some locations, the coldest) Februaries since records began in the late 19th century. This resulted in the retention of significant snow cover over most of the state through the second half of the survey period.

2015 Results

In 2014, counts of many species were well below normal, presumably a result of the severe weather. The trend continued to some degree in 2015, but most species, with the exception of American Kestrels, rebounded to varying degrees (Fig 1). Rough-legged Hawks moved south late with more recorded during February than January. Bald

Eagles once again set a new high. Results for individual counties are in the Appendix.

Red-tailed Hawk. The count of 3013 Red-tailed Hawks topped last year's low count, but was still well below the totals from 2012 and 2013, years in the which the weather was relatively mild. The hourly rate of 3.8 was well below the usual value of about 4.5 per hour and was the fourth lowest ever (Fig 1). This low count was presumably related to weather, with birds either moving south or succumbing to the conditions. The five lowest hourly rates have all occurred during relatively severe winters.

Though in reduced numbers, the distribution of Red-tails was otherwise normal, with highest densities in the southeast, the Susquehanna River valley, and the western border counties (Fig 2). Lancaster led with 201, followed by Laurence at 144 and Indiana at 124 (Table 2). Among counties with at least seven hours of coverage, Adams, Juniata, Laurence, and Lehigh averaged over six Red-tails per hour. Of 2285 Red-tails aged, 218 (10%) were identified as immature, similar to previous results (range: 9-16%).

American Kestrel. The total of 457 American Kestrels was less than last year's 471 and less than two-thirds of the 2012 and 2013 totals. The hourly rate of 0.57 was the second lowest ever, better only than the 0.52 in 2004 (Fig 1). During the WRS era, low annual kestrel numbers are strongly correlated with cold temperatures and deep snow cover (Bolgiano et al., in prep).

As usual, most Kestrels were in the central and lower Susquehanna and Juniata River valleys (Fig 2). Fairly good numbers were also found in counties in the southwest. Lancaster led with 39, followed by Cumberland with 33 (Table 2). Among counties with at least seven

hours of effort, Adams, Bedford, Dauphin, Juniata, and Snyder had at least 1.5 kestrels per hour. Kestrel numbers in the far southeast continued to be extremely low (Table 3) as documented in more detail elsewhere (Bolgiano et al., in prep). Of 387 Kestrels sexed, 233 (60%) were males, consistent with previous results (range: 59-66%).

Table 1. Pennsylvania WRS Species Counts for 2015 and High Counts from 2001-2015.

Species	2015	High Count
Bald Eagle	319	319 (2015)
Northern Harrier	82	133 (2008)
Sh.-shinned Hawk	48	55 (2009)
Cooper's Hawk	123	123 (2015)
N. Goshawk	1	5 (2004)
Red-sh. Hawk	97	101 (2014)
Red-tailed Hawk	3013	3391 (2013)
Rough-leg. Hawk	120	341 (2004)
Golden Eagle	10	10 (2015)
American Kestrel	457	699 (2013)
Merlin	11	11 (2015)
Peregrine Falcon	11	17 (2014)
Black Vulture	1089	1279 (2013)
Turkey Vulture	2236	2804 (2012)
Northern Shrike	1	10 (2012)
Hours	796	804.5 (2014)
Miles	11976	12259 (2014)

Rough-legged Hawk. This year's count of 120 Rough-legged Hawks was slightly higher than the previous three years, as was the hourly rate of 0.15 (Fig 1). These numbers understate the magnitude of the Rough-leg incursion this year. Only 17 Rough-legs were found on Christmas Bird Counts, which are before WRS begins (Bolgiano, in prep.) From reports on PABIRDS, it was evident that many Rough-legs did not arrive in the state until early February, probably related to the onset of the severest weather of the season. This was half way through the WRS period, when many routes had already been run. Routes run in February had, in aggregate, substantially more Rough-legs than those run in January. This phenomenon has been noted in past years (Grove 2010a).

The usual distribution was evident. Most Rough-legs were in counties of the northern tier and northwest corner as well as in the central and upper Susquehanna valley (Fig 2). Twelve were found in Crawford, 11 in Centre, and 10 in Lycoming. All Rough-legs were identified by color morph; 79 (66%) were light (2001-14 range = 60-78%).

Northern Harrier. A total of 82 Northern Harriers were counted, recovering slightly from last year's very low count of 65 (Fig 1). Harriers were widely scattered, with few in northern counties. As usual, the Susquehanna

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

Rank	1	2	3
Hours	Lancaster (35)	Centre (29)	Montgomery (28)
Bald Eagle	Lancaster (82)	Bucks (34)	Berks, Juniata (16)
N. Harrier	N'thumberland (10)	Lawrence (6)	Indiana (6)
Sharp-sh. Hawk	Mifflin (4)	Snyder (4)	-
Cooper's Hawk	Montgomery (9)	Cumberland (9)	Chester, Lancaster (9)
Northern Goshawk	Mifflin (1)	-	-
Red-sh. Hawk	York (13)	Chester (10)	Bucks (7)
Red-tailed Hawk	Lancaster (201)	Lawrence (144)	Indiana (124)
Rough-lg. Hawk	Crawford (12)	Centre (11)	Lycoming (10)
Golden Eagle	Pike (4)	Tioga (2)	-
Am. Kestrel	Lancaster (39)	Cumberland (33)	Mifflin (24)
Merlin	Chester (3)	Berks (2)	Northumberland (2)
Peregrine Falcon	Bucks (3)	Lancaster (2)	-
Turkey Vulture	Lancaster (909)	Chester (338)	Adams (291)
Black Vulture	Lancaster (378)	Chester (235)	Adams (74)

Valley was the best overall region (Fig 2); 10 were found *Northumberland*.

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
2013	100	35	0.36
2014	106	18	0.17
2015	103	23	0.22

Vultures. Turkey Vultures and Black Vultures rebounded from low counts in 2014. The 2236 Turkey Vultures was the third highest ever. The Black Vulture count of 1089 was the second highest and the hourly rate of 1.37 was third highest (Fig 1). As always, most vultures were in the southeast; for the second consecutive year, *Lancaster*, *Chester*, and *Adams* ranked 1-2-3 for both (Fig 2, Table 2).

Despite the good numbers, there was an indication that vultures felt the chill, as they were more highly concentrated than usual in the far southeast. Turkey and Black Vultures were recorded in 23 and 20 counties, respectively, both well below the highs of 31 and 25, respectively, in 2013. Few were found outside of normal haunts—the single Turkey Vulture in *Elk*, the most out-of-place, was found before the onset of intense cold. As an indication of the withdrawal of vultures into the far southeast, Juniata observers recorded neither species, a first for a county that usually has many over-wintering vultures. The single Turkey Vulture in *Fayette* and 3 in *Westmoreland* were not particularly unusual in the sometimes-warmer the southwest.

Bald Eagle. It seems nothing can stop the Bald Eagle's expansion, not even one of the coldest Februaries in recorded history. Their upward surge continued with a record 319 this year, blowing way past last year's total of 234 (Fig 1). *Lancaster* had the most with 82, and in *Bucks*, 34 were found mostly along the

Delaware. Bald Eagles were recorded 48 of 65 surveyed counties, with only the heavily forested and less intensely surveyed north-central region having relatively few (Fig 2). Of the 319 Bald Eagles, 45% (143) were listed as immature.

Red-shouldered Hawk. This species has been increasing on WRS routes and CBCs in recent years (Grove and Bogiano, 2014). Following last year's WRS record high of 101, this was another strong year for Red-shoulders, with 97 counted (Fig 1). Highest numbers were from opposite corners of the state—the southeast and the northwest (Fig 2). The latter area contains the highest breeding numbers of Red-shoulders in the state; based on WRS results, it appears many attempt to winter on or near their nesting territories. The high counts were from *York* with 13 and *Chester* with 10.

Other Raptors. A new high count was established for Cooper's Hawks (123), topping last year by one bird. Sharp-shinned Hawks were about average at 48. The only Northern Goshawk was in *Mifflin*. Ten Golden Eagles provided a new high, highlighted by 4 immatures on the *Pike* route. In a down year, the only Northern Shrike found was in *Northumberland*.

Acknowledgements

I thank Nick Bolgiano for creation of the figures. Thanks go to Frank Haas for generating the map showing WRS routes in each county, which can be viewed at

<www.pabirds.org>. And of course thanks go to the well over 100 birders and companions who gathered the data across the state.

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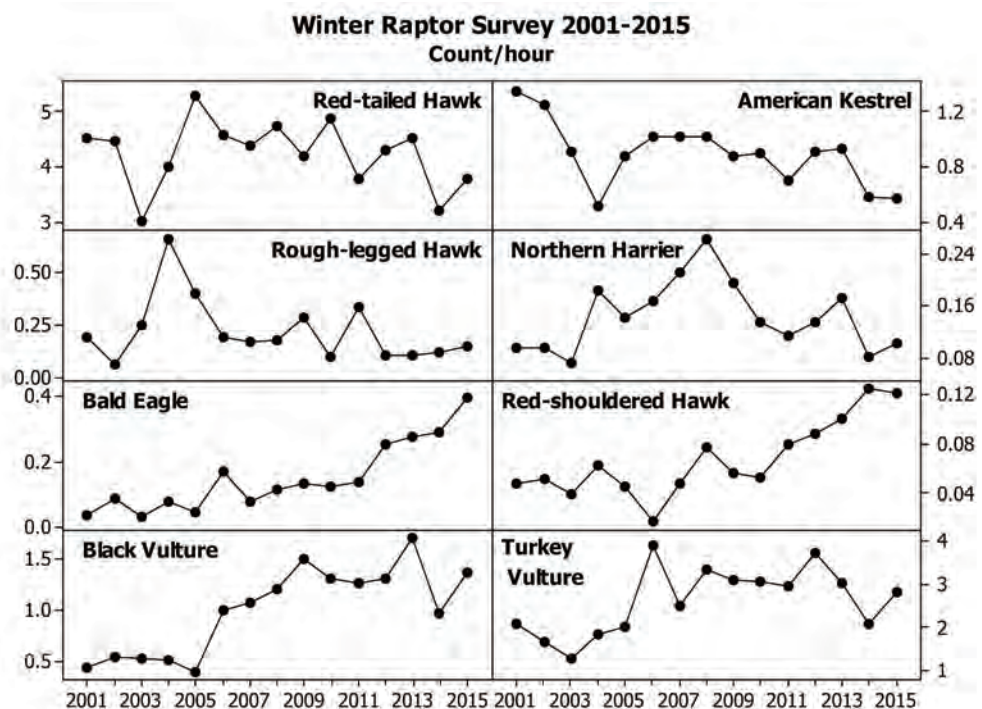


Figure 1. Pennsylvania WRS trends, 2001–2015. Results are expressed in birds/hour.

Winter Raptor Survey 2015

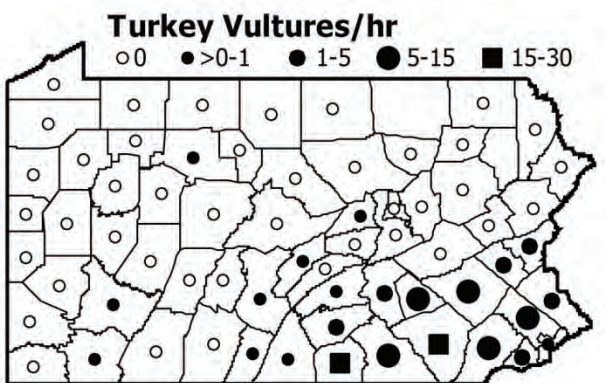
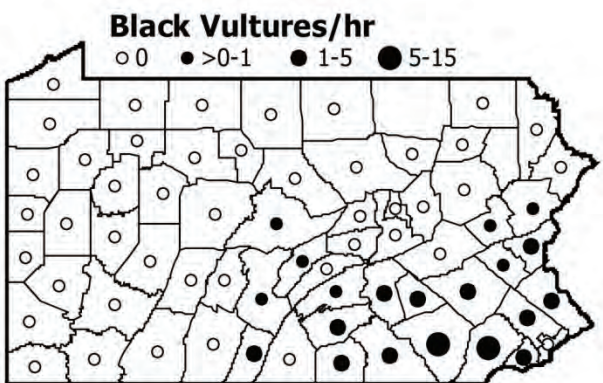
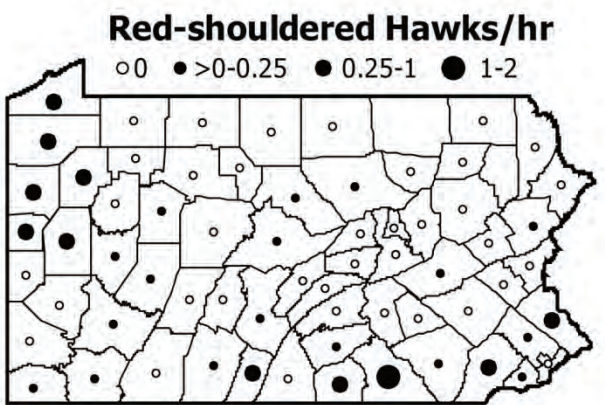
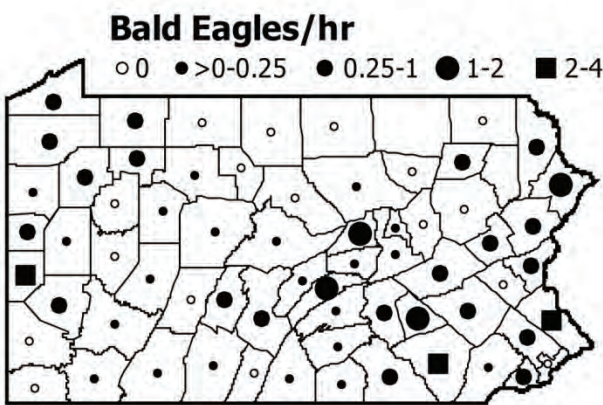
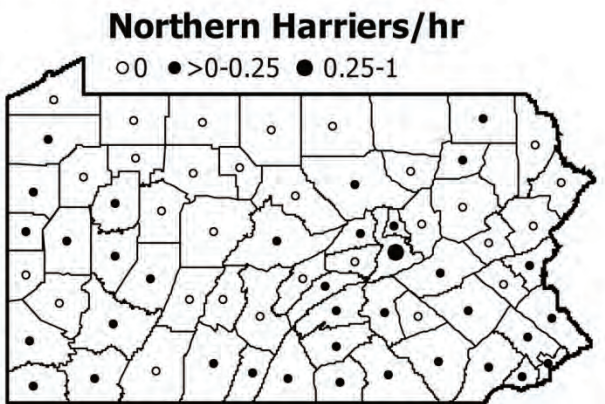
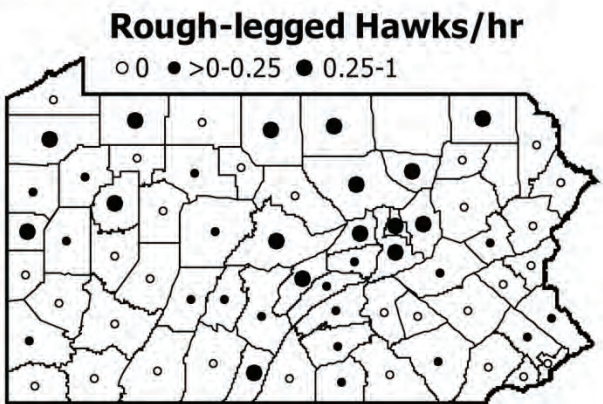
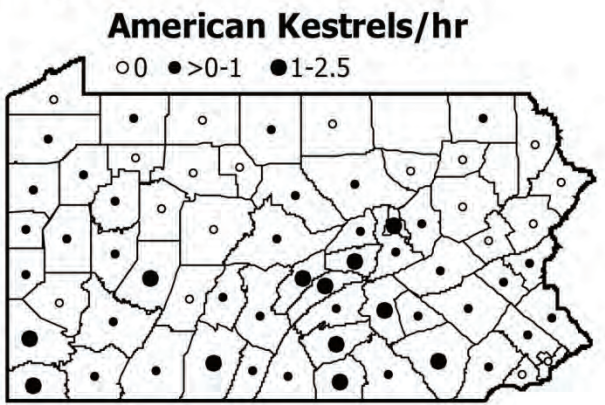
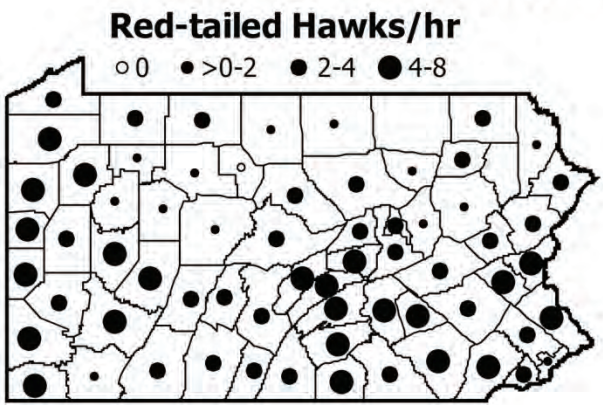


Figure 2. Pennsylvania 2015 WRS results by county. Count and effort data from all routes in a given county were combined, and results are expressed as birds/hour.

Appendix: 2015 Winter Raptor Survey Results

County	Hours	Miles	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TV	BV	NShr
Adams	15	221	1	3	1	4	-	6	100	1	-	23	-	-	291	74	-
Allegheny	2.5	61	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Armstrong	11.75	154	-	1	-	3	-	1	61	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Beaver	2.75	23	6	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Bedford	10	264	2	1	-	-	-	2	25	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-
Berks	24.75	363	16	1	2	5	-	-	96	-	-	11	2	-	178	63	-
Blair	8	147	3	-	1	-	-	-	20	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Bradford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bucks	10.75	93	34	4	1	2	-	7	46	1	-	4	-	3	27	14	-
Butler	7.5	133	1	1	-	-	-	2	15	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Cambria	4.25	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Cameron	1.75	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carbon	13	147	4	-	1	1	-	-	26	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Centre	28.5	378	2	3	1	8	-	1	84	11	-	9	-	-	-	10	-
Chester	27.25	487	6	3	2	9	-	10	112	-	-	10	3	1	338	235	-
Clarion	16	258	-	4	1	-	-	-	28	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Clearfield	9.5	201	1	-	1	3	-	-	14	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clinton	7	128	-	-	1	1	-	1	16	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Columbia	10	140	-	-	-	2	-	-	16	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Crawford	13.5	206	7	1	-	2	-	5	75	12	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Cumberland	22.5	299	1	3	3	9	-	2	121	1	-	33	1	-	71	40	-
Dauphin	12.25	229	4	1	-	1	-	-	70	-	-	20	-	-	14	14	-
Delaware	10	164	7	1	2	1	-	1	29	-	-	-	-	1	47	33	-
Elk	5.5	119	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erie	3.25	64	1	-	1	1	-	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fayette	18.75	300	1	1	-	2	-	2	36	-	-	6	-	-	1	-	-
Forest	3.25	66	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Franklin	21.25	311	4	1	1	1	-	-	72	-	-	18	-	-	3	-	-
Fulton	11.75	91	-	5	-	1	-	5	31	4	-	10	-	-	6	15	-
Greene	15.75	239	-	1	-	1	-	1	77	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-
Huntingdon	26	383	8	-	-	4	-	3	93	1	1	15	-	-	1	3	-
Indiana	22	304	3	6	-	3	-	2	124	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-
Jefferson	12	153	1	-	-	-	-	2	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Juniata	10	148	16	2	3	3	-	-	71	1	1	16	-	-	-	-	-
Lackawana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lancaster	34.75	461	82	1	3	9	-	3	201	1	-	39	1	2	909	378	-
Lawrence	18	252	5	6	2	2	-	6	144	9	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	9.5	154	14	-	-	2	-	-	47	-	-	6	-	-	54	40	-
Lehigh	10.5	155	-	-	1	-	-	-	65	-	-	2	-	-	25	10	-
Luzerne	1.75	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lycoming	15.5	275	2	1	1	4	-	3	32	10	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
McKean	5.75	128	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mercer	10.5	160	2	2	-	4	-	6	47	2	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
Mifflin	22.25	224	4	-	4	3	1	-	101	6	-	24	-	-	4	13	-
Monroe	8.25	128	3	-	-	-	-	1	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Montgomery	28	317	8	1	-	9	-	6	101	1	-	3	1	1	146	70	-
Montour	6.5	125	1	2	-	1	-	-	20	2	-	8	-	1	-	-	-
Northampton	16.25	261	7	1	1	-	-	-	75	-	-	4	-	-	48	21	-
Northumberland	19	227	2	10	-	1	-	-	70	7	-	15	2	-	-	-	1
Perry	18.5	257	4	2	1	-	-	-	84	2	-	18	-	-	1	8	-
Philadelphia	5.5	65	-	1	1	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Pike	6	23	10	-	1	-	-	-	16	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Potter	16	249	-	-	1	1	-	-	22	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Schuylkill	11.25	215	6	1	-	2	-	1	32	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Snyder	12.25	184	3	-	4	6	-	-	67	2	-	20	-	-	-	-	-
Somerset	19.75	294	2	-	-	2	-	-	43	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Sullivan	3.5	60	-	-	1	1	-	-	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Susquehanna	9.5	78	-	2	1	-	-	-	22	8	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Tioga	6	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union	7	127	9	3	-	-	-	-	27	4	-	4	-	-	6	-	-
Venango	6.5	140	3	-	-	2	-	2	31	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Warren	8	123	5	-	-	1	-	-	24	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Washington	8.75	126	-	3	2	1	-	-	37	1	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
Wayne	4.5	82	2	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westmoreland	12.25	214	3	1	-	2	-	2	65	-	-	4	-	-	3	-	-
Wyoming	5.5	99	4	1	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
York	10.75	229	6	1	2	1	-	13	34	-	-	7	-	-	57	45	-
TOTAL	796	11976	319	82	48	123	1	97	3013	120	10	457	11	11	2236	1089	1

European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) in Bucks County

Pamela Newitt

I love to watch birds at my feeders and heated birdbath when it snows. It is beautiful outside and it fills me with a warm sense of pleasure. On 21 February, at about 4pm, I was washing dishes as I watched the birds at the feeders just outside my kitchen window. I had chickadees, titmice, white-breasted nuthatches, cardinals, downy and hairy woodpeckers, mourning doves, juncos and white-throated sparrows; the usual crowd in a mid-Atlantic, suburban backyard.

As I watched the party, I noticed a bird that looked familiar, but I'd never seen in my yard before. I'd actually only seen it while visiting my parents in France. I didn't have my glasses on, so I went to get my binoculars. The bird was sitting on the platform feeder. It was about the size of a fat junco, with a red breast that made a cleavage pattern and extended to create a red mask over its eyes. I knew immediately it was a European Robin. How strange it was to see it among the drifting snow with so many other familiar birds!

The bird was clearly trying to get to the suet feeder, but wouldn't cling to the cage. At first, it would try to hover and feed, but would quickly fall to the ground or have to fly back to the squirrel baffle. After about an hour of watching it attempt to eat, it finally figured out how to hold on to the side of the cage and feed. I was able to photograph the bird through the window before it got dark.

As the snow continued to fall the next day, several other local birders came by to confirm and photograph the little robin. It fed all day Sunday, disappearing for several hours but returning repeatedly. I offered live mealworms on the platform feeder, but I suspect the other birds in the yard ate them before the robin had a chance. It was next seen on 26 February in the morning. I watched it from about 6:15-8:30am until I had to leave for work. It did not return that afternoon.

Over the next few days, the bird would occasionally return. It visited 5 March in the morning during a heavy snow, and again 7 March, when it was seen feeding off and on all day, but that was the last time it was seen. What a special sight to witness. It made my winter.

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[Editor's Note: Only one other record of European Robin in North America was found in recent literature, a bird at Alley Pond Park, Queens, New York on 23 December 2008. It was reviewed by the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC). Though the identification was not in question, the record was nevertheless not accepted due to questions of provenance (NYSARC, 2010. Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee for 2008. Kingbird 60:190-215).

However, the winter of 2014-15 saw an abnormally high number of European Robins appear in Iceland—where the species is a rare but regular vagrant—suggesting the possibility that this winter's invasion westward into Iceland spilled over into North America. Indeed, even in 2008, birders in New York recognized the possibility of true vagrancy to North America in this species based on its regular occurrence in Iceland (Mitra, S.S. 2009. Region 10—Marine. Kingbird 59:217-222), even as most did not consider the Queens bird itself a likely vagrant. Reports of rare birds in Iceland are catalogued daily at this website: <notendur.hi.is/~yannk/birdnews.html>. There were nearly daily reports of European Robins from December through early March from at least 26 locations across Iceland, far above the norm. Of course, the species is also kept and sold in captivity.

This record is currently under PORC review. There are no accepted records of the species in North America. Please see the Bucks County report in this issue for additional details.]



Image 1. European Robin at Lower Makefield Twp., Bucks 21 February 2015. It was seen on five dates from 21 February to 7 March (Pamela Newitt)



Image 2. European Robin at Lower Makefield Twp., Bucks 21 February 2015. The bird fed at a suet feeder and usually appeared during and after snowstorms. (Pamela Newitt)



Image 3. European Robin at Lower Makefield Twp., Bucks 22 February 2015. The bird was confirmed by a few local observers the day after its discovery, but due to concerns of privacy and logistics, it was not publicized to the general birding community. (Mark Gallagher)

Summary of the Season: Winter 2014-15

Greg Grove

This season was the state's second consecutive "real" winter, although it was not until well into January that intense cold arrived to stay. The most extreme weather occurred in February, which rivaled the coldest Januarys ever, ranking solidly as one of the five coldest months ever throughout the northeast.

The season began innocently enough with December's temperatures averaging a few degrees above normal (Table 1). The mildness continued into January but gradually eroded, and in the end January was four degrees below normal, a substantial departure from average. Little did anyone suspect that February would make the cold of January seem benign. The month started well below normal and stayed there. The average for month was 10-15 degrees below the long-term norm, a magnitude of deviation seen only rarely since the beginning of record keeping. The thermometer in State College dipped below zero six times in February, hitting a low of -8F; in some recent years, the coldest winter temperatures in State College have bottomed out at about ten degrees above zero. Bradford experienced 14 nights below zero in February, with a bone chilling -25°F on 2/16 and -19°F on the last day of the month as the cold persisted into March.

Despite the intense cold, there were no big snowstorms; even significant lake affect events were limited. One storm affected much of the state 1/26-27, producing nine inches in State College and seven in Pittsburgh. Bradford received nine inches 2/1-2. Erie had a few snowfalls close to the 12-inch mark in January and early February, but with the freezing of Lake Erie, the northwest winds could gather little moisture from the lake before moving overland. Of course, the snow cover that did occur persisted, as the February cold afforded little chance for thawing.

The effect of the weather on the birds and birders is hard to assess. There was no shortage of waterfowl reports, but there were fewer large assemblages of waterfowl. There were fewer passerine rarities and vagrants than usual and there seemed to be fewer half-hardy birds. However, as evidenced by the ever-increasing numbers of reports in eBird,

birders were not kept home by the cold.

There were three mega-rarities during the season: Crested Caracara, Kelp Gull, and European Robin. If accepted by P.O.R.C., the gull and robin would provide firsts for the state, and the robin possibly a first or second documented North American record. Two of the three (the caracara and the robin) were not made known to the birding community until after they were gone.

Surprisingly, there was not a big influx of certain species usually seen when extreme cold freezes the Great Lakes. There were more Red-necked Grebes and White-winged Scoters than during a winter with average or mild conditions, but nothing like the numbers of 2013-14. The great Snowy Owl irruption of 2013-14 was not repeated, as expected, but there were still a few more than usual, mostly in *Erie*, perhaps indicating a faint echo flight. Late winter brought a good influx of Rough-legged Hawks, presumably due to extreme conditions north of Pennsylvania.

Two **Barnacle Geese** were present most of December in *Monroe*—the fifth winter record in the past nine years. **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported in at least 13 counties and **Ross's Geese** in at least 14, both totals above average. Most reports of the two species were from the southeast, but both were also reported in multiple western counties; a December Ross's Goose in *Clearfield* was notable beyond the usual winter locations.

Trumpeter Swans continue to increase, with reports in six counties totaling at least 18 birds. Counts of six were made in both *Butler* and *Crawford*; based on descriptions, it seems these were not of the same group of six. Others were in *Bucks*, *Centre*, *Huntingdon*, and *Mifflin*. The six reports were scattered throughout the winter. Clearly, it is not safe to assume a swan seen during winter is a Tundra Swan.

A **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** returned to the same location in *Chester* for the third year in a row. The outstanding rarity was the **Barrow's Goldeneye** on the Delaware from mid-January through the end of the period. One or a few **Harlequin Ducks** occur most winters; the only ones this year were three in *Erie*.

The expected ducks were widespread but there were few large flocks. Notable were 600 **Redheads** in *Crawford* in December, 309 **Northern Shovelers** at John Heinz N.W.R. in December, and

220 **Canvasbacks** at the Philadelphia Naval Yard in February. At Peace Valley, *Bucks*, the usual congregation of **Common Mergansers** reached nearly 2800 in early January, before the freeze-up. At Presque Isle in *Erie*, high eBird counts for Common and **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 2625 on 12/18 and 3000 on 1/11, respectively.

White-winged Scoters staged a major incursion into the state last winter when they were reported in at least 22 counties (compared to about six on average) as they fled the frozen Great Lakes. Although fewer, they came again in increased numbers this year, found in at least 17 counties. The majority of reports were in the southeast, although the high counts were from Lake Erie, where 95 and 80 were tallied 12/8 and 12/20, respectively. In contrast, and like last year, the other two scoters did not appear in unusual numbers, presumably because fewer winter on the Great Lakes.

Red-throated Loon reports were normal, coming from eight counties mostly in December and early January. **Eared Grebes** are not found most winters, but this year there were individuals in *Erie* in December and in *York* in January, the latter staying for nearly a week.

Red-necked Grebe is the principle species, or at least the most conspicuous, affected when the Great Lakes freeze, a phenomenon that occurs roughly once per decade. This past winter was the second consecutive season with well over 90% ice cover. In such seasons, the icing usually reaches its greatest extent late in the winter following a long period of unusual cold. Red-necked Grebes (and other species) are then presumably forced to seek open water, which they find on the rivers of Pennsylvania. Prior to the winter of 2013-14, the most recent ice-driven invasions were in 2003 and 1994.

With last year's freeze, Red-necked Grebes came in big numbers. By the end of February 2014 they had been found in at least 22 counties, a number that continued to grow into March. With even more intense cold this year, the same response would be expected. Indeed, Red-necks were reported in well above normal numbers, but the scale of the invasion was far short of that of the previous winter, despite the even more extensive freezeup. What happened to the grebes this year? One obvious explanation, in part at least, is that many went straight to the coast, as some do each year regardless of ice conditions on the lakes.

However, a second strong possibility is the winter of 2013-14 took a severe toll on the population, and thus there were

Table 1. Departure from average temperatures (°F) during winter 2014-15. Statistics from Accu-Weather.

Location	Dec	Jan	Feb	Overall
Philadelphia	+4	-2	-10	-3
Harrisburg	+3	-4	-12	-4
State College	+3	-4	-13	-5
Pittsburgh	+3	-4	-13	-5
Bradford	+4	-4	-14	-5

simply fewer Red-necked Grebes around this winter. There is good reason to think this was the case—substantial mortality was documented last winter among grebes (and other species) caught on the diminishing open water of the lakes. With drastically reduced open water for feeding, many birds that tried to stay on the lakes starved, presumably leading to fewer grebes reappearing this winter. Last year's disaster for the grebes was analyzed in great detail by Brinkley (2015), who cited a number of reports of waterfowl mortality related to the freeze-up. For decades, ornithologists and birders have speculated that large numbers of Red-necked Grebes (and others) winter on the lakes out of sight of land, and that freezing lakes result in these grebe outbreaks in this region. This hypothesis seems likely to be correct.

A few unexpected herons were found. An **American Bittern** was still in *Dauphin* 12/3. Three **Great Egrets** lingered well into December—two in *Crawford* and *Mercer* in the cold northwest, and one in relatively warmer *Dauphin*. One **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was in *Erie* until 12/20 and one was in *Philadelphia* until at least 1/11, the only wader other than **Great Blue Heron** reported after New Year's Day.

A few **Ospreys** were reported, all in December. A late bird flew past Hawk Mountain 12/7 and there were two reports, in *Montgomery* 17 days apart in different locations. Away from hawk watches, **Northern Goshawks** were found in at least nine counties, a typical season. No surprise, **Bald Eagles** set a new CBC record with 610 tallied, and also set a new high for the WRS. There was a very late movement of **Rough-legged Hawks** into the state beginning in late January, corresponding to the onset of the most severe weather. A very low count of 17 was made for the state's CBCs, and the early WRS reports listed few, but that changed mid-way through the WRS period; in the end Rough-legs hit their highest WRS total since 2011.

Sandhill Cranes were found in at least nine counties, fairly typical for recent years. Several were in the northwest as expected, where the Linesville CBC in *Crawford* set a new record of 75 cranes. Cranes were also seen in *Montour* and four counties of the far southeast, including a good count of 15 in *Lancaster* 1/1. The single **Virginia Rail** was in *Montgomery* 12/20.

Shorebirds are normally a footnote of the winter report, and were even more so this year. Only five species were found, including the always present **Killdeer** and **Wilson's Snipe**. Among other more likely species are the two yellowlegs, one or both of which have made the winter report for at least eight consecutive years. This December, one **Greater**

Yellowlegs was in *Delaware* and three **Lesser Yellowlegs** were in *Lancaster*. **American Woodcocks** were also found only in December, in three southeastern counties and in much colder *Somerset*. In most years, a few early woodcocks return in February, but not this year.

The star of the season among a dozen gull species was the **Kelp Gull** found in *Allegheny* 1/17-18. Pending review, this bird would provide a first state record. The Kelp Gull was part of a major gull invasion, similar to last year, of the open waters of Pittsburgh's rivers, as other bodies of water began freezing in mid-January. The number of **Great Black-backed Gulls** in *Allegheny* was "unprecedented", with counts in excess of 50. See the *Allegheny* and *Beaver* summaries and the separate article in this issue for details of the gull invasion.

A **Little Gull** in *Erie* was not surprising, but quite unexpected was another photographed with **Bonaparte's Gulls** on Raystown Lake in *Huntingdon* 12/26, furnishing the third county record. As happens most years, there were a few **Laughing Gulls**—two in *Philadelphia* and one in *Dauphin*. **Black-headed Gulls** were found for the fourth consecutive winter. One was at Moraine S.P. in *Butler*, in the exact spot where one has been found four times previously, and another was a CBC find on the Susquehanna between *Lancaster* and *York*. A total of ten **Thayer's Gulls** were found, including at least five different individuals in *Erie*. **Iceland** and **Glaucous Gulls** were noted in 11 and 9 counties, respectively, about normal. Most reports were from the southeast but *Allegheny*, *Butler*, and *Erie* each hosted both species as well. A **Forster's Tern** was listed for the Bedford CBC, but no details were provided for what would be an extremely rare winter record. The only previous winter reports were singles in *Erie* in January 1991, in *Lancaster* in December 1993, and in *Allegheny* in December 2009 to January 2010.

Eurasian Collared Doves were reported from four counties, more than usual, but none were new locations. There is still nothing to suggest they are making any new headway into the state.

Of course no one expected another historic **Snowy Owl** winter like last year, but a slightly better than average total of at least 16 were found. Eleven were in *Erie*, which had by far the greatest share of last year's bounty. Another was in nearby *Crawford* and the rest were scattered in *Berks*, *Dauphin*, *Lebanon*, and *Northumberland*. The total count of **Barn Owls** was only 11, five of which were in the usual hotspot in the Amish farmlands of *Juniata*; three others were in *Northumberland*. **Short-eared** and **Long-eared Owls** were in about 21 and 12 counties, respectively—average

for recent years. As many as five **Short-ears** were in *Crawford*, *Montgomery*, and *York*; *Montgomery* hosted seven **Long-ears**. Reports of both were clustered in southeastern and south-central counties, with a few reports from the west.

After three consecutive winters when the **Rufous Hummingbird** count hit double-digits, this year only three **Rufous** hummers were reported. Birds in *Chester* and *Erie* were last seen in mid-December. One in *Allegheny* found a good means of dealing with winters cold: it entered the Phipps Conservatory sometime in December and was first noted by a birder during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/27. It stayed until 1/19 when it apparently left the warm protection of the building, hopefully not later coming to pay a price for that decision. See the *Allegheny* report for more of the interesting story of this bird.

One of the top birds of the season was a **Crested Caracara** that stayed three days in *Berks*, seen initially at a private residence where it fed on butchered deer remains. It was recognized by the property owners as unusual and was photographed. It was represent the second documented **Crested Caracara** for Pennsylvania, following the first just last fall; both records are still under review. The normal range of the **Crested Caracara** in the U.S. is primarily Texas, Florida, and the southwest. Since 2012, they have been seen several times in the northeast, including in West Virginia, Delaware New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Maine. It is possible and perhaps even likely that some of those may have referred to the same individual.

With no rarities this year, **Eastern Phoebe** was the only representative of the flycatchers. Reports were most numerous in December and 14 were counted on CBCs. There were at least 13 phoebes reports after CBC season ended 1/5, mostly in January and mostly in the southeast. Birds pushing the limit in the colder parts of the state included one in late December in *Erie*, one in *Indiana* 1/3, and one in *Clinton* 1/10. One in *Northampton* to at least 2/27 had been present since early January.

It was a low year for **Northern Shrikes**. There were about 18 reports, the lowest number in a decade. The scattered reports came from all over the state, as many from cold counties as from the warmer southeast, including birds in *Erie*, *Crawford*, *Clarion*, and *Tioga*.

The flock of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** tried again to winter in *Philadelphia*. Of 120 counted at the water treatment facility earlier in the season, only four remained 2/21, repeating the now-yearly pattern of dwindling numbers through February. Whether the missing birds succumb to

conditions or head south is not known. Two late Rough-wings were in *Montgomery* in mid-Dec. The highest counts of **Horned Larks** were 1000 in *Lancaster* 1/10 and 800 in *Lebanon* 1/8.

Approximately a half dozen each **House** and **Marsh Wrens** were found, higher than usual for both. The House Wrens were all southeasterly except one in *Pike* 12/28. Most of the Marsh Wrens were in the west, with multiple birds in both *Allegheny* and *Crawford*. One in *Allegheny* was observed to catch and eat a small fish! **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** are less than annual in winter—the one report was of a bird in *Cumberland* to 12/26. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** found after December outside the southeast were in *Erie*, *Cambria*, and *Indiana*.

Competing for best bird of the season was a **European Robin**, first seen at a suet feeder during a snowfall in *Bucks* 2/21. It was recognized and photographed by a birder with experience in Europe. There may be some question of origin, but as mentioned in the *Bucks* summary, there was a significant invasion into Iceland last fall, lending credence to a wild origin. The bird was seen intermittently into March. Another thrush unexpected in winter, albeit not nearly so sensational, was a **Wood Thrush** seen twice in December in *Philadelphia*. Almost every winter there are reports of this species; some, perhaps most, are misidentifications of Hermit Thrush. This bird, however, was photographed well enough to be convincingly identified. A **Hermit Thrush** in *Erie* 1/31 was outside the normal winter range in the state.

Wintering **Gray Catbirds** and **Brown Thrashers** seem to be increasing. Catbirds were reported on 26 CBCs. Of birds staying deep into winter, there were at least 18 catbirds and 19 thrashers reported after the end of the CBC season 1/5, mostly in the southeast. Furthest out-of-range catbirds seen in January were in *Somerset*, *Tioga*, and *Lycoming*. Northerly thrashers were in *Erie*, *Lycoming*, and *Centre*.

A good count of 400 **American Pipits** was made in *Berks* 12/14. Two in the far north in *Tioga* 2/23 may have been early migrants. **Lapland Longspurs** were reported from at least 16 counties. The highest counts were of 17 in *Lebanon* and 16 in *Cumberland*, both in February. A flock of **Snow Buntings** present much of the season in *Clarion* reached a high count of 317.

Only six species of warblers were reported this year, compared to an average of ten over the past decade. The only species reported that is not essentially annual in winter was **Black-and-white Warbler**. Three were found which brought the tally of winter records to about eight. Two were seen together in

Cumberland in early December and at least one was still present as late as 12/22. The third report came from the Ryerson CBC in *Greene*. Reports of expected winter warblers were fairly typical. All three **Orange-crowned Warblers** were in the southeast and each extended well into January, but went unreported in February. The count of nine **Common Yellowthroats** was a bit above average; individuals in *Schuylkill* and *Luzerne* were outside the southeast. Eleven of 13 **Palm Warblers** were in *Philadelphia*, where as many as six were seen at the Water Pollution Control facility; the other two were in *Centre* 1/3 and *Beaver* 1/4. Outside the southeast, a single **Pine Warbler** was in *Franklin* most of the season and one was in *Huntingdon* 1/25. A Pine Warbler that frequented a suet feeder in *Bucks* may have been the same bird back for the eighth consecutive winter.

A **Lark Sparrow** stayed two days in *Cumberland* in early Jan, the first reported in winter since 2007-08. The only **Clay-colored Sparrow** was in *Berks* through most of February; one or a few are found most winters. Northerly **Chipping Sparrows** in February were in *Venango*, *Centre*, and *Indiana*. A few **Lincoln's Sparrows** occur in winter almost annually; this year, singles were in *Chester* and *Lebanon*. Eight **Field Sparrows** provided an unusual find in cold, mostly-forested *Cameron* 1/4. February **Fox Sparrows** outside the southeast were in *Centre*, *Indiana*, and *Mifflin*, possibly early migrants. The total of three **Harris's Sparrows** was notable. This sparrow tends to stay out when it finds a reliable food source (i.e., a feeder); there were long-staying birds in *Northampton* and *Cumberland*, but one in *Lancaster* was seen for only one day. A **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** was in *Northampton* all season. Finally a **White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco** was in *Montgomery*.

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** stayed at a feeder in *Westmoreland* until at least 12/17, providing about the seventh winter record. For the second year in a row, two **Indigo Buntings** attempted to winter, both still alive and well into January in *Philadelphia* and *Juniata*. There are fewer than about ten winter records. Two **Dickcissels** were reported, one each in *Chester* and *Philadelphia*.

Eastern Meadowlarks were found in at least 11 counties, though they may be under-reported. Away from the southeast, they were north to *Centre*, *Mifflin*, *Huntingdon*, and *Lycoming*, and westerly in *Allegheny* and *Somerset*. Double-digit counts came from *Adams*, *York*, and *Lancaster*. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were in *Lancaster* and *Chester*; one in *Adams* represented a first county record. Previous winter reports

beyond *Lancaster* and *Chester* have come from nearby *Delaware*, *Philadelphia*, and *Bucks*; elsewhere the only winter report was from *Centre* in 1985. Typical of most winters, there was one **Brewer's Blackbird**, in *Lancaster* in February. **Rusty Blackbirds** were mostly in southeastern counties, with the exception of birds in *Indiana*, *Centre*, *Montour*, *Crawford*, and *Westmoreland*. The high count was of 22 in *Cumberland*.

Returning for a fifth winter, the Gilbertsville, *Montgomery* **Bullock's Oriole** arrived 12/6, just one day later than its arrival last year. It was still there and doing well as February ended. **Baltimore Orioles** were in six counties, a total of at least ten different birds. In *Bucks*, two returned to a yard for the third consecutive winter. Away from the southeast, there were orioles in *Northumberland* 12/27 and in *Allegheny*, where one stayed until early January.

There were modest numbers of the small winter finches, but very few crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks. There were just three **White-winged Crossbills**, two in *Erie* and one in *Washington*. There were some **Evening Grosbeaks**, with reports from about five counties, although some were without documentation. The only location providing a good opportunity for viewing was at the Yeany feeders in *Forest*, where the flock that arrived 1/17 peaked at 18, with some straying until the end of the period. **Pine Siskins** were widespread, in an up-year in their usual up-and-down two-year cycle. **Common Redpolls** were reported in at least 35 counties. Numbers were modest, though; the high count was 40 in *Erie*, but most sightings were of one or a few. A single **Hoary Redpoll**, a "species" possibly on weak genetic footing, was in *Philadelphia*.

Summaries were received from 52 counties. We thank the many county compilers for their faithful and conscientious efforts in producing the county summaries, not a simple task, especially in counties with lots of birding activity. Notwithstanding the popularity and unquestioned value of eBird, the biggest portion of the information in this report, at a level beyond the raw data available from eBird, comes from county summaries, wherein the knowledge and experience of local experts provides an understanding, in some depth, of the significance of the raw data.

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Reference

Brinkley, E.S. 2015. The changing seasons: winter of our discontent. *North American Birds* 68:178-188.

Birds of Note – December 2014 through February 2015

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. "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.

*Barnacle Goose** – *Monroe*: 2 at Weir Lake 12/11 through the end of the month (Bruce Johnson, *doc submitted*).

Trumpeter Swan – *Butler*: 6 continued at Moraine S.P. from Nov until 12/1 (Linda Greble, Jeff McDonald); *Bucks*: one in Richland Twp. 12/1-6 (ph. Kevin Hallman); *Centre*: one at Milesburg 2/21-26 (Matt Rockmore, m.ob.); *Crawford*: 6 at Conneaut L. 1/11-12 (Tomas Nonnenmachen, Rob Hodgson, Clare Nicolls, Kenneth Pinnow); *Huntingdon*: one at Lake Raystown 1/1 (Greg Grove, Lewis Grove, Dennis McGillacuddy, Laurie McGillacuddy); *Mifflin*: 3 at Victory Park in Lewistown 2/6-28 (Aden Troyer, Rob Dickerson, m.ob.); *Westmoreland*: one tagged bird at Ethel Springs Lake 1/15 (Linda Huber).

*Green-winged (Common) Teal** – *Chester*: a drake returned for third year in Upper Uwchian Twp. (m.ob., *doc previously submitted*).

*Harlequin Duck** – *Erie*: female at Sunset Point 12/8 (Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*), and one adult male and one imm. male at East Ave. 1/11 (ph. Geoff Malosh, *doc submitted*).

Surf Scoter – *Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Blair, Chester, Clearfield, Erie, Franklin*.

Black Scoter – *Allegheny, Bucks, Erie, Philadelphia, Somerset, Warren*.

*Barrow's Goldeneye** – *Northampton*: female on the Delaware R. 1/20-2/28 (Matt Sabatine, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Red-throated Loon – *Allegheny, Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Erie, Fayette, Mercer, Montgomery*.

*Eared Grebe** – *Erie*: one at East Ave., Erie 12/20-22 (Ben Coulter, *no doc*); *York*: one at Codorus State Park 1/23-28 (Andy Wilson, m.ob., *no doc*).

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: high count was 24 during the Southern Bucks CBC 12/20; *Delaware*: 3 at Marcus Hook 12/20 (Nick Pulcinella) and one at PPL Park (Al Guarente); *Philadelphia*: present all season with high count of 49 on the Philadelphia mid-winter census 1/10 (m.ob.).

American Bittern – *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood L. 12/3 (Ian Gardner).

Great Egret – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning State Park 12/5-28 (Mark Vass, Steven Rotkovecz, Ronald Leberman, Isaac Field); *Dauphin*: one during the Harrisburg CBC over the Harvey Taylor Bridge 12/20 (Deuane Hoffman); *Mercer*: one at the Shenango Wildlife Area 12/26 (Steve Sanford).

Black-crowned Night Heron – *Erie*: One imm. at the Wastewater Treatment Plant 12/18-20 (John DePaul); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 1/11 (Martin Dellwo).

