

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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Do you know there are *Pennsylvania Birds* county compilers who have been faithfully writing seasonal reports for thirty years? Beginning with Volume One from 1987, at least four compilers are still reporting, and one other has just recently passed his county responsibilities on to his successor – read on to see who these remarkable folks are.

Beginning with Geoff Malosh's last few issues as editor and continuing into this issue, nearly a dozen counties have new compilers, in a few cases providing coverage for counties that have not had a compiler for years.

Let me start with two counties where retiring compilers have been working since Volume 1, Number 1. One of the two veterans is **Ronald Leberman** in *Crawford*. His last report was for spring season 2015 (Vol. 29, #1). His replacement is **Rob Hodgson** of Meadville, who is really not a rookie - his report in the current issue is his fifth. A bit to the southeast, *Indiana's* **Margaret Higbee** has been doing not one but two counties since 1987. Margaret continues compiling her home county but she has turned *Armstrong* over to **Marjorie Van Tassel** of Vandergrift, whose first report is in the current issue.

In south central Pennsylvania, three long time compilers have stepped aside. In *Dauphin*, **Richard Williams** began compiling with Vol. 7 in 1993. His last report was the spring season of 2015, Vol. 29. (For many years, Richard also compiled *Snyder*, turning that county over to **Jason Weller** in 2014). In *Dauphin*, **Sue Hannon** stepped in for one issue until a permanent compiler was found: **Annette Mathes** of Harrisburg. Annette's first report was in the most recent winter issue.

Side-by-side *Franklin* and *Fulton* both have new compilers. In *Franklin*, **Dale Gearhart** started with Vol. 12 in 1998; many of you also know Dale as long time compiler for the Tuscarora hawk watch on the *Franklin/Fulton* county line. Dale's replacement, beginning with this issue, is **Bill Oyler** of Chambersburg. In *Fulton*, **Dan Snell** started with Vol. 10 in 1996. Dan has moved to Tennessee. Stepping in for Dan is **Amy Evans** whose first report was in the recent winter issue. Amy lives in *Lancaster*, but her roots are in the Needmore area of *Fulton*.

**Nan Butkovich** has been doing double duty in *Centre* and *Blair* for several years. She is still doing *Centre* but has passed the *Blair* position to **Mark Bonta** whose first report is in the current issue. Mark lives in Bellefonte, *Centre*, but is a native of *Blair* and in fact, his mother **Marcia Bonta** served previously served as *Blair* compiler. Yet another compiler covering two counties the last few years has been **Dave Gobert**, reporting from his home *Cambria*, which he continues, and also *Clearfield*. The latter county is now in the hands of **Diane Bierly** of State College, whose first *Clearfield* report was in the recent winter issue.

Two heavily forested northern counties that have had little coverage over the years are now in the hands of **Brandyn Baptiste** of Butler. Brandyn started with *Elk*, his first report being fall 2015. To that duty, he has added next-door *Cameron*, the first report of which is in the current issue.

Finally, in the far northeast, two new compilers jumped in beginning with the recent winter issue. **Evan Mann**, of Montrose, takes over for **Rob Blye** in *Susquehanna*. **Josh Jones** is now reporting in neighboring *Wayne* which has not been covered since **Chris Fischer** stepped down in 2014.

In other editorial news, I want to thank **Lewis Grove** for doing the photo work on our first issue. Beginning with the current issue, **Ted Nichols II** will take the reins as permanent photo editor. Please send photos directly to Ted at:

**pabirdsphotos@gmail.com**

Finally, back to my opening question. In addition to **Margaret Higbee**, three other compilers for Vol. 1 are still going: **Tom Dick** in *Bedford*, **Jerry McWilliams** in *Erie*, and **Gary Edwards** in *Venango*; and one more long-time contributor still writing is **Rudy Keller** in *Berks* who started with Vol. 2.

The continuing success of *Pennsylvania Birds* for thirty years is due in very large part to the largely unheralded efforts of the county compilers. Generally, we have reports from at least 50 counties in every issue, sometimes closer to 60.

County compilers as of August 2016: **Phil Keener** (Adams, York), **Mike Fialkovich** (Allegheny, Fayette),

**Marjorie Van Tassel** (Armstrong), **Geoff Malosh** (Beaver, Lawrence, Washington), **Tom Dick** (Bedford), **Rudy Keller** and **Matt Wlasniewski** (Berks), **Mark Bonta** (Blair), **Trudy Gerlach** (Bradford), **August Mirabella** (Bucks), **Oscar Miller** (Butler), **Dave Gobert** (Cambria), **Brendyn Baptiste** (Cameron, Elk), **Nan Butkovich** (Centre), **Holly Merker** (Chester), **Carole Winslow** (Clarion), **Diane Bierly** (Clearfield), **Wayne Laubscher** (Clinton), **Doug Gross** (Columbia), **Rob Hodgson** (Crawford), **Vern Gauthier** (Cumberland, Perry), **Annette Mathes** (Dauphin), **Brian Quindlen** (Delaware), **Jerry McWilliams** (Erie), **Flo McGuire** (Forest), **Bill Oyler** (Franklin), **Amy Evans** (Fulton), **Marjorie Howard** (Greene), **Greg Grove** (Huntingdon), **Margaret Higbee** (Indiana), **Thomas Glover** (Jefferson), **Chad Kauffman** (Juniata), **Pamela Fisher** (Lancaster), **Tim Becker** (Lebanon), **Bill Etter** (Lehigh), **Jonathan DeBalko** (Luzerne), **Dan Brauning** (Lycoming), **Neil Troyer** (Mercer), **Jon Kauffman** (Mifflin), **Brian Hardiman** (Monroe), **Brian Henderson** (Montgomery), **Michael Schall** (Northampton, Pike), **Dave Rieger** (Schuylkill), **Jason Weller** (Snyder), **Jeff Payne** (Somerset), **Rob Megraw** (Sullivan), **Evan Mann** (Susquehanna), **Gary Edwards** and **Russ States** (Venango), **Josh Jones** (Wayne), **Tom Kuehl** (Westmoreland), **Joe DeMarco** (Wyoming).

Greg Grove  
Editor-in-Chief  
gwg2@psu.edu

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# The Greater White-fronted Goose Invasion of 2016

Geoff Malosh

Pennsylvania saw an invasion of Greater White-fronted Geese beginning in early February 2016 that was unprecedented both in the number of locations they were sighted and in the sheer numbers of birds seen. By the end of the event, which extended into March in some locations, birds that were unambiguously part of the invasion had been seen in 18 counties. Including some southeastern counties that also reported white-fronts that were not necessarily invasion birds, they were found in 22 counties in the month of February (Table 1). Double-digit flocks were noted in 12 counties.

## The Invasion

The event was mostly a western Pennsylvania affair, but significant flocks of Greater White-fronted Geese also reached central Pennsylvania and *Berks*. Perhaps the earliest vanguard of the coming hordes were 4 birds shot by hunters near Bellefonte, *Centre* either in late January or early February. The earliest records with a definitive reported date began 2/2, when birders located 28 at the Hartstown Project, *Crawford*, 24 at Yellow Creek State Park, *Indiana*, and 25 at Beaver Run Reservoir, *Westmoreland*. Reports of double-digit flocks continued to pour in over the next several days, including 10 in *Allegheny* 2/6-7, 42 in *Armstrong* 2/14, 23 in *Berks* beginning 2/7, up to 13 in *Clinton* 2/10-13, 34 in *Fayette* 2/6-7, 26 in *Huntingdon* 2/6-18, 13 in *Lycoming* 2/20-24, and 17 in *Washington* 2/4-27. Most remarkable of all was the flock of up to 68 that appeared at Bald Eagle State Park, *Centre* 2/5 and was seen around that area through 2/9.

My own experience of this invasion began the morning of 2/5. I received word the previous night from Roy Ickes that a flock of white-fronted geese had been found in an area of rolling pastureland in north-central *Washington*. Reports of large flocks of white-fronted geese had already been coming in around the region for the past two days, and I had a hunch about these invading birds that I wanted to confirm for myself in the field. I suspected that these would all prove to be of the “tundra” population of Greater White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons frontalis*—more on this later. Roy and I both searched the area the morning of 2/5 and easily relocated the flock, which numbered a staggering 17. The birds, like several of these invading geese, stayed in place for several days (in some cases even weeks), to be enjoyed by many birders.

The 17 geese in *Washington* was indeed a staggering total, but it was easily surpassed by several flocks that appeared elsewhere in western and central Pennsylvania in early

February. In the end, no fewer than eight counties reported at least one flock of 20 birds or more. Sightings in two of those counties, however, really stood out from the rest.

The real hotspot in western Pennsylvania proved to be the Miller Ponds and Hartstown Project sections of *Crawford*'s Pymatuning area, where the first flock of 31 appeared as early as 2/2, and where up to 46 were noted all the way through 3/12. Considering the changing numbers in daily reports across that timespan, it's not unreasonable to suspect that some turnover was occurring among individual birds, and that other birds may have been using areas not easily visible from roadsides, sometimes gathering and Miller or Hartstown to be counted by happy birders, and sometimes roosting elsewhere. It's anyone's guess as to how many geese actually moved through the Pymatuning area in February and early March, but it was almost certainly more than 46.

Top honors overall, though, were taken by the remarkable flock of 68 that put down at Bald Eagle State Park, *Centre* 2/5, and remained there and nearby through 2/9 (Image 1). Easily the largest single flock noted during this invasion, it was also the second largest flock ever noted in Pennsylvania, and probably anywhere in the northeastern United States. (The largest number in Pennsylvania's history was a flock of 97 over Yellow Creek State Park, *Indiana* 11/6/1999. This was also very likely the largest flock ever seen anywhere in the northeastern U.S.)

Besides white-fronts, the leading edge of this invasion also brought great numbers of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese to western Pennsylvania. The first Ross's Goose appeared at the Hartstown Project, *Crawford* 2/5 where it was joined by up to three more 2/6-9. Another remarkable flock of 5 appeared at a gravel pond at New Beaver, *Lawrence* 2/6. Last in western Pennsylvania was one at Crooked Creek, *Armstrong* 2/15 that was relocated again nearby 2/20. Judging by the date, one bird at Somerset Twp., *Snyder* 2/8 may have been part of the invasion as well, rather than a “regular” winter sighting of Ross's that happen annually in the eastern half of the state.

Snow Geese showed quite impressively in western counties from 2/2-9. Top counts were up to 74 at the Millers Pond and Hartstown Project areas in *Crawford* 2/2-9, 32 in *Huntingdon* 2/3, and up to 29 in the Volant Strips area of *Lawrence* 2/6-7. Smaller counts ranging from one to 5 birds were also recorded in *Centre*, *Erie*, *Indiana*, *Mercer*, *Venango*, and *Washington* through 2/9. As is often the case when sizeable numbers of Snow Geese appear in western Pennsylvania in spring, a high percentage of the birds involved in this event were of the blue morph. For example, roughly half of the total in *Crawford* was



**Image 1.** Large flocks of Greater White-fronted Geese were a frequent sight in Pennsylvania during the goose invasion of 2016. These 24 birds at Bald Eagle State Park, *Centre* 7 February were part of a remarkable flock of 68, the largest flock of the event. (Nick Bolgiano)

estimated to be comprised of blue geese, and 13 of the 29 in *Laurence* were blue as well. Curiously, unlike some of the Greater White-fronted Geese, none of the Ross's or Snow Geese remained anywhere past 2/9, except the *Armstrong* Ross's.

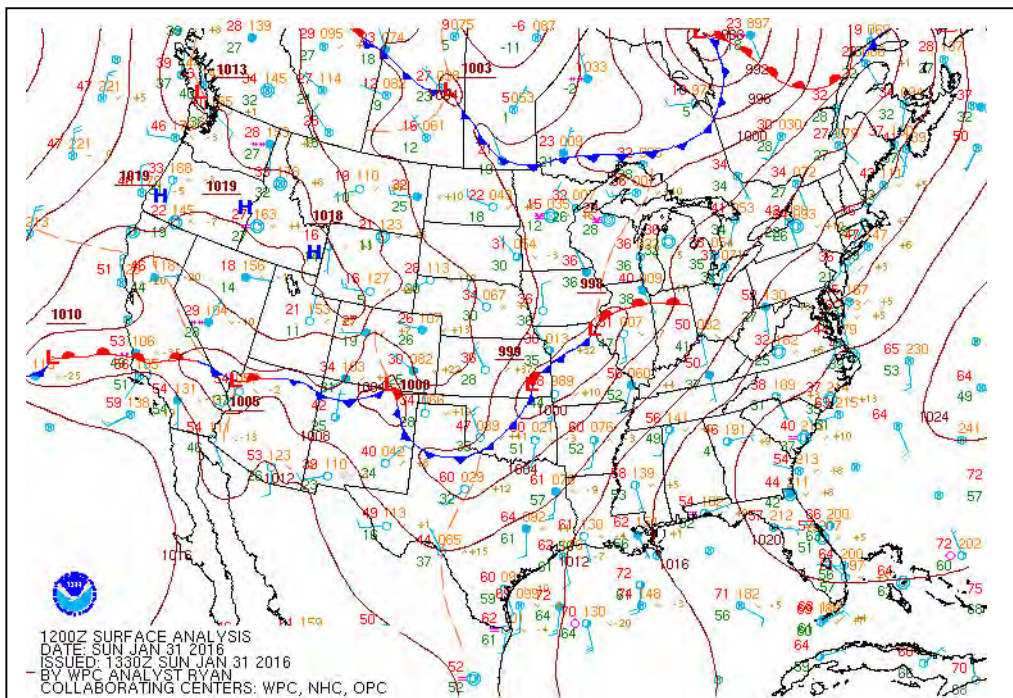
### Which subspecies?

Ten years ago, Cameron Rutt authored a comprehensive article in this journal about the history, status, and subspecies identification of Greater White-fronted Goose in Pennsylvania (Rutt, 2007) and readers are encouraged to read that article

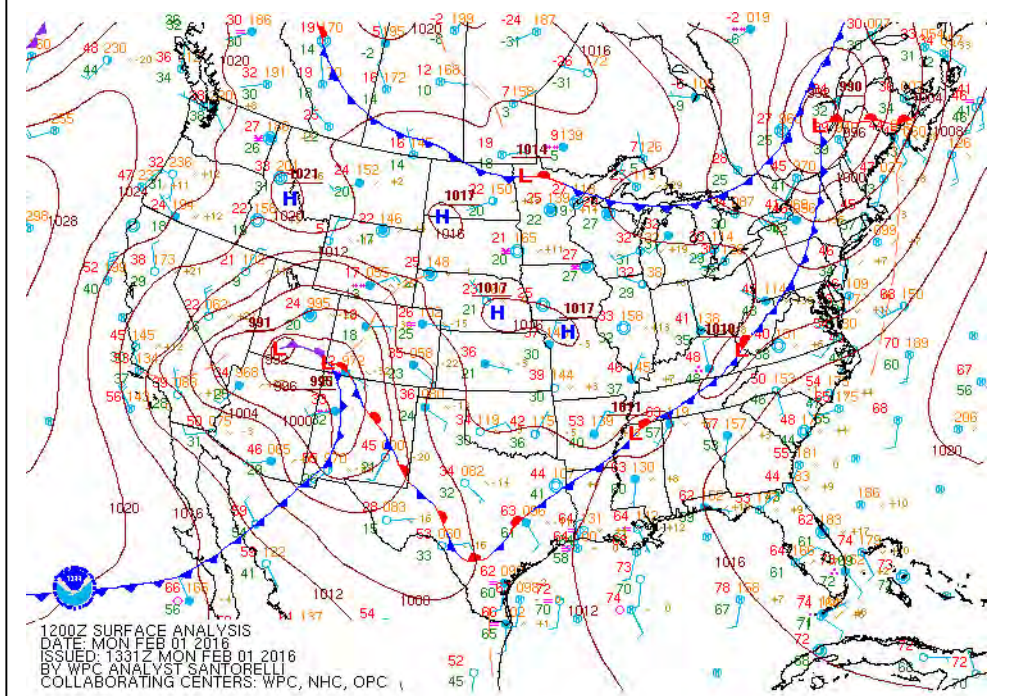
both as a refresher (or introduction) to the subject, and for its treatise on the history of the species in the state and region, which won't be reiterated here. Rutt's history of the species in Pennsylvania also clearly puts in context the colossal 2016 invasion. No other previous flight of this species in the state's history comes even close to the magnitude of 2016's. In fact no previous flight could even be seriously classified as an "invasion" in the first place—2016 was indeed the first "goose invasion" on record.

Rutt's article was inspired by his discovery of what appeared to be three "tundra" (*frontalis*) white-fronts at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* in December 2005. "Common knowledge" up to that time, and perhaps still today, is that most if not all of the Greater White-fronted Geese that appear in Pennsylvania, and indeed throughout the northeastern United States, were of the "Greenland" population, *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, not the North American-breeding *frontalis* population. This made Rutt's discovery remarkable—again, at least in the context of the going wisdom of the time.

Before continuing, it should be noted that the taxonomy of Greater White-fronted Goose subspecies is, in a word, a mess. Sibley (2011) offered a brief but concise review of the problem, not the least of which is the fact that anywhere from two (e.g., Ely and Dzubin, 1994), three (e.g., Pyle 2008), or four subspecies (e.g., Banks, 2011) are recognized among North American-breeding white-fronts by various authorities. I have already referred to the "tundra" population in this article as *frontalis*, as that is the most widely accepted name at the moment, but that group alone may itself be made up of three separate subspecies. *Flavirostris*, as its subspecific common name "Greenland" implies, breeds in Greenland and winters in Great Britain and Ireland, and is not much in question taxonomically. The *frontalis* population(s) breed across the Arctic tundra from the northwestern Hudson Bay west across northern Alaska, with some also in western Alaska. The sub-group of *frontalis* that Sibley refers to as the "mid-continent" birds, breeding from the Hudson Bay to northern Alaska, are the most abundant of the white-fronted goose populations. They winter, as one might suspect, in the mid-continent, from the Mississippi River valley south along the Texas coast and into Mexico. The western Alaska breeding populations of white-fronts, some of which are



**Figure 1.** U.S. surface map, 31 January 2016, 07:00 EST. Note developing low pressure system and warm front centered over the Oklahoma-Kansas border and a strong s. pattern over the Gulf Coast.



**Figure 2.** U.S. surface map, 1 February 2016, 07:00 EST. Just 24 hours later, this low pressure system has moved across the Great Lakes and is exiting toward the Canadian Maritimes. Sightings of Greater White-fronted Geese began in Pennsylvania the next day. (NWS Weather Prediction Center archives)

currently considered part of *frontalis* and one of which isn't (the "Tule Goose", *Anser albifrons elgasi*, breeding around the Cook Inlet, Alaska), also winter farther west in California and western Mexico. It was birds of the "mid-continent" population, whether they are called *frontalis* or something else, which surely were involved in Rutt's December 2005 sighting at Peace Valley, and indeed are almost certainly the population involved in any sighting of a non-Greenland Greater White-fronted Goose in Pennsylvania. For the remainder of this article, I will therefore dispense with the contestable scientific names of the North American birds, and simply refer to the two groups occurring in Pennsylvania as "mid-continent" and "Greenland".

As I alluded to near the outset, I had a strong hunch that these massive hordes that suddenly appeared in western Pennsylvania in early February 2016 were not going to prove to be Greenland birds. There were just too many of them, and they were all west of the Allegheny Front (at least at first). Additionally the timing of their appearance was perfect for mid-continent birds; those groups typically begin to leave their wintering grounds in Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana by early February and head for staging areas in the central Great Plains (Ely and Dzubin, 1994). Indeed, 30 January was the beginning of a protracted period of south or southwesterly winds in western Pennsylvania that persisted through about 7 February (NWS data for Pittsburgh). The actual triggering event for the invasion was likely a strong low pressure system that moved rapidly northeastward out of Texas across the western Great Lakes and into the Canadian Maritimes from 31 January to 1 February (NWS weather prediction center archives, Figures 1 and 2). This system likely swept some early departing Greater White-fronted, Snow, and Ross's geese into its strong southerly winds over Louisiana and Texas and subsequently pushed them off course into the northeast as the system moved rapidly in that direction. Instead of ending up in Nebraska and Kansas as they typically do, some birds were instead scattered eastward, including throughout western Pennsylvania.

### Another look at Pennsylvania's Greater White-fronted Geese

It is necessary here to summarize briefly the relevant field marks for separating mid-continent from Greenland Greater White-fronted Geese. More complete accounts are given in Rutt (2007) and Sibley (2008). The main points are that Greenland birds, compared to mid-continent birds, are larger and bulkier-headed and larger billed, their scapulars on average appear to have narrower edges and are less contrasting overall, and most importantly, their head and neck are a darker, richer brown than mid-continent birds. Of course, Greenland birds are also said to be orange-billed whereas mid-continent birds are pink-billed, and this is the feature that many Pennsylvania birders have zeroed in on for many years. It has also been suggested by Tony Fox (Rutt, 2007), perhaps the world's preeminent Greenland goose guru, that Greenland white-fronts tend to have less extensive white "fronts" than mid-continent birds.

I had long been suspecting that most, or perhaps even all, of the Greater White-fronted Geese that appear in western Pennsylvania were actually mid-continent birds, despite the going idea that Pennsylvania white-fronts were Greenland birds. That may well be true in the eastern half of the state (but more on that later, too), but I strongly doubted that it was true west of the Allegheny Front. My own interest in this topic began with the appearance of four Greater White-fronted Geese (alongside four Cackling Geese and four Snow Geese, two of which were white and two blue, in the same flock) in Findlay Twp. *Allegheny*, about 8 miles from my house, in very early January 2009. Those birds were part of a major influx of waterfowl into the upper Ohio Valley and Ontario around that time (Mann, 2009). This movement of waterfowl came on the strength of a strong warming pattern with persistent sw. winds

in our region during the last week of December 2008. This influx of birds was so noticeable that *North American Birds* compilers and editors went as far as dubbing it a "false spring" (Brinkley, 2009). At the time I realized that geese arriving on a southwest pattern at the odd time of very early January were almost certainly originating from interior North America, not the far northeast. Closer examination of the birds at Findlay Twp. revealed that they seemed to match all the characteristic features of mid-continent birds: light brown heads and necks, extensive fronts, contrasting scapulars (Image 2). But they did have what appeared to be primarily orange bills. Despite this, it was very difficult to imagine that a flock of four Greater White-fronted Geese appearing on southwest winds in the company of other migrant geese, including a characteristically "western" mixed group of white and blue Snow Geese, had originated from Greenland.



**Image 2.** Four Greater White-fronted Geese at Findlay Twp., *Allegheny* 6 January 2009. These birds, arriving on southwest winds and exhibiting features of mid-continent white-fronted geese, sparked the author's interest in determining the true status of Greater White-fronted Goose subspecies status in western Pennsylvania. (Geoff Malosh)

I began to examine other photos of Greater White-fronted Geese in western Pennsylvania, and found that all of them showed what appeared to be classic mid-continent birds (Images 3 and 4, for example). I could find no photo from western Pennsylvania to even begin considering as a potential Greenland white-front. I began to wonder if a Greenland bird had ever been definitively documented in western Pennsylvania, and I think the answer is probably no.

My thinking (and Sibley's too) is that birders rely too much on bill color alone in identifying Greenland birds. The basic shortcut people probably overuse in the field is "orange bill = Greenland goose". But certainly the situation is more complicated than that, not to mention that determining the exact color of any of a bird's bare parts (bill, legs, facial skin, etc.) can be surprisingly difficult sometimes, and can occasionally be the source of much disagreement among birders even standing right next to each other and looking at the same bird. Birders in western Pennsylvania are frequently quick to note that a Greater White-fronted Goose appears to be orange-billed, and thus perpetuate the notion that Greenland birds are involved. Now with the 2016 invasion at hand, here was an opportunity to watch large numbers of what were certainly not Greenland Greater White-fronted Geese side by side here in Pennsylvania, allowing easy study of variation between individuals and the effects of varying light on bill color.

Not surprisingly, I noticed immediately among the flock of 17 in *Washington* on 2/6 that several of the birds were obviously pink-billed. More importantly, there were also birds among the group that had predominantly orange bills (Image 5), and moreover the subtle ways that bill color of any particular

individual seemed to be affected by the ambient light, and the particular way that direct sunlight had of making the bills seem more orange, drove home the point that bill color certainly shouldn't be relied upon at all when attempting to determine the subspecies of a white-fronted goose in Pennsylvania. Examination of the many photos that had been submitted to eBird and elsewhere of the other large flocks of the 2016 invasion also revealed classic mid-continent birds, including the fact that the majority of them had obviously pink bills. At the prompting of a post I made to the PABIRDS listserv on this matter on 2/6, many other observers statewide also began to take a more critical look at these flocks, and all seemed to agree too that they were not Greenland birds, not even at the easternmost extremes of the invasion in *Berks* and *Tioga*.

So, it can be concluded with much confidence that the goose invasion of 2016 was North American in origin, and moreover I submit that any Greater White-fronted Goose that appears in Pennsylvania away from the southeast should be considered a mid-continent bird unless proven otherwise via the whole suite of Greenland field marks. But what of southeastern Pennsylvania's white-fronted geese?

There is no doubt that Greenland Greater White-fronted Geese occur in southeastern Pennsylvania. One of the very few recoveries of a banded or collared Greenland white-front in North America involved a bird collared at Wexford, Ireland in 1989 and subsequently seen again at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery* 7 December 1990 (Rutt, 2007; Sherony, 2008). Other sightings have been carefully documented as Greenland beyond the usual reliance on an orange bill. One good example of what appears to be a good Greenland bird is Image 6, photographed at Lake Kay, *Adams* on 1/22/2015, showing a dark, chocolate-colored neck which itself is thick, a large orange bill, and a limited white front. An examination I made of photos of eastern birds that have appeared in *Pennsylvania Birds* and eBird did indeed produce a good percentage of photos that could reasonably be called Greenland birds, but it also revealed more than a few that were equivocal as to subspecies, and not in any way a "slam dunk" for Greenland. For example eBird checklist S12705392 documents a flock of 13 white-fronts in *Lancaster* 1/23/2013; photos of two of the birds on that appear to show light-necked, pink billed, large-white-fronted individuals. These features in addition to the large flock (13) suggest these were not Greenland geese. Drawing even from my own comparatively limited experience with white-fronted geese in eastern Pennsylvania, a late-staying white-fronted goose at Carlisle, *Cumberland* that I caught up with 4/3/2011 showed all the features of a mid-continent bird (Image 7).

So while Greenland geese have indeed appeared in Pennsylvania and may indeed be the "default" white-fronted goose in the southeast, I suspect they do not make up the very large majority of sightings that the common wisdom suggests. A worthwhile project for birders and photographers in eastern Pennsylvania would be to reassess all the old photos of white-fronted from one's own libraries and elsewhere with a fresh, unassuming eye, to see how many of them may have been in fact equivocal as to subspecies, but were simply assumed to be "orange-billed Greenland" birds. Certainly any white-fronts that show up in flocks of more than three or four should be seriously considered as having originated from interior North America. Birds that first appear after late January, when mid-continent birds are starting to get on the move northward, also should draw an especially critical eye. A few eastern Pennsylvania birders have commented to me that they believe that Greenland birds tend to start moving out early, perhaps around the same time that mid-continent birds would start arriving. In other words, a white-fronted goose in early January may be a little safer to assume as a Greenland compared to a bird in mid-February, when mid-continent birds are on the move and Greenland birds may also already be gone to the north. The picture is a little more complicated, of course, among birds that

appear in late fall to settle down for the winter, as these birds tend to arrive on looser schedules, and with more potential to have arrived from anywhere.

Whatever the case with these Greenland birds, the great goose invasion of 2016 proved beyond any doubt that mid-continent Greater White-fronted Geese can and most certainly do make their way to Pennsylvania, and can indeed reach deep into the traditional southeastern realm of the Greenland white-fronts, where they very much complicate the traditional wisdom. Meanwhile in the west, not only do mid-continent birds occur, but they may very well be the actual "default" subspecies in that region, just as Greenland has always been assumed in the east. Rutt closed his 2007 article with optimism that with increased careful observation, we should be able to learn much more about the status of Greater White-fronted Goose subspecies in Pennsylvania. Certainly, the quest for knowledge in this question is still well underway.

450 Amherst Avenue  
Moon Township, PA 15108  
pomarine@earthlink.net

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**Table 1.** Summary of reports of Greater White-fronted Goose in Pennsylvania after 1 Feb 2016. Italics refers to sightings that were not certain to be part of the invasion.

County	Dates	Max	Location
Allegheny	2/6-7	10	Findlay Twp.
Armstrong	2/14	42	Lock and Dam 7
Berks	2/7-28	23	Blue Marsh Lake
Berks	2/29	21	Mertztown
Blair	2/14-20	5	Martinsburg
Bucks	2/4	1	<i>Maple Knoll Farm</i>
Centre	Late Jan	4	Bellefonte
Centre	2/5-9	68	Bald Eagle SP
Centre	2/12	1	Duck Pond
Clinton	2/10	10	Lock Haven
Clinton	2/13	13	McElhatten
Crawford	2/2-10	31	Hartstown Project
Crawford	2/19	6	Pymatuning area
Crawford	2/27-3/12	46	Hartstown Project
Crawford	3/26	1	Jamestown Marina
Dauphin	2/3	2	<i>South Rockville Rocks</i>
Fayette	2/6-7	34	Bridgeport Reservoir
Huntingdon	2/6-18	26	Smithfield
Indiana	2/2	24	Yellow Creek SP
Indiana	2/4	29	Auen Road Pond
Lancaster	2/10	1	<i>Milestone Drive</i>
Lawrence	2/5-6	6	Volant Strip Mines
Lycoming	2/20-24	13	Susquehanna River
Mercer	2/3-3/11	7	Shenango W.M.A.
Montgomery	2/21	3	<i>Green Lane Park</i>
Northumberland	3/3-6	1	Turbotville
Snyder	2/20	4	Stoneycreek Twp.
Tioga	2/2-21	6	Hammond Lakes
Washington	2/4-27	17	N. Strabane Twp.
Westmoreland	2/2-7	25	Beaver Run Reservoir
Westmoreland	2/6	4	St. Vincent Wetlands
Westmoreland	2/28	3	Mammoth Park Lake



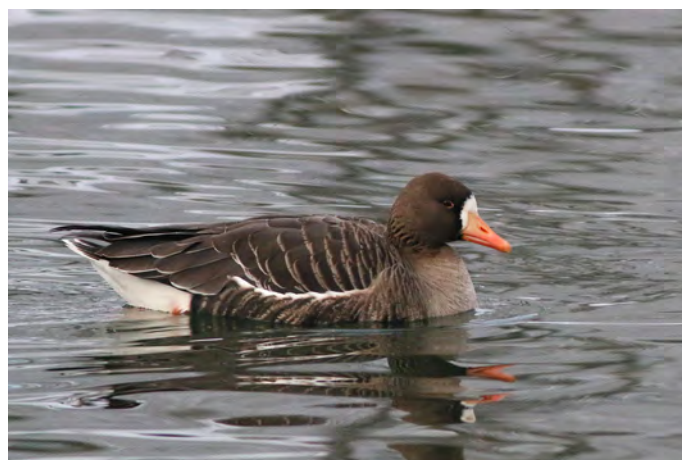
**Image 3.** Greater White-fronted Geese at Bentleyville, *Washington* 12 March 2008. In retrospect, these pale-headed, pink billed birds were obviously of the mid-continent population. (Ross Gallardy)



**Image 4.** Another clear example of a mid-continent bird in the west; Neville Island, *Allegheny* 20 February 2005. (Geoff Malosh)



**Image 5.** Two birds at Ciafanni Road, *Washington* 5 February 2016. Part of the invading hordes in 2016, these two mid-continent birds show the variability in bill color and its unreliability as a field mark; the bird on left has an orange-ish bill, whereas the bird on the right has a clearly pink bill that contrasts strongly with its orange legs. (Geoff Malosh)



**Image 6.** This bird at Lake Kay, *Adams* 22 January 2015 shows the features to be looked for on a candidate Greenland white-front: the head and neck are large and dark brown including the crown, the bill is large, and the fringes of the scapulars are narrow and not brightly contrasting. Oh yes, and the bill is orange, but importantly it also has a more yellowish base than pinkish. (Andy Wilson)



**Image 7.** Carlisle, *Cumberland* 3 April 2011. Although this picture is rather poor, it still shows what appears to be an obvious mid-continent bird in southeastern Pennsylvania: very light-colored head and neck, extensive white "front", and small head and bill. For what it's worth, in the field the bill appeared to be a nice orange-pink. (Geoff Malosh)

# Pennsylvania Raptor Migration Summary – Spring 2016

Laurie Goodrich

A warmer than usual winter was followed by mild March weather in 2016. Favorable raptor flights followed as March migrants moved north using abundant thermals and southerly winds. Weather changed dramatically in April, bringing persistent rain, fog, snowstorms, and north winds. In response, raptor migration seemed to stall or disperse and many sites recorded below-average numbers, particularly for later migrating species.