Osprey – *Montgomery*: one at Skymont Park 12/3 (Tim Bradley), and one at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 12/20 (Harris Brown, Francis Ventura); *Schuylkill*: a late migrant at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 12/7 (Laurie

Goodrich, Holly Merker, Kim Steininger).

Virginia Rail – *Montgomery*: 2 at Bryn Athyn 12/20 (Paul Driver).

Greater Yellowlegs – *Delaware*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. during the Glenholden CBC 12/20.

Lesser Yellowlegs – *Lancaster*: 3 at Overlook Park 12/2 (Glen Shaffer).

American Woodcock – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 12/1 (Ray Hendrick); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek W.M.A. 12/28 (Zachary Adams, Zachary Millen); *Montgomery*: one near Palm 12/26 (Kris Karom); *Somerset*: one during CBC count week (Mike Lanzone).

*Black-headed Gull** – *Butler*: adult at the South Shore Day Use area of Moraine State Park 12/23-26 (Deb Darney, *doc submitted*); *Lancaster/York*: adult on the Susquehanna R. 1/23-25 (Mike Epler, m.ob., *no doc*).

Little Gull – *Erie*: one at the head of Presque Isle Bay 12/3 (Russ States); *Huntingdon*: one at Lake Raystown 12/26 (Greg Grove, Deb Grove, Lewis Grove).

Laughing Gull – *Dauphin*: one at Middletown Boat Launch 1/5 (Richard and Patricia Williams); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 12/22 (Matthew Wibberley), and one at Cumberland St. on the Delaware R. 1/25 (Linda Widdup).

*Thayer's Gull** – *Allegheny*: one first cycle at the Pittsburgh Point 1/28-31 (Ben Coulter, Geoff Malosh, m.ob., *no doc*), and an adult at the Point 2/17 (Ben Coulter) and 2/20 (Geoff Malosh, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton, *no doc*); *Erie*: at least 5 individuals at Presque Isle and the Lakeview Landfill (Jerry McWilliams, Shannon Thompson, Don Snyder, *no doc*); *Lebanon*: singles at Lion's Lake on three dates 12/19-31 (Tim Becker, Kathy Becker, Andy Keister, *doc submitted*).

*Vega Gull** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 12/20 (George Armistead, Tom Johnson, *no doc*).

Iceland Gull – *Allegheny, Beaver, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Erie, Lancaster, Lebanon, Northampton, Philadelphia, York*.

Glaucous Gull – *Allegheny, Beaver, Berks, Bucks, Erie, Lancaster, Northampton, Philadelphia, York*.

*Kelp Gull** – *Allegheny*: one adult at the Point in Pittsburgh 1/17 (ph. Ben Coulter, *doc submitted*) was seen again there the next morning (Geoff Malosh) and at Duck Hollow on the afternoon of 1/18 (m.ob.), pending review, this would represent the first state record.

Eurasian Collared Dove – *Berks*: up to 3 at Shartlesville through the period (Matt Wlasniewski, m.ob.); *Centre*: one near State College 2/7 (Benjamin Vizzachero); *Franklin*: one at Kauffman Rd. 2/14 (David Cooney Jr.); *Lebanon*: one near Annville 1/29 (Mike Dale).

Barn Owl – *Centre*: One during the Penn's Valley CBC 12/16; *Dauphin*: one near Hershey 12/23 (Tim Becker); *Huntingdon*: one at Three Springs 2/15 (Neal Gracey);

Juniata: one at Thompsettown 1/17 Chad Kauffman, Susan Strassner), and one 1/17 at an undisclosed location (Steven Jackson); 3 during the Lewistown CBC 12/20; *Northumberland*: one at Pfleeger's farm 2/18 (Lauren Shaffer), one northern *Northumberland* 2/11 (Deuane Hoffman), and one at Moore Drive and Gearhart Rd. 2/10-11 (Andy Keister).

Snowy Owl – *Berks*: one at Marion Twp. 2/21 (Rob Feldman); *Crawford*: one at North Center Rd. 12/30 (Clare Nicolls), and one south of Conneautville 2/8 (Emanuel Erb); *Dauphin*: a disoriented bird in Harrisburg that recovered in rehab in early Dec and was released 12/12 was possibly same bird seen in *Cumberland* in Nov (*vide* Richard Williams); *Erie*: at least 11 different owls present mainly in the eastern half of *Erie* and at Presque Isle State Park (m.ob.); *Lebanon*: one near Fontana 2/11-14 (Gerry Boltz, et al.); *Northumberland*: at least one in various locations south of Turboville 12/3-6 (David Brown, m.ob.).

Rufous Hummingbird – *Allegheny*: a probable adult female was trapped inside the Phipps Conservatory 12/27-1/19 (Hanna Floyd, m.ob.); *Chester*: one from fall continued to 12/20 at Landenberg (Gail Bush); *Erie*: one from fall continued to 12/17 in Albion (Mike Lipinski).

Crested Caracara* – *Berks*: one in Pike Twp. 12/26-28 was photographed with a trail camera (*vide* Rudy Keller, *doc submitted*), representing the second record for the state, both in the past six months, and both currently in review.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – *Montgomery*: 2 at the Schuylkill River Trail 12/14-20 (Anna Mindel, Kelly Myers); *Philadelphia*: the usual flock attempted to winter again at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant with a high count of 120 in early Jan, down to 4 by 2/21 (m.ob.).

House Wren – *Bucks*: one on the Southern Bucks CBC 12/20, and one at New Hope 12/28-1/11 (Devich Farbotnik); *Dauphin*: one reported on the Curtin CBC; *Philadelphia*: one at the Philadelphia Naval Yard 1/10-17 (George Armistead, Sasha Freeman), one at Cumberland St. on the Delaware R. 1/25-26 (Todd Fellenbaum, Linda Widdop), one at John Heinz N.W.R. 1/25 (Todd Fellenbaum), and one at the Naval Business Center 1/17 (Frank Windfelder).

Marsh Wren – *Allegheny*: one or 2 at Wingfield Pines all season (ph. Shannon Thompson, m.ob.); *Crawford*: 3 at Pymatuning State Park 12/14 (Tomas Nonnenmachen, Rob Hodgson, Kenneth Pinnow); *Philadelphia*: one at Tinicum 1/2-2/4 (Cameron Rutt, Katherine Freeman, Todd Fellenbaum, Lamar Corlis).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – *Cumberland*: one at the West Fairview Trail 12/13 and 12/26 (Ramsay Koury).

European Robin* – *Bucks*: one adult in Lower Makefield Twp. on six dates 2/21-3/7 (ph. Pam Newitt, *doc submitted*) would represent the first for the state if accepted by PORC.

Wood Thrush – *Philadelphia*: one in Philadelphia in a small urban park at 18th & Cherry Streets 12/7-15 (Steve Mason, Jason Weckstein, ph.).

Black-and-white Warbler – *Cumberland*: 2 at West Fairview 12/7 and one 12/13-22 (Ramsay Koury, Annette Mathis).

Orange-crowned Warbler – *Chester*: one at Landenberg 1/4 and 1/11 (Andrew Leidig); *Montgomery*: one on the Schuylkill River Trail at Oaks 1/11-29, possibly same bird as last winter (Anthony Urich); *Philadelphia*: one at Cumberland St. 12/31-1/25 (Ann Reeves, m.ob.).

Common Yellowthroat – *Adams*, *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Dauphin*, *Cumberland*, *Lancaster*, *Luzerne*, *Philadelphia*, *Schuylkill*.

Palm Warbler – *Beaver*: one at Independence Marsh 1/4 (Geoff Malosh); *Centre*: one at the Duck Pond in State College 1/3 (Benjamin Vizzachero); *Philadelphia*: one during the Pennypack CBC 12/20 (Todd Fellenbaum), up to 3 at the Philadelphia Naval Yard 1/2 and later (Cameron Rutt, Katherine Freeman, m.ob.), one at Cumberland St. 1/3-11 (Ann Reeves, Todd Fellenbaum, Brian Hart), and up to 6 at

the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant (Cameron Rutt, Katherine Freeman, Ann Reeves, Todd Fellenbaum, Brian Hart, Frank Windfelder).

Pine Warbler – *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Franklin*, *Huntingdon*, *Lancaster*, *Montgomery*, *Philadelphia*; *Westmoreland*;

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Berks*: one at feeder in Reading 2/8-28 (Matt Spence).

Vesper Sparrow – *Bedford*: one at Shawnee State Park 12/7 (Jim Dunn); *Blair*: one at Canoe Creek State Park 2/1 (Jim Dunn); *Philadelphia*: one photographed at the Philadelphia Navy Yard 1/2-28 (Cameron Rutt, m.ob.).

Lark Sparrow* – *Cumberland*: one at Carlisle 1/4-5 (Ramsay Koury, Joan Renninger, m.ob., *no doc*).

Lincoln's Sparrow – *Chester*: one at Westtown L. 1/6 (Andrew Leidig); *Lebanon*: one at Second Mountain 12/30 (Morris Cox, Gayle Lawrence).

Harris's Sparrow* – *Cumberland*: one at Big Spring 1/29-2/19 (Vern Gauthier, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one at Holtwood 12/29 (Jim Smith, *no doc*); *Northampton*: one at the Koch property all period (Arlene Koch, m.ob., *doc previously submitted*).

Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow* – one at the Koch property all period (Arlene Koch, m.ob., *no doc*).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – *Westmoreland*: one at a feeder in Stahlstown 12/17 (Dick Byers).

Indigo Bunting – *Juniata*: one at a feeder near Oakland Mills (Aden Troyer, Chad Kauffman, Greg Grove); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack Park 1/10 (Todd Fellenbaum).

Dickcissel – *Chester*: singles in two different locations in Newtown Square 12/11 (Marilyn Smith) and 1/9 though late Feb (Julia Crawford, m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: one in Roxborough 1/10 (Michael Darcy).

Yellow-headed Blackbird – *Adams*: one at Biglerville 12/20 represented a first county record (Vern Gauthier, Nathan Zalik); *Chester*: one at Jennersville 1/17 (John Bradley), and one or 2 at Steelville 2/7-19 (Holly Merker, Kim Steininger, Patrick Millar, Deuane Hoffman); *Lancaster*: up to 6 different birds 1/23-2/22 (Andrew Eberly, Barry Bell, Mike Epler, Meredith Lombard, Yoko Bowen).

Brewer's Blackbird* – *Lancaster*: one on Quarry Rd. 2/14 (Tom Raub, *no doc*).

Bullock's Oriole* – *Montgomery*: a male returned to Gilbertsville for fifth winter, 12/6 through the end of the period (Mary Ache, m.ob., *doc previously submitted*).

Baltimore Oriole – *Adams*: one adult male on Blackberry School Road 12/29 (Sarah Gettys, Mike O'Brien); *Allegheny*: one in Ohara Twp. 12/24-1/18 (ph. JoAnne Lightner); *Bucks*: 2 males at a feeder in Middletown Twp. through the season, for the third year in a row (David Pentland), one in Upper Makefield Twp. 12/17-2/15 (ph. Paul Thompson, Marilyn Thompson), and one elsewhere in Upper Makefield Twp. from late Dec through season (ph. Lois and Bob Mousley); *Chester*: one 12/5 (Harold Davis); *Northumberland*: one at Kipps Run 12/27 (John Dennehy, Paul Dennehy); *Philadelphia*: one in Fairmont Park 12/29 and 1/10 (Damon Orsetti, Gary Jarvis), and one in northeast Philadelphia mid-Jan to 2/21 (Ann Currens); *York*: one reported on the CBC 12/20.

White-winged Crossbill – *Erie*: 2 at Presque Isle State Park 12/20-21 (Tim Lenz, Michele Franz); *Washington*: one at Washington Cemetery 12/4 (Paul Brown).

Hoary Redpoll* – *Philadelphia*: one at the Philadelphia Navy Yard 1/17-25 (ph. George Armistead, m.ob. *doc submitted*).

Evening Grosbeak – *Forest*: present at Marienville 1/17 through end of season, with a high count of 18 on 1/23 (David Yeany II, Geoff Malosh, m.ob.); *Lebanon*: one at a feeder near Lebanon 2/28 (George Gress); *Luzerne*: one in Hazelton 2/14-15 (John Ackerman).



Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). A fine season for this species saw sightings in 13 counties; this bird was one of two at Lake Kay, Adams 22 January 2015. (Andy Wilson)



Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). This adult Trumpeter at Richland Twp. 1 (here) to 6 December 2014 put Bucks among seven counties reporting this expanding species this season. (Kevin Hallman)



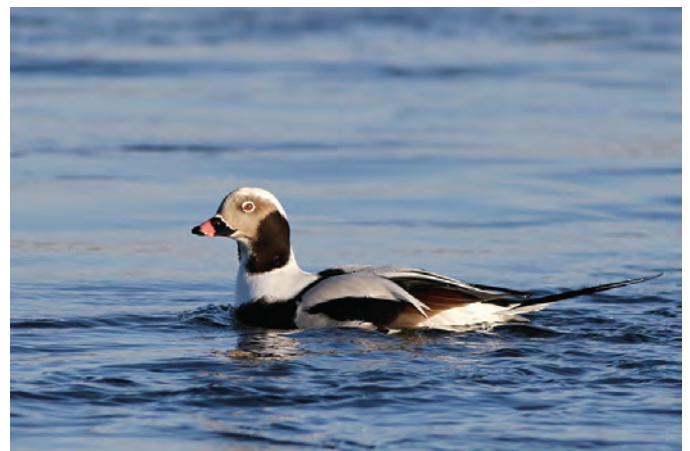
Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*). It was an equally good season for Ross's Geese, with sightings in 14 counties including three in the southwest. This bird was at Independence Marsh, Beaver 6 (here) to 7 December 2014, and possibly the same bird again 24-29 December, providing Beaver its third record for this species. (Jeff McDonald)



Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). A smartly-attired adult male with Common Goldeneyes was one of two Harlequin Ducks off East Ave., Erie 11 January 2015 among huge masses of ducks and gulls gathered in the rapidly freezing waters around Presque Isle. (Geoff Malosh)



Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). Two of a flock of three at Neville Island, Allegheny, these birds were present 7 December 2014 (here) to at least 22 February 2015 at Neville Is. and at different locations along the Ohio River nearby, the first known overwintering Cacklers for Allegheny's growing list of this species. (Geoff Malosh)



Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*). Like a few other "sea" ducks, Long-tails appeared in fair numbers especially later in the season during the worst of the February cold. This sharp male was at West Fairview, Dauphin 23 February 2015. (Alex Lamoreaux)



Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). Despite similar freezing on the Great Lakes, Red-necked Grebes were not nearly as numerous as they were in 2013-14, possibly due to significant attrition during last year's mass movement. This bird was at Dashields Dam, *Allegheny* 13 February 2015, one of a handful in that county beginning on that date. (Geoff Malosh)



Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). It was an unremarkable season for the highly local Northern Harrier, for example WRS routes tallied 82 for the season compared to the high of 133 in 2008. This bird was at Pheasant Valley Farm, *Berks* 25 February 2015. (Alex Lamoreaux)



Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). This bird was one of two rehabilitated at Centre Wildlife Care and released on Bald Eagle Creek at Lock Haven, *Clinton* 22 February 2015, which at the time was the only appropriate body of water in that region that was not frozen over. (Wayne Laubscher)



Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). A deer carcass in Delaware State Forest, *Monroe* attracted several raptors which were recorded by a nearby trail camera. This Bald Eagle 19 February 2015 was one of two at the site in February, evidence of this species' resourcefulness in wintertime. (Brian Hardiman)



Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*). This Eared Grebe was nicely photographed at Codorus State Park, *York* 23 January 2015, one of only a handful of Eared Grebes ever for Pennsylvania in January. (Andy Wilson)



Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). Another exciting find via the trail camera at Delaware State Forest, *Monroe* was this Rough-legged Hawk (right) grappling with a Red-tailed Hawk 28 February 2015. Eventually the Rough-legged prevailed. (Brian Hardiman)



Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). After a slow start in January, Rough-legged Hawks appeared quite frequently around the state in February as conditions worsened to the north. This fine portrait of a dark morph in flight was made at the Hershey IBA, *Dauphin* 17 February 2015. (Alex Lamoreaux)



Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*). Also rare for mid-winter was this first cycle Laughing Gull at Middletown Boat Launch, *Dauphin* 5 January 2015, which provided *Dauphin* just its second winter record for the species. (Richard Williams)



Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). This creative image of a Red-tailed Hawk juxtaposed against the waxing moon was made over Bedminster, *Bucks* 28 January 2015. (Bill Keim)



Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). At long last, *Beaver* shared in a Pittsburgh-area gull invasion; this second cycle Glaucous Gull at the mouth of the Beaver River 17 January 2015 provided a long-awaited first for the county. (Geoff Malosh)



Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*). Rare for January was this adult on the Susquehanna River at Wrightsville, *Lancaster* 23 to 25 January 2015 (here 24 January). When this species makes the list for the winter reporting period (a rare enough occurrence as it is), it is normally closer to the season's fringes—early December or late February. (Alex Lamoreaux)



Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*). This bird at Bristol, *Bucks* 1 February 2015 sporting band number L6T was also seen at Bristol in March 2014. It was originally captured and banded in Quebec and hatched in 2009 or earlier. (Holly Merker)



Barred Owl (*Strix varia*). This cooperative individual was photographed at Boyce-Mayview Park, *Allegheny* 14 January 2015, where the species has been resident for many years. (*Jeff McDonald*)



Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). Long a wintertime fixture at Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, *Allegheny*, at least one Merlin was present there again all season this year, here on 28 February 2015. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). This remarkable bird became trapped inside the Phipps Conservatory, *Allegheny* in December. It was found by a birder during the Pittsburgh CBC 27 December 2014 and remained until it escaped 19 January 2015. It is shown here 10 January feeding on a banana tree blossom, a unique scene for Pennsylvania. It eluded capture but was identified as a female Rufous from photos of the extended tail. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). This dramatic image of a Merlin and its Savannah Sparrow prey was made at Pheasant Valley Farm, *Berks* 25 February 2015, part of an impressive day for raptors at the site. See [ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=\\$22068929](http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=$22068929) and the *Berks* report elsewhere in this issue for more details. (*Alex Lamoreaux*)



Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). This first year bird was discovered at Homewood Cemetery, *Allegheny* 21 December 2014 and continued throughout the winter (here 26 December). Many birders enjoyed watching its progression toward adult plumage as the winter wore on. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). For the fourth consecutive year a Northern Shrike wintered at John Heinz N.W.R., *Philadelphia*, possibly the same bird in all four years. This image was made at the refuge 10 January 2015. (*Holly Merker*)



Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). This bird at Carlisle, *Cumberland* was found on the Newville CBC 4 January 2015 and remained to the next day, when this photo was made. It represented the first winter record for the state since 2008-09. (*Michael David*)



Dark-eyed Junco (leucistic) (*Junco hyemalis*). This striking bird was nicely photographed in a *Berks* yard 26 January 2015. (*Peter and Janet Wolfe*)



Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). One of three Harris's Sparrows reported in Pennsylvania this season, this adult was a nice surprise at a feeder in Big Spring, *Cumberland* 29 January to 19 February 2015 (here 4 February). It represented the second record for *Cumberland*. (*Dave Cooney*)



Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). Always a treat to see at the height of its "rusty" winter plumage, the Rusty Blackbird may well be the only North American bird named after both its non-breeding (rusty) and breeding (blackbird) plumages. This male was well photographed at Buckingham Springs, *Bucks* 9 February 2015. (*Bill Keim*)



Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*). Birders drawn to a long-staying Harris's Sparrow at the Koch farm, *Northampton* enjoyed this rare visitor from the West that was also present all season, shown here 1 February 2015. (*Alex Lamoreaux*)



Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*). Though not in the massive numbers as were seen in the winter of 2012-13, Evening Grosbeaks once again gathered at a feeder in Marienville, *Forest* this winter, but they did not appear until 18 January 2015. This male was one of 18 (the max count at the site) on 23 January. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*). It was a good season for Common Redpolls, especially across Pennsylvania's northern tier, where reports were widespread though not in great numbers anywhere. This fine rosy adult was photographed at Stevensville, Bradford 5 February 2015. (Kevin Raymond)



Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*). Redpolls also reached several locations in the southeast, such as this bird at Buckingham Springs, Bucks 21 February 2015. By season's end they had been reported in about 35 mostly northern and eastern Pennsylvania counties. (Bill Keim)



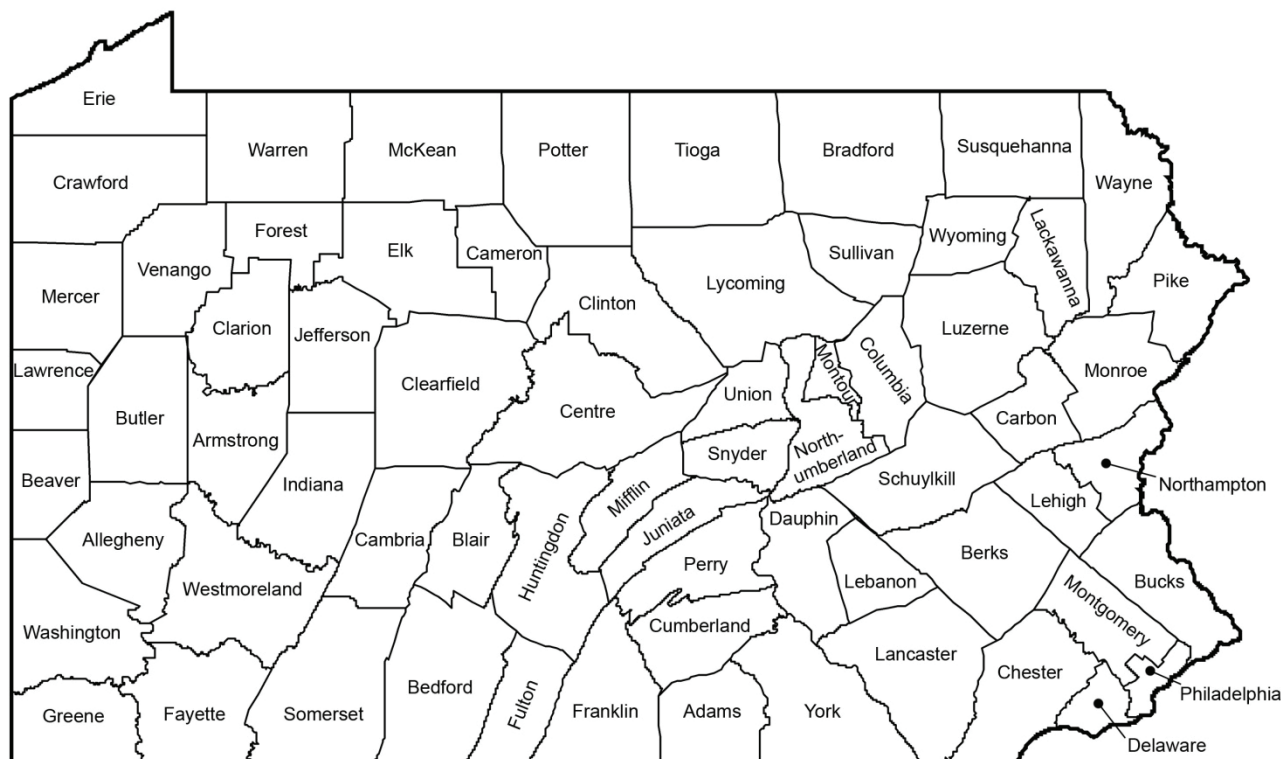
Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*). This "green morph" bird was photographed in hand at Shavers Creek, Huntingdon 11 February 2015. This plumage is estimated to occur in only about 1% of adult male siskins. (Alex Lamoreaux)



Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*). Scenes like this thistle feeder loaded with Pine Siskins recalled echoes of the massive siskin invasion of 2008-09, when they were recorded in all 67 of Pennsylvania's counties and flocks in excess of 100 were frequent. This season did not reach those lofty heights, but it was memorable for its siskins nonetheless. This image was made 1 February 2015 at Swissdale, Clinton, where a flock reached as many as 75 birds. (Wayne Laubscher)



Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*). This unlucky bird flew into a window at Monaca, Beaver 17 January 2015 where it lay stunned for several minutes before recovering and flying off. Its voluntary wing-stretch, shown here, made for a nice opportunity for close study. (Dan Rubino)



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).	juvenal [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.	River	W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
L.	Lake	R.A.	Recreational Area	WRS	Winter Raptor Survey

eBird Usage: Data for these reports and throughout this journal include observations collected from the eBird database <<http://www.ebird.org>>. Citation: eBird. 2012. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: 31 March 2014)

Adams County

Locations: Crooked Creek Wetlands (CCW), Gettysburg Christmas Bird Count (GCBC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Kay (LK), Lake Meade (LM), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Mountain Rd (MTN), York Springs Christmas Bird Count (YSCBC).

The first two months of the period saw fairly normal weather. February's average temperature of 20.9°F produced a new record low for February and the fourth coldest of any month on record at Harrisburg. Fortunately for Adams birders, the arrival of good numbers of **Rough-legged Hawks** and **Pine Siskins** provided consolation for the month-long deep freeze. The Gettysburg CBC 12/20 was led by Mike O'Brien and recorded 81 species including a county first **Yellow-headed Blackbird**. The tri-county York Springs CBC was led by Vern Gauthier 12/29 and netted 68 species in the Adams portion, highlighted by a male **Baltimore Oriole**.

Waterfowl were well reported due in large part to consistently open water on Lake Kay. A pair of **Greater White-fronted Geese** at LK 1/15

(AW) remained thru 2/4 (m.ob.). A septet of **Snow Geese** was at LM 1/4 (JV) and pair of **Ross's Geese** was at LAR 12/14 (AW). Single **Cackling Geese** were at LAR 12/14 (AW) and at LK 1/18-19 (BK). An ignominious highlight was the reports of **Mute Swan** from five locations and a count of 15 on the GCBC. The six reports of **Tundra Swan** were above average.

A trip along Red Rock Rd. provides visibility to both Marsh Creek and Willoughby Run; a **Wood Duck** in that area was a nice surprise 1/19 (BK). A single **Gadwall** was found on the GCBC and a flock was at LK 1/2-2/28 with a high count of 14 on 1/19 (AW, m.ob.). The nine reports of **American Black Duck** was higher than normal. Top count was 20 at Red Rock Rd. 2/14-15 (LW). Small numbers of **Northern Shovelers**, **Northern Pintails**, and **American Coots**, as well as singles of **Canvasback** and **Horned Grebe** and flocks of **Redheads** (up to 22) and **Ring-necked Ducks** (up to 34) were all part of the Jan-Feb gathering at LK (m.ob.). Uncommon for the county, single **Common Goldeneyes** were at LK 2/5 (ED) and LM 2/14 (BM). A nice count of up to 50 **Ruddy Ducks** came from LM 12/29 (RF, JV).

Ring-necked Pheasants were found in all months, a possibly encouraging sign of adaptability for winter survival. Five of six **Wild Turkey**

reports came from the Michaux S.F. region, with high counts of 8 at MTN 2/7 and 2/16 (RDS).

Adams always enjoys productive WRS routes and this winter provided several additional reports of raptors. **Bald Eagle**, **Northern Harrier**, and **Red-Shouldered Hawk** reports numbered 17, 20, and 22, respectively. **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported from nine locations and GNMP proved to be the most reliable spot 1/29-2/28 (m.ob.). A nice count of 4 was made at CCW 2/23 (PM) Other Rough-legs were at Huntingdon Twp. 2/13 (DG) and SGL 249 on 2/28 (PK). Single adult and juvenile **Northern Goshawks** were over GNMP 1/19 (BK).

Short-eared Owls were first detected at GNMP 1/17 with a high count of 3 on 2/23 (BP, TN, RGTS). CCW also produced 3 birds 2/3 (PM) and the Pumping Station/Cunningham Rd. area held short-ears 2/3-23. Visits there 2/3 (IC) and 2/23 (ND) each netted 5 birds, the high counts. The GCBC produced 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owls**. All expected woodpecker species were found in good numbers. A **Merlin** was tallied on the GCBC and single **Peregrine Falcons** were found on the YSCBC and at GNMP 2/18 (TN).

Common Ravens, reported 17 times from 13 locations, continued their explosive range expansion. **Horned Larks** were more frequently reported than usual, with good counts of 85 from Possum Hollow Rd. 12/22 (PK) and 117 at the Eisenhower Farm 2/3 (AW). The few reports of **Black-capped Chickadee** were typical for the period. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were limited to single birds at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve 1/19 (PB, MM), at New Oxford 2/13 (ND), on the YSCBC, and a trio at LM 2/14 (BM). **Brown Creepers** and **Winter Wrens** were found throughout the period. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were absent in Feb, and sightings of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were limited to Dec.

Hermit Thrushes and **Eastern Towhees** were found in all months. A **Gray Catbird** was a nice find on the GCBC 12/20 (VG, NZ). A lone **American Pipit** at LK 1/22 (AW) furnished the only report. Highlights among sparrows were limited, with only eight species reported. A **Chipping Sparrow** on the GCBC, three reports of **Savannah Sparrow** all in Feb (NB, DH, LW); and 7 reports of **Swamp Sparrow** were noteworthy. Conspicuous by its absence was Fox Sparrow.

Careful examination of a flock of about 1000 **Red-winged Blackbirds** on the GCBC rewarded the observers with a county first **Yellow-headed Blackbird** and 5 **Rusty Blackbirds** (VG, NZ). **Eastern Meadowlarks** wintered in the county again. Of the ten reports, the high count of 12 was made at Freedom Twp. 2/18 (DH, TN). Both **Common Grackles** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were reported intermittently throughout the period. An unexpected adult male **Baltimore Oriole** brightened the YSCBC this year. Fortunate observers found this bird along Blackberry School Rd. and were treated to extended views as it fed on berries (SG, MO).

A single **Purple Finch** was at Carroll Commons Park 12/8 (AW). The GCBC provided the only report of **Common Redpoll**. Three early **Pine Siskins** were at Shippensburg Rd. 1/6 (BO); all other reports mirrored the state-wide movement in Feb. Unlike a large irruptive year, most of the 12 reports were limited to single digits (m.ob.). Exceptions were 25 at Boyd's School Rd 2/13-15 (RR) and 85 at MTN 2/13-16 (RDS).

Observers: **Phil Keener**, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, pittche74@yahoo.com, Paul Banks, Jr., John Berkheimer, Scott Blanchard, Della Brown, Ian Clarke, Rosanna Clouse, Nikki DeBraccio, Eli DePaulis, Josh & Sue Donaldson, Nancy Downing, Ron Ferguson, Ron Freed (RF), Vern Gauthier, Ron George/Tracy Snyder (RGTS), Sarah Gettys, Don Gilbert, Julia Herndon, Deuane Hoffman, Dave Kerr, Bob Kornegay, Michael Locher, Nancy Locher, Barbara McCarthy, Linette Mansberger, Mark Markiewicz, Peter Morgan, Ted Nichols II, Mike O'Brien, Bill Oyler, Bonita Portzline, Glen Reid, Ronald Rock, Jack Schultz, Ralph & Deb Siefken, Andrew Taylor, Jason Verdier, Lionel Wells, Andy Wilson, Nathan Zalik.

Allegheny County

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

December had uneventful weather, but by mid-January there was no question it was wintertime. Another gull invasion that started in early January, earlier than previous invasions and at a time when there was not much ice on the rivers. Frigid temperatures arrived in February and the rivers iced up quickly. By this time the Great Lakes were over 90% frozen, so the numbers of gulls continued to increase and waterfowl arrived. It was the second coldest February on record in Pittsburgh. There was also a small invasion of **Pine Siskins** with most seen at feeders.

There was more news among geese this period than perhaps ever before. Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** landed for a short time at the Bald Knob Pond at IMP 12/1 (MV), furnishing the fourth county record. The

possible juv. **Ross's x Snow Goose** first reported in Nov was seen again in Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville 12/3 (*vide* BC) to at least 1/3 (m.ob.). There was still disagreement as to whether it was a pure Ross's Goose. An unquestionable adult **Ross's Goose** was at Dashields Dam 12/7 (GM), the sixth record for the county (excluding the possible hybrid). Another adult (or the same one seen at Dashields) was at Allegheny Cemetery 12/27-28 (MW, TH, DYe); clearly a different bird from the one mentioned above based on photographs and age. Three **Cackling Geese** at Neville Island 12/7 (MV) provided the sixth county record. The birds continued in the area to at least 2/22 (ph. m.ob.) moving between Neville Island, Coraopolis, and Emsworth.

S.A.

For the second consecutive winter, the Pittsburgh area experienced a gull invasion. **Great Black-backed Gulls** stole the show with record numbers. All the other rare species were in good numbers too. As usual, the birds gathered at dusk to roost at the conjunction of the three rivers at the Point in Pittsburgh. With nearly daily reports, it is impossible to list details in this report, so highlights follow.

Estimated high counts of **Ring-billed Gull** and **Herring Gull** were 5000 and 1000 respectively (GM, et al.). A first cycle **Thayer's Gull** was at the Point in Pittsburgh 1/28-31 (BC, GM, et al.) and an adult was there 2/17 (BC) and again 2/20 (GM, ST, et al.). The first **Iceland Gull** was a first cycle bird 1/9 (GM). First and second cycle birds and adults were seen during the season. Highest counts were 5 at the Point in Pittsburgh 2/20 (BC, GM, et al.), all first cycle birds; and 5 there also 2/26, including 4 first cycle and one adult. In total there were at least five first cycle birds, at least two second-cycle, and several adults but there could have been more. An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at the Point 1/14 (BC). At least 2 second cycle and 2 third cycle individuals along with 3 adults were tallied during the season. The highest count at one location was 5 at the Point 2/18 (ST); two second cycle, 3 third cycle or adults. The first **Glaucous Gull** was a first cycle at the Point 1/10 (BC). This species appeared in record numbers with a high count of 6 at the Point 1/30 (GM); two first cycle, one second cycle and 3 adults. **Great Black-backed Gulls** appeared in unprecedented numbers. Totals surpassed all other invasions combined. All ages were represented. A first cycle bird at the Point 1/10 (BC, ST) was the first. High counts at the Point included 41 on 2/13-14 (ST, DW, m. ob.), 67 on 2/18 (GM), 39 on 2/20 (GM, ST, m. ob.) and 67 again 2/28 (GM, MF). Numbers of this species also gathered on the Allegheny River during the day in the Chapel Harbor and Highland Park Dam area. The high count there was 24 on 2/22 (AH, PM). Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. was also a popular gathering spot during the late afternoon. The high count there was 15 on 2/19 (WS, DS). (Note: the top count of Great Black-backs for the season was 73 (GM), but this tally was not made until 3/6.) The most amazing find was an adult **Kelp Gull** first identified and photographed at the Point 1/17 (BC). The bird was resting on ice and its build, wing pattern and particularly the leg color were all noted. It was seen again the following morning (GM). It appeared once again at Duck Hollow 1/18 late in the afternoon where it was seen at close range and photographed (DWe, MVV, TM, NM). It was probably seen that evening back at the Point, but the bird rested on the water so the legs were not visible and with distance and fading light, details were not easily seen (m.ob.). Despite persistent searches in the following days (and for the remainder of the invasion), it was never relocated much to the disappointment of many. Pending review, this would be a state and county first. An interesting bird that was thought to be a **Great Black-backed x Herring Gull** was at the Point 2/26 (ph. GM, BC).

Unusual were several reports of **Mute Swan**. The first came from the Monongahela R. at Duck Hollow 1/17 (MJ, JHa, DWe, TH). Two were on the Ohio R. at Brunots Island 2/11-22 (PB, et al.). One (probably the same bird) was further downriver at the Emsworth Dam 2/20 (MV). Reports of **Tundra Swans** were scattered with one or two birds in various locations. A flock of 100 flew over Bellevue 1/14 (KC).

Three **Gadwalls** were at Wingfield Pines 1/9 (MJ), where they remained to at least 2/25 (ST). An **American Wigeon** was on a small pond at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 12/14 (MV). Four were at Duck Hollow 12/31 (KSJ, DWe). As always, **American Black Ducks** were regular winter residents here. The max was 12 at the Moody Rd. ponds in Findlay Twp.

1/1 (MF). A **Northern Shoveler** was at WP 1/15-17 (ST, JHa). Two **Northern Pintails** were there 12/6 (AP); three were there 12/13 (ST) and they remained through the season (m.ob.). One was at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 12/19 (MV) and one was on the Allegheny R. at the Highland Park Bridge 2/22 (TH). Up to 6 **Green-winged Teal** were at WP through the season (m.ob.).

A wide variety of bay and sea ducks were reported as the Great Lakes continued to freeze. With just about daily reports from various locations it's impossible to list all observations. A summary of waterfowl with (high counts) and the first date reported is as follows: **Ring-necked Duck** (5) 12/17, **Greater Scaup** (11) 1/10, **Lesser Scaup** (5) 1/19, **Bufflehead** (20) 12/12, **Common Goldeneye** (39) 1/9, **Hooded Merganser** (10) 1/1, **Common Merganser** (32) 12/13, **Red-breasted Merganser** (23) 12/11, **Canvasback** (75) 1/6, **Redhead** (33) 1/6, **Long-tailed Duck** (6) 12/31; all of these species remained through the season. All three scoters were present. An imm. male **Surf Scoter** was on the Allegheny R. at Sharpsburg 1/23-27 (MVV, et al.). An imm. male was on the Monongahela R. at Duck Hollow 1/29-31 (MJ, et al.) and again 2/13-15 (MJ, TH, et al.). An adult male **White-winged Scoter** was at Duck Hollow 1/24 (MF). A female was found at Sharpsburg 1/24 (MJ, JHa, TH) and two were nearby in Fox Chapel that day (DY). One remained at Sharpsburg 2/23 (STh, SuT). Perhaps the same bird was seen a few miles upriver at Oakmont 2/15 (AH, PM) and at Blawnox 2/23 (STh, SuT). Four white-wings were at Verona, two at Oakmont and two at the Highland Park Dam area, all 2/27 (AH, PM). Five were at Blawnox 2/28 (GK). One was at the McKees Rocks Boat Dock on the Ohio R. 2/17-27 (MJ, et al.). One was at Dashields Dam on the Ohio R. 2/16-27 (MV). Seven were there 2/28 (MV). One was at the Point in Pittsburgh 2/25-26 (BP, MJ). Three were at Duck Hollow 2/28 (DWe). An imm. male **Black Scoter** was at Sharpsburg 2/2 through the season (DP, et al.). Five **Ruddy Ducks** were at Duck Hollow 2/9 (BB).

Strangely, a **Wild Turkey** landed in the Monongahela River at Duck Hollow where it died 1/17 (m.ob.). A flock of 59 was seen in Findlay Twp. 2/28 (MV). A **Common Loon** was at Dashields Dam 12/1 (MV), providing the only report. There were a few **Red-necked Grebes** around; despite the freezing of the Great Lakes they were not as widespread as they were during other years with similar conditions. The first was at Dashields Dam 2/13 (GM). One was at Duck Hollow 2/17 (JHa, MJ, MVV), one at the Braddock Dam 2/20-28 (MJ, et al.) and 3 were there 2/27 (MJ). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was at IMP 2/8 (GM).

A late **Killdeer** was in Hampton Twp. 12/27 (Pittsburgh CBC). An early or overwintering bird was in Natrona Heights 1/16 (DH). Out of season, 4 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were on the Allegheny R. at Sharpsburg 12/28 (DYe).

Barred Owls are local residents in the county although reports are sparse. One was in Fox Chapel 12/27 (BSh) and one flew across a road during the day in West Deer Twp. 1/24 (AH, PM). Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were at WP 11/14 (*fide* ST), two were heard calling in Jefferson Hills 12/20 (JHa, BMu), and one was at Settler's Cabin Park 1/4 (ST). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen in the fields surrounding the Moody Road Ponds in Findlay Twp. 12/1 (GM).

A real surprise was an imm. or female **Selasphorus hummingbird** found inside the Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh 12/27 (HF). Apparently the bird entered through vents used to regulate temperatures in the conservatory, where it found a lush warm indoor forest with plenty of food and flowering plants. It initially frequented the flowers of a Red Powder Puff Tree (*Calliandra haematocephala*) in the Stove Room and later on moved to the Victoria Room and fed primarily on banana tree blossoms (GM). The bird was photographed by several people. The spread tail was captured in the photos and it appeared to be a **Rufous Hummingbird**. The staff at the conservatory was aware of the bird and hung a feeder near the tree, although it was not observed visiting the feeder. It was hoped the bird could be banded, but that never came to be. According to the conservatory staff, the bird left the building on 1/19 (*fide* GM). It represented the 12th *Allegheny* record. An imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found at Homewood Cemetery 12/21 (JC) and remained until at least 2/27 (m.ob.). Reports of **Merlin** were numerous. One was in Point Breeze 12/7 (JC), one in Shaler Twp. 12/8-27 (JH), and one in Homewood Cemetery 12/13-2/27 (MF, et al.). Singles were in Schenley Park 1/24 (JHa), 2/13 (KSJ), and 2/28 (GM). One was in Fox Chapel 2/15 (AH, PM).

A late **Eastern Phoebe** was at WP 12/16 (ST). The **Northern Shrike** first reported in Nov continued through the season at IMP (m.ob.). The **American Crow** roost in Pittsburgh still brings delight and wonder to birders. During the Pittsburgh CBC over 19,000 were counted. **Fish Crows** continued to be seen regularly, mainly at Duck Hollow (m.ob.). A count of 17 was made there 1/18 (TH, ST). **Common Ravens** also continue to be reported regularly from various locations.

There were scattered reports of **Winter Wren**, **Brown Creeper**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** from various locations through the season (m.ob.). **Marsh Wrens** continued from the fall at WP. Usually only a single

bird was seen in Jan (ST, m.ob.), but two were there 1/11 (ST). At least one was seen through the season providing the first overwintering record in the county. A very interesting observation was made 2/25 when a Marsh Wren was observed capturing and eating a small fish (ph. ST).

A great count of 35 **Eastern Bluebirds** was tallied in North Park during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/27 (m.ob.). **Hermit Thrushes** probably winter in the county annually; however reports are usually few or absent entirely. One was in Fox Chapel 12/7 (CH) and two were in Frick Park 12/27 (TF, FI). An out of season **Gray Catbird** was at Settler's Cabin Park 1/4 (ST). A great count of 23 **Northern Mockingbirds** was made at North Park during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/27. Three **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were in Penn Hills 12/27 (Pittsburgh CBC).

Eastern Towhees are uncommon in winter but there were a good number this season. During the Pittsburgh CBC, 3 were at Frick Park (TF, FI) and 2 were at North Park (m.ob.). A male was in Findlay Twp. 1/10 (MF) and again 1/30 (MV). At the feeders at Latodomi Nature Center in North Park, 2 were present 1/12 (KD) and one was seen through February (m.ob.). A **Chipping Sparrow** visited a feeder in Pleasant Hills 1/11 (BMu) and another was in that area 1/25-31 (MH). Two were photographed at a feeder in Sewickley 1/31, where they continued through the season with a max of 6 on 2/21 (JT). Two **Field Sparrows** were at WP 12/13 (ST) and two were at North Park 2/9 (RM). Several **Swamp Sparrows** were at WP the entire period (m.ob.). **White-crowned Sparrows** included one at IMP 1/10 (MF) and 6 there 1/11 (AP). Up to 6 were at the traditional wintering site at a farm in Findlay Twp. 1/23 through the season (MF, et al.).

Late **Red-winged Blackbirds** included single birds at WP 12/23 (JHa) and Indiana Twp. 12/27 (SG). A surprising count of 11 visited a feeder in Pine Twp. 1/18 (PL, SL). **Eastern Meadowlarks** have been seen at IMP late in the fall in previous years and there was a possibility, never confirmed, they were wintering at the site. This year they were confirmed with up to 6 seen during the season (m.ob.). Rare in winter, 7 **Common Grackles** were in Forest Hills 1/11 (TBI). Also out of season were 4 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** at a feeder in Pine Twp. 1/18 (PL, SL). A female **Baltimore Oriole** was visiting a feeder in Ohara Twp. 12/24 (ph. JL, *fide* BSh). It was last reported 1/8 (*fide* BSh), but could have spent the entire winter.

A female **Purple Finch** was in Pine Twp. 12/28 (PL, SL). A **Common Redpoll** visited a feeder in Hampton Twp. 12/27 through the season (JA). There was a fairly good invasion of **Pine Siskins**, with reports from many locations, mainly at feeders. The highest count was 12 in Hampton Twp. 1/23 (JA).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Freeport (FP), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Worthington (WT).

Most area lakes and ponds had frozen almost completely by the first week of January and large sections of the Allegheny R. and other streams froze shortly thereafter, so the best winter water birding was along the Allegheny near the dams. All KT and FP waterbird reports were at the locks and dams unless otherwise indicated.

Canada Goose maxima included 200 at CC 1/4 (SG), 260 at KT 1/31 (TR), and 350 at FP 2/20 (TR). A single **Mute Swan** was on Redbank Creek at New Bethlehem 1/4 (JK). Three reports of **Tundra Swans** included one each near LB 1/21 (MVT), at FP 2/20 (TR), and at KT 2/22 (TR). A single **Gadwall** lingered at KR through 12/16 (MH, RH) and one appeared at KT 2/7 (TR). Twenty-eight **American Black Ducks** were at the CC dam outflow 1/11 (MVT). Top **Mallard** counts were 201 at KR 1/4 (LC), 60 at FP 2/8

(TR), and 69 at KT 2/28 (TR). A single **Green-winged Teal** at FP 2/28 (GK, MK) was the only one noted. Two **Northern Pintails** stopped at KR 12/21 (LC). KT hosted 4 **Canvasbacks** 1/17 (TR) and one remained through 2/28 (TR); 37 was an amazing count at FP 2/25 (MVT). The first **Redhead** showed up at KT 1/17 (TR) and 3 at FP 1/11 (TR) had increased to 8 by 2/28 (MK, GK). KR still harbored 3 **Ring-necked Ducks** 12/16 (MH, RH). KT boasted only singletons 1/22 (MH, RH) and 1/31 (TR). Top **Greater Scaup** counts included 27 at FP 2/28 (MK, GK) and 20 at KT 2/26 (MH, RH). **Lesser Scaup** numbers at KT ranged from 2 to 7 between 1/22 (MH, RH) and 2/26 (MH, RH). A **Surf Scoter** photographed on the Allegheny R. at Parker 12/3 (DH) was a nice find. A single **White-winged Scoter** lingered at KT between 2/22 (TR) and 2/26 (MH, RH). Single **Long-tailed Ducks** were noted at FP between 2/20 (TR) and 2/28 (MK, GK) and at KT 2/22 (TR) and 2/23 (MH, RH). There were numerous **Bufflehead** sightings on the Allegheny R., with the high tallies of 6 on 1/31 at KT (TR) and 10 on 2/25 at FP (MVT). Six **Common Goldeneyes** visited KR 12/21 (LC); numbers on the river increased to 33 at KT 2/7 (TR). KR hosted nice flocks of 84 **Hooded Mergansers** and 76 **Common Mergansers** 12/7 (LC, MH, RH). This was the highest winter Hooded Merganser count on record. CC's top count of 160 Common Mergansers occurred 12/4 (TR); this report surpassed all previous winter records. **Red-breasted Mergansers** were in low numbers with just one at FP on both 2/20 (TR) and 2/28 (MK, GK) and 4 at CC 2/23 (MVT).

Only 2 **Ruffed Grouse** were reported this season, both at KR 1/4 (LC). The **Wild Turkey** high was 30 at FC 2/16 (TK). The fall season's last 4 **Common Loons** and 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted at KR 12/28 (MH, RH). Fifty **Horned Grebes** provided KR's best-ever winter tally 12/7 (MH, RH); one lingered there 12/28 (MH, RH).

Four **Bald Eagles** were noted near LB 1/15 (MVT) and 5 at CC 2/7 (SG); along the Allegheny R., numbers ranged from one to 3 individuals 1/10-2/27 (m.ob.). **Northern Harriers** were found at Widnoon 12/6 (MMo), on the WRS 1/17 (MM), and near WT 1/22, 2/4 (MH, RH). Dark morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were noted near Ford City 2/4 (MVT) and near WT 2/26 (MH, RH); another Rough-legged Hawk of undetermined morph was listed near WT 1/24 (MW).

American Coots were spotted only at KR with counts of 44 on 12/7 (LC) and 7 lingering 12/21 (LC). KR provided refuge for the last **Bonaparte's Gulls**: 5 on 12/21 (LC) and 4 on 12/26 (MVT); no others were reported. **Ring-billed Gull** maxima were 15, both 1/22 at KT (MH, RH) and 2/8 at CC (MH, RH). An unprecedented 44 **Herring Gulls** were counted at Rosston 2/15 (LV); one to 5 were listed at KT 1/17 (TR) through the end of the season (m.ob.); 5 were also noted 2/8 (MH, RH) on the Kiski at Apollo flying down the middle of the river, the *Armstrong/Westmoreland* county line.

Eastern Screech-Owls were listed at two locations, one 1/10 (SG) along the Roaring Run Trail and another 1/20 (TR) near SGL 247 after dark. The only **Great Horned Owl** reported was heard near SGL 247 on five dates 12/29-2/23 (TR); on the latter date, two were noted. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** sightings included singletons at CC 12/4 (TR), near LB 1/27 (MVT), and along the Armstrong Trail near KT 2/4 (MH, RH). A **Merlin** near WT 1/1 (MVT) was a nice find.

A WRS yielded 65 **Horned Larks** near Widnoon 2/3 (MH, RH, GL, DL). The WT area hosted at least 200 larks 1/22 (MH, RH) with 165 still present 2/26 (MH, RH); 50 were sighted 2/28 (TR). These were the highest counts since 2008. Two feeders, both near FC, hosted 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** 2/13 (LR) and one 2/14 (DR). Two **Winter Wrens** appeared at CC 2/7 (SG), the only ones reported.

American Robins mostly disappeared from the county after 1/1 (MH, RH) when one was seen near Elderton; the next sighting was of an individual near FC 2/13 (LR). **Cedar Waxwings**, too, were in low numbers with just 9 on the WRS 2/3 (MH, RH, GL, DL) and 20 at SGL 247 on 2/7 (TR). A single **Lapland Longspur** was found amid the larks near WT 1/22 (MH, RH). Two **Snow Buntings** were first seen 1/22 (MH, RH) associating with the WT larks; numbers increased to 32 by 2/23 (MH, RH) and peaked at 87 on 2/26 (MH, RH); these are the highest numbers since the 100 reported in the same area in 1997.

The only **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, all at CC, included 2 on 1/31 (JB) and one 2/7 (SG). Two **Field Sparrows** lingered near Elderton 1/1 (MH, RH) but went unreported thereafter. Four **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported near FC 2/16 (TK). The first returning flock of 49 **Red-winged Blackbirds** gathered in a marsh northwest of KT 2/26 (MH, RH). Two **Common Grackles** visited feeders near LB 1/24 (MVT). The only reported **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were 3 on the WRS 2/3 (MH, RH, GL, DL).

On 2/16 (MVT), a **Common Redpoll** visited a LB feeder, the same feeder that hosted 6 **Pine Siskins** 1/7 (MVT). Best siskin count at CC was 10 on 1/4 (SG), and 25 visited a FC feeder on 2/15 (LR).

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Beaver County

Locations: Independence Marsh (IND), Little Blue Lake (LBL) New Brighton (NB), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

The season was rather poor in terms of species diversity, but it was punctuated by a series of county rarities, headed up by the remarkable invasion of gulls on the Ohio River during the brutal cold in January and February. By season's end six species of gull had been found, among these were a first county record and a second county record.

Aside from the gulls, reports of waterfowl dominated the season, as they do in wintertime. *Beaver's* third **Ross's Goose**, an adult, showed up at IND 12/6-7 (MV). The same bird (based on the exact shape of the bill and grin patch) was seen at Dashields Dam in *Allegheny* late in the day on 12/7. Possibly the same bird was back at IND and nearby Schiefelbein's Farm 12/24-29 (MV). Max December count of **Canada Geese** was 225 at IND 12/6 (JM), but this was far outdone by the 600 that huddled at NB 1/20 during a period of intense cold and frozen rivers (SK). A flock of 40 **Tundra Swans** was seen overhead in the vicinity of LBL 1/14 (KJ).

Gadwall was present in small numbers at RCH 1/31-2/12 (MV, CD, et al.). It was a better than average winter for **American Black Duck**, probably due to the excessive cold, with sightings at IND 12/1 (MV) and at RCH 12/20-2/14 (m.ob.); top count at the latter site was 10 on 1/31 (MV). **Mallard** high counts during the freeze were 277 at RCH 1/31 (MV) and 247 at NB 2/15 (MV). Three **Northern Pintails** lingered at IND 12/28-29 (MV) prior to the major cold; there were sightings of up to 4 at RCH on four dates from 1/10-2/12 (m.ob.). Six **Green-winged Teal** at IND 12/1 (MV) were the first and last of the season. **Canvasbacks** were sparse through Jan but appeared suddenly in mid-Feb at RCH where the count quickly reached 85 on 2/14 (MV). There were still 51 there 2/28 (MV). Twenty-six **Redhead** at RCH 1/16 (GM, MV, DR, GR) were probably forced off lakes to the north as they appeared with the first huge wave of gulls. Redhead totals in late Feb at RCH included 40 on 2/26 (GR) and 36 on 2/27 (MV); these were likely an aggregation of northbound birds still stalled on the Ohio among all the ice. Two **Ring-necked Ducks** at RCH 1/18 (MV) were the only ones reported for the season. Scaup were also quite scarce, somewhat surprising considering the circumstances, especially in the case of Greater. Neither was seen frequently, and the top counts were just 15 **Greater Scaup** 1/29 (MV) and 27 **Lesser Scaup** 1/28 (DR). Three **Surf Scoters** were among the Lessers at RCH 1/28 (DR), and three **White-winged Scoters** were at NB 2/22 (OM), the only reports for either species before season's end. **Bufflehead** and **Common Goldeneye** both topped out at 11, the former 1/20 at NB (SK) and the latter 1/25 at RCH (GM). Mid-winter **Hooded Mergansers** included 5 at RCH 1/16 (GM, MV, DR, GR) with at least one staying to 1/25. **Common Mergansers** had one of their best showings in recent memory. One or two hung around the lower Beaver River from the beginning of the season to 1/1 (MV, DK, et al.). They went absent for a few weeks, then suddenly 27 were present at RCH 1/15 (GM, DR), and their number quickly built to 87 by 1/18 (MV). After a brief absence, there were 44 back at RCH 1/29 (MV) but they were quickly gone after that. A **Red-breasted Merganser** at RCH 1/18-19 (KSJ) and 1/28-29 (DR) provided unusual Jan records for this species. A few more were seen closer to the end of Feb.

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at Siebel Farm in Independence Twp. 1/31 (DK), quite unusual these days in winter and especially a winter like this. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was up to the challenge of Jan and Feb at RCH, periodically reported 1/15-2/12 (m.ob.). Normally this species moves out completely in a harsh season like this one was. Two **Horned Grebes** were at RCH 1/28 (GR, DR) and one was there 2/13 (GR). **Great Blue Herons** also arrived in numbers in mid-Jan alongside the gulls. One or two could be counted upon at or near RCH for most of Dec, but then 9 appeared suddenly 1/15 (GM, DR) and lingered only until 1/17 when they probably proceeded farther south.

A late **Turkey Vulture** was in Greene Twp. 12/27 (MV); singles at RCSP 2/8 (KSJ) and Vanport 2/9 (GR) were both early especially considering the conditions. A **Bald Eagle** at IND 12/28 (MV) was followed by 14 reports of up to 2 at RCH 1/1-2/20 (m.ob.). **Northern Harrier** was noted at LBL and nearby 1/4-2/13 by various birders searching for a shrike, as were up to 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** over most of the same dates (KJ, et al.). There were six reports of **Red-shouldered Hawk** 1/1-2/22 (m.ob.) of birds seen along highways or in residential areas.

A late **Killdeer** was on the Beaver River at NB 12/31-1/1 (MV) and one was on the Ohio at Vanport 1/16 (GR). A **Wilson's Snipe** toughed it out at the Siebel Farm in Independence Twp., noted from 1/16-2/8 (MV).

The invasion of gulls at RCH was unprecedented by a long way, as it was at Pittsburgh, *Allegheny*. Things started suddenly around 1/14 and continued well into Feb, though most of the notable birds were seen in Jan. As at Pittsburgh, the best time to observe the gulls was in the late afternoon, when they gathered to roost on the Ohio River at the mouth of the Beaver River. The first **Iceland Gull** (which was also the first rare gull for the season) was a first cycle bird 1/15 (GM, DR), which represented just the second record for *Beaver*. (The previous record was a first cycle bird at RCH 3/4/2007.) It was joined by a second cycle 1/16-17 (GM, DR, et al.). Another first cycle was present 1/22-25 (GM) which was joined by an adult 1/25 (GM). The last and fifth for the season was another first cycle 2/6 (MV). Surprisingly there were just three **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** recorded: 2 adults 1/16-17 (GM, MV, DR, GR) and another adult 2/6 (MV). The county's first **Glaucous Gull** was a second cycle among the masses 1/17 (MV, ph. GM). It was followed by a first cycle 1/24 (MV) and two adults 1/25 (GM, DR) for a season total of 4. **Great Black-backed Gulls** staged a major incursion into sw. Pennsylvania with its epicenter at Pittsburgh, but RCH had more than its share of this species as well. First detected 1/14 (GR), Great Black-backs were reported daily though the end of Jan with a max count of 12 on 1/17 (GM, MV, DR, GR) and again 1/24 (MV). Another 12 appeared 2/6 (MV), and the last was seen 2/20 (ER). The majority of birds were first cycle or adults, with about an even mix of both, and a smattering of second and third cycle birds. Considering the fact that the max at Pittsburgh was about six times the max at RCH, and the fact that birds were present over such a long range of dates, it is not unreasonable to assume that the turnover among them was significant and that perhaps 50 or more individuals were recorded during the event.

As for the two common species, at least 1000 **Ring-billed Gulls** appeared 1/14 (DR) and quickly jumped to a count of at least 4500 by 1/16 (GM, MV, DR, GR). Four-digit totals continued most days through the end of Jan. From 500-600 **Herring Gulls** were present 1/15-17 (GM, MV, DR, GR) with up to 300 still present 1/25. The last Herring Gull was reported 2/15 at NB (MV). Both max totals were new county records for these species.

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** used a roost hole in a sycamore tree at IND for at least the fourth winter in a row (GR). Vying with the Glaucous Gulls for bird of the season was a surprising **Long-eared Owl** at RCSP 2/8 (KSJ). The bird was roosting in rather deep woods, in what seemed like an odd location, since long-ears often choose to roost in dense pines but adjacent to open areas; this bird was not particularly close to any open area. It was seen again 2/9 (GM) but not thereafter despite a few attempts. **American Kestrels** wintered in Greene Twp. (MV, GM, et al.) and one was in open country around Fombell 12/8-9 (DK). Two **Merlins** were tallied on the Beaver CBC 12/20 (*fide* RM), one of which was atop the Grace Lutheran Church in Rochester (MV) where one has been seen for a number of winters. (Incidentally, the Beaver CBC tallied just 44 species, the third lowest total ever. The lowest was 41 in 2001.) Another Merlin was seen near LBL 1/14 (KJ) and yet another (possibly the RCH bird) was atop the First United Methodist Church in Beaver Falls 1/17 (TJ). **Peregrine Falcon** was noted variously around the Ohio River bridges at Monaca through 1/10 (m.ob.).

A **Northern Shrike** was located in Greene Twp. near LBL 1/1 (KJ). Several hopeful birders visited the area over the next two months with varying degrees of success. It was probably seen on only one out of every three or four attempts, demonstrating how elusive shrikes can be despite their preference for open habitats. It was last reported 2/27. Two **Common Ravens** were frequently seen around RCH beginning 1/15 and by season's end they appeared to be setting up for a nesting attempt (GR, et al.) on the Rochester-Beaver Railroad Bridge (operated by Norfolk Southern), the rail bridge that crosses the Beaver River about 100 feet upriver from the mouth. A follow-up report will be made in the spring issue. A **Winter Wren** was at IND 12/29 (GR). Quite remarkable, and a county first for the month of January, was a (Western) **Palm Warbler** at IND 1/4 (GM), found during the Imperial CBC. Mid-winter **Eastern Towhees** at Greene Twp. 1/14 (KJ) and IND 1/23 (GR) were unexpected. A nice count of 25 **American Tree Sparrows** was made at IND also on 1/23 (GR), and a **Swamp Sparrow** was holding on at IND 1/27-29 (DR, GR). **Pine Siskins** were at three locations. Up to 7 used the park office bird feeders at RCSP from 1/1 through the season (m.ob.). Four were at a feeder in Monaca 1/17 (GR), one of which struck a window but recovered. By far the biggest flock was at a feeder in Economy that was present from late Jan through the season. This flock usually topped out at about 7-8 birds but double digits were present 1/26-2/2 including a count of 55 on 2/2 (all KD).

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Bedford County

No report.

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Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), E. J. Breneman Quarry (BQ), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO), Pheasant Valley Farm, Robesonia (PVF). CBC's: Reading 12/14 (RCBC), Bernville 12/27 (BCBC), Hamburg 12/28 (HCBC).

Precipitation for the period was close to average and December was fairly mild, with comfortable weather for the CBC's. Temperatures dropped and snowfall increased around mid-January, and weeks of polar winds made February one of the coldest months in memory, with many nights of zero or sub-zero temperatures.

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** at BQ 12/27 (DW) put the species in the book for another of many winter seasons. Fall **Snow Goose** migration had barely gotten underway in early Dec, but by mid-month tens of thousands of birds roosting in Lehigh's Fogelsville Quarry fanned out daily in search of cornfields. In Maxatawny Twp., 20,000 birds were counted flying east toward Fogelsville 12/20 (TW). A flock of 8000 settled into an Oley Valley cornfield 1/17 (RK). At Hamburg, 27,670 were tallied flying west 1/19 (KG). Numbers tapered off sharply in late Jan when roosting sites froze and snow covered the fields, sending the birds south. Two **Ross's Geese** were reported, the first with **Canada Geese** at Gotwals Pond, Oley 12/13 (ALan, TN) and the second with about 3000 **Snow Geese** at LO 1/3 (TN). Ten **Cackling Geese**, more than the usual number, were reported at various places 12/1-1/25 (m.ob.), perhaps because birders are looking more closely at **Canada Goose** flocks. Seven resident **Mute Swans** continued at LO till freeze-out in Feb. *Berks* lies east of the usual migration route of **Tundra Swans** across Pennsylvania, so reported numbers are often fairly small. A flock of 21 was at BML 1/5 (KL, PJW) and a flock of 28 was at LO 1/9 (RK). The only CBC record of Tundra Swans this year was of 6 on the BCBC. A **Trumpeter Swan** that briefly visited a frozen pond in Lyons 2/28 (ST *fide* SF) was photographed by a man who happened to be walking his dog there at just the right time.

As usual, many duck species reached peak seasonal numbers in Dec and mostly departed when waters froze in late Jan and Feb. As in 2014, the go-to place to see waterfowl in Feb was BQ, which remained half to a third open. The last reported **Wood Ducks** were one at Big Spring, Robesonia 12/28 (PM) and one at LO 1/2 (EK). **Gadwall** again wintered at Moselem Springs Golf Club and nearby ponds, with the seasonal high of 76 found on the HCBC. Numbers have declined in recent years. The last of very few **American Wigeons**, in recent years an uncommon fall and winter duck, was seen at LO 1/22 (RK). The two most common dabblers were not so numerous this year, indicated by seasonal high counts of only 205 **American Black Ducks** and 715 **Mallards** at LO 1/1 (RK). **Mallard x American Black Duck** hybrids seen in flocks of the parent species included 2 at BQ 12/10 (RK), one at LO 12/12-1/1 (RK), and 2 at Bernhart's Dam 1/2 (PJW). A few **Northern Shovelers** again wintered at BQ, the counts varying from one to 6 from 1/2-2/23 (m.ob.). Two to 4 **Green-winged Teal** were sometimes seen at BQ 12/4-2/22. The 82 **Northern Pintails** recorded on the RCBC was a high number for recent years. As in 2014, all the native *Aythya* species were part of the Feb waterfowl show at BQ. On various days, birders reported one to 10 each of **Canvasbacks** and **Redheads**, up to 20 **Ring-necked Ducks**, one to 12 **Greater Scaup** and one to 5 **Lesser Scaup**. Single **Long-tailed Ducks** were at LO 12/9-14 (RK, PJW), at 5th St. quarry, Reading 1/8 (KL) and at BML 1/13 (PJW). A female **White-winged Scoter** was at LO 1/11 (MSp). Up to 4 **Buffleheads** sometimes popped up among the larger diving ducks at BQ in Feb. Only one to 3 **Common Goldeneyes**, which seem to prefer rivers, wintered at BQ. **Hooded Mergansers** were common in Dec, with 70 at LO 12/20 (RK), but tanked after 1/3. **Common Mergansers** grew scarce after the last stretch of open water at BML froze in early Feb. Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at BQ 2/19-28 (ALan, RK). Most flocks of **Ruddy Ducks** at BQ numbered in the 20-50 range (m.ob.).

Despite of their size and relatively common status, **Wild Turkeys** are very inconspicuous except when they visit feeders, where they may or may not be welcome. One generous birder fed 70 during the Feb freezes (CC),

and some other birders more grudgingly fed a dozen or more. The 4 **Ruffed Grouse** counted on the HCBC were the only ones reported.

Two **Red-throated Loons** were at LO 12/4-5 (KG, RK) and one of them stayed until 12/10 (m.ob.). One to 6 **Common Loons** were seen on various days at LO 12/4-1/6 (m.ob.), and the last one reported this season was at BML 1/11 (JS). A few **Pied-billed Grebes** settled in for the winter at BQ, where the high count was 6 on 2/19 (ALam). A **Horned Grebe** was at BQ 2/19-23. The 2 **Red-necked Grebes** at LO 12/4, one of which lingered till 12/8 (KG, RK), were fall migrants. Later birds, including 3 at BML 1/24 (MSI, MW), one in the Tulpehocken Cr. below frozen BML 2/17 (RH), and one at BQ 2/23 (KG) were more likely refugees from Great Lakes ice. Two **Double-crested Cormorants** seen at LO on the RCBC were the last reported this season.

All three CBCs had good counts of **Turkey Vultures** and **Black Vultures**, and both species persisted in smaller numbers through Feb. Raptors continued to migrate along the Kittatinny Ridge after the official close of the counting season at HMS 12/15. Single **Golden Eagles** passed North Lookout on each of 5 days 12/17-1/5, and 3 were seen 1/7 (LG). Two **Northern Goshawks** migrated over HMS with some of the eagles, one each 12/30 and 1/17 (LG). Several **Bald Eagles** were counted on each CBC. At a chicken farm near Shartlesville, up to 19 **Bald Eagles**, mostly imm., could be seen scavenging carcasses in Feb (MW). A female commenced incubation in a new nest near that farm 2/13 and was still sitting 2/28 (MW). It usually takes a harsh, snowy winter to drive **Rough-legged Hawks** south into *Berks*, and conditions were right in Feb. Four light morph birds spotted over Hamburg 1/27 (DA) were the first reported, and sightings, mostly of light morph birds, continued into Mar. The best place to see them was PVF, where as many as 4 light morph and 2 dark morph birds were seen during the peak of the influx in early to mid-Feb. PVF is a private gamebird farm planted with large fields of un-mowed warm season grasses alternating with strips of standing corn and sorghum, creating excellent habitat for the rodent prey of these raptors. Rough-legs were seen there and at similar habitat around BML through Feb. Those reported from intensively cultivated farmland tended not to linger. One to 3 **Northern Harriers** were also seen at PVF during Feb, as were owls and falcons (see below).

The seasonal high count of **American Coots** was 140 at LO 12/1 (RK), where numbers gradually declined to zero when the lake froze completely in early Feb. Counts of the wintering coot flock at BQ were mostly in the 20-40 range. The flock of 19 **Killdeer** at Gotwals pond, Oley was heading south 1/4 (RK). After that, a few **Killdeer** and **Wilson's Snipe** could be found in farmland springs through Feb. Numbers of gulls staging at BML were smaller than usual, and almost all moved on when the last open water froze in early Feb. One to 7 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported at local lakes 1/1-9 (DA, KL, MSI). The peak counts of 5000 **Ring-billed Gulls** and 1500 **Herring Gulls** were made at BML 12/13 (RK). Single imm. **Iceland Gulls** were seen at BML on various days 12/8-2/7 (DA, KG, KL, PJW). An imm. **Glaucous Gull** visited BML 1/12-20 (m.ob.). Various counts of one-5 Lesser **Black-backed Gulls** made at BML and LO during the period were within the normal seasonal range. The counts of 1-3 **Great Black-backed Gulls** during the same period were a bit low.

Two or 3 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were seen near a feeder at the Shartlesville colony during the period (MW, m.ob.). This winter's only **Snowy Owl**, a bird with dark barring presumed to be an imm., was seen perched on a roadside utility pole in Marion Twp. about 17:00 on 2/21 (RF). The observer stopped to photograph it while commuting home during a snowstorm. It was not reported again. Two **Short-eared Owls** were seen at PVF 2/27 (MW) and one was there 2/28 (EB).

The resident **American Kestrel** pair at PVF got competition in Feb, when as many as 6 were seen there on some days. Kestrels were scarce everywhere else due to snowcover and lack of good vole habitat. **Merlins**, on the other hand, were widely reported. Besides the expected wintering birds at BML, Merlins were seen, often for extended periods, at LO, in the city of Reading (MS), and in open farmland hunting birds. Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** pair remained in residence all winter. Two Peregrines were seen at HMS 12/25 (LG) and single birds were seen in Perry Twp. 2/1 (KG) and in Shartlesville 2/7 (KL). An unexpected consequence of having Peregrines in residence was reported by Bill Uhrich in the 1/4/2015 edition of the *Reading Eagle*. Steeplejacks investigating the cause of a water stain on the sanctuary ceiling of Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading found the downspout to be clogged with the heads of more than 40 **Rock Pigeons**. The church steeple is a favorite roosting and feeding perch of the falcons, which decapitate their prey, causing the heads to collect on the roof and eventually wash into the gutters and downspout.

A completely unexpected addition to *Berks'* list of bird species was a **Crested Caracara** (second Pennsylvania record) seen and photographed near a house in Pike Twp. 12/26-28. The observers asked to remain anonymous. The bird came to the house to feed on butchered deer remains. Realizing how rare it was, the family tried to photograph the bird from a

window when it came to feed, but as soon as it detected movement at the window, it walked away through the woods. Finally 2 trail cams were set up, and these captured close-up images of the bird as it was feeding. The photos show an apparently alert, healthy bird without leg bands. The observers remarked that its facial skin color was bright orange one day and pale yellow on another, and this is shown in the photos. The family saw it in flight, perched in trees near the house, and on the ground at various times during the 3 days, after which it was not seen again.

Three **Eastern Phoebes** lingered into Dec, one at BQ 12/7 (PJW), one near Birdsboro 12/14 (JT) and one at BML 12/28 (KKn). The latest was at Trout Run Sports Complex in Exeter Twp. 1/23 (RH). Up to 8 **Common Ravens** joined other avian scavengers at the chicken farm near Shartlesville in Feb (MW). Ravens in Kutztown have learned the benefits of dumpster diving (SF). It was another rock bottom winter for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, only 2 of which were reported. A few **Winter Wrens**, **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were still being seen in Feb. Seven **Hermit Thrushes** were reported at various places in Feb, some of them attracted to heated birdbaths. No **Gray Catbirds** were reported after Dec. An unusually large flock of 400 **American Pipits** was seen in the Oley Valley on the RCBC (RK). A flock of 32 was still in that area 1/22 (RK), and 2 or 3 of those wintered through Feb at a nearby spring (RK). Small flocks of 3-18 **Cedar Waxwings** appeared here and there in Feb.

A few **Lapland Longspurs** were found among abundant **Horned Larks** at several farms in Jan and Feb, the largest flock of 7 was near Fleetwood 1/25 (MW). **Snow Buntings** were similarly distributed in small numbers. They were most consistently found near Fleetwood foraging on a large pile of ground corn cobs and stalks whose internal heat helped keep at least one side free of snow. Up to 54 were seen at times on the pile, and about 100 were seen in fields nearby 2/12 (DL). A **Pine Warbler** was at Green Hills L. 1/3 (KL). Small flocks of 2-8 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen at times in the Schuylkill R. valley, the latest at Hamburg 2/25 (KG).

Seven **Eastern Towhees** entered in eBird during the Great Backyard Bird Count in mid-Feb were probably wintering at feeders. Post-CBC **American Tree Sparrows** were reported in single- or low-double digit numbers typical of this century. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** visited a feeder in Reading 2/8-28 (MSp). As in other snowy winters, **Savannah Sparrows** were unusually well reported because they were forced out of fields to feed along roadsides scraped free of snow. A few good counts were of 12 in Marion Twp. 2/8 (LC), 8 in Windsor Twp. 1/29 (KG), and 10-15 on various dates at PVF (m.ob.).

An **Eastern Meadowlark** on the BCBC and 2 in Albany Twp. 1/28-2/1 (SW, LS) provided the only reports. The sole observation of **Rusty Blackbird** was of 11 along the Schuylkill R. near Birdsboro 12/5 (JT). Often the most common overwintering blackbirds is **Brown-headed Cowbird**, many of which take up residence alongside **European Starlings** and **House Sparrows** in open cattle barns, where a few to over 100 can often be found, as during this winter (RK).

Small numbers of **Purple Finches** visited scattered feeders, the largest reported flock was of 12 at the HMS visitor center 2/6 (MW). An early **Common Redpoll** was seen feeding with **American Goldfinches** on a roadside in Maxatawny Twp. during the Lehigh Valley CBC 12/20 (TW). Two months passed till the next report - a single bird visiting a feeder near Morgantown 2/26-3/1 (HH). The cold and snow of Feb drove **Pine Siskins** to feeders. Some of the higher counts were of 50 in Bethel Twp. 2/15 (CC), 48 in Alsace Twp. 2/21 (PJW) and 58 at Plowville 2/24 (HL) but most feeders hosted smaller numbers through the month. This year's irruption was of moderate size compared to the very large one of 2008-09.

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Blair County

Locations: Canoe Creek State Park (CCSP), Monastery Rd. Impoundment (MRI)

Information for this report was obtained primarily from eBird, with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

The following uncommon or rare species were widely reported and will

not be discussed further in this report: **Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Flicker, Winter Wren, American Robin, Song Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow.**

Many late migrating ducks were noted in Dec, with most observations coming from CCSP. One or 2 **Gadwalls** and up to 5 **American Wigeons** were present there 12/3-4 (MD). The latter species is rare in winter. **American Black Ducks** were reported in four locations: 2-4 were at CCSP 12/1-13, 2 were at Lake Altoona 12/11, Henry's Pond near Martinsburg hosted half a dozen 12/13, and 3 were seen at MRI 12/30. Four to 7 **Northern Pintails** were also present at CCSP 12/4-13, and 2 were 12/13 at Henry's Pond near Martinsburg. A rare winter **Green-winged Teal** was present at CCSP 12/3. **Ring-necked Ducks** were observed 12/6 at CCSP and 12/11 at Lake Altoona (MD). CCSP hosted a **Redhead** 12/6-11, one or 2 **Greater Scaup** 12/11-12 and 2 **Lesser Scaup** 12/11 (MD, LG). Six Lesser Scaup were also observed the same day at Lake Altoona (both MD). Several other migrating duck species were also present at CCSP. A **Surf Scoter** was noted 12/11 and up to 3 **Long-tailed Ducks** were there 12/3-11 (all MD). As many as 6 **Common Goldeneyes** were admired at CCSP 12/4-20 (MD, LG) and one was seen 12/11 at Lake Altoona (MD). Up to 30 **Hooded Mergansers** were present at CCSP 12/1-20, with the high recorded 12/1 (MD, JD, LG). They shared the lake with one to 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 12/3-12 (MD, LG) and up to 20 **Ruddy Ducks** 12/4-20; the high count of Ruddies occurred 12/11 (MD, LG). A single Ruddy Duck was at Lake Altoona 12/11 (MD).

One or two **Common Loons** were spotted 12/3-6 at CCSP (MD), where a **Horned Grebe** was also present 12/1-17 (MD, LG). **Great Blue Herons**, uncommon in winter, were at MRI 12/7 (MD) and there was one each at the Grazierville Wetlands 12/20 (CE), and Altoona 2/16 (LC).

A **Cooper's Hawk** was tallied on Henrietti Rd. 2/7 (DeG, GG). Another was in Bellewood 2/13 (WH) and a third was in Hollidaysburg 2/15 (CH). An apparent albino **Red-tailed Hawk** was identified on Rte. 22 near the Portage/Munster exit 2/8. After initially mistaking it for a bird-shaped "white plastic bag", the observer doubled back and finally found the all-white bird again (ph. JC). A single **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted on Rte. 164 south of Hollidaysburg 2/7 (DeG, GG).

American Coots lingered at CCSP 12/1-20. As few as 4 and as many as 28 were recorded, with the high number occurring 12/6 (MD, JD, LG). A rare **Long-eared Owl** was observed near Altoona 1/22 (RH). A few uncommon **Belted Kingfishers** were noted. One was at CCSP 12/3-20 (MD, JD) and another was at MRI 127-13 (MD). Two others were also identified; one was at the Grazierville Wetlands 12/20 (CE) and the other in Williamsburg 2/7 (GG). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at CCSP 12/7 and 12/31 (JD) and one was seen at MRI 12/7 (MD). Area 1 of the Lake Raystown CBC includes a portion of *Blair* near Williamsburg. In that area a sapsucker was counted during the CBC 1/4 (DG). Two **Common Ravens** were spotted 12/20, one in Sinking Valley and the other in SGL 166 (MD). Another was identified in Area 1 of the Raystown CBC 1/4 (DG).

One of two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was found off Spring Hollow Rd. 1/9 (BC); the other was present in Altoona 2/13-16 (LC). A few **Brown Creepers** were noted. One was at CCSP 12/20 (MD), one was encountered in Hollidaysburg 2/13 (CH), and one was seen in Seminar Forest 2/27 (MBo). The only two **Hermit Thrushes** encountered were both seen 12/20, one at Plummer's Hollow (CE) and the other in SGL 166 (MD). Two late **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at CCSP 12/7-20 (JD, MD).

Three rare winter sparrows were found. Two **Eastern Towhees** were in Plummer's Hollow 12/20 (CE) and a **Vesper Sparrow** was at CCSP 2/1 (JD). **Swamp Sparrows** included one each at MRI 12/13 and 12/30, at SGL 166 on 12/20 (all MD), and at CCSP 2/1 (JD).

A dozen rare winter **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were spotted in Altoona 2/15 (SaM). A single **Purple Finch** was reported in SGL 166 on 12/20 (MD) and 2 were in Bellewood 2/14 (JuD). There was a **Pine Siskin** irruption this year, and the species was observed in four locations. Twenty-five were identified in SGL 166 on 12/20 (MD); they were also present on Hundred Springs Rd. 1/10 (BC). Fifteen were observed in Plummer's Hollow 2/14 (MB) and 6 were in Seminar Forest 2/27 (MBo).

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Bradford County

Locations: Se. Bradford County Christmas Bird Count, center at Wyalusing (CBC), Echo Beach Rd. (EBR), Edwards Rd, Stevensville (ERS), Graham

Rd., Canton (GRR), Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey, Bradford Co. (MBE), Peck Hill (PEH), Riverfront Park, Towanda (RFP), Seeley Rd. (SEE), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Wysox River Access (WRA).

The brutal winter weather arrived around the beginning of January, with temperatures often below zero and quite a lot of snow from that time until at least the end of February. The cold winter brought irruptive redpolls and siskins to this area, but not in the particularly large numbers or frequency that have occurred in some years.

There was a small flight of **Tundra Swans** at GRR 12/28 (LF). Forty-nine **American Black Ducks** were tallied throughout the CBC count circle 12/27 (MBo, JD, DG, RM, JoP, JuP, MP, AT) and one was at WRA 1/19 (LF). Two **Northern Pintails** were at EBR 2/3 (LF). Quite unusual, 5 **Redheads** were at RFP 2/4 (LF); 5 males were diving in the SUR in Towanda 2/11 (TGE, LH); and there were 6 at RFP 2/17 (LF). A **Long-tailed Duck** was at RFP 2/17 (LF).

Bald Eagles continue to expand here: one was at ERS 12/26 (KR); 6 adults and 2 imm. were seen on the CBC 12/27 (m.ob.), 2 imm. were at Merryall Flats 1/1 between Camptown and Wyalusing (KR), and an imm. was at ERS 1/6 (KR). A total of 24 (14 adults, 9 imm., one unknown) were observed on the MBE along the entire course of the SUR through the county 1/9 (DA, CB, EB, MD, TGr, RG, TL). Two adults were in the Rummersfield area 1/14 (RYa), 2 were at WRA 1/20 (LF), one was perched by Rte. 706 between Camptown and Stevensville 1/21, an adult was at ERS 1/26, 2 adults and 2 imm. fed on a deer carcass on Water St., Camptown 1/30, and an adult was at Rocky Forest Rd., Quicks Bend 1/31 (all KR). Two were soaring over East Athens by the SUR 2/3 (AV, GV), one was flying south over Hollenback 2/4 (NB), one was seen on Winding River Dr. 2/15 east of Sayre, near the SUR (ER), and 3 were at Bailey Bay 2/20 (north of Hornbrook on the SUR) (GB).

A **Northern Harrier** was observed on the CBC 12/27 (DG, RM), at Giffin's Airport on Rte. 706 1/24 (KR), and at PEH 2/14 (DH). There were a number of **Rough-legged Hawks** found: at Bailey's Corners, Leroy 1/22 (LH); at PEH 2/3 (AV, GV), on Maloney Rd. west of Rome 2/4 (LF), a dark morph at PEH 2/7, one at PEH and one at Mercur Hill 2/11 (KR); a light morph over fields north of Robwood Mt. 2/11 (TGe), and at PEH 2/14 (DH). A **Rough-legged** and a **Red-tailed Hawk** were side by side at a roadside carcass in Troy 2/25 (LH).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was observed on the CBC 12/27 (DG, RM) and a red morph was at GRR 2/1 (LF). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen on the CBC 12/27 (DG, RM) and one was at Woods Rd. 2/14 (CM). Four **American Kestrels** were seen on the CBC 12/27 (MBo, DG, JL, RL, RM, JoP, JuP, MP), one was on SEE near Windfall 1/1 (LF), one was at PEH 2/7 (KR) and 2/14 (DH), and one was along Rte. 14 north of Columbia Crossroads 2/16 (EC). A **Merlin** was observed taking a European Starling in Tuscarora Twp. 12/22 (CB). A **Peregrine Falcon** was at North St. north of Evergreen 2/13 (SW).

Late Jan and Feb were good for **Horned Larks**: 75 were at SEE 1/22 (LF), 66 were seen on PEH 2/3 (AV, GV), and 80 were at PEH 2/5 (LF). PEH also had 60 on 2/7 and 15 on 2/11 (KR), 35 were at PEH 2/14 (DH), and 30 were at County Bridge Rd. 2/18 (LR).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was a daily visitor from 12/24 through Feb at ERS (KR) and 3 were at Brague Rd. Canton 2/15 (AM). Two **Hermit Thrushes** were found on the CBC 12/27 (DG, RM) and one was at Cragle Rd, Orwell Twp. 2/12 (MD). A **Northern Mockingbird** was present 12/2 and 12/26 at ERS (KR), one was on Minnequa Rd. 1/2 (LF), and one was at Ferguson Circle 2/15 (SM). A **Snow Bunting** was at PEH 2/3 (AV, GV), 2 were on Minnequa Rd. near Canton 2/5 (LF), and 2 were at PEH 2/14 (DH). A **Field Sparrow** was found on the CBC 12/27 (DG, RM).

Three **Purple Finches** were at ERS 12/16 (KR), one was there 2/10 (KR), and 6 were on Spring Hill Rd. a few miles north of Laceyville 2/14 (NS). Late Jan and Feb brought **Common Redpolls** into the county. Sightings were as follows: at GRR 1/25 and 50 on SR1020 west of Rome 1/27 (both LF), at ERS 1/27 (KR), a pair at GRR 2/2 (LF), at ERS 2/5 (KR); 50 in birch trees at PEH 2/5 with smaller numbers to the end of Feb (AV, GV), 12 at Hollenback 2/9 (NB), 3 at ERS 2/10 (KR), one on SR2010 east of New Era and one at TNE 2/10, a mixed flock of redpolls and **Pine Siskins** at TNE 2/12 (TGe), 2-9 on the GBBC at PEH 2/13-16 (AV, GV); one at TNE 2/14 (DH); and one at ERS 2/21 (SA, KR). **Pine Siskins** were frequently noted, but not in particularly large numbers, from 12/11 through the season (m.ob.).

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Bucks County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Central Bucks CBC (C-CBC), Southern Bucks CBC (S-CBC), Upper Bucks-Montgomery CBC (U-CBC), Bedminster Township (BET), Bristol (BRS), Buckingham Township (BUT), Delaware River (Del. R.), Maple Knoll Farms-Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Morrisville (MOV), Mud Island-Bensalem Twp. (MUI), New Hope (NHP), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT).

December was 3.7°F above normal, January 3°F below, and Feb 11.3°F below. Precipitation for December and January was above normal by 1.6 inches and about normal for February. Although snow events were low to moderate in depth, they were frequent and combined with the frozen lakes and Del. R., made for unusual winter conditions for the second year in a row. The frozen conditions brought some waterfowl that are scarce normally, but compared to last year, the peak appeared to be later and numbers were generally smaller. Regularly wintering waterfowl species decreased in number as the extent of the freeze increased. Fall movement of some irruptive winter finches generally did not result in many lingering through winter. Most of the berry-eating species were well below average. Unlike last winter's high numbers, the reports of half-hardy species were more normal with low counts. The county tally of 131 species was five below the previous five-year average.

The CBCs all enjoyed good weather and above average species counts. The 47th U-CBC 12/14 tallied 34,832 individuals of 97 species. The 68th S-CBC 12/20 had 101 species of 96,564 individuals. The 49th C-CBC 12/28 had a little rain but overall good conditions, with 26,903 birds of 87 species reported. It should be noted that all three CBCs have part of their count circles outside the county. CBC details and summaries were supplied by Bob Mercer for the S-CBC, Diane Allison for the C-CBC, and Bill Etter for the U-CBC. As usual, historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* 1998 by Ken Kitson and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. NOAA weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, New Jersey based on the three-decade climate normal data from 1981 to 2010. A review of eBird entries contributed to this report.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Washington Crossing Park 12/1 (MG), 2 were at Warwick Twp. 12/8 (JT), and one was noted at PVP 12/28 (AM), 1/24-25 (DFa, AM), and 2/24-28 (AR, ph. AM, ph. TF). The increasing **Snow Goose** numbers were again evident, with a total of 8616 tallied on the three CBCs, almost 30 times the long-term average. An estimated 5000 **Snow Geese** were in the Riegelsville area 1/2-11 (EB, DBr, DFa). A bird presumed to be a **Ross's Goose** based only on size passed over Nockamixon Twp. 1/2 (DFa). **Cackling Goose** was mainly reported at PVP sporadically throughout the period, with four other sites reporting on a total of seven dates (m.ob.). The high counts were three at PVP 12/28 (AM) and 1/20-25 (DFa, AM). A female **Canada Goose** with a red neck collar Y2T5 was at PVP for a few days in mid-Jan (AR, AM). It was banded (#1058-26641) as a flightless juv. 7/2/2010 at Varennes, Quebec, Canada, about 380 miles from PVP.

The CBC **Mute Swan** count was 55 compared to the long-term average of 24 and previous 10-year average of 81. An adult **Trumpeter Swan** was noted in Richland Twp. 12/1-6 (ph. KHa). This was presumably the same bird reported in the fall season at nearby Lake Towhee and NSP. Twelve **Tundra Swans** in flight on the C-CBC 12/28 provided the ninth occurrence (DA). Four were at NSP 1/9 (PC) and one was near Kintnersville 2/27 (EB) for the only other reports.

Individual **Wood Ducks** were at PVP 12/1 (AM), Richland Twp. 2/7 (KHa), Upper Black Eddy 2/24-28 (EB, PC), and New Britain Twp. 2/28 (AM). One wintered at New Hope (MG, AM). The CBC total was 9, all on the U-CBC 12/14. The 10-year average for that count is 2. The **Gadwall** tally of 123 provided a new record high for the U-CBC compared to the long-term average of 14. All three CBCs totaled 299 versus the long-term average of 49. This supports the apparent significant increase in winter numbers here. The 49 **Northern Shovelers** and 19 **Northern Pintails** on the U-CBC far surpassed the previous highs for that count. Most years counts are zero or in the low single digits.

Canvasback has been in short supply here for many years, with occasional bigger flocks on the lower Del. R. Reports came from eight sites (PC, DFa, MG, SSh), all but three were in Feb. Counts were in the low single digits, with the exception of the MUI area, where the high was 154 on 2/28 (DFa). One on the U-CBC 12/14 provided only the fourth occurrence, with the last being on the 2000 count. **Redhead** also was more obvious this winter, with steady reports from at least 13 sites starting 1/11 and continuing through the period (m.ob.). All counts were in the low single digits except 13 at PWT-Warner Lake 2/28 (MG). Similar to **Canvasback**, the one on the U-CBC 12/14 was only the seventh occurrence and first since 1997.

The S-CBC count of 499 **Ring-necked Ducks** was the second highest recorded, and similarly the U-CBC count of 49 was the highest there. The C-CBC was below average with only 3. The highest single site counts by far after the CBCs were about 150 at Rohm and Haas, BRS 1/3 (DFa) and 120 at PWT-Warner Lake 2/28 (MG). **Greater Scaup** was not as numerous as last year, starting with 4 on the S-CBC 12/20. Only two sites having a total of 3 birds had reports in Jan. In Feb they were reported at 15 sites, with most counts in the low single digits. The highest count was only 6 at PWT-Warner Lake 2/28 (MG). **Lesser Scaup** counts were low but higher than Greater Scaup on the CBCs with 27 total, but otherwise only 12 sites had reports with low single digit counts of one to 3 (m.ob.).

Five **White-winged Scoters** at PWT 12/20 added a new species to the cumulative total for the S-CBC (TJ, GA). Two were near Biles Island 2/28 (DFa). A **Black Scoter** being chased by a Bald Eagle at PVP 12/12 (AM) provided the only report. **Long-tailed Duck** was detected in low numbers. Eight were in Dec from four sites on four dates (m.ob.). One was at PWT 1/11 (MG, SSm), and 3 were on the lower Del. R. 2/28 (DFa). **Bufflehead** was also in lower numbers this winter with the only single site high being 75 at MUI 1/11 (SSm). **Common Goldeneye** found open water in the mostly frozen Del. R. area resulting in site high counts of 41 at Uhlertown 2/7 (EB), 60 at PWT-Van Sciver Lake 2/14 (MG), 113 north of MOV 2/22 in two small holes less than 0.1 mile apart (AM JM), 34 at MOV 2/25 (PC), 43 at MUI 2/26 (PC), and 32 at NHP 2/27 (MG).

Numbers of **Common Merganser** are regularly huge at PVP. The peak just before the lake froze was estimated at 2790 on 1/6 (DFa). **Red-breasted Merganser** continues to be reported more frequently in winter, with reports from at least seven sites totaling about 30 to 35 birds (m.ob.). However, Jan had only 2 of those birds. The high count was 6 at PVP 2/28 (AG, AM). **Ruddy Duck** was again scarce, with most counts in eBird in the low to middle single digits from seven sites (m.ob.). The S-CBC count of 61 on 12/20 compares to the previous 10-year average of 89.

A late report from the fall season may add to recent hopes that **Ruffed Grouse** still survives here. Three or 4 Ruffed Grouse were reported at the edge of SGL 157 by a former grouse hunter. The report was believed to be correct (*vide* DL). **Wild Turkey** was reported in relatively low numbers. Only 6 were found on all three CBCs. Nine sites were reported in eBird, but only four had significant counts. A BET site had a high of 37 on 12/13 (ZM), 20 were near State Game Land #139 on 2/13 (BF), and 35 was the high 2/15 at a Springtown site (VDr).

A **Red-throated Loon** at BRS 2/28 (KR) provided the only report. A **Common Loon** was at PVP 12/3 (HD). Five were at NSP 12/3 and slowly dwindled to one last reported 1/3 (DFa, m.ob.). Two were on the S-CBC 12/20, with one still at PWT 1/4 (MG). The next report was 2/28 near Biles Island (DFa). The total **Pied-billed Grebe** CBC tally of 15 birds was equal to the long-term average. Other reports totaled about 8 birds, with only one in frigid Feb (m.ob.). **Horned Grebe** reports throughout Dec at PVP and NSP are somewhat expected, but reports from four sites in Jan through 1/21 were unusual (m.ob.). The next reports were from the Del. R. near MOV 2/20-21 (MG, RFe). **Red-necked Grebe** was more common than normal in Dec, with one starting 12/3 at PVP (HD, m.ob.) and then joined by a second 12/12-14 (AM, RMc, m.ob.). Three were at NSP 12/4 (AG), with 2 still there 12/14 (SK) for only the second occurrence on the U-CBC. MUI had one 2/6 (FW) and 2/26 (PC). On 2/28, one was at MOV and 2 were just south of BRS (DFa). Only 11 **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported compared to 24 **Great Cormorants** for the S-CBC 12/20.

The single site high count by far for **Turkey Vulture** was an estimated 120 on 12/13 at Haycock Twp. (PTe). Similarly, an estimated 140 **Black Vultures** were there 1/4 (PTe). A CBC total of 5 **Northern Harriers** was 60% of average. There were nine sites reported in eBird, with only BET reporting more than one (m.ob.). **Northern Goshawk** is rarely reported here. An imm. flew by at NSP 12/14 (BE), and an imm. was well described sitting at Neshaminy State Park 2/27 (DBe). The S-CBC **Bald Eagle** estimate was 39 (30 imm.), with 34 counted at one roost late in the day (DFa). Seven on the C-CBC and 9 on the U-CBC are not surprisingly way above the long-term average as well. The recent increase in wintering **Red-shouldered Hawks** was well documented, with as many as thirty sites reporting (m.ob.). Most sites reported one bird but three sites had two. The WRS south of NSP has a 15-year average of 1.2 and previous high of 3 in

2011. This year there were 7, including 6 beautiful adults (AM). **Rough-legged Hawk** was under reported compared to nearby counties. One was reported on the S-CBC 12/20 (RMe), One was at BET on four dates 2/7-28, with 2 there 2/15 (DFa, PC, AM). The only other report was one at MKF 2/17 (HB, RS, FV).

The CBC total for **Killdeer** was again very low with only 7. Other reports were also very light, with a total of five sites on only 10 dates (m.ob.). The only **Wilson's Snipe** reports came from Bradford Dam, where one was seen 12/13 (GJ) and 1/10-11 (GJ, DFa). An **American Woodcock** was at PVP 12/1 for the only report (RH).