## Migration Summary

Five Pennsylvania spring watch sites tallied a below-average 16,573 total hawks in 1110 hours during 204 days of counting between 20 February and 15 May, for a statewide rate of 14.9 raptors per hour (Table 1). Stone Mountain, an autumn watch site in *Huntingdon* and *Mifflin*, logged nine hours on two days during, adding 25 migrants to statewide totals. Four regular spring sites - Allegheny Front, Hawk Mountain, Presque Isle, and Tussey Mountain - saw average to below-average hours of coverage, mostly due to stormy weather during April. Statewide count days for spring 2016 dipped by 20, 10% below average (Table 1).

Statewide, the total raptor count of 16,573 hawks was 13% below average, the lowest since 2008. Thirteen of the 16 regularly-recorded raptor species were below average. Exceptions were Turkey Vulture, with 11,733 tallied, 16% above the 10-year average of 10,093; Bald Eagle, for which the count of 250 was up 26% above the 10-year average of 198; and Merlin, with 29 counted, 15% above the average of 25 (Table 1). All three species have been increasing regionally in recent years.

The Broad-winged Hawk count was 1723, which is 58.8% below the ten-year average of 4184 and the lowest count in six years. One-day peak counts were below average as well, with Tussey Mountain sighting the most Broad-wings in one day, 413 on 21 April. Other sites reported unusually late peak flights with highest counts at two sites tallied in May (Table 2).

Another common migrant, the Sharp-shinned Hawk, was 34% below average. Statewide, 812 Sharp-shins were counted, compared to the average of 1229. Golden Eagles, a favorite at Pennsylvania watches, were 25% below-average, with 226 tallied compared to the average of 302. Osprey, a long-distance migrant, was 45 % below-average with 194 counted compared to the average of 350 (Table 1). Among the many species showing lower-than-average counts, the

Peregrine Falcon stood out with only 3 counted statewide compared to an average of 12.9 for last decade.

Presque Isle continued to lead Pennsylvania spring sites in raptor numbers, tallying 13,114 migrants, or 90.4 raptors per hour (Table 1). Tussey and Allegheny Front continued to lead the Golden Eagle counts tallying 221 of the 226 Golden Eagles spotted this spring. Both sites reported exciting mid-March eagle flights (Table 2).

The lower number of migrants statewide in 2016 possibly can be attributed to both weather and climate effects. Local weather was mercurial in April, with blustery winds blowing migrants away from Presque Isle at Lake Erie, (McWilliams, pers. comm.), while rain, fog, and below average temperatures limited counting and sightings at the ridge sites. The strong El Nino in 2015 led to a warmer than usual winter in 2015-2016 with low snow cover across the northeast, likely allowing short-distance migrants such as Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks and Golden Eagles, to winter farther north than usual (Bolgiano, pers. comm.). This suggestion is supported by the lower counts recorded during the fall watches in 2015.

## Site Highlights

**Allegheny Front** (*Somerset/Bedford*) – Allegheny Front tallied 672 hawks in 374.5 hours and 56 days between 28 February and 3 May. Effort was essentially average at 6.5 hours less, but total migrant counts were 54% lower than the ten-year average of 1464 hawks. Sightings of all species, except Bald Eagle, were below average (Table 1). The Bald Eagle count of 23 was 15% above average. Although the Golden Eagle count of 65 was slightly low compared to the average of 72, the Allegheny counters recorded several good flights of eagles including 15 Golden Eagles on 1 March and 17 on 16 March (Table 1, 2). The Broad-winged Hawk count showed the largest deviation from average, with 168, which is 49% below the 10-year average of 333 (Table 1). Cold southeast winds on 1 March brought an exciting one-day peak count for the site including 15 Golden Eagles, 20 Turkey Vultures, 23 Red-tailed Hawk, 5 Bald Eagles, one

**Table 2. Peak count dates for selected species at selected Pennsylvania watch sites.**

Site	Golden Eagle		Br-winged Hawk	
	Count	Date	Count	Date
<b>Allegheny Front</b>	17	3/16	36	4/17
<b>Hawk Mountain<sup>1</sup></b>	-	-	78	5/5
<b>Presque Isle</b>	-	-	92	5/4
<b>Stone Mtn.</b>	5	3/11	3	4/12
<b>Tussey Mtn</b>	38	3/16	413	4/21

<sup>1</sup>Site begins count in April.

Northern Goshawk, 3 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 2 Cooper's Hawks.

## Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

(*Berks/Schuylkill*) – Hawk Mountain recorded 727 raptors in 195.6 hours and 42 days between 28 March and 15 May. Total raptors were 23% below the ten-year average (Table 1) and most species were below average except Bald Eagle (37) and Red-shouldered Hawk (12). Although Broad-winged Hawks were seen regularly in late April, the highest one-day count of 78 was tallied on 5 May, along with 17 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 14 Osprey, 2 Bald Eagles, and one Merlin, contributing to the total of 135 raptors for the day (Table 2). The late Broad-wing peak may reflect the challenging weather face by northbound migrants in April. One Hawk Mountain satellite-tagged Broad-wing did not return until the second week of May. Highlights from April included an Osprey carrying its fish dinner on 19 April and 45 Broad-wings and 2 Sharp-shins sailing north before a rainstorm 26 April, the second highest peak count for the site.

**Presque Isle** (*Erie*) – Presque Isle counters recorded 13,114 hawks during 145.1 hours and 50 days from 28 February to 11 May. Most migrants were recorded in March - the total of 10,260 included 9515 Turkey Vultures moving north along the lakeshore (Table 1). Inclement weather depressed daily counts and effort particularly in April (McWilliams, pers. comm.). The largest flight occurred on 24 March when winds shifted to southwest, carrying kettles of Turkey Vultures, numbering 2450, toward the lake, along with a stream of 66 fast-flying American Kestrels and 47 Red-tailed Hawks. Winds were unfavorable in April and May, resulting in lower-than-average counts. Broad-winged Hawks were particularly low – the total of 221 was 91% below the ten-year average.

**Stone Mountain** (*Huntingdon/Mifflin*) – Stone Mountain, a new site for spring watching, logged one day in March and one in April. Twenty-five hawks were

recorded in 9 hours of effort (Table 1). On 11 March, watchers tallied five Golden Eagles among 15 raptors in five hours of watching, hinting at what this new spring site could yield (Table 2). On the same date, Tussey Mountain, 10 miles to the northwest, had a similar day, recording 6 Golden Eagles.

**Tussey Mountain (Huntingdon/Centre)** – Counters at Tussey Mountain recorded 2045 hawks in 386 hours and 54 days of coverage from 25 February to 25 April, a rate of 5.3 hawks per hour. In contrast to the other spring sites this year, the season total at Tussey was 15% above the ten-year average of 1779 hawks (Table 1). Above-average counts were made for Turkey Vulture (184), Bald Eagle (49), Broad-winged Hawk (1004), American Kestrel (42), and Merlin (29). However, only 156 Golden Eagles were tallied, 31% below the ten-year average of 227 Golden Eagles, and the lowest count since 2007 (Table 1). The Golden Eagle passage in early March, normally the peak time

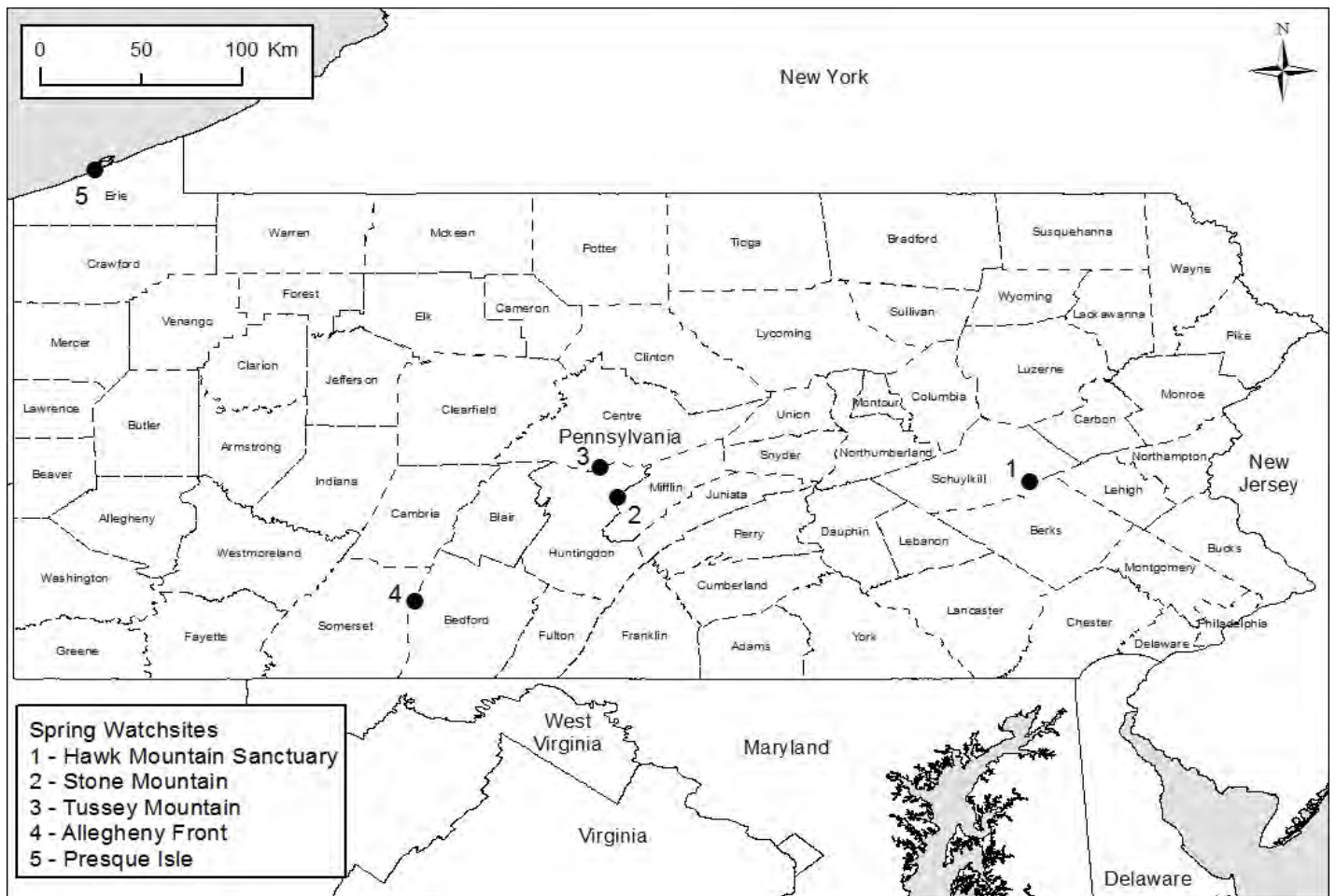
frame, was unusually light; however, mid-March brought the peak one-day count of 38 eagles moving north on southeast winds in the afternoon of 16 March, with another 29 moving the following morning, for a total of 67 in less than 24 hours (Table 2). N. Bolgiano (pers. comm.) suggested eagles may have left the ridge moving more north taking advantage of lift from warmer than usual weather conditions. After mid-April, Broad-wings were tallied in above-average numbers with a peak of 413 on 21 April, along with 37 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 7 Osprey (Table 2).

**Conclusions**

March brought eagle excitement although overall numbers were low. Inclement weather during April appeared to depress counts of most species to below-average levels. Late flights in early May, with some season high counts, suggested some migrants were delayed while others may have just dispersed. Despite bad weather and

depressed numbers, the spring 2016 raptor flights in Pennsylvania underlined our knowledge regarding increasing regional populations of Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, and Merlin.

**Acknowledgments:** Thanks to the site compilers for providing insight and access to data: Nick Bolgiano, Jerry McWilliams, Dan Ombalski, Bob Stewart, Pat Dumandan and Hawk Mountain trainees, and all spring hawkwatchers statewide. David Barber and Wendy Frew created the site map and data were gathered from [www.hawkcount.org](http://www.hawkcount.org) (accessed June 2016) a site managed by Jason Sodergren of Hawk Migration Association of North America. This is Hawk Mountain conservation science contribution number 266.



# Putative Records of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) in Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic

Benjamin E. Leese

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) appears to have wandered well north of its known southern range, with records from as far north as Piqua in west-central Ohio (Leese 2011). Albeit scant, there are also references to the species' past occurrence in the mid-Atlantic states. The observations presented here are sufficient to suggest the species' past occurrence, at least as a vagrant, and to encourage others to look for historical records of the species in this area.

## New Jersey

New Jersey presents an interesting reference to the Ivory-billed Woodpecker from the early colonial period on the Delaware River. Pehr Kalm, a Finnish scientist who worked mainly in Sweden, visited North America in 1748 and remained until 1751. His *Travels into North America* (1773) recounts the happenings of his visit, and presents a unique look into early American natural history, including an account of the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*; Kalm 1911, Gill 1911). On the date of March 11, 1749 at Raccoon (now Swedesboro), New Jersey, Kalm's (1773) journal also contains a discussion of woodpeckers, including the following: "*Picus principalis* [the species' earlier Latin name], the *King of the Woodpeckers*, is found here though very seldom, and only at a certain season."

Trotter (1903) seems to doubt the validity of the reference, because of its lack of further description. However, in the rest of his work, Kalm tends to note only the most common species known to the settlers (Trotter 1903), so he seems to be an honest reporter of only the information available to him, even though he apparently did not encounter the bird himself. Kalm was aware of the differences between the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker from Catesby's work (1754), and he includes the Pileated Woodpecker on his list as *Picus pileatus*. Given Kalm's knowledge and general reputation for faithful reporting, along with the three year length of stay in North America, this reference strongly suggests that Ivory-bills occurred as vagrants in New Jersey.

Despite Kalm's promise in the journal to offer a larger description of the woodpeckers on another occasion, other commentary by Kalm on this topic has not been forthcoming. An ornithologist with knowledge of Swedish and access to

old journals might discover new evidence about the early ornithology of the United States and especially the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

## Maryland

Jackson (2006) is rightly skeptical about the Ivory-bill's status in Maryland. Despite a number of authors asserting that the bird occurred in the state, including Studer (1903), all of those references are likely dependent on Audubon's (1842) note that "now and then an individual of the species may be accidentally seen in Maryland." Audubon does not record an experience with an Ivory-bill in Maryland, so his observation is certainly suspect.

One other piece of evidence regarding the species' status in Maryland occurs in Parker Gillmore's *Adventures Afloat and Ashore* (1873). Writing about his stay in Princess Anne, near the Chesapeake, Gillmore notes:

During the Winter some woodpeckers have remained in the neighbouring pine-woods, but the numbers of these are few – doubtless, stragglers, too lazy or too thoughtless to undergo the discomforts of a journey. To-day these lively little fellows I observe have had their ranks considerably swelled by arrivals from the South.

Among the different species I observed that rare and handsome bird mentioned both by Audubon and Wilson - the ivory-billed woodpecker which is almost as large as a pigeon, and of the most restless and active habits.

Parker Gillmore was a well-known traveler and hunter in the last part of the nineteenth century, and his skills in natural history seem to have been fairly good. His allusion to Audubon and Wilson suggests that he had some idea of the difference between the Ivory-bill and Pileated. Still, it is possible that he confused the species and that his record is nothing more than a Pileated Woodpecker. The date of the observation would put it well into the extinction process of the Ivory-bill, but Tanner (1942) suggests that the range contracted less drastically on the Atlantic coast than on the Mississippi, so it remains possible that this is a valid record from Maryland.

## Pennsylvania

A possible reference to the Ivory-bill in Pennsylvania comes from Johann

David Schoepf's *Travels through the Confederation*. Among the few birds he encountered between Philadelphia and Bethlehem in August of 1783, he records (1911 v.1:135):

Among others *Picus principalis* L. which at this season is returning from the north; I had never seen this bird about New York - We saw also the *Picus varius*, *Picus villosus*, *Sitta europaea*? [sic], of which likewise I had never before seen.

Later in the same work, Schoepf also lists *Picus principalis* among "the birds of passage to which the American famer most often pays regard" (1911 v.1:378) which seems very strange indeed, but perhaps makes a bit of sense if taken with Kalm's assertion that the Ivory-bill only occurs during a certain season. Schoepf's record comes with a great deal of uncertainty. His preface indicates his desire to publish a separate manual of birds, the notes for which were lost in the keeping a gentleman in Manchester, Virginia. However, he also lists "*principalis*" as a species he observed while travelling in Lancaster County (Schoepf 1911 v. 2:8). While one might be willing to grant him a stray Ivory-bill in Pennsylvania, two seems quite implausible. Lacking further description, his record is most likely that of a Pileated Woodpecker.

There is an intriguing and much more probable reference to the species in a letter from Alexander Wilson to William Bartram dated 16 August 1804 (italics and capitalization in original; Wilson in Hunter 1983):

[questions regarding the woodpeckers to be found near Philadelphia] I suppose that none of the large red Crested Ones can be found within 20 miles of Philada [sic] I would not begrudge 2 days sacrificed in getting possession of One. I lately discovered a new and most extraordinary Blackheaded Woodpecker on the trunk of a large tree in your woods of a perfect [sic] nondescript species. The largest of my Hawks was a mere Tom Tit to it.

I was under the tree before I was aware and on looking up was perfectly astonished at the sight above me, as I don't doubt but you yourself or any other Naturalist would have been. It seemed, like our other Woodpeckers, attracted by the

dry dead limbs and made them crackle like thorns under a pot. Before I could return with my gun it was gone – with what Genus to class it I am totally [sic] ignorant. One thing I am positive of, that is was a *Woodpecker*, a *black-headed* one and a very expert one too.

In this strange passage, Wilson appears to bemoan his difficulty in finding a Pileated Woodpecker, while describing an Ivory-bill. The description of the bird as “black-headed” is a pretty sure indicator of a female Ivory-bill, and the size of the bird as Wilson describes it also makes the identification move quickly towards an Ivory-bill. Wilson, however, does not mention the Ivory-bill as occurring any further north than Virginia in his *American Ornithology* (1828 and earlier editions), published some years after this letter, causing a bit of a puzzle as to if he forgot the incident or did not view it as a good enough record to include. Of course, many naturalists know the importance of recording observations and how easy it is for memories to become clouded quickly, and he may just not have recorded this in a place accessible to him as he was writing. While not a strong record by modern standards, Wilson’s note suggests that Ivory-bills once visited Philadelphia.

### Conclusion

The records presented here all suffer from lack of an adequate description and are all based in the record of one observer. However, such problems are very common when trying to recover records in the distant past, especially for non-game species (Leese 2006). If only the strongest records, with multiple observers, were admitted to the natural history of species, one would have to conclude that many now extinct species never existed. The number of records for Ivory-bills given by Tanner (9142) would be reduced by more than half quite quickly. Although the present records may veer too far into the realm of speculation, they are tantalizing all the same. More certain records for the species at least as far north in Ohio (Leese 2011, 2006) also support entertaining their validity.

Taken together with other northern records, it appears that the Ivory-bill wandered more widely than its more common range map would suggest (Tanner 1942, Jackson 2006). Such mobility implies that the species utilized a wider range of habitats, and was not an old growth specialist as it is so often

presented. These northern records and the implications thereof support Snyder’s (2007, and Snyder et al. 2009) assessment that hunting for sport, curiosity, and collections was the main cause of the species’ extinction, not habitat destruction. The species’ presence in the mid-Atlantic during the historical period, though hardly certain from these records, is a remarkable possibility.

**Acknowledgements:** Bill Whan deserves a great deal of thanks. He started me on this quest for northern records of the Ivory-bill, and has been a loyal correspondent throughout my research.

*The Oakes Museum of Natural History  
Messiah College  
Suite 3029  
One College Avenue  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
ben.leese@gmail.com*

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WITMER STONE: THE FASCINATION OF NATURE by Scott McConnell, 9 black and white photographs, including cover photo of Witmer Stone and his drawing of 17-year locust, notes on the text, 17 chapters, 2 appendices, acknowledgments, bibliography, notes, index, 6 x 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in., xii + 423 pp., published by author, email witmerstone@gmail.com, 2015, paper, \$25.00.

Until I received this book from its gracious author Scott McConnell, I knew nothing about Witmer Stone. Coincidentally, Stone wrote in 1929: "The history of ornithologists is quite often as interesting as the history of ornithology, especially when it descends from the stilled formality so characteristic of history, and gives us pictures of real life, full of humorous anecdotes and good-natured fun" (p. 1). But why investigate this man among all of the other ornithologists connected to Pennsylvania years ago?

The author, Scott McConnell, has a B.S. degree from Pennsylvania State University and a M.S. degree from Oklahoma State University, both in Wildlife Ecology. He has published seven mostly western peer-reviewed articles in prestigious ornithological periodicals, such as *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, *Journal of Field Ornithology*, and *Western Birds* 2003-2011 before tackling the Witmer Stone book. He presently works as a freelance wildlife biologist.

McConnell accomplishes the remarkable task of filling in details surrounding Stone's life by dividing the book into seventeen informative chapters, but not before explaining his own interest in the man. It started, as often happens, with the whim of initial curiosity in buying the two-volume Dover reprints of *Bird Studies at Old Cape May*, then forgetting them for years, and finally reading them. Suddenly, McConnell was spellbound, resonating not only with Stone's copious field ornithology accomplishments but also his uncanny, often humorous communication abilities with his fellow colleagues, children, and the public at large. Also, Stone had a unique artistic tack in describing in words and sketches (see cover) the physical, emotional, almost spiritual characteristics of landscapes and seascapes focused on Cape May, New Jersey, a favorite birding place of the author. McConnell was transformed, like being at Cape May in person over a century ago. "I immediately started wondering about the author (Stone) and a pipe dream began that had me writing

his biography one day," says McConnell (p. 1). It quickly became an obsession.

In checking the recently published history of ornithology *Ten-Thousand Birds: Ornithology Since Darwin* (see review in *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 29, No. 4: pp. 190-192), Stone's name appears three times. The first is in Chapter 6: Form and Function where in May 1931 zoologist William Rowan wrote friend Reg Moreau that his avian migration findings were not accepted for publication by the then editor of *The Auk*, Witmer Stone. Moreau wrote back deploring that few ornithologists bothered to consider the wider biological implications of their research, a deficiency epitomized by Wilmer Stone (p. 222). That indeed showed an obvious guarding of publication turf by Stone for only pure-blooded ornithologists at a time when ornithology was striving to be recognized as a strong and upcoming part of biology. It also indicated that behind those smiles, laughs, bright eyes, and good nature was an intelligent, cunning, no nonsense professional defender of the new science of ornithology. In Appendix 2: Five Hundred Ornithologists of *Ten-Thousand Birds*, Stone, Witmer 1866-1939 is listed as a United States systematic ornithologist accompanied by a black and white portrait (p. 441). Finally, only one reference from 1933 "*Recent Literature: Chapin's Birds of the Belgian Congo*," *Auk* 50:237-40, was listed for him. Apparently the choice fitted the international emphasis of *Ten-Thousand Birds*. With so much information to consider, this reviewer will concentrate upon only the highlights of Stone's biography.

Stone lived his entire life in Philadelphia (1866-1939) and became hooked on nature at an early age, thanks in strong measure to his family. His oldest aunt, Mary Steele, was an amateur ornithologist and botanist who kept honey bees, formed a collection of birds' eggs, and possessed a copy of the colored plates of Alexander Wilson's *Ornithology*. This was used as a prized identification guide and checklist for Witmer. Such avian knowledge allowed Stone to identify birds in the field quickly and accurately and led to the creation of the Wilson Natural Science Association (WNSA). Needless to say Stone was a born leader and organizer. With his brother Ferdinand and four neighborhood brothers of the Brown family, the WNSA had the scientific seriousness of an adult professional entity, including weekly meetings in the Stone home, field collecting of all kinds of critters, rocks, and plants, and

presenting papers in all fields of natural history. These papers were later preserved in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP) archives. The WSNA gang even produced a scientific handwritten book about their 1889 Susquehanna River jaunt, complete with an overview written by Stone, and individual articles on the various natural history fields encountered on the trip. Stone later wrote that although the WSNA field studies were local in scope, he was impressed with the admirable basis that they afforded for his progressive future work with the ANSP, Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC), and the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU).

Later in the field, Witmer discovered, identified, and collected birds like most other teen fellows of that time by using the common technique of 'shoot, collect, and skin' birds. In fact, Witmer never completely gave up shooting birds in his lifetime, like John James Audubon and other ornithologists did. However, he did despise ruthless, excessive collecting of bird eggs and skins so common in the 1880s and 1890s. In fact, he later supported a landmark Pennsylvania bill outlawing the sale of aigrettes and other bird feathers. The bill was passed in 1913.

Witmer graduated from Germantown Academy in 1883 and entered the University of Pennsylvania (UP) that fall. He later received three degrees from UP, including an A.B. in 1887 with a graduation thesis titled "Evolution" and an A.M. in 1891. His degrees were in arts because science classes at that time stressed mineralogy, mining, metallurgy, and chemistry and the biology courses were intended for pre-med students. In 1913, the UP conferred an honorary Sc.D. degree recognizing Stone's keen natural history achievements, particularly for his *Plants of Southern New Jersey*, research that was equivalent to a Ph.D. in terms of lengthy field reconnaissance, herbarium work, and write up. His aunt's earlier botanical expertise certainly paid long-term dividends. He also was the editor of *The Auk* for a year in addition to his other ornithological research and publication responsibilities.

Stone was associated with the ANSP for 51 years, starting as a Jessup student scholar in 1888 and ending as curator of vertebrate zoology in 1934. Working feverishly, he almost single handedly brought the institution to functional excellence on par with other American museums of natural history, reviving the dormant ornithology department and

salvaging its world class bird collection from oblivion. His eminence as an externally known ornithologist put a spotlight on the ANSP's collections and ornithological vitality. Stone's long, faithful, and varied services to the museum as both renowned scientist and capable, industrious administrator earned him the praise of being the most outstanding figure in the history of the museum. And if that wasn't enough expenditure of time and energy, Stone was one of the founding members of the DVOC in 1890. His help in publishing *The Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey* in 1894 allowed the DVOC to attain its recognized place in scientific ornithology. Stone also served as editor of the club's periodical, *Cassinia*, from 1901-1910, when he began preparing to assume editorship of *The Auk* of the AOU. The DVOC continues to be an active bird club today and still maintains its "conviviality and sense of humor" according to McConnell, has regularly scheduled outings (originally Stone's idea), is involved in local conservation issues, and continues to publish *Cassinia* (p.85).

Stone was a luke-warm conservationist, working with both the AOU bird protection committee and the Pennsylvania Audubon Society at a time when the use of birds in women's hats was the fashion of the day. After withdrawing from those two groups, mostly because of higher priorities and lack of time, he used the Notes and News section of *The Auk* to get the word out about needed action on pending conservation issues ranging from eradicating crows and birds of prey, predator and rodent control, loss of coastal habitats to resorts, and scientific collecting. He wrote in the April 1930 *Auk* that although it was true that some hawks committed depredation on poultry and livestock, they were mostly beneficial and part of nature's balance. On the whole, Stone was tactful about these issues but singled out arms manufacturers, sportsmen, and state game agencies as waging a campaign against the birds. He concluded that there was little hope for saving the birds of prey from extirpation. As already stated, Stone said "no" to excessive and illegal collecting but argued for keeping the scientific collecting of birds for taxonomical purposes, especially identification confirmation. Some ornithologists sided with Stone, others did not and this issue continues to the present. "Digital photography has made verification of sight records much easier, although records of vagrants have long since passed out of the serious ornithological literature and are now confined to list serves, birding magazines, state birding journals, and

the like," McConnell rightly concludes (p. 114). One other conservation challenge for Stone was the drama and intrigue surrounding the establishment of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in the 1930s. Suffice it to say that Rosalie Edge deserves the majority of credit for preserving Hawk Mountain as a sanctuary and Stone did not renege on promised funds for its establishment. Please read the whole story (pp. 114-121).

Stone certainly made a mark as a professional botanist with his 800-page *The Plants of Southern New Jersey with Especial References to the Flora of the Pine Barrens* in 1911 and 19 other botanical publications. But he also was called one of the last "All-Round Naturalists" in an era that saw increasing specialization in the biological realm. Stone made many scientific contributions in mammalogy, herpetology, ichthyology, and entomology. In fact, after Witmer's death, his wife Lillie presented the ANSP with his collection of over 10,000 insects from the Cape May area. However, without a doubt, Stone indulged full-heartedly in his adult life with three ornithological priorities: taxonomy, Cape May birds, and the AOU.

The apex of Stone's ornithological ambition was membership on the AOU Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North America, approved in 1901. He became its chairman eighteen years later (1919-1931) and was involved with both the third edition (published in 1910) and fourth edition of the AOU check-list (published in 1931). During the preparation of the third check-list, Stone completed work on the synonymy of avian genera type species and argued with J.A. Allen on the same committee about which methodology should be adopted: the elimination method (Allen) or the first species rule (Stone). Interestingly, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) solved the argument by choosing a third method - "subsequent designation" - that the AOU finally adopted. Such tumultuous experience prepared Stone for the many administrative bumps in publishing the fourth check-list of the AOU, which Stone oversaw and largely wrote. This time he had to solve a major ornithological issue that still lingers today. The biological sciences move through periods when the trend is either for previously separate avian species to be combined into single species ("lumping") or divided into greater numbers of species or subspecies ("splitting"), placing genera and scientific names in flux. In the January 1929 issue of *The Auk*, Stone called for a truce between the two schools of thought by resolving not to attack the

'manufacturers of subspecies' in print and not to quibble over the species splits in the forthcoming check-list" (p. 175). The Wetmore-Miller subcommittee laid-out the classification scheme down to subgenera that the committee used for the new check list. The fourth edition of the check-list was finally published in 1931 and coincided with Stone's twentieth anniversary as *Auk* editor.

"For all his work as one of the leading ornithologists of his day, Stone's most enduring popular legacy is undoubtedly his monumental and charming *Bird Studies at Old Cape May: An Ornithology of Coastal New Jersey (BSOCM)*. He had been working on the book for many years. . . . It was finally published by DVOC in 1937, less than two years before Stone's death. The book is not only an indispensable reference and a must read for anyone interested in the ornithology of the region, but also a classic of American time-and-place natural history literature" (McConnell, p. 231). The finished book has rightly been called "Stone's Tome," and ran over 900 pages." Stone used the type and format of Murphy's 1936 *Oceanic Birds of South America* as the model for his book. "Its style is graceful, never pedantic, better than Brewster, and approaching Thoreau," said Potter (p. 251). And the author concludes: "Reading Stone's idyllic description of a May evening on his beloved Jarvis Sound, behind present-day Wildwood Crest, a reader can almost smell the salt air. I consider it the zenith of his descriptive writing in BSOCM" (p.251).

McConnell correctly mentions that the descriptive writing style of BSOCM, what I call poetic prose, was not peculiar or original with Stone and suggests reading A.C. Bent's *Life Histories* series for proof (p. 260). Indeed, there were many ornithologists using this writing style at the turn of the twentieth century, including one of the Cast of Characters in the book: Alexander Wetmore, recognized world fossil bird extraordinaire, who with his wife were close friends of the Stones (p. 315). Wetmore published scores of field research results, such as *The Birds of the Republic of Panama* (1965) by the Smithsonian Institution, using poetic prose. What makes this writing style so appealing is its emphasis on stories of special time and special space. The longer the depth of exploration and discovery, the better are the artistic scientific results. This is what Stone achieved in BSOCM. Unfortunately, current ornithological writing style is becoming more quantitative and less qualitative, more numbers, less words and we may never again experience other books and ornithologists like Stone and his colleagues.

The author of this book deserves much credit for clearly illustrating his own stages in the process of raising self-consciousness in conservation. He started with curiosity about a book and its author, then discovered a special place and special time through awareness and sensitivity that led to understanding, appreciation, and perception of what Cape May and Witmer Stone were all about. He now has reached the stages of responsibility and commitment with his own book as proof in striving to reach his goal of conserving Cape May for future generations of wildlife and appreciative humans. Let this story within a story resonate with other readers of this review.

A humble 'thank you' Scott McConnell and good luck.

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

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The spring season features some carryover from the winter as some winter residents remain in the state while others are well underway on spring migration. The Pennsylvania Migration Count suffered from rainy conditions in many areas but undaunted volunteers participated to generate data for the state and also for an eBird project called the Global Big Day that occurs the same day. The weekend of the annual PSO Meeting in Somerset County featured ceaseless rain that fell across the southwestern part of the state. Several compilers mentioned the lack of waterfowl fallouts and small waterfowl numbers in general, probably due to mild weather and the lack of ice on lakes, allowing birds to move through and not forced to concentrate on small areas of open water.

**Mute Swans** were reported in 13 counties with the highest numbers in *Bucks* and residents in *York*. Banded **Trumpeter Swans** were found in *Adams* and *Centre*, with some information provided regarding their history. Read about the bird in *Centre* that encountered an injury, was treated and released. A bird returned to *Bucks* for the third year and one in *Huntington* the second year. Trumpeters were also found in *Bedford* (2), *Crawford* (5), *Forest* (1), *Huntington* (one in addition to the returning bird mentioned above), *Schuylkill* (2) and *Somerset* (2). The unprecedented **Greater White-fronted Goose** invasion in the western part of the state spilled over into March with a few birds lingering. Large numbers were still at the Pymatuning Area in *Crawford*. *Allegheny* and *Mercer* still had a few and the usual spring passage was noted in the southeastern counties of *Bucks*, *Lancaster* and *Lebanon*. **Ross's Geese** were present at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area where they are regular, and single birds were found in *Lehigh* and *Northampton*. **Cackling Geese** were reported from 11 counties. An unexpected flyover flock of 130 **Brant** surprised observers in *Monroe* in May. There have been 15 May records in the state since 1993. This represents the second latest date and the highest May count on record, overtaking the previous high count by one (129 in *Chester* in May 2002). The vast majority of **Snow Geese** that pass through the state are white morphs so double figures of blue morphs

are notable; a flock of 17 blues was in *Adams*.

Despite many reports of low numbers of migrating waterfowl, there were a few exceptions. The many lakes and marshes in *Crawford* are often loaded with waterfowl during migration, but amazing numbers of a few species were tallied this year. High counts include at least 3000 **Northern Pintails**, 941 **Canvasbacks**, 1023 **Redheads**, and over 4000 **Lesser Scaup**. Making a great count, 154 **Long-tailed Ducks** were in *Bedford*. There was a mini-fallout of **Buffleheads** in *Allegheny* and *Beaver* 3/18-19 with 66 on the Allegheny River in *Allegheny* and 85 at various sites in *Beaver*.

**Eurasian Wigeons** were found in four counties including a bird shared between *Fayette* and *Westmoreland*. A **Green-winged (Common) Teal** continued from the winter in *Chester*.

**Surf Scoters** were in seven counties. The only **Black Scoter** report came from *Bedford*. **White-winged Scoters** were more widespread, with reports from 15 counties, including the first in a decade for *Wyoming*. Post Second Breeding Bird Atlas discoveries include **Hooded Merganser** breeding for the second year in *Bucks* and first confirmed breeding in *Delaware*.

With continued releases, **Northern Bobwhites** are regularly reported - this season from *Butler*, *Clarion*, *Crawford*, *Lancaster*, *Lehigh*, *Somerset* and *Susquehanna*.

**Red-throated Loons** were in 13 counties. Six were in *Centre* and a great count of 27 was made in *Lancaster*, certainly among the highest counts ever recorded in the state. **Common Loon** totals were impressive in many counties including 55 in *Bucks*, 30 in *Crawford*, 41 in *Huntington*, 91 in *Luzerne*, 147 in *Mercer*, 40 in *Monroe*, 73 in *Northampton*, 14 in *Somerset*, 13 in *Sullivan*, 43 in *Susquehanna*, 27 in *Wyoming* and 31 in *York*. A **Pacific Loon** was reported in *Centre* (doc. submitted).

**Red-necked Grebes** were reported in 11 counties and **Eared Grebes** were found in *Adams* and *Bucks*. The seven Eared Grebes in *Adams* represents the highest total for this species ever recorded in the state (five in *Erie* in the fall of 2002 was the previous highest count).

**Great Cormorants** lingered along the Delaware River as usual in *Bucks*, *Delaware* and *Philadelphia*. **Anhingas** were reported in *Delaware* and *York*, a day apart; both were flyovers. **American White Pelicans** were found in *Allegheny* (third county record) and *Erie*.

The stealthy **American Bittern** was reported in 25 counties and **Least Bitterns** were reported in ten counties. **Snowy Egrets** are fairly regular in spring in the southeast, present this season in *Bucks* and *Lancaster*. Unexpected in the west, reports from *Erie* and *Crawford* were notable. The bird in *Crawford* remained for just about an hour before moving on. **Little Blue Heron** reports were all from the southeast with the exception of one in *Bedford*. **Cattle Egrets** were found in three counties: *Bucks*, *Cumberland* and *Lancaster*. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were in four counties. The colony in Harrisburg (*Dauphin*) continues to be active. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** reports from *Butler*, *Centre* and *Huntingdon* were unusual. **Glossy Ibis** were reported from ten counties, most in the southeast.

**Black Vultures** continue to be reported with increasing frequency in parts of the state where they are not regular, particularly in the west. Reports came from *Allegheny*, *Bedford*, *Bradford*, *Clarion*, *Fayette*, *Forest*, *Somerset* and *Westmoreland*. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was reported in *Dauphin* (doc. submitted.). **Mississippi Kites** were reported from *Chester* where they are regular in spring. Single birds were in *Bucks* and *Lancaster*. Someday we may have this species nesting in the state.

Reports of **Rough-legged Hawks** were only from the neighboring southwestern counties of *Allegheny* and *Washington*. **Golden Eagles** are reported from spring hawk watch sites in *Bedford*, *Lycoming* and *Huntington*. Read the *Huntington* report for statistics for **Golden Eagle** this spring compared to other years. Rare migrants were in *Cameron*, *Clinton*, *Lancaster* (where there were three reports) and *Venango*. **Northern Goshawks** were only reported in two counties. In *Bedford* the report was from the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch and a pair nested in *Elk*. A banded **American Kestrel** returned to a nest box in *Bucks*. Read the *Bucks* report to learn about this bird's origin and

travels. Two pairs of **Merlins** were confirmed breeding in *Bradford*.

A **Clapper Rail** dropped in at Marsh Creek State Park right in front of two birders! It was only seen for a brief period but photos were obtained. This represents the fifth state record (two of which were dead birds) and a first for *Chester*.

**Common Gallinule** is a restricted breeder in the state but more widespread during migration. As with a lot of marsh birds, they can be difficult to detect. Reports came from 13 counties. **Sandhill Cranes** were reported from 15 counties; breeding was noted in *Bradford* and *Sullivan*. Four in *Armstrong* were unusual.

The shorebird migration was interesting this spring. Two large flocks of American Avocets were found and a few rare spring migrants were present. Large numbers of migrating shorebirds were observed on the wing over *Chester*.

**Black-bellied Plover** was reported in nine counties including a first record for *Susquehanna*. Very rare in spring, an **American Golden Plover** was in *Indiana*. Two **Piping Plovers** were at Gull Point in *Erie* where they have been regular in recent years, a result of limited access, preservation and habitat improvements that have been in place the past several years. We can hope this species will return to breed again at the site. A migrant stopped at an unassuming wetland in *Lawrence* providing a first county record.

**American Avocets** had a great showing this spring. They were not widespread with reports from only three counties, but the totals in *Franklin* were among the highest ever recorded in the state. **Wilets** were in four counties. Like the avocet, this species does not linger at any location. The declining **Upland Sandpiper** was found in seven counties. **Whimbrels** were only in two counties. With proximity to the Delaware Bay, impressive numbers of passing migrants were in *Chester*. *Chester* and *Delaware* were the site of good sized flocks of migrant **Ruddy Turnstones**. Another declining shorebird, the **Red Knot** was found in *Chester* and *Erie*. Interestingly, three counties reporting **Sanderlings** were "inland": *Bedford*, *Centre*, and *Venango*. Two rare spring migrants were found in *Bedford* - **Western** and **Baird's Sandpiper**. A Baird's Sandpiper was also in *Crawford*. **White-rumped Sandpipers** were in ten counties. Another rare spring migrant, a **Stilt Sandpiper** in stunning breeding plumage was in *Lawrence*. Uncommon in

spring, **Short-billed Dowitchers** were in eight counties. Yet another rare spring migrant, **Long-billed Dowitchers** were in *Crawford* and *Franklin*, the latter the site of a large flock of both species of dowitchers. The only phalarope was a **Wilson's Phalarope**, with just two reports in two counties.

**Little Gulls** were at the usual locations in *Dauphin* and *Erie*, but there were no Black-headed Gull reports. Large numbers of **Laughing Gulls** are annually reported in *Bucks* and *Philadelphia* and this spring was no exception. *Lycoming* recorded its first, one was in *Lancaster* and two in *Montgomery*. A **Franklin's Gull** was in *Centre*. **Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls** lingered from the winter. **Great Black-backed Gulls** were found in a four counties away from *Erie* where they are regular. **Herring Gulls** continue to breed in *Allegheny*.

A **Least Tern** in *Bucks* was the first in that county for nearly four years. **Black Terns** were in six counties including seven in *Bedford*. A **White-winged Tern** reported in *Bucks* will provide a potential first state record if accepted by PORC. A **Parasitic Jaeger** report came from *Lycoming* May 1.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** remains a local breeder and resident in the state. Reports from *Berks* and *Franklin* were from the usual locations. A bird in *Bucks* provided a second county record and four were in *Cumberland*.

**Barn Owls** were reported in seven counties, the majority at known breeding sites. A **Snowy Owl** in *Erie* represented the only report of this species. **Long-eared Owls** were reported only in *Erie* and *Philadelphia*. **Short-eared Owls** were in five counties in March and April. No breeding activity was detected so they may have all been wintering birds. A number of **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were located in *Bradford*, including two nestlings. Migrants were found roosting in the Scotch Pines at Presque Isle State Park in *Erie*. Single birds were heard in *Mifflin* and *Sullivan*.

The first **Chuck-wills-widow** for *Luzerne* was unfortunately struck by a vehicle and later died while in the care of a wildlife rehabilitator. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were found in eighteen counties.

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported in 25 counties. Notable reports include unexpected sightings in *Armstrong* and *Blair*, breeding in *Berks*, increasing in *Bucks*, lingering from the winter in *Crawford*, unusual in *Delaware*, possible breeder in *Greene*,

more than usual in *Huntington*, and one visiting a feeder for several weeks in *Westmoreland*.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found in ten counties. **Blue Jay** migration is rarely reported in this journal, and is usually observed at the Lake Erie shore, but many were noted migrating in *Montgomery*; see the county report for details. **Fish Crow** reports continue in the western and northern parts of the state with continuing birds in *Allegheny*; reports in northern *Blair*, which was unusual; and reports at a new location in *Bradford*. **Marsh Wrens** were well distributed statewide, reported from 13 counties.

Lingering **Lapland Longspurs** were reported only from *Mercer* and **Snow Buntings** were in *Crawford* and *Westmoreland*.

A few compilers reported good numbers of the spruce budworm warblers such as **Bay-breasted Warbler, Tennessee Warbler** and **Cape May Warbler** that declined following the outbreak of this food source in the 1990s.

**Golden-winged Warbler** reports came from *Allegheny, Armstrong, Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Franklin, Huntington, Lebanon, Mifflin, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Perry, Pike, Venango, Washington, Westmoreland* and *York*. Most counties report them as migrants rather than breeders as this species continues to decline. **Lawrence's Warblers** were found in *Crawford, Lebanon* and *Susquehanna*. **Brewster's Warblers** were widely reported from nine counties.

On the other hand, **Prothonotary Warblers** have increased in recent years, but breeding is restricted to the northwest and southeast. Some were noted on migration such as birds in *Allegheny, Butler, Cumberland, Delaware, Dauphin, Montgomery, Schuylkill* and *Westmoreland*. This species has attempted breeding or males set up territories in *Bucks, Huntington, Northampton* and *Philadelphia*. Birds returned to breeding sites in *Crawford, Lancaster* and *Mercer*. More common in fall, **Orange-crowned Warblers** had a good showing this spring with reports from *Allegheny, Berks, Centre, Clarion, Cumberland, Erie, Lancaster, Lycoming, Mercer, Northampton, Philadelphia, Susquehanna* and *Westmoreland*. **Connecticut Warblers** were reported in only three counties.

**Clay-colored Sparrow** reports were widespread. Birds returned to the breeding site in *Clarion* and an overwintering bird lingered in

*Northampton* to early April. Single birds were in *Franklin*, *Huntington*, *Lancaster*, *Lycoming* and *Wayne*.

There were numerous **Summer Tanager** reports, the most in years. A pair returned for the second year to *Berks*, two were in *Bucks*, a male and a female were at separate locations in *Lehigh*, one was in *Lackawanna*, one was in *Franklin*, two first year males were in *Lycoming*, and two were in *Philadelphia*. The famous **Western Tanager** that wintered at State College remained into April, allowing observers to witness its transformation into breeding plumage. However, that was not the only report of this species; three others were found in the state. An eBird report (accompanied by a photo) of a male (at a feeder in *Allegheny* for one day was quite a surprise, another male was in *Luzerne* and a female visited a feeder in *Montgomery*.

A **Black-headed Grosbeak** that wintered on the county line in *Northampton* and *Bucks* remained well into April. **Blue Grosbeaks** were in 11

counties. Nesting occurred for the fifth year in *Bedford*, a bird visited a feeder in *Greene*, one was found during the PSO Meeting in *Somerset*, a flyby was in *Northampton*, and reports came from the more expected counties of *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Dauphin*, *Delaware*, *Franklin*, *Lancaster* and *York*. **Dickcissels** were found in *Centre*, *Cumberland*, *Schuylkill*, and *Wyoming*.

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was photographed in *Erie*. Seven **Brewer's Blackbirds** were in *Crawford* at two locations. An amazing seven wintering **Baltimore Orioles** in *Bucks* remained into the spring. If that amazing total was not enough, two other birds wintered in another area in the county, also lingering into early spring.

**Common Redpolls** staged a minor invasion in southern Ontario and portions of the New England States this past winter and spring with some drifting south into Pennsylvania, where reports ranged from mid-March to mid-April; all single birds with the exception of two in *Crawford*. **Pine Siskin** had a

good showing after a minor winter invasion with 34 counties reporting them.

A surprising variety of leucistic birds were reported this spring that includes species regularly seen in unusual plumages and some surprising species. A leucistic **Wilson's Snipe** was in *Somerset*, a **Canvasback** in *Crawford*, **Red-tailed Hawks** in *Dauphin* and *Montgomery*, **American Robins** in *Allegheny* and *Montgomery*, **Gray Catbirds** in *Fayette* and *York*, and two **Dark-eyed Juncos** in *Montgomery*. It seems *Montgomery* was the epicenter for leucistic species. Some are described in the county reports.

Reports were submitted from 55 counties. Thanks to all the compilers for the continued efforts in generating the reports.

805 Beulah Road  
Pittsburgh PA 15235  
mpfial@verizon.net



Bank Swallow Nest Site - Hanson Quarry (private) near Downingtown, *Chester*, 28 May. At least 20 birds were confirmed nesting after *Chester* had none confirmed in the second Breeding Bird Atlas of PA. (Barry Blust)

## Birds of Note – March 2016 to May 2016

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.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial and Janoski's Farm up to 3/22 (m.ob.); *Bedford*: one 4/3-6 at Dunning's Creek Wetlands (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one at Bradford Dam 3/10 (Jochen Baurmeister); *Crawford*: 40 at the Pymatuning Hartstown Project 3/6-9 (Randy Stringer, Amy Henrici, m.ob.), 44 at that location 3/12 (Karyn Delaney), one at Pymatuning Jamestown Marina 3/26 (Linda Goodfellow); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/1-9 (Alex Lamoreaux), three there 3/5 (Paul Heveron), two at Speedwell Forge Lake 4/8-17 (Ted Nichols II, Vince Pantanella, Zach Millen, m.ob.); *Lebanon*: up to six at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/1-5 (Alex Lamoreaux, Elora Grahame, Jarrod Derr, Deuane Hoffman, Jonathan Heller, Bruce Carl, m.ob.), one at the same location 3/19 (Randy Miller); *Mercer*: seven at Shenango Wildlife Area up to 3/11 (Neil Troyer).

**Ross's Goose** – *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/1-12 (Bruce Carl, m.ob.); *Lehigh*: one at Lynn 3/1 (Danny Tyler); *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 3/10 (Matt Sabatine).

**Brant** – *Monroe*: a flock of 130 flew over the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area 5/19 (Cory Husic, Diane Husic, Stephen Kloiber, Matt Marshall, Terry Master, Susan Schmoeyer).

**Eurasian Wigeon** – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/1-23 (Rudy Keller, Peter Wolfe, Jane Wolfe, m.ob.); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 3/7-12 (m.ob.); *Chester*: one in Cochranville 3/2 (Michael Gardner); *Fayette*: one at Bridgeport Reservoir 3/4-14 (Melissa Easter, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at Octoraro Reservoir 3/1-10 (Larry Bernhardt, m.ob.); *Westmoreland*: same bird as in *Fayette*.

**Green-winged (Common) Teal**\* – *Chester*: a male continued from the previous season at up to 4/11 (m.ob.).

**Surf Scoter** – *Adams*: one at Waynesboro Reservoir 5/14 (Ian Clarke); *Berks*: four at Lake Ontelaunee 5/3 (Dan Altif, m.ob.); *Bucks*: two at Peace Valley Park 4/19 (Michael Hartshorne), three at Penn-Warner Tract 5/1 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: four at the Pymatuning Causeway 4/23 (Ronald Leberman); *Elk*: two at East Branch Lake 4/15 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Erie*: up to 4 at Presque Isle State Park 3/7-17 (m.ob.); *Susquehanna*: two at Quaker Lake 4/29 (m.ob.).

**Black Scoter** – *Bedford*: six at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 4/5 (Tom Dick).

**Pacific Loon**\* – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 4/9 (Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom, doc submitted).

**Eared Grebe**\* – *Adams*: seven at Lake Mae 5/8 (Ian Clarke, Daniel Horton, Joel Wagner, no doc); *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 4/3 (Devich Farbotnik, no doc), third county record.

**Great Cormorant** – *Bucks*: on the Delaware River up to 3/19 (Mark Gallagher), one late bird on the river at Bristol 5/1 (Devich Farbotnik); *Delaware*: one flying past Philadelphia International Airport 4/7 (Al Guarente), one under the Commodore Barry Bridge 4/11 (Al Guarente); *Philadelphia*: last of the season on the Delaware River 4/17 (Denis Mora).

**Anhinga**\* – *Delaware*: one flying over Swarthmore 5/8 (David Eberly, no doc); *York*: one flying over Codorus Furnace Road 5/9 (Phil Keener, Randy Phillips, doc submitted).

**American White Pelican** – *Allegheny*: two flying over Duck Hollow 4/2 (Tom Moeller, Nancy Moeller, Todd Ladner), *Erie*: five at Presque Isle State Park 5/16 (John Nilsson, Johan Sodercrantz).

**Snowy Egret** – *Bucks*: one at Morrisville 5/7 (Devich Farbotnik), two reported on the PAMC 5/14; *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 4/16 (Shawn Collins, Jamie Dillon, Karyn Delaney, Roger Higbee, Deborah Kalbfleisch); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/8 (Mary Birdsong); *Lancaster*: two at Octoraro Reservoir 4/22 (Carlton Groff), one on the Susquehanna River 3/19 (Eric Witmer).

**Little Blue Heron** – *Bedford*: one at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 5/9 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one at Dark Hollow Park 4/14 (Stephen Staedtler, ph.); *Chester*: one at ChesLen Marsh 4/26 (Chad Hutchinson); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 4/24 (Robert Peda); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 4/26 (Jim McConnell).

**Cattle Egret**\* – *Bucks*: one at Holicong 5/31 (Devich Farbotnik, ph.); *Lebanon*: one at Pine Road 4/2 (Kathy Becker, no doc), *Northampton*: one at Seiples Farm Pond, then Silvers Crest Road pond 5/29 (Bill Etter, Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall, doc submitted);

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Bucks*: two in Richland Twp. 5/2-5 (Devich Farbotnik), one in East Rockhill Twp. 5/16 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: one at West Fairview Boat Launch 5/16 (Dave Kerr) and two at that location 5/27 (Annette Mathes, Ramsay Koury); *Dauphin*: returned to nesting site in Harrisburg 4/7 (Elora Grahame, Alex Lamoreaux), up to 17 birds present 4/23 (Ian Gardner); *Lancaster*: one returned to Ephrata 4/18 and remained to 5/22 (Zach Millen), one at Ferncliff Nature Reserve 5/28 (Zach Millen); *Lehigh*: one at Leaser Lake 4/26 (Ed Komito).

**Glossy Ibis** – *Berks*: four along Fleetwood Lyons Road 5/4 (Dan Altif); *Bucks*: one at New Hope 4/27 (Bill Hoehne); *Dauphin*: three flying over Wildwood Lake 5/3 (Ed Bernot); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 5/25 (Deuane Hoffman); *Indiana*: one near Indiana 4/15-16 (Dennis Lauffer, et.al.), seventh county record; *Lancaster*: one at Speedwell Forge Lake 4/8-11 (Stan Stahl, m.ob.); *Northampton*: one at Minsi Lake 5/4 (Matt Sabatine), one at the Tatamy Exit retention ponds 5/4 (Jason Horn); *Philadelphia*: a flock of 16 flying over Moyamensing and 3<sup>rd</sup>

Streets 5/8 (George Armistead); *Schuylkill*: six at Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary 5/6-7 (Jonathan DeBalko, John DeBalko); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 5/12 (Leslie Rose), first county record.

**Swallow-tailed Kite\*** – *Dauphin*: one at Dauphin Borough 4/6 (Robert Weaver, *doc submitted*).

**Mississippi Kite\*** – *Bucks*: one in Upper Makefield Twp. 5/31 (Mary Normandia, *doc submitted*); *Chester*: single birds at the Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/20 and 5/27 (Larry Lewis, Kathleen Pileggi, *no doc*), one in Avondale 5/27 (Derek Stoner, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one flying over Pumping Station Road 5/7 (Ted Nichols II, Mike Epler, *no doc*), one at Upper Hopewell Nature Preserve 5/9 (Paul Brubaker, *no doc*).

**Northern Goshawk** – *Bedford*: five total at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch during the spring season (Tom Dick); *Elk*: nested at an undisclosed location (Dan Brauning).

**Rough-legged Hawk** – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 3/22 (Alan Buriak, Jim Hausman); *Washington*: one near Bentleyville 3/7 (Roy Ickes).

**Clapper Rail\*** – *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek State Park 4/10 (Rob Megraw, Holly Merker, *photos in eBird*).

**American Golden Plover** – *Indiana*: one at West Lebanon (Tom Betts, Steve Gosser, *ph.*).

**Piping Plover\*** – *Erie*: two at Presque Isle State Park 5/8-18 (Jerry McWilliams, Shannon Thompson, Mary Birdsong, photo in eBird); *Lawrence*: one at Shaner Road Marsh 5/1 (Randy Stringer, photo in eBird).

**American Avocet** – *Erie*: six at Presque Isle State Park 4/26 (Mary Birdsong); *Franklin*: a flock of 34 at Kriner Road Retention Ponds 5/1 (Joan Bowen, Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart, Dave Cooney, Bill Oyler, *et.al.*), a flock of 50 at Greencastle Reservoir 5/5 (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart); *Huntingdon*: a flock of 15 at Greenwood Furnace State Park 5/5 (Matt Dinsmore).

**Willet** – *Bedford*: four at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/14 (Tom Dick); *Dauphin*: six off West Fairview 5/1 (Ramsay Koury, Annette Mathes); *Erie*: five on 5/2 and seven 5/4 at Presque Isle State Park (Mary Birdsong); *Northampton*: one at St. Luke's Anderson Campus retention pond 5/3 (Billy Weber, Michael Schall).

**Upland Sandpiper** – *Butler*: three at Barkeyville 5/6 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Clarion*: first noted at Mt. Airy 5/24 (Richard Nugent); *Clearfield*: one along Sandy Ridge Road 5/29 (Tom Glover); *Crawford*: first noted at the Miller Ponds area 4/16 (m.ob.); *Elk*: one at Rasselas Marsh 5/14 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Forest*: eight at Buzzard Swamp 4/18 (Zachary Allen); *Venango*: one at Barkeyville Strips 5/6 (Brendyn Baptiste, Gene Wilhelm).

**Whimbrel** – *Chester*: a flock of 280 observed flying over Unionville 5/23 (Kelley Nunn); *Erie*: one at Sunset Point at Presque Isle State Park 5/24 (Katie Andersen), two at Gull Point at Presque Isle that same day (Mary Birdsong).

**Ruddy Turnstone** – *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/6-9 (Tom Dick); *Chester*: flock of 105 flying over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/26 (Larry Lewis, Kathleen Pileggi, Holly Merker, Rob Megraw); *Delaware*: 70 flew over Delaware River 5/27 (Al Guarente); eighth county record.

**Red Knot** – *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 5/28 (Cathy Wasaman), 12 flying over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/26 (Larry Lewis, Kathleen Pileggi); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/23 (Mary Birdsong).

**Sanderling** – *Bedford*: seven at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/8 (Tom Dick); *Centre*: four at Bald Eagle State Park 5/14 (Lindera Carter, John Carter, Brian Schmoke, Sean Herrmann); *Venango*: one at Two Mile Run County Park 5/3-6 (Gary Edwards, Michael Karpinko, Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick).

**Western Sandpiper** – *Bedford*: four at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/11 (Tom Dick).

**Baird's Sandpiper** – *Bedford*: two at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/8 (Tom Dick); *Crawford*: one along Brooks Road 5/18 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman).

**Stilt Sandpiper** – *Lawrence*: one at Shaner Road Marsh 5/9 (Debbie Darney, Geoff Malosh, *ph.*).

**Short-billed Dowitcher** – *Allegheny*: one over Moon Township 5/14 (Geoff Malosh); *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/11 (Tom Dick); *Berks*: one at School Road Fleetwood Pond 5/3 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 5/1 (Carolyn Constable), one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/1 and 5/6 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: two at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 4/23 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman); *Franklin*: six at Lane Pond 5/13 (Carl Garner); *Lancaster*: two at the Conejohela Flats 5/16 (Gordon Dimmig); *Lawrence*: twenty at the Shaner Road Marsh 5/9 (Debbie Darney).

**Long-billed Dowitcher** – *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 3/20-21 (Matthew Juskowich, Geoff Malosh, *et al.*); *Franklin*: 16 at Lane Pond 5/13 (Carl Garner).

**Wilson's Phalarope** – *Crawford*: one along Brook's Road 5/18 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman); *Northampton*: one at St. Lukes Anderson Campus retention pond 5/30 (Billy Weber).

**Little Gull** – *Dauphin*: one along the Susquehanna River at Shrauder Park 3/12-17 (Alex Lamoreaux, Deuane Hoffman, Ramsay Koury), one at Fort Hunter 3/19 (David Yeany II); *Erie*: single birds at Presque Isle State Park 3/19-4/5 (Mary Birdsong, Matthew Juskowich, Jerry McWilliams, Linda McWilliams).

**Laughing Gull** – *Bucks*: first reported for the season at Morrisville and Penn-Warner Tract 4/2 (Devich Farbotnik), an estimated 1000 near Tullytown 5/14 (PAMC); *Lancaster*: one at Octoraro Reservoir (Mike Epler); *Lycoming*: one along the Susquehanna River 5/8 (David Brown), first county record; *Montgomery*: two flying over Elkins Park 5/22 (Paul Driver); *Philadelphia*: a flock of 111 noted migrating 4/24 (Damon Orsetti).

**Franklin's Gull** – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 5/14 (Carl Engstrom, *ph.*).

**Iceland Gull** – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 3/2 (Peter Montgomery); *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 3/13 (Paul Cooper), one or two in the Tullytown area up to 5/7 (Bob Cunningham, Devich Farbotnik); *Northampton*: one at Minsi Lake 4/5-7 (Matt Sabatine); *Philadelphia*: one at Glenn Foerd Mansion 3/27 (Tony Croasdale).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – *Allegheny*: one continued in Pittsburgh from last season up to 3/7 (Patience Fisher); *Bucks*: 80 at Peace Valley Park 3/2 (Scott Godshall), 64 there 4/3 (August Mirabella), one at Nockamixon State Park 5/1 (Paul Cooper), one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/14 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Causeway 3/5 (Randy Stringer); *Erie*: several reported at Presque Isle Bay and the Lake View Landfill 3/2-5/6 (Randy Stringer, Jerry McWilliams, Julie Dell, David Sibley); *Lehigh*: last of the season at Dorney Pond 4/13 (Rich Rehrig); *Philadelphia*: four on the Delaware River 3/27 (Tony Croasdale).

**Glaucous Gull** – *Bucks*: one in Morrisville 3/23 (Barbara Bennett), one at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/2 and 5/7 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 3/5 (Randy Stringer) and one there 5/8 (Kevin Parsons, *ph.*).

**Great Black-backed Gull** – *Berks*: two at Lake Ontelaunee 3/8 (Rudy Keller); *Crawford*: two at the Pymatuning-Espyville Marina 5/15 (Linda Chittum, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel); *Montgomery*: one at Bala Cynwyd 3/1 (Mike Coulter), one at Flat Rock Park 4/30 (W. Brian Henderson); *York*: six at Wrightsville 3/2 (Carolyn Mathur).

**Least Tern** – *Bucks*: one at Mud Island 5/7 (Devich Farbotnik).

**Black Tern** – *Bedford*: seven at Shawnee State Park 5/11 (Tom Dick); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 5/13 (Bill Chambers); *Dauphin*: two 5/7 and one 5/27 at West Fairview (Ramsay Koury, Annette Mathes), three at Fort Hunter 5/1 (Deuane Hoffman) and 5/12 (Ed Bernot); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/17 (Johan Nilsson, Johan Sodercrantz); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 5/1 (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart, Bill Oyler, *et al.*); *Somerset*: one at Quemahoning Reservoir 5/3 (Linda Greble).

**White-winged Tern\*** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 5/13 (Ken Belli, Bob Thompkins, Quinn Thompkins, Butch DeBonis, Bret Belli, *no doc*).

**Parasitic Jaeger\*** – *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 5/1 (David Brown, *et al.*, *no doc*).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** – *Berks*: six in Shartlesville 5/30 (Matt Wlasniewski); *Bucks*: one in Newtown 4/10 (Mark Gallagher), second county record; *Cumberland*: three in Lower Mifflin Twp. 3/1 (Vern Gauthier) and one there 3/6 (Jonathan Campbell); *Franklin*: birds continue in Shady Grove and Greencastle Reservoir.

**Barn Owl** – *Bedford*: a pair continue to nest at Dunnings Creek Wetlands (Tom Dick); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 4/17 (Lindera Carter, John Carter), two nests on a farm near Milheim (*vide* Joe Gyekis); *Chester*: detected by nocturnal flight calls in Unionville 3/22 and 4/25 (Kelley Nunn), a pair is known to reside in the county (Kevin Fryberger); *Dauphin*: a pair with eggs in the Hershey Important Bird Area 5/12 (Tim Becker, Nate McKelvie); *Franklin*: one active nest in the county (Dale Gearhart, Bill Oyler, Carl Garner); *Lancaster*: one in Rapho Twp. 4/30 (Jonathan Heller); *Somerset*: a pair observed in a silo near Shanksville 4/16 (observer not listed).

**Snowy Owl** – *Erie*: one at a private residence 3/9-10 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Long-eared Owl** – *Erie*: up to four at Presque Isle State Park 3/16-4/17 (Roger Donn); *Philadelphia*: one photographed at John Heinz NWR 3/27 (*vide* Lynn Roman, George Armistead).

**Short-eared Owl** – *Clarion*: one near Curlsville 3/7 (Carole Winslow), one at Mt. Zion 4/17 (Janice Horn, Ray McGunigle, Susan Zeff); *Erie*: singles at Presque Isle State Park 3/8-4/15 (Ruth Swaney, Roger Donn, Dave Darney); *Lawrence*: up to four at Volant Strips through 3/29 (Steve Gosser, Geoff Malosh); *Lancaster/Lebanon*: up to three at Middle Creek WMA 3/4-9 (Zach Millen, Steve Walthius, Ted Nichols, Timothy Becker, *et al.*).

**Northern Saw-whet-Owl** – *Bradford*: calling Peck Hill in March and 5/24 (Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze), two calling near New Era 3/16 (Trudy Gerlach), one calling at Graham Road, Canton 3/16-18 (Lewis Frederick), two nestlings at SGL 36 (Sharon Richards); *Elk*: two at Jones Township 5/14 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Erie*: present at Presque Isle State Park 3/18-4/17 (Matt Webb, Roger Donn, Dave Darney); *Mifflin*: one heard outside of Milroy 4/1 (Glenn Stauffer); *Sullivan*: one heard at SGL13 on 4/22 (observer not listed).

**Chuck-wills-widow\*** – *Luzerne*: a female hit by a car near Nescopeck State Park in May was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator but unfortunately died (Sue Gallagher), first county record.

**Lapland Longspur** – *Mercer*: five along Tieline Road 4/2-3 (Randy Stringer).

**Snow Bunting** – *Crawford*: 14 at Pymatuning 3/5 (Randy Stringer), two at the Pymatuning Causeway 3/6 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman), eleven at the causeway 3/9 (Sheree Daugherty, Virginia McQuown, Bob VanNewkirk); *Westmoreland*: one at the Westmoreland Mall parking lot 3/8 (Chuck Kuchta, *ph.*).