Bonaparte's Gull was very scarce, with one on the S-CBC 12/20, 3 at PVP 12/26 (AM), and one at Falls Twp. Community Park 1/5 (BK). A leucistic **Ring-billed gull** photographed 12/4-5 at BRS (RFe) appeared to match one photographed there in Mar. A **Vega Gull** was at PWT 12/20 (GA, TJ ph.) for the second occurrence in three years. Two **Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at PWT 12/20 (GA, TJ). A **Herring x Glaucous Gull** was at PWT 12/19-20 (BC, GA, TJ ph.). At least three different **Iceland Gulls** were reported at PVP 12/1-1/2 (AM, m.ob.). Otherwise they were reported at multiple sites along the lower Del. R. as usual (m.ob.). Some outstanding high counts for **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were 355 at PVP 12/3 (AG) and 417 at PVP 12/29 (CR).

CBC Gull Counts

Species	U-CBC	C-CBC	S-CBC	TOTAL
Bonaparte's Gull	0	0	1	1
Ring-billed Gull	1683	1186	5323	8192
Herring Gull	23	143	45723	45889
Thayer's Gull	0	0	0	0
Iceland Gull	0	1	14	15
Ls. Bl.-backed Gull	196	320	260	776
Glaucous Gull	0	0	2	2
Gr. Bl.-backed Gull	4	46	1500	1550
Gull sp.	2	0	0	2
TOTAL	1908	1696	52823	56427

Barred Owl was at Quakertown Swamp 12/14 (BE) and Tinicum Twp. 2/6 (PC). In general, **Long-eared Owl** is not being reported often at PVP although footprints in the snow in the restricted area indicate birders persist. The highest report was 5 at PVP 1/2 (AM). One was reported dead there in mid-Jan (JH *vide* DFa). A **Short-eared Owl** was in BET 1/6 and one was in BUT 2/22 (both DFa). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was at PVP 12/1 (AM, JM), and 2 others were there in Dec (SSh). All apparently were continuing birds from Nov. Another was on the U-CBC 12/14, two were at Revere 1/4 (DFa), and one was at NSP 2/6 (PC).

Considering the frozen conditions, surprising were 15 **Belted Kingfishers** reported in Jan and 9 in Feb (m.ob.). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was again above average on the CBCs with 46, just two fewer than last year. **Pileated Woodpecker** continues its increasing trend, with new high counts of 18 on the C-CBC and 20 on the U-CBC. The previous highs were 13 and 17, respectively.

American Kestrel increased from 10 to 15 on the CBCs, maybe a result of the successful nest box efforts, but still only a small fraction of former CBC numbers. Duplicating last year, there were about 8 **Merlin** reported (m.ob.). **Peregrine Falcon** reports continue to increase. For the second year in a row, a now adult Peregrine Falcon was tallied at BET for the WRS 2/4 (AM). A female hatched in 2002 in New York has been resident at the Turnpike Bridge since at least 2005. It was picked up emaciated 2/21 and brought to the AARK for rehabilitation (KHr *vide* HE). The S-CBC includes that area where an estimated 5 were tallied 12/20 (*vide* BMe). One was at MKF 1/25 (RS), one was seen at New Hope chasing Rock Doves 2/6 (AM), and up to two were near Kintnersville throughout Feb (EB, PC, DFn, KRa).

Many commented on low numbers of **Blue Jay**. The total CBC count was 376, which was 40% of the long-term average. All except a few entries in eBird were in the low single digits (m.ob.). The 2271 **Fish Crows** on the S-CBC was almost 500 more than the 10-year average and more than three times last year's count. The best site to see **Horned Lark** continues to be MKF, with monthly highs of 75 on 12/21 (RS), 138 on 1/30 (RS, AM), and 114 on 2/17 (RS). They were reported from five other sites in Jan and Feb, with notable high counts of 85 at Lower Makefield Twp. 1/10 (MG) and 300 plus at Hilltown Twp. in mid-Feb (DFa). Two **Common Ravens** on the C-CBC 12/28 (DFa) provided only the fourth occurrence and one on the U-CBC 12/14 only the second. With the first for the S-CBC last year, all seven occurrences have been in the last nine years. Six of those were in the last four years. Reports came from at least 12 townships (m.ob.). Three was the highest single site count at both Trevoe 1/6 (TM) and Doylestown Twp. 1/9 (BG).

Based on reports, it appears that **Black-capped Chickadee** moved

into the area this fall and stayed in very small numbers. The total CBC count was 40. Reports in eBird came from only six sites, with most counts being one (m.ob.). The very modest fall movement of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was followed by very few appearing this winter. The three CBCs had a total of 2 compared to the long-term average of 26. They were reported from only nine sites, with most having one individual (m.ob.). The high counts were 3 at PVP 12/1 (AM) and 3 at NSP 12/29-1/1 (CR, PC, JM, AM). The total CBC counts for **Brown Creeper** of 41 and **Winter Wren** of 38 were again well above both short and long-term averages. One **House Wren** was found on the S-CBC 12/20. One was near New Hope for the C-CBC 12/28 and was still present 1/11 (DFa). The 50 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and 18 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** tallied on the CBCs were well below the long-term averages.

S.A.

Late in the day on 2/21, a **European Robin** was noticed at a suet feeder in Lower Makefield Twp. during a snow event. The observer was very familiar with the species due to travels in Europe and fortunately was able to get a good photo to confirm the identification (ph. PN, doc.). The bird was seen again on 2/22, 2/26, and 3/5-7. The latter period was after another snow storm. The observer, a birder and all around naturalist, was very aware of the magnitude of this find and the impact going public would have. For personal and logistical reasons, a huge influx of birders could not be accommodated. The following link shows what happened in China when one was found there: <<https://dearkitty1.wordpress.com/2014/12/06/european-robin-very-rare-in-china/>>.

The northern population of this species is migratory. A reviewed report in Queens Co., New York in Dec 2008 was the only other North American report brought to my attention. I could only find few references to the species being for sale on the internet in the United States. The bird had no leg bands or feather wear to indicate captive release or escape. The following link to a blog from Dec 2014 indicates a highly unusual movement of the species to Iceland this past fall: <<http://omosk.com/>>. Quote, "There are a lot of Robins in Iceland now, mainly in the East and Southeast. They are vagrants and probably annual visitors, but it is a long time since so many have been seen." The author of the blog had two at his/her home in southwest Iceland. eBird data also supports a relatively widespread large movement into Iceland in late fall. The influx into Iceland this year, with the timing of this find coinciding with migrating or wintering birds, is intriguing with respect to natural occurrence. *Bucks* once had a Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*), so why not this?

Higher than last year, the CBC total of 500 **Eastern Bluebirds** was 90% of the recent 10-year average, and the 26 **Hermit Thrushes** matched last year's lower than 10-year average count although the 14 on the C-CBC was a new high count. Supporting the perception of being scarce, the CBC total of 1086 **American Robins** was less than 20% of the 10-year average.

For the third year in a row, **Gray Catbird** was scarce. There was one 12/14 at NSP (SK) for the U-CBC that was reported again 1/17 (DFa). Another at MKF was first noted 12/15 and last seen 1/25 (RS). One of 5 on the S-CBC 12/20 was again reported at PWT 1/2 (DFa). One on the C-CBC 12/27 was at Ingham Spring (RS). In contrast to last year's extraordinary numbers, two **Brown Thrashers** were reported at PWT 12/20, with one still there 1/11 (DFa) providing the only reports. The CBC tally of 172 **Northern Mockingbirds** was about 52% of the long-term average, again supporting the belief that a downward trend has occurred in recent years.

American Pipit was scarce. There were 9 on the C-CBC 12/28, and reports from three sites in Jan totaled 18 birds. The 3 at Bradford Dam 2/22 provided Feb's only report (m.ob.). **Cedar Waxwing** was in low numbers. The total CBC count was 132 or about 33% of the long-term average. The U-CBC accounted for 117 of those. By Jan only five sites had reports in eBird, mostly of low single digit counts (m.ob.), with the exception of 30 on 1/7 at NSP (SSm). Feb had reports of only 5 birds at two sites in eBird (PC, AM). The snow cover helped in finding field species. A **Lapland Longspur** stopped at Hilltown Twp. 2/9-14 (DFa), furnishing the only report. **Snow Bunting** was at five locations (PC, DFa, AM, DPI, RS). All reports were of one or 2 birds, with the exception being 10 at PVP 2/26 (DPI).

A **Common Yellowthroat** was at Quakertown Swamp 1/6 (DFa) furnishing the only report. A wintering male **Pine Warbler** returned to Lower Makefield Twp. 10/31 through Feb (CF). The observer believes the same bird has returned for eight years to her homemade suet mix. Another **Pine Warbler**, a first year female, was first noticed at Langhorne 2/10 and remained through the period (CD, GD). The CBC total of 113 **Yellow-**

rumped Warblers was about two-thirds of the long-term average. There were less than 20 individuals reported in eBird after Dec (m.ob.).

Once the snow and ice arrived, feeders were the main source of seedeaters. **Eastern Towhee** CBC numbers were in stark contrast to last year. The CBC total was 9, compared to 45 last year, with other reports of 15 compared to 97 (m.ob.). **American Tree Sparrow** totaled 121 on the CBCs, about 30% of long-term average. Almost all reports in eBird were of low single digit counts (m.ob.). Again, **Chipping Sparrow** was scarce. The snow likely drove the few that were present to feeders or road edges in Feb when most reports occurred. A total of nine sites reported one bird each (m.ob.). One wintered at Solebury Twp. (MR), and one was at MKF most of Feb (RS). **Field Sparrow** has been well below the long-term average for the past eight years on the S-CBC. There were 12 this year compared to an average of 53. The **Savannah Sparrow** CBC total tally was 33, and although not impressive was still above average (m.ob.). The only sites with continuous reports and more than low single digit counts were MKF where the high was 10 on 2/1 (RS) and BET with 12 on 2/14 (DFa). The S-CBC accounted for all 9 **Fox Sparrows** on the CBCs. Other reports were also low, with only 8 at six sites on eight dates (m.ob.). The S-CBC **Swamp Sparrow** count was 59, two times the previous 10-year average. A total of just 20 were on the other two CBCs, about 60% of the 10-year average.

The two male **Baltimore Orioles** reported at Middletown Twp. in late Nov continued successfully thanks to a buffet provided by the home owner. They prefer jelly. This was the third winter for this species there (DPe). What the observer thought was a male and female last year, he now suspects were adult and imm. males, with both returning as adults this year. Another oriole, first noted at suet in Upper Makefield Twp. 12/17, may not have been as lucky. It was last seen 2/15 when overnight temperatures were near zero (MT, PTh ph.). Also in Upper Makefield Twp., one about two miles away from the other was assumed to be a different bird starting about late Dec or early Jan. It survived through the period on KayTee Nut & Fruit Blend (LM, BMo ph.). **Eastern Meadowlark** was missed seven of the previous 10 years on the C-CBC and nine years in 10 for the S-CBC and U-CBC. This year 8 were found at a BUT farm for the C-CBC (RS), and 6 were sighted on the S-CBC. The U-CBC found none. There were no other reports received for this once fairly common winter bird. Only three sites reported **Rusty Blackbird**. They were at Churchville Park 12/6 (VDe); about 10 were at Quakertown Swamp 1/6; and up to 20 were at BUT 2/9-10 (BK).

Purple Finch made a poor showing again on the CBCs, with only 12 reported despite a modest movement in the fall. Other reports came from only nine sites, with most reporting only one bird or rarely 2 (m.ob.). Most reports were in Dec, with only 3 birds total reported in Jan and Feb (m.ob.). A **Common Redpoll** was at NSP 1/15 (PC), and one was at BUT 2/13 and 2/21 (BK). After the modest short-lived fall movement of **Pine Siskin**, the CBC total was only 4, all on the C-CBC. There were only 3 other birds at three sites reported in Dec. Eleven more were reported in Jan, with all but one toward the end of the month. Then they became widespread in Feb in mostly low to middle single digit counts, with reports from a total of at least 27 sites (m.ob.). There were five sites with higher counts, with the highest being 21 at Riegelsville 2/16 (EB). The **American Goldfinch** CBC total of 531 was significantly higher compared to the previous two years, about 80% of the 10-year average.

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Butler County

Locations: Bear Run Boat Launch (BRBL), Butler County Community College (BCCC), Butler Township (BT), Clay Township (CT), Cranberry

Township (CRT), Lake Arthur (LA), Moraine State Park (MSP), South Shore (SS), South Shore Day Use Area (SSDA), State Game Lands 95, a.k.a. "the Glades" (SGL 95), Waterfowl Observation Area (WOA). Note: BRBL, LA, SS, SSDA, WOA are all located in Moraine State Park.

December was relatively mild by *Butler* standards with some open water for the CBC 12/20. After the outstanding count of 99 species on the CBC in 2012 and the atypical low count of 50 in 2013, 75 species were counted in 2014, consistent with the CBC average. Highlights of the count included one **Cackling Goose**, one **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, a record 356 **Ring-billed Gulls**, and a count week **Black-headed Gull**, which was the fifth *Butler* record. A decent number of water birds were reported through December, but none in large numbers. Reports of waterfowl stopped the first week of January when Lake Arthur and Lake Oneida froze over.

A January thaw never really happened this season, with two episodes of near/below zero temperatures. Early February brought temperatures around 40 and some rare sunshine with lengthening daylight. Increased avian activity and vocalization caused some birders to think of an early spring and migration. During the second week of February, increased reports of ducks and grebes on Pittsburgh Rivers and at the mouth of the Beaver River suggested the first waves of migrants heading north. However, arctic temperatures returned around Valentine's Day and then again at the end of February. Lakes in *Butler* remained frozen through the end of the month, slowing down much of the northward movement through the county.

Populations of **Canada Geese** continue to thrive with 80 reported during the CBC and 150 at Whitestown Road 2/18 (RN). A single **Cackling Goose** was also seen on the CBC. The only **Snow Goose** was at Whitestown Road 12/15 (RN). Two ad. and 4 juv. **Trumpeter Swans**, first spotted at SSDA 11/23 continued until at least 12/1 (JM). One of the swans had a neckband (RN). Unfortunately the bird could not be traced. The federal banding staff responded that collars of this pattern were deployed during the early 2000s by a bander who is no longer active. The data were never sent to the banding office and the permit has since become inactive. **Tundra Swans** were reported through Dec at LA. The last swans reported were 3 birds 1/4 just before the lake iced over (m.ob.). Most reports of ducks were from LA, but large numbers were not noted. **Mallards** and **Gadwalls** were reported through Dec (m.ob.), including 20 Gadwalls at WOA 12/25 (MV). Divers included a nice total of 25 **Redheads** at SS 12/3 (RN, DK) and 11 at BRBL 12/31 (ST). The high count for **Canvasbacks** was 20 at SS 12/26 (RN). Small numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** were reported from LA through Dec, including 15 reported during the CBC 12/20 (m.ob.). A nice count of 16 **Ruddy Ducks** was made at SS 12/1 (JM) and 75 were reported from MSP during the CBC. Small numbers of **American Black Ducks** and **Common Goldeneyes** were reported (m.ob.). **Buffleheads** were seen regularly at LA through Dec, including 35 during the CBC.

A nice count of 9 **Horned Grebes** was made at LA 12/7 (RN, DK); singles were seen 12/20 (GK, MAK) and 12/29 (BB). The only **Common Loon** was at SS 12/1 (GK, MAK). **American Coots**, one of the most common water birds at LA, were present though Dec. Twenty-five were reported at SS 12/1, the CBC total was 130, and counts of 110 and 100 were made 12/29 and 1/4, respectively (m.ob.).

The first returning **Turkey Vulture** was reported near Butler County Airport 2/25 (BBa). Single **Bald Eagles** were seen at MSP 12/29 (BB), at SGL 95 on 2/3, and at L. Oneida 2/13 (KB). Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were in Butler 2/6 (MB) and near Hilliards 2/26 (DH). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted just west of MSP 1/28 (RN) and a **Northern Harrier** was seen near Evans City 2/26 (AN).

Gallinaceous birds included 38 **Wild Turkeys** during the CBC. A single turkey and 2 **Ruffed Grouse** were near Hilliards 2/18 (DH). A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** was there 2/11, probably a stocked bird from nearby SGL 95 (DH). The only shorebird was a late **Killdeer** in CRT 12/30 (MT).

The highlight of the season was an adult **Black-headed Gull** discovered at SSDA 12/23 (DD) and seen daily until 12/26 (m.ob.). This was the fifth record for *Butler*, amazingly at the same location where all previous sightings have occurred. **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported through Dec until LA froze over, led by reports of 83 at SS 12/26 (RN), 71 at WOA 1/1 (MH, RH), and 100 at MSP 1/4 (BB). During the CBC 356 were counted, a record high and a significant increase over last year's total of 34. Numbers of **Herring Gull** seem to be increasing at LA with 60 at BRBL 12/31 (ST) and 25 at MSP 1/04 (BB). Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at SS 12/26 (RN) and 2 were at MSP 12/29 (BB).

A **Barred Owl** was heard at Jennings 2/7 (BBa). Two **Great Horned Owls** were spotted in CT 1/6 and a single bird was there 2/19 (BBa). One **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found during the CBC at MSP (DDa), only the third CBC sighting in the past ten years. One **Merlin** was noted near Lutherynn 12/9 (RN).

Single **Common Ravens** were seen during the CBC 12/20, at MSP 12/29 (BB) and at SGL95 2/3 (GK MAK). Reflecting the trend for western

Pennsylvania, raven was first reported on the CBC in 2008 and has been seen in five of the past seven years. Fifty **Horned Larks** were seen with 10 **Snow Buntings** on manure near Mars Evans City Road 1/19 (RN). One hundred Horned Larks were spotted in a cornfield near Evans City 2/28 (DA). Two **Winter Wrens** were near Saxonburg 2/14 (DR). **Carolina Wrens** survived the harsh winter with sightings in 3 different locations (m.ob.). The only **American Pipit** was at SS 12/26 (RN). The high count for **Cedar Waxwing** was 18 in CT 2/28 (BBa). The only **Swamp Sparrow** was at MSP 12/20 (GK MAK). **American Tree Sparrows** were seen regularly at the Birdwatcher's Store near Slippery Rock. One was seen at a feeder in BT 2/6 (GK, MAK) and 5 were reported in CT (BBa). Four **White-crowned Sparrows** were spotted near Luthertyn 2/15 (CR). Unusual were 2 **Red-winged Blackbirds** at Butler County Community College 1/17 (PS). The first returning **Common Grackle** was seen near Saxonburg 2/14 (DK). **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were seen at the Birdwatcher's Store (m.ob.) and near Unionville Road 2/14 (MB). Only one **Purple Finch** was reported, from CRT 2/16 (BG). **Pine Siskins** visited a feeder in BT daily from 12/5 through the end of Feb, with a high count of 11 (GK, MAK).

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Cambria County

Locations: Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG).

Waterfowl at PG included hundreds of **Canada Geese** and 3 **Cackling Geese**. The only ducks of note at PG were **American Black Ducks**, a few **Redheads**, **Common Mergansers**, and one **White-winged Scoter** (DG, JS). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was there 12/15 (DG). A lone dark morph **Rough-Legged Hawk** was at Hastings 2/4 (DG, JS). A female **Northern Harrier** was seen throughout the period at PG (BG). Large flocks of **Horned Larks** were at Chest Springs and Patton in Dec and Jan (DG). Mixed in with the larks were several **Lapland Longspurs** and a single **Snow Bunting** (DG). **Pine Siskins** were present in good numbers at feeders where sunflower and thistle seed were offered.

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

Cameron County

A **Golden Eagle** was observed near Benezette 1/4 (CE) and a **Bald Eagle** was along CCC Memorial Highway 2/15 (SS). Unusual in winter, 8 **Field Sparrows** were found near Benezette 1/4 (CE). Also near Benezette, 20 **Pine Siskins** were counted 1/4, but the high count was 68 along Rte. 120 on the Driftwood Branch of the Sinnemahoning R. 2/15 (SS).

Observers: Carl Engstrom, Susan Stahr. Note: Cameron County has no compiler. Please contact the editor if interested in contributing.

Carbon County

No compiler.

Centre County

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

There were three CBCs conducted in Centre this year. State College was held 12/14 and produced 10,123 individuals of 70 species. Penns Valley CBC was held 12/16 and the Bald Eagle State Park CBC was conducted ¼; the latter yielded 4,360 individuals of 56 species. Information for this report was obtained primarily from the State College Bird Club listserv and eBird <<http://ebird.org>> with background and status information

from **Birds of Central Pennsylvania** by Nick Bolgiano and GG, 2010, Stone Mountain Publishing, State College, PA (B&G, 2010).

The following uncommon and rare winter species were observed in five or more locations and will not be discussed further: **American Black Duck**, **Canvasback** (rare), **Lesser Scaup** (rare), **Bufflehead**, **Red-breasted Merganser** (rare), **Ruddy Duck** (rare), **Great Blue Heron**, **Black Vulture**, **Turkey Vulture** (rare), **Northern Harrier**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **Cooper's Hawk**, **Bald Eagle**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Rough-legged Hawk**, **Killdeer**, **Barred Owl**, **Belted Kingfisher**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Northern Flicker**, **Merlin** (rare), **Common Raven**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren**, **Hermit Thrush** (rare), **American Robin**, **Song Sparrow**, **Swamp Sparrow** (rare), **White-crowned Sparrow**, **Brown-headed Cowbird**, **Purple Finch**, and **Pine Siskin**.

It was a good winter for waterfowl. Four late migrating **Snow Geese** were reported 12/12 at BESP (MaS). Another was present 12/16-18 at the Buffalo Run Rd. pond (JV, m.ob.). One or 2 **Cackling Geese** were observed 1/10-24 and 2/13 in a large flock of **Canada Geese** at the Duck Pond (NK, m.ob.).

S.A.

Centre's second ever **Trumpeter Swan** was observed 2/21-26 in Spring Creek in Milesburg (MR, m.ob.). It was admired and photographed by many area birders. The bird had a yellow wing tag with the code L95. According to U.S.G.S. records, the bird was a female that hatched in 2012 and was banded 11/13/2012 in LaSalle Park in Burlington, Ontario (MR). The only previous record was one at Curtin Wetlands 5/10-25/2014.

An imm. **Tundra Swan** was at Talleyrand Park 12/6-12 (CE, KE, BC) and a flock of 48 was observed flying south over Musser Gap (KE). Possibly the same group was seen about the same time from Scenery Park (JA). An unknown number were heard flying over State College 1/6 (KE, CE).

Most ducks are rare in the winter in Centre, particularly in Jan and Feb. The Duck Pond and the Axemann Rd. pond were the most reliable places to find wintering ducks. Nine **Gadwalls** were reported during the State College CBC, and as many as 12 were observed 12/7-2/25 (AC, et al). Up to 4 were present 1/10-2/28 at the Axemann Rd. pond (BA, m.ob.). Single birds were noted at the Benner Pike State Fish Hatchery 2/1 (BrS), and in Spring Cr. Canyon 2/21 (JM). A single **American Wigeon** was at BESP 12/7 (JV) and up to 3 were seen 12/1-2/28 at the Duck Pond (GD, m.ob.). Up to 3 **Northern Shovelers** were observed at BESP 12/21-29 (BC, m.ob.). Two were at the Duck Pond 1/1 (JV, BA) and one was there 2/24 (JK). Single birds were present at the Axemann Rd. pond 1/3 (BV) and at the Eagleville Bridge 2/28 (DB). Two **Northern Pintails** were recorded during the State College CBC 12/14. As many as 13 were at the Johnsonville Rd. pond 12/6-17 (BC, m.ob.) and one-3 were at the Duck Pond 12/12-28 (RC, m.ob.). One or 2 **Green-winged Teal** were at the Duck Pond 12/31-2/25 (CD, m.ob.), as well as at MMNC 1/17-20 (MR, JD, NK) and 2/13-28 (JM, m.ob.). Given the proximity of these locations, they were probably the same two.

Gorgeous **Redheads** graced the open waters of the county, with up to 8 at the Duck Pond 1/11-2/28 (NB, m.ob.), one at Talleyrand Park 1/18-2/28 (BrS, m.ob.), 5-8 in Milesburg 2/15-28 (BrS, m.ob.), and as many as 8 at the Axemann Rd. pond 2/8-28 (NB, m.ob.). Up to 5 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at the Duck Pond 12/1-28 (BrS, m.ob.) and 2 on 12/6 at BESP (MaS). Single birds were in Talleyrand Park 2/8 (MaB) and at the Eagleville Bridge 2/28 (DB). **Greater Scaup** were also observed, with one or 2 at BESP 12/12-21 (MaS, BC, JV) and as many as 8 at the Duck Pond 2/10-28 (JV, m.ob.). Two to 5 were at the Axemann Rd. pond 2/21-28 (MR, m.ob.) and 3 in Spring Cr. Canyon 2/28 (MB). A migrating **Long-tailed Duck** was at BMSP 12/13-15 (AR, J&AW), and 3 males and a female were present at BESP 12/21 (JC, BC, MaS). **Common Goldeneyes** were also present, with up to 8 seen at BESP 12/6-1/4 (MaS, m.ob.), and one on 2/7 (MR). Single birds were observed at the Axemann Rd. pond 1/10 (CE, KE, DO) and 2/28 (NB). Two females were also at the Duck Pond 2/9-28 (BV, m.ob.). As many as 100 **Hooded Mergansers** were on the lake at BESP 12/6-2/22 (MaS, m.ob.), including 5 during the BESP CBC 1/4 (BS).

One to 3 late migrating **Common Loons** were at BESP 12/6-21 (MB, m.ob.). Up to 7 migrating **Pied-billed Grebes** were at BESP 12/6-14 (MaS, m.ob.). As many as 8 **Horned Grebes** were at BESP 12/6-28 (KE, m.ob.). One or two rare wintering birds frequented the Duck Pond 1/24-2/28 (MR, m.ob.). **Red-necked Grebes** are very rare in fall and winter (B&G, 2010); this season one was described at BESP 12/17 (MR) and a second was found injured or dazed on Airport Rd. in Bellefonte 2/17. It was taken to the local wildlife rehabilitator (WM).

A rare **Northern Goshawk** was found near the Pleasant Gap Fish Hatchery 12/14 (JIC), the first goshawk reported during the State College CBC since 2006 (JD). The next day, another adult was observed on Buffalo Run Rd. (DoB), and yet another was in Port Matilda 12/22-23 (PWS). Two or 3 **American Coots** were present at BESP 12/6-22 (JM, MaS) and up to 20 were regulars at the Duck Pond all winter (BrS, m.ob.).

One or 2 **Wilson's Snipes** were at MMNC 1/1-18 (JV, m.ob.) and up to 4 were at Walnut Springs Park 1/26-27 (MB, m.ob.). As many as a dozen rare **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at BESP 12/6-14 (JM, m.ob.). Four **Herring Gulls** were at BMSP 12/18 (BC) and a very dark-headed third winter bird was at the Howard boat launch 12/21 (JC). Up to 6 Herring Gulls were at BESP 12/6-14 (CE, m.ob.) and one was in Milesburg 2/18-21 (KE, CE).

There was another sighting of a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** south of State College at the intersection of Nixon Rd. and Whitehall Rd. (BV). In recent years, there have been scattered sightings of this species in the fields between State College and Pine Grove Mills. Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were identified during the State College CBC, including one at Walnut Springs Park (JD). Another was on Gingerich Gap Rd. 12/20 (JK) and a third was heard at BESP during a State College Bird Club field trip 2/28. Three rare **Peregrine Falcons** were found, one at the I-99/Benner Pike interchange 12/6 (CE, KE), one in Bellefonte 2/9 (DO), and one at Rockview 2/13 (SB).

A rare **Eastern Phoebe** appeared on a deck rail in Grays Woods 1/24 (DK). A severely injured **American Crow**, banded in 2008 at PSU, was taken in by the local wildlife rehabilitator in Dec. Unfortunately it did not survive (RG). Although common around State College, **Fish Crows** are uncommon elsewhere in *Centre*; one was in Milesburg 2/21 (CE, KE). Another species rare in winter, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were present this winter. Single birds were in State College 1/4 (RC), in Krauss Park 2/8-15 (MaB), and on the Penn State central campus 2/9 (MiW). A few **Gray Catbirds** also wintered. Area birders found single catbirds on the State College CBC 12/14, at ARBOR 1/17 (CD), and on Williams Rd. 1/28 (JV). The last catbird report of the season was of one at Spring Cr. Nature Park 2/20 (MaB). A few **Brown Thrashers** also tried wintering, with one spotted 12/7 at ARBOR (AC) and another at BESP 1/27-27 (BC, MR).

Rare field birds were observed often in the company of **Horned Larks**. Two **American Pipits** were at BESP 12/14 (BC, AuC) and a dozen were on Tadpole Rd. 1/25 (JV). One was on Wagner Rd. 2/7 (JD). The only **Lapland Longspur** was on Tadpole Rd. 1/23-2/2 (JV, CE, KE). One **Snow Bunting** was near the intersection of Rte. 45 and Tusseyville Rd. 1/25-27 (JV, CE), 4 were on Nixon Rd. 2/1 (BC), and 5 visited State College 2/13 (TM).

Representatives of a few warbler species attempted to stay through the winter. On 1/3, a rare **Palm Warbler** was seen foraging in branches along the Duck Pond (BV). Wintering **Yellow-rumped Warblers** are uncommon. One was observed in Spring Cr. Canyon 12/22 and 1/1 (NiB, MB), 5 were at BESP 1/11 (MR), and one was at the Benner Spring State Fish Hatchery 1/18 (BA).

Two abundant summer birds that rarely winter in *Centre*, **Eastern Towhee** and **Chipping Sparrow**, were present. A towhee was in State College 12/20 (RC) and another was at a different State College location 2/2-22 (NK). One was at Spring Creek Nature Park 2/20 (MaB) and one on Science Park Rd. 2/28 (PSU Ornithology Lab, CD, MB). A Chipping Sparrow appeared in a State College yard 12/2-6 (CE, KE) and another was at BESP 2/8 (BC, AuC). Wintering **Field Sparrows** are uncommon. Two were found during the State College CBC 12/14 and one was on Allison Rd. 12/20 (JK). A single bird was at Whitehall Farms 1/11 (BA) and two on Barns Lane 1/17 (MR). The next day, one was observed at Musser Gap (BrS). Two rare **Savannah Sparrows** were noted, one on Whitehall Rd. 1/8 (JV) and the other at ARBOR 1/17 (CD). A **Fox Sparrow** was in State College 2/14-26 (CE).

A few Icterids were present. Eight **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 3 **Rusty Blackbirds**, and 2 **Common Grackles** were recorded during the State College CBC 12/14. Up to 16 **Red-winged Blackbirds** were present at MMNC 12/16-2/28 (RC, m.ob.). Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** were observed on S. Nixon Rd. 1/24-25 (JV, m.ob.). One to 3 **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at MMNC 1/16-19 (CE, RD). Nine **Common Grackles** were at BESP 12/7 (JV) and one was in State College 1/21 (NK).

ADDENDUM: Lastly an update on the **Rufous Hummingbird** that was present in Lemont during the winter 2013-2014. The -9°F and -30°F wind chills that this bird survived 1/7/2014 provided new known low temperature tolerance records for Rufous Hummingbird, per Scott Weidensaul and Wayne Laubscher.

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Church, Kyle Clark (KyC), Jack Cochran, Ron Crandall, Jim Curtis (JiC), Susan D., Clayton Delancey, Rob Dickerson, Gordon Dimmig, Michael Dreibelbis, Jim Dunn, Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom, Ro Fuller (RoF), Robyn Graboski, Debra Grim (DeG), Greg Grove, Lewis Grove, Nick Kerlin, Jon Kauffman, Don Kiel, Wayne Laubscher, Jen Lee, John Mackin, Teresa McGowan, William Miller, Dan Ombalski, Julia Plummer (JuP), PSU Ornithology Lab, Matthew Rockmore, Arouet Rousseau, David F. Ryan (DFR), Matthew Sabatini (MaS), Peggy Wagoner Saporito (PWS), Joanna Sblendorio (JaS), Matthew Schenck, Brian Schmoke (BrS), Shawn Seeley (ShS), Nora Serotkin (NoS), Ryan Shelmire (RyS), Nate Shipley, Bob Snyder, April Sperflage, Angelo Tisone, Joe Verica, Benjamin Vizzachero, Michael Weaver (MiW), Jess and Andy Weber (J&AW), Steve Zanoni.

Chester County

Locations: Atwater Quarry, Chambers Lake (CL), Exton Park (EP), Coatesville Reservoir (CORES), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES), South Eastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA).

Another cold winter was in store for the region during 2014/15, and here in *Chester*, the Arctic cold tightened its grip on the county in January, ushering in sub-zero temperatures and sealing up the lakes into a deep freeze. Average snowfall occurred, with several storms bringing in only a few inches at a time, providing a temporary thin blanket, as temperatures fluctuated enough to quickly melt most accumulation.

Winter is the season for geese in *Chester*, and this one was filled with reports of large congregations of geese taking up residence for the period. A report of a **Ross's Goose** came from the Cochranville area 12/20, when a local birder spotted the suspect in a group of **Snow Geese** on the move over his yard (MG). The variety of **Cackling Goose** reports from around the county during winter suggested that they are a species that can be found at will by birders seeking them out (m.ob.). That said, it has been noted recently that some puzzling smaller-type Cackling/Canada Geese are showing up with some regularity (m.ob.). These geese show features consistent with Cackling Goose, but aren't thought to be small enough, and lack some features needed to be conclusive for identification. It was a winter with more reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese** than in recent years. Reports came from Guthriesville (DH, m.ob.), CORES (RR), West Vincent WTP 1/21-2/14 (MH, m.ob.), and a high count of 6 at CL 2/12 (RR). **Tundra Swans** were found on a few occasions prior to the freeze. MCSP hosted groups of 3 on 12/25 (VBH) and another 7 were there 1/9 (SS, NF, MD). A solo Tundra was noted there 2/17 (AG, TZ). Reports of two were made regularly from CL 2/19-27 (RR, m.ob.).

Ice-free water provided respite for migrating and wintering ducks. One standout was a drake **Eurasian (Common) Green-winged Teal**, which returned to Upper Uwchlan Twp. for the third consecutive winter. This handsome drake frequented the Upper Uwchlan WTP and a small pond in nearby Eagleview (m.ob.). It was a good winter for **Canvasbacks**, an uncommon winter migrant. Reports were made from multiple locations, and included a high count of 8 at CL 2/28 (BS). Likewise, reports of **Redheads** were continuous through the winter (m.ob.), the drakes pleasing local birders with their stunning crimson plumage. A high count of 9 was at CL 2/22 (PG). **Greater Scaup**, the lesser encountered of the two scaup species on the *Pennsylvania* Piedmont, began appearing in small numbers at the end of Jan, with a high count of 3 at MCSP 2/13 (BB). One or 2 were at MCSP, CL, and AQ, all which offer deeper water for these divers (m.ob.). Uncommon in winter and always a treat for the eye, no matter the plumage, **Long-tailed Duck** made two appearances this winter. An elegant drake was at MCSP 12/5 (NF, SS) and a female was reported from AQ 2/17-2/28 (m.ob.). Good numbers of **Common Goldeneyes** came from AQ and from scattered other locations around the county as well. A nice high count of 41 was made at AQ 2/20 (BQ). **Red-breasted Mergansers** are uncommon in winter, so a high count of 6 at MCSP 2/17 was noteworthy (BQ, m.ob.). Other reports came from AQ (m.ob.), CL (m.ob.), and the Schuylkill R. (RB, CB).

Not commonly found in winter, multiple **Common Loons** were seen (m.ob.). One was found for the West Chester CBC, which had recorded this species only three previous times. Remarkably, the high count on this CBC was 8, which was high for the season, and double the previous high-count for this CBC (BB). Singleton **Pied-billed Grebes** were located in various sites, but mostly MCSP and AQ. Up to 2 were present at AQ for the latter half of Feb (m.ob.). **Horned Grebes** are uncommon in winter, but were seen on several occasions in small numbers. A high count was of 3 at MCSP 1/8 (HM). Once again this winter, AQ was the place to go to see **Red-necked Grebes**. After another frigid winter in the Great Lakes region, Red-necked Grebes pushed southward at the beginning of Feb, and up to 2 could be found regularly at AQ 2/6 through the end of the period (AL, m.ob.).

Bald Eagles resumed nesting in Chatham, as well as in Guthriesville. A new nest was discovered in West Nantmeal (m.ob.). Record-breaking snowfall in New England and points north seemed to bring **Rough-legged Hawks** into the region beginning in Feb, producing an irruption similar to the winter of 2011. The first report was of an imm. light morph at Honey Brook 2/1 (FH, BH). This or another similar individual was seen until the end of the period (m.ob.). Other reports included a dark morph at EP 2/6 (GT, m.ob.), one at Waterloo Mills Preserve 2/7 (KF), a dark morph at Sanatoga Preserve 2/13 (NF, SS), a light morph in Cochranville 2/14 (MG), and an adult male dark morph in Nantmeal 2/28 (HM, KS).

A **Sandhill Crane** was a surprise guest seen on a property in the Marshallton area 2/1 (JA *vide* PH). It was last seen taking off and heading towards the Stroud Preserve, but was not relocated. Sandhill Cranes are irregular winter visitors, and often found in the company of Canada Geese.

Bonaparte's Gulls are rather rare in winter in Chester, but 5 were reported from MCSP 1/1 (NK, SS). A first winter **Iceland Gull** was picked out of thousands of gulls roosting on the ice at MCSP 2/16 (BQ, m.ob.); this gull could be seen in the evenings there, as the gulls filed in to roost, through 2/18 (m.ob.). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** continued as the more common black-backed gull in the county, and were found in locations where large gull concentrations occurred, especially the landfill SECCRA (m.ob.). A high count of 6 **Great Black-backed Gulls** was recorded at SECCRA 1/7 (KN, HG). Other reports came from New Garden Elementary School 12/27 (WBH, JS, JB) and at MCSP 1/29 (GT), 2/17 (AG, TZ, HM), and 2/22 (NP).

A **Rufous Hummingbird** continued from fall until 12/20 in the Landenberg garden it had been visiting (GB). **Merlins** overwintered at CORES, where up to 3 were observed 1/25 (HG, KN). A first for a WRS in Chester were 2 seen on one route (HM, JC). The increasing population of the **Peregrine Falcons** means that this species is found on occasion in winter. Multiple reports came in, especially in Honey Brook, Cochranville, and at the Schuylkill R. near the Cromby Trailhead (MG, PM, KS, HM, RK). Of note were two adults hunting in Honey Brook 2/2 (MC).

The half-hardy **Eastern Phoebe** is reported annually in small numbers through winter. One was found during the Elverson CBC at MCSP 12/21 (BB, RM). Another was eating suet at a feeding station in a Landenberg yard through Feb (SC). There were numerous sightings of **Common Raven** throughout the winter (m.ob.) as their population continues to grow and their range expands. Notable was a surge in reports from AQ, which holds the unique habitat this species requires for nesting (m.ob.). It was not an irruption year for the **Black-capped Chickadee**; however, several solid records were made at scattered locations (m.ob.), all of single birds except for one report of 2 from West Chester (NP). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** did not make a strong showing this winter either. Traditional strongholds, such as the Serpentine Barrens, held small numbers, but reports were otherwise scarce. The high count was 6 at Nottingham County Park 12/1 (MG). There was only a trickle of reports of **Brown Thrashers** this season. One was spotted at Horseshoe Scout Reservation 12/14 (GD, LB), another at EP 12/21 and 26 (CK), and one at OCTRES 1/28 (MG) and 2/27 (JS).

It was a good winter for field birds. **Lapland Longspurs** were seen in the Honey Brook region repeatedly. Two were in Amish farm fields there 12/1 (NP), but the bulk of the reports came in Feb when they were found with regularity (m.ob.). **Snow Buntings** had a good showing in Feb along Homestead Rd. in Honey Brook. Birders had the opportunity to pick out these "stand-out" field birds among the hundreds of **Horned Larks**. The high count of buntings there was 10 on 2/8 (WBH).

A lucky find was an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, an irregular winter visitor, actively foraging in a yard in Landenberg 1/4 and 1/11 (AL). Another half-hardy is the **Common Yellowthroat**, which showed up in a few spots, typical of most winters here. Single yellowthroats were found at EP 12/21 and 1/15 (CK, m.ob.). Another was reported from SL 12/28 (NF, SS). Two different **Pine Warblers** were seen in local yards this winter. One was in Avondale 12/31 (WBH) and another continued at a feeding station in Exton through the reporting period (PL).

There were many reports of **Chipping Sparrows**, continuing a winter trend for this species. Numbers were small, and reports typically were only of one or 2 birds (m.ob.). Interesting was a hybrid **White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco** photographed in Willistown Twp. in early Dec (DE *vide* DM). Again this winter a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was discovered, this time at Westtown Lake 1/6 (AL). This species is rare in winter.

A **Dickcissel** was a big surprise at a feeder in the Newtown Square area 12/11 (MS). Nearly a month later, on 1/9, another Dickcissel appeared at a feeding station, also in Newtown Square, and possibly the same bird. This visitor consistently attended feeders at this location through the third week in Feb (JC, m.ob.). Only a few **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found this winter, which is fairly typical. Five were spotted in Glenville 1/29 (MG) and again 1/30 (PM). Four were in the same vicinity 2/19 (DH). **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** are scarce western visitors that are fun to tease out of large blackbird flocks. A male was spotted in a tree within a mixed blackbird flock

in Jennersville 1/17 (JB). Another stood out among hordes of blackbirds in Steelville 2/7 (HM, KS) and another (or the same bird) was seen nearby 2/9 (PM). Ten days later, another adult male was reported from the same vicinity (DH). There were around ten reports from various locations for **Rusty Blackbird** (m.ob.), a species in serious decline. A high count was 6 picking through leaf litter on the shoreline of MCSP (HM).

It was not a strong irruption winter for **Purple Finch**, but there were multiple sightings around the county (m.ob.). A leucistic **House Finch** visited a feeder in Avondale in early Feb, attracting many onlookers who marveled at the pure white bird on the feeders at Traditions at Inniscrone (PB). A high count of 8 House Finches occurred in two yards, both in Glenmoore, 2/14 (DH) and 2/28 (BB). A **Common Redpoll** was observed at a feeder near Thorndale 2/10 (SD). **Pine Siskins** irrupted in moderate force this winter, and could be found around the county through the winter period, with numbers spiking in Feb (m.ob.). A nice high count was of 66 visiting feeders in the Chesterbrook area 2/14 (MH).

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Clarion County

Locations: Curlsville (CV), Fisher (FI), Mount Zion/SGL 330/Piney Tract (MZ), Rimersburg (RI).

There was not a wide range of species reported, so the noteworthy items start with the raptors. It was a better year for **Rough-legged Hawks** which appeared at various locations throughout the season. In the northern part of the county, with its many open agricultural areas, single birds were reported 12/28 and 2/7 between Lucinda and the Lake Lucy area (FM, DR). On open grassland areas in southern Clarion, single birds were reported near New Bethlehem, as well as in traditional areas around CV, MZ, and RI (GK, MK, MM, RN, MW, et al.). Reports spanned dates between 1/17-2/17 and altogether represented a total of up to 9 birds.

Northern Harriers also had an improved showing, which was unexpected given the severity of the weather. It is worth noting that these occurred in the first part of the winter before snow cover and cold worsened in Feb. The first sighting was a female at CV strips beginning 12/11 (MM). A male was reported over a clear-cut area in FI 1/24 through early Feb (MH). During a WRS near CV 1/17, two females were seen in separate spots, a mix of agricultural areas and reclaimed strip mine fields (RN, CW).

Certainly the most exciting species for the season was a **Long-eared Owl** found 12/21 roosting in a tall Scotch pine at MZ (MW). This location has scattered pine groves in a grassland/marsh habitat and a large area of surrounding grassland. This single bird was not relocated in the following weeks. The excellent habitat at MZ, as well as many other areas in the southern part of Clarion, is good for this species. Almost certainly more thorough searching for this elusive bird would lead to more reports. Notable by its absence, for the first time since this compiler has been writing there were no winter reports of Short-eared Owl.

Another regular grassland species for Clarion in winter is **Northern Shrike**. This year they showed in two traditional locations where usually reliable. One was found at CV strips 12/11 (MM), and another was at MZ along Stockdill Rd. 1/24 (MW). **Horned Larks** were reported regularly through the season in association with a large cattle herd kept on pasture in winter, a location where they are found most years. Flocks reported in numbers ranging from 15 to 200+ were at New Bethlehem-Curlsville Rd. near CV (MK, GK, MM, RN, CW).

Brown Creepers are not reported every winter, so it was noteworthy that singles regularly visiting suet feeders in both FI and RI during Jan and Feb (MH, MM). A **Hermit Thrush** was along Piney and Rapp Rd near MZ 1/24, another species that is not often found in mid-winter (MW). **Northern**

Mockingbirds are sporadic in winter, usually utilizing thickets of multiflora rose or other fruit-bearing shrubs and trees, but one was seen coming regularly to a suet feeder near CV 1/10-2/21 (CW).

A **Lapland Longspur** was found several times 1/29-2/17 near CV at a cattle pasture area along New Bethlehem-Curtisville Rd. (GK, MK, MM, CW). At this same location a large flock of **Snow Buntings** was present 1/15-2/28, with flock size ranging from 20 to as high as 317 (JeH, JK, GK, MK, MM, et al.). Another area of agricultural fields at an Amish farm near Callensburg hosted a flock of 25 snow buntings 2/28 (MM).

Pine Siskin was the only finch of note, present in multiple areas primarily at feeding stations. The first report came from RI where they numbered up to 75 from 12/6-2/28 (MM). Up to 40 siskins attended at a feeder near Knox 12/15 through the season (PC). Reports also came from two locations in FI and two locations in Clarion, from 1/24 through end of season and in numbers ranging up to 40 (DF, JaH, MH, RM).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net**, Paulette Colantonio, Deb Freed, Jeff Hall (JeH), Mal Hays, Janice Horn (JaH), John Keener, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Flo McGuire, Ron Montgomery, Mark Moore, Richard Nugent, Doug Raybuck, Mike Weible.

Clearfield County

Locations: Bimini Lake (BL), La Jose Strips (LJS), Treasure Lake (TRL).

A single **Ross's Goose** was at TRL 12/20 (DR). On the same day, a lone **Red-necked Grebe** was found at BL (DR). There were several reports of **Rough-legged Hawks** from various areas throughout the period. A male **Northern Harrier** was at LJS 2/3 (DG). Three **Short-eared Owls** were at LJS during Dec and early Jan (DG). **Pine Siskins** visited feeders throughout the period.

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

Clinton County

Locations: South Avis (SA), Swisssdale (SW).

A **Red-breasted Merganser** was on the Susquehanna River 1/3 (JB). An **American Coot** was at Mill Hall 1/4 (BSB). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was spotted in the SW area 1/4 (DSR). On the same date, one **Hermit Thrush** and one **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were also in the SW area (DSR).

A mixed flock of **Horned Larks** and up to 4 **Lapland Longspurs** was at SA 1/27-28 (WL). A small flock of Horned Larks at SA included at least one **Lapland Longspur** and one **Snow Bunting** 2/1 (DB) and another small flock at SA included 2 **Snow Buntings** 2/3 (WL). Beginning in mid-Jan, **Pine Siskins** began showing up, with numbers increasing to as many as 70 at some locations (m.ob.).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, (570) 748-7511, wnlaubscher@comcast.net**, Bryce and Steve Bason, Jo Ann Bowes, David Brown, Dave and Sam Rockey.

Columbia County

No compiler.

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Custards (C), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva Marsh (GM), Linesville Christmas Count (LCC), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

Five **Snow Geese** were at PGMA 12/17 (SR, IF). A total of 60 **Tundra Swans** were seen at CL 12/7 (RFL, IF). A good count of 1082 **Common Mergansers** was made at WL, CL, and PC 1/1 (RFL). Six hundred **Redheads** were seen at CL 12/7 (RFL, IF) and 123 **Buffleheads** were there 12/20 (RFL, IF). A lone **Red-necked Grebe** was at CL 2/27 and 2/28 (SC). There were 12 **Horned Grebes** and 12 **Pied-billed Grebes** at CL 12/7 (RFL, IF). **Common Loon** numbers were very low; 4 on the LCC were the best count (m.ob.). A late **Great Egret** remained at PA 12/14-28 and

was seen on the LCC (SR, RFL, IF, m.ob.). A record 75 **Sandhill Cranes** were tallied on LCC 12/14 (m.ob.). There were 1229 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at PA (RFL, IF). Some 3635 **American Coot** were studied at CL 12/20 (RFL, IF). Over 100 **Wild Turkeys**, a very good count, were found west of Harmonsburg 12/21 (BG, JG, RFL). One to 4 **Rough-legged Hawks** were at PGMA 12/14-2/28 (m.ob.). Sixteen adult and 16 imm. **Bald Eagles** were tallied on LCC 12/14 (m.ob.). The PA was almost completely frozen over Jan to the end of Feb resulting in just one or 2 eagles on most trips. A **Peregrine Falcon** was at PGMA 2/8 and 2/14 (RFL). **Short-eared Owls** made a much better showing than usual with a high count of 5 in Beaver Twp. 1/16 (TCN) and was noted on 17 days in the Springboro and Conneautville areas (m.ob.). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was seen south of PC 12/26 (RFL) and singles were at Meadville's Diamond Park and a Meadville address (IF, SC) 2/28. A **Snowy Owl** was found in a field three miles south of Conneautville 2/8 (EE). A **Great-horned Owl** was recorded 12/26 at FI (RFL). A good find was a **Red-headed Woodpecker** on LCC at Tuttle Point 12/14 (m.ob.).

A **Northern Shrike** was noted at GM 1/19 (SC). **Carolina Wrens** showed up at Meadville 12/7 and 1/9 (RFL), at GM on 12/7 (RFL, IF), and one again at Meadville 2/15 (RFL). A **Marsh Wren** was a nice find 12/14 for LCC (m.ob.). Forty-five **Snow Buntings** were recorded at SPR 2/15 and 2/18 (AT). A **Lapland Longspur** was at PC 1/14 (RFL), 2 were at Rundeltown 2/8 (TCN, AT), and 4 were at SPR both 2/16 and 2/18 (SC). A **Fox Sparrow** was found at a Meadville feeder 12/20 (RFL). Two **Swamp Sparrows** were noted at GM 12/20 (RFL, IF). A **Rusty Blackbird** was seen at a Rundeltown feeder 2/18 (AT). **Pine Siskins** were well reported with 8 in a feeder at SL 12/2 (RE) and 10 at PGMA 2/22 (SC).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Shawn Collins, Richard Eakin, Emanuel Erb, Isaac Field, Bonnie Ginader, Janice Grindle, Glen Koppel, Mary Alice Koppel, Mary Observers, Thomas Clare Nicolls, Steven Rotkovecz, Adam Troyer, Mark Vass.

Cumberland County

Locations: Big Spring (BS), Boiling Springs Children's Pond (BSCP), Conodoguinet Creek (CC), Laughlin Mill Pond (LMP), Mud Level Road (MLR), State Game Lands 169 (SGL 169).

November and December were relatively mild compared to the previous winter, and were without much in the way of snow. January saw a turn to colder and snowier weather, and many lakes and streams froze by the end of the month. February was brutally cold with a good amount of snow and saw an influx of waterfowl, although nothing like the winter of 2013-14. The most interesting species were two sparrows, one a county first and the other confirmed for only the second time.

Two **Snow Geese** were reported on the CC near the intersection of Creek and Spring Rds., Carlisle 12/13 (DK), 5 were at Brackbill Pond Mechanicsburg 12/14 (SK), one was at the Camp Hill State Prison 12/20 (SK), 35 were at Longs Gap Rd. 1/23 (DK), and a flock of 100 was over Mechanicsburg 12/15 (CM). **Cackling Geese** were one at Brackbill Pond 12/14 (SK), one at LMP Newville 1/23 (VG), and 2 on the BS near Nealy Rd. 2/1 (JF). One **Tundra Swan** was at BSCP 1/7-8 (DK, SK, VG), 11 were at BSCP 11/26 (DK), and one was in the mouth of the CC at West Fairview 2/16-28 (PB, m.ob.). There was a pair of **Wood Ducks** at BSCP 1/10-2/18 (AM, VG, DG, m.ob.). Two more were at Huntsdale 2/14 (PB), and 3 were on the CC along Creek Road 2/14 (VG). One **Northern Shoveler** was at Tichy Park Ponds Mount Holy 12/19 (PB) and one to 3 were at BSCP 1/31-2/28 (DK, m.ob.) The only **Northern Pintail** was on the CC in Carlisle 1/2 (JH, SH) and the only **Green-winged Teal** was at the LMP 2/23 (VG).

Five **Canvasbacks** were on the BS 2/20-21 (VG, BS), and further downstream another 7-8 were on the LMP 2/20-28 (VG). There were also up to 15 in the mouth of the CC at West Fairview 2/15-28 (CK, m.ob.), one at a pond on West Yellow Breeches Rd. 2/22 (PB), with 3 at the same location 2/28 (PB), one at the BSCP 2/16 (MI) and again 2/23 and 2/26 (DK), one on Criswell Drive in Boling Springs 2/25 (PB) and again 2/26 (DK). There were up to 5 **Redheads** reported from the BSCP 1/10-2/28 (AM, VG, DG, m.ob.), a lone male on the LMP 2/20-28 (VG), and 4-6 on Criswell Drive in Boling Springs along the Yellow Breeches 2/16-28 (DK, PB). There were also 5 at Willow Mill Park 2/2 (PB) and 3 there 2/11 (PB), and 3 off Acri Rd. on Holtz Run 2/5 (EG). One to 3 **Greater Scaup** were reported from the BSCP 1/28-2/28 (DK, m.ob.) and 3 were also seen at the LMP 2/14-27 (VG). The only **Lesser Scaup** was on the CC along Burgner's Mill Rd. 2/25 (VG). **Common Goldeneyes** were reported for the second straight winter with one on the CC from a bridge on Long's Gap Rd. 2/1-6 (DK, VG) and one at Willow Mill Park 2/17 (PB). It was also the second consecutive winter

for **Long-tailed Duck**, with one reported at the mouth of the CC at West Fairview 2/23-25 (AL, JK, DH). There was a bit of a population explosion of **Red-breasted Mergansers** at a very crowded mouth of the CC at West Fairview for Feb, with anywhere from 2 to 11 reported 2/5-28 (DA, m.ob.).

One **Pied-billed Grebe** continued on the BS through the period (VG, m.ob.) and was found for the first time on the Newville CBC. One **Horned Grebe** was reported at Opossum Lake 12/28 (PY, DK) and one was on the Yellow Breeches along W. Yellow Breeches Rd. 2/22 and 2/28 (PB).

There was a Feb invasion of **Rough-legged Hawks**. One dark morph was east of Newville near the intersection of Creek and Graham's Woods Rds. 2/5 and 2/15-16 (RF, PF, VG). One light morph was at Myers Rd. SGL 169 on 2/6 during a WRS (RF, DG), and another light morph was on Center Rd. just east of Rte. 233 on 2/16 (VG). Two dark morphs were reported the same day from the intersection of Game Land and Mountain Rds. SGL 169 (VG). Lastly one light morph and one dark morph were reported together just south of SGL 169 on Bridgewater Road 2/13-14 (JM).

The only gulls of note were 13 **Bonaparte's Gulls** over the BS 1/5 (MD) and one **Great Black-backed Gull** at the Cumberland County Landfill 2/16 (VG). One **Red-headed Woodpecker** was on Quarry Hill Rd., Newville 1/2 (VG) and 1/4 (VG, CK, BO, RH) but none were found at the usual location on Waggoner's Lane. **Merlins** included one at the intersection of Nealy Rd. and Rte. 533 on 1/4 (VG, CK, BO, RH), one near the intersection of Strohm and Chestnut Grove Rds. Shippensburg 1/10 (DG, AM, VG), and one just west of Creek Rd. and Rte. 34 just north of the Conodoguinet Creek in Carlisle 2/14 (DG). There was also a **Peregrine Falcon** reported on MLR 1/17 (JRe, TR) and the same location 2/16 (VG), and 2 others at the West Fairview Trail 1/1 (RK). The Prairie Falcon was not reported.

A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was found on the West Fairview Boat Launch Trail 12/13 and 12/26 (RK). A **Gray Catbird** was at Alexander Spring Rd. Carlisle 12/15 (DHi) and a **Brown Thrasher** in Newville on Log Cabin Rd. 2/3 (VG). Reports of **American Pipit** were one on Gephart Rd. 1/6 (VG), one on the BS 1/5 (VG) and 2/6 (DHu), and 2 more 2/7 (BP, m.ob.). **Lapland Longspur** was found along MLR: one on 1/6 (MW), 3 on 1/7 (VG), 5 on 2/5 (VG), an amazing 16 on 2/16 (DC), and 5 on 2/19 (GD, ZA). The only one reported elsewhere was one at Autumn Drive west of Boling Springs 1/22 (PB). Two **Snow Buntings** were seen on MLR 1/9 (VG) and again 2/5 (VG), and 22 were on MLR 2/16 (DC).

Two **Black-and-white Warblers** were at the West Fairview Boat Launch Trail 12/7 (RK, AM) and one was there 12/13-22 (RK, m.ob.). One **Common Yellowthroat** was on the BS 1/5 (MD). One **Eastern Towhee** was reported on Alexander Spring Rd., Carlisle 1/5 (DHi), 3 were at the Camp Hill Prison 12/20 (SJ), one was at Longs Gap Rd., Carlisle 1/17 (DK), and one was at Pine Grove Furnace S. P. 2/28 (VG). A **Chipping Sparrow** was seen on 3 different days at a Newville feeder 2/17-26 (VG). One **Fox Sparrow** was reported at a Newville feeder 2/16-2828 (HL, ML) and 2 in Carlisle 2/15 (MS). For the second time in four years a **Harris's Sparrow** was found at BS, an adult was at a feeding station from 1/29-2/19 (VG, m.ob.). It represented the second county record. Even better was the **Lark Sparrow** reported on the Newville CBC at Peyton Drive, Carlisle 1/4-5 (RK, JR, m.ob.), furnishing a first county record. Both sparrows were found in mixed flocks with **White-crowned** and **White-throated Sparrows**.

Seven **Eastern Meadowlarks** were on Hoot Owl Rd., Newville 1/17 (VG, DG, AM). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported on the BS 12/6 (VG); there were 22 at Huntsdale 1/24 (PB), 12 on 2/14 (PB), and 3 on 2/25 (VG).

Though not a large invasion year, there were small numbers of **Purple Finches** seen throughout the period. **Pine Siskins** were seen at many locations from late Jan through Feb, often in flocks of 20 to 30 birds. The lone **Common Redpoll** was east of Huntsdale at a feeder station on Pine Rd. 1/30 (AG, VG).

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier**, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com, Zachary Adams, Diane Allison, Paul Banks, David Cooney, Michael David, Gordon Dimming, John Frain, Ron Free, Pat Free, Deb Gingrich, Elora Grahame, Andy Green, Dave Grove, Jim Hengeveld, Susan Hengeveld, Daniel Hinnebusch (DHi), Derek Hudgins (DHu), Deuane Hoffman, Robert Hosler, Marcella Iqbal, Steve Johnson, Jen Kain, Stefan Karkuff, Chad Kauffman, Dave Kerr, Ramsay Koury, Alex Lamoreaux, Harold Leaman, Margaret Leaman, Carole Malisiak, Annette Mathes, Jennifer Moore, Bill Oyler, Jack Reese (JRe), Tricia Reese, Joan Renninger, Brian Schmoke, Melisa Stewart, Susan Strassner, Perry Yingling, Martin Wilson.

Dauphin County

Locations: Blue Mountain (BMT), Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG), Harrisburg (HGB), Hershey (HER), Hershey Important Bird Area #45 (HIBA), Highspire Reservoir & Lisa Lake (HRL), Hummelstown (HUM),

Milton Hershey School campus (MHS), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR at Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR at Middletown and Royalton (SRMR), SR from Marysville (SRMV), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

The relatively mild December and early January came to an end as the long, cold winter weather arrived in the second week of the New Year. Lakes and ponds froze quickly and the SR was soon predominantly ice covered except for a few open channels and patches. This frigid stretch continued through the first week of March; the month of February set a new record low temperature for Harrisburg.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was photographed in a farm field along Eby Rd. in Derry Twp. with a deer cam 2/23 (CMo). The first **Snow Geese** of the season were reported 12/3 with 6 near HER (TB). In Jan, however, a large flock of several hundred to several thousand settled into the farm fields around HER 1/7-25 (m.ob.). Within this flock, at least two **Ross's Geese** were reported 1/14 and 1/23-25 (AL, TJ, DH). A **Cackling Goose** was along Waltonville Rd. south of HUM 1/14 (AL) and as many as 7 were among the hundreds of **Canada Geese** in the MHS fields 1/25 (TJ). Two **Tundra Swans** were reported during the GBBC 2/16 SRWF (DP) and were observed through 2/24 (m.ob.).

As the season began most dabblers were still present at WL and HRL, including **American Black Duck**, **Gadwall**, **Northern Pintail** (WL only), **Northern Shoveler**, **American Wigeon**, and **Green-winged Teal** (m.ob.). **Hooded Mergansers** were also at HRL. All of these remained at these locations through the relatively mild Dec and into the first week Jan (m.ob.). This changed shortly after the cold weather arrived 1/6 and sent these species off to seek open water elsewhere. Some examples: A pair of **Wood Ducks** was found in an open patch of Paxton Creek in Susquehanna Twp. 1/29 (EC). **Gadwalls** (P&RW) and **American Wigeons** (CMk, P&RW) found refuge in open water along Swatara Creek near Middletown and were observed through mid-Feb. A **Northern Pintail** was hanging out with some **Mallards** in an open corner of a pond behind the Agricultural Center Barn on Crest Lane at MHS through much of Feb (NM). It was a good winter for **Canvasback**, **Redhead**, and **Greater Scaup**. Beginning in early Jan there were numerous reports from a few locations including SRWF and SRMR (m.ob.). Observations continued into Mar. **Ring-necked Ducks** were less common. Two were found at SRMR 1/2 (DH) and a drake was observed on the SR from Wormleysburg 2/21-24 (VG, P&RW, IG, AL). Five **White-winged Scoters** were at SRMV 2/21 (VG) and a single was reported at SRWF 2/25 (DH). A **Long-tailed Duck** was present from at SRMV 2/21-23 (VG, EG, IG, AL, PB) and another was reported from 2/23 into Mar (m.ob.). A single **Red-breasted Merganser** was recorded for the HBG CBC on the SR 12/20 (DH). Another was observed on the SR near the Harvey Taylor Bridge 1/9 (DN) and 2 were at SRMV 1/18 (CKf). By Feb, Red-breasted Merganser became a regular on eBird lists from SRWF and from the Wormleysburg waterfront (m.ob.).

The only report of **Common Loon** was of a flyover along the Turnpike near MID 1/17 (AMg). The only **Pied-billed Grebes** were one on SRMR 1/2 (DH) and on SRFH 1/8 (RD). After a few reports of **Horned Grebe** in Dec, the last observation from the rapidly freezing river was 2 at SRFH 1/12 (IG). Red-necked Grebes did not show up until after the end of Feb.

One of the highlights for the HBG CBC 12/20 was a **Great Egret** flying over the Harvey Taylor Bridge (DH). Another surprise was a **Double-crested Cormorant** at SRFH 1/10 (JDu). This was the county's first Jan record for this nesting species, which is common from mid-Mar through Oct. An **American Bittern** was a good early Dec find at WL 12/3 (IG) and the first Dec record in *Duaphin*.

This was a very good winter for **Rough-legged Hawks**. The first was one over fields near the intersection of Beagle and Elm Rds. in Londonderry Twp. 1/9 (ph. KK). It was found again at that location 1/10 (P&RW). A dark morph Rough-leg was found on a raptor survey conducted at FIG 1/29 (DM, TB, JDr). Six different **Rough-legged Hawks** were along Rtes. 325 and 225 in northern *Duaphin* 2/4. The first two were in Clark's Valley one of which was a dark morph, 2 were near Tallman's ponds at the south base of Peter's Mtn., and 2 more were along Rte. 225 between Halifax and Elizabethville (SB). Another light Rough-leg was in the HIBA 2/8 (BH); on 2/9-10 it was found in or near the HIBA (TB, CK, NM, P&RW, S&RZ). Sightings also came from the intersection of Bindnagles Rd. and Rte. 743 in Derry Twp. (TB, BW). Two light morph birds were observed in fields north of Millersburg and another was along Peter's Mt. Rd. north of Dauphin 2/20 (IG, AL).

American Coots were present at WL all Dec and the first week of Jan (m.ob.). The last report, before the winter-freeze, was of 13 on 1/5 (EB). A lone **Killdeer** was at Swatara Creek Park near Union Deposit 1/14 (AL) and again 2/28 (P&RW). A **Wilson's Snipe** flushed from along the Towpath Trail at WL during the HBG CBC 12/20 (IG, TN). Another snipe sighting came from the HIBA 12/26 (JL, AL). Two were also at WL 1/1 (DH) and 2 more were at Swatara Creek Park 1/23 (P&RW).

Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were photographed at SRWF 1/5 (AW) and two were observed near the I-83 bridge 1/9 (CE). A single was found along the SR near Duncannon 2/14 (RD). Surprising was a first winter **Laughing Gull** at Middletown Boat Launch 1/5 (P&RW). This was only the second winter season record for the county; the first was SRWF 12/18/2010 during the Harrisburg CBC. Both **Herring** and **Great Black-backed Gulls** were at various locations along the SR from HBG north to Marysville through Dec and Jan (m.ob.).

A **Barn Owl** was roosting in a private barn in the HER area where a nest box was being installed 12/23 (TB). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was recorded during an early morning drive along Clarks Valley Rd. 1/1 (DH). The season began with the report of a **Snowy Owl** on the roof of the Harrisburg Hospital, apparently the same owl found at Cedar Cliff HS in *Cumberland* in late Nov. A HBG city police officer, Chris Thomas, recovered the disoriented owl, which was on the ground near the hospital, and arranged for it to be taken to the Red Creek Wildlife Center in Schuylkill Haven, *Schuylkill*. The female owl suffered from a concussion and eye injury, per Peggy Hentz, executive director of Red Creek. After treatment and a full recovery the owl was released in suitable habitat in *Berks* 12/12.

Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at FIG 1/29 (DM, TB, JDr), a regular nesting location for this species but public access is restricted. The **Merlin** has gone the way of the Bald Eagle—too many sightings throughout the quarter to mention them all. **Peregrine Falcons** were in and around HBG (m.ob.) and near the Clarks Ferry bridge 2/13 (TN) and 2/14 (SL).

The only **Eastern Phoebe** was found during the HBG CBC along Tower Rd. on BMT 12/20 (IG, TN). One of many reports of **Hermit Thrush** was of one regularly visiting a birdbath and feeders for much of the winter in Lawnton (N&CJ). A **Gray Catbird** present in Nov in a SHT yard continued to 12/20 (P&RW). Catbirds were found at HRL 12/15 (P&RW) and another was at WL 12/17 (LU). On 12/20, a catbird was observed along the Fox Run Trail at WL 12/20 (IG, TN) and another was found along the Swatara Creek at Rte.743 12/24 (IG, AL). Another was found at SGL 246 1/2 (DH) and one apparently survived the harsh Feb at WL until at least 2/20 (SL, CR). The only **Brown Thrasher** of the season was at HRL 2/22 (IG, EG, AL).

Eight **Snow Buntings** were along the edge of Crest Lane on the MHS campus 2/11 (P&RW). Additional sightings came from near this location 2/12-14 (NM, CK, AL). There were a few reports of **Eastern Towhee**: one from Tower Rd. on BMT for the HBG CBC 12/20 (TN, IG), another in the HIBA 1/2 (DH), and one in Londonderry Twp. along Snively Rd. during the GBBC 2/14 (DHR). At least one towhee spent much of the season at Schiavoni Park, Swatara Twp., seen or heard from late Jan through Feb (AMa, RK, CM, MM). **Savannah Sparrows** were fairly common in the MHS farmlands and fields south of HER (m.ob.).

There were only a few reports of **Pine Siskin** in Jan; 8 near Williamstown 1/1 (DH) and single yard visitors in SHT 1/21 (P&RW) and in Middletown 1/26 (SH). This changed in early Feb as reports came in from throughout the county, ranging from a few to a dozen (m.ob.). The notable exception was from the borough of Dauphin where a flock of 148 reported during the GBBC 2/14 increased to 250 by the end of the month (DR). This was reminiscent of the 2009 winter irruption, when a number of reporting stations tallied 100+ siskins in Feb and Mar.

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Delaware County

Locations: Delaware River (DR), Episcopal Academy (EA), Hoy's Pond (HP), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Newlin Grist Mill (NGM), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Thornbury Township Trail (TTT), The Willows (WILL).

It was yet another spectacular winter season of birding. Many of the 108 species tallied this season included exceptional sightings, for example a late December **Greater Yellowlegs**, an exciting yard bird **Common Redpoll**, a suburban dwelling **Barred Owl**, and the appearance of both **Northern Goshawk** and **Rough-legged Hawk**. This year's 95th Glenholden CBC attracted 68 observers, who logged 89 species throughout

Delaware during the count. Thanks to all who helped make this count a great success yet again!

Single **Cackling Geese** were at WILL 12/10 (KG) and 12/26-1/2 (HC, DO). One **Mute Swan** was observed on CCR 12/27-1/5 (TB, AG, DO, NS). **Tundra Swans** continued their annual winter appearance along the DR 12/17-2/12 with the highest total of 120 on 1/24 (AG).

Delaware was host to 16 species of ducks this winter. Only one **Wood Duck** was seen, found on the county's edge behind Hank's Place in Chadd's Ford 12/31 (TB). **Gadwalls** were present only at JHNWR season with all observations in late Dec and early Jan. The highest total of 30 occurred when a group of 20 were flushed from *Philadelphia* and another 10 were seen on their usual winter spot at HP 12/29 (DO). Three **American Wigeons** were on HP 12/29 (DO). **Northern Shovelers** had a strong showing in late Dec and early Jan at JHNWR, with a highest count of 100 on HP 1/1 (FW). **Northern Pintails** appeared in small numbers in locations on and around DR, with a high total of 30 from JHNWR 12/29-1/4 (DO). Four pintails were on DR in Marcus Hook 12/17-12/20 (NP) and one drake was photographed in the same location 1/15 (TB). A rare winter visitor to *Delaware*, three drake **Redheads** were photographed at Brinton L. 2/14 (SC). The only **Lesser Scaup** was at SR 2/17 (BR). *Delaware* had a merganser sweep this season with all three species observed throughout the winter. Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were seen along DR from Governor Printz Park 2/14 (AG). **Common Mergansers** held true to their name, as they were present throughout the county this season, with a high of 210 at JHNWR 1/29 (AG).

Single **Wild Turkeys** were on the Glenholden CBC in the vicinities of Aston and Penn State Brandywine 12/20 (eBird). **Pied-billed Grebes** were observed only on the Glenholden CBC in the Haverford College area 12/20 (eBird). A regular rare resident, one **Horned Grebe** was on SR 12/2 (AG). Single **Red-necked Grebes** were on SR 12/13 (m.ob.), probably the same individual again at SR during the Glenholden CBC 12/20 (AC, WS), and another on Darby Creek near JHNWR 2/17 (SW). A breeding plumage **Common Loon** was early, or wintered undetected, on DR in Marcus Hook 2/4 (SM). The only **Great Cormorants** were 3 on DR in Marcus Hook 12/20 (NP) and one on DR from PPL Park (AG).

Northern Goshawks are difficult to find in *Delaware*, occurring sporadically, but this season two imms. were seen nearly a month apart. One was found during the Glenholden CBC at Haverford Reserve 12/20 (eBird) and another was in Broomall 1/25 (BR). Another irregular rare winter visitor to *Delaware*, a dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen flying northwest over Garnet Valley Middle School 2/5 (BQ).

Only one **American Coot** was reported, feeding on the frozen wetlands of JHNWR 1/11 (TB). **Killdeer** made a mid-winter appearance with 4 during the Glenholden CBC at EA (AC, WS). Late Feb appearances at WILL reflected their spring return 2/24-27 (KG, DO). Two days shy of its latest-ever record, a **Greater Yellowlegs** was at JHNWR during the Glenholden CBC 12/20 (eBird).

An unusual bird in the suburbs, a **Barred Owl** was photographed along Maple Avenue in the Swarthmore Borough 1/18 (DE, AG). According to the homeowners, they had possibly heard this bird calling for a few months around their house. Also surprising was a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** heard during the Glenholden CBC at RCSP 12/20 (TB, AM, JP).

Rare in winter, **Eastern Phoebes** braved the cold weather in two instances. One was on the Yale Avenue Dam on the south side of Crum Woods 12/3 (AE) and another was at TTT 1/30 (JM). **Common Raven** reports continued throughout the season with mostly individual birds reported at various hotspots around the center of the county including RCSP, Darlington Tract, and TTT 12/20-2/27 (TB, AG, JM). An increasingly hard bird to find in *Delaware*, 2 **Horned Larks** were next to DR just south of the Philadelphia Airport 12/13 (AG). A rare to uncommon winter resident, one **Black-capped Chickadee** was in the Crum Creek area during the Glenholden CBC 12/20 (CP). Last year, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen only on the Glenholden CBC, but this year there were multiple observations during the Glenholden CBC with 2 in the Darlington area, 2 in the Tyler Arboretum area, and one in the Media area 12/20 (eBird). Other reports include 2 at Tyler Arboretum 1/13 (AE), one at a private residence in Media, and one at NGM 2/5 (SM). Irregular and rare in winter, a **Brown Thrasher** was on the Nature Trail at Bethel Springs Elementary School 2/18 (BQ). The only warbler was **Yellow-rumped Warbler**; 6 were found on the Glenholden CBC in the Aston area 12/20 (eBird).

Nine sparrow species were reported. **Chipping Sparrows** made a few appearances during the Glenholden CBC with 3 in the Darlington area and one was at Waterloo Mills Preserve 12/20 (eBird). Five were at Darlington Tract 1/11 (AG) and one was at NGM 2/18 (TB, AG). **White-crowned Sparrows** were sparse with one in a yard in Aldan during the GBBC 2/13 (DN) and 6 in a neighborhood just off Gradyville Road on the eastern edge of RCSP 1/13 (AL). The only report of **Savannah Sparrow** occurred during the Glenholden CBC, 4 in the Darlington area 12/20 (eBird).

Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were at JHNWR on the Glenholden CBC 12/20 (eBird). **Purple Finch** observations were scattered throughout the county in Dec with singles at RCSP 12/1-12/20 (MF, AG), Area 8 and the Earles Lake area of the Glenholden CBC 12/20 (AE, eBird), and along the DR 12/20 (AG). The only report of multiples was of a group of 3 in a yard in Wayne 12/19 (HC). A **Common Redpoll** provided an exciting find in a neighborhood in Newtown Square 1/13 (AL).

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Elk County
No compiler.

Erie County

Locations: Lake View Landfill (LVL), Presque Isle State Park (PISP).

For the second winter in a row, nearly all of Lake Erie froze solid. Snowfall at the Erie International Airport was over 100 inches again this winter. These conditions made it rough for all birds, but especially for the waterfowl; 5000 to 6000 birds were crammed in three small patches of open water at the east end of Presque Isle Bay. Upwards of 20 **Bald Eagles** also hung around these open patches of water to steal fish that the mergansers caught or to eat the ducks themselves. One eagle was seen plucking a male **Red-breasted Merganser** out of the flock with other eagles fighting for possession. **Snowy Owls** made a minor invasion this winter with about 11 individuals in scattered sites throughout the eastern half of the county. At least four of those birds were at PISP. It was a poor season for northern finches with just a handful of **Pine Siskins**, **Common Redpolls** (except for one flock of 40 birds), and just a few **White-winged Crossbills** reported.

A white morph **Snow Goose** flew past the waterbird count at Sunset Point 12/1 (JM). A female **Harlequin Duck** flew past Sunset Point during the waterbird count on 12/8 (JM) and an adult and an imm. male were off the foot of East Ave. in Erie 1/11 (ph. GM). A pair of **Surf Scoters** was east of Dobbins landing in Erie 2/22 (JM). A high count of 95 **White-winged Scoters** flew past Sunset Point during the waterbird count 12/8 and about 80 cruised past the handicap ramp 12/20 (JM). A pair of **White-winged Scoters** was east of Dobbins landing in Erie 2/24 to the end of the period (JM). Up to seven **Long-tailed Ducks** were in the channel 2/20 to the end of the period (JM).

A total of three **Red-necked Grebes** were in PI waters 12/1-22 (JM). An **Eared Grebe** was a rare find at the foot of East Ave. in Erie 12/20-22 (BC). A rather late imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at the Wastewater Treatment Plant 12/18 to at least 12/20 (JDe). The total of 5 **Rough-legged Hawks** was about average for the season, reported from various sites in the county (m.ob.).

The only **Little Gull** was an adult at the head of Presque Isle Bay 12/3 (RSt). A season total of 5 **Thayer's Gulls** were at PISP and LVL 12/7-1/22 (ST, JM, DS). At least 20 **Iceland Gulls** were at PI and LVL 12/7-2/24 (ST, JM). A total of 14 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at LVL and PISP (JM). Hybrid gulls, most believed to be **Great Black-backed x Herring Gulls**, were reported through the period at PISP and LVL (JM, BC). Up to 14 **Glaucous Gulls** were present through the period at PI and LVL (JM).

There was a minor invasion of **Snowy Owls**, mainly in the eastern half of Erie and at PISP, with at least 11 different individuals through the period (m.ob.). At least three **Long-eared Owls** were in the pines on PISP 12/25-2/7 (RD). About four **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were seen periodically 12/25-2/27 in the pines on PISP and Erie (RD, KA) and a dead bird was found in Edinboro in late Feb (*fide* SS). The adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** reported last fall remained in Albion until 12/17 (ML).

A rather late **Eastern Phoebe** was at the Beach 10 parking lot and later on Gull Point Trail 12/21-28 (SS). The only **Northern Shrike** report was of one in Franklin Twp. 2/15 (JD). Up to two **Common Ravens** were at the LVL 1/16-24 (JM, DS). Two **Gray Catbirds** were late along Graveyard Pond 12/20 (DS). A **Brown Thrasher** came to a feeder in east Millcreek Twp. 1/14 until at least 2/6 (*fide* DS). Two **Eastern Towhees** were late along Graveyard Trail 12/20 (DS).

Two **White-winged Crossbills** were in the pines on PISP 12/20-21 (*fide* MF). As many as 40 **Common Redpolls** fed in the birches along Gull Point Trail 12/21-27 (SS). A small number of redpolls and **Pine Siskins**

were recorded at feeding stations around the county through the end of the period (m.ob.).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Katie Andersen, Ben Coulter, Julie Dell, John DePaul, Roger Donn, Michele Franz, Mike Lipinski, Geoff Malosh, Don Snyder, Russ States, Randy Stringer, Sam Stull, Shannon Thompson.

Fayette County

Location: Point Marion (PM).

When temperatures became frigid in February all bodies of water froze, so most of the waterfowl reports came from the Cheat River in the PM area in southern Fayette.

Snow Geese are rare here, so two (one white and one blue) at Bridgeport Reservoir 2/10 were noteworthy (DY, LY). The reservoir lies on the border of Fayette and Westmoreland and from maps it appears the county line divides the reservoir. Two **Tundra Swans** were at Bridgeport Reservoir 2/10 (DY, LY) and 8 were at PM 2/28 (KA). Two **American Black Ducks** were at Greenlick Run Lake 12/10 (MF) and 6 were at PM 2/28 (KA). The only **Canvasbacks** were at PM where the max count was 28 on 2/28 (ED). Two **Redheads** were there 2/18 (TB) and one was noted 2/28 (KA). Six **Ring-necked Ducks** were at PM 2/18 (TB) and 3 were there 2/28 (ED). A nice count of 36 **Greater Scaup** were there 2/18 (TB) and 2 **Lesser Scaup** were there 2/28 (ED). A **Long-tailed Duck** was at PM 2/18-28 (TB, ED). A **White-winged Scoter** was also at PM 2/28 (CJ). **Bufflehead** included one at Greenlick Run Lake 12/10 (MF), 27 at PM 2/18 (TB) and 20 there 2/28 (ED). Three **Common Goldeneyes** at PM 2/28 (ED) provided the lone report. Two **Hooded Mergansers** were at Bridgeport Reservoir 2/10 (DY, LY), 10 were at PM 2/18 (TB), and one was at Lake Lynn 2/18 (TB). Three **Common Mergansers** were seen at the Youghiogheny River along the Great Allegheny Passage Bike Trail near Perryopolis 12/14 (MJ). Five were at Bridgeport Reservoir 2/10 (DY, LY), 6 were at Lake Lynn 2/18 (TB) and 16 was the max count at PM 2/18 (TB). Four **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at PM 2/18 (TB) and one was at Lake Lynn 2/28 (ED). The only report of **Ruddy Duck** was of one bird at PM 2/18 (TB).

A **Red-throated Loon** was in the Farmington/Spring Valley area 1/18-20 (PC, LD). Four **Pied-billed Grebes** and one **Horned Grebe** were at PM 2/18 (TB). An adult **Bald Eagle** was in Connellsville 1/20 (*fide* GG) and two imms. were at PM 2/18 (TB) and 2/28 (KA).

Four **Eastern Bluebirds** were at Lake Lynn 2/18 (TB). There was only one report of **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: a single bird at Bridgeport Reservoir 2/10 (DY, LY). An out of season **Eastern Towhee** was at PM 2/28 (KA). Another out of season species, a **White-crowned Sparrow** was at Bridgeport Reservoir 2/10 (DY, LY). An **American Tree Sparrow** was also there that day. Two **Pine Siskins** visited a feeder in Juniata 2/21; one was present 2/23 (AL).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Kyle Aldinger, Terry Bronson, Peter Cemet, Elizabeth D'Amico, Larry Durgin, Gigi Gerben, Chuck Jones, Aleene Jones, Derek Yoder, Laurie Yoder.

Forest County

Locations: Marienville (MA), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Outflow (TO).

Sixteen **Tundra Swans** were on the Allegheny R. near TI 2/19 and 2/25 (GE, RS, FM, JM). Three **American Black Ducks**, 6 **Canvasbacks**, 5 **Redheads** and 3 **Lesser Scaup** were on the Allegheny R. near East Hickory 2/19 (m.ob.). Three **Ring-billed Gulls** were at TO 2/9 (FM, JM). A **Barred Owl** perched along a road near TI 12/27 was a nice find on the Pleasantville CBC (FM, JM).

A single **Common Redpoll** was present at feeders near TI 2/14-15. **Pine Siskins** were at the same location 1/1 through the end of the period, with a high count of 44 on 2/9 (FM, JM). The only location in Forest for **Evening Grosbeaks** this winter was MA. They came to feeders from 1/17 (*fide* DY) through the end of the reporting period, with a high of 18 on 1/23 (GM). This irruptive species has been reported in Forest only five winters since 1999, last seen the winter of 2012-13.

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Gary Edwards, James Hausman III, Margaret Higbee, Steven Kashmer, Patrick Lister, Geoff Malosh, Jim McGuire, Rowan Rose, Russ States, David Yeany II.

Franklin County

Locations: Bender's Pond (BP), Caledonia State Park Area (CP), Fayetteville Area (FA), Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Kriner Road Holding Pond (KR), Long Lane Pond (LL), Shady Grove Area (SG), Zullinger Feeder (ZF).

Canada Geese were reported in large numbers at various locations. Five blue **Snow Geese** were at KR 12/2, and a **Cackling Goose** was at GR 12/4. **Greater White-fronted Geese** made brief appearances at GR and KR 2/4-16.

Waterfowl at GR, LL, KR, and other open lakes 12/1-6 included **Northern Pintails**, **Canvasbacks**, **Redheads**, **Long-tailed Ducks**, **Common Goldeneyes**, **Hooded Mergansers**, **Common Mergansers**, **Red-breasted Mergansers**, **Ruddy Ducks**, and a **Surf Scoter**; the last at Letterkenny Reservoir. Redheads and Canvasbacks appeared again 2/13-16 at GR and stayed until the water froze again.

Rough-legged Hawks made rare appearances near Chambersburg and Greencastle 1/30, 2/10, and 2/24. **Bald Eagles** continued throughout the county giving local residents some great sightings. **Wilson's Snipe** were active at GR 12/7 until freezing weather arrived. A lone **Bonaparte's Gull** visited GR 1/1. Twenty-five **Ring-billed Gulls** made a stop at GR 1/14.

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was seen for one day at an old nesting site along Grindstone Hill Road 1/16. At least three **Great Horned Owls** were observed between SG and Chambersburg 1/27. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** came to a feeder near Clay Hill and a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** to feeders at ZF and SG. A **Peregrine Falcon** was perched on the barn roof near KR 12/2 and one was also seen 2/28 in downtown Chambersburg chasing **Rock Pigeons**.

Two **Winter Wrens** were on the Letterkenny property 12/14. Both **Ruby** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were observed along Bricker Rd. north of Chambersburg along with a **Brown Creeper**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Eastern Phoebe**, 20 or more **Cedar Waxwings**, **Purple Finch** and over 100 **American Robins**. **Lapland Longspurs** were along Frystone Rd. 1/1, along Harshman Rd. 1/7 and along Hisson Rd. 2/3. **Snow Buntings** were seen near FA 12/17, along Burkett Rd. 2/12, and along Portico Road west of Chambersburg 2/14. A **Pine Warbler** visited the feeder at CP 1/18-2/18. A late **Eastern Towhee** was observed at ZF 2/24. A **Common Redpoll** was at the feeder in CP 1/27. During the week of 12/29, at least 26 **Pine Siskins** were at feeders near FA and for the rest of the period many were in the FA and CP area.

Observers: Dale L. Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256, (717) 860-5799, dgearhart1@comcast.net, Valerie Barnes, Dave Cooney, Carl Garner, Donna Hocker, Bob Keener, Bill Oyler, Dan Snell.

Fulton County

Locations: Cowan's Gap State Park (CGSP), Plum Run survey route (CREP1), Pleasant Grove survey route (CREP2), Hustontown survey route (CREP3), Buck Valley survey route (CREP4), E. Hill Rd (Needmore) (HR).

This season's highlights were **Northern Pintails**, **Pileated Woodpeckers** courting, a **Rough-legged Hawk** invasion, and a rescued **Eastern Screech-Owl**.

Three **Northern Pintails** were along a streamside favored by **Mallards** in southern **Fulton** 12/31 (CH). This was a very rare winter sighting for **Fulton**. A **Ruddy Duck** lingered at CGSP until at least 12/14 (BO).

Five WRS routes were run in the county: four using the Historic Pennsylvania Game Commission CREP Routes, and a more recent route. Each averaged between 12 to 15 miles. This winter saw the highest combined **Rough-legged Hawk** count ever. The CREP1 survey netted 27 raptors 2/4: 4 **Turkey Vultures**, 7 **Black Vultures**, 8 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, one **Rough-legged Hawk**, 3 **American Kestrels**, and 2 **Northern Harriers** (MS, DS). During CREP2, 5 Black and one Turkey Vulture, 5 Red-tailed and one Red-shouldered Hawk, 2 American Kestrels, and a bonus **Great-Horned Owl** were detected 2/10 (MS, DS). CREP 3 raptors 2/12 included one Turkey Vulture, 4 Red-tailed and 3 Rough-legged Hawks, one American Kestrel, one Northern Harrier, and bonus flock of 45 **Pine Siskins** (MS, DS). CREP4 results included 3 Black Vultures, one Cooper's Hawk, 7 Red-tailed and 2 Red-shouldered Hawks, 2 Northern Harriers, and one American Kestrel 2/11 (MS, DS). The more recently created survey in northern **Fulton** tallied 7 Red-tailed Hawks and 3 American Kestrels 2/8 (D&GG). Noteworthy but not found on a raptor survey was an adult **Bald Eagle** in farm fields just north of Webster's Mills 1/13 (MS, DS).

During the CREP4 survey, 6 boisterous **Pileated Woodpeckers**

performed numerous courtship behaviors within a half-acre woodlot 2/11 (DS, MS). The highlight was a prolonged duel between males just feet from the roadside shoulder. Two large males took turns striking the other's head to showcase themselves to an on looking female. The interaction ceased when automobile traffic went by.

An injured red morph **Eastern Screech-Owl** was found roadside near Big Cove Tannery 1/22 (DS, MS). The bird was unable to fly and extremely sluggish. After numerous calls, a licensed raptor caretaker was located, and the owl was picked up by Owl Moon Raptor Center (Boyd's, Maryland). The owl had a calm demeanor throughout the transport to the rehabilitator, and earned the nickname "Patience". The bird was still being rehabilitated as of this writing (DS).

Several interesting birds were found during the mid-Feb GBBG. On 2/16 a Needmore feeder hosted a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, 2 **Purple Finches**, one **Pine Siskin**, and one **American Tree Sparrow** (AE). Another property hosted 2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, 2 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 40 **American Goldfinches** and 36 **Pine Siskins** 2/16 (FP).

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Greene County

Locations: Claylick (CL), East View (EV), Franklin Twp. (FT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Monongahela River (MR), Sycamore (SY).

Over 300 **Canada Geese** were in FT 2/18 (AD). A beautiful drake **Long-tailed Duck** was present along with 62 **Mallards**, 2 **Redheads**, and one **Ruddy Duck** at MR 2/18 (TB). The MR hosted many ducks 2/23 including 20 **Canvasbacks**, 5 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 5 **Greater Scaup**, 15 **Lesser Scaup**, one **Bufflehead**, 20 **Common Mergansers**, and 8 **Red-breasted Mergansers** (KA). A **Hooded Merganser** was at MR 2/18 (TB).

About 20 **Wild Turkeys** were seen cleaning up under the feeders at LCR 12/17 (MLP). Four **Pied-billed Grebes** and a **Horned Grebe** were at MR 2/18 (TB). A **Great Blue Heron** was reported flying up from the creek at LCR 1/1 (MLP).

At least 25 **Turkey Vultures** were seen near Garards Fort wetlands 2/9 (JS). An adult **Bald Eagle** was over Waynesburg Sportsman Club 12/31 (MH), an adult was in Morgan Twp. 2/15 (RC), and an adult and 2 imm. were at MR 2/18 (TB). A **Northern Harrier** was sighted at Hunting Hills 12/10 (SS). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** or **Cooper's Hawk** killed a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** at the feeder at LCV 1/2 (MLP). During a WRS in FT, a **Red-shouldered Hawk** flew in front of the vehicle and provided an excellent view 1/10 (JC, MH).

A **Ring-billed Gull** was at parking lot at Walmart in FT 2/15 (TM). A lone imm. **Herring Gull** was at MR 2/18 (TB).

Two **Great Horned Owls** were counter-calling near Bobtown 1/22 (DH). A **Belted Kingfisher** was seen at LCR 1/1 (MLP) and one was at CL 2/28 (LA, RA). Beginning 1/1, a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen most days visiting a suet feeder at a home in FT (TD). A pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** was seen working on a dead tree, wood chips flying everywhere, at LCR 12/9 (MLP). A pair of **American Kestrels** was seen checking out the kestrel box at FT 2/11 (TD).

An **American Crow** was watched walking on the ice of Big Shannon Run to open water and take a bath in the icy water at LCR and at same location, 2 **Common Ravens** were seen flying over the pasture 12/25 (MLP). A raven was heard over CL 2/14 (LA). A **Brown Creeper** was at LCR 12/19 and again in Feb during the GBBG (MLP). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was found in the Bobtown area 12/16 (DH). Two **Hermit Thrushes** provided a first-ever sighting on a farm in FT 12/3 (TD). Over 30 **American Robins** visited the yard at EV 2/10 (MH). Along the MR, 13 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen in flight 12/20 (KA).

An **Eastern Towhee** was at SY 1/29 (JC). An **American Tree Sparrow** was first reported at EV 1/21 (MH). A **Fox Sparrow** was at SY 1/13 and remained for several weeks (AC, JC). **White-crowned Sparrows** were at Hunting Hills 12/4 (SS) and were last reported near CL 2/20 (LA). On 2/14 at LCR, the ground was covered with snow and more than 50 **Dark-eyed Juncos** (MLP). In Morgan Twp. **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were seen 2/4 (KK). Two **Common Grackles** were under the feeder at EV 12/9, providing the only report (MH). **Purple Finches** were reported at LCR 12/17 and remained throughout the period (MLP). **Pine Siskins** were at a feeder in SY 12/2 (JC); they were reported no later than 12/11 at EV (MH). Over 50 **American Goldfinches** were counted at LCR 12/12 (MLP).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Enriken Overlook at Lake Raystown (ENT), Huntingdon (HU), Lake Raystown (LR), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Trough Creek Valley (TCV).

A **Trumpeter Swan** at LR 1/1 had been wing-tagged on Ontario 4/2/2014 (GG, LG, L&DM). A **Little Gull** was photographed at ENT 12/26, providing the third county record (GG, LG, DG). A **Barn Owl** was reported at Three Springs 2/15 (NG). There were several reports of **Merlins**: one was in TCV 12/26 (GG, LG, DG), one spent a few days on Stone Creek Ridge 1/14-17 (GG, LG), and at one was seen around HU 1/17-2/18 (JD, GD, ZA). Late **Eastern Phoebe**s were at LR 1/4 (DW) and SCEC 1/18 (AC). Rare in mid-winter was a **Pine Warbler** at LR 1/25 (GD, ZA).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652, gwg2@psu.edu**, Zachary Adams, Alyssia Church, Gordon Dimmig, Neil Gracey, Jim Dunn, Deb Grove, Lewis Grove, Laurie and Dennis McGillicuddy, Doug Wentzel.

Indiana County

Locations: Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), Lewisville (LV), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Yellow Creek Lake began to freeze early; there was little open water for the CBC 12/26. By 1/6 the lake was almost completely frozen with just small patches of slush.

YC's high **Canada Goose** count was 125 on 12/23 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL). WRS #3 (MH, RH, GL, DL) yielded 204 Canada Geese 1/19. **Tundra Swans** continued at YC with 5 on 12/7 (LC, JD) and the last 2 were sighted sleeping on the ice 1/6 (MH, RH). Eleven were at nearby Timber Lake 12/3 (AB, DB). A flock of 46 flew over Smicksburg 1/14 (MH, RH, GL, DL), the last southward-bound birds; this represented the largest Jan flock on record.