**Lawrence's Warbler** – *Crawford*: one at Erie National Wildlife Refuge 5/20 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman); *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake State Park 5/7 (Mary Coomer, Lisa Black); *Susquehanna*: one at Woodbourne Forest Preserve 5/8 (Jerry Skinner).

**Brewster's Warbler** – *Erie, Huntingdon, Lebanon, Northampton, Perry, Philadelphia, Pike, Venango, Wayne*.

**Connecticut Warbler** – *Centre*: one on the PAMC 5/14 (observer and location not listed); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/17 (Johan Nilsson, Johan Sodercrantz); *Susquehanna*: one on Cobb Road 4/20 (Dave Andre).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – *Clarion*: four at the Curlsville Strips 5/11 (Mark Moore), two at Mt. Zion 5/29 (Geoff Malosh); *Franklin*: one in Path Valley 5/6 (Bob Keener, Conococheague Audubon Society); *Huntingdon*: one at Trough Creek Valley 5/7 (Dennis McGillicuddy, Deb Grove, Lewis Grove); *Lancaster*: one in the Ephrata Farmlands 4/15-30 (Bruce Carl, *m.ob.*), one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 5/3 (Bruce Carl); *Lycoming*: one at Canfield Island 5/9 (Bobby Brown, *m.ob.*); *Northampton*: one that visited a feeder in Pen Argyl the previous season continued to early April (Bill Hennis, Regina Hobbs); *Wayne*: one at Mush Paw Road 5/10 (Chris Fischer).

**Summer Tanager\*** – *Berks*: a pair returned to Neversink Mountain 5/23-24 (Jay Drasher, Carolyn Drasher, Carl Drasher, *no doc*); *Bucks*: two at Core Creek Park 5/8 (Sharon Furlong, Carol Fitzpatrick), *Lehigh*: male at Center Valley 5/7 (Maryanne Snyder, Alan Snyder, *doc submitted*), female at Leaser Lake 5/17 (Ed Komito, *doc submitted*); *Lackawanna*: one in Scranton 5/7 (Patricia Ollendyke, *doc submitted*); *Franklin*: one in Chambersburg 5/6 (Bill Oyler, *no doc*); *Lycoming*: first year male at Canfield Island 5/8 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Steve Pinkerton, David Brown, *ph.*), second first year male at Mill Street 5/11 (Bobby Brown, David Brown, Deb Brown, Eric Hartshaw, *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: one along Wissahickon Creek 5/11 (Todd Fellenbaum, Ann Reeves, Jamie Zigarelli, Brian Henderson, *audio*), first spring male at Bartram's Garden 5/14-18 (Emily Ostrow, *m.ob., ph.*).

**Western Tanager\*** – *Allegheny*: an adult male visited a feeding station in Pittsburgh 5/4 (eBird, *doc submitted*); *Centre*: the adult male that spent the winter remained to 4/17 (Wayne Laubscher, *m.ob., doc previously submitted*); *Luzerne*: an adult male at the Forty Fort Rec Fields 4/26 (Stan Galenty, Rick Koval, *no doc*), first county record; *Montgomery*: a female visited a feeder in Cheltenham 3/27 (Robin Irizarry, *doc submitted*).

**Black-headed Grosbeak\*** – *Northampton*: one continued from the winter season on Springtown Hill Road up to 4/22 (Elaine Mease, Donald Mease).

**Dickcissel** – *Centre*: one heard flying over Colyer Lake 4/30 (Alex Lamoreaux, Ian Gardner); *Cumberland*: one at Hilltop Road 5/20 (Mathew Sabatine); *Schuylkill*: one in Wayne Twp. 5/3-7 (Brian Clauser); *Wyoming*: one in the eastern part of the county 5/30 (Cosmo Lovecchio).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** – *Erie*: one photographed in East Erie 4/17 (Larry Burlingame).

**Brewer's Blackbird\*** – *Crawford*: three at Conneaut Marsh 3/12 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman, *no doc*), four near Custards 3/19 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman, *no doc*).

**Common Redpoll** – *Crawford*: two present in Townville for several weeks up to 3/18 (Terry Lobdell); *Dauphin*: one in Hershey 3/19 (Lauren Messinger), one in Derry Twp. 3/30 (Chris Markiewicz); *Erie*: one in Greene Twp. 4/9 (Pam Zelenak, Bob Zelenak); *Forest*: one in Tionesta 3/17-26 (Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire); *Juniata*: one visited a feeder in Oakland Mills 3/2 (Aden Troyer); *Montgomery*: one heard in Elkins Park 4/10 (Paul Driver); *Wayne*: one near Honesdale 4/4 (Chris Fischer).

## Photographic Highlights



**Snow Geese with drone (*Chen caerulescens*).** Snow Geese harassed by drone at Middle Creek WMA, Lancaster, 9 March. PGC fined multiple individuals for harassing wildlife. An initial ban was put on hold by Attorney General who stated only FAA can regulate air space. PGC commissioners approved a modified rule prohibiting "operation, control, launching and retrieval of drones on game lands, unless.....approved by the PGC..." (Dave Kerr)



**Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (*Nyctanassa violacea*).** Yellow-crowned Night-Herons returned again to their urban Dauphin rookery in Harrisburg, here 15 May. (Ted Weaver)



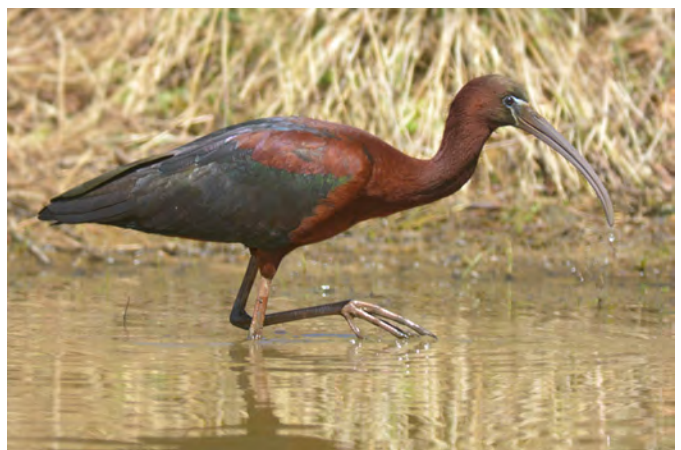
**Eurasian Wigeon (*Ana penelope*).** This Eurasian Wigeon at Bald Eagle SP, Centre 7-12 March (here 12 March) was one of possibly as many as three for the season in the county. (Alex Lamoreaux)



**American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*).** This American Bittern at Opossum Lake 1 April was one of at least four for the season in Cumberland. (Dave Kerr)



**Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*).** This Least Bittern at Wingfield Pines 3 May was just the fifth for Allegheny and second in the past three years; the three previous reports occurred before 1925. (Geoff Malosh)



**Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*).** This Glossy Ibis visited private property near Indiana, Indiana 15-17 April (here 17 April), providing the seventh county record. (Steve Gosser)



**Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).** Adult Bald Eagle and eaglet at Stroudsburg, *Monroe* 20 May. (Barbara Lewis)



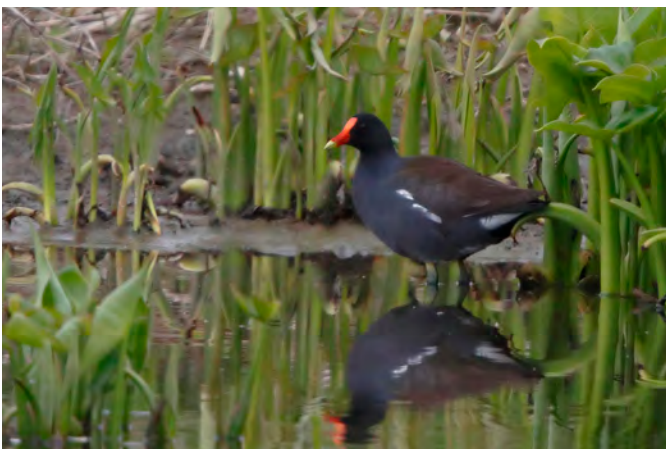
**Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).** Osprey at Brownings Pond, *Bradford* 2 May. (Kevin Raymond)



**Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*).** Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny* attracted its first Virginia Rails this spring, and one or two pairs stayed late into the spring season to be seen by many birders. (Geoff Malosh)



**Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*).** This Clapper Rail shocked two lucky observers when it was spotted running along the shoreline of the lake at Marsh Creek SP, *Chester* 10 April. First in *Chester* since 1958. (Holly Merker)



**Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*).** This Common Gallinule at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin* 30 April was discovered during the park's 16th Annual Wetlands Festival, one of the busiest days of the year at the popular site. (Dave Kerr)



**American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*).** Fifteen American Avocets visited Greenwood Furnace SP, *Huntingdon* 5, May, providing the second county record. (Mike Dinsmore)



**Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*).** This Long-billed Dowitcher visited Miller Ponds, Crawford, 20-23 March 2016 (here 20 March). The bird provided the earliest Pennsylvania record by nearly three weeks, and also is the only dowitcher ever recorded in Pennsylvania in March. Thirteenth spring record for Pennsylvania overall. (Geoff Malosh)



**Black Tern (*Chilonias niger*).** This Black Tern was at Wingfield Pines, Allegheny 22 May, the first in the county since 2014 and another of the rarity parade at Wingfield Pines this spring. (Geoff Malosh)



**Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*).** Dunlins are uncommon at best in central Pennsylvania. This spring, up to four were at Bald Eagle SP, Centre 20 April – 4 May; then three (two seen here) were found there feeding on earthworms during rain 22 May. (Wayne Laubscher)



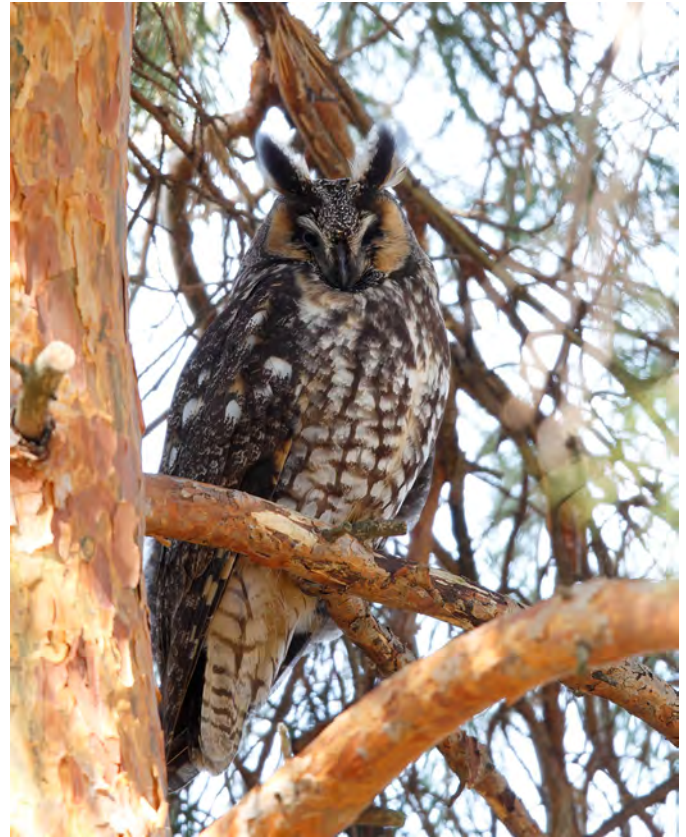
**Stilt Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher (*Calidris himantopus* and *Limnodromus griseus*).** Stilt Sandpiper with Short-billed Dowitchers at Shaner Road, Plain Grove Twp., Lawrence 9 May 2016. Stilt Sandpipers in high breeding plumage are a rare treat in Pennsylvania. This bird was discovered by Debbie Darney among a flock of 20 *hendersoni* Short-billed Dowitchers. (Geoff Malosh)



**Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*).** This close-up of a Caspian Tern was taken at Wildwood Lake, Dauphin 13 April. (Steve Dale)



**Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*).** Northern Saw-whet Owlets at SGL 36, *Bradford* 16 April. (Sharon Richards)



**Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*).** One of four Long-eared Owls at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 16 March – 17 April (here 26 March). (Geoff Malosh)



**Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*).** It was a poor spring for waterbird migration on the Ohio River in southwest Pennsylvania, but a few Forster's, Caspian, and (usually) Common Terns are found annually; this Forster's Tern was at Dashields Dam, *Allegheny* 21 April. (Geoff Malosh)



**Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).** This Parasitic Jaeger, photographed during a morning rain storm at Rose Valley Lake *Lycoming* 1 May, provided a first county record (pending PORC review). The great majority of Parasitic Jaeger records are from late summer through winter. (David Brown)



**Great Horned Owl (with snake) (*Bubo virginianus*).** Great Horned Owl feeding snake to young at Ephrata, *Lancaster* 25 April. One of the most photographed owl pairs in the state returned to their nest site this season and hatched two young. (Jonna Godwin)



**Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*).** Black-billed Cuckoo at Jacobsburg SP, *Northampton* 12 May. (Michael Schall)



**Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*).** Roosting Common Nighthawk at Shawnee SP, *Bedford* 20 May. (Barry Blust)



**Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).** Peregrine Falcon fledgling on Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg, *Dauphin* 25 May. The venerable nest near the top of the state office building fledged 3 falcons (one female, two males) this year and each kept the site's dedicated fledge watchers busy. (Rick Price)



**Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*).** Olive-sided Flycatcher at Sewickley Park, *Allegheny* 20 May. Considerably more uncommon in spring than fall in western PA; missed most springs in *Allegheny*. (Geoff Malosh)



**Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*).** Blue-headed Vireo at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 13 May. (Geoff Malosh)



**American Crow/Common Raven (*Corvus brachyrhynchos/Corvus corax*)** Beautifully displayed contrast in the relative shape and bulk of Common Raven and American Crow at Peck Hill, *Bradford* 30 April. (George Vivino-Hintze)



**Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*)**. This Bank Swallow was captured in flight at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 9 May, with the upper breast band and contrasting white throat nicely displayed, never easily seen in flight. (Alex Lamoreaux)



**Lawrence's Warbler**. The recessive hybrid of a Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler cross, this Lawrence's Warbler was at Bald Eagle SP, *Centre* 3 May. This park, with hundreds of acres of early successional habitat, provides a good opportunity to find both "winged" warblers and their hybrids. (Bill Chambers)



**Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*)**. Louisiana Waterthrush at Walker Park, *Allegheny* 8 May. Note the unspotted throat and eyebrow stripe that widens behind the eye, distinguishing it from Northern Waterthrush. (Geoff Malosh)



**Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*)**. Prairie Warbler at SGL230, *Cumberland* 24 April. (Dave Kerr)



**Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*).** This Clay-colored Sparrow was at the established location at the Curlisville Strips, *Clarion* 17 May. Up to six were tallied there during the season, but they may be declining in number. (Anthony Bruno)



**Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*).** This Kentucky Warbler was one of two singing males found 15 May on SGL 189, *Beaver*, a location where not detected every year. (Geoff Malosh)



**Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*).** This Henslow's Sparrow was found at the Flight 93 Memorial, *Somerset* 21 May, on a field trip during the annual PSO meeting. (Wayne Laubscher)



**Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*).** This Prothonotary Warbler was seen gathering nesting material on private property along the Juniata River near Ardenheim, *Huntingdon* 13 May, providing a likely fourth county record. It was still singing into June but no further nesting evidence or possible mate were noted. The nearest nesting occurs south of Harrisburg on the lower Susquehanna River, although they nested in the recent past in western *Cumberland*. (Trudy Kyler)



**Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*).** This Yellow-throated Warbler was at Sterling Run, *Cameron* 21 April. Yellow-throats are uncommon transients and apparently rare breeders in north central Pennsylvania. (Mark Johnson)



**Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*).** This male Black-headed Grosbeak appeared in Hellertown, *Northampton* during the winter and stayed through 22 April (here 16 April), providing a second county record. At times it entered nearby *Bucks*, representing a first for that county. (Michael Schall)



**Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*).** There were two reports of Summer Tanager in *Lehigh* in May, the first this beautiful male in Center Valley 7 May. The second report, with minimal supporting details, was of a female at Leaser Lake 17 May. These would be the fourth and potentially the fifth county records. (Alan and Maryanne Snyder)



**Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*).** This Western Tanager spent only a few hours at Forty Fort Rec Fields, *Luzerne* 26 April, providing a first county record. (Rick Koval)



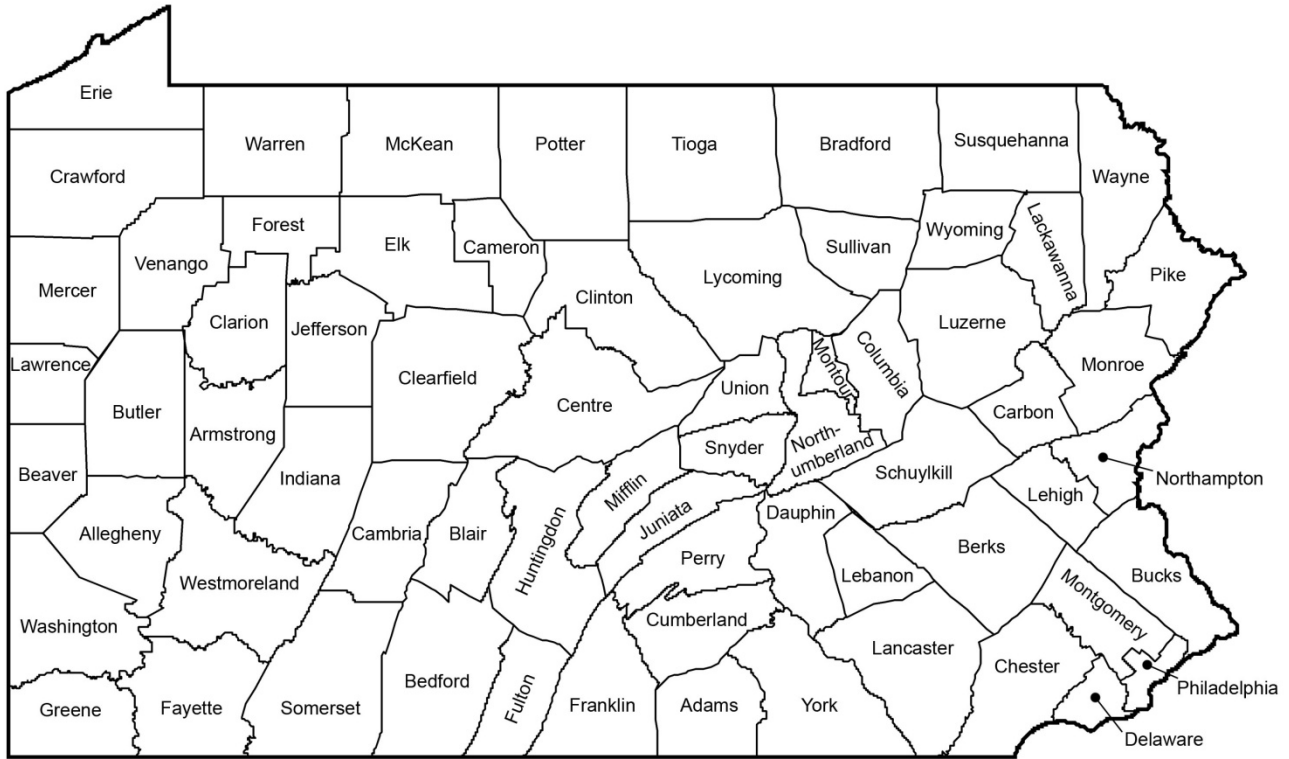
**Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*).** After a fleeting view a week prior, this Dickcissel revisited the home feeder of the photographer near Lake Wynonah, *Schuylkill* 3-7 May (here 3 May). Dickcissel is considered accidental in *Schuylkill*. (Brian Clauser)



**Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*).** This Bobolink was in the fields at the Flight 93 Memorial, *Somerset* 21 May, found on a field trip by attendees at the annual PSO meeting. (Wayne Laubscher)



**Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (*Nyctanassa violacea*).** Ephrata, see Lancaster county report, (photo by Ted Nichols II)



**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).	juvénal [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 College (GC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Heritage (LH), Lake Kay (LK), Lake Meade (LM), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), State Game Lands #249 (SGL), Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve (SHNP), Waynesboro Reservoir (WR).

The species count of 171 was at the most recent three-year average. Waterfowl species diversity was good, with 29 species found, but warblers were low with only 23 species reported. The 5/14 PAMC, led by Mike O'Brien, produced 91 species over a limited area of the county. While April and May temperatures and precipitation were in line with historical averages at Harrisburg, March had a very high average temperature of 48F, 6F above average. With some exceptions, the warmer March temperatures did not appear to generate significantly earlier-than-normal arrivals nor did it seem to push wintering birds to their northerly breeding grounds.

Adams typically gets a few **Snow Geese** in migration. The 38 at LM 3/6 (JV) and 19 along Germany Rd. 3/2 (PK) accounted for this year's

reports; the latter observation was unusual with 17 of the 19 birds being blue/dark phase. **Mute Swan** continues in the county with birds at LH 4/25 (JW) and GNMP 5/9 (JSG). First seen in the York Springs area 3/10, a neck tagged (Z639) **Trumpeter Swan** was refound at Buttonwood Rd 3/23 (IC, PK). Per the Bird Banding Laboratory in Patuxent, MD, this tag sequence was used on captive swans in MD, VA, PA, and Ohio prior to 2002. Details of when and from where they were released were not available. **Tundra Swan** was more widely detected this year with 7 reports spanning 3/1-18 (m.ob.) and a high count of 120 along Ridge Rd 3/1 (ED). In addition, there were some lingerers with one at SHNP thru 5/31 (m.ob.) and a pair at WR 5/14 (IC).

The only report of **Gadwall** was an octet at LK 3/4 (JSD, JW), while Lake Mae provided the sole report of **Blue-winged Teal**, 4 on 4/19 (JW). Always good finds for the county, a **Canvasback** was at LK 3/2 (CB) with a trio of **Redheads**. A single Redhead was at GC 3/5-19 (DH, JW, MZ) and a pair of rather late **Greater Scaup** were at LH 5/12 (JW). Both uncommon and late, a **Surf Scoter** was on WR 5/14 (IC). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found at three locales; a single at LK 3/21 (AW), a late bird at WR 5/14 (IC), and up to 4 at LPRR 3/25 (JSD).

Infrequently found, a **Red-throated Loon** was at LK 3/19-20 (VB, IC). **Common Loon** was above average with reports from 6 locations (m.ob.) including a high count of 7 at LH 4/14 (JW). A clean sweep of the state's "reasonably expected" grebes is unusual for the county. Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were found at 3 locales; 4 reports of **Horned Grebe** were paced by a high count of 9 at LPRR 4/12 (MB); a single **Red-necked Grebe** was at a pond along Fairfield Rd 3/18 (NL); and a rather late group of 7 **Eared Grebes** were on Lake Mae 5/8 (IC, DH, JW).

Seven reports of **Double-crested Cormorant** included a likely county record 242 birds at LH 4/11 (JW). Uncommon for the county, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was in the Peach Glen area 4/14 (BO). **Ring-necked Pheasant** reports came from Buttonwood Rd 3/12 (PK), Mt Hope Rd 4/10 (JW), and LM 4/17 (JV). A **Ruffed Grouse** was found in the Big Flat area of Michaux S.F. 5/18 (MB). **Wild Turkey** was reported 9 times with no count exceeding 6 birds.

**Osprey** was reported 11 times with the earliest over Cashtown Rd. 3/21 (PK). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were abnormally low with only 5 reports, but the 8 reports of **Broad-winged Hawks** was definitely high. A good find, a **Sora** was at Red Rock Rd. 5/14 (PM). **American Coot** was found at 5 sites but no report exceeded 4 birds.

A pair of **Greater Yellowlegs** was at CCW 4/11 (AW) and singles of **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at East Berlin Community Park 4/30 (JV) and SHNP 5/15 (DH, JW). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found on the PAMC and the sole report of **Least Sandpiper** came from GC 5/4 (AW). Five reports of **Wilson's Snipe** are high, with good counts of 9 from Buttonwood Rd 4/4 (PK) and 11-14 at CCW 4/4-11 (PK, AW). Nice county counts of 35 **Bonaparte's Gulls** and 25 **Herring Gulls** came from LH 4/11 (JW) and 3/27 (JA), respectively. Also a good count, 5 **Caspian Terns** were at GC 4/28 (MZ).

Four **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were found on the PAMC and one was in the Tree Farm Lane area 5/14 (IC). The 7 **Barred Owl** reports were about average; absence of Great Horned Owl was conspicuous. The initial **Eastern Whip-poor-will** report came from Shippensburg Rd 4/25 (MB). An evening nightjar survey in Michaux SF produced 6 birds 5/25 (IC). Michaux S.F. also produced a report of 5 Whips 5/28 (CF). First-of-year **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were seen 4/22 at Shippensburg Rd (MB) and MTN (RDS). The 14 reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** included a nice count of 10 at GNMP 4/19 (ML). The four reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were all of single birds in their Mar-Apr migration period. The other expected woodpeckers continue were widely reported.

A **Merlin** was chasing Purple Martins at GC 4/25 (AW). An early **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was at SHNP 4/22 (JW). Of the 7 reports of **Acadian Flycatcher** and four of **Willow Flycatcher**, only 2 fell outside the two-day window of 5/13-14 (m.ob.). **Least Flycatcher** reports come from SHNP 4/30-5/19 (JW), Lake Mae 5/8 (DH, JW), and GNMP 5/10 (JW). While Philadelphia Vireo went unreported, the expected vireos showed typical arrival dates and frequency of reporting.

The 7 reports of **Common Raven** reflect their continued range expansion. Three **Horned Larks** on the PAMC provided the only report. **Purple Martin** reports included colonies at East Berlin, GC, LH and along Goldenville Rd. High counts included 26 at GC 4/27 (MZ) and 15 at LH (JW) on the same date. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** reporting was positive with 7 reports and highs of 30 from LH 4/27 (JW) and 10 at GC 5/6 (AW). **Bank Swallows** apparently moved through in 4/25-29 with 6 at GC 4/25 (JW) and 15 at LH 4/29 (JW).

Nice counts of **Black-capped Chickadee** came from the county's higher elevations with 8 at SHNP 3/10 (JW) and 7 at LPRR 3/14 (JW). A **House Wren** at GNMP 4/19 (ML) was a bit early. The sole report of **Winter Wren** came from SHNP 3/21 (JW). Both **Ruby-crowned** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** moved thru at expected times with no count exceeding 5 birds. A pair of **Swainson's Thrush** were at the Gettysburg KOA Campground 5/13-14 (KG). A single **American Pipit** was at CCW 4/11 (AW).

Warbler reporting was so-so overall but there were some good finds. A **Blue-winged Warbler** and a **Cerulean Warbler** were at Gum Springs Rd 5/14 (IC). There were 5 reports of **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and a **Nashville Warbler** was at SHNP 5/16 (JW). A somewhat early **Kentucky Warbler** survived a window strike at Shippensburg Rd 4/26 (MB) and Tree Farm Lane held one 5/14 (IC). A **Canada Warbler** was at LK 5/9 (AW). The more glaring misses were Wilson's Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat. Some of the northern breeding sparrows showed signs of early movement.

The only **American Tree Sparrow** involved 2 birds at SGL 3/17 (JW). The 4 reports of **Fox Sparrow** indicated early movement with all reports occurring 3/2-17 (MJC, RDS, JW, JW). The PAMC produced the only **Grasshopper Sparrow** observation. The 4 reports of **Swamp Sparrow** came from Lake Mae 4/13 (AW), GNMP 4/19 (ML), and SGL 4/24 (IC) and 5/9 (JW). Unlike neighboring York, the county did not experience the rather

remarkable **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** migration as the 4 reports were all of single birds, similar to other years.

**Bobolink** were found on the PAMC, along Pecher Rd 5/14 (IC), and in Freedom Twp. 5/30 (DJG). Thirteen reports of **Eastern Meadowlarks** were positive but none involved double digit counts, which is unusual. The high count was 8 birds at GMNP 3/27 (AB, MS). Disappointingly, Rusty Blackbird was missed. The sole **Orchard Oriole** was at SGL 5/14 (DJG). The most noteworthy sighting of the period was an extremely early imm. female **Baltimore Oriole** at a LM backyard 3/30-4/4 (JV). It seemed to be interested in only bread scraps and could not be drawn to orange slice offerings.

**Purple Finch** reporting was limited and a bit strange. Singles were at Gordon Rd. 3/1 (CB) and MTN 3/3 (RDS) and then not again until 5/9 at LH (JW). Having no reports during their typical late Mar-Apr migration period is unusual but not unprecedented. For a non-irruption year, **Pine Siskin** made a reasonable showing on their return north. SHNP held 20 birds 3/10 (MJC) and produced a high count of 78 on 3/12 (AE). Siskins dropped in at MTN 3/2-4/5 (RDS), with a high of 10 on 4/5. Appreciably late, 3 siskins were at Carroll Valley up to 5/31 (DM).

Corrigenda: The Spring 2015 report included an erroneous report of 3 late Snow Goose at CCW 5/4. That species was not present.

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984 pittche74@yahoo.com**, Josh Auld, V Barnes, Eric Beck, Anne Bekker, Chuck Berthoud, Mike Bertram, Mark & Jane Chandler (MJC), Ian Clarke, Eli DePaulis, Josh & Sue Donaldson (JSD), Amy Evans, Justin Ferguson, Lauren Flesher, Mary Ann Fluke (MF), Craig Fibanciscus, Bill Franz, Rod Gettig, Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), John & Sue Greer (JSG), Keith Gregorie, Brie Hashem, Daniel Horton, Michael Locher, Nancy Locher, Lee Loncosky, Dan Mangan, Peter Morgan, Mike O'Brien, Bill Oyler, Bonita Portzline, Reid Rumelt, Jack Schultz, Eric Sibbald, Ralph & Deb Siefken (RDS), Michael Sonkowsky, Joel Wagner, Andy Wilson, James Winkelman (JWi), Jason Verdier, Megan Zagorski, Jody Zamirawski.

#### **Allegheny County**

Locations: DASH (Dashields Dam on the Ohio River), IMP (Imperial), WP (Wingfield Pines).

March was warmer than normal and spring arrived following a mild winter with little snow. A series of three cold fronts moved through the first two days of April with gusty winds resulting in a dusting of snow 3 April. Nearing mid-April warmth returned along with the first arriving migrants. May was rainy and by the end of the month it was very warm and humid.

Following the **Greater White-fronted Goose** invasion of the late winter, one goose, remained at Janoski's Farm and at IMP, presumably the same bird, to at least 3/22 (m.ob.). A late **Snow Goose** flew over Pine Twp. 5/17 (PL, SL). A **Cackling Goose** at Janoski's Farm 3/13 (MV) provided the seventh county record. Two **Mute Swans** were at Emsworth 4/24 (MV).

Three rather late **American Wigeons** were found in Findlay Twp. 4/23 (MV). Two were at the Moody Rd. ponds and one was at Janoski's Farm. **Gadwall** is annual but an uncommon migrant. Four were at Duck Hollow 3/2 (TM, NM) and 2 were at IMP 3/18-19 (GM, MD). The only **Northern Shoveler** report came from IMP where 4 were present 3/18 (GM). Four **Northern Pintails** were at North Park the first half of Mar (BM, SP).

A **Redhead** at IMP 4/20 (MJ) represented the only report. There was a small fallout of **Buffleheads** with reports from 7 locations 3/19. Most were found along a stretch of the Allegheny R. from Sharpsburg to Oakmont where 66 were tallied (AH, PM). A **Ruddy Duck** was at Duck Hollow 3/2-19 (TM, NM, et al.), one was in Findlay Twp. 3/31 (MV), and a late bird was in Jefferson Borough 5/26-28 (SSn).

Two **American White Pelicans** were spotted and photographed flying high over Duck Hollow 4/2 (TM, NM, TL) during a blustery day as a cold front passed through, providing the third county record. A late **Common Loon** was on the Allegheny R. at Sharpsburg and Lawrenceville 5/20-22 (JH, ABo, CB).

A possible **Anhinga** was reported flying over Sewickley 4/30 (AP, JC, SA). An **American Bittern** was in the meadow at Beechwood Farms 4/27 (BSh), interestingly in dry brushy habitat. It didn't move much the entire day. A **Least Bittern** was a great find at WP 5/3 (DW) where it fed and perched in the open the majority of the day. There have only been two records since 1924; this provided the fifth county record. One of the local **Great Blue Heron** rookeries was active with 10-12 nests at Kirwin Heights 3/16 (RT). March 25 seemed to be **Great Egret** day with reports of single birds from DASH (GM), Duck Hollow (JS, SS, DaK), and Fox Chapel (AH). The bird in Fox Chapel remained to 4/8 (AH).

A **Black Vulture** was soaring over Clairton 3/11 (TJ) and probably the

same bird was seen nearby in Dravosburg 3/12 (JHa). One was soaring over Homewood Cemetery and Frick Park 4/2 (MF) during the passage of a cold front following unseasonably mild weather. Black Vultures are rare here but reports have been somewhat more frequent in recent years.

A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** at IMP 3/22 (AB, JHa) was only the second report this year. A rather late **Merlin** was at WP 4/29 (DP). **Peregrine Falcon** news continues. The male at the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh was sadly found dead in Mar, possibly struck by a car. The female was incubating 2 eggs at the time of his death. Surprisingly, another male appeared on the scene and became her new mate. Interestingly, she was seen back at the Tarentum Bridge with prey (a **Rock Pigeon**) 3/5 (AH, PM). A Peregrine was seen at the Westinghouse Bridge in East Pittsburgh 3/26 (DaK, DK), another nest site in the county.

A **Virginia Rail** was heard and seen at IMP 4/15-16 (GM, m.ob.), the first at that location in two years. One was at WP 4/26 (MJ). Up to 5 were there 5/3 and they were heard regularly to 5/22 (m.ob.). A **Sora** was there 4/20 (MJ) and 2 were heard regularly to 5/19 (m.ob.). Rails have been reported annually at this site in recent years partly because the mitigation wetland has matured but also because many birders visit the site regularly.

A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Duck Hollow 3/25 (JS, SS) and 2 were at IMP 4/9 (GM, MV). A late bird was at IMP 5/29 (GM). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at WP 4/7 (ST). Fifteen **Wilson's Snipe** were at IMP 3/19 (MD) and 8 were there 4/9 (MV). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at IMP 5/9 (MJ). **Least Sandpiper** reports from IMP include one 4/28 (MJ), 3 on 4/29 (MV) and 10 on 5/9 (GM). One was detected by nocturnal flight calls at Moon Twp. 5/2 (GM). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at IMP 4/29 (MV) represented the only report. A **Dunlin** was at IMP 4/29-5/3 (MV, et al.). Rare in spring, a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was detected flying over Moon Twp. by a nocturnal flight call recorder 5/14 (GM).

An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at The Point in Pittsburgh 3/7 (PF), the last report from the winter. Small numbers of **Ring-billed Gulls** migrated past DASH in Apr (GM, et al.). **Herring Gulls** continue to nest on the Highland Park Bridge over the Allegheny R. Normally nests are counted but not the actual birds. A total of 83 individuals were counted at the site 4/4 (SK). Numbers of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were low this year at DASH, where they are annually counted during migration. Birds were noted at the site 4/1-22 with a total of 134 tallied. Away from DASH, a single Bonaparte's was at IMP 3/19 (MD) and 4/29 (MV); 20 were along the Allegheny R. at Fox Chapel, Blawnox, and Sharpsburg 4/19 (AH, PM); and several were at Wood's Run on the Ohio R. 4/20 (SK).

Tern numbers were also low at the DASH migration site this spring. The first **Caspian Tern** flew past 4/11 (GM, MV) and only 11 were tallied in Apr. **Common Tern** reports at DASH include 2 on 4/21 (GM) and 2 on 5/15 (MV). An early **Forster's Tern** passed by 4/1 (GM). The only other sightings of Forster's Terns at the site were 3 on 4/21 (GM) and one 5/1 (GM). Elsewhere, a Caspian Tern was along the Allegheny R. at Fox Chapel 4/22 (DN). A Common Tern was at IMP 5/2 (GM), only the fourth record for that location. Forster's Terns reported away from DASH include one at Fox Chapel 4/21 (TH), 3 at Duck Hollow 4/24 (JS, SS) and 5/2 (AP, JC), one in Lawrenceville 4/30 (ABo, CB), and one seen flying along the Allegheny R. at Harrison Hills Park 5/23 (DP). A **Black Tern** provided a great find at WP 5/22 (DP); the first in the county since 2014.

Two new **Great Horned Owl** nests were discovered, both on bridges. The first was at a long used Red-tailed Hawk nest on the Homestead Grays Bridge at Duck Hollow. An adult and chick were spotted at the nest 3/27 (JE). Another nest was found in Schenley Park on the Anderson Bridge in an old Red-tailed Hawk's nest 4/2 (KSJ). Two chicks were near the nest that day.

**Common Nighthawks** were reported in Pittsburgh 5/9-10 (AK, GG). First spring reports in other locations include one in Greenfield 5/23 (KSJ), one in Lawrenceville 5/27 (ABo, CB), and one in Bridgeville 5/29 (RT). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was photographed in Marshall Twp. 4/27 (fide MJ). Another was found roosting at Frick Park 5/3 (MD). It apparently moved from its roost during the day but was heard calling nearby at dusk.

The two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** that wintered at North Park were still present in early Apr (BM). An adult at a feeder all winter in Allison Park was last reported 4/4 (AH). This is close to North Park so there is speculation it could be the adult from that location, but it's not known for certain. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was singing at Sewickley Heights Park 5/20 (GM). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** provided a nice find at Homewood Cemetery 5/31 (JC).

An early **Purple Martin** was reported at Yough Country Club 3/11 (fide MJ), a longtime nesting location. A **Barn Swallow** at DASH 3/27 (GM, MV) was also early. A **Cliff Swallow** was seen at Blawnox 5/15 (AH, PM) and 2 were at North Park 5/29 (MV), currently the only known nesting site in Allegheny.

A **Marsh Wren** returned to WP 4/26 (MJ) and 2 were there 4/30 (m.ob.). A **Hermit Thrush** at Riding Meadow Park in Fox Chapel 3/2 (CH)

was probably a wintering bird. An **American Robin** with a completely white tail was photographed at Duck Hollow 4/2 (TM). A somewhat early **Brown Thrasher** was in Turtle Creek 3/22 (DK). Ten **American Pipits** at IMP 4/3 (MV) provided the only report of this species.

A total of 33 species of warblers were reported; highlights follow: **Worm-eating Warbler** is a rare migrant and breeder - one was at Sewickley Heights Park 5/17 (GM), a former possible breeding location, and one was in Shaler Twp. for a week around 5/22 (JH). There were three **Golden-winged Warbler** reports, the most in years. Single birds were at Sewickley Heights Park 5/4 (GM), Homewood Cemetery 5/5 (JC), and Schenley Park 5/7 (ebird). A rare migrant **Prothonotary Warbler** was found at Duck Hollow 4/25 (AB) and remained to 5/8 (m.ob.). Rare in spring, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Sewickley Heights Park 5/10 (ST). There were only two **Mourning Warblers** reported: one at Moon Twp. 5/12 (GM) and one at Frick Park 5/22 (AP). **Kentucky Warblers** returned to breeding sites at Sewickley Heights Park and Barking Slopes 4/29 (GM) and 5/14 (TH) respectively.

A **Cape May Warbler** was recorded via a nocturnal flight call at Moon Twp. 5/2 (GM) and one was at Findlay Twp. 5/4 (GM). **Cerulean Warblers** returned to Sewickley Heights Park by 4/24 (GM) and Harrison Hills Park 5/7 (SG), both traditional breeding sites. One was at Frick Park 5/3 (JC) and one was at Beechwood Farms 5/4 (CK). **Pine Warbler** is an uncommon migrant in the county. One was at Linbrook Park 4/5 (KD), one was in Pine Twp. 4/18 (PL, SL) and one at Frick Park 5/2 (AP, JC). **Prairie Warblers** were back at IMP by late Apr; unusual was a migrant at Wingfield Pines 4/5-9 (ST, m.ob.). A **Canada Warbler** was at Frick Park 5/14 (JC) and a **Wilson's Warbler** was in Pine Twp. 5/13 (PL, SL).

A real surprise was an eBird entry with photographs of a male **Western Tanager** on the north side of Pittsburgh 5/4. The bird visited a feeder for a single day. The only other record of which I am aware was from Harrison Hills Park in 1999. The leucistic **Northern Cardinal** reported since last fall in Swissvale was still present as of this writing (RB). It's always nice to receive **Rusty Blackbird** reports. One was at a small pond in Homewood Cemetery 3/9 (JC) and 4 more were found there feeding with other blackbirds on the lawn 3/12 (TH).

A **Purple Finch** visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 3/14 (JV) and Natrona Heights 3/15, 3/26 and 4/19 (PH). Two were at Harrison Hills Park 3/27 (MF), 3 were at Frick Park 4/15 (JS, SS), and up to 2 were at Pine Twp. from late Mar through Apr (AH, PM). An immature male was singing in Monroeville 5/23 (KSJ); every year some imm. males try to establish territories in less than optimal habitat in the county. The small **Pine Siskin** invasion continued with the flock in Sewickley remaining from the winter to at least 5/1 (JT). One visited a feeder in Gibsonia 3/16 (KP) and there was an ebird report of one in McCandless Twp. 3/13. More were reported through Apr with ebird reports from various locations. The high count in May was 25 in Leetsdale 5/10 (ebird). The last report was in South Park 5/13 (JF, LF).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**; Sameer Apte, Lorraine Asturino, Roy Bires, Dave Broeke, Al Borek (ABo), Carol Borek, Alan Buriak, Jack Chaillett, Michael David, Karyn Delaney, John English, Leslie Ferree, Patience Fisher, John Flannigan, Donna Foyle, Gigi Gerben, Sarah Gerrish, Steve Gosser, Jim Hausman (JHa), Cecilia Hard, Malcolm Harter, Janet Heintz, Amy Henrici, Paul Hess, Joyce Hoffmann, Maureen Hobma, Todd Hooe, Tim Johnson, Fred Kachmarik, Alyssa Karmann, Andy Keister (AKe), Dave Kerr (DaK), Don Kerr, Scott Kinzey, Chris Kubiak, Todd Ladner, Oliver Lindhiem, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Pat McShea, Geoff Malosh, Nancy Moeller, Bob Machesney, Jeff McDonald, Dick Nugent, Kevin Parsons, Tom Pawlesh, Aidan Place, Shannon Platt, David Poortinga, Rob Protz, Kara Riehl, Brian Shema (BSh), Sam Sinderson (SSn), Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Becky Szabo (BSz), Steve Szabo (SSz), Juli Tebbets, Shannon Thompson, Steve Tirone (Sti), Ryan Tomazin, Jim Valimont, Bob VanNewkirk (BVN), Mark Vass, Dan Weeks (DWe), David Yeany (DYE).

#### Armstrong County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Armstrong Trail (AT), CHR (Cherry Run), Cochran's Mill (CM), Creek Road (CR), Crooked Creek (CC), Elderton (ELD), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Lock and Dam (L&D), Mahoning Creek Lake (MCL), Murphy's Bottom (MB), Nicholson Run Road (NRR), Parks Bend Farm (PBF), Polka Hollow Road (PH), Rearicks Road (RRD), Roaring Run (RR), Rosston (RT), SGL 137, SGL 247, Worthington (WT).

First 8 **Wood Ducks** reported for spring were observed at KR 4/4 (MH, RH) and 20 were on the AT 4/16 (TR). A lone **Gadwall** was noted at KR 3/8

(MH, RH) and 6 remained 4/12. Eight **American Wigeons** arrived at CC 3/7 (MVT) and 7 were still there 3/13 (TR). Only 2 **Blue-winged Teal** appeared at CC 3/7 (MVT), 4 were observed on AT north of Dam 8 on 4/6 (TR). Eight **Northern Shovelers** were a lovely sight at CC 3/19 (SG, MVT, TR), 2 were at KR 3/20 (MH, RH), and 2 on the AT 3/26 (TR). A pair of **Green-winged Teal** appeared on a small pond in WT 3/15 (DF, MVT) and 2 were observed at KR 3/20 (MH, RH) and 2 on the AT n of Dam 8 on 3/26 (TR).

Six **Ring-necked Ducks** arrived at CC 3/7 (SG), 2 were seen again 3/19 (SG, TR), and the last was observed at the AT north of Dam 3/26 (TR). A lone **Greater Scaup** was reported at RT 3/19 (TR) but a higher count of 25 **Lesser Scaup** migrated through CC 3/13 (TR), followed by 15 at KR 4/12 (MH, RH). The first 4 **Buffleheads** arrived at CC 3/7 (MVT) and 11 were observed there 3/19 (SG, TR), but KR had the high count of 28 on 4/12 (MH, RH). KR produced the highest count of 36 **Hooded Mergansers** and only 2 were observed 3/23 at Cochran's Mill (MVT). Crooked Creek was host to 35 **Common Mergansers** 3/1 and 46 on 3/5 (MVT); 8 were observed 3/27 (AK, JK). Thirty-nine were counted at KR 3/8 (MH, RH). The highest tally of **Red-breasted Mergansers** was 138 at KR 4/12 (MH, RH); only 8 were observed at CC 3/7 (MO) and a lone female was observed and photographed at PBF 4/8 (MVT). A lone **Ruddy Duck** appeared at CC 3/1 (SG) but the best tally was 600 counted at KR 4/12 (MH, RH).

Highest count of **Wild Turkeys** was 71 near WT 3/12 (TR). First 2 **Common Loons** appeared at KR 3/8 (MH, RH) and 3 were observed (photos) at this location 4/6 (MVT); the highest count was 18 on 4/12 (MH). A lone **Pied-billed Grebe** arrived at KR 3/8 (MH, RH), Crooked Creek hosted only one 3/13, 3/25 and 4/9 (TR). Highest count of 13 **Horned Grebes** was at KR 3/21 (MH), 4 remained 4/13 (MH, RH), and 2 were observed at RT 3/25 (TR).

A lone **Double-crested Cormorant** arrived at CC 4/10 (MVT, SG) and 5 were observed at KR 5/1 (MH, RH). First **Great Blue Heron** was at CC 3/2, 3 were there 3/19 (TR), and 2 were also seen at Cochran's Mill (TB). A heronry with approximately 8-10 nests was reported to MVT and AD and confirmed by family that live nearby (TM). A **Great Egret** was observed (photos) at PBF pond 4/6 (MVT), one appeared at KR 4/7 (TB) and remained 4/9 (SG), and one was at Altmyers Pond 4/12 (MH, RH). First **Green Heron** was spotted at the AT 4/30 (TR) and one was enjoying the pond at PBF 5/4 and 5/11 (MVT).

Only one **Turkey Vulture** was reported at CC 3/1 (MVT) and 4 were at MCL 5/19 (AK, JK). An **Osprey** was observed (photos) at Buffalo Creek 3/18 (MVT), one was noted at CC 3/27 (AK, JK) and 4/30 (SG), 2 were observed at CC 4/1 (MVT), and one on CR 5/13 and 5/14 (MVT). A lone **Northern Harrier** was listed 3/18 and 3/20 at WT (MVT), one was also observed 4/10 and 5/8 at WT (TR), and MCL hosted one 4/13 (MVT). A **Bald Eagle** was observed (photos) on a small pond in WT 3/15 (DF, MVT), 3 were observed at KR 3/8, 5/1, and 5/14 (MH, RH), and one was spotted on the AT 3/26 (TR). There are occupied nests at CC, Girty, MCL and across from Ford City. **Coopers Hawks** were reported at CC 3/29 (MVT), Manorville near KT (MH, RH), and in WT (MVT). The only **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was noted at SGL 247 (TR). **Red-shouldered Hawks** was observed at CC 3/1 and 4/10 (SG), then 2 on 3/19 (TR) and 3/27 (AK, JK), and at MB 5/25 (KK, MVT). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen flying to a tree near CR 4/22 where it perched eating a large meal (photos, MVT). A lone **Red-tail Hawk** was spotted at CC 3/1 and again on 4/30 (SG), 3 were seen on the 156/56 line to Apollo 3/5 (MH, RH), and 2 were observed at WT nesting 3/22 (DF, MVT).

**American Coots** arrived at the PBF pond 3/19 (MVT) and one appeared at KR 4/9 (SG). One was in WT 4/16 (MVT) and 5 were on the AT, north of Dam 8 that day (TR). Four **Sandhill Cranes** flying fairly low over trees at WT were a surprise 3/15 (DF, MVT) but could not be relocated. **Killdeer** were fairly widespread but not in big numbers. A female was sitting on eggs at PBF 5/31 (MVT, ph.). Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were first observed on the AT, north of Dam 8 on 4/30, one was at CC 5/20 (MVT), one at Woods Pond near KR 5/14 (MH, RH), and one at MB 5/25 (KK, MVT). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** appeared at CC and also at CR 4/30 (SG); one appeared at PBF pond 5/1 (MVT). The only reports of **American Woodcock** were of 2 at Dutch Run Rd. near ELD 4/12 and 6 on 5/14 (MH, RH).

A high count of 28 **Bonaparte Gulls** were made 4/6 (MVT); the first had arrived 3/8 (MH, RH). High count of 50 **Ring-billed Gulls** was at Shadyside Farm near ELD 3/2 (SH) and 20 were at CC 3/2 (MVT). **Herring Gull** reports include one at CC 3/13 (TR) and 4 at KT L&D 7 on 4/7 (MH, RH).

First **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported in WT 5/6 (DF, MVT), 2 were at MB 5/25 (KK, MVT), and one near Whitesburg 5/31 (MH, RH); A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was observed at CR (MVT, ph.) 5/6, one appeared at SGL 137 on 5/15 (TR), and one at CC 5/31 (MH, RH). The only **Eastern Screech-Owl** reported was in Sisterville 3/4 (TR). First **Great Horned Owl** was heard 3/12 on Sportsmen's Road (TR). They were also at CM 3/23 and

CC 4/5 (MVT) and near ELD (MH, RH). A nest was discovered at KR around 3/9 (TB) and observed when there was one owlet 4/6 (AD, MVT) and 4/9 (SG). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** appeared near LB 4/30 and 3 were observed at a feeder 5/14 (MVT). One arrived at KT 5/22 (AB) and at CC 5/20 (TR). **Belted Kingfishers** first appeared 3/8 at KR (MH, RH), one was at RT 4/3 (TR), one was observed 3/27 (TR) and 5/10 (MVT) in WT, on NRR 5/14 (MVT) and at CC, and 2 on 3/19 (TR) and 4/10 (SG).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** provided a nice find on CM Rd. near Girty 5/28 (MH, RH). First **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was observed on the AT, north of Dam 8 on 3/26 (TR) and 2 were at CC on 4/2 (TR). Two **American Kestrels** were noted together on wires in WT 3/1 (DK), 8 were counted in various areas in WT (MVT) 4/16, and one was observed 422 near ELD 5/9 (MH, RH). A lone **Peregrine Falcon** was seen on the AT near Manorville 4/15 (TR).

First **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was observed 5/14 at CR (MVT). The first **Acadian Flycatchers** were 2 seen 5/13 at PH and CR (MVT); one appeared on NRR 5/14 (TR), one was spotted on Montgomery 5/23, 2 were observed on Rosentsteel Rd. (MH, RH), and at CC and one was observed 5/31 (MH, RH). First **Willow Flycatcher** appeared on RRD 5/27 (MVT), near CM on 5/28, and in the Cherry Run area 5/31 (MH, RH). The only **Least Flycatchers** were 2 on PH 5/31 (MVT). **Eastern Phoebe**s were widespread. The first reports were in ELD 3/10 (SGR) and at CC 3/15 (MVT) at CC where 2 nests were observed 5/14 (KK, MVT), one of which contained with at least 2 chicks visible 5/20 (MVT). The first **Great Crested Flycatcher** returned to MCL (AD) and a pair returned to nest 5/19 (AD). One was observed in SGL 247 on 5/8 (TR) and 2 near Cherry Run 5/31 (MH, RH). First **Eastern Kingbird** was at CRR 5/3 (MVT); 2 were observed in SGL 247 on 5/14 (TR), and one at MB 5/25 (KK, MVT).

First dates for vireos were 4/30 at CC (SG) and 5/2 at RR (MVT) for **White-eyed Vireo**; 4/25 on the AT (MH, RH) for **Yellow-throated Vireo**; **Blue-headed Vireo** was observed on the AT (MH, RH) and at PBF 5/19 (MVT); and **Warbling Vireo** on the AT, north of Dam 8 on 4/30 (TR). **Red-eyed Vireos** showed up in many places of course, best count was 8 at NR (TR). First **Common Raven** appeared 3/2 at CC (MVT) and ravens were observed in all three months of the report period (AK, JK, SG, TR) Ravens and were observed courting/mating, followed by both adults and 2 fledglings learning their call and testing their wings 5/20 (MVT). The only **Horned Larks** reported were 3 at WT 3/12 and 2 on 5/14 (TR).

First **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were 2 at CR (SG) and 3 at CM 5/1 (TB). The highest count of 8 **Purple Martins** was listed at Wood's Pond near KR (MH, RH) but only one was seen in WT 5/8 (TR). High count of 80 **Tree Swallows** occurred 4/12 (MH, RH) and 4 were nesting in bluebird boxes at CC (MVT). High count of 22 **Barn Swallows** was reported in WT 5/10 (MVT) but a higher count of 50 was made at CR 5/15 (SG). A lone **Cliff Swallow** was reported at Oak Ridge (TR) and 4 were nesting on a bridge at Walker Flat (AK, JK).

Highest count for **Black-capped Chickadees** was 11 at CC 3/27 (AK, JK). A nest with at least 2 little chicks begging for food was observed at MB 5/25 (KK, MVT). A **Winter Wren** was spotted at CC 4/10 (SG) and one at RR 4/30 (KSJ). First **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** appeared in WT 4/24 (TR), then 2 were spotted on the AT 4/25 (MH, RH), 4 at CC (SG) 4/30, and one at PH 5/3 (MVT). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were noted at WT first 3/27 (TR), with 3 at CC on 3/5 (photos, MVT), and at CM 4/3 (TB). Only **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were found at CC 4/15 (TR) and 4/30 (SG) and CR (SG) on the same date.

Only **Veery** and **Swainson's Thrush** were found at SGL 137 on 5/15 (TR). **Wood Thrush** were widely scattered. One **American Pipit** was located at KR 4/9 (SG), 2 near ELD 5/14 (MH, RH), and one at WT 5/14 (MVT). Six **Cedar Waxwings** were found at CC 5/22 (TR), 2 at MB 5/25 (KK, MVT), and 2 on Browns Hill Rd. near CC (MH/RH).

Three **Ovenbirds** were observed at CC 4/30 and CR (SG), and 4 were found on PH 5/14 (MVT). Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were discovered on the AT north of Cosmos 5/7 (TR), one was on CM Rd. 5/28, and one was near LB (MH, RH). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** arrived 4/16 and 4/18 at CR (MVT, SG) and at PH 4/20 (MH, RH). A **Golden-winged Warbler** represented a nice find at RR 4/20 (PH, KSJ). **Blue-winged Warblers** arrived at CC and CR on 4/30, with one at SGL 137 on 5/29 (TR). Four **Black-and-white Warblers** were observed on the AT near Templeton 5/25 (MH, RH) and 2 were at MCL 5/19 (AK, JK). Three **Tennessee Warblers** appeared at SGL 137 on 5/15 and one was at CR same day (SG). Three **Nashville Warblers** were observed at CC and singles were at CR 4/30 (SG) and RR 5/2 (MVT). **Common Yellowthroats** were fairly widespread, with first 4 at SGL 4/27 (TR).

The first 2 **Hooded Warblers** arrived at SGL 247 on 4/29 and by 5/8 a nice count of 10 showed up (TR); 5 were at CC 4/30 (SG), and 2 at CR 5/20 (MVT). Seven **American Redstarts** provided a nice find on the AT north of Dam 8 on 4/30 (TR), one was observed at CR 4/20 (SG) and on 5/6 (MVT),

and 2 appeared at CM 5/1 (MH, RH). The only **Cape May Warblers** were 2 at CC 5/22 (TR). **Cerulean warblers** were first seen at CR 4/30 (SG) and then again 5/13 (MVT); 2 were at CM 5/28 (MH, RH). Single **Northern Parulas** stopped near KT 4/25 (MH, RH), at CR 4/20 (SG), and at CC 5/1 (MVT). One **Magnolia Warbler** arrived at SGL 247 on 5/8 and one was at SGL 137 on 5/15 (TR). **Bay-breasted Warblers** appeared 5/15 at CR (SG) and at SGL 137 (TR).

**Yellow Warblers** were fairly wide-spread, with the first two observed at CR (SG) and where 5 were seen 5/13 (MVT). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was observed first at WT 5/12 (MVT), followed by one at SGL 247 on 5/14 (TR), and one at CM 5/28 (MH, RH). The only **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at CR 5/3 (MVT). A **Palm Warbler** was at CR 4/20 (SG). First 7 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were observed on the AT north of Dam 8 on 4/30 (TR), 6 arrived at CC same date, and 2 were at KR 5/1 (MH, RH). The first **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported at CR 4/16 (SG), one was observed at CM gathering nesting material (MVT, ph.), and one was listed on CC Road 5/28 (MH, RH). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** arrived at SGL 247 on 5/8 (TR) and one was observed on RRD 5/31 (TB, ph.).

A lone **Grasshopper Sparrow** provided a nice find near Brick Church 5/31 (MH, RH). A high count of 15 **American Tree Sparrows** came from CC 3/1 (SG). Two **Chipping Sparrows** appeared first at CC 4/1, but 10 arrived 4/16 (MVT), 2 were in KT 5/22 (AB), and one was at MCL 5/19 (AK, JK). The first **Field Sparrow** was spotted at CC 3/13 (MVT) where 10 were observed 4/27 (AK, JK). The only **Fox Sparrows** listed included singles at CC 3/20 (SG) and SGL 247 on 4/2 (TR). Five **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen at CC 3/1 (MVT) and 3 were at MCL 3/21 (AD). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** arrived at CR 5/3 (MVT), 2 were at SGL 247 on 5/8 (TR), and 2 appeared at MCL 5/14 (MVT). Ten **White-throated Sparrows** were reported at CC 3/19 (TR) and one was at RR (PF, KSJ). Two **Savannah Sparrows** represented a nice find at RF 4/16 (SG); one was near ELD 5/14 (MH, RH). **Song Sparrows** were widespread with high counts on the AT of 12 (MH, RH, TR). The first **Swamp Sparrow** appeared at CC 3/30 and one was spotted at MB 3/20 (KK).

**Scarlet Tanagers** were fairly widespread, with the first on 4/30 at CR (SG) and Cochrans Mill (TB). The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** appeared at feeders near LB 4/26 (MVT), RR 4/30 (KSJ), and CC (SG). An **Indigo Bunting** first appeared at SGL 247 on 5/8 (TR) and a pair was observed (photo) at MB gathering nesting material (KK, MVT).

First **Bobolinks**, totaling 10, arrived on Green Acres Rd. in WT (TR), with 8 on 5/12 (MVT), and 4 at RF 5/13. **Eastern Meadowlarks** appeared at WT 3/27 (TR) where 6 were observed 5/10 (MVT, ph.); 5 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were listed first on the AT near Templeton (MH, RH) and 12 in WT (photos, MVT). **Orchard Oriole** included a first year male at CR 5/3 (photos, MVT, ph.), 2 at MB 5/25 (KK, MVT), and 2 on Margaret Rd. (MH, RH). First 2 **Baltimore Orioles** were noted at CR 4/30 (SG), one was listed at each of two places in WT (DF, MVT), at NR 5/14 (TR), and one in KT 5/22 (AB). Four **Purple Finches** were noted at LB feeders 4/7 (MVT), CC hosted 5 on 4/10 (SG), and 2 were noted at KT feeders (AB). The only **Pine Siskins** were 5 noted at CC 3/1 (MVT) and 9 on 3/20 (SG).

Observers: **Marjorie Van Tassel, 3102 River Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690-6093, (724) 845-1050, marvantassel@gmail.com**, Alan Buriak, Tony Bruno, Anna Donato, Debby Fazekas, Steve Gosser, Steven Graff, Susanne Haney, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Avis Keener, John Keener, Karlee Kocun, Teresa Myers, Melissa Ortiz, Theo Rickert, Kate St. John.

## Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Brighton Twp. Nature Trail (BNT), Economy Borough (ECON), Independence Marsh (IND), Little Blue Lake (LBL), Madden Run Marsh (MRM), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH), Vanport (VAN).

A **Mute Swan** was at MRM 5/22 (MV). **Gadwall** had an excellent season with many sightings across several locations—the Ohio River, IND, RCSP, and AR—from 3/4-4/14, topped by 24 at VAN 3/18 (GR, DR) and 14 at AR 3/18 (GM). Up to 8 **American Wigeon** were at IND 3/4-18 (MV, GM), and 2 were at RCSP 3/18 (GM). Reports of **American Black Duck** were limited to 2 at RCH 3/4 (MV) and 3 at IND 3/19 (MV). Up to 7 **Blue-winged Teal** were frequently reported at IND 3/23-4/16 (m.ob.); one late bird was at LBL 5/8 (MV). **Northern Shovelers** included 5 at AR 3/18 (GM), one at IND 3/19 (MV), and 3-4 at LBL 3/27-4/1 (MV, GM). **Northern Pintails** were gone quickly, noted only at IND 3/4-6 (MV) and at VAN 3/6 (GR, DR). Last **Green-winged Teal** were 8 at RCSP 3/30 (KD, DC).

Bay ducks were not well reported after the end of Feb. The only report of **Redhead** was 5 at RCH 3/4 (MV) and Canvasback was not reported at

all. Small numbers of **Ring-necked Duck** (up to 25) were noted at IND and AR through 3/20 (GM, MD). A **Greater Scaup** was at New Brighton 3/27 (TJ). **Lesser Scaup** were lightly reported here and there through 3/20 (m.ob.). The only “rarity” among waterfowl was the 2 **Long-tailed Ducks** at VAN 4/8 (GR, DR). **Bufflehead** was very well reported in Mar, particularly 3/18 when 85 were totaled across 5 sites (GM, GR). Among these were a flock of 21 at RCSP (GM) that dwindled to 12 by 3/30 (KD, DC). Last was a somewhat late bird at IND 4/24 (MV). Last **Common Mergansers** were noted at RCH 4/8 (MV). An early **Red-breasted Merganser** was at RCH 3/6 (MV) and a nice flock of 21 was there 4/8 (MV). Up to 7 were at AR 3/18-20 (GM, MD).

A hapless **Ring-necked Pheasant** was spotted hanging around the edge of the parking lot at the Beaver Valley Mall 3/22 (*vide* DR). Up to 4 **Common Loons** were noted at VAN 4/5-28 (GR, DR) and one was at RCH 4/8 (MV). **Horned Grebe** was noted only at AR 3/20 and 4/3 (both MD). The first **Osprey** appeared at RCH 3/13 (MV). By 3/27, both nests on the Beaver R. were attended by at least one adult (TJ). Two were noted at RCSP 5/6 (KD, DC, KSJ) continuing a string of spring and summer sightings in the park with no known nest in the immediate vicinity. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was a bit out of place at RCH 5/6 (MV). Both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora**, each quite rare in *Beaver*, were heard at the marsh on the western side of RCSP 5/8 (AK).

With the facility scheduled to close by the end of 2016, LBL is soon to pass into history, taking with it a brief but memorable legacy as one of western Pennsylvania’s finest shorebird sites. There were a number of interesting sightings at the lake this spring to close things out. The spring aggregation of **Semipalmated Plovers** there maxed out at 41 on 5/18 (GM), and 13 were still present 5/26 (GM). A **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/29 (GM) was the only report of the species in the county for the entire season, and Lesser Yellowlegs was not reported at all. A flock of at least 200 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was present the afternoon of 5/26 (GM), a new high count for *Beaver*, and another 50 **peep sp.** too distant to identify were also almost certainly Semipalmated as well. Along with this flock on 5/26 were 3 **White-rumped Sandpipers** (GM). Reports of **Pectoral Sandpipers** included 2 on 3/27 (MV) and one 4/1 (GM). A **Dunlin** was on the flats 5/18 (GM). Lastly, a **dowitcher sp.** too far to identify (very probably a Short-billed) was present 5/15 (MV). This site will surely be missed in shorebird-starved western Pennsylvania, although certainly it was never a very pleasant place from an ecological standpoint. The land around the lake still holds enormous potential for nesting landbirds, however, as much of the area, which contains several habitat types, has lain undisturbed and undeveloped for years, or even decades in some spots.

Away from LBL, shorebirds were almost missed entirely. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at IND 4/27-5/2 (GR, DR) and one was at RCSP 5/8 (AK, FK). Two wintering **Wilson’s Snipes** were still at the Siebel Farm in Independence Twp. 3/2 (MV), and one was at LBL 4/1 (GM). Ten **American Woodcocks**, a species certainly present in good numbers but not often sought in the county, were counted on a woodcock walk at RCSP 4/14 (CD).

Aside from sightings of birds passing Dashields Dam just over the county border in *Allegheny*, which itself saw a very quiet spring waterbird flight, reports of **Bonaparte’s Gulls** were limited to one at RCH 3/20 (MV), 2 at LBL 4/1 (GM), 12 at RCH 4/8 (MV), and one at MRM 4/30 (MV). A **Forster’s Tern** was noted at VAN 4/22 (GR).