All duck reports were at YC unless otherwise noted. The winter season's best-ever **Gadwall** count of 57 occurred 12/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH); last noted were 3 on 12/24 (LC). Two **American Wigeons** lingered at YC until 12/23 (LC, TG, GL) and Two Lick still had 3 on 12/26 (LC, RC, DL). Interesting were 35 **American Black Ducks** and 4 **Mallards** feeding in a cornfield south of Indiana 1/19 (MH, RH, GL, DL). The season's best **Northern Pintail** tally was 30 on 12/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH); last was one 12/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH). Fourteen **Canvasbacks** were listed 12/7 (LC), and one remained through 12/26 (GL, GS). Two Lick harbored 8 **Redheads** 12/6 (LC) and 14 were at YC the following day (LC, JD). Eight at YC 12/21 (LC) were last. **Ring-necked Duck** tallies included a flock of 43 on 12/7 (LC), which dwindled to 9 by 12/26 (GL, GS), the same day one visited Musser's Pond (JG, TG). Five **Greater Scaup** also lingered through 12/26 (GL, GS). The last **Lesser Scaup** was noted 12/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH). One of 2 **Long-tailed Ducks** found 12/23 (MH, RH) remained through 12/26 (GL, GS). Fifty-four **Buffleheads** were listed 12/7 (LC) with the last 7 noted 12/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH). Two **Common Goldeneyes** appeared 12/14 (LC) and stayed through 12/23 (LC, TG, GL); only one was still present the following day (LC). The high count of **Hooded Merganser** was 25 on 12/7 (LC, JD); the CBC yielded a total of 16 at three locations (m.ob.). Three **Common Mergansers** 12/7 (JD) and one 12/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH) were YC's last; Two Lick, however, still held 15 on 12/26 (LC, RC, DL). A single **Red-breasted Merganser** appeared 12/26 (GL, GS), furnishing the season's lone report. **Ruddy Duck** maxima included 181 on 12/7 (LC) and 139 on 12/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH); a singleton, standing on the ice and possibly injured, seemed unable to fly long distances 1/6 (MH, RH).

The CBC yielded 6 **Ruffed Grouse** 12/26 (m.ob.); the only other reports mentioned singletons at Nolo 12/7 and 2/14 (CL, GL). The **Wild Turkey** count on the CBC 12/26 was 116 (m.ob.); largest flocks reported were 25 at Clymer 1/7 (CL, GL), 50 near Timber Lake 1/9 (AB, DB), and 30 at Penn Run 2/14 (DMo). Last **Common Loons** were 2 seen 12/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, DM, JW) and one 12/21 (LC) at YC. Nine **Pied-billed Grebes** were listed 12/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH), but one still lingered 12/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH). YC harbored the last **Horned Grebe** 12/23 (LC, TG, MH, RH); high YC count was 8 on 12/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH).

Two adult **Bald Eagles** flew across Rt. 422 near Two Lick Reservoir 12/23 (MH, RH). Another **Bald Eagle** was seen on the CBC 12/26 (PJ). WRS #2 yielded 2 imm. along Mahoning Creek 1/14 (MH, RH, GL, DL); another adult was seen in Creekside on WRS #1 in a field eating what appeared to be carrion 1/28 (MH, RH, GL, DL). Two adults were perched along the Conemaugh 1/31 (WM). A second-year eagle flew over a home near LV 2/25 (MC). WRS #2 yielded an adult male plus an imm. **Northern Harrier** 1/14 (MH, RH, GL, DL); WRS #4 produced 4 harriers 1/19 (MH, RH, GL, DL); another was seen 1/24 (PF) at Elders Ridge; and a male harrier was observed near Indiana 2/6 (CL, GL). The only **Rough-legged Hawk** was a light morph at Elders Ridge 1/24 (PF).

Two **Sandhill Cranes** (a new species for the CBC) were spotted flying southwest 12/26 (DC, MC). The flock of 226 **American Coots** tallied 12/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH) at YC had dwindled to 36 by 12/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH); with most of the lake completely frozen, concern was expressed for the remaining 10 huddled in a very small puddle of slush on 1/6 (MH, RH). The only **Bonaparte's Gull** was at YC 12/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH). **Ring-billed Gull** reports included 15-16 on 12/7 (LC, JD), with 4 remaining 12/24 (LC). Northbound birds began appearing 2/8 (MH, RH) when 19 were counted flying over a yard near SH and 2/15 (JT) when 2 were migrating over IUP 2/15 (JT).

Two **Eastern Screech-Owls** were listed for the CBC 12/26 (DC, MC); another was found peering from a natural cavity in a red maple near SH 2/27 (MH, RH). **Great Horned Owls** included 4 on 12/26 (m.ob.) and 2 near LV 2/6 (DC, MC). A **Barred Owl** was heard near SH 12/11, 1/21-28 (MH, RH), and near Homer City 1/22 (LC).

After missing this species for the CBC, it was surprising to find a **Belted Kingfisher** at the Waterworks Conservation Area 1/10 (SD), two on WRS #2 on 1/14 (MH, RH, GL, DL), and one on WRS #1 on 1/28 (MH, RH, GL, DL). The WRS kingfishers were all found on very small runs. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** visited a Nolo yard from 1/26 (CL, GL) through the end of the season; another spent 2/15-26 (MH, RH) eating crabapples near SH; and a third was spotted near Lions Health Camp 2/14 (DM).

Another species new to the CBC, an **Eastern Phoebe** was found 12/26 (LC, RC, DL); the Waterworks Conservation Area yielded another 1/3 (SD). There are no other Dec or Jan phoebe reports on record. The Homer City area yielded 35 **Horned Larks** 12/26 (CW, PW) and the farm fields near YC 36 (ED, SS, GST, IS, MS, JT). WRS #2 produced 120 larks near Dayton 1/14 (MH, RH, GL, DL). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited a SH feeder sporadically 12/21-2/4 (MH, RH), after which it was not seen again until Mar; 2 were noted west of Jacksonville 2/14 (BY). **Winter Wrens** included singletons at YC 12/26 (GL, GS), at the Waterworks Conservation Area 1/1 (SD), along the Conemaugh 1/25 (WM), and near Marion Center 2/13 (BS). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** feeding in an apple tree in Ambrose 1/28 (MH, RH, GL, DL) was unexpected, providing our seventh Jan record.

A late **Gray Catbird** was at YC 12/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH); furnishing the eighth Dec record for *Indiana*. A wintering flock of **Cedar Waxwings** near SH was seen on 17 dates 12/14-2/27 (MH, RH); peak number was 28 on 12/28 and 1/1 (MH, RH); they often roosted in an American holly. The only other waxwing report was of 10 near Dark Hollow 1/17 (DBa). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were few this winter; reports included one 12/26 (CW, PW) for the CBC and one-2 on six dates near LV 1/2 -2/11 (DC, MC).

The CBC yielded 3 **Eastern Towhees**, one in White Twp. (CG) and 2 at Homer City (SP); a towhee was an irregular visitor to feeders near SH this winter, beginning 12/16 (MH, RH). One to 2 **Chipping Sparrows**, an adult and an imm., were present at SH feeders 12/10-1/26 (MH, RH), after which the imm. was no longer seen; the adult was last seen 2/21 (MH, RH). A **Savannah Sparrow** was found at YC 12/7 (JD). A **Fox Sparrow** was a regular visitor to SH feeders 12/18 (MH, RH) through the end of the period. A **Swamp Sparrow** lingered at YC through 1/6 (MH, RH). **White-crowned Sparrows** included 4 on the CBC 12/26 (CW, PW), one on WRS # 2 on 1/14 (MH, RH, GL, DL), 3 on WRS #3 on 1/19 (MH, RH, GL, DL), and 5 at Tunnelton 2/13 (NM).

No **Red-winged Blackbirds** were noted after the 2 found on the CBC (m.ob.) until one was spotted by an anonymous birder in northeast *Indiana* 2/14. A LV area feeder hosted a **Rusty Blackbird** 1/6 (MC); another visited a yard near SH 1/8-13 (MH, RH). The last **Common Grackle** visited Nolo 12/31 (CL, GL). A Tunnelton feeder yielded 9 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** 1/22 (NM); the flock had increased to 20 by 2/3 (NM).

YC yielded 60 **Pine Siskins** 12/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH). Siskins were present near SH throughout the winter with peak numbers of 110 on 1/21 (MH, RH) and 106 on 1/26 (MH, RH); a feeder north of Indiana hosted triple digits on multiple occasions, including 133 on 12/10 (SB) and 132 on 1/10 (SB); the high Feb count was down to 50 on 2/14 (SB). These were the highest numbers of siskins since 2009.

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Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Sidney Blair, Lee Carnahan, Roger Carnahan, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Jim Dunn, Patience Fisher, Jud Glover, Tom Glover, Carol Guba, Roger Higbee, Pat Johner, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, William McConnell, Donna Meyer, David Morfenski (DMo), Nancy Murphy, Sara Pulliam, Scott Simms, Betsy Sisitki, Garrett Strittmatter, Ian Strittmatter, Mark Strittmatter, John Taylor, Chris Williams, Paula Williams, Ray Winstead, Jan Woodard, Bill Yackuboskey.

Jefferson County

Locations: Burkett Hollow (BH), Cook Forest SP (CF), Hazen Ext I80 (HE), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Punxsutawney (PX), Richard St. (RS), Ringgold (RG), Sandy Lick Creek (SL), Sandy Ridge Rd (SR).

A count of 100 **Canada Geese** in RG 1/1 (JK) was the high for the period. Two **Common Mergansers** were noted in CF 2/13 (JY). Two **Northern Harriers** were on SR 2/18 (TG). The same **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen numerous times around a feeder in RG starting 12/28 (JK). A **Cooper's Hawk** was viewed on four different occasions at the same feeder in RG starting 1/17 (JK). The only **Bald Eagle** was on SL 1/12 (AN). One **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen in RG 2/7 (JK) and another was at HE 2/13 and 2/15 (CW). An **American Kestrel** was in RG 1/17 and 2/7 (JK).

One **Common Raven** was found in BH 12/1 (JV). Notably, **Carolina Wrens** were seen or heard only from 2/15-22 at five different locations throughout the county. The only **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was on the MS 12/30 (TG). Five **Cedar Waxwings** were in RG 12/28 (JK) and 10 were on RS 1/18 (BS). The high count of 30 **American Tree Sparrows** was recorded in RG 2/22 (JK). The high count of 12 **White-throated Sparrows** were also found in RG 2/1 (JK). An estimated 100 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were counted 1/17, 1/30, and 2/22 in RG (JK). A lone **Brown-headed Cowbird** was at the feeder in RG 1/24 (JK). **Pine Siskins** were reported 15 times for the period, with the high count of 63 in PX 2/21 (JY).

Observers: **Thomas Glover, 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767-2416, tomnglover@comcast.net**, John Keener, Brian Smith, Jonathan Voss, Carole Winslow, Jan Young.

Juniata County

No report.

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Lackawanna County

No compiler.

Lancaster County

Locations: Lancaster Area Sewer Authority (LASA), Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Middle Creek WMA (MCWMA), Muddy Run (MR), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River, Lake Clarke (SRLC), Susquehanna River, Long Level (SRL), Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SRFC), Wissler Run Park (WRP), Wood's Edge Park (WE).

Highlights for this season were **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Greater White-fronted x Snow Goose**, **Red-necked Grebe**, **Golden Eagle**, **Glaucous Gull**, **Iceland Gull**, **Black-headed Gull**, **Northern Shrike**, **Harris' Sparrow**, **Brewer's Blackbird**, **Pine Siskin**, and **Common Redpoll**.

Four CBCs were conducted, SOLANCO (Southern Lancaster), Lititz, Lancaster, and for the first time ever, a kids CBC was held at LCCP. SOLANCO netted 101 species this year. The kids CBC had a turnout of 13 children between the ages of 8-16, and 13 adults. They were broken up into three groups and led out by volunteers from the Lancaster County Bird Club. Staff at the park had a room indoors set up for the kids, along with refreshments, so that the kids were able to watch as the results were submitted into eBird. They finished with a total of 28 species. Plans are in the works to do this again next year.

Due to the extreme cold, many waterfowl were limited to the rivers and creeks during the last part of the quarter. Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at MCWMA 1/6 (GD). A **Cackling Goose** was at MR 12/14 (BS). One was in area 16, and three were in area 21 of the SOLANCO CBC

12/14 (BS). One was on the SR 1/27 (AL). Seventy-five **Snow Geese** were at WE 12/7 (JSa). Twenty thousand were at MCWMA 12/29 (RM). A possible **Greater White-fronted x Snow Goose** hybrid was at Rte. 896 and Pleasant Gap Rd. 2/17 (AL). Two **Ross's Geese** were at MCWMA 12/28 (MM, IG, JF, AL). One was in Ephrata farmland 1/1 (BC) and 2 were at MCWMA 1/2 (DH, ME). Twenty **Tundra Swans** were at Masonic Village 12/12 (JSa), and about 500 were at MCWMA 1/6 (GD).

Six **Gadwalls** were noted on the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). A few **Ring-necked Ducks** were on the SR 1/20 (SS). Six **Greater Scaup** were on the SRLC 1/27 (AL). A pair of **Canvasbacks** was at the Greenfield Pond 12/2 (FH). Six were on the SR 1/20 (SS) and 40 on 2/16 (ML). Two **Redheads** were on the SR 1/20 (SS). Three were on SRLC 1/27 (AL) and one on the SRPB 2/28 (BS). A male **White-winged Scoter** was on the SRLC 2/27 (DC, ML). Five were at WRP 2/28 (TR, PF) and 3 were on the SRLC 2/28 (DC, ME, JH). Four **Long-tailed Ducks** were at WRP 2/28 (TR) and on the same date, 2 were on the SRLC (DC). Four **Common Goldeneyes** were on the SR 12/14 (BS) and 94 were there 1/19-20 (SS). A raft of 125 was on the SRLC 1/27 (AL). Twenty-one **Buffleheads** were on the SR 1/19-20 (SS) and 30 were on the SRLC 1/27 (AL).

Hundreds of **Common Mergansers** were at MCWMA 12/10 (RM) and an excellent count 275 was made on the SRLC 1/27 (AL). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was with a flock of **Common Mergansers** at MCWMA 1/2 (ME). A female was on the SR 1/25 (TB). Two were on the SRLC 1/31-2/17 (ME, EW, DC). Three were at WRP 2/28 (PF). Eight **Hooded Mergansers** were on the SR 12/14 (BS).

A flock of 45 **Wild Turkeys** was at MR 12/14 (BS) and 11 were at a home near Centerville 1/7 (JW). A **Northern Bobwhite** was in the Ephrata farmland area 1/1 (BC). A **Red-necked Grebe** was on the SR 1/25 (DH), up to 3 were on the SR 2/17-19 (DC, m.ob.), and up to 2 were on the SR 2/22-28 (BSc, BO, m.ob.). Three **Horned Grebes** were in area 3 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). One was on the SR 1/30-2/6 (AG, m.ob.). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was on the SR 2/25 (ML). A **Common Loon** was on the SR 12/14 (BS), another was in area 3 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS), and one was on Hammer Creek 12/28 (PF). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** were on OR 12/14 (BS).

A total of 37 **Bald Eagles** were on the OR 12/14 (BS). Two **Golden Eagles**, one adult and one imm., were at SGL 46 on 12/10 (RM). One was at MCWMA 12/28 (JH, PB, LB). A two year-old bird was at MCWMA 1/1-2 (CK, RM, DH, TNII). An imm. was at MCWMA 2/26 (BC). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Middle Creek Rd. 12/12 (JL). A female light morph was in the farmlands south and west of New Holland 1/27-2/17 (JC, BC, FH, & PF), a light morph was at MCWMA 2/10-26 (SS, BC, RM), and a dark morph was at MCWMA 2/26 (ME, BC).

A **Northern Harrier** was in area 7 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). There was one at MCWMA 1/14 (RM), and a male harrier was being hounded by an adult Bald Eagle and a Common Raven 2/14 (ML, LBI, MC). It got away when an imm. Bald Eagle interfered with the adult.

Sixty **American Coots** were on the SR 12/15 (BS). A **Sandhill Crane** was in the vicinity of the Chestnut Grove Nature Area in Manor Twp. 12/19-20 (JM, ML, ME, LB) and 15 were at Timber Villa- Heisey's 1/1 (GD). Three **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at Overlook Park 12/2 (GS), a very late date. One **American Woodcock** was at MCWMA 12/28 (ZM, ZA). A lone **Wilson's Snipe** was feeding in a small stream on South Groffdale Rd. 2/17 (JC, PF).

Five **Bonaparte's Gulls** were on the SR 12/14 (BS) and one was on the SRLC 1/7 (GD). This was only the second Jan eBird report for Lancaster. An adult **Black-headed Gull** was on the SR 1/23-25 (ME, m.ob.). There were 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at MR 12/14 (BS). Two were at the SR 1/16 (ME) and perhaps the same 2 were on the SR 1/25-2/18 (JC, m.ob.). One was on the SR 2/4-28 (DC, ML, JH). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were on the SR 1/27 (AL). A juv. **Iceland Gull** was on the SRFC 1/19. A first winter bird was on the SR 1/23-2/16 (ME, m.ob.). Two were on the SR 2/4-6 (ML, BM) and one was there 2/22 (BO). A first winter **Glaucous Gull** on the SR 1/23-2/18 (ME) was joined by a second 2/4 (ML).

Four **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were in area 9, one was in areas 12-13, and 2 were in area 21 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). One was calling at OR 12/31 (ME). Two **Short-eared Owls** were at MCWMA 1/14 (RM). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was on Pleasant Valley Rd. 12/26 (AH). One was near the intersection of Rock Rd. and Burkholder Drive in Ephrata Farmland 1/1 (BC). Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported from Regent's Park development 2/6 (HJ, MJo). It was a good winter for **Merlins** and **Peregrine Falcons**. A Merlin was in area 7 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). One was along the Little Conestoga Creek 12/27 (SS). One was in area 10 of the Lititz CBC 12/28 (PF). There was one along Charlestown Rd. 1/18 (SS). One was on School Lane in Gap 2/1 (FH). On 2/7 there were 3 found: one at California Rd. near Rt. 23, a second was at King Rd. near Plank Rd., and a third was on South Kinzers Rd., near Mine Rd. (FH). One was at MCWMA 2/16 (RM). A **Peregrine Falcon** was on the Southeast Lancaster County WRS 1/23 (BS, TA). One was in the Musser School Rd.

area 1/24 (JC). An imm. was on the water tower in New Holland 2/17 (JC). The two falcons at Wrightsville were keening 2/25 (ML).

There was an **Eastern Phoebe** at MR 12/11 (TA) and one again 1/25 (TA), possibly the same bird. One was at a Gap home 12/21 (CC). One was fly catching at Conestoga Pines Park 1/4 (DS). Another was at LASA 1/17-2/8 (EW, ME, ML). An imm. **Northern Shrike** was at MCWMA 2/7-11 (BC, RM, AH). **Common Ravens** are certainly starting to earn their names. There were more reports this quarter than ever, from all over the county. One was at SGL 46 on 12/10 (RM). One was at the SR 12/14 (BS). Two were in area 7 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). One was at Timber Villa-Heisey's 1/1 (GD). One was on the SR for the Lancaster CBC 1/4 (JH). Another was at the Cocalico Creek Pond 1/17 (ZM). Another was on Limeville Rd. 2/1 (FH). One was being mobbed by **American Crows** on Preston Rd. 2/3 (DHi). On 2/7 one was in the Chestnut Grove area (ML, ME). On the same day, 2 were at Creswell Park (ML, ME). One was in Peach Bottom 2/9 (BS). One was calling at MCWMA 2/11 (RM). One was at SFCP 2/14 (BC). One was at Observation Site Rd. 2/22 (LB). One was in Paradise at the quarry on Macilvaine Rd. 2/27 (CC). A total of 120 **Horned Larks** were found in area 12-13 and 250 were in areas 1-22 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). Approximately 1000 were found on a WRS route in the Strasburg Area 1/10 (KS, TR). A few hundred were on Habecker Church Rd. 2/22 (SS).

Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were at LCCP 12/15 (TM). One **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at a Gap home 1/20-2/28 (CC). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at the Serpentine Barrens 12/14 (BS). Five were at Riverfront Park 2/14 (JA). Three were in Lancaster 2/15 (SP). A **Winter Wren** was at SFCP 2/14 (BC) and one was in Gap 2/26 (PF). A **Hermit Thrush** drank from a birdbath at Peach Bottom 1/15-2/28 (BS). Approximately 50 **American Robins** were in Manheim 2/16 (WH). There was a late **Gray Catbird** at Fishing Creek 12/14 (BS). Another was at the OR 12/14 (BS). One was at Strickler Run Woods 12/20 (SM). One **Brown Thrasher** was in area 9, one was in area 11, and one was in area 19 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). **American Pipits** totaled 125 in areas 12-13 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). Flocks were in Upper Leacock Township 2/1 (FH) and 2 were on Hess Rd. 2/25 (FB). There was one **Lapland Longspur** on Forrey Rd. 12/11 (SS). Four were in the area of Musser School Rd. 1/24 (JC). Two were at Musser School Rd. 2/25 (DS, RS, m.ob.). There was one **Snow Bunting** on Forrey Rd. 12/11 (SS). Three were in areas 1/22 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). Six flew over the SR 1/28 (DH). One was in the Ephrata farmlands 2/25 (BH). A **Pine Warbler** was at the OR 12/14 (BS). Another was at Elizabethtown 12/18-2/5 (MJ). One was at an Akron home 1/15-2/26 (ZM, m.ob.) and one was at LASA 1/19 (ME). Five **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at MCWMA 2/10 (SS).

The most notable sparrow of the season was the **Harris's Sparrow** that briefly visited a home in Holtwood 12/29 (JS). Six **Eastern Towhees** were in area 10 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). One **Chipping Sparrow** was at the OR 12/14 (BS). Two were at Conestoga Pines Park 1/4 (DS). One was at MCWMA 2/8 (DS). One **Fox Sparrow** was in area 4 and one in area 10 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). One was in area 6 of the Lancaster CBC 1/4 (CG). Five **White-crowned Sparrows** were at Overlook Park 12/2 (GS). Ten were in areas 14/15 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). One **Swamp Sparrow** was at LCCP 12/15 (TM). A **Field Sparrow** was at LCCP 1/2 (TM). Three **Savannah Sparrows** were along Charlestown Rd. 2/6 (FH).

An **Eastern Meadowlark** was at the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Area 1/23 (JM). Fifteen were off River Rd. in Manor Township 1/23 (JM). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was on Green Lane 1/23 (AE). Two were in a mixed blackbird flock on Rt. 272 south of the Buck (BB). One was in a flock at Williams Run Rd. 2/7 (ME, ML). On 2/7, one was mixed in with a Blackbird flock on Short Rd. One was at a Kirkwood home 2/22 (YB). A **Brewer's Blackbird** was Quarry Rd. 2/14 (TR).

This year *Lancaster* was fortunate to have a small irruption of winter finches. Most notable was a female **Common Redpoll** at the feeders at MCWMA 2/14 (TNII). One **Purple Finch** was in area 17 of the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 (BS). **Pine Siskins** were noted on the SOLANCO CBC 12/14 and then continued throughout the season, particularly in Feb, at many locations and feeders across the county. Top counts were 50 in Elizabethtown 2/14-19 (MJ) and 50 in Peach Bottom 2/28 (BS).

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Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), New Wilmington area (NW), Plain Grove Township (PGT), Volant Strip Mines (VSM).

There was very little to report from this brutal winter season. Most reports consisted of open-country species around NW, PGT, and VSM. A total of 63 **Mallards** were huddled at spring-fed ponds on Duck Pond Lane, NW 1/11 (RW). Four **Hooded Mergansers** were still at the Glacial Sands Gravel Pond 12/24 (MJ). There were several reports of **Ring-necked Pheasants** 12/20-2/7 (m.ob.) from various locations, a bit unexpected considering the harsh weather. **Bald Eagle** was noted at least 12 times from four or five general areas, mostly around NW, through 2/8 (m.ob.). **Northern Harrier** was a fixture at NW; a count of 4 was also made at VSM 2/6 (KD). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported about 10 times around BS 12/4-2/25 potentially all referring to the same bird. Two WRS routes (1/18 and 1/31) netted a total of 57 **Red-tailed Hawks** (RW, BD). **Rough-legged Hawk**, one of the main draws for birders to visit *Lawrence* in winter, was reported at least 20 times 1/10-2/23 (m.ob.), including a total of 6 at NW 2/7 (RW). An **American Coot** was still at BS 12/31 (ST). The wintering **Sandhill Cranes**, the other main draw for *Lawrence*, were seen all season. Top counts were 38 at VSM 12/4 (RW), 40 at McConnell's Mill State Park 12/20 during the Butler CBC (RN, DK), and 36 at VSM 1/20 (KSJ). A **Short-eared Owl** at VSM 1/24 (DK) was the only one reported. Most of these birds probably moved out in Jan and Feb during the worst of the cold and snow cover. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at BS 12/16 (BB). **American Kestrel** was not often reported though a few were around NW in Jan (RW, et al.).

Triple digit counts of **Horned Lark** were 100 at PGT 1/20 (KSJ), a total of 106 during a WRS 1/31 (MH, RH, LW), and a total of 300 on a long transect through the county 2/8 (RW, BD). Sixty **Snow Buntings** were at VSM 1/18 (AP) and 100 were at PGT 1/20 (KSJ). Up to 6 **White-crowned Sparrows** were found around NW 1/24-2/8 (RW, et al.). A **Red-winged Blackbird** at a feeder in New Castle 1/11 (LW) was unexpected. **Eastern Meadowlark** was in the vicinity of VSM 1/16 (RN, DK) and 1/18 (AP). A flock of 20 **Common Grackles** was spotted from the Pennsylvania Turnpike near the Ohio state line 1/10 (AL) and one was at a feeder in NW 2/15 (RW).

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Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority (GLRA), Lion's Lake (LL), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Millardsville Quarry (MVQ), Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands (QEW), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), SGL 145, SGL 211, Swatara State Park (SSP).

Second Mountain Hawkwatch concluded their year 12/31, with a total of 8454 raptors tallied. This was higher than the previous year, but 15% lower than average. Species notably above average were **Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Merlins** and **Peregrine Falcons**. Species with below average counts included **Black Vultures, Osprey, Northern Harriers, Northern Goshawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks** and **Red-tailed Hawks**. The 35th *Lebanon* CBC was conducted by the Quittapahilla Audubon Society 12/20. Forty participants found 80 species, just shy of the record 83 in 2007 and 2012. Record high totals were established for 12 species: four **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, 89 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, 9 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, 70 **Northern Flickers**, 12 **Hermit Thrush**, 317 **Cedar Waxwings**, and 53 **Pine Siskins**. Two new county high counts were established, with 89 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** and 575 **White-throated Sparrows**.

A *flavirostris* **Greater White-fronted Goose** continued at Spangler Rd. Pond from 11/29 (TJ, MR) to 12/1, providing a new late date (RCM, AW). An

estimated 19,000 **Snow Geese** counted by Game Commission staff at MC were observed flying into *Lebanon* airspaces 12/29 (RCM). Accidental in Dec was a light morph **Ross's Goose** at LL 12/30 (FH, RCM, TB, KB, DM, m.ob.). **Cackling Geese** were reported from five locations, including the GLRA 12/20 (GD, m.ob.) and Quitty Park 12/20 (JF, m.ob.). Three were seen at both MLSP 12/20 (RCM, KM) and Ramona Rd 1/16 (TB). There were four reports from LL; single birds 12/1 (RCM, DB) and 1/1 (RCM, et al.) and two each 12/27 (AL, MM) and 12/31 (RCM, DB).

A **Wood Duck** was found in the Cornwall area 12/28 (SWh). A **Green-winged Teal** was at MVQ 2/28 (RCM). A male **Canvasback** was at MVQ 2/12-19 (RCM, TB, KB, DH). Up to 15 **Canvasbacks** (primarily males) were at MVQ beginning 2/21 and continuing through the period (RCM, DB, TB, KB, TN, JH). A male **Redhead** was at the Cornwall Iron Mine lake 2/17-18 (TB, TN, BC, RCM). Thirty **Ring-necked Ducks** were at MVQ 2/8 (TB). The count built to 59 on 2/21 (RCM, DB) and good numbers continued through the period (m.ob.). A male **Greater Scaup** was at the Cornwall Iron Mine lake 2/14-18 (TB, KB, BC, TN, RCM). A female was at MVQ 2/21 through the remainder of the period (RCM, DB, JH, TB). Rare in Feb was a **Lesser Scaup** was at MVQ 2/23 (RCM). Accidental in Feb was a male **White-winged Scoter** at MVQ 2/16 (RCM, DB, TB, KB, TN), and 2/19 (DH). A female **Common Goldeneye** was at LL 12/31 (RCM, DB, TB, KB, RvM, m.ob.). A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** was at MVQ 2/8 (TB) and 2/14 (TB, KB). Three pairs of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at MVQ 2/21 (RCM, DB). Their numbers built to a high of 9 on 2/26 (RCM), with similar numbers continuing through the period (RCM, TB, KB, JH, TN).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was in the pines at SSP 2/26 (TB) and 2/28 (TN). Five **Common Loons** were at MLSP 12/2 (TN, TB), with one remaining 12/3 (TN). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were at the Myerstown Quarry 1/11-17 (TB, KB).

An adult and 11 imm. **Bald Eagles** were seen a chicken farm along Milbach Rd, during a WRS 1/17 (FH, GB, RL, AS). The pair of **Bald Eagles** along Pine Rd was observed breeding and nest building 1/17 (MCo). They were incubating as of 2/16 (RvM, AW). One of the nesting **Bald Eagles** at FIG appeared to be incubating and egg turning 2/17 (TN). A juv. **Golden Eagle**, first seen during the Lititz CBC at MC 12/28 (JH, PB, LB), was perhaps the same bird seen at MC 1/28 (TB, JD) and 2/19 (RCM, LH). An adult **Golden Eagle** was at MC 1/2 (RCM).

S.A.

It was an outstanding winter for **Rough-legged Hawks** in *Lebanon*, as in much of the state. Early indications of the great season came from 2Mtn, with a dark morph bird 12/18 (MC) and a light juv. 12/29 (SC). In northern *Lebanon* a **Rough-legged Hawk** was at FIG 1/7 (TN), a light bird was in the Harpers area 2/24 (TN), and another light bird was along I-81 near Grantville 2/26 (CK). A light morph and a dark morph were at FIG 2/28 (SW). Southeast of Fredericksburg a light bird was seen 2/16, first along Shirksville Rd (TB, KB), then along Greble Rd (TN). A real hotspot for **Rough-legged Hawks** was Middle Creek WMA, in both *Lebanon* and *Lancaster*. Sightings were along Hopeland Rd, especially near the Willow Point parking area. Light morphs were reported in the *Lebanon* portion 2/11 (RCM), 2/13 (TB), 2/19 (RCM, LH) and 2/26 (AHo, BC). Dark morphs were seen 2/14 (ME, JH) and 2/19 (RCM).

Five **American Coots** were at MVQ 1/11 through the period (TB, KB, RCM, m.ob.). Rare in Jan were up to 5 **Killdeer** along Quarry Rd in Myerstown 1/11-13 (TB, KB). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at the pond along Farmer's Dr 2/14-16 (RCM, TB, KB, TN) and one was sitting on a post along the edge of MVQ 2/22 (JH).

Three juv. **Thayer's Gulls** were found at LL, providing county records five through seven respectively, 12/19 (TB), 12/26 (TB, KB), and 12/31 (AK). Each bird had slight plumage differences, indicating distinct individuals. Juv. **Iceland Gulls** were occasional during Dec at LL, with one 12/2 (TB), two 12/19 (TB), and two 12/31 (TB, KB, JD). Three juv. **Iceland Gulls** were at LL 12/20 (JH, TG, FH, GD, JF, et al.) during the *Lebanon* CBC. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported regularly at LL while the open water lasted, beginning with 7 on 12/5 (RCM) and ending with 2 on 1/5 (TB). Ninety-nine, primarily juv., were reported there 12/22 for a new county high count (RCM). Fifty-eight were reported at LL 12/23 (RCM).

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was perched on a wire along Oak St. south of Annville, providing a first Jan record for the county 1/29 (MD). Seven **Eastern Screech-Owls** and six **Great Horned Owls** were found during the *Lebanon* CBC at FIG 12/20 (DM, JD, m.ob.). A first-year **Snowy Owl** at an undisclosed location in the Fontana area provided the 15th county record 2/11-14 (GB, et al.). A **Barred Owl** was calling at SGL 211 on 1/28 (TB, JD) and one was perched along Bindnagles Rd 2/3 (TB). Two **Short-**

eared Owls were observed along Hopeland Rd. at MC 1/14 (RCM, SM). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard during the *Lebanon* CBC at FIG 12/20 (DM, JD, m.ob.) and another was heard at SGL 211 on 1/28 (TB, JD).

Multiple **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found in the restricted access areas of FIG, with 2 on 12/17 (DM), 4 on 12/20 (DM, JD, m.ob.), and 2 on 1/29 (JD, DM, MC, MD, TB). **Merlins** were seen at the Union Canal Park 12/20 (JF, GD, FH), and at MC 2/16 (RCM, DB). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen along Fox Rd. during the Lititz CBC 12/28 (SS). Accidental in Jan was a **Peregrine Falcon** at QEW 1/5 (TB), one at Reistville 1/27 (RCM, SM), and two attracted to the field birds along Louser Rd 1/9 (JD, MC, MD).

A **Northern Shrike** was at SSP 12/9 (MD). A brownish, imm. was seen eating a Song Sparrow at MC 2/5 (RCM, SM). It was seen in both the *Lebanon* and *Lancaster* portions of MC 2/7 (AH, BC, RCM, MF). This could very likely have been the same bird seen in the area of the Willow Point parking lot at MC 11/8 (ME). **Horned Larks** were found in good numbers, with up to 800 at Louser Rd 1/8-9 (TB, TN, AL, MC, m.ob.), and 425 near Reistville 1/27 (RCM, SM).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce. One was near Cornwall during the Lititz CBC 12/28 (SWh) and one at MVQ 2/26 (RCM). A **Winter Wren** was found during the CBC at the Quitty Park 12/20 (JF, m.ob.). Individuals were also at SSP 1/8 (BR), 1/13 (TB), and 2/28 (TN). Four **Hermit Thrushes** were found during the *Lebanon* CBC at Coleman's Memorial Park 12/20 (JF, GD, m.ob.). A **Gray Catbird** was at SGL 145 on 12/26 (SH, KM, RCM, m.ob.) and along Zinn's Mill Rd. 12/28 (AL, IG, JL, MM). Ten **American Pipits** were along Hostetter Rd. 1/7 (TB). A single pipit was near Schaefferstown during the Lititz CBC 12/28 (AL, m.ob.).

Up to three **Lapland Longspurs** were found along Louser Rd, south of Palmyra, 1/8-9 (TB, TN, AL, MC, m.ob.). Longspurs were found in good numbers along Meadow Lane and Forney Rd. south of Annville from 1/24 through the period (MD, MC, RCM, DB, m.ob.). Seventeen were found there 2/3 (MD), providing a new county high count. **Snow Buntings** were found in a number of locations. At Louser Rd. up to 17 were found 1/8-9 (TB, TN, AL, MC, m.ob.); and up to 75 were there 2/15-16 (AL, JF, JH). **Snow Buntings** appeared at the Meadow Lane and Forney Rd. area 2/3 through the period (MD, RCM, IG, DB, m.ob.); 16 were there 2/7 (IG). Twelve **Snow Buntings** were found near Reistville 1/27 (RCM, SM) and at least 20 along Valley Glen Rd 2/12-15 (RS).

Some good counts of **American Tree Sparrows** were made at FIG, with 208 on 12/20 (DM, JD, m.ob.) and 150 on 1/13 (DM, JD). A total of 228 **Tree Sparrows** were counted during the CBC 12/20 (m.ob.). Accidental in Jan were three breeding plumage **Chipping Sparrows** at MC 1/20 (RCM). A **Savannah Sparrow** was at MC 1/9 (SW). Three were along Lindley Murray Rd 1/27-2/5 (TB, TN). Four **Fox Sparrows** were found in the Cornwall area during the Lititz CBC 12/28 (SWh). Accidental in Jan was a **Fox Sparrow** at MLSP 1/13 (SW). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported at 2Mtn on a new county late date 12/30 (MC, GL). Seven **Swamp Sparrows** were in the cattails at SGL 145 on 1/13 (TB). There were 133 **White-throated Sparrows** counted at FIG 12/20 (DM, JD, m.ob.). Four **White-crowned Sparrows** were found at QEW 1/20 (RCM). A good total of 530 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were counted at FIG 12/20 (DM, JD, m.ob.). This contributed to the CBC total of 1127 juncos 12/20 (m.ob.). Thirty-three **Northern Cardinals** were a stunning sight at a feeder in Cornwall 2/7 (GB). Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were a nice find at MVQ 2/26 (RCM).

Up to 4 **Purple Finches** were in Cornwall 2/13-15 (CS, LJ). Two visited a feeder in Grantville 2/19 (TB). It was a good winter for **Pine Siskins**, with eBird reports of small numbers at many county feeders. During the *Lebanon* CBC, 41 were at Coleman's Memorial Park 12/20 (JF, GD, m.ob.). Twenty-two siskins were feeding on birch catkins at Spring Hill Acres 1/17 (JH). The highest counts of were from Mt Gretna. Seventy were seen there 2/23 (SH) and 50 on 2/26 (SH). Nine flocks of siskins, totaling 104 birds, were at Mt Gretna 2/27 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). A female **Evening Grosbeak** was a great feeder bird south of *Lebanon* 2/28 (GG).

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Lehigh County

Winter 2014-2015 was challenging for birds and birders alike. It began well enough, with December temperatures 4.7°F above the 30-year norm. January and February, however, brought progressively worse conditions marked by seemingly constant snow, cold, and continual threats of more of the same. Temps really bottomed out in February, with a daily average of just 18° F (a mean temperature nearly 12° below the 30-year norm). Extreme early morning lows of -8°F were recorded near Allentown, and the mercury dipped even lower in outlying areas. By February, all the quarries were frozen and the Lehigh River was fairly thick with ice. Events useful in compiling this report included the Lehigh Valley CBC (LVCBC) 12/20 (SK, compiler), and two WRS routes (BH, EV compilers). Stats from the LV CBC refer to *Lehigh* totals only, excluding observations from other counties within the circle. Various data were also gleaned from eBird, including data from the Great Backyard Bird Count in mid-February. A total of 221 species were reported to eBird in *Lehigh* for the 2014 calendar year.

Winter sightings of **Greater White-fronted Goose** have become dependable in *Lehigh* over the past decade. This season, reports were concentrated around the holidays: one near Fogelsville 12/24 (AL), one each at Dorney Pond and Fogelsville Quarry 1/2 (CG, CHa, CH), and again at Dorney 1/14 (FD). **Snow Geese** were present in full force again this winter until all the quarries froze solid. Just over 30,000 were reported within the county for the LVCBC 12/20, and 50,000 were estimated at Fogelsville Quarry 12/25 (RK, FD). Numbers decreased through January, and they were nearly unreported in February except for a group of 15 at Haafsville 2/3 (DN) and a few singles elsewhere. **Ross's Goose** was reported from Fogelsville Quarry 12/26 (2), 12/27, 1/1, and 1/23 (FD, CH, EK, DA, respectively), and from Coplay Quarry 1/11 (JH). During the report period, **Cackling Goose** was recorded at Fogelsville Quarry at least eight times, at Dorney Pond at least seven times, and once each from Slatington (JH) and Upper Macungie (TW). The latest records were 1/18 from two different locations. Several reports throughout the period were accompanied by photos or good descriptions; unfortunately, the species has become somewhat "expected" each winter, so several *other* reports had little to no supporting details. The max count for **Tundra Swan** was 7 on 1/3 at Fogelsville Quarry (FD); in December, a lone bird was present at Lake Muhlenberg 12/1-11 (m.ob.), then at Dorney Pond 12/13 (BE). It's suspected these were probably the first known records of Tundra Swans for either one of these somewhat urban sites. **Northern Shoveler** (2) was at Fogelsville Quarry 1/18 (FD). **Northern Pintail** was present in small numbers 12/20-1/23. **Redhead** arrived 1/13 and stayed through the period; max count of 14 was at Lake Muhlenberg 2/27 (KD). **Canvasback** arrived about the same time with the max count of 7 at Lehigh Canal Park 2/27 (KD). The max count for **Ring-necked Duck** was 68 at Fogelsville Quarry 1/28 (KD). **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup** and **Bufflehead** were found fairly consistently in small numbers around the county beginning the second week of January. **Common Goldeneye** was at Slatington (3) 1/17, at Sand Island 2/7, and at Lehigh Canal Park (4) 2/25 (CH, TW, KD). **Red-breasted Merganser** was at four locations 2/14-25 again all in small numbers. **Ruddy Duck** was reported at least five times, all from Fogelsville Quarry 12/7-1/28. **Horned Grebe** was recorded only once, at Fogelsville Quarry 1/24 (FD). A very early **Double-crested Cormorant** arrived at Dorney Pond 2/28, easily a new county early arrival (JH, AJ).

The mountain above Leaser Lake continues to be the reliable spot for **Ruffed Grouse**, with one found New Year's Day (FD). There were over thirty reports of **Bald Eagle** this period. About half of these were from various points around west Allentown, and nine were from Fogelsville Quarry. Near New Tripoli, a light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen almost daily by two local birders 2/8-27 (FD, eBird). Two WRS routes were conducted in *Lehigh*. A survey 1/10 yielded 22 **Turkey Vultures**, 10 **Black Vultures**, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and 37 **Red-tailed Hawks** at the southern end of the county (EV, RK). The northern survey route 1/31 yielded 28 Red-tailed Hawks and 2 **American Kestrels** (BH, FD, ML, JH). At least a dozen observers reported the on-again, off-again **Sandhill Crane** that has been putting in appearances near Trexlerstown since July 2011. All crane reports this period were 1/9-12. Single **Killdeer** were notable 1/10 at New Tripoli (FD) and 2/16 near Slatington. The only **Wilson's Snipe** was at Fogelsville 2/20 (JH). About 100 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at the Allentown waste water treatment plant 1/4 (JH). Smaller numbers were seen almost daily, mostly from Dorney Pond and Lake Muhlenberg. A **Barred Owl** was noted near Pool Wildlife Sanctuary in through the period (BS, et al.), and one was heard near New Tripoli 2/10 (FD). A **Short-eared Owl** was a nice find near Emmaus for the LVCBC 12/20 (JHo); another was at Trexler Nature Preserve 2/14 (CS). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was noted near Emmaus 12/20, also for the LVCBC (JHo). It was re-found 12/26. The **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Stines Corner were present through the period. Ten reports of **Merlin** in the county, all single birds, seemed above

average. **Peregrine Falcon** was reported at least five times, including two birds at Bethlehem 1/20 (DA).

Common Raven was reported to eBird thirteen times. Of these, eight were away from Blue Mountain, with four from South Mountain and two from Bethlehem, where they breed just across the county line. Reports from South Mountain seem to be increasing lately. Five **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found on the LVCBC 12/20. The last **Gray Catbird** of the period was 1/6 at Leaser Lake (FD). **Cedar Waxwing** was scarce, the max count just 7 birds 12/13 (BS). The only **Lapland Longspur** was near Leaser Lake 2/23 (FD). **Snow Bunting** was also scarce, with just three reports, with a max of two birds. All were at the northern end of the county. A few **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found beginning 1/22, with a max count of just three. **Eastern Towhee** and **American Tree Sparrow** seemed to be found more regularly than in recent years, reported to eBird 18 and 32 times respectively. **Purple Finch** was reported eleven times, mostly just one or two birds at a time. Lastly, it was a fairly good season for **Pine Siskin**. Reports began the first week of January and continued through the period with the max count of 38 near Kempton 2/7 (MW).

Observers: **Bill Etter, 407 S. Cigar Rd, Northampton, PA 19067, billetter01@gmail.com**, Dan Altif, Linda Campbell, Frank Dickman, Kevin Dougherty, Christine Geist, Todd Gilbert, Dennis Glew, Cat Hahn, Bob Hoopes, Jeff Hopkins, Jason Horn, Chris Hugosson, Alan Jennings, Rudy Keller, Ron Kline, Stephen Kloiber, Ed Komito, Alex Lamoreaux, Matt Loyko, Barbara Malt, Dave Neihmeyer, Chad Schwartz, Ed Sinkler, Brandon Swayser, Ed Vermillion, Todd Watkins, Michael Weaver.

Luzerne County

Locations: Beech Mountain Lakes (BML), Harveys Lake (HL), Plymouth Flats (PF), Susquehanna River (SR), Wapwallopen (WAP).

The winter season consisted of two periods with very different weather, which strongly influenced bird activity. December and early January were warmer than usual; most bodies of water remained open and very little snow fell. Consequently, there were several sightings of half-hardy species persisting into the winter season. As mid-January approached, temperatures abruptly dropped, snow began to fall, and the county settled into a deep freeze reminiscent of last winter. As was the case last year, most large bodies of water in the Northeast froze completely, including the Great Lakes. Waterfowl used open patches of the SR, particularly near WAP and Pittston. Deep snow cover allowed easy discovery of wintering field birds that either fed on roadsides or stuck out like sore thumbs in snow-covered cornfields. Finally, a moderate winter finch irruption that began in the fall was in full swing by late January and early February.

Dec is generally prime time for southbound goose migration. Larger flocks of geese occasionally hold rarer species associating with the ubiquitous Canadas. On 12/7, a **Cackling Goose** was found with 450 **Canada Geese** at BML (JD). The next day a Cackling Goose was at PF (JD) and another was found later in the month from an unreported location as a count week bird for the Dallas CBC. A flock of around 30 **Tundra Swans** observed flying upriver near Nescopeck 2/10 were earlier than in previous years (PB). This flock likely dispersed as one or two swans were observed from several locations along the SR in the county throughout Feb.

Dabbling ducks other than **Mallards** and **American Black Ducks** usually do not appear in the county until mid- to late Mar, since the shallow, nutrient-rich water that they prefer is entirely frozen until that time. Each winter, however, several birds show up either on the SR or on other bodies of water that have unfrozen spots. A single **Gadwall** was present on the SR in Forty Fort, 2/8 (JS) and up to 6 **American Wigeons** were found on the SR in West Pittston 1/30-2/1 (RK, JD). One **Northern Shoveler** and a **Northern Pintail** were also seen from this location 1/30 (RK). A small duck pond in Sybertsville kept open by a pump held a female **Northern Shoveler** and a drake **Northern Pintail** along with more common species for the majority of Jan (JD). With HL mostly frozen after mid-Jan and all other large lakes in the county being entirely frozen, the SR became a magnet for diving ducks. Five **Canvasbacks** were observed on the SR between Nescopeck and WAP 2/19-2/25 (JD). **Redhead** numbers were higher than usual in Feb, with a high count of 30 at WAP 2/13 (JD). A high count of 99 **Ring-necked Ducks** came from HL before the deep freeze set in 12/6 (JH), as did a high of 50 **Hooded Mergansers**, 1/4 (TG). Last year scaup numbers on the SR in WAP peaked at near 130 birds. Although numbers were not quite as high this year, a respectable 42 **Greater Scaup** were seen 2/25-26 (JD, EG) and 16 **Lesser Scaup** 2/14 (JH). Scoters are irregular and are generally found only during migration, so a male **White-winged Scoter** that kept company with a female **Common Goldeneye** at HL 1/15-30 was noteworthy (JD, CG, AY, BY, JH, RK). The only **Long-tailed Duck** of the season was at WAP

2/12-25 (RK, JD) and a high count of 75 **Buffleheads** came from the same location 2/12 (RK). WAP is one of the best spots in the county for wintering **Common Goldeneyes**, but a count of up to 40 birds throughout the second half of Feb was particularly high. Much excitement arose over a hypothetical county-first Barrow's Goldeneye observed 2/12 (RK), but efforts to re-find the bird yielded only an orange-billed female goldeneye that was photographed and subsequently identified as a Common Goldeneye. Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** showed up a bit early at WAP 2/14 (JH); the high count of 6 came 2/25 (JD). **Ruddy Ducks** were largely absent in Jan and Feb, but the Dallas CBC 12/20 had a good count of 106 birds before their favored reservoirs froze.

Common Loons are regular migrants but rare in winter. The only sighting was of a late migrant at HL 12/6 (JH). Another common migrant is the **Horned Grebe**, but two sightings in Feb were earlier than expected. One bird was at the SR in West Pittston 2/17 (RK, JD) and another was at HL 2/22 (JH). Even more unexpected was a **Red-necked Grebe** at HL 2/19 (RK). When this species is observed in *Luzerne* during the winter, it is most often a result of the freezing of the Great Lakes, as was the case during last year's unprecedented irruption. The only **Double-crested Cormorant** of the period was a relatively late bird at BML 12/1 (JD).