The only reports of the increasingly rare **Black-billed Cuckoo** were singles at BNT 5/9 and 5/11 (GR). There were 8 reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** across the southern half of the county in May, however (m.ob.). **Barred Owls** were heard at RCSP 4/6 (MH, RH) and 4/30 (DC), and another was at AR 5/30 (MV). The only reports of **Common Nighthawk** were singles at Beaver Falls 5/7 (TJ) and Beaver 5/19 (GR). SGL 285 in the northwestern corner of the county remains the only known site for **Eastern Whip-poor-Wills**; 3 were heard there at dusk 5/27 (MV).

Up to 2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen near MRM 4/30 and 5/22 (MV), the latter date suggesting that they nested this spring. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was still at BNT 4/20 (GR). Seven reports of **American Kestrel** represented a good spring total for *Beaver* (m.ob.). A **Merlin** was seen in Ambridge 3/5 (MV) and another was at LBL 3/27 (MV). The **Peregrine Falcon** pair seemed to be setting up shop on the P&LE rail bridge again with reports through 5/5 (MJ, MV, et al.).

**Blue-headed Vireos** were noted only at RCSP 4/19-30 (m.ob.). The pair of **Common Ravens** tried to nest again on the Rochester-Beaver railroad bridge, but the pattern was about the same as last year, with sightings tapering off by mid-Apr and the fate of the attempt unknown. It’s likely they are simply too close for comfort to the Peregrines on the P&LE bridge. A **Horned Lark** at LBL 4/29 (GM) was the only one reported.

A nice count of 27 **Purple Martins** was made at a colony in Fombell 5/28 (MV). Two **Bank Swallows** were around a gravel pond at MRM 4/30 (MV), a possible nesting site. A **Brown Creeper** late enough to suggest

attempted breeding was singing at the RCSP wildflower reserve 5/25 (MF). Last year one stayed late into the season on the Lake Trail at RCSP but neither of these was confirmed breeding. A few **Winter Wrens** were noted at RCSP 3/30-4/14 (KD, DC, KSJ, et al.). An early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at RCSP 4/2 (JM). Spot-breasted thrushes were very few: **Veery** was at BNT 4/30-5/9 (GR) and one was at SGL 189 on 5/15 (GM), and a **Hermit Thrush** was at ECON 3/16 (KD). An **American Pipit** was at the Siebel Farm in Independence Twp. 3/4 (MV).

**Northern Waterthrush** is always a nice find in the county; one was at IND 5/6 (GR). **Black-and-white Warbler** was noted only 3 times: singles at Sahli Nature Park 4/25 (GR), RCSP 4/30 (DC), and SGL 189 on 5/15 (GM). **Tennessee** and **Nashville Warblers** were both very lightly reported (m.ob.). Two territorial **Kentucky Warblers** were noted at SGL 189 on 5/15 (GM), a happy sign. High numbers of **Cerulean Warblers** were reported at the RCSP wildflower reserve throughout May (KSJ, et al.), another pleasing sign. Last **Northern Parula** was at SGL 189, a possible breeding area, on 5/15 (GM). The only **Magnolia Warblers** were singles at RCSP (KSJ) and SGL 189, both 5/15 (GM). A few **Bay-breasted Warblers** were noted at RCSP 5/16-20 (DP, AKe). **Blackburnian**, **Chestnut-sided**, and **Blackpoll Warblers**, none of these typically uncommon spring migrants, were each noted only twice (m.ob.), although it should be said that all of this underreporting of warblers this spring was most likely due to light coverage by birders. **Palm Warbler** was a bit better represented, with 8 reports at various locations 4/21-5/4 (m.ob.). **Pine Warblers** were at RCSP 3/26 (GG) and 4/30 (GM), and one probable breeder was at AR 5/20 (MV). A few **Black-throated Green Warblers** were noted around RCSP through May. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at LBL 5/8 (MV), the most reliable site for the species in *Beaver*.

Sparrow reports were quite unremarkable. The only **Fox Sparrows** were in an ECON yard 4/1-8 (KD). A few **White-crowned Sparrows** were variously reported 4/27-5/11 (m.ob.). Three **Bobolinks** were at LBL 5/8 (MV); other known sites for this species were not checked this spring. A number of reports of **Rusty Blackbird** were encouraging: 3 at IND 3/4 (MV), 2 there 3/20-4/6 (MD, et al.), 2 in Independence Twp. 4/9 (MV), and a surprising flock of at least 32 at the RCSP wildflower reserve 4/8 (BG).

**Purple Finches** were around an ECON yard 4/3-5/13 (KD), and one was at a feeder in VAN 5/19 (ph. GR). Counts of **Pine Siskins** at an ECON yard fluctuated throughout Mar and Apr, peaking at 35 on 3/28, and up to 8 were still there 5/13 (KD). The RCSP park office feeder hosted a small group of siskins again this spring as well, with 16 there 3/30 (KD, DC, KSJ) and the last single reported 4/23 (MV).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh**, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net, Simone Bennett, Donna Collett, Michael David, Casey Davidson, Karyn Delaney, Mike Fialkovich, Gigi Gerben, Burlton Griffith, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Tim Johnson, Matt Juskowich, Fred Kachmarik, Alyssa Karmann, Andy Keister (AKe), Jeff McDonald, David Poortinga, Dan Rubino, Gina Rubino, Jack Solomon, Kate St. John (KSJ), Mark Vass.

## Bedford County

Locations: Dunning Creek Wetlands (DCW), Whitetail Wetlands (WTW), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Bedford Co. at Large (BAL), Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF), Pennsylvania Count (PAMC) for Bedford.

Spring weather was somewhat turbulent with strong thunderstorms and cold fronts. Heavy rain filled the impoundments at DCW, however one impoundment was drawn down to mudflats for shorebirds. Despite the weather, we had some interesting birds such as **Little Blue Heron**, **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Trumpeter Swans**, and a **Blue Grosbeak**. Almost all the waterfowl were from Dunning Creek Wetlands.

**Canada Geese** numbers were relatively low in Bedford till 3/21 when 352 settled into Teal Lake at DCW. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** singleton made its appearance 4/3 and lingered for three days at DCW. A single **Trumpeter Swan** (3/20) settled into the 18 acres of Teal Lake (DCW) only to have another Trumpeter join it 3/21. Five hundred and eighty **Tundra Swans** flew over the AFHW 3/6.

The following high counts from SSP are as follows: 150 **Wood Ducks** 3/20, 99 **Gadwalls** 3/9, 38 **American Wigeons** 3/15, 22 **American Black Ducks** 3/9, 31 **Mallards** 3/9, 215 **Blue-winged Teal** 3/21, 82 **Northern Shovelers** 3/21, 7 **Northern Pintails** 3/21, 35 **Green-winged Teal** 3/30, 15 **Canvasbacks** 3/24, 4 **Redheads** 3/14, and 85 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/14.

At DCW, there were 85 **Greater Scaup** 3/9 and 18 **Lesser Scaup** 3/15. Three **White-winged Scoters** and 6 **Black Scoters** were at SSP 4/5. **Long-tailed Ducks** were scenic in their grouping of 154 at SSP 3/14.

Nineteen **Buffleheads** were at SSP 3/14. Twenty **Common Mergansers**, 22 **Hooded Mergansers**, and 16 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were counted at SSP 3/14.

The high for **Double-crested Cormorants** was 480 at SSP 4/10. The following herons were observed at DCW: 2 **American Bitterns** 5/14, 3 **Great Blue Herons** 5/9, 1 **Little Blue Heron** 5/9, 2 **Great Egrets** 5/6 and 2 **Green Herons** 5/9 and 5/14; Little Blue Heron are seen only every 3 to 5 years.

The Allegheny Front Spring Hawk Watch had its fourth lowest count out of 20 spring counts, mostly due to rain and fog. Species counts: 8 **Black Vultures**, 54 **Turkey Vultures**, 34 **Ospreys**, 23 **Bald Eagles**, 13 **Northern Harriers**, 70 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 22 **Coopers Hawks**, 5 **Northern Goshawks**, 14 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 128 **Broad-winged Hawks**, 146 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 65 **Golden Eagles**, 12 **American Kestrels**, 5 **Merlins**, 2 **Peregrine Falcons**, and 28 unidentified; no Rough-legged Hawks were seen. The raptor total was 672.

One **Virginia Rail** and 2 **Soras** were at DCW 5/11. Fifteen **American Coots** were at WTW 3/15. A **Sandhill Crane** was welcomed to DCW 5/6 on Bittern Pool (water lowered for sandpipers). The raising and drawing of this pool draws interesting sandpipers: 5 **Killdeer** 5/8, 9 **Greater Yellowlegs** 5/6, 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/6, 1 **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/9, 4 **Willetts** 5/14, 14 **Spotted Sandpipers** 5/9, 1 **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/6-9, 7 **Sanderlings** 5/8, 5 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/9, 4 **Western Sandpipers** 5/11, 9 **Least Sandpipers** 5/9, one **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/9, 2 **Baird's Sandpipers** 5/8, one **Pectoral Sandpiper** 5/6, and one **Short-billed Dowitcher** 5/11. Two **Wilson's Snipe** and 4 **American Woodcocks** were seen on the AF 5/9.

The following gulls and terns were at SSP: 2 **Bonaparte Gulls**, 4 **Ring-billed Gulls**, 2 **Herring Gulls**, one **Caspian Tern**, 2 **Common Terns**, and 7 **Black Terns** 5/11.

One **Black-billed Cuckoo** and 2 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were observed at DCW 5/14. White-tailed Wetlands was always the place to go to see Barn Owls, but that changed two years ago when a supposed Great Horned Owl killed the female. The good news is that another **Barn Owl** has now settled into the silo at WTW. Additional owls along the AF included one **Eastern Screech-Owl** 5/14, 2 **Great Horned Owls** 5/11, and one **Barred Owl** 5/14. A **Short-eared Owl** flew over fields at DCW 5/11. Eastern **Whip-poor-wills** were heard regularly at SSP, and AF 5/14.

Two **Belted Kingfishers** were at SSP 5/11. Woodpeckers at SSP included one **Red-headed Woodpecker** 5/11, 2 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** 5/9, 2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** 5/11, and 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers** 5/10. An interesting group of flycatchers were seen at both DCW and WTW: one **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/4, 3 **Eastern Wood Pewees** 5/29, one **Acadian Flycatcher** 5/11, 7 **Willow Flycatchers** 5/29, 2 **Least Flycatchers** 5/14, 2 **Great Crested Flycatchers** 5/14, and 4 **Eastern Kingbirds** 5/9.

The following vireos were mostly seen on the AF: 2 **White-eyed Vireos**, one **Blue-headed Vireo** 5/29, 2 **Warbling Vireos** 5/4, 2 **Philadelphia Vireos** 5/11, and 8 **Red-eyed Vireos** 5/29.

DCW Swallow peaks: 21 **Tree Swallows** 5/9, 4 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** 5/29, 2 **Bank Swallows** 5/11, 2 **Cliff Swallows** 5/14, and 18 **Barn Swallows** 5/29. **Carolina Chickadees** continue to move northward, 2 were seen 5/11 along with 2 **Black-capped Chickadees** at DCW. Wrens included one **Carolina Wren** 5/11, 4 **House Wrens**, and 2 **Marsh Wrens** at DCW 5/11.

Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were seen at SSP 5/9. Thrushes were few and scattered with the following at DCW: 5 **Eastern Bluebirds** 5/9, 2 **Hermit Thrushes** 5/14, and 2 **Wood Thrushes** 5/11. First **Cedar Waxwings** were 4 at SSP 5/9.

The following 22 warblers were seen within the wetland complex of DCW and WTW: 2 **Blue-winged Warblers** 5/11, 2 **Golden-winged Warblers** 5/11, 5 **Yellow Warblers** 5/9, 2 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** 5/11, 2 **Magnolia Warblers** 5/14, 2 **Cape May Warbles** 5/9, 3 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** 5/5, 4 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** 5/14, 2 **Black-throated Green Warblers** 5/18, 2 **Blackburnian Warblers** 5/8, one **Prairie Warbler** 5/9, 2 **Palm Warblers** 5/11, and 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** 5/11 and 2 **Cerulean Warblers** 5/29. Additional warblers include: 3 **Black-and-white Warblers** 5/11, 3 **American Redstarts** 5/11, a **Worm-eating Warbler** 5/18, 3 **Ovenbird** 5/29, one **Northern Waterthrush** 5/14, 3 **Mourning Warblers** 5/14, 5 **Common Yellowthroats** 5/11, and lastly was the 2 **Hooded Warblers** 5/18.

Two **Scarlet Tanagers** were frequently heard and seen at the AF 5/10. The following sparrows were heard or seen on WTW/DCW 5/14: 2 **American Tree Sparrows**, 9 **Chipping Sparrows**, 2 **Field Sparrows** 5/4, one **Savannah Sparrow** 5/14, 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 5/11, 2 **Fox Sparrows** 5/14, 4 **Song Sparrows**, 5 **Swamp Sparrows**, 2 **White-throated Sparrows** 5/14, and 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** 5/14. Four **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were seen on the AF 5/9. At DCW the **Blue**

**Grosbeak** settled into Dunnings Creek Wetlands on the early date of 5/14. This might be its fifth year and I've known for years of this southern bird nesting regularly in DCW. Four **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were seen 5/11 along with 2 **Indigo Buntings**. A pair of **Bobolinks** first arrived 5/27 along with **Red-winged Blackbirds**.

Observers: **Tom Dick, Hidden Acres Farm, 123 Hummer Lane, Cairnbrook, Pa. (814) 754-5727, thomasd102.d@gmail.com**, Debbie Bodenschatz, Sally Dick, Gene and Nancy Flament, Randy Flament, Kevin George, Ed Gowarty, Connie Hunt, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Rosemary McGlynn, Che and Marian Mincone, Nancy Ott, Jim Rocco, Ron Rovansky, Bob Stewart, Brian Wargo, and the many hawk watchers whose watchful eyes helped in spotting raptors.

## **Berks County**

Locations: Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Brenneman's Quarry (BQ), Exeter Scenic River Trail (EXST), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS), Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KDRA), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), Lake Ontelaunee West Shore Drive (LWS), Nolde Forest (NF), Peter's Creek (PC), Shartlesville Farm Pond (SFP), School Road Fleetwood Pond (SRFP), Skyline Drive, Mount Penn (MP), State Game Lands 52 (SGL52), State Game Lands 106 (SGL106), State Game Lands 110 North Kill Gap (SGL110). The official spring migration season at HMS is April 1 to May 15.

In contrast to the winter of 2014-15, migrating waterfowl did not wait for Lake Ontelaunee and Blue Marsh Lake to de-ice to make their annual stops in *Berks*. With temperatures higher than usual, the geese and ducks that usually use those lakes for weeks, instead either flew over the county or shortened their stay to a week or less and in numbers lower than usual. **Snow Geese** numbers peaked at 4500 on 3/10 at Gotwal Pond, a farm near Oley (LC). The highest Snow Geese counts at LO were 1060 on 3/8 and 500 on 3/19 (RK). Flocks of 100-250 foraged in the corn fields from LO north.

Two **Cackling Geese** were found in a flock of 600 **Canada Geese** at LWS 3/8 (RK), the largest flock of migrating Canada's reported. A season high 21 **Tundra Swans** were reported from SFP 3/9 (KG, MW) with 17 at LO 3/10 (RK, MS).

A single male **Eurasian Wigeon** lingered at LWS 3/1-23 (RK, PW, JW, m.ob.). The usual ducks were found in typical numbers. High counts were as follows: 250 **American Wigeons** at LO 3/12 (KL), 85 **American Black Ducks** at LO 3/22 (RK), 9 **Blue-winged Teal** at LO 3/31 (KL), 7 **Northern Shovelers** at BQ 3/17 (MSI), 72 **Northern Pintails** at LO 3/15 (RK), 42 **Green-winged Teal** at LO 4/1 (RK), 9 **Redheads** at BQ 3/5 (MTG), and 97 **Ring-necked Ducks** at LO 3/13 (RK).

Four **Surf Scoters** were at LWS 5/3 (DA, m.ob.) and a single **White-winged Scoter** spent the day at LO 4/30 (DO-M). **Common Merganser** numbers were low at LO with 721 on 3/8 and 500 on 3/15 (RK).

On 4/7, 7 **Red-throated Loons** were at BML (KL) and 4 at LO (DA). The peak number of **Common Loons** was 65 at LO 5/6 (KL); 16 were counted as they flew over SGL110 on 4/25 (KG). Ten **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen at LO 3/26 and 4/1 (RK) and 8 **Horned Grebes** were tallied at LO 3/26 (RK). **Double-crested Cormorants** arrived at LO 3/8 with a high of 267 on 4/14 (RK).

The winter's low rain and snow amounts contributed to the scarcity of marsh birds with only one sighting of **American Bittern** at Union Meadows Park (JT). A single **Great Egret** was at SFP 5/3 (KL, MW). The first **Black-crowned Night-Heron** arrived at LO 5/5 (KL). Four **Glossy Ibis** fed in a wet field along the Fleetwood Lyons Rd. 5/4 (DA).

An **Osprey** was first reported at LO 3/20 (MS). No new **Bald Eagle** nests were reported this quarter although there were daily sightings off-ridge in the vicinity of known nests. The pair nesting near Shartlesville produced 2 young (MW). Last year, only one eaglet fledged. Highlights of the spring migration at Hawk Mountain were: 60 **Osprey**, 37 **Bald Eagles**, 24 **Northern Harriers**, and 327 **Broad-winged Hawks** (LG).

At PC, a **Virginia Rail** called 4/16-17 (DA, NL, KL). A **Common Gallinule** was an unusual find at PC and LO on 5/7 (RK, JW, PW). A lone **Sandhill Crane** was a fly-over at Nolde Forest 5/7 (DW).

Shorebirds find few areas to feed in Berks County - this quarter BMA, SRFP, and SFP were the primary shorebird locations. On 5/13, 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** were found at SRFP (PW, JW) and 4 at BMA (MW). Six **Spotted Sandpipers** and 5 **Solitary Sandpipers** were at BMA 5/12 (MW). Nine **Greater Yellowlegs** and 5 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at SFP 5/3 (KL). A high count of 18 **Least Sandpipers** was made at BMA 5/16 (MW). At PC, MW heard the wing beats of and then saw 25 **Pectoral Sandpipers** as they flew towards the fields of Fleetwood and Lyons 5/14.

Two **Dunlins** were at BML 4/7 (RH, KL) and one there 5/14 (SH). A single **Dunlin** fed at SRFP 5/2 (JW, PW). A lone **Short-billed Dowitcher** stopped at SRFP 5/3 (RK). Nine **Wilson's Snipe** nervously fed at BMA 5/13 (MW). The first **American Woodcock** were found at French Creek 3/1 (KL).

Three **Bonaparte Gulls** at LO 3/24 provided the first reports of the quarter (SF). The greatest number reported was 55, also at LO 4/8 (RK). A lingering **Iceland Gull** was found at State Hill BML 3/2 (PM). Two **Great Black-backed Gulls** remained at LO 3/8 (RK). **Caspian Terns** are common spring migrants at LO where 8 were reported 5/4 (RK). Two were also at BML 5/4 (RH). A lone **Common Tern** stayed at BML 5/3-5 (RH). Two **Forster's Terns** gave birders good looks at BML 4/7 (RH, m.ob.).

The population of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in Shartlesville is increasing, with 6 counted 5/30 (MW); nesting has yet to be documented. The first reported **Common Nighthawk** was at LO 5/18 (KL). On 5/24, KG counted 52 **Common Nighthawks** from his porch as they migrated over Hamburg along the Schuylkill R. As usual, the lone report of **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was from SGL110 5/16 (KG). **Red-Headed Woodpeckers** were reported at their Bastian Rd. nesting area 4/10 (DA). Probable migrants were reported at SGL106 on 5/8 (DK, KL) and at SGL110 on 5/14 (SH).

The downtown Reading **Peregrine Falcons** fledged 3 young (BU) and are often reported stretching their wings over the city. Nine **Acadian Flycatchers** were tallied by KG on his hike at the Hamburg Reservoir 5/26. A calling **Alder Flycatcher** cooperated with birders at SGL106 on 5/19-23 (KL, m.ob.). One **Least Flycatcher** was reported at KDRA 5/4 (KG).

**Common Ravens** are expanding their territories from the state game lands to more populated areas. This quarter there were increased sightings north of I-78 in the Hamburg area (KG), where nesting is suspected. Ravens were also reported throughout the quarter at French Creek State Park (JT) and the Exeter River Trail (RH). The **Bank Swallow** count at Hay Creek was 20 on 5/12 (HH). A Bank Swallow colony with 25 nest holes in a Bechtelsville quarry was new 6/15 (MSt). At his Lower Heidelberg home, PM reported a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** 5/10 and 5/16, significant considering their absence during fall migration and winter.

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** sighting at SGL106 on 5/16 (RK) represented the only report (RK). Four **Swainson's Thrushes** were at French Creek S.P. 5/21 (KL). **American Pipits** were active 4/15-18 with 30 counted along Monument Rd. in Hamburg 4/16 (TB).

Although the numbers of warblers were not up during migration, the 34 species found included some uncommon species. The following were reported: **Golden-winged Warbler** at KDRA 5/4 (KG), **Orange-crowned Warbler** at SGL106 on 5/7 (KL, m.ob.), **Mourning** and **Kentucky Warblers** at SGL106 on 5/19 (KL), **Cape May Warbler** at SGL52 on 5/14 (MW, m.ob.) and Hamburg Reservoir 5/19 (KG), **Yellow-throated Warbler** at EXST 4/20 (RH) and Green Hills 5/22 (KL), and **Wilson's Warbler** at SGL110 on 5/12 (KG) and Riverview Park 5/16 (CaD, CD).

An **American Tree Sparrow** lingered at Old Dry Road Farm 3/13 (PM). Eight **Fox Sparrows** were seen at SGL110 on 3/12 (JB) and one visited feeders 3/5-24 at Wolfe Mountain in Fleetwood (JW, PW). **Lincoln Sparrows** were reported at SGL106 on 5/1 (DA) and 5/19 (KL). **Summer Tanagers** returned to Neversink Mountain for the second year. A male was heard singing 5/23 (JD) and a female was seen 5/24 (CaD, CD). Nesting is suspected but not confirmed.

Grassland birds were first noted 5/5-7 in northern *Berks* - **Grasshopper Sparrows** at Monument Rd. 5/5 (NL), **Bobolinks** at Monument Rd. 5/5 (KG), and **Blue Grosbeak** at Virginville Rd. 5/7 (RH). **Vesper Sparrows** were singing on territory at Windsor Castle 4/16 (NL).

**Rusty Blackbirds** were present all of Apr at KDRA with the last sighting 4/20 (KG). **Purple Finches** were reported along Hawk Mountain Rd. 4/24 (NL). **Pine Siskins** visited the feeders at Wolfe Mountain, Fleetwood most of the quarter with the last sighting 5/1. The high count was 14 on 5/1 (JW, PW).

Observers: **Matt Wlasniewski, 21 Scenic Drive, Hamburg, PA 19526, 610-463-8845, martind28@comcast.net**, Dan Altif, Ed Barrell, Jochen Baumeister, Thomas Buehl, Jr., Liz Cates, Linda Chowns, Paul Dietrich IV, Carl Drasher (CD), Carolyn Drasher (CaD), Jay Drasher, Steve Fordyce, Laurie Goodrich & HMS Volunteers/Staff, Ellen Grim, Kerry Grim, Mary-Therese Grob, Holly Hartshorne, Russell Hoffman, Sarah Hungerford, Linda Ingram, Rudy Keller, Dave Kocher, Edward Komito, Dave Krueh, Ken Lebo, Nathan Lewis, Robert Menek, Adam Miller, Peter Montgomery, David Orth-Moore, Joan Silagy, Mike Slater (MSI), Matt Spence, Mark Strauss (MSt), Jaime Thomas, Bill Uhrich, Todd Underwood, Drew Weber, Jane Wolfe, Peter Wolfe, Art Zdanczewic.

## Blair County

Locations: Albemarle Nature Trail (AT), Bells Gap Trail (BGT), Canoe Creek State Park (CCSP), Lakemont Park Pond (LP), Monastery Road Impoundment (MRI), Penn State Altoona (PSA), Plummers Hollow (PH), Reese Pond (RP).

One hundred sixty-one species were reported by over 60 eBirders. Overall, compared to neighboring counties, *Blair* was covered in only moderate depth, with less than 10 birders in residence in the county, and just a handful of those supplying regular reports to eBird. Canoe Creek State Park remained the number 1 location, with 126 species reported. Several new eBird hotspots have been established in the Logan Valley I-99 corridor (Altoona-Bellwood-Bald Eagle), including several small but important wetlands such as Reese Pond. The most notable birding event of the season was the first-ever Penn State Altoona Birding Classic on 4/22, co-sponsored by the PSA Environmental Studies Program and Juniata Valley Audubon Society.

A single **White-winged Scoter** stuck around for a couple days in Apr at an unexpected location (LP), while a spectacular and quite tame male **Long-tailed Duck** thrilled students and employees on the Reflecting Pond at PSA for most of a week in late Mar. Reese Pond was unusually productive for waterfowl, including 4 **Canvasbacks** 3/6.

**Double-crested Cormorants** were recorded at PSA, LP, and CCSP beginning 4/6, with a high of 24 at CCSP. A single **Great Egret** was reported in early May at CCSP. No hawk watches operate in the county, so raptor numbers were low. Three **Black Vultures**, still quite uncommon in *Blair*, were sighted at BGT, and a single **Golden Eagle** was observed over Brush Mt. at PH.

Low species and individual numbers of sandpipers and plovers were recorded, due to sparse habitat. Twelve **Wilson's Snipe** were observed at MRI 3/19. **American Woodcocks** were heard at RP, CCSP, and PH throughout the season. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was recorded in migration on Brush Mt. at PH.

One of the most notable records was a single **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Clubhouse Drive Pond near CCSP 5/8 (JC, LC). A **Peregrine Falcon** was sighted by the four-observer 'Feathered Body Inspector' team at PSA during the Penn State Altoona Birding Classic 4/22; they also observed 2 kettles totaling 75 **Broad-winged Hawks**, as well as 8 **Cooper's Hawks**, from the same location.

Single **Fish Crows** were sighted in mid-Mar at the Albemarle Nature Trail and in Bellwood—they are quite unusual in *Blair* north of Brush Mt./Bald Eagle Mt. **Purple Martins** continue to be virtually absent, with just a single report of 10 at a BBS stop in the extreme southern portion of the county (DG, GG). Twenty-four wood-warbler species were recorded. Most notable was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at CCSP 4/15.

Observers: **Mark Bonta, 409 West High St, Bellefonte, PA 16823, mab86@psu.edu**, Tina Alianiello, Marcia Bonta, John Carter, Linder Carter, Allie Causey, Alyssia Church, Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, Sean Herrmann, James Kissinger, Mark Nale, Laura Palmer, Brian Schmoke.

## Bradford County

Locations: Beebe's Pond, south of Rt. 706 between Camptown and Stevensville (BEP), Browning Pond, Wyalusing (BRP), Canton Marsh (CMA), Echo Beach Rd. on the south side of the Susquehanna River downriver from Wysox (EBR), Graham Rd., Canton (GRR), Mt. Pisgah State Park (MPSP), Pasture next to Hess Farm Equipment between Canton and East Canton (HEPA), Pennsylvania Migration Count on second Saturday of May yearly (PAMC), Peck Hill (PEH), Seeley/Seeley Farm Rd. (northeast of Canton) (SEE), State Game Lands 36 eastern Barclay Mt. (SGL36), State Game Lands 219, near Warren Center (SGL219), State Game Lands 239 north of East Smithfield (SGL239), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Taylor Rd. marsh just south of Grover (TRM), Wysox Fish & Boat Access (at south end of Craftmaster Rd. south of Wysox) (WFB).

Spring got off to a slow start, cool with plenty of precipitation, so that vegetation took its time growing and flowering. It did seem that some bird species weren't finding quite as much to eat as they would have liked due to the slow spring. But then some heat and dry spells appeared later in the season. The number and quality of birdwatchers in the county continues to expand, the resulting report continues to reveal how very many more species and numbers are here than was previously imagined. A paradise! To simplify things, individual PAMC observers are listed at the end of the

observer list rather than in the body of the report, but not listed in duplicate in the observer list. PAMC was held 5/14

There were many water related species reported. In early Mar, 4 **Tundra Swans** were at Kilmer Pond, Wyalusing (MK); 17 were at Laurel Lake 3/10 (CB); and some were flying north at GRR 3/12 (LFr). A **Gadwall** was seen on BRP 4/12 (KR). Two **American Wigeons** were at HEPA 3/13 (LFr, NF); and one at TRM 5/1 (LFr). TRM, a most wonderful marsh, was also the site of various **Blue-winged Teal** sightings: 3 on 4/2, one 4/15, and one 5/7 (LFr, NF). A **Green-winged Teal** was at HEPA 3/8, and at TRM 2 on 3/13 and 8 on 4/6 (all LFr).

A female **Ring-necked Duck** was at PEH 4/13-17 (AV, GV) and one at TRM 4/15 (LFr). A **Greater Scaup** was at BRP 4/12 (KR). Even more delightful, 4 **White-winged Scoters** were at Lake Wesauking 4/30 (LFr). On 5/2, 3 **Buffleheads** were at BRP (KR) and 2 were at TRM (NF). There were several **Hooded Mergansers**: on 3/20 a pair and a male, and on 5/14 a female, all on a TNE beaver pond (TG); a female at PEH 4/18 (AV, GV); and 12 at TRM 5/8 (NF). Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at BRP 5/2 (KR).

More than the usual number of **Common Loons** were observed: one was at Lake Nephawin 4/6 (LFr); 9 were at MPSP 4/7 (AJ); one was harassed by an imm. Bald Eagle at Mill Creek Reservoir, Tuscarora Twp. 4/9 (KR); one was at MPSP 4/8 (SR); one was under the Ulster SUR bridge 4/21-23 (DA); and one was at the Lockhart St. SUR bridge, Athens 4/27 (DH). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at TRM 4/25 (LFr), and one was at Tozer's Landing on the Chemung R., Athens on the PAMC. On 3/13 a **Horned Grebe** was at SGL36 near Franklindale (SR); and 4 were at BRP 4/12 (KR). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at PEH 4/18 (AV, GV).

As of 4/5, a **Great Blue Heron** colony (with 4 nests, later expanded to 6, which has been its size since inception) was present for the third year in the New Era vicinity (DA, TG). A **Great Egret** was at BEP 4/27 (KR). **Green Herons** were very much in evidence: one was at Lake Rd, Wysox 4/26 (SR); 5 were on the PAMC; one was at PEH 4/24 (AV, GV); one was near Monroeton 5/29 (DSp); and 2 were at TRM (NF).

A **Black Vulture**, a species gradually moving northward, was seen on Edinger Hill on the PAMC (PhR, EW), and an adult with 2 nestlings on Covered Bridge Rd, N. Towanda (SR). A great number of **Ospreys** were observed, but so far no nest has been reported in the county. Single birds were at MPSP 4/7 (AJ), 4/8 (SR), 4/26 (DH) and 4/28 (SR). One was seen 4/12 and 5/4 at PEH (AV, GV) and one 4/16-5/8 (a very long time for one to hang around) at TNE (TG). One was at BRP 5/2 (KR) and 2 were on the PAMC: one at SGL239 (CaH, ChH) and one in the Evergreen area (MM, SM). **Bald Eagles** are becoming more common. One was at a wetland S. of Gillet 3/26 (LH); 2 were at at MPSP 4/26 (DH); 2 imm. were at MPSP 4/7 (AJ); an adult with 2 chicks was in SE Bradford Co. 4/14 (KR); an adult and imm. were perched in a tree 4/16, and two adults were circling above the Towanda Creek 4/17, both in Woodside (BF). One was at Tiptop Rd. 5/9 (SR) and a pair with only one chick, as opposed to the normal 2, were in the Rummerfield area 5/14 (RYa). An additional 7 were seen on the PAMC. A **Northern Harrier** was at SGL36, Franklindale area 5/16 (SR). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was calling at TNE 5/18 (TG). A number of **Broad-winged Hawks** were observed: single birds at Lower Mtn. Rd, Canton 4/26 (LFr) and a few miles east of New Era 5/11 (TG); 2 at MPSP 4/28 (SR); and one in Canton Twp. on the PAMC (LFr, NF, SR).

Continuing the largesse of water related species: A **Virginia Rail** was at TRM 4/25-26 and 5/24 (LFr); and 2 were at TRM 5/14 on the PAMC (LFr, NF, SR). A **Sora** was at TRM 5/7-8 (NF). A **Common Gallinule** was also at TRM 5/7 (LFr, SR). An **American Coot** was seen at a pond on Wildwood Rd, Sayre 4/3 (IW); and 3 on 5/5, a pair 5/7, and one at TRM 5/8 (LFr, NF). **Sandhill Cranes** are successfully breeding and continuing to expand. The first report of returning cranes was of one or 2 calling west of TNE 3/10 (TG); some were observed at Elwell 3/13 and 3/16 (DSn); 2 were heard 3/11 and 2 were feeding in a pasture 3/12, then on 5/14 (on the PAMC) a pair of adults and 2 chicks were seen swimming in a pond in the Wilmot/Hollenback area (JR, RR). Two or 3 were occasionally calling or grazing at TNE 3/18-4/14 (TG). Two were at a small pond on South Rd. near Evergreen 3/24 (MM, SM). An outlier was reported from Orwell Hill 4/25 (DSi). From 5/12-24, two adults were observed nesting and successfully hatching two chicks in the New Era vicinity (TG). Two adults and a chick were seen near Overton 5/18 (SW).

A **Spotted Sandpiper** was at the Guthrie Ponds, Sayre 4/27 (DH); 14 were on the PAMC. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at TRM 4/26 (LFr), one was at TNE 5/4 (TG, RL), 5 were at the Sheshequin SUR bridge 5/6 (SR), and 8 were on the PAMC. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at a marsh north of Canton 5/8 (NF). A **Wilson's Snipe** was seen numerous times at CMA: 4/5, 4/7 and 4/25 (LFr), 5/7 (SR), and 5/8 (NF). Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at BRP 4/12 (KR).

Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were seen on the PAMC and one was at WFB 5/18 (SR). Four **Black-billed Cuckoos** were on the PAMC. Considerably more **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were observed here this

spring: one was tooting at PEH 3/1, 3/4, 3/6 and 5/24 (AV, GV); two were tooting near TNE 3/16 (TG). One was tooting at GRR 3/16 and 3/18 (LFr); and a very fortunate sighting was 2 nestlings on SGL 36 in the Franklindale area (SR). The lone observation of an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was at Franklindale (DN). **American Kestrels** nested here, found again this year at a barn on Pine Valley Rd. 5/3 (LFr, SF); and also in a nest box on a barn near New Era 5/16 until the end of May (FS). Two pairs of **Merlins** were active again in Sayre: one pair observed 3/6 and 4/12 (courtship display and copulation) and 5/2 (BH); the other pair was observed on the PAMC (CaH, ChH). One was at TRM 3/15 (LFr). A **Peregrine Falcon** was reported at EBR 3/3 (EM).

During the PAMC, an **Alder Flycatcher** was at SGL239 (CaH, ChH) and a **Willow Flycatcher** was near Burlington (LH, Ryo). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Tip Top Rd. 4/30 (LFr, SR), 3 were at TNE 5/9 (TG), and 6 were seen on the PAMC. On 4/14 a **Blue-headed Vireo** was found at Mt. Rd., Barclay Mt. (SR); 4 were at SGL 36, Franklindale vicinity 5/7 (SR), and 7 were seen on the PAMC. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at TNE 5/4 (TG, RL); 2 were at PEH for the PAMC, and one 5/17 (AV, GV).

Two **Fish Crows** were at WFB (a new location for them) 4/12 (TG). Eight and 6 were at Tioga Point Cemetery, Sayre 3/6 and 5/2, respectively (BH). Two **Horned Larks** were in Canton Twp. on the PAMC (LFr, NF, SR). Swallows were in great abundance: **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** reports include 4/15 at CMA (LFr), 17 on the PAMC, and 2 at TRM 5/15 (LFr). **Bank Swallow** reports include 3 at MPSP 4/26 (DH) and 28 on the PAMC. **Cliff Swallow** reports were 3 at Sheshequin 5/6 (SR) and 15 on the PAMC.

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at Lamb's Lookout 3/14 (LFr) and singles were at SGL 219 4/27 (DH), Lone Mary Rd. 5/11 (TG), and one on the PAMC. **Marsh Wrens** were observed at TRM 5/7 (1), on the PAMC (1), and 5/24 (3) (LFr, NF, SR). Three **Winter Wrens** were observed on the PAMC: one at Deep Hollow Rd (TG), one in the Evergreen vicinity (MM, SM), and one in the Burlington vicinity (LH, Ryo). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were seen at TRM 4/23 (LFr), 4 at Liberty Corners Rd. 4/30 (SR), and 2 on the PAMC. A **Swainson's Thrush** was observed on the PAMC at the Carantouan Greenway along the SUR, Sayre (MR, JP, MP) and one was at TNE 5/17 (TG). Quite unusual, 4 **American Pipits** were seen on the PAMC at SEE (LFr, NF, SR).

Three **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were at Tip Top Rd. 4/30 (LFr, SR); 2 were seen on the PAMC, one at Deep Hollow Rd and one on Dry Run Rd. (TG). A **Northern Waterthrush** was at TRM 4/26 (LFr); and 3 were seen on the PAMC, 2 in Canton Twp. (LFr, NF, SR) and one on Barclay Mt. in the Mud Pond vicinity (TG). There was a myriad of warblers this spring! **Blue-winged Warbler**: 3 at Woodside 5/2 (SR); 4 one on the PAMC; one at Alderson Rd. 5/17 (east of Leraysville) (RB). **Black-and-white Warbler**: 5 at Liberty Corners Rd. 4/30(SR); one at TNE 5/4 (TG, RL); and 6 on the PAMC. **Tennessee Warbler**: one at TRM 5/13 (LFr), 2 on the PAMC, one 5/19 at PEH (AV, GV), and one calling in the Canton area 5/20-23 (LFr). **Nashville Warbler**: one at GRR 4/26 (LFr); 5/2 at the Tioga Point Cemetery 5/2 (BH); 3 at WFB 5/2 (SR); 2 on the PAMC - one at CCC Rd. (LFr, NF, SR) and one at PEH (AV, GV). **Hooded Warbler**: one at WFB 5/13 (SR); 2 at TRM 5/15 (LFr), and one on Upper Mt. Rd. 5/28 (ne of Canton) (LFr).

Continuing with warblers - Delightful was a **Cerulean Warbler** observed on the PAMC at PEH (AV, GV). **Northern Parula**: one at TRM 4/26 (LFr), 2 on the PAMC at TRM (LFr, NF, SR); on Alderson Rd. 5/17(east of Leraysville) (RB); one at TRM 5/19 (LFr). **Magnolia Warbler**: one at TRM 5/13 (LFr); 7 on the PAMC; one at GRR 5/16 (LFr); 2 on Alderson Rd. (east of Leraysville) 5/16 (RB); one at PEH 5/20 (AV/GV). A great discovery was 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers** at GRR 5/16 (LFr). **Blackburnian Warbler**: one at SGL 219 on 4/27(DH); 7 at Tioga Point Cemetery 5/2 (BH); on Hale Mt., Monroeton area 5/3 (SR); 5 on the PAMC; one 5/16 at GRR (LFr). **Blackpoll Warbler**: 2 on the PAMC: one at Cross Rd., East Canton (LFr, NF, SR), one in the Burlington vicinity (LH, Ryo), one near Canton 5/23 (LFr), and one 5/28 at Upper Mt. Rd (ne of Canton) (LFr). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: one at SGL36 near Franlindale 5/7 (SR) and 14 on the PAMC, including 9 in Canton Twp. (LFr, NF, SR). **Palm Warbler**: 2 near Canton 4/23 (LFr); 2 on the PAMC, with one at Canton Twp. (LFr, NF, SR) and one in the Burlington vicinity (LH, Ryo); and one 5/25 at TRM (LFr). **Pine Warbler**: one near Canton 4/12-13 (LFr), one at SGL 219 on 4/27(DH); and 2 on the PAMC in the Burlington vicinity (LH, Ryo). **Prairie Warbler**: one at Lake Rd., Wysox Twp. 4/30 (LFr), one at SGL 219 on 4/27 (DH), and 8 on the PAMC. **Canada Warbler**: one at TRM 5/8 (NF) and one on the PAMC at TRM (LFr, NF, SR). Extraordinary were 2 **Wilson's Warblers** seen on the PAMC at TRM (LFr, NF, SR) and one again at TRM 5/15 (MN).

Two **Vesper Sparrows** were seen at SGL 219 on 4/27 (DH). Infrequently seen in recent years, some **Savannah Sparrows** were at BRP 4/12 (KR) and 8 were on the PAMC: 7 in Canton Twp. (LFr, NF, SR) and one in the Burlington vicinity (LH, Ryo). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at a GRR

stream 3/5 (LFr) and 7 were at TRM 3/13 (NF). An **Orchard Oriole** was at BRP 5/5 (KR), 2 were on the PAMC at Athens, a pair was at PEH 5/19 (AV, GV), and one was near Monroeton 5/28 (DSp). **Pine Siskins** were still present into the spring: from 1-10 were at PEH 3/1-4/13 (AV, GV), one was at Willawana Rd., Sayre 3/8-9 (MZ), and a late bird was in the Evergreen vicinity on the PAMC (MM, SM).

Observers: **Trudy Gerlach, 6907 Wyalusing New Albany Rd, Wyalusing, PA 18853, (570) 746-9270, Tgswoods@epix.net**, Carole Bayer, Rob Blye, Leslie Fisher (LFr), Steve Fisher, Bob Fowles, Deuane Hoffman, Bill Howe, Amey Johnson, Mike Kilmer, Rebecca Lesko, Evan Mann, Mark Nale, Kevin Raymond, Dave Simons (DSi), Dawn Snyder (DSn), Dave Spier (DSp), Sam Wells, Marsha Zwierlein.

**PAMC Observers:** Nancy Baker, Marty Borko, Phyllis Chaffee, Scott Chaffee, Jim Covey, Roberta Draper, Lewis Frederick (LFr), Norwood Frederick, Michelle Georgescu, Trudy Gerlach, Carolyn Harris (CaH), Chet Harris (ChH), Liz Hart, Sue Malone, Mike Malone, Norma Maslin, Richard Maslin, Dan Natt, Karen Natt, John Palmer, Marilyn Palmer, Sharon Richards, Pat Ronsvale (PaR), Phyllis Rosencrance (PhR), Jerry Ross, Ron Ross, Franz Schmitt, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Duane Wells, Inga Wells, Ellen Whipple, Ron Yanney (RYa), Ron Young (Ryo).

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### Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Delaware River (Del. R.), Lower Makefield Township (LMT), Maple Knoll Farms (MKF), Morrisville (MVL), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), State Game Land #56, State Game Land #157 (SGL#157), Tullytown (TUT).

The average temperature for March was 6.6°F above normal, with April and May being only slightly above average. Precipitation was 2.52 inches below normal for March, 1.87 inches below for April, and 0.82 inches below for May. With the warmer winter and lack of ice into this season, waterfowl and gulls were in lower numbers. Shorebirds were reported in modest numbers and with little in the way of highlights. The cooler weather along with often cloudy and sometimes rainy weather during the long distance migrant time period caused trees to leaf out later and migration to peak more in line with years before global warming. However, by the fourth week of May, there was only a tiny trickle of migrants. The season total of 229 species reported for the three-month period compared to 245 for the previous five-year average. Six species were recorded earlier than any previous spring, and one was later. The county participated for the 24th year in the Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) 5/14, with 74 participants in 26 parties. There were 151 species, totaling 13,348 individuals. Although certainly an improvement over last year, it is still lower than average for the 14 previous years with similar birder participation.

Historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson 1998 and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Diane Allison compiled and submitted highlights for the PAMC data. Weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, NJ (NOAA). Note that per the NOAA website, the normal period used for averages is the previous three decades 1981 through 2010. Bird observations entered in eBird have been reviewed for this report.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** at BRD 3/10 (JBa) provided the only report. In general, **Snow Geese** were barely noticed in Mar compared to last year's late ice melt that delayed their movement. Only four sites totaled 190 birds (m.ob.). The exception was "several thousand" birds over Riegelsville 3/5 (DBr). The only **Cackling Goose** was at BRD 3/3 (GJ). As usual, the high count of 15 **Mute Swans** came from PWT-Warner Lake 3/5 (MG), but they were widespread in the county due to open water with at least 15 sites reporting (m.ob.). Our now regular **Trumpeter Swan** since 2013 returned to Lake Towhee Park 3/30 (PTE), and was seen sporadically there and at NSP through 5/19 (m.ob.).

Most duck species were in very modest numbers, as expected considering the very mild late fall and early winter, which probably kept many to our north. Dabbling duck high counts were all in the low double digits (m.ob.). **Blue-winged Teal** is consistently very low, with 6 sites reporting a total of about 19 birds (m.ob.). The high count was 4 at both BRD 4/4 (GJ) and Churchville Park 4/23 (BBn). **Green-winged Teal**, usually one of the more numerous species, had highs of 50 at PWT 3/12 and 4/9 (DFa).

Diving ducks also were scarce and strikingly so in comparison to the recent two cold winters. Examples are given here. One **Canvasback** at Core Creek Park 3/6 (MG) and one in Lower Makefield Twp. (DMo) provided the only reports. Three **Redheads** at PWT 3/16 (MG) provided the

singular report for that species. **Ring-necked Duck** had very modest high reports of about 90 at PVP 3/22 (BK, AMi), 58 at SGL#56-Wildcat Lake 3/5 (ZM), and 53 near Falls Twp. Park 3/24 (JBa). Only four sites had **Greater Scaup** totaling only 25 birds, with the high report 13 at NSP 3/29 (DFa). **Lesser Scaup** was no exception, with a high of only 9 at Core Creek Park 4/2 (MG).

Two **Surf Scoters** at PVP 4/19 (MHa) and 3 at PWT 5/1 (DFa) provided good finds. Two **White-winged Scoters** at PWT 5/1 (DFa) provided the only report and far from the extraordinary numbers the previous two years. Two **Long-tailed Ducks** at PVP 3/23 (JBa, RM) and one each at NSP 4/3 and PVP 4/13 (both AMi) also represented low counts compared to last year. The only site with noteworthy counts of **Bufflehead** was near Falls Twp. Park where the high report was 160 3/24 (JBa). All other reports were under 16 birds (m.ob.). **Common Goldeneye** was all but gone by Mar, with only 4 sites reported - the high being 18 on the Delaware R. at Tincicum Twp. 3/9 (DA). A late goldeneye at MVL 5/7 was suspected of being injured (DFa).

After last year's first confirmed breeding of **Hooded Merganser** near QTS, a female and 2 small juvs. were found at SGL#56-Lake Warren 5/18-19 (EB ph.). Then on 5/29, a female and 10 small juvs. were found at QTS (PM ph.). Unlike the hundreds of **Common Mergansers** that lingered into Apr last year, only single digit counts, with one low double digit count remained this spring (m.ob.). A female flying into a presumed nest cavity was spotted 5/11 at Bowman's Hill (BK, GJ). The Delaware R. produced a female with 10 juvs. at Taylorsville 5/22 (AMi, JMi) and four families with about 12 juvs. between Riegelsville and Tincicum Park 5/29 (DA, DFa). **Red-breasted Merganser** was reported at only five sites, with a relatively low total of about 30 birds (m.ob.). **Ruddy Duck** was the only duck that was more abundant this year compared to last. A large flock lingered at PVP for about a month, when numbers finally declined after 4/8. The high count there was 82 on 3/12 (SG), but counts in the 60s and 70s were the norm for a few weeks (m.ob.). Numbers in the mid-teens were still present 5/5, with the last there 5/26 (AMi). One was at NSP until 5/28 (PC). Another large flock, peaking 78 on 3/20 (MG), was near Falls Twp. Park, a location where more are expected.

Weather related peak loon fallouts in recent years have been modest. Two **Red-throated Loons** stopped at PWT 4/9 (DFa) for the only report. **Common Loon** was reported through the end of the period at area lakes, with the high counts at NSP being 55 on 4/4, 34 on 5/4, and 19 on 5/7 (all DFa). The high count at PVP was 38 on 5/7 (AMi). The high report for **Pied-billed Grebe** was 8 at NSP 4/6 (PC). Low single digit counts were present at area lakes through 4/17 (m.ob.), with one late at BRD 5/12 (AMi). Similarly, **Horned Grebe** was regular at area lakes in mostly low single digit counts through 4/12 (m.ob.). The higher exceptions were 11 on 3/27 (DFa), 19 on 4/3 (DFa), and 8 on 4/12 (JBa), all at NSP. After no reports for weeks, 4 were at NSP 5/4 (DFa), and one was at BRD 5/16 (AMi ph.). An **Eared Grebe** at NSP 4/3 (DFa ph.) provided the county's third record, all since 2013. **Double-crested Cormorant** monthly high reports were very modest, with 20 at PVP 3/27 (MF), 142 at PVP 4/23 (AMi), and 148 at PVP 5/5 (AMi). Other area lake high counts were 124 at Core Creek Park 4/10 (MG) and 95 at Churchville Park 4/16 (RS). **Great Cormorant** reports were surprisingly low, with only 4 entries in eBird from the lower Delaware R. area, all in Mar, with the last 3/19 (MG), and the high only 5 on 3/2 (RFe). The only late bird was on the Delaware R. at Bristol 5/1 (DFa).

**American Bittern** was reported at QTS 4/19-5/7, with 8 seen migrating out (DFa), but birder visits to the site were low compared to recent years. One was at NSP 5/2 (EB) for the only other report. Rarely reported here, a **Least Bittern** was found 5/12 at the Upper Makefield Twp. Firehouse swamp (MG vr.), heard through 5/22 (m.ob.).

A previously unreported **Great Blue Heron** colony in Warrington Twp. had a total of about 14 nests, but only 6 were occupied in late Mar (CC, *vide* RFr, AMi). The size of the colony probably indicates it was present for a few years, but has decreased. A **Red-tailed Hawk** pair occupied one of the nests, which may have been a factor in the decline. The herons were not happy about the hawks swooping into the colony. The colony near Churchville Park similarly had a Red-tailed Hawk pair occupying one of six nests. This colony had four occupied by herons plus one empty nest. A large colony in East Rockhill Twp. has decreased significantly by about half due to downed trees. On 4/30, there were 18 nests with 75 birds including juvs. (DA).

A **Great Egret** at Silver Lake Park 3/26 (DFi, SB) provided the first spring report, and in general they were more common this spring, with reports from about 15 sites, totaling about 20 individuals (m.ob.). Consistent with recent spring occurrence, a **Snowy Egret** was at MVL 5/7 (DFa) and 2 were reported on the PAMC 5/14 from the lower county. Similarly, an adult **Little Blue Heron** was at Dark Hollow Park 4/14 (SS ph.) and one was at Bristol 5/14-16 (SB, BM et al., DFa). A rarely reported **Cattle Egret** was at Holicong, Buckingham Twp 5/31 (DFa ph.). **Black-crowned Night-Heron**

has been annually very scarce in spring except for Silver Lake Park. The high report there was 4 on 5/14 (BM). One was seen south of TUT 5/1 (DFa). Rare here, 2 adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were at Richland Twp. 5/2-5, and one flew by in East Rockhill Twp. 5/16 (both DFa). A **Glossy Ibis** was at New Hope 4/27 (BHo) for a rather rare appearance north of the southern part of *Bucks*.

An **Osprey** nesting platform was constructed at NSP adding to an existing one (DFa). To entice the birds, "nests" were constructed of grape vines and placed on the top of the two platforms. Birds were attracted to one of them, but nesting did not occur (DFa). The first reports of **Mississippi Kite** since 2013 came from Churchville Park 5/28 (BBn, ML, PS, et al.) and from the Taylorsville area 5/31 (MN). A late report provided details about the female of the PVP **Bald Eagle** resident pair based on photos from 1/7/2016 that allowed reading the leg band 0629-45887 B/82 (LF). It was banded as a nestling about 50 miles from PVP along the Delaware R. in Sussex County, NJ 6/3/2004.

**Broad-winged Hawk** has declined as a migrant through the county in spring and is a scarce summer resident now. All reports were in the low single digits (m.ob.) except for a kettle of 21 at PVP 5/7 (AMi, PTa). As of 3/25, there were 3 active **Red-shouldered Hawk** nests in about a two-mile distance in the MVL area, with nesting apparently annual (AMi). Interestingly, one of these nests is along a street in a residential area (AMi ph.). Most nesting reports in the past have been in the upper part of the county.

The regular occurrence of rails in the county as breeders has declined in recent years if the lack of reports at known sites is an indication. A road-killed **Virginia Rail** found 5/20 in Doylestown Twp. (*vide* RH, specimen) and one at a catch basin in Richland Twp. 5/30 (DFa) provided the only reports. A **Sora** was at LaSalle College, Newtown 5/19-20 (DMo, RS, BS) for the only report. A **Common Gallinule** made a rare appearance at PVP 5/13 (KB, BT, QT), the first known there since 1997. The only breeding site in recent years is believed to have been filled as part of an expanded landfill near TUT.

Fifteen shorebird species made for a poor showing this year. Water levels may have been too high. A **Black-bellied Plover** at NSP 5/26 provided the only report (DFa). A **Semipalmated Plover** was at BRD 5/13 (DFa). They were at PWT on three dates between 5/13 and 5/28, with a high count of 5 on 5/13 (DFa). A **Spotted Sandpiper** flock of 19 at PVP 5/10 (AMi) represented an unusually high spring count, second in the last 10 years only to a count of 24 at BRD in May 2014. Almost all counts normally are in the low single digits. The stand out high count for **Greater Yellowlegs** was 18 at BRD 5/4 (MG). Both PWT 5/4 (DFa) and BRD 5/5 (GJ) produced a normal high count of 12 **Lesser Yellowlegs**. A **Dunlin** at PWT 4/2 was rather early, with up to 3 more there 5/13-16 (DFa). Seven flew over PVP 5/20 (DFa ph.). About 50 **Least Sandpipers** provided the modest high count at PWT 5/13 (DFa) and BRD 5/20 (GJ). **Pectoral Sandpiper** was barely noticed, with 3 at BRD 3/23 (GJ) and one at PWT 4/3 (DFa). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** at PWT 5/1-7 (DFa) provided the lone report and a new spring early arrival date. One **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at BRD 5/6 was surprisingly the only one noticed (DFa). Single **Short-billed Dowitchers** stopped at NSP 5/1 (PC) and at PWT 5/1 and 5/6 (DFa). The highest **American Woodcock** count was 5 at Silver Lake Park 3/23 (RFe). **Wilson's Snipe** usually is detected in double digit counts, but the high reports were only 7 at BRD 3/13 and 3/23 (GJ) and again 4/14 (AMi).

With the milder winter, gulls were much less abundant by Mar. Eight gull species were reported. **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported from 7 sites, with the only significant counts at PWT, with 57 on 4/3, 68 on 4/9, and 30 on 5/7 (DFa). The first **Laughing Gulls** were at MVL (MG) and PWT 4/2 (DFa). A PAMC sub-area near TUT had an estimated 1000 on 5/14. **Iceland Gull** was reported at only 3 sites, with one at NSP 3/13 (PC), and one to 2 in the TUT area until 5/7 (BC, DFa). Modest monthly high reports for **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were 80 at PVP 3/2 (SG), 64 at PVP 4/3 (AMi), and one each at NSP 5/1 (PC) and PWT 5/14 (DFa). A **Glaucous Gull** was at MVL 3/23 (BBn ph.), and one was at PWT 4/2 and 5/7 (DFa).

There was a late report of a well-described **White-winged Tern** from the evening of 5/13 at PVP (KB, BT, QT, BD, BBe). This observer said, "First, the bird was black and white with extremely brilliant contrast between the black and white as it continued to bank left and right with a bright white rump. Its head was round and solid black. The black on the body was solid to the white rump. The bird flashed red in the sunlight which appeared to be its feet. The black and white contrast with the bright white rump was amazingly brilliant. The bird flew against the other side of the lake from left to right amongst many swallows and it appeared to be hawking bugs in the sun after a rainy afternoon and just kept heading toward the dam. We were not able to find the bird again after about 1 to 2 minutes. We had no idea what we were watching but knew none of us had ever seen the bird and Butch was sure it was a tern and that he had never seen the bird either. With many years of birding combined between us we undoubtedly believe it

was the White-winged Tern (KB)." This would be a first state record if documented and accepted by PORC. Unfortunately, pictures could not be obtained.

Except for 7 **Least Terns** brought in by Hurricane Irene in Aug 2011, one at Mud Island 5/7 (DFa) added to only 3 other records from May 1978, Apr 1980, and Jun 1992. **Caspian Terns** were in the TUT area 5/1-7, with a high count of 3 on 5/7 (DFa), and 3 were at Giving Pond 5/14 (JBH). A **Common Tern** was at PWT 5/7 (DFa). A **Forster's Tern** was there 4/9 for a new spring early arrival date (DFa). One of each was at NSP 5/19 (DFa).

A **Eurasian Collared Dove** at LaSalle College, Newtown 4/10 (MG ph.) was the second county record and first with a good photo. The 63 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** recorded for PAMC was a record high compared to the previous high of 46 in 2007. The **Black-billed Cuckoo** tally, in contrast, was only 6 compared to an average of 4 for PAMC. The only locations that provide larger spring reports of **Common Nighthawk** are along the Delaware R. The high reports were 32 at Uhlertown 5/14 (DA), 75 at Washington Crossing Historic Park 5/18 (MN), and 21 at New Hope 5/18 (MN).

**Red-headed Woodpecker** reports have been increasing in recent years. The final sighting of one of the 3 wintering birds at MKF was 5/10 (RS). Two were first year birds and one was an adult. At least 2 birds were at SGL#157, where the species is known to nest for the last several years (PC, m.ob.). Another presumed nesting area for a few years in Buckingham Twp. had one in Apr and May (DS). Two sites in Hilltown Twp. had birds, but it isn't clear if wintering or breeding. One of those sites had one 3/27 and 5/20 (DFa), and the other site had 3 through the winter into this period (KB). One at a feeder near Thicketon Valley Park 5/19 (BR ph.) still had black bars through the white wing panels indicating it was a first year bird.

An **American Kestrel** banded and rigged with a geolocator as an adult 6/2/2015 near Stockton, NJ was in a nest box on eggs in Tinicum Twp. 4/27 (DFa). Preliminary data indicated it had been as far south as Florida. **Merlin** was reported from only 7 sites (m.ob.). One wintering in Tinicum Twp. was last seen 3/25 (DA). One at Quakertown 5/25 matched the previous spring late date (DFa).

**Great-crested Flycatcher** may be trending up in recent years. The PAMC count of 101 was second to 107 in 2012 and compares to the previous 14-year average of 75. Again, the less frequently reported flycatchers were apparently scarce. **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SGL#157 5/8 (DFa) and 5/28 (PC), and SGL#56 5/14 (PC, MHa, MG ph.). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at SGL#157 5/20 (DFa) for the only report. Two **Alder Flycatchers** were at QTS 5/17 (DFa), with one each at PVP 5/20 (AMi vr.), SGL#157 5/21 (DFa), and NSP 5/26 (PC). One **Least Flycatcher** at PVP 5/8 (JBH) provided the solo report.

**White-eyed Vireo** was reported from only 8 sites in eBird. Some of those reports were likely of migrants. NSP is a regular breeding site, with 3 the highest tally there 4/30 (PC). Apparently another good site is Falls of the Delaware Park, where 5 were present starting 4/30 (MG). The high count at Tyler State Park was 3 on 5/15 (ML). **Common Raven** is mentioned here due to its relative newness to the local scene. Reports did not indicate any significant change in numbers (m.ob.). The highest report was a family group of 6 near Kintnersville 5/11 (EB).

Apparently all large **Horned Lark** flocks were gone before 3/1 this year, but as in recent years, potential breeding sites were reported. A few years ago, it was assumed there were no breeding birds remaining. The only confirmed nest this season was at MKF 4/26 (RS, AMi) where birds carrying nesting material were spotted. This was possibly a second attempt since the birds had been seen at the site since 4/19, but the fields had recently been disked and planted (RS). Alternatively, the first attempt could have been at the adjacent farm since 2 were seen there 3/10 (RS). The next hurdle required survival of the application of herbicide, the outcome of which is not known. The last sighting was 5/14 (RS). Two birds were also seen in appropriate habitat in Lower Makefield Twp. 3/17 (AL), where 2 were seen in May last year. A date of 5/30 for one in Durham Twp. also suggests nesting (DFa). Others were at Blooming Glen 3/7 (DFa), Pine Run Dam 3/22 (AH ph.), and Bedminster Twp. 3/31 (DFa).

Two **Barn Swallows** at MVL 3/23 (BBn) set a new spring early date by two days. Red-breasted Nuthatches were not reported, continuing the winter absence. **Marsh Wren** was a lucky spring find at PVP 4/23 (AMi, NG ph.) and PWT 5/13 (DFa). The **Carolina Wren** PAMC count of 98 was a rebound of 50% from last year's low that presumably resulted from the previous two cold winters. It still is well below the 150 from 2013. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was spotted 3/27 at PVP (MS), six days earlier than our previous spring arrival date.

Only 9 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported from just 4 sites (m.ob.), with the high single site count of 3 at Neshaminy State Park 5/20 (DBe). In comparison, **Swainson's Thrush** was well reported, from 23 sites in mostly low single digit counts (m.ob.), with the exception of 10 at PVP 5/20 (AMi). The 166 **Wood Thrushes** reported for PAMC compares to 168

last year, making three years in a row of counts far below average. The **Northern Mockingbird** PAMC total of 40 continues the recent years of depressed numbers. **Brown Thrasher** set a new record high for PAMC with 29 compared to an average of 10. **American Pipit** was scarce, with MKF reporting a few 3/25-4/26, with the high count 17 on 4/25 (RS). Two were at PWT 5/1 (DFa).

A total of 33 warbler species was reported. Looking at eBird data in general, low counts of species and individuals per outing were again the norm. An exception was a better fall out day 5/8 that produced 21 warbler species at SGL#157 (DFa). The PAMC total of 1163 warblers of 29 species on 5/14 compares to the poor count of 807 of 21 species last year. However, going back 14 previous years when birder participation was pretty similar to this year, the total still is well below the average of 1453. Even going back 23 previous years including lower birder participation, that average is 1368. Of the PAMC total this year, some of the relatively more common local breeders contributed 62% of the total, although many of these individuals for some species were likely migrants passing through: **Ovenbird** (143), **Black-and-white Warbler** (46), **Common Yellowthroat** (242), **American Redstart** (94), **Yellow Warbler** (166), and **Prairie Warbler** (30).

Most of the reports below are of scarce species that usually are represented by one individual per report. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at SGL#157 on 5/8 (DFa), one was at SGL#56 on 5/14 (PC, MHa, MG ph.), and one was listed at PVP 5/18 (BHi). A male **Prothonotary Warbler** at BRD 4/23 apparently was not seen again (PTa, JR, LR). The PVP **Prothonotary Warblers** presumably attempted nesting again for the sixth year in a row (m.ob.). The male was first reported earlier than previous years on 4/25 (SL), but no female was seen until 5/29, which was late (TF, LF). Both were seen carrying nesting material to a natural cavity that day, but that nest was determined later to be taken over by a **House Wren**. Another male was detected at Giving Pond 5/1 (PC), and the male and a female were seen 5/23 (DA). A male and female were seen nest building 5/29 near Milford on the Delaware R. (DA, DFa).

One **Mourning Warbler** at SGL#157 on 5/28 (PC, DFa) furnished the only report. **Kentucky Warbler**, rare for many years here, could not be found at the last known breeding area despite a thorough search (DFa). No migrants were detected either. Always a sought after warbler, which has also lost habitat, **Hooded Warbler** was reported only at 8 sights on 12 dates (m.ob.). Only a couple of those sites are likely breeding locations. Hoodeds have been below average for six years in a row for PAMC, with only one this year. **Cape May Warbler**, also scarce here, has been missed eight out of the last 15 years for PAMC. However, the 6 this year provided a new high count and over four times the average for the previous 23 years. Another former breeder here but now rare even as a migrant, single **Cerulean Warblers** were at Giving Pond 5/14 (JBH), PWT 5/14 (DFa), and SGL#157 on 5/17 (DFa). A new early spring date was furnished by a **Northern Parula** at Lake Towhee 4/12 (Pte).

The multi-year wintering **Pine Warbler** at Lower Makefield Twp. was last noted 3/23 (CFa). One **Yellow-throated Warbler**, a former regular breeding species along the Delaware R., at Washington Crossing Historical Park 4/7-16 (MN) represented the only record, but setting another new early arrival date by five days. Another former regular breeding species, **Yellow-breasted Chat** went unreported. Other species with less than 5 individuals detected for PAMC and generally reported in decreasing numbers in recent years include: **Tennessee Warbler** (1), **Nashville Warbler** (1), **Blackburnian Warbler** (4), **Pine Warbler** (3), **Bay-breasted Warbler** (4), **Worm-eating Warbler** (3), and **Wilson's Warbler** (3).