Continuing with their northward trend, there were several **Black Vultures** observed in late Dec and early Jan. Up to 9 were seen in the Dallas area during the CBC count week, and three were observed over Salem Township 1/1 (PB) and Nanticoke 1/2 (JH). **Red-shouldered Hawk** is a fairly regular breeding species in the county. Most birds leave the area during fall migration, but a few often spend the winter in *Luzerne*. A bird was observed throughout the first half of Jan in a swamp near Shickshinny (JH, RK, RW) and another was seen near White Haven 1/14 (JL). **Rough-legged Hawk** is an irruptive species that is annual in many parts of the state, but despite adequate fields and farmlands, this raptor is quite irregular and certainly not annual in *Luzerne*. A larger than normal irruption occurred this winter and at least one Rough-leg was observed here, a light morph bird from the Hobbie area 2/23 (RK).

Maybe the most unexpected sighting of the winter was a **Long-eared Owl** discovered and photographed by a non-birder in Forty Fort 2/16 (BS). Though this species is undoubtedly present in the county in small numbers, it is very rarely encountered. Although still uncommon in *Luzerne*, a species found with more regularity due to its crepuscular hunting habits is the **Short-eared Owl**. A single bird could be observed hunting the fields of the Wyoming Valley Airport at dusk from mid-Dec to late Jan (SG, RK). Rounding out significant owl observations for the winter, two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were found during the Dallas CBC 12/20 (JDM, RK, SG).

Northern Flicker was perhaps the most emblematic of the species that generally winter just to the south of the county, but persisted in *Luzerne* well into Jan and, in many cases, through the entire winter season. A higher than usual count of 22 birds was found on the Dallas CBC 12/20 and individual sightings came from several areas throughout the county in Jan and Feb. Falling in this same category, **Fish Crows** are arguably the most common corvid along the SR in breeding season, but typically move just south during the winter. A single bird was detected during the count week for the Dallas CBC near Jenkins Twp.

Three **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** on the Dallas CBC in the Larkville Mountain area were also a bit out of season (MK, JeS, RE) and another two were equally unexpected over a month later in WAP 1/22 (JD). **Hermit Thrushes** are found in the winter with more regularity, especially during warm years; this year a hardy individual was observed eating berries in a backyard during some of the coldest days of the season 2/14-21.

Horned Larks can be surprisingly difficult to find in *Luzerne*. Though not considered rare, they are usually found only in small flocks in a few prime areas. This winter was different as deep snow cover concentrated large feeding flocks in fields with exposed vegetation, making the birds easier to spot. The best locations for lark viewing this winter were fields on Zenith and Cherry Rds. in Nescopeck Twp. A high count of 140 Horned Larks was found off of Zenith Road 2/4 (JD). Also discovered with this flock were 2 **Lapland Longspurs**, which are rarely found. The longspurs persisted until 2/12 and eventually up to 20 **Snow Buntings** joined the flock as well (JD, JhD, EG, JG, RK). Single Snow Buntings were also seen with lark flocks near Sally Purcell's Inn in Sugarloaf 1/29 and on St. John's Road in Drums 2/1 (JD).

Two warbler species were observed in Jan. This was unusual considering most winters pass without any warblers detected. A vocal **Common Yellowthroat** found along the SR in WAP 1/22 represented the first eBird record for the winter season in *Luzerne* (JD). There are only a handful of previous eBird winter records for **Yellow-rumped Warbler** in the county, however the species is observed occasionally on the Dallas CBC. A report of 14 birds feeding on poison ivy berries 1/4 along the SR in West Nanticoke (RK) was particularly unusual, as most winter reports are of only one or two birds.

Most sparrows are fairly hardy, so even species that generally do not winter in the county show up from time to time. This winter three such species were observed. A **Field Sparrow** was at PF 1/8 (RK) and **Savannah Sparrows** spent the majority of Dec there with a surprisingly high count of 10 birds 12/8 (JD). Another Savannah Sparrow was feeding along a roadside near Sally Purcell's Inn in Sugarloaf 1/29 (JD). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were on Church Road in Nescopeck Twp 2/8 (JD).

This year's winter finch forecast was not overly optimistic, yet finches moved into our area in higher than expected numbers. **Pine Siskin** was predominant. One could hear a cacophony of the siskins' buzzes and squeaks from nearly every feeding station in the county. The highest numbers were around the HL area with up to 100 birds in some yards. Only a few **Purple Finches** were reported. Four were at State Game Lands 187 on 1/21 (JD) and several were reported around the county during the Great Backyard Bird Count 2/14-15. **Common Redpolls** moved into the area in small numbers starting mainly in Feb, with a high count of 10 observed along the SR in Pittston, 2/8 (CE). A single **Evening Grosbeak** was reported from a private residence in Hazleton during the Great Backyard Bird Count 2/15 (JA).

Observers: **Jonathan DeBalko, 235 Buck Ridge Drive, Drums, PA 18222, (570) 956-1849, jonathan.debalko@wilkes.edu**, John Ackerman, Mark Blauer, Pete Borick, Bill Chupko, John DeBalko (JhD), Joe DeMarco (JDM), Christopher Evans, Robert Evans, Thomas Galaskewicz, Stan Galenty, Christine Geist, Ed Groshek, Jarret Groshek, Jim Hoyson, Mark Kasper, Rick Koval, John Leskosky, Jim Shoemaker, Brian Stahl, Jeremiah Stone (JeS), Robert Wasilewski, Alan Yuscavage, Bonnie Yuscavage.

Lycoming County

Locations: Montoursville (MV), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Susquehanna River West Branch (SR), Susquehanna River Walk at Williamsport (SRW), White Deer Hawk Watch (WDHW), Williamsport (WPT), Williamsport Water Company (WWC).

It was another very active and interesting winter season. Cold weather persisted throughout, with ice clearing out of the SR only in March.

Winter waterfowl numbers and variety again built up through the winter on the SR, as seen primarily from the SRW, with the following reports from there. A single **Tundra Swan** was above the WPT dam 1/1 (JK) and 3 were on the SR 2/22 at Sylvan Dell (EC). An untimely 250 **Snow Geese** passed the SRW 1/13 (DvB). By 1/7, numbers had grown to 20 **Buffleheads**, a pair of **Common Goldeneyes**, and about 25 mergansers (JK). Both **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup**, and **Redheads** appeared in early Jan and remained through the season. **Canvasbacks** were first seen 2/16 (DvB), **Long-tailed Ducks** 1/15 (DvB, BB, DbB), and **Red-breasted Mergansers** 1/17 (DvB, BB). Numbers increased to high counts in Feb, including: 9 **American Black Ducks** 2/18 (AK), 20 **Redheads** 2/28 (DvB), 48 **Canvasbacks** 2/25 (AK), and 30 **Common Goldeneyes** 2/22 (DvB). A **Red-necked Grebe** 2/24 (DvB) provided the first of frequent sightings, including 3 on 2/23 (DvB).

The expanding **Black Vulture** population included 5 seen from the WDHW 2/26 (DvB). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was near Linden 2/19 (ML). Resident **Bald Eagles** were seen through the season with breeding behavior documented in mid-Feb (CR). Several **Golden Eagles** sightings indicate winter residency also, including single birds 12/27 near Buttonwood (DvB, BB, DbB) as part of the CBC, and 12/1 and 1/16 at Powys Wetlands (NoF). A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** continued in WPT (JY, m.ob.). The only **Bonaparte's Gull** sighting was 20 from MV 12/15 (DvB). The first **Great Black-backed Gull** here in many years was along the SRW 2/17 (DvB).

The only **Northern Shrike** of 2014 appeared at RVL 12/6 (DvB) and was seen intermittently through 12/24 (EH). A flock of about a dozen **American Pipits** provided a nice find along the SR near Muncy 12/13 (WE). A **Lapland Longspur** in Cogan House helped cap off a successful Big Year effort 12/29 (EH). Despite a cold winter, a **Gray Catbird** was found at the WWC 1/13 (DvB); an **Eastern Towhee** was there 1/18 (DvB) and remained through the end of the month (DbB, BB, DvB). **Pine Siskins** were widespread since fall and through the season, with large numbers seen in MV much of Feb, including a high count of 275 on 2/9 (EH). Joining the large flocks of siskins were a very few **Common Redpolls**, first found in Loyalsock Twp. 2/6 (DvB) and last seen in MV 2/20 (DvB). **Snow Buntings** were spotty, but 62 were found in Jackson Twp. 2/7 (NoF).

Observers: **Dan Brauning (DvB), 1920 Inverness Rd, Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 567-4511, dan@thebraunings.com**, David Brown (DvB), Bobby Brown, Deb Brown (DbB), Elisha Cramer, Maddi Dunlap, Wes Egli, Norwood Frederick (NoF), Eric Hartshaw, Andy Keister, Jean Klotz, Mark Lengel, Christy Rhoads, Joe Yoder.

McKean County
No compiler.

Mercer County

Locations: East Zahnizer Rd. (EZR), Lake Latonka (LL), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Sandy Lake (SL), Shenango R. Res. (SRR), Shenango Wildlife Area (SWA), Williamson Rd. (WR).

There were two sightings of **Snow Goose** in the LL area, in both cases with flocks of **Canada Geese**. Two were found in mid-Nov and were last seen 12/1 (ST, NT), and one was seen 1/25 (ST, NT). Reports of **Cackling Goose** have become more common over the past several years, this season being no exception. Six were found at a small pond close to LW 12/16 (NT) and one was seen with Canada Geese in the LL area 1/1-6 (NT). The last southbound **Tundra Swans** were at Sumner Lane 1/18 (ST); no reports were received of returning migrants at the end of the period. With mild temperatures through Dec and lots of open water, above average numbers of waterfowl lingered until mid-Jan, when most of the lakes froze over. Two **American Wigeons** and one **Northern Shoveler** were at the SWA 12/26 (SS) and 5 **American Black Ducks** were at LW 12/4 (NT). Four **Redheads** and 5 **Canvasbacks** were on the SR along Clark St. at Sharon 2/20 (SS). Three **White-winged Scoters** found at Clark Part at SRR 1/1 and one **Long-tailed Duck** at LW 12/7 were the best sightings for the period (SS). All three merganser species were reported, with 50 **Hooded Mergansers** on the SR at Clark Street 12/7, 50 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Clark Street 1/11, and 100 **Common Mergansers** at LW 12/7 (SS). **Ruddy Ducks** were found at LW 12/4 (NT) and 12/7 (SS).

Unexpected was a **Red-throated Loon** at the Marina at LW 12/4 (NT), which represented the first Dec record. Three **Common Loons** were also at LQ on the same date (NT). Both **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes** were at SL 12/4 and 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at LW also 12/4 (NT). An exceptional high count of 47 **Great Blue Herons** and an unexpected late **Great Egret** were at the SWA 12/26 (SS). **American Coots** remained at the SL until 12/7 (SS). Two **Killdeer** were at WR 12/18-1/3 (ST, NT) and one was at the SWA 1/1 (SS). A **Wilson's Snipe** was flushed from a small stream at EZR 12/18 (ST). Single **Red-headed Woodpeckers** wintered at EZR (ST, NT) and at Buhl Farm Park in Hermitage (SS), a first time for both locations. A **Northern Flicker** was in the LL area until mid-Jan (NT).

Brown Creepers, **Winter Wrens**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were all found at LW 12/4 (NT). **American Robins** lingered until 1/3 (ST), with no reports of any returning birds at the end of the period. **Snow Buntings** were found at multiple locations; 18 were at EZR 1/6 (NT), one at White Chapel Road 1/17 (SS), 30+ at Stonebase Road 1/23 (SS), and 8 seen in flight over WR 2/28 (NT, ST). Both **White-crowned** and **White-throated Sparrows** were present at a feeder at WR for most of the period (NT). A large mixed flock of blackbirds, consisting mostly of **Common Grackles** along with smaller numbers of **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** was periodically seen feeding in the cornfield at the WR 12/2-1/2 (NT). No winter finches were reported. Pine Siskins apparently left the county by mid-Nov (NT).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137**, Steve Sanford, Samuel Troyer.

Mifflin County

Locations: Alfarata (ALF), Big Valley (BV), Bunker Hill Pond in Big Valley (BHP), Kishacaquillas Creek in Big Valley (KC), Lewistown (LT), Milroy (MIL), Reedsville (RV), Victory Park in Lewistown (VP), Zook farm near Belleville in Big Valley (ZO).

The winter season provided a first county record when 3 **Trumpeter Swans** settled in at VP in early Feb (AT). The birds were seen and photographed by many local birders. Still present at the end of Feb, the 3 swans appeared not to be tagged or banded. There were many waterfowl reported compared to a normal winter, perhaps because birds were concentrated in the limited areas of open water. Notable anytime in *Mifflin*, a **Snow Goose** was at VP 1/1-2/7 (RD). Unusual in winter, 2 **Wood Ducks** were at ALF 2/1 (RH). Two **Gadwalls** were at ZO 1/18 and 2/14 (JZ), and 2 were at VP 2/7-8 (RD, JK). Uncommon anytime, up to 6 **Northern Pintails** were seen at multiple BV locations throughout the season (JZ, RD, JD). A single **Green-winged Teal** was at BHP 1/4 (RD) and 2/8 (JZ). Keeping company with the Trumpeter Swans, up to 9 **Redheads** were at VP beginning 2/6 (m.ob.), as were scaup of both species. Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at LT 12/15 (Bill Chambers). A **Horned Grebe** was at VP 12/7 (RD).

Northern Harriers were found at several locations. Singles were in BV 12/13 (JZ), 1/24 (JD), and 2/12 (DH), one was near LT 1/10 (RD), and one was at Locke Mills 2/12 (JK). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in BV 1/4 (RD). It was a good year for **Rough-legged Hawks**. In addition to those found on WRS routes (below), they were noted in BV on several occasions beginning in mid-Jan (m.ob.). Four WRS routes were run totaling 22 hours of observation. Notable numbers included 101 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 6 **Rough-legged Hawks**, 24 **American Kestrels**, and an imm. **Northern Goshawk** near MIL (BF, RH, et al.).

Not surprising given the cold weather, wintering **Wilson's Snipe** were difficult to find in BV at the usual locations. One was in KC on Waynesburg Rd. through at least 1/10 (RD, JZ), but later in the season the stream froze over, unusual for this rapidly flowing, spring-fed stream. Two snipe were in KC along Knepp Rd. 2/10. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** mostly withdraw from BV for winter, but searching can usually turn up a few, as was the case 2/11 and 2/15 (RD, RH). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at RV 1/11 and 2/2 (RH). Rare anytime, a **Peregrine Falcon** was in BV 1/24 (JD).

Waterfowl searchers reported **Fish Crows** at VP beginning 2/7 (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at VP 1/2 (RH) and MIL 2/14-16 (KD). A **Hermit Thrush** was at ALF 2/1 (RH). **Horned Larks** were found widely throughout BV, with a high of 250 on 2/12 (DH). Hard to find in mid-winter, 6 **American Pipits** were in BV 2/10 (RH). Single **Lapland Longspurs** were in BV 12/13 (JK, JZ) and 2/16 (RD). As many as 9 **Snow Buntings** were in BV during the season (JZ, DH, RD). An **Eastern Meadowlark** at RV 2/11 provided the only report. **Pine Siskins** were present but not in large numbers; the high was 15 at MIL 2/15-16 (KD).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652, gwg2@psu.edu**. Kathy Damicantonio, Rob Dickerson, Jim Dunn, Bob Fowles, Deuane Hoffman, Robert Hosler, Jon Kauffman, Aden Troyer, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

Locations: Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC), Weir Lake (WL).

It was another snowy and cold winter, with February the most frigid. The average February temperature was one of the lowest on record. The 35th Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count (PMCBC) was held 12/14, which recorded a slightly above average 58 species.

The find of the season, and representing a county first, were the 2 **Barnacle Geese** on WL 12/11 (BJ). They were enjoyed and photographed by many during their stay through the month. Lakes remained opened through Dec, resulting in some other nice waterfowl sightings. A **Snow Goose** and a **Wood Duck** lingered at Brodheadsville's WL in mid-Dec (AF, MF, RW) and the PMCBC's single **Snow Goose** represented just the third count record. Two **Northern Pintails** and a **Green-winged Teal** on Shawnee Lake 12/20 were uncommon seasonal finds (AF, MF, BH, RW). The 7 **Green-winged Teal** tallied on the PMCBC 12/14 tied the all-time count high. A high count of 29 **Hooded Mergansers** was tallied at WL 12/3 (BJ). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was found at Saylor's Lake on the late date of 12/3 (BJ).

The deep snow, ice, and extended cold temperatures can take a toll on predators and other wildlife. A trail camera baited with a deer carcass photographed scavenging **Bald Eagles** (an adult and sub-adult), a light morph **Rough-legged Hawk**, a **Red-tailed Hawk**, and two **Red-shouldered Hawks** through Feb at MCEEC's sugar bush near Marshall's Creek (BH). The 7 **Red-shouldered Hawks** on the PMCBC tied that count's all-time high and represented the eighth count record. **Red-shoulders** may be increasing as a wintering bird with five of these eight PMCBC records coming on the last seven counts. A **Merlin** and a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were found at WL 12/14 by birders enjoying the Barnacle Geese (TN). A **Barred Owl** was photographed in Feb, also feeding on the deer carcass at the MCEEC sugar bush trail camera (BH).

The single flock of 55 **American Tree Sparrows** coming to seed in the Mt. Pocono area 12/20 represents a very high count (BJ); only 19 were tallied for the entire PMCBC. **Pine Siskins** started appearing at feeders at MCEEC and other locations in late Jan and continued through the end of the period (BH, BJ, JM). The high count for this species was about 90 at a Saylor'sburg feeder 1/30 (RW).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**. Andy Fedor, Megan Fedor, Bruce Johnson, Jon Mularczyk, Ted Nichols, Rick Wiltraut.

Montgomery County

Locations: Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve (GWP), Norristown Dam (ND), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Schuylkill River Trail at Oaks (SRTO), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP).

The winter of 2014-15 started out unremarkably, but wound up as one of the nastiest in decades. Feb was 10°F below average in the greater Philadelphia area, resulting in the month being the coldest Feb since 1979. January was more than 2°F below average as well. With the thermometer rarely creeping above the freezing mark for weeks at a time, much of the water in the county solidified. GLP was almost entirely frozen over for the latter half of the period, with only portions of Knight Lake remaining open. Significant chunks of the Schuylkill River froze as well, even stretches that had remained ice-free in the cold winter of 2013-14. Nearly every smaller body of water became a skating rink. Despite this (or, in some case, perhaps, because of it), 117 species of birds were noted in *Montgomery* during the period.

Given the lack of open water, it's no surprise that most of the **Snow Geese** counted were flyover groups: 6000 at GLP 1/23 (GF) and 3000 at Gilbertsville 1/31 (PB) were the highest totals. Single **Cackling Geese** were observed at NFP 12/1 (WBH), West Norriton 12/20 (KG, AU), GLP 1/2 (KC), ND 2/17-19 (WBH, PB), and Betzwood 2/22 (SGr). The **Canada Goose** high count of 8500 was set at GLP 1/19 (GF). A neck-collared Canada Goose at Haverford College in Dec was banded as an adult in northern Quebec in Aug 2007 (SJ). **Tundra Swans** were few and far between. The largest count was of a group of 5 over DMP 2/28 (RC, AF).

Single **Wood Ducks** were noted early and late in the season, as expected (m.ob.), with one seemingly aberrant record, at Red Hill 1/3 (AC). **Gadwall** numbers at GLP were remarkably high in the early portion of the season, topping out at 100 on 12/31 (JHo). After 1/5, when 31 were tallied (KG, AU), numbers dropped off significantly. Other dabbling high counts for the period included 28 **American Wigeons** at GLP 12/28 (KC), 72 **American Black Ducks** at SRTO 2/16 (PB), and 30-33 **Northern Shovelers** at GLP 2/28 (KC, et al.). An American Wigeon at GLP 1/20 (GF) was the only report of the species between late Dec and late Feb. A **Green-winged Teal** was spotted at VFNHP 2/22 (SGr).

The frigid temperatures were, at least, good for one thing (for birders). They pushed diving ducks to the open sections of the Schuylkill. Two **Canvasbacks** at SRTO 2/20 (AU) were the first of many noted on the river (m.ob.), including 7 at ND 2/23 (WBH). A drake Canvasback was also found on Skymount Lake during the Upper Bucks CBC (which covers a portion of *Montgomery*) 12/14 (PB, JF). It joined a drake **Redhead**, present at the lake 12/11-14 (PB). A cryptic female Redhead showed up at GLP 2/7 (LH). The Redhead invasion didn't really start until 2/22, however, when a pair was spotted at Betzwood (SGr, MLa). They then began popping up at several other spots through the end of the period (m.ob.). Similarly, single **Greater Scaup** were detected at SRTO 1/8 (PB, AU) and GLP 2/7-8 (LH, KC), then became fairly common on the Schuylkill R. in the latter half of Feb. Fourteen Greater Scaup were at ND 2/23 (WBH), for example. **Lesser Scaup**, on the other hand, were barely seen at all, though one of the three reported birds was long staying, a male at SRTO 1/13-28 (PD, WBH, m.ob.). Two Lessers were reported at ND 2/25 as well (PB).

A drake **Long-tailed Duck** on the river at Conshohocken 2/21-22 (KR, AMe) may have won the season's unscientific "best duck" contest. Very few of this species have been recorded on the Schuylkill R. Seventy-five **Buffleheads** were at SRTO 2/27 (PB), and 69 were at ND 2/18 (WBH), above-average numbers for both of those locations. Following a familiar trend, a **Common Goldeneye** at SRTO 1/8 (PB) was the first of many reports of this species on the Schuylkill. A remarkable 30 Goldeneyes were at Lock 60/Schuylkill Canal Park 2/28 (HM, KS). Dual counts of 16 were tallied at nearby Mont Clare 2/24 (MH) and SRTO 1/11 (MR).

A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at GLP 12/2 (GF). The first Red-breasted Merg of the "ice age" was noted at ND 2/18 (AM, WBH). From this point onward, there were several other reports, including 3 at Conshohocken 2/22 (PB). After **Ruddy Ducks** disappeared from GLP in early Dec (m.ob.), the only Ruddies seen were single individuals at ND 1/22 (WBH) and Oaks 2/8 (PB).

If there were any chance they were truly wild birds, 15 **Ring-necked Pheasants** at Palm 2/3 (GF) would be very impressive. A hunting club releases them at this location, however. Away from the dependable PERT, the only **Wild Turkeys** observed were a heard-bird in the Unami Creek Valley 12/14 (PB, JF), 4 at a hunting site near Palm 12/26 (KK), and 2 at VFNHP 2/24 (DM). The turkeys at VFNHP were the first ever reported there in eBird. A **Common Loon** was on the Schuylkill at VFNHP 2/8-12 (DoB, AU), unexpected for the location and date. By early Jan, Haverford College's long-staying **Pied-billed Grebe** decided it had stayed long enough. It was

last seen 1/4 (SJ). Single **Horned Grebes** were at GLP 12/1 (GF), SRTO 1/14 (PB), VFNHP 2/7-14 (WBH), and ND 2/21 (WBH). A **Double-crested Cormorant** at VFNHP 2/12 (WBH) was an unusual winter find. Another was reported from Mont Clare 2/24 (MH).

A late **Osprey** was photographed at Skymount Park 12/3 (TB). According to an unknown individual PB spoke to 12/14, this bird was said to have hung around the area for a week or more beyond 12/3. While the timing of this may be coincidence, an Osprey was reported at PERT on the very late date of 12/20 (HB, FV). Persistent snow cover to the north presumably pushed a bumper crop of **Rough-legged Hawks** into *Montgomery* during Feb. The first was a light morph at VFNHP 2/4 (KKo). From this point on, they seemed to show up almost anywhere with reasonable field habitat (m.ob.). Higher Rough-leg concentrations included 6 in the vicinity of Graterford Prison 2/17 (KR) and 2/19 (AM), 3 at GWP 2/6-7 (RZ, AM, KR) and 3 at VFNHP 2/17 (MR, CH, BQ).

Two **Virginia Rails** were heard grunting at Bryn Athyn 12/20 (PD). **American Coots** were scarce through the season; the only ones found were one or 2 at GLP 2/1-14 (m.ob.) and one at Betzwood 2/22 (SGr, MLa). There were just a handful of reports of **Killdeer**, all in Dec, and none of quantities greater than two (m.ob.). An **American Woodcock** flushed by the observer while hunting near Palm 12/26 (KK) was a nice find, and the only one observed for the period.

Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers seemed reduced, with a high of 19 at GLP 12/14 (GF). Though less concentrated, they were also noted in small quantities at a number of spots closer to the Schuylkill (m.ob.). **Great Black-backed Gull** was found exclusively on the Schuylkill, with a high of 6 at ND 2/19 (PB).

Though this season was not a significant one for Snowy Owls in most of Pennsylvania, despite some early indications that it would be, some other migrant owl species were reported. A **Long-eared Owl** was at PERT 1/10 (PD) and another was in the North Wales area 2/14 (WBH, SK, MLa). A roosting group of 7 Long-ears was discovered at VFNHP 12/19 (KKo), seen through at least 1/14 (KKo). Migrating **Short-eared Owls** arrived not long after the Rough-legged Hawks in Feb. Sightings included a pair at DMP 2/17-18 (JH, KB) and a whopping 5 at Graterford 2/28 (SGo, SK). Single **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were at PERT 12/28 (PS), Red Hill 1/20-2/8 (AC), and PERT from 2/26 (PD). **Peregrine Falcons** were noted in pairs several times at ND (m.ob.) and at VFNHP 2/12 (AU).

Fish Crows were fairly scarce, with identical high counts of just 7 at Bryn Athyn 12/20 (CA) and Jenkintown 2/25 (AZ). Somewhat surprisingly, though, this may be the new normal, **Common Ravens** were observed with essentially the same frequency as Fish Crows, with reports scattered throughout the entire county (m.ob.). Small numbers of **Horned Larks** turned up in a number of locations, mostly in the more rural northern half of the county (m.ob.). Surprisingly, the biggest group, 62 birds, was in a more built-up area at GWP 2/9 (AG). Two extremely late **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were observed at SRTO 12/14 (AnM) and photographed on the Audubon CBC 12/20 (KM). This was, by far, the latest the species has been observed in the county. Like the now-annual overwintering group of Rough-wings in *Philadelphia*, Oaks is also the site of a wastewater treatment plant. Unlike the *Philadelphia* birds, these did not stick around through the entire winter or, at least, did not make themselves visible to birders, but very little of the treatment plant is visible from the trail.

It was a weak winter for irruptive **Black-capped Chickadees**, with only a few noted (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were similarly scarce. The only known long-staying individuals were one or 2 at PERT from 12/15 onward (HB, FV, m.ob) and another at a Blue Bell residence from 2/12 to the end of the period (KO). Though the species was said to be in short supply at GLP this winter, 35 **Eastern Bluebirds** were found there 2/9 (KC). Another 30 Bluebirds were at VFNHP 12/31 (AMe). Five **Hermit Thrushes** were counted at Evansburg S.P. 12/14 (WBH). The only **American Pipits** noted were a pair at Graterford 2/19 (AM), one at ND 12/16-18 (AMe, AM), and another at VFNHP 2/14 that just narrowly avoided becoming a **Merlin's** lunch (WBH, SK). Though there were few **Cedar Waxwings**, a few decent-sized flocks were noted: 35 were at GWP 2/9 (ML), and 22 at GLP 1/15 (GF). Six **Snow Buntings** were with Horned Larks at DMP 2/17 (KB).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler**, potentially the same one that successfully overwintered at the location in 2013-14, was at SRTO 1/11-29 (AU, m.ob.). Unlike the previous winter, it was not relocated in Feb. We hope it wised up and went somewhere warmer. Two **Pine Warblers** were reported at Mermaid Lake Golf Club for the Audubon CBC 12/20 (DB, JW).

Eastern Towhees were much scarcer during this winter than last, with less than 10 reports, none of more than 3 individuals (m.ob.). By contrast, it seemed to be an up year for **American Tree Sparrows**, which were seemingly everywhere, including at several feeders (m.ob.). Some big numbers were tallied as well, particularly 2/14 when 83 were observed at VFNHP (WBH, SK) and 75 were at PERT (PD). **Chipping Sparrows** were noted in at least nine locations (m.ob.). PERT had the biggest Chipping

Sparrow group, with a high of 3 on 1/13 (GJ, WK). That number was a small fraction of the PERT high counts of some recent previous winters, however. Eighteen **Savannah Sparrows** were counted for the Audubon CBC 12/20 (PB). Few were found elsewhere. The only **Fox Sparrow** noted after mid-Jan was a visitor to a feeder in Spring House from 2/16 through the end of the period (ME). Nine **White-crowned Sparrows** at Palm 2/3 (GF) furnished the period high count. The only report of White-crowns south of the Palm/GLP area was at SGL 234 Linfield 1/15-17 (AU). The most bizarre sparrow find of the season was a **White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco**, reported in Plymouth Meeting (PB). Though not photographed, it was well described.

Three **Rusty Blackbirds** at Bryn Athyn 12/20 (CA, LA) were counted on two CBCs (Wyncote and Pennypack). Single Rustys were spotted at NFP 12/20 (PB) and on the Schuylkill R. Trail just west of Pottstown 1/17 (WBH). The only double-digit **Brown-headed Cowbird** numbers reported were 20 at Lansdale 1/6 (CB) and weirdly identical counts of 51 at NFP 2/7 and 2/25 (both WBH). *Montgomery's* most famous wintering icterid, the Gilbertsville **Bullock's Oriole**, returned for its fifth winter. It was first observed 12/6 (MA) and continued through the end of the period, to the delight and occasional frustration of many visiting birders (m.ob.).

Not many **Purple Finches** seemed to be around. Small numbers were reported from about a dozen locations, with few long-staying individuals (m.ob.). No more than 9 were detected at feeders in Green Lane (PG, AGU), an abnormally low count for the location. Perhaps as compensation for this, those feeders were loaded with **Pine Siskins**, which broke a count of 100 on 2/14 and stayed there through the end of the period (PG, AGU). Siskin density was nowhere near as great elsewhere, however. The next highest count was 31 at Schwenksville 2/20 (MC). Very few were seen anywhere in Jan. Feb saw something of a resurgence in numbers (m.ob.). A minor **Common Redpoll** irruption event occurred this season as well. A pair of redpolls was reported in Gilbertsville 12/20 and a single was there 1/1 (both MA). Two redpolls were at an Upper Gwynedd Twp. feeder 2/2 (AM). One was photographed in Kulpville 2/22 (AD). In contrast with the small numbers of these other reports, 30 Redpolls made a one-day appearance in King of Prussia in mid-Feb (SGr). Fifty-four **American Goldfinches** were at GLP 12/30 (GF) - a nice-sized flock for winter.

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Montour County

No compiler.

Northampton County

Locations: Koch Property (KP), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Nazareth Quarry (NQ).

The period was cold. It was 2°F below average in January and nearly 12°F below average in February according to NOAA records. The lakes, quarries and ponds were frozen and the Delaware and Lehigh rivers had large sections of ice. Bird highlights were impressive with reports of **Barrow's Goldeneye**, **Ross's Goose**, **Glaucous Gull**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Harris's Sparrow**, and **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow**.

The annual **Snow Goose** spectacle started in early Dec when 7500 were at NQ 12/5 (MS) and 10,000 flew over Seemsville 12/13 (BM). The estimate of Snow Geese at NQ was 30,000 during the Bethlehem-Easton-Hellertown CBC 12/27 (DD, JH, SK, DW). The numbers dwindled with the freeze-up. **Ross's Goose** was reported from NQ 12/26-1/2 (CE, DD, JH, SK, and DW). Two **Ross's Geese** were seen in flight over Moore Twp. 12/21. A high of 4 **Cackling Geese** were at NQ 12/27 (DD, JH, SK, DW).

Overall, birders reported 27 species of waterfowl to eBird for the period. The Delaware R. was especially productive in Feb. Sought after

birds like **Canvasback**, **Redhead**, **Greater Scaup**, **Common Goldeneye**, and **Long-tailed Duck** could all be found on the river. There were 6 late-season **Wood Ducks** on the Bushkill Creek at Bushkill Park 12/25 (RW). A high count of 10 **Gadwalls** were at MCEP 2/26 (RW). There were 4 **Canvasbacks** at MCEP 2/22-26 (MSa, RW). Two **White-winged Scoters** were at the Portland pedestrian bridge 2/23-27 (RW, m.ob.). **Long-tailed Ducks** were at NQ 1/25 (MS, CCS) and near the Belvidere bridge 2/26-28 (RW). A rare female **Barrow's Goldeneye** was located on the Delaware by the Autogrille Deli, north of Easton 1/20 (MSa) and continued on the river between the deli and the Sandt's Eddy boat launch until 2/28 (m.ob.). It associated with upwards of 150 **Common Goldeneyes**, which were quite common on the river this year. The 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at MCEP 2/26 (RW) was a high count. A **Red-necked Grebe** was at NQ 1/25 (MS, CCS).

The trees and buildings in the town of Bath have become a roost site for vultures in recent winters, especially **Black Vultures**. As an example, there were 49 Black Vultures and 12 **Turkey Vultures** counted 12/17 (MS). **Rough-legged Hawks** made a good showing this winter with the first seen in Tatamy 1/31 (TM). Dark morph Rough-legged Hawks were found on Miller Rd, Lower Mount Bethel Twp. 2/8 (MSa, IG) and on Arrowhead Rd, E Allen Twp 2/15 (DL). A light morph was at the KP 2/24 (AK). There were three reports of **Sandhill Crane**: a bird at a private pond near NQ 12/27 (DD, JH, SK), a pair in flight south of Bethlehem 12/13 (CM), and one at the Monacacy Creek by the Apple Tree Plaza, Bethlehem 1/23 (JF).

Probably the most productive site in *Northampton* for gulls is Grand Central Landfill in Pen Argyl, and the best place to view gulls at this location is from Evergreen Cemetery, which requires a scope. The landfill's topography has changed from last year making it difficult to see a majority of the gulls that are not in the air. In the afternoon when the gulls leave to roost, one can observe the huge numbers that are hidden from view most of the time. A 5.5 hour day at the cemetery produced the following (estimated) numbers 12/27; 10,000 **Ring-billed Gulls**, 2500 **Herring Gulls**, 20 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, 40 **Great Black-backed Gulls**, 2 first winter **Iceland Gulls**, and an adult **Glaucous Gull** (MS, CCS). Iceland Gulls were reported from the landfill 12/24-2/7. A staging area for Lesser Black-backed Gulls was NQ, where 210 were counted at the quarry 12/5 (MS). There were a first winter Iceland Gull and a first winter Glaucous Gull at the Portland pedestrian bridge 2/8 (MSa, IG). Iceland Gulls were also reported from NQ 12/27 (DD, JH, SK, DW) and the Forks of Delaware, Easton 2/1-8 (m.ob.).

Long-eared Owls were found at MCEP 12/20 (MS, CCS) and at Northampton County Park, where 5 were present 2/9 (SA). There were several sightings of **Short-eared Owl** including single birds seen along Miller Rd 1/19 (MSa), in a back yard in Newburg 2/16 (TK), and on a cedar post next to the house at the KP 2/16 (AK). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard at MCEP during a CBC 12/28 (MS, CCS). The **Peregrine Falcons** that nest at the casino in Bethlehem were reported regularly (DL). An adult Peregrine Falcon was seen over Bath 12/17 (MS, CCS). Another flew by birders at MCEP during a CBC 12/28 (MS, CCS).

An **Eastern Phoebe** was at the boat launch at MCEP 1/4 (MSa) and was reported occasionally thereafter during the winter. This was the second year in a row for a wintering phoebe at this location. Four **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were located in the spruce stand at NQ 12/27 (DD, JH, SK, DW). **Gray Catbirds** were reported from MCEP on the nature trails 1/1 (MSa) and in Bethlehem 1/12 (GS). Up to 3 **American Pipits** could be found at the MCEP boat launch in late Jan and Feb (m.ob.).

The first winter **Harris's Sparrow** found 11/17 continued at the KP the entire period (AK, m.ob.). A **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** found 11/22 was also at the KP for the period (m.ob.). Winter finches made a small showing with some **Purple Finches** in Dec, a few **Common Redpolls** in Jan and Feb, and **Pine Siskins** during all 3 months. **Common Redpolls** visited feeders in the Bangor area 1/18 (MSa), 2/16 (SA) and 2/21 (SL).

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Northumberland County

No compiler.

Perry County

Locations: Juniata River (JR), Little Buffalo SP (LBSP), New Bloomfield Christmas Bird Count (NBCBC), Pfutz Valley Road (PVR).

The period was marked the rather cold winter experienced by much of Pennsylvania, but water remained open at LBSP, one of the more popular waterfowl lakes in the county, through the CBC season. *Perry* continues to lack in birder coverage compared to surrounding counties.

Six **Tundra Swans** were reported near Wila 12/27 (CB). Eight **Canvasbacks** were on the JR in Newport 2/26 (VG) and 2 **Redheads** were at that location 2/21 (DH). Four **Common Goldeneyes** were on the JR near Millerstown 1/10 (PK). A new species for the NBCBC, **Horned Grebe** was at LBSP 12/26-29 (CD, *fide* RK, JT).

Four **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported: one light morph in Loysville 1/31-2/12 (RF, VG), one off FVR 2/21 (DH) and up to 2, one dark and one light, in the Highway 17 Meadows 1/31-2/16 (VG, BH, CK). One **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found on the NBCBC 12/21 (*fide* RK). Two **Long-eared Owls** were reported on the Ickesburg section of the Lewistown CBC 12/20 (RH, CK).

Two **American Pipits** were on Fowlers Hollow Road 2/7 (VG). Two **Lapland Longspurs** and 9 **Snow Buntings** were off PVR 2/21 (DH). Six **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 13 **Winter Wrens**, 2 **Gray Catbirds**, 10 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, 5 **Eastern Towhees**, 5 **Purple Finches** and 18 **Pine Siskins** were recorded on the NBCBC 12/21 (*fide* RK). Up to 6 Purple Finches were also reported off Shermans View Road 12/15-29 (TP). After no reports of the species in Jan, **Pine Siskins**, although few in overall numbers, began increasing throughout Feb (m.ob.) with a high count of 6 off Shermans View Road 2/28 (TP).

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Philadelphia County

Locations: Bartram's Garden (BG), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware River (DR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Glenn Foerd Mansion (GF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia (TI), Morris Arboretum (MA), Naval Business Center aka Navy Yard (NBC), Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant (NEWPCP), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Philadelphia Mid-Winter Bird Census 1/10 (PMWBC), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Southampton Woods Rd. (SHW), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Philly's 2015 snowfall did not come close to last winter's record setting 65", but temperatures were frequently below freezing and occasionally below zero, leaving the small bodies of water and rivers ice-covered. Notable species were **Hoary Redpoll**, **Indigo Bunting**, **Dickcissel**, and a very late **Wood Thrush**. The Philadelphia Mid-Winter Bird Census on 1/10 was ably led by KR for the 30th consecutive year. It produced 109 species on a day when only moving water was open and snow covered the ground. The Glenolden CBC and Pennypack CBC, both on 12/20, cover parts of two counties, and did not contribute much to this report. The winter survey at SCEE found 35 species, below average, but not unexpected given the poor weather.

Seven hundred **Snow Geese** moved south 12/13 (DB) and groups totaling 2400 were seen 1/25 (MDe, TF, KJ, LW). A wedge of 28 **Tundra Swans** flew over TI 1/28 (NH) and a group of 43 was over Mt. Airy 1/10 (SMC). Prior to the freeze, 309 **Northern Shovelers** were at TI (AB, DM, GV) along with 233 **Mallards** 12/20 (FW). Four **Canvasbacks** arrived at NBC 1/8 (DA), where their number grew to 220 by 2/16, just before the DR froze from shore to shore, forcing all diving ducks to depart. Two **Redheads** stopped briefly at NBC 1/10 and a female was found among the Canvasbacks 2/10-16 (FW). Forty **Greater Scaup** at POD 2/19 (FW) and 38 **Lesser Scaup** at NBC 2/16 (GA) were high counts for these species, whose combined number never exceeded eighty. A total of 8 **Long-tailed Ducks** were found 1/10, but only one remained at NBC 2/19 (FW). Two **Black Scoters** passed Fort Mifflin 1/10 (WS, ACr). An imm. **White-winged Scoter** with sheltered in a cove at NBC 2/13-20 (AR, ph., m.ob.), presumably the same scoter recorded from Big Timber Creek in New Jersey 2/8 (AR). A male and two female White-winged Scoters seen at GF 2/24 were found two hours later farther south on the DR at POD (FW). A field trip on 2/7 tallied 38 **Common Goldeneyes**: 15 at GF, 8 at Pleasant Hill Park, and 15 at POD (DA). The PMWBC tallied 381 **Ruddy Ducks** and 49 **Great Cormorants**.

The Great Lakes froze again as they did in 2014, but Philly saw no more than 5 **Red-necked Grebes** compared to the dozens seen last winter. One Red-necked Grebe was at NBC 2/15 (MDe, ph.) and two were at POD

with ice on their faces and bills (FW). Another pair of grebes was at Pier 3 on 2/5 (BH). Counties surrounding Philly were reporting **Rough-legged Hawks** and finally, days before the end of the reporting period, a light morph individual was seen perched and hunting at POD 2/28 (MDe, AR, ph.).

Iceland Gulls were at NEWPCP 1/10 (FW, AR, TF) and at GF 1/29, 2/22 (FW). The TI impoundment is less than two miles from the DR and hosts hundreds of gulls, but a white-winged gull is rare at TI, making the bird photographed 1/17 a great find (KG, ph., LC, GV). In addition to the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** that has overwintered for a decade, five were roosting with 1100 **Ring-billed Gulls** at dusk at NBC 1/10 (GA) and three were at GF (GA, JJ, TC). Philly's only **Glaucous Gull**, a first cycle bird, was seen briefly at GF 2/22 (FW).

The **Northern Shrike** reported for three previous winters continued at TI throughout the season being seen much more frequently in the area south of the observation platform (m.ob.). At the north end of the Tioga Marine Terminal, 2 **Common Ravens** flew in and out of a tower while carrying food 2/1 (HM, DF). Following that date, ravens frequented the opening of the abandoned tower and carrying food (m.ob.) indicating Philly might have its first breeding record in the making. Across Delaware Ave. from the raven tower, the **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** population at NEWPCP dwindled from 100 in early Jan to 4 on 2/21.

More wrens than usual attempted to overwinter. **House Wrens** were at NBC 1/10-16 (GA, MD, FW), at the Cumberland St. fields 1/25-26 (TF, LW), and at TI 1/25 (TF). A **Marsh Wren** was at TI 1/2-2/4 (CR, TF). **Wood Thrushes** depart Pennsylvania by early Oct; the Wood Thrush in a small urban park at 18th & Cherry Sts. 12/7-15 (Sma, JW) was perhaps just the third winter record for the state. A Wood Thrush was at Mt. Gretna 2/4-6/2012 and one was at Powdermill Nature Reserve 1/14/1985.

Four of the expected warbler species were reported in addition to a **Pine Warbler** at a Northeast feeder with a group of **Dark-eyed Juncos** 1/3 (PS). The fields at Cumberland St. and the DR attract migrating **Orange-crowned Warblers**; one that overwintered was observed 12/31-1/25 (AR). A **Common Yellowthroat** also found these fields attractive 1/3 (AR, ph.), but not as attractive as the very buggy and protein rich water tanks at the NEWPCP where this species and **Palm Warbler** (as many as six) were present 12/20-2/6 (TF, FW, m.ob.). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** also overwintered at NEWPCP 12/15-2/21 (DO, HM).

American Tree Sparrows were common this winter with a flock of 26 at TI 1/2 (CR) and other flocks of 15 at NBC (DA) and Cumberland St. 2/14 (AR). **House Sparrow** flocks attracted two good species. A **Vesper Sparrow**, representing just the second winter record in more than ten years, hung with a sparrow flock at NBC 1/2-28 (CR, m.ob., ph.). An **Indigo Bunting**, presumed to be a female from brown plumage without noticeable blue, was in the PP with a large group of House Sparrows 1/10 (TF). Along Port Royal Rd. in Roxborough, a **Dickcissel** was an excellent find 1/10 (MDa). A lingering **Baltimore Oriole** in east FP at Lemon Hill 12/29 (DO, GJ, ph.) was relocated for the census 1/10. Presumably a different Baltimore Oriole frequented a feeder in the Northeast from approximately mid-Jan until 2/21 (ACu).

Eleven **Purple Finches** were at BRSP 1/10 (MS) and in Houston Meadow 1/20 (KJ). **Common Redpolls** love birch tree seeds and 5 were attracted to the birch stand at the NBC 1/8 (DA), where they continued until at least 1/30 (JS). Among these redpolls was a **Hoary Redpoll** 1/17 (ph. GA) and subsequently seen by many birders until 1/25 when security guards restricted entrance to the area. Three Common Redpolls were at a Northwest feeder 2/14-16 (JP). **Pine Siskins** were scarce, seen only at Lemon Hill in FP 12/1-10 (GJ) and at Cumberland St. 1/3 (BH, TF).

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Pike County

A large flock of 420 **Common Mergansers** was off Spinnler's Point at Lake Wallenpaupack 12/6 (MS, CCS). Other southbound waterfowl at the lake 12/6 included 48 **Common Goldeneyes**, 37 **Hooded Mergansers**, 3 **Common Loons**, and 5 **Horned Grebes**. Following the winter freeze-up, the Delaware R. provided the only good habitat for ducks. The Bushkill

Access area had a **Long-tailed Duck** 2/21 (SK) and 2 **Canvasbacks**, 8 **Redheads** and a **Red-breasted Merganser** 2/25 (TM). At Dingman's Ferry, there was a **Canvasback** and a **Greater Scaup** 2/21 (SK).

In the Delaware Water Gap N.R.A., a **Golden Eagle** was seen at the cliffs near Milford 1/31 (BC) and another was along Little Egypt Rd. 2/21 (SK). A feeder station in Milford had up to 4 **Common Redpolls** 2/13-15 (LF). **Pine Siskins** were noted at multiple locations, primarily at private feeders.

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, PA 18014, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Brian Collier, Linda Fields, Stephen Kloiber, Terry Master, Corinne Campbell Schall.

Potter County
No compiler.

Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary North Lookout (HMS), Hauto Dam (HD), Kelayres Reclaimed Minelands (KRM), Landingville (LVD), Lebanon Reservoir (LR), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tamaqua CBC (TCBC), West Deerview Drive (WDD), Western Schuylkill CBC (WSCBC).

Although temperatures in December and January were about average, February was well below normal. Snowfall came often but with no large single event, and it persisted on the ground with no significant thaws to melt it. Data collection was probably affected by the inability of birders to get out. Interestingly, LVD did not freeze over until mid-February. Some data for this report was gleaned from the two CBCs and the three WRS route that are conducted in the county. The WSCBC took place 12/14 and the TCBC 12/30. Thanks to Dave Krueel and Jonathan DeBalko, respectively, for heading those efforts. Thanks also go to Mike Ward for conducting the WRSs in the county.

With the exception of **Mallards**, numbers of waterfowl are always low for the county, so most sightings are considered notable. There was a pretty good showing of waterfowl through Dec into the first week of Jan, after which birds essentially disappeared. **Snow Geese** migrated through the second week of Dec (DM, HM, BH, KS) with a few stragglers waiting until the TCBC to pass through Hometown (JoD, JD). **Mute Swans** have essentially become year-round residents; there were several sightings through 1/2 in southern *Schuylkill* (VG, TN, DR, DK).

Wood Ducks were spotted in Dec at SSP (BR), at LVD (DK), and at Stonehedge near Tamaqua for the TCBC (MF). **American Black Ducks** were also present through Dec but exclusively in the higher elevation, colder lakes in the north (BrC, JoD, JD). Taking advantage of some rare open water at LVD, a pair was spotted at LVD 1/20 (DR). A **Northern Pintail** showed up at HD for the TCBC (JoD, JD), and another was at LVD 1/23 (DR). A single **Canvasback** was at LR 12/14, a first for the WSCBC (BrC). Very rare for the county, a **Common Goldeneye** was at HD 12/30 making it the first of its species to be recorded on the TCBC. The last county record for this species was in 2005. **Hooded Mergansers** were around 12/14-1/3 including on both CBCs (BrC, JoD, DK, JD). **Common Mergansers** are becoming more common in *Schuylkill* and were recorded on the WSCBC this year. They were seen at LR 12/14 (BrC), at LVD 1/19-20 (BJ) and again at LVD just prior to that lake freezing over 2/11 (DR). A group of five **Ruddy Ducks** was at Stillwater Creek Res. 12/12-17 (JoD, JD). A few more stayed on HD until 12/30 to become the first Ruddy Ducks on the TCBC (JoD, JD). **Common Loons** were very common in southern *Schuylkill* in Dec. Fourteen were at SAL 12/3 (BR). Another arrived at LVD around 1/16 (BJ) and stayed around until at least 2/5 (DR).

Turkey and **Black Vultures** usually leave the county for the Great Valley and Piedmont during the middle of the winter. Black Vultures began leaving the county in late Dec although there seems to be a later departure date in the eastern portion of the county. Jan reports for this bird were received from the Tamaqua area (FD) and the Acopian Center (LG) into the third week of Jan. An exception was a sighting at SAL 1/24 (DD). They were first seen again near Tamaqua 2/23 (FD). Turkey Vulture movements are similar. By Dec, they have moved to southern *Schuylkill* with the exception of Tamaqua where the last report for the county was 1/5 (FD). They returned a little over a month later in several locations: at SSP 2/4 (BR), Pine Grove 2/14 (BR), Schuylkill Haven 2/13 (CM), and Tamaqua 2/12 (FD). A late migrating **Osprey** was spotted at HMS 12/7 (LG, HM, KS). **Golden Eagles** continued to pass HMS until 1/7 (LG, BH, KS, HM). At least three Golden Eagles may have over-wintered in the eastern county, where

sightings occurred 1/27-2/3 (DW). **Northern Harriers** migrated past HMS on four occasions in Dec (LG). Other wintering harriers were at SSP 2/4 and 2/20 (BR) and at KRM 1/28 (JD). **Northern Goshawks** were reported at HMS 12/4-1/7 (LG, BH, KS, HM). An unusually large assemblage of **Bald Eagles** was in the Pitman area where at least 15 were seen in one area. It appears the local organic chicken farm has been feeding the eagles dead chickens. A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported over a field along Schwartz Valley Road 2/6 (SW).

An **American Coot** stayed at WPWS until 12/7 (JoD). **Killdeer** also were late leaving with sightings at APWS 12/5 (JoD), LVD 12/6 (DR), and Schuylkill Haven 12/13 (CM). **Ring-billed Gulls** migrated through late with 3 seen at HMS 12/7 (BH, KS, HM). A few **Herring Gulls** were also late, with one seen at DL 12/15 (DR) and another at LLSP 12/25 (TB).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was recorded for the WSCBC at LR 12/14 (BrC). This winter there were an unusually high number of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, predominantly in the south (m.ob.).

American Kestrels were up a little on both CBCs from last year although none were seen on the three WRS routes (MW). The county has a few areas that are strongholds for the species including the Pitman area and the Rte. 895 corridor in south *Schuylkill*. Kestrels were seen many times this season throughout these areas (JoD, JD, TB, DR, DB, BrC, TN, LG, BJ). A **Merlin** was in the Tamaqua area 12/17 (FD) and another was seen throughout the winter near HMS (JT *vide* LG). A **Peregrine Falcon** flew past HMS 12/25 (HM).

Usually long gone by early Nov, an **Eastern Phoebe** was seen at APWS 12/30, making it the first ever on the TCBC (JoD, JD). **Horned Larks** were up this year, primarily in two locations. Large numbers spent the winter months near Pitman in northwestern *Schuylkill*, where upwards of 150 were tallied (DR, DK, TB). A smaller number was consistently found on Flat Hill Rd. in Washington Twp. in the southwest (DR, BR). A nice count of 150 was made on the WSCBC after only 7 were reported last year.

Southern *Schuylkill* falls within the chickadee hybrid zone. **Black-capped Chickadees** are the dominant species mixed with the hybrids. In the last few years, reports of **Carolina Chickadees** have been coming from the extreme southern edge prior to the coldest part of the winter. Sightings were made 12/14 at SSP (BR, DM), LR (BC), and Stony Creek (EG). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen primarily in Dec, with a few also in Jan and Feb, all reports from northern areas (TB, JS, DK, JoD, JD, JiS). Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were reported this winter, one at SAL 1/24 (DD) and one near LVD 2/28 (BJ).

A very late migrant **Gray Catbird** stayed around until 12/13 on WDD (DR). A **Brown Thrasher** was in Pottsville 2/15 (BC). **Snow Buntings** are tough to find here. Two were seen this season, one at HMS (BH, KS, HM) and a second near Pitman 2/12 (DR). Usually gone by early to mid-Oct, a **Common Yellowthroat** was found for the first time on the WSCBC near Hegins (JoD, JD, TB).

Perhaps an early spring arrival, an **Eastern Towhee** was in the southeastern portion of the county 2/15 (LG, ML). Towhees typically arrive late Mar to early Apr. Another possible early arrival were a few **Chipping Sparrows** near Pitman 2/7 (TB). **Fox Sparrows** stayed around longer than normal last fall and arrived early. Individuals were in Pottsville 12/12 (DK), near Pitman 12/19 (TB), and near Tamaqua 2/16 (FD). Lastly, *Schuylkill* was inundated this winter with **Pine Siskins**, which were seen throughout the county (m.ob.).

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stoney Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**, Barbara Adams, Janet Anderson, Ilan Baswari, Rob Bergstressor, Mark Boyd, Dan Brennan, Jamie Buehl, Thomas Buehl, B Cardamore (BC), Bruce Carl (BrC), Jeannie Carl, Ken Carl, John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko (JD), Frank Dickman, Paul Dietrich, Denise Donmoyer, Andy Fedor, Megan Fedor, Susan Gallagher, Vernon Gauthier, Meghan Gebhard, Laurie Goodrich, Ellen Grim, Kerry Grim, Brian Henderson, Barb Jucker, Andy Keister, Stephen Kloiber, Dave Krueel, Nancy Krueel, Mark Leeson, John Leskosky (JL), Jon Levin (JonL), Anne-Marie Liebner, Michele Mazie, Cecil McKee, Dave McNaughton (DMcN), Dave McSurdy (DMcS), Holly Merker, Kathy Mikruk, Ted Nichols II, Barb Ritzheimer, Jim Schuetrumph (JiS), Andy Sherkness, Kathy Sieminski (KaS), John Slotterback, Frances Stahl, Kim Steinger (KS), Judy Stepenaski (JuS), Jane Tamulonis, Barbara Thorp, Mike Ward, Amy Weidensaul, Scott Weidensaul, Audrey Wells (AuW) Lee Wells, Doug Wood, Mary Woolford (MaW).

Snyder County
No report.

Compiler: **Jason Weller, fishingdude20@hotmail.com**.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Christmas Bird Count-all central Somerset County (CBC), Lanzone Property (LP), Markleton (MA), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Somerset Township (ST), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

The winter started out rather mild with only moderate amounts of snow. February turned much colder with many days below zero, solidly frozen lakes, and persistent 18 inch snow cover, and culminating with lows of -20°F (actual). On 12/18 (before the harsh weather), the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society CBC (CBC) enjoyed mostly open water and mild temperatures and had an excellent total of 93 species including count week.

A **Ross's Goose** was at SL 12/18. Three **Snow Geese** were at Stoneycreek L. for the CBC (JP, JM, MM). A **Cackling Goose** was at QR 12/16 (LG). A nice tally of 1276 **Canada Geese** was made for CBC. Two **Mute Swans** were at Stoughton Lake for the CBC. A total of 35 **Tundra Swans** were found on CBC. There were reports of a neck-banded **Trumpeter Swan** on Youghiogheny R. towards the end of the period but no details were submitted.

A **Wood Duck** was first found at QR on CBC and persisted until at least 12/20 (AM). Twenty **Gadwalls** were found on the CBC and 2 were in ST 2/13 (AM). Four **American Wigeons**, 33 **American Black Ducks**, 971 **Mallards**, and 35 **Northern Pintails** were on the CBC count. An injured male pintail at SL was captured by a **Bald Eagle** 12/20 (AM). Three **Green-winged Teal** were found on CBC and a wintering or early bird was in ST 2/13 (AM). The following diving ducks were found on the CBC: one **Canvasback**, 2 **Redheads**, 4 **Long-tailed Ducks**, one **Ring-necked Duck**, 4 **Greater Scaup**, 3 **Lesser Scaup**, 27 **Buffleheads**, one **Common Goldeneye**, and 19 **Ruddy Ducks**. There were also 101 **Ruddy Ducks** at High Point Lake 12/5. The CBC observers also tallied 11 **Common Mergansers**, 94 **Hooded Mergansers**, and one **Red-breasted Merganser**. The highlight of the waterfowl was a first-ever **Black Scoter** for the CBC, on QR (ML et al). By 12/20, one male and 2 females were present and they stayed until at least 12/24 (AM).

Seven **Ring-necked Pheasants** were on the CBC, all PGC stocked birds. There are only a few male pheasants in the Wild Pheasant Recovery Area and they may be from nearby stockings of pen-raised birds. Only one **Ruffed Grouse** was found on the CBC; they are still present in low densities throughout county. A nice count of 66 **Wild Turkeys** was made for the CBC. There were 2 **Common Loons** at QR for CBC. Six **Pied-billed** and 14 **Horned Grebes** were found on CBC. Three **Double-crested Cormorants** found on the CBC persisted until 12/24 (AM). Two **Great Blue Herons** were found for the CBC and a few wintered.

CBC participants recorded 2 **Bald Eagles** and a new nest was documented in Confluence 2/14 (CP, JP). There was one **Northern Harrier** on CBC and BA had the first of the year 1/1 (CP, JP). The CBC recorded the following hawks: one **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 2 **Cooper's Hawks**, one **Red-shouldered Hawk**, and 14 **Red-tailed Hawks**. **Rough-legged Hawks** did not show up until 1/26 in BA and at least one of both color morphs were in area through period (JP).

A nice count of 58 **American Coots** was found for the CBC. Less expected was a **Wilson's Snipe** on CBC day at QR and still less expected was an **American Woodcock** at LP feeding near a compost pile during count week (ML). **Ring-billed Gulls** were in Confluence 12/5 (AM), 44 were at SL 12/19 (AM), and 4 were counted for CBC.

One **Eastern Screech-Owl**, 3 **Great Horned Owls**, and 3 **Barred Owls** were found for CBC. Less expected was a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at LP during count week (ML). Four **Belted Kingfishers** were at QR for the CBC. Ten **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, one **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, 28 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 9 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, one **Northern Flicker** and 3 **Pileated Woodpeckers** were tallied for CBC. There were 4 **American Kestrels** on CBC and a few in BA through period.

A late **Eastern Phoebe** was on the CBC. A flock of over 500 **Horned Larks** was found on CBC but numbers seemed down slightly after the first of year. One **Red-breasted Nuthatch** showed up for the CBC along with 46 **White-breasted Nuthatches**. Four **Brown Creepers** were still present for the CBC along with 3 **Carolina Wrens** and one **Winter Wren**. The CBC had nice counts of 14 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, 6 **Eastern Bluebirds**, and one hardy **Hermit Thrush**; but only 2 **American Robins**. One **Northern Mockingbird** was found for CBC but completely unexpected was a **Gray Catbird** at SL 1/4 (CP, JP). Six **American Pipits** and 50 **Cedar Waxwings** were present for CBC. Three **Snow Buntings** were found with the larks for CBC.

There was one **Eastern Towhee** for the CBC. One seen 1/26, 2/16, and 2/26 had probably wintered in Markleton (AM). The following sparrows made it onto the CBC list: 101 **American Tree Sparrows**, a good count of 4 late **Chipping Sparrows**, one **Field Sparrow**, one **Fox Sparrow** (count

week), 25 **Song Sparrows**, 2 **Swamp Sparrows**, 16 **White-throated Sparrows**, and 302 **Dark-eyed Juncos**.

Blackbirds were largely absent so an **Eastern Meadowlark** in Somerset Twp. 2/2 was especially welcome (JP). Six **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were found on CBC. **Purple Finch** tally was just 2 on the CBC compared to the 51 **House Finches**. **Pine Siskins** were first seen at PP 2/1. The initial 3 on that date built up to 60+ by end of period. There was a decent showing of 49 **American Goldfinches** on the CBC.

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Sullivan County

Locations: Dutch Mtn (DM), Cherry Township (CT), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), Forks Township (FT), Splashdam Pond (SDP)

Another winter that brought deep snow and extremely cold temperatures limited this observer to two trips to the county this season. Twenty separate checklists entered into eBird for the GBBC was a pleasant surprise for this underbirded county. This season's report is taken from three early season reports in December, two WRS routes on 2/7, and the GBBC checklists. There were no reports from the month of January. A total of 36 species were reported across 31 checklists.

Open water could still be found as late as the 12/29. Twenty-two **Canada Geese** flew over SDP 12/28. Six **Mallards** were reported at EML 12/13 (JH). A single female **Hooded Merganser** was seen on SDP on 12/21 and 12/28. Single **Ruffed Grouse** were found on DM and at SDP on 12/26 and 12/28, respectively. A **Great Blue Heron** was over Cherry Twp. near Dushore 12/26.

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** nabbed a **Black-capped Chickadee** at a feeder in Elkland Twp. 12/14 (EB). **Cooper's Hawks** were in CT 12/26, at SGL 66 during a WRS 2/7, and in Nisbet 2/14 (KB). In addition to the Cooper's Hawk noted above, the two WRS routes 2/7 netted a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 7 **Red-tailed Hawks**, a light morph adult **Rough-legged Hawk** along Lambert Hill Rd in FT, and an imm. **Golden Eagle** also in FT.

Red-bellied, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers were noted in several locations across the county. A single **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and two **Pileated Woodpeckers** were reported in Nisbet 2/14 (KB). A **Northern Flicker** was found on DM 12/26. **Blue Jays, American Crows, Common Ravens, Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmice**, and both **White and Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported from multiple locations across the county. A **Brown Creeper** was on DM 12/26. **Carolina Wrens** were reported on three checklists during the GBBC from Nisbet (KB) and near Eagles Mere (PR). Two **Eastern Bluebirds** remained in CT 12/28. Fifteen **American Robins** were observed across the county 2/7-8.

American Tree Sparrows, Song Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos represented the sparrow family and were all widely reported. **Northern Cardinals** was listed on many checklists. The species is most commonly reported from developed areas at lower elevations. **Brown-headed Cowbird** was the only blackbird reported, appearing on five separate checklists. Two **Purple Finches** were near Hughesville 2/13 (HE). Two **Common Redpolls** were in LaPorte 2/14 (HS). **Pine Siskins** appeared on fifteen separate checklists with a high of 100 near Forksville 2/15 (LG). **American Goldfinches** were also widely reported.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Evelyn Bedford, Kim Boyles, Heidi Eisenhard, Lucy Goshaw, Doug Gross, Joe Hanfman, Patricia Rider, Henry Street.

Susquehanna County

Locations: Williams Pond Road (WP), farmland at Glemboski Road (GR), Fernheim Road (FR), Quaker Lake (QL), Montrose (MT), Rhiney Creek Rd (RC), Stearns Lake (SL), Susquehanna River at Harmony Road (HR), VanCott Farm (VF), Vandermark Road (VR), Valley View Road (VV).

Some 62 species were reported from *Susquehanna* during the winter period. As predicted, the winter finch invasion, aside from fairly widespread **Pine Siskins** and **Common Redpolls**, was a non-event. Waterfowl and raptors were reported in the abundance, with most waterfowl diversity in

December before the freeze up, and most raptors were noted in January and February. Passerine visitors and residents were well represented throughout the county

Canada Geese and **Mallards** were present county-wide through early Jan. A single **Gadwall** was observed at QL 12/8 (EM). One **American Black Duck** and 2 **Hooded Mergansers** were observed on the Susquehanna R. at HR 12/7 (EM). **Buffleheads** were observed on QL 12/13, 12/16, and 12/18 (EM), and 6 were reported from SL 12/2 (EB). **Ruddy Ducks**, **Pied-billed Grebes**, and **Horned Grebes** were at QL from early to mid-Dec (EM).

A single **Northern Harrier** was reported from GR 1/19 (EM). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Cooper's Hawks** were observed in several places in Jan and Feb. **Red-tailed Hawks** and **Bald Eagles** were reported throughout the period. **Rough-legged Hawks**, noted first at RC 2/1 (EM), were subsequently observed at VV 2/4 (EM), at both RC and VR 2/7 (EM), and finally at WP 2/19 (BM, NW).

The earliest **Short-eared Owls** were two birds observed east of Springville, GR 12/26 (WS); as many as 4 were reported from GR in Jan (m.ob.). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** roosted briefly on the windowsill of a house in Jessup Twp. during the night of 1/10 (BH *fide* CH). **Great Horned Owl** was the only other owl reported. Five species of woodpecker were reported, all but Red-headed Woodpecker. The only falcon was **American Kestrel**, with one at FR 1/2 (TN) and one at WP 2/9 (BM).

Twenty-nine species of passerines were reported. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at WP 1/7 (TN) and at Germantown Rd. in northeastern *Susquehanna* (as part of the GBBC), where 4 were found 2/15 (DCT). The only report of **Snow Bunting** was of 6 in WP 2/9 (BM, NW). **Common Redpolls** were observed first at VF 12/18 (NV), after which flocks were seen at feeders through the end of the reporting period (DA, CH, BM, JS, TN). **Pine Siskins** were first reported north of Montrose 1/1 (LC) and subsequently were observed frequently throughout *Susquehanna* until the end of the period.

Observers: **Rob Blye, 300 Sanatoga Road, Pottstown, PA 19465, (610) 327-2010, rwbye@comcast.net**, Dave Andres, Jim Borden, Edmund Burdick, Logan Carlton, Brett Hagstrom, Carl Hagstrom, Evan Mann, Bruce McNaught, Tom Norville, Win Schaeffer, Jerry Skinner, Joyce Stone, Dave and Cheryl Tarbox (DCT), Nancy VanCott, Nancy Wottrich.

Tioga County

No compiler.

Union County

No compiler.

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Franklin Wastewater Treatment Plant (FWTP), Kahle Lake (KL), Samuel Justus Bike Trail (SJBT).

Record cold temperatures and plenty of snow dominated the weather during January and February. The species count for the season was 74. There were 19 eBird contributors, 12 of whom participated in the GBBC. With Lake Erie 95% ice-covered, large numbers of waterfowl began moving into open water along the AR. With that exception, there were few highlights.

Twenty-one species of waterfowl were reported. Several **Gadwalls** were at KL 12/26-28 (GE, JS); the only **Northern Shoveler** was also at KL 12/3 (JS). Unexpectedly, 2 **Green-winged Teal** spent most of the season on the AR near the FWTP. At least 125 **Canvasbacks**, 95 **Redheads**, and 50 **Lesser Scaup** were counted on the AR along the SJBT 2/20 (GE). One **White-winged Scoter** was seen along SJBT 2/24 (GE, JW) and a **Long-tailed Duck** was on the AR at Oil City 12/26-28 (RS).

The only record of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** came from McFate Rd. 12/28 (GK, MAK). A **Winter Wren** was at Oil Creek S.P. 12/26-28 (KG, JS). As usual, **American Tree Sparrow** numbers were moderate. The most surprising record was a **Chipping Sparrow** that regularly visited a feeder in Oil City throughout the entire period (MK, NK). One **Common Redpoll** was seen at a feeder 2/15 (ND). The winter finch invasion was limited to **Pine Siskins**; numbers fluctuated widely with none reported at some feeders and up to 25 or more regularly visiting other feeders.

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Terri Fiely, Kathie Goodblood, Jeff Hall, Judy Hey, Mary Alice Koeneke, Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick, Glenn Koppel, Michael Leahy, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Nancy McWilliams, Richard Nugent, Janice Osten, Beryl Schmitt, Jerry Stanley, Jim Wilson, Carole Winslow.

Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Charleroi Locks and Dam (CLD), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Hillman State Park (HSP), Peters Township (PET), Robinson Township (RBT), Timber Lake in Peters Township (TL), Washington Cemetery (WCEM), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

It was another atrocious winter in southwestern Pennsylvania, with Pittsburgh logging the fourth-coldest February in its history. Like last year, beginning in January the cold concentrated birds and birders around what little open water there was available, which in *Washington*, for the most part, means portions of the Monongahela River and the AMD pond on Hahn Road, North Strabane Twp.

A **Cackling Goose** was on the Mon at New Eagle with 50 **Canada Geese** 1/28 (RI). Another was at AMD 2/12-23 (GG, et al.). Top counts of **Canada Goose** were 400 at R4 on 1/7 (RI) just before the deep freeze kicked in, 419 at AMD 2/1 (AK), and 536 at AMD 2/15 (AK). A **Wood Duck** was at WCEM 12/20 (PB, LC) during the Washington CBC, and it or another was still there 1/13 (RR). A **Gadwall** was at AMD 1/8-11 (RI, et al.) and likely the same bird was seen a few times through 2/1. Another was at R4 on 2/4 (RI) and one was at CLD 2/18 (RI). One **American Black Duck** was at WCEM 12/20 (PB, LC) and 5 were at a pond in Ginger Hill 1/4 (RI) before it froze. One or two were seen about daily at AMD from 2/14 to the end of Feb (m.ob.). Lastly 3 were at CLD 2/3 (RI). Top count of **Mallard** was 230 at AMD 2/28 (AK). A **Northern Shoveler** was at AMD 1/8-18 (RI, et al.) and one or two were there 2/12-27 (GG, et al.). A **Green-winged Teal** was very late at R4 on 1/7 (RI). Counts of up to 15 **Canvasback** were made at AMD (MV, et al.) and CLD (RI) in late Feb. A male **Redhead** was seen daily at AMD 1/8-2/22 (RI, et al.) and 4 were there 2/25 (GG). Up to 5 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at Ginger Hill 12/29-1/4 (RI) and 2 were at R4 on 2/4 (RI), surprising for mid-winter. **Greater Scaup** was at Ginger Hill 1/4 (RI) and at New Eagle 1/28 and 2/3 (RI). **Lesser Scaup** were a bit more in evidence, with reports at Ginger Hill 12/29-1/4 (RI), R4 on 2/4 (RI), and CLD in late Feb (RI). **Bufflehead** was noted only at Monongahela 2/3 (RI) and CLD 2/18-25 (RI). **Common Goldeneye** was noted at four locations including a female at AMD 1/15 (ph. MJ), where the species is decidedly unexpected. **Hooded Merganser** lingered at Ginger Hill and AMD to 1/8 when the freeze forced them out; next report was 2/26 at AMD (RR). Six **Common Mergansers** were at AMD 2/19-22 (MJ, et al.). They were fairly well reported on the Mon River in late Feb, including a count of 12 at CLD 2/25 (RI). Up to 5 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at CLD 2/25-28 (RI, MJ). **Ruddy Duck** persisted at a few locations until the last 4 were noted at R4 on 1/7 (RI). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were at California 2/4 (JB), significant considering the conditions. The only report of **Horned Grebe** was one at New Eagle 2/13 (RI).

Five **Turkey Vultures** over Washington 2/8 (LC) were part of a small incursion of scouts around sw. Pennsylvania in early Feb. Another was over CL 2/18 (RT). Reports of **Bald Eagle** were one at Cross Creek County Park 12/14 (ST), one at AMD 1/11 (MV), and one at CL 2/9 (GG). **Northern Harrier** was in place at RBT for most of the winter (MV, ST, DY). A **Rough-legged Hawk** at Ginger Hill 12/29 (RI) was early compared to most rough-legs in southern Pennsylvania this season. Another Rough-leg was noted on a WRS 2/8 (GG). Last **American Coots** to be found before the freeze up were at Ginger Hill 1/4 and R4 on 1/7, and 2 were at CLD 2/3 (all RI).

Washington partook in a very small way in the gull invasion that hit the Pittsburgh area this season. The most productive spot was CLD which was frequently checked (RI). Max counts for **Ring-billed Gull** and **Herring Gull** were 20 and 35, respectively, both on 2/13. Those are certainly modest counts, but significant in the context of *Washington's* gull-free history, especially the Herrings. Most significant of all was the county's first **Great Black-backed Gull**, a first cycle bird found 2/13 (RI). Another was there 2/28 (MJ). A few more rare gulls were at CLD in March and will be included in the spring report.

Short-eared Owls were in place alongside the harriers in RBT, with reports through at least 1/13 (RI, MV, et al.). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen near GCW 12/19 (AT) during the Washington CBC. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at WCEM through Dec at least (RT, MJ, PB, LC)

and one was in PET 12/21 (GG). **Merlin** was noted at WCEM 12/7 (RT, MJ) and again 2/4 (RI). It was probably present all winter.

A **Northern Shrike** was stumbled upon in RBT 1/11 (AP) when the observer had taken a wrong turn and got a bit lost—a case of wrong place, right time? A **Common Raven** was noted in a PET neighborhood 1/12 (GG), a new location for the species. Two were at California 2/15-23 (AT) and one was seen over I-79 at the Meadowlands 2/18 (RT). Large flocks of **Horned Larks** (up to 150) were noted along Parkview Drive near Cross Creek County Park in Dec (AT) and Feb (RI, GM) but no buntings or longspurs could be found among them. Up to 7 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at WCEM in Dec (PB, LC) and one was heard at HSP 2/13 (GM). **Hermit Thrush** was also at HSP 1/4 (DY, MW, ST) and 2 were there 2/13 (GM). A nice count of 55 **Cedar Waxwings** was made at HSP 1/4 (DY, MW) and one was still there 2/13 (GM). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at four locations through 2/13 (m.ob.). A **Chipping Sparrow** visited a Washington feeder all winter and was joined by 2 others 1/20 (RI). A **Swamp Sparrow** was at HSP 1/4 (DY, MW), and wintering **White-crowned Sparrows** were in place at GCW 12/19 (AT). A **Brown-headed Cowbird** was at a feeder in East Findlay Twp. 1/28 (PH) and a flock of 40, surely early migrants, were at the same feeder 2/6 (PH). Up to 6 **Purple Finches** were at a PET feeder through Jan, and an orange-variant **House Finch** was also there 1/8 (GG). Quite unexpected in this non-irruption year was a **White-winged Crossbill** at WCEM 12/4 (PB). **Pine Siskin** was at a PET feeder 1/12 and 1/30 (GG).

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Wayne County

No compiler.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Bushy Run State Park (BRSP), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Spring Lake (ESL, also known as Derry Lake), Latrobe Reservoir (LR, also known as Trout Run Reservoir), Loyalhanna Dam (LD), St. Vincent Lake and Wetlands (SVL), Trees Mill (TM), Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT).

Perhaps as a result of the cold winter, and the especially cold February, there were relatively few waterfowl. They were either not reported, found only on the open waters of the Allegheny R. (the *Westmoreland/Allegheny* border), or simply in low numbers. Another reflection of the cold was that many late-season reports of waterfowl were made at Ethel Springs Lake (better known as Derry Lake), where a fountain helps to maintain open water. Two CBCs were conducted during the season; the 40th Bushy Run Count 12/28, compiled by Dick Byers, and the Rector Count 12/27, compiled by Larry Long. Despite the cold, birders were out and eBird reports were substantial.

A rarity for *Westmoreland*, a **Greater White-fronted Goose** was with 11 **Snow Geese** (8 white and 3 blue) at ESL 1/10 (SG). A slightly higher count of 14 Snow Geese (12 white and 2 blue) were at the same location 1/17 (PF). Earlier in the season 4 Snow Geese were reported at SVL 11/30 (TV). Well documented with photographs, 2 **Cackling Geese** were at SVL 12/7 (MM). The highest-count of the many reports for **Canada Geese** was 580 at SVL 2/27 (DY, LY, MY). A tagged **Trumpeter Swan** was photographed at ESL 1/15 (LH). The high count of 13 **Tundra Swans** was made at LR 1/17 (PF).

The only **Wood Duck** was at SVL 12/7 (MM). Three **Gadwalls** were at LR 12/28 (AC) and 3 were at BRR 12/27 (KB). Among a number of high counts for this species, 51 **American Black Ducks** were floating in Loyalhanna Cr., observed from a bridge near Loyalhanna Dam 1/10 (JK, TK). That total was matched on the last day of the season at ESL (KB). Obviously common, an estimated 400 **Mallards** at BRR 12/20 (MM) was nevertheless still impressive. There were no reports for American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler and Blue-winged Teal. There were a number of reports of **Northern Pintail**, however none greater than the 3 at ESL 1/10 (SG) and again 2/27 (DY, LY). There were only two reports for **Green-winged Teal**; one at BRR 11/7 (KB) and 2 at ESL 1/4 (MM). Twelve **Canvasbacks** were on the Allegheny R. 2/21 (SG); the next highest count was of 4 at ESL 2/28 (KB). Of the many Jan and Feb reports for **Redhead** at ESL, the high was 12 on 2/7 (DM). There were 2 **Greater Scaup** at ESL 2/9 (MH/RH) and one

Lesser Scaup at BRR 12/18 (KB). One **Long-tailed Duck** was on the Allegheny R. 1/21 (SG). The best **Bufflehead** count after New Year's Day was just 3 on 2/20 (DY, LY). One **Common Goldeneye** was at ESL 2/13 (DY, LY). As usual there were many reports of **Hooded Merganser** at BRR, ESL, and LR. There were 120 **Common Mergansers** at BRR 12/28 (DM) and 124 at the Loyalhanna Lake Bush Recreation Area 2/9 (MH, RH). A bit unusual for this species, 75 Common Mergansers were seen in flight in a farm area between New Alexandria and Crabtree 12/28 (AC, KJ). One **Red-breasted Merganser** was at ESL 2/6 (DY) and again 2/7 (MJ).

There were several reports of **Pied-billed Grebe** at BRR, with a high of 5 on 12/13-14 (MM). The high count for **Horned Grebe** was a report of 4 on 11/27 (KB). Among several reports logged during the season, 2 **Great Blue Herons** were observed along an ice-free Loyalhanna Creek 1/10 LD (JK, TK).

Once again both vulture species over-wintered in the Ligonier Valley. Kettling above Ruthie's Restaurant on Rte. 30 in Ligonier were 9 **Turkey Vultures** and 7 **Black Vultures** 1/31 (JK, TK). A high count of 12 Black Vultures occurred near Ligonier 2/4 (TA). Both species were tallied on the 12/27 Rector CBC. A single adult **Bald Eagle** was soaring about the Westmoreland Heritage Bike trail near Trees Mills 12/7 (KB, JK, TK). Likely the BRR nesting pair, 2 adult Bald Eagles were photographed together 12/14 (MM). Two Bald Eagles were unsuccessful at fishing at Keystone State Park 12/27 (KJ). Three were observed from the bridge near the Loyalhanna Dam 1/10 (JK, TK). The high count for the season was 8 at LD 2/9 (MH, RH). An early afternoon trip to the grocery store made for a four-raptor day in Murrysville 11/28 (TK). A male **Northern Harrier** was working the hay fields along Kemerer Hollow Rd. and a **Cooper's Hawk** was spotted on Cline Hollow Rd. **Red-tailed Hawks** were seen on Cline Hollow Rd. and on Kemerer Hollow Rd. And finally, at her customary spot along Kemerer Hollow Rd., a single female **American Kestrel** was perched on a telephone wire. A male harrier was flying over the hay fields of Italy Rd. 1/22 and likely the same bird was observed again 1/27 at the same location (JK). A single harrier was at SVL on both 12/4 and 1/1 (DY, LY, MY). One **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported on Loyalhanna Dam Rd. 2/9 (MH/RH). One Cooper's Hawk was at BRSP 1/21 (MM). Perhaps the same bird heard several times earlier in the season, a juv. **Red-shouldered Hawk** made the first of several visits during the season to a perch above the feeders at the Kuehl Property in Murrysville 1/27 (JK, TK). Similarly, a Red-shouldered Hawk visited a yard in Murrysville during the season (MJS). At a wetland area, a Red-shouldered Hawk flew over Old William Penn Highway near Cappa's Beer Distributorship in Delmont 1/22 (JK). True to form, numerous Red-tailed Hawks were observed on the three WRS routes (TK, JK). One **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed in Delmont 12/10 (KB) and another was at Fry Farm Rd. 12/19 (NW).

There were numerous reports **American Coots** at ESL during Jan and Feb, with the high count 2/8 (AM). A **Sandhill Crane** was at SVL 12/13 (TV) and 12/20 (DY). Three **Wilson Snipe** were seen at a farm outside of Delmont 1/21 (KB). There were 30 **Ring-billed Gulls** and one **Herring Gull** at the Loyalhanna Lake Bush Recreation Area 2/9 (MH, RH).

The high count of **Mourning Doves** from reports at the Kuehl feeders for Cornell Lab of Ornithology Project FeederWatch was 42 on 12/14 (JK, TJ). **Great Horned Owls** were found in different locations in the Delmont area 12/14 and 1/25 (KB). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was calling at the KP 12/27 (TK). The only report of **Short-eared Owl** was of one harassed in flight by 2 **American Crows** in the Ligonier Valley 12/12 (TV). At least one **Belted Kingfisher** remained into Jan, reported in TM 1/20 (KB).

One **Red-headed Woodpecker** was recorded on the Rector CBC 12/27 (AC). Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were in TM 11/3 and one was in Delmont 2/22 (both KB). Four fly-by **Pileated Woodpeckers** were a delight doing the Slickville WRS route 1/17 (TJ, JK).

Two **American Kestrels** were in appropriate habitat on Mellon Rd. in Murrysville and another was in Harrison City 1/27 (JK). One **Merlin** was photographed at the Sewickley Wetlands near Youngwood 12/6 (MJ) and another was in Latrobe 1/4 (NW). The Tarentum Bridge **Peregrine Falcon** pair was observed at that location while PennDot workers placed a nest box on the bridge 2/27 (MVT).

A late **Eastern Phoebe** was in TM 11/3 (KB). Among several lower elevation reports, 2 **Common Ravens** were in Delmont 11/13 (KB) and one was at the Rte. 66 and Rte. 22 interchange 2/22 (TK). The Crabtree farm area is a prime winter location for **Horned Larks**; 12 were there 1/24 (PF). Not always reported in winter, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at BRSP 2/17 and 2/19 (MM). One **Winter Wren** was in the Mt. Pleasant area 1/27 (TA). On a frigid zero-degree day, a nice flock of roughly a dozen **American Robins** descended upon a Winterberry Holly bush at the Kuehl Property in Murrysville. Thirty-eight **Cedar Waxwings**, the high for the season, were in Delmont 11/8 (KB). A nice flock of 17 was at BRR on Bushy Run Christmas Count Day 12/28 (JK, TK). An apparently over-wintering **Pine Warbler** was photographed at BRSP 1/6, continuing until at least 1/21 (MM).

A flock of 10 **American Tree Sparrows** were in Ringertown 12/21 (KB). A high count for early in the season, 14 **White-throated Sparrows** were in Delmont 1/5 (KB) and 14 were at the Kuehl Property feeders 2/14 (JK, TK). In the farm area around Crabtree, a prime winter location for **White-crowned Sparrows**, a high count of 19 was made 2/9 (MH, RH). There were 2 **Swamp Sparrows** along the WHT 2/11 (KB). A lingering **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at feeders in Stahlstown 12/17 (DB). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were among a remarkable estimated 700 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** during the Bushy Run CBC between New Alexandria and Crabtree 12/28 (AC, KJ).

One male **Purple Finch** and one female Purple Finch visited the feeders at the Kuehl Property 12/10 and 12/1, respectively. A high count of 25 **House Finches** was tallied in Delmont 12/25 (KB). Two **Pine Siskins** were on the thistle-feeder at the Kuehl Property 1/27 (JK); later sightings were always of a single bird. On several Jan days, there were up to 4 Pine Siskins at feeders in Murrysville (MJS). At another feeder in Murrysville, siskins increased to a high of 30 (DM). The high count of **American Goldfinches** was a flock of 58 in Delmont 1/22 (KB).

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Wyoming County

Locations: Lake Carey (LC), Oxbow Lake (OL), Sordoni's Farm (SF), Riverside Park (RP), Lazybrook Park (LP), Scottsville Road (SR), Vosburgh Neck (VN).

It was a fairly typical winter in *Wyoming*, with a few exceptions. First, late icing of Lake Carey and Oxbow Lake kept some of the migrants a bit longer than many years. For example, **Common Mergansers** and **Hooded Mergansers** were present at LC in particular in larger numbers than in many past Decembers. Far more exciting to locals was the large number of **Bald Eagles** around LC for much of December. "Have you been to the lake to see all the eagles?" was an oft-asked question, and lots of folks were quite excited. Many people had the opportunity to see and, perhaps, photograph, as many as 12 Bald Eagles at a time, over a period of several weeks. During the Tunkhannock CBC, one resident observed 3 adult and 9 imm. eagles harassing the mergansers on the lake. CBC observers recorded a record 27 Bald Eagles, compared to 6 in 2013 and 8 in 2012. The CBC 12/14 tallied 71 species and 7518 individuals, near the twelve-year averages of 68 and 8272.

Thirteen **Tundra Swans** were at LC 12/31 (JH). This was apparently a short stopover, as they were not seen the next day. Four **Gadwall**s were at LC 12/8 (JB). Two **American Wigeons** were also at LC 12/8 (JB) and 3 were recorded during the CBC, uncommon for the count. There were also 2 **Northern Shovelers** reported during the CBC, rare for the count; in addition, there were 2 at LC 12/30 (JD) and a single bird was there 1/1 (JH). The 12/14 CBC recorded 8 **Northern Pintails**, the highest ever and the only report for the period. Four **Ring-necked Ducks** were at LC 12/4 and 4 were at OL 12/23 (JD). The CBC produced 2 ring-necks. Two **Buffleheads** were at OL 12/7, two were found for the CBC, and another was at OL 12/30 (JD). A single **Red-breasted Merganser** was present at LC 12/23 and 12/30 (JD). Twelve **Ruddy Ducks** were at LC 12/23 (JD) and one was at OL 12/30 (JD); two were tallied for the CBC, uncommon for the count.

A **Common Loon** visited the river near Tunkhannock 12/31 (JD), the only report. One **Horned Grebe** was at LC 12/9-23 (JD); two provided a rare record for the CBC 12/14. Another species of note for the CBC was **Ring-necked Pheasant**, of which 5 were found, the highest total ever for that count.

A **Rough-legged Hawk** was recorded 2/21 and again 2/22 at SF (JH), the most reliable spot for this species in *Wyoming*. Three other counts that stood out for the CBC were 4 **Barred Owls** (uncommon), 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** (rare), and 2 **Long-eared Owls** (rare).

A record 6 **Hermite Thrushes** were recorded during the CBC. **Fish Crows** were reported twice, once during the CBC and a single bird at LC 1/1 (JH). Seventy-five **Horned Larks** were at the county line north of Meshoppen 1/8 (JD), a regular location for the species, and a single was at SF 12/2 (JD). An estimated 30 **Snow Buntings** were recorded along Wilson Road, near the *Bradford* line 12/14 (JB), rare for the CBC. **Pine Siskins** were recorded a number of times during Dec and at a number of locations; the largest flock of 88 was present for a short time along Sugar Hollow Rd.

just south of Tunkhannock 1/13 (JD). The only **Common Redpoll** was at KC 2/19 (JS).

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York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd (ALT), Codorus State Park (CSP), Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), York Christmas Bird Count (YCBC), York Springs Christmas Bird Count (YSCBC).

This winter's count of 118 species and one hybrid was on the high side. The YCBC 12/20, compiled by Bernie Frick, had mixed results. The species count of 75 was low, but new high counts were established for **Northern Pintail** (8), **Hooded Merganser** (53), **Pied-billed Grebe** (16), **Winter Wren** (5), **Hermite Thrush** (15), and **Eastern Towhee** (13). The county's small portion of the Southern Lancaster County CBC on the lower Susquehanna R. 12/21 saw totally calm conditions and essentially no waterfowl or gull activity. The tri-county YSCBC 12/29, compiled by Vern Gauthier, found 65 species on the *York* portion. One of the highlights was an overall count of 22 **Great Horned Owls** with 11 found in *York*.

There were 32 species and one hybrid waterfowl reported. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was resting on the shore at Long Level 2/18 (AWO). **Snow Geese** were found in all months but reports were limited. The high count was a flight of 60 over Airville 1/31 (DC). A pair of **Ross's Geese** was at LAR 12/14 (AW) along with a single **Cackling Goose**. Additional single Cackling Geese were at LAR 1/24 (DC) and at LR 1/29 (DC).

A pair of **Wood Ducks** was found on the YSCBC and two reports came during the record cold Feb: a pair at CSP 2/10 (DN) and one at Lake Lea 2/26 (DN). A likely **Eurasian x American Wigeon** was found in a gathering of **American Wigeons** and **Redheads** at CSP 2/18 (DC). **American Black Ducks** were well reported with 7 of the 11 sightings coming in Dec. Relatively uncommon, a **Long-tailed Duck** was at CSP 1/23 (AW) and a pair was found 2/3 (DC). Likewise, **Common Goldeneyes** are not frequently found but a single was at Shepperd-Myers Reservoir 12/19 (AW) and a pair was at CSP 2/18 (DC). There were 6 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at LAR 12/6 (PO) and a single was at CSP 1/27 (PK).

A **Red-necked Grebe** was at CSP 2/3 (DC). The highlight of the season was a very rare Jan sighting of an **Eared Grebe** at CSP 1/23-28 (AW, m.ob.), one of only a handful of Jan sightings for the state. The bird was well photographed (AW) and the bird called as well.

There were five reports of **Ring-necked Pheasant** and 13 of **Wild Turkey**. Some good turkey counts were 20 at Fawn Grove 2/13 (DCh) and 50 in the Jefferson area 1/24 (DC). Ben Franklin's lobbying efforts for the wild turkey as our national bird are well documented but the viewership of a PGC live stream video of CSP's nesting **Bald Eagles** suggests our national bird is well regarded and very popular. Through the second of two egg-hatchings on 3/26 there had been 11.8 million views in 190 countries. Additionally, this pair has been featured on national television. **Northern Harriers** were good with 13 reports (m.ob.). **Rough-legged Hawk** singles were at LAR and Kralltown 2/3 (DC, PK) and at ALT 2/7-28 (DF, PK).

Highlights among gulls at Wrightsville included a **Black-headed Gull** 1/24 (IG, AL, JL), a pair of **Iceland Gulls** and a **Glaucous Gull** 2/4 (RS), and **Great Black-backed Gulls** 1/17-2/28 (m. ob.), with a high count of 60 on 2/4 (RS). Kline's Run Park held a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 1/25 (HP) and a **Great Black-backed Gull** 1/31 (EH). Long Level produced 47 **Great Black-backed Gulls** 2/14 (CE).

Two to 5 **Short-eared Owls** were at ALT for most of the period (DC). The six reports of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** from all corners of the county suggested more widespread overwintering than normal. All expected woodpecker species continued to be reported in excellent numbers. A trip to Brunner Island resulted in a nice count of 5 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** 1/4 (DC). A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** continues to winter in the Hanover area with a water tower as a favored perch. This pair continues to be present in Dec and Jan but is usually absent in Feb, as was the case this year (JS).

Dec produced the only two sightings of **Eastern Phoebe**, at LR 12/18 (DN) and on the YSCBC. The four reports of **Common Raven** (DC, ME,

CK, ML, AM) were fairly typical in light of the recent trend. The 10 reports of **Horned Lark** were paced by a flock numbering up to 100 at Craley for most of the period (DC). As is typical, there was skewed reporting of **Black-capped Chickadee** during the GBBC period 2/13-16. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at Lewisberry 12/20 (EB), at Fairview Twp 12/29 (BN, DN), at Saginaw 12/31 (DN), and North Codorus Twp. 2/16 (DS). The 20 reports of **Brown Creeper** and 18 reports of **Winter Wren** were abnormally high. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** reports peaked in Dec but were found in all months. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were not found in Feb.

The aforementioned high count for **Hermit Thrush** on the YCBC was reflective of overwintering frequency as 21 sightings spanned the period. A **Gray Catbird**, a rare overwintering species, was at LR/LW throughout the period (CK). **Brown Thrashers** were found along Niles Rd. 2/2 (CM) and at Nixon County Park 2/22 (PE). The only **American Pipits** were 2 at Wrightsville 1/27-28 (DC, AWo).

Eastern Towhees were present all months. The YCBC produced 4 **Chipping Sparrows**. **Savannah Sparrows** included 3 on the YCBC, a bird at ALT 12/26 (DF), and a nice count from Dillsburg of 10 birds 1/13 followed by a trio 2/20 (both ER). There were six reports of **Fox Sparrow** spanning all months (CB, EB, DC, PE, CK). **Swamp Sparrows** were also well reported with the YCBC's 11 birds the high count among ten reports.

A mixed flock of 3000 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 5000 **Common Grackles** was at ALT 2/18 (PK). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found only at ALT 12/26-2/20 (m.ob.) with a high count of 18 on 12/26 (DF). A **Rusty Blackbird** was sighted in North Codorus Twp. 12/15 (DS), one was at Airville 2/14 (CF), and a pair was at New Freedom 2/9 (CC).

Reports of **Purple Finch**, like Black-capped Chickadee, were heavily skewed towards the GBBC period. However, a very nice high count of 19 came from Gifford Pinchot State Park 1/1 (TN). A single **Common Redpoll** paid a visit to a North Codorus Twp. backyard 2/12 (CB). **Pine Siskin** movement was detected early in the period, but then they were absent until 1/28. They were frequently reported in Feb (m.ob.) with high counts at Dillsburg of up to 80 birds 2/12-22 (GK).

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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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For articles, the Microsoft Office suite (any version) is preferred; however we will accept any popularly used format, or plain text. Please email written materials in an attached document in its original source format (i.e., no PDF files, please).

Digital photos or scanned image files sent for consideration should be in JPG format and resized down to 600-1200 pixels on the longer axis (if the source file is larger than these dimensions), and compressed to no larger than 250kB. Larger files will be requested by the editor if necessary. Submitted photos may be cropped or adjusted for color, brightness, or contrast as the editor sees fit without notice to the photographer. When submitting by email, all files should be sent as attachments—DO NOT embed pictures or documents within the email body. Photos with copyright or signature text visible in the image will not be accepted. Photographers will be acknowledged in the photo caption.

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IN FOCUS



*Barnacle Geese, Weir Lake, Monroe County. See p. 65.
(Photo by Alex Lamoreaux)*



*Kelp Gull, Duck Hollow, Allegheny County. See pp. 4 and 42.
(Photo by Jeff Cohen)*



*Crested Caracara, Pike Township, Berks County. See p. 45.
(Anonymous photographer)*



*Snowy Owl, Gull Point, Erie County. See p. 57.
(Photo by Geoff Malosh)*



*Harris's Sparrow, Koch farm, Northampton County. See p. 67.
(Photo by Anthony Uhrich)*