Apparently, the only reliable **Grasshopper Sparrow** location is Van Sant Airport where a count of 5 provided the highest report 5/31 (AMi). A **Fox Sparrow** at Tyler State Park 4/26 (DMo ph.) matches our previous late date for the species. The second latest date in eBird this year was 3/30 at Lake Towhee Park (Pte). **White-throated Sparrows** continued to pass through for most of May, with the last one near Gardenville 5/23-30 (WL, KL). Rather rare here, **Vesper Sparrow** went unreported. One **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Warrington Twp. 5/14 (RFR) provided the only report.

Two rare **Summer Tanagers** were reported at Core Creek Park 5/8 (SF, CFI). The first-winter **Black-headed Grosbeak** reported in the winter report very near the border with Northampton County, without absolute certainty if seen in *Bucks*, continued until 4/22 (EM, DMe). The homeowners requested no public access. Single **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported at MKF 5/8 (RS), PWT 5/14 (DFa), and Bristol 5/14 (SB et al.), all sites where expected.

**Eastern Meadowlarks** returned to their normal locations, with about 17 sites reporting (m.ob.). Negotiations with the county manager of General Services resulted in the early spring mowing at Pine Run Dam eliminated and a delay to July for any mowing. This will hopefully help the meadowlarks there this year (TP). Unfortunately, that manager has already indicated that the first mowing will be reinstated next year. An unusually high report of 13

was made at Tyler State Park 3/12 (EP). **Rusty Blackbird** was reported in eBird at 10 sites, but all in counts of under 10 birds (m.ob.). Not in eBird, the highest reports were about 25 on 3/22 and 17 on 5/7 at QTS (DFa). The wintering **Baltimore Orioles** at one site in Middletown Twp., numbering up to 7 at times, had consumed 252 ounces of strawberry jam by 4/18. The 2 adult males left 4/21, five days earlier than last year. Four more left by 4/23, with the last one last seen on 4/24 (DP). One there 5/2 was likely a migrant passing through rather than one of the wintering birds, but there is no way to be sure (all DP). The 2 birds that wintered at Yardley left 4/23 and 4/25 (SH).

**Purple Finch** was reported from only 7 sites in mostly low to middle single digit counts (m.ob.). PVP had the highest counts with 14 on 3/15 (JBa) and 16 on 3/21 (AMi). The last report was from SGL56-Lake Warren 4/17 (JBH). **Pine Siskins** made brief stops at 10 sites in Mar and Apr in low single digit counts, with the exception being 17 at Ottsville 4/9 (TR). The last report was 4/29 at Tincum Twp. (MM).

**EXOTICS:** A **Chukar** was wandering in the road near a hunting club in West Rockhill Twp. 4/14 and was later found dead there (JD).

Observers: **August Mirabella (AMi)**, 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales, PA, 19454, (215) 368-0594, [augustmirabella@aol.com](mailto:augustmirabella@aol.com), Diane Allison, Jane Barker-Hunt (JBH), Jochen Baumeister (JBa), Dave Belford (DBe), Bret Belli (BBe), Ken Belli, Barbara Bennett (BBn), Erich Boenzli, Stephen Boyle, David Brandes (DBr), Jean Burch (JBu), Carolyn Constable, Paul Cooper, Bob Cunningham, Henry D'Alessandro, Vince DeAntoniis, Butch DeBonis, Judith Decker, Howard Eskin, Tom Fahey, Connie Fairchild (CFa), Lynn Falterbauer, Devich Farbotnik (DFa), Robert Ferguson (RFe), Mathew Fiandra, Doug Filler (DFi), Carol Fitzpatrick (CFi), Ron French (RFr), Sharon Furlong, Mark Gallagher, Scott Godshall, Al Guarenti, Nanette Guida, Andrew Harrington, Susan Harrison, Michael Hartshorne (MHa), Ray Hendrick (RH), Barbara Hiebsch (BHi), Bill Hoehne (BHo), Mike Homel (MHo), Gail Johnson, Bill Keim, Karen Lattuca, Wayne Lattuca, Mike Lee, Alejandra Lewandowski, Stan Lupo, Jim Maloney (JMa), John Maret (JMr), Many Observers (m.ob.), Patrick March, Marin McArthur, Robert McGarry, Donald Mease (DMe), Elaine Mease, Bob Mercer, Annie Millionis (AMi), Judy Mirabella (JMi), Dwight Molotsky (DMo), Zach Moyer, Mary Normandia, David Pentland, Elaine Phipps, Tom Price, Brad Rangell, Trevor Redding, Ann Rhoads, Jack Robbins, Lorelei Robbins, Hart Rufe, Margie Rutbell, Diane Smith, Richard Smith, Vicky Smith, Stephen Staedtler, Barbara Stollsteimer, Phillip Stollsteimer, Mark Syvertsen, Patrick Taylor (PTa), Paul Teese (PTe), Bob Thompkins, Quinn Thompkins, Lesley Weissman-Cook.

### Butler County

Locations: Bear Run Boat Launch (BRBL), Butler Twp. (BT), Clay Twp. (CT), Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), McDanel Boat Launch (MBL), North Shore (NS), South Shore (SS), State Game Lands 95 (SGL 95), Wildlife Observation Area (WOA).

Continuing the trend from the mild winter, March came in with unseasonably warm temperatures. The remainder of the month was generally mild but normal seasonal weather returned April 3 with night-time freezing temperatures. Winter's last gasp brought 4 inches of snow to **Butler** April 9 and 10. Migration seemed to be slow and gradual, spread out through the season with no major weather events bringing major fallouts or rarities. Highlights of the season include 2 **American Bitterns**, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, and 29 species of warbler including not-often-seen **Prothonotary Warbler**. Despite the PAMC May 14 being a washout, dedicated observers managed to find 113 species and 1379 birds.

Uncommon in **Butler**, the **Mute Swan** found at South Shore 2/23 (GK, MAK) continued through 3/16 (m.ob.). One (possibly the same bird) was seen at Upper Boat Launch 5/11 (GK, MAK) and at Barkley Rd. 5/25 (MV). Nine **Tundra Swans** were seen at SS 3/5 (OM) and 31 were at WOA 3/10 (AC). A single bird was at Moraine S.P. 3/17 (TS) and one was at LO 3/31 (KB).

Ducks were well represented with 20 species seen, most at LA. The following species were seen 10 or more times: **Wood Duck**, **Gadwall**, **Mallard**, **Blue-wing Teal**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Merganser**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Hooded Merganser** and **Ruddy Duck**. The high counts for these include **Wood Duck**, 41 at the WOA 3/10 (AC); **Gadwall**, 125 at MSP 3/17 (TS); **Blue-winged Teal**, 6 at State Game Lands 95 on 4/23 (RS, SG); **Ring-necked Duck** 150 at MSP 3/17 (TS); **Lesser Scaup**, 40 near Burton Rd. 4/3 (BB); **Bufflehead**, 150 at MSP 3/17 (PS); **Hooded Merganser**, 9 at North Shore 4/1 (KD); **Common Merganser**, 35 at SS 4/14 (DK); **Red-breasted Merganser**, 94 at SS 4/13

(KD) and 63 at SS 4/15 (GK, MAK); **Ruddy Duck**, 41 at Bear Run Boat Launch 3/11 (MV) and 41 at NS 4/1 (KD). **American Wigeons** were reported 6 times from LA with a high count of 10 at MSP 3/25 (WH) and **American Black Ducks** was seen 5 times including 7 at LO 3/18 (KB). The only **Northern Shovelers** reported were 7 at LO 3/18 (KB) and one at MSP 3/25 (WH). Two **Green-winged Teal** were at WOA 3/10 (AC) and one was there 3/18 (ANON). One Green-winged was at SGL 95 on 3/12 (GK, MAK) and 2 were there 3/20 (BB). Only one **Canvasback** was reported, seen at BRBL 3/11 (MV). **Greater Scaup** high count was 4 at WOA 3/10 (AC) and were seen only 6 times compared with 16 reports of Lesser Scaup. The only scoter was a **White-winged Scoter** at BRBL 4/11 (DD). **Common Goldeneye** was spotted 6 times, all at LA, the high count being 10 at SS 3/6 (BB).

One **Northern Bobwhite** was reported from the PAMC 5/14 (GW) and one was seen at Clay Twp. 4/20 (BB). Normally there are a few reports of **Ring-necked Pheasant** but an unusually high number of sightings made some wonder if many birds survived the mild winter or if there had been some breeding activity since sightings included 2 juveniles at SGL 95 on 5/28 (TR). Unusually high counts of 7 pheasants at Calico Rd., and 11 at Swope Rd. (both SGL 95) 5/7 (GK, MAK) and 4 seen there 5/25 (RN) were a real surprise. The Game Commission reported that many of these birds were most likely brood birds released in the spring after making their contribution to the pheasant breeding program. **Ruffed Grouse** was only spotted twice - one at SGL 95 on 3/20 (BB) and one at Trout Cove 5/17 (RN). **Wild Turkey** was widely reported with high counts of 16 at SGL 95 on 3/12 and 18 at CT 4/2 (BB).

Compared with the 16 reports during the spring of 2015, **Common Loon** was reported an amazing 37 times, all from LA. Part of the increase could be due to more birders visiting there than ever, reflected by the large list of observers below. **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported 8 times (m.ob.), the high count being 5 at NS 4/13. **Horned Grebes** were seen 15 times (m.ob.), the same number of sightings as spring 2015. High counts were trios seen at Bike Trail 3/12 (TR), at MSP 3/17 (PS), and near Porter's Cove 4/13 (AB, MH, RH).

Small numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** summer at LA but 23 observations including 4 reports in triple digits shows that they like to stop there during migration. High counts included 400 at SS 4/13 (KD) and 400 there 2 days later (GK, MAK), possibly the same birds. Worth mentioning are reports of 62 at NS 4/27 (KD), 130 at McDanel Boat Launch 4/30 (GK, MAK), and 100 at SS 5/5 (STh). Decidedly uncommon in spring and almost never seen in fall in **Butler**, **American Bittern** was seen at Muddy Creek Wetland 4/24 (RN) and near Porter's Cove during the PAMC 5/14 (OM, JG). Only two **Great Egrets** were found, one at CT 4/11 (BB) and one, a bit late, was at Barkley Rd. 5/25 (MV). Very uncommon in **Butler**, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen at SGL 95 on 5/25 (RN).

Due to milder conditions, a few **Turkey Vultures** were seen through the winter so it was hard to determine when they started moving through en masse. **Osprey** were reported from LA through the season but the only confirmed fledglings were from MBL (m.ob.). Hopefully more successful nests will be located through the summer. **Bald Eagle** was reported continually (m.ob.) from LA, LO, and SGL 95 but no confirmed nesting was reported. The only **Northern Harrier** was a flyover at SS 3/6 (BB).

**Virginia Rail** made a nice showing with 6 reports 4/23-5/16, all from SGL 95 (m.ob.). **Sora** was reported from SGL 95 four times 4/23-5/7 (RS, SG, GK, MAK). Normally seen in larger flocks in the fall, sightings of **American Coot** increased dramatically compared to spring 2015. The high count was a nice tally of 65 at NS 4/1 (KD). Two **Sandhill Cranes** were at Worth Twp. 3/13 (BB) and several were heard at SGL 95 on 3/26 (SG). Two cranes flew over the WOA 4/1 (KD), 2 were at SGL 95 on 4/23 (RS, SG), and one was there 5/6 (SG).

**Butler** birders were treated to 10 species of shorebirds, compared to 7 last spring. **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Solitary Sandpiper** were reported from multiple locations (m.ob.). More frequently seen in the fall, 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** were at SGL 95 on 4/29, one was there 5/7, and 3 on 5/8 (GK, MAK). One was reported during the PAMC 5/14 (GW). Four **Lesser Yellowlegs** were spotted at SGL 95 on 4/29 and 8 were there 5/6 (SG). Two were reported during the PAMC 5/14 (GW). The only **Upland Sandpipers** were 3 at Barkeyville Grasslands 5/6 (BB). Rarely seen in spring, 2 **Least Sandpipers** were at SGL 95 on 5/6 (SG) and 7 were there 5/8 (GK, MAK). Another unexpected visitor was a **Dunlin** that stopped at SS 4/13 (KD, JM). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were reported during the PAMC 5/14 (GW). More frequently seen in summer and fall, there were 7 reports of **American Woodcock**.

Of the 3 gull species seen regularly at LA, **Bonaparte's Gull** sightings easily outnumbered reports of **Ring-billed Gull** and **Herring Gull**. Ring-bills and a few Herring Gulls summer at LA but Bonaparte's pass through and keep going. Compared with 10 reports in spring 2015, there were 27 this season, all from LA, including a very nice flock of 101 at SS 4/15 (GK, MAK)

and 40 there 4/20 (DP). Again, increased sightings may be related to increased monitoring of LA. **Caspian Tern** was seen 3 times - one at MSP 4/26 (GL, MH, RN), one at Upper Boat Launch 4/27 (GK, MAK), and 2 at Swamp Run Rd. 5/4 (RN). **Forster's Tern** was reported 12 times 4/22-5/13, all from LA.

Cuckoos made a lot of noise this season, especially compared to last year. After only 2 reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** in spring 2015, there were 8 this year. Last year, there was one report of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** - this year, 22. Reflecting the downward trend in numbers, **Common Nighthawk** was noted only twice: 8 at Jennings Environmental Educational Center 5/24 (BB) and 2 at CT 5/26 (BB). While most **Butler** sightings of **Eastern Whip-poor-will** are in spring, only one was reported, from CT 5/1 (BB).

Reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** appear to be increasing with one at Bird Watcher's Store 4/30 (MH), 2 near Branchton 4/30 (BB), 2 at CT 5/7, and one there 5/21-22 (BB). A surprising 10 Red-heads were reported from the PAMC 5/14 (GW). Uncommon in **Butler**, especially in spring, a **Merlin** was in CT 5/8 (BB). Least likely of the vireos to be found in **Butler**, one **Philadelphia Vireo** was noted at Rt. 528 BL 5/13 (LK) and 3 were reported from the PAMC 5/14 (GW). Only listed in the Breeding Bird Atlas as a probable breeder in one location and possible in one other, regular sightings throughout the season suggest that perhaps **Common Raven** will be confirmed as a breeding bird in **Butler**.

Not often seen, **Gray-cheeked Thrush** made 2 appearances, one at CT 5/7 (BB) and one at Trout Cove 5/17 (RN). **Swainson's Thrush** was tallied 8 times from 5 widely scattered locations (m.ob.). A nice total of 29 warbler species was found, including (not seen every year) **Prothonotary Warbler** from 2 locations: one at SGL 95 on 5/7 (GK, MAK) and one at JEEC 5/16 (BB). The most frequently reported warblers included **Hooded Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Yellow Warbler** and **Black-throated Green Warbler**. The least reported species (with 2 sightings for the season) include not often seen in **Butler**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, cited above and **Prairie Warbler**, with one at SGL 95 on 4/23 (SG, RS) and one there 5/6 (SG). **Pine Warbler** was spotted only 3 times: one at SS 4/20 (DP), 2 at SGL 95 on 4/23 (SG, RS), and one at Muddy Creek Wetland 4/24 (RN). **Canada Warbler** was also seen only 3 times: one at SGL 95 5/7 (GK, MAK), one at Rt. 528 Boat Launch 5/13 (CK, EL, DH, LK), and one there 5/24 (GK, MAK).

The last **Fox Sparrow** was at Butler Twp. 4/18 (GK, MAK). Four **White-throated Sparrows** lingered at CT until 5/8 (BB) and the last **White-crowned Sparrow** stayed at BT until 5/9 (GK, MAK). Singles or twosomes of **Rusty Blackbird** were spotted 8 times and a very nice flock of 20 visited SGL 95 on 3/26 (SG). **Pine Siskin** was seen at feeders in BT and CT 11 times 3/6-5/18 (BB, GK, MAK). One was at JEEC 4/27 and 2 were there 5/1 (BB).

Observers: **Oscar Miller, 2406 Marble Lane, Sewickley, PA 15143, 412-855-0483, aoscarmiller3@pghboe.net**, Diane Aiken, Julie Aiken, Anon, David Arrow, Brendyn Baptiste, Kimberly Berry, Carole Borek, Jessica Botzan, Marcia Brown, Anthony Bruno (ABr), Alan Buriak, Suzanne Butcher, James Campbell, George Cassleberry, Allie Causey, Jeffrey Cohen, Debbie Darney, Karen Delaney, Mary Eymann, Mike Fialkovich, Jim Gray, Barbara Griffith, Steve Gosser, David Hadden, Susanne Haney, Michelle Hanko (MHo), Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Ray D. Hoffman (RHo), MiMi Hoffmaster, William Hutchison, Dave Inman, Matthew Juskowich, Deb Kalbfleisch, Alyssa Karman, Michael Karpinko, Lisa Kaufman, Andy Keister, Rich Kenzie, Scott Kinsey, Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koenke, Chris Kubiak, Gloria Lamer, Andy Lariviere, Linda Lee, Judy Lesso, Ken Limmer, Oliver Lindheim, Patrick Lister, Eilenn Luba, Geoff Malosh, Jeff McDonald, Anthony McMillen, Shirley Mutz, Lauren Nagoda, Bobby Noble, Richard Nugent, David Pinkerton (Dpi), David Poortinga, Theo Rickert, Tom Romecki (TRo), Ramona Sahni, Kathy Saunders (KSa), Lauren Shaffer, Tim Shreckengost, Liz Spence (LSp), Kim Springer, Phillip Steiner, Kate StJohn (KSJ), Stephen Thomas (STh), Shannon Thompson, Emily Valentine, Mark Vass, Matthew Webb, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm, Carole Winslow, Macaya Yao.

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### **Cambria County**

No report

Compiler: **Dave Gobert, 287 Beech RD. Patton, Pa. 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net**

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### **Cameron County**

Locations: Camp Metro (CM), Driftwood (DW), Quehanna Wild Area

(QWA), Shippen Twp. (ST), Sinnemahoning SP—George B. Stevenson Dam (SGSD), Sizerville SP (SSP), Sterling Run (SR).

SGSD is probably the number one birding destination in the county during any season. Consequently, most sightings came from this location, and all sightings were made at SGSD unless otherwise noted.

During the spring season, waterfowl were reported in good numbers with 16 species noted. Most **Tundra Swans** pass through northcentral Pennsylvania in Mar, so the individual seen 4/30, 5/2, and 5/7 was notable (MJ). This species was also reported on the more appropriate date of 3/16 when 3 individuals were present. Almost all of the expected puddle ducks were reported. First returning **Wood Ducks** were at CM 4/16 (AB). Three **Gadwalls** were seen 3/1 and another 3/24 (MJ). One to 2 **American Wigeons** were at present 3/16, 3/24, and 3/26 (MJ). An increasingly uncommon bird, **American Black Ducks** were at seen 3/16-17, 3/24, 3/26, and 5/7 (MJ). The only report of **Green-winged Teal** was of 8 on 3/17 (MJ).

Eight species of diving duck were reported. Two **Redheads** provided a nice find 3/3 (MJ). **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen throughout Mar and Apr with a high of 7 on 3/24 (MJ). A single **Lesser Scaup** was present 3/3 and 3/5 (MJ). Notable anywhere in the state away from Lake Erie, 10 **Long-tailed Ducks** were observed 3/5 and 6 on 3/17 (MJ). **Buffleheads** were reported 3/16, 3/17 and 4/30 (MJ). The only report of **Hooded Merganser** was of 4 on 3/24 (MJ). The most common of the three merganser species, the **Common Merganser** was recorded throughout the season with a high of 52 on 3/5 (MJ). Single **Red-breasted Mergansers** were seen throughout the period (MJ).

Fowl-like birds were likely underreported with **Ruffed Grouse** being reported only 5 times at SGSD and SR in Apr and May. **Wild Turkey** was reported 5 times at SGSD and ST (PH, MJ), with a high of 26 on 3/24 (MJ). **Common Loons** were seen at ST 3/25 and SGSD 4/8, 4/16, and 5/7. The high count was of 23 at SGSD 4/8 (AIB, MJ). **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported 3/24, 3/26, and 4/8 (MJ). The only **Horned Grebe** was one on 3/16 (MJ). Single **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen 4/30 and 5/2 (MJ). The first returning **Great Blue Heron** was one 3/24 (MJ). An uncommon breeder, **Green Heron** was only seen once 5/7 (MJ).

The first **Turkey Vultures** were noted 3/24 when a nice count of 41 was made (MJ). **Osprey** returned 4/30 (MJ). A new Osprey nesting pole was erected at SGSD this past season with help from the Allegheny Highlands Bird Club. The only **Northern Harrier** was observed 4/30 (MJ). A rare yet casual migrant in the county, a **Golden Eagle** was seen 3/16 (MJ). The only accipiter report was of **Cameron's** most common of the three species, the **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, seen 4/16 and 5/14 (MJ). The **Bald Eagle** has certainly made a tremendous comeback in **Cameron** as well as throughout North America, as was definitely evident this season. They were reported at SGSD throughout the season with a high of 7 on 3/1 (MJ). The first **Broad-winged Hawk** returned 5/7 (MJ).

One **Spotted Sandpiper** was at CM 4/16, and singles were also at SGSD and SR during May (AIB, MJ). Single **Solitary Sandpipers** were present 5/2, 5/7, and 5/14 (MJ). Single **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen 5/2 and 5/14 (MJ). Nine **Least Sandpipers** were reported 5/14 (MJ). The only **Wilson's Snipe** was one 4/30 (MJ). **American Woodcock** was heard peenting at CM 4/16 and was seen at SGSD 4/30 and 5/7 (AB, MJ).

The only owl species reported **Barred Owl**, seen 4/30 and 5/7 (MJ). A species in decline across its range, **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was noted 5/7 (MJ). First **Belted Kingfisher** was 3/1 (MJ). A southern species still uncommon in the county, **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were seen at CM 4/16-17, at SR 5/3, and at SGSD 5/7 and 5/14 (AIB, MJ). A common breeder in the county, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, was first reported at CM 4/17 (AB).

The 2 more likely falcon species were reported this season, with the most often observed **American Kestrel** reported 4/30 and 5/7 (MJ). A possible breeder in the county, a **Merlin** was at Cameron County High School 4/4 (JF). **Least Flycatchers** were noted at SGSD 5/2, 5/7, and 5/14 and at SR 5/3 (MJ). The only **Great Crested Flycatcher** seen was on 5/7 (MJ).

A common breeder in the county, the **Blue-headed Vireo** was first seen at CM 4/17 (AIB). **Warbling Vireos** were found at SGSD and SR in May (MJ). The least common of Pennsylvania's 6 vireo species, the **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported from SSP 5/19 (AnB). With its increase across the state, **Common Ravens** were noted multiple times at DW and SGSD throughout the season (DB, MJ). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were present at CM and SGSD beginning 4/16 (AIB, MJ). **Cliff Swallows** were present 4/30, 5/7, and 5/14 (MJ).

Single **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at SGSD 5/7 and DW 5/24 (DB, MJ); these individuals may have been breeders. **Winter Wrens** were at CM 4/17 and SGSD 5/7 (AIB, MJ). Still a rare bird here, a **Carolina Wren** was seen 5/7 (MJ). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were present beginning 4/30 (MJ). Unlike the year-round resident **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, the migrant-

only **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen at CM 4/17; SGSD 4/30, 5/7, 5/14; and at SR 5/3 (AIB, MJ).

**Veerries** were at SGSD and SR 3 times during May, while **Swainson's Thrush** was seen only once, at SGSD 5/14 (MJ). **Hermit Thrush** is *Cameron's* most abundant breeding spot-breasted thrush - seen at CM, QWA, and SGSD beginning 4/17 (AIB, MJ). A species in steep decline, the **Wood Thrush** was seen only once, at SR 5/3 (MJ).

Warblers were present in average numbers, with 22 species reported. Among these, only the more notable species are mentioned. **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were at CM 4/16 and 4/17, and at SGSD 5/7 and 5/14 (AIB, MJ). **Northern Waterthrushes** were reported from SGSD 4/30 and 5/7 (MJ). **Tennessee Warblers** were at SGSD 4/30, 5/2, and 5/7; at SR 5/3; and at SSP 5/19 (AnB, MJ). One **Nashville Warbler** was at SGSD 4/30 and 6 were there 5/2 (MJ); a high count of 12 was made at SR 5/3 (MJ). The only **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at SGSD 5/14. One **Palm Warbler** was at SR 5/3 (MJ). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** is an abundant migrant from late Apr through mid-May, so the individual at DW 5/24 was likely a breeder (DB). The most notable of the warblers reported this season was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at SR 5/3, where a **Prairie Warbler** was seen there on that same day (MJ). **Canada Warbler** was at SGSD 5/7 and 5/14 (MJ).

Two sightings of **Fox Sparrows** were made at SGSD 3/16 and 3/17 (MJ). **Dark-eyed Junco** is definitely not a notable bird in Mar and Apr, but the individuals that were spotted in late May at various locations in the county were most likely breeders (m.ob.). **White-crowned Sparrows** were at SR 5/3 and at SGSD 5/7 and 5/14 (MJ). The only **Lincoln's Sparrow** reported came from SGSD 5/14 (MJ). **Swamp Sparrows** were seen at SGSD throughout May (MJ). In a mostly forested county, there is not much habitat available for city or grassland birds, so 2 **Eastern Meadowlarks** at SGSD 3/16 and 3/24 and one **House Finch** at this location 5/7 represented notable observations. Not as common as its relative the **Baltimore Oriole**, the **Orchard Oriole** was seen at SGSD 5/2 and 5/14 (MJ). **Purple Finch** is likely underreported noted only at SGSD 5/7 and 5/14 (MJ). Not so abundant as last year, **Pine Siskins** were at SR 5/3 and at SGSD 5/7 and 5/14 (MJ).

Observers: **Brendyn Baptiste, 255 Clayton Rd Butler, PA 16001, brendynbaptiste@yahoo.com, (724) 496-4856**, Daniel Brauning, Anna Bressan (AnB), Alan Buriak (AIB), Mark Johnson.

#### **Carbon County**

No compiler.

#### **Centre County**

Locations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian (JUL).

During the 2016 PA Migration Count 5/14, birders reported 160 species in *Centre* (*vide* NK). I also want to take a moment and thank Darla and Dick Snyder for allowing birders to come into their yard and admire the Western Tanager that wintered at their feeder station in State College. Thank you! Information for this report was obtained primarily from eBird and the State College Bird Club Listserv, with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

A few rare migrating waterfowl species were observed, and area birders were all a twitter over 2 of them. There were several reports of **Snow Goose** flyovers, including a large flock of 46 at JUL 3/6 (BS), an unknown number heard in State College 3/8 (SBr), and a large flock of 87 at BESP 3/9 (BC). Other observations included 3 at BESP 3/19 (TA). There was another observation there the same day of just one Snow Goose, a blue-phase (KE, CE). The last report came 3/21, when 2 were spotted flying over S. Eagle Valley Rd. southwest of Port Matilda (L&JC). A possible **Trumpeter Swan** at Curtin wetlands 4/2-13 (BSn, et al.) prompted much debate on the State College Bird Club listserv concerning its identity. Although many photos were taken and analyzed, no consensus emerged as to whether it was a Trumpeter Swan or a Tundra Swan. It did not have wing tags. However, L95, a Trumpeter Swan named "Ava" in memory of a little girl in Ontario, Canada, and wearing a pair of yellow wing tags labeled L95, made a brief return to *Centre* this spring. She was spotted at a pond on Buffalo Run Rd. 5/5 (KJ, et al.). This is the same swan that was reported in spring 2015 in Milesburg. She was later hit by a car and taken to Centre Wildlife Care, where the rehabilitators discovered she also had lead poisoning. She was successfully treated and released at Lake Raystown in *Huntingdon*. The swan wasn't seen again in our region until the early winter, when she returned to Lake Raystown, where she wintered.

And then there were **Eurasian Wigeons**. There were numerous sightings of this accidental species 3/4-3/13 at multiple locations, prompting another round of identification discussion on the State College listserv. Most of the reports were probables, since some speculated that there was one male moving between the Duck Pond, Old Gatesburg Rd., and Nixon Rd. and that it could also have been either a rust-stained American Wigeon or a hybrid (MB, et al.). Another male Eurasian Wigeon was observed and photographed by many at BESP 3/7-12. The bird was with a mixed flock of **American Wigeons**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Buffleheads**, and **Northern Pintails** in a marshy area at the northern end of the lake (GM, AL (ph), BC (ph), et al.). Finally, a male was observed at JUL 3/20 (L&JC). Two additional rare spring migrants were also present at BESP. Up to 6 **Red-throated Loons** were observed there 4/9-5/22 (BS, et al.). A vocalizing **Red-necked Grebe** in winter plumage was spotted 3/29 (MB) and 4/26-5/1 (BS, CE, KE). The May bird was an adult in breeding plumage.

Some lucky birders encountered 2 rare **Least Bitterns**, possibly a pair, at JUL 5/8. The birds remained until 5/18. This species is a casual visitor to the region (CE (ph), L&JC (ph), et al.). **Great Egrets**, though rare, are regularly reported, and this spring was no exception, seen widely throughout the county. **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, on the other hand, are not regular visitors, and the single adult spotted at BESP represented a nice find, present in a marshy pond at the north end of the park 4/26-28 (BS, et al.).

**Virginia Rails** were also widespread. This is a rare, but regular species, which sometimes breeds in the marshes of the region. Although still considered a rarity, **Sandhill Cranes** are being reported more often in recent years. One was spotted flying over I-99 near the Toftrees exit 3/3 (unidentified observer *vide* KE), another flew over Unionville 4/27 (JP), and third was observed preening in a field off Burnell Rd. 5/27 (DS).

BESP was the place to be for shorebirds, gulls, and terns, with all of the reports of rarities coming from the park. One or "2 **Black-bellied Plovers** in non-breeding plumage" were spotted on the mudflats along the lake 4/29 (MB, JP), and 4 molting **Sanderlings** were identified 5/14 (L&JC, BS, SH). Both rare migrating species are not observed every year. The first **Dunlins** of the year were observed as they, and 3 **Greater Yellowlegs**, flew over the observer 4/11 (CE). Up to 4 **Dunlins** were present 4/20-5/4, at least one in non-breeding plumage (MB, et al.). A trio of **Dunlins** were spotted "busily gulping down earthworms brought out by the rain" 5/22 (WL (ph)). Although rare, **Dunlins** are regularly reported most years. Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** showed their nice white rumps to the observer after they were accidentally flushed along the lake edge 5/25 (NB). It pays to check your gulls. A single **Franklin's Gull** was found in a flock of **Ring-billed Gulls** 5/14 (CE (ph), et al.). A single rare migrating **Black Tern** was photographed 5/13 (BC).

A rare **Barn Owl** was reported at BESP 4/17. Initially seen in a white pine, it was later mobbed by crows and flew off (L&JC). **Barn Owls** were also present on a farm near Milheim. The property owner indicated there were "two nests with 6 eggs each" (JG spoke with the owner). Several birders reported hearing and/or seeing the owls there 4/22-5/7 (BS, et al.). A single rare **Olive-sided Flycatcher** crossed paths with a couple birders in the Scotia Barrens 5/12 (JM (ph), MR). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** are rarely encountered during spring. Nonetheless, 2 were identified this year - one near Port Matilda 5/21 (L&JC) and one at Black Moshannon 5/28 SP (JP).

Although **Warbling Vireos** are rarely encountered during migration, they were widespread this year. In contrast, only 3 **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported. One was seen in SGL 100 on 5/14 (CE, KE), another was spotted on Circleville Rd. 5/16 (MR), and a third bird was heard at BESP 5/20 (NB). A **Marsh Wren** was heard singing in "a small cattail-bordered pond" at BESP 3/13 (NiB). One or 2 rare migrating **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were heard at night in State College 5/24-26 (CE).

Nearly 3 dozen warbler species were noted, of which 5 are rare. An adult male **Orange-crowned Warbler** was observed calling at Colyer Lake 4/30 (MB), and a "cooperative" one was present 5/5-7 at BESP (BC, WL, CE, KE). A single was observed foraging with a mixed warbler flock in some evergreens in State College 5/18 (CL). This species is "very rare" during spring migration (B&G, 2010). A **Connecticut Warbler**, another very rare spring species, was reported during the PA Migration Count. **Mourning Warblers**, although considered rare, were widely reported in at least 5 locations. On the other hand, a single **Kentucky Warbler** "shocked" a couple area birders who encountered one in the woods between Kremmer Rd. and University Dr. in State College 5/1. "The bird was walking on the ground within heavy cover and would quickly disappear as if into thin air" (CE, KE). A second was spotted in the Scotia Barrens 5/24 (JC). A rare **Yellow-throated Warbler** was identified during the PA Migration Count 5/14.

**Henslow's Sparrows** were vocalizing in a few locations, such as Reese Hollow Rd. 4/28, where they were "singing in a hayfield" (JG), and

half a dozen were more likely to be heard singing than seen 4/30-5/31 at SGL 100 (JD, MB, SB, AL, IG, CE, KE, JP, BS, AC, RD). A single was also present at Bell Hollow fields 5/2 (L&JC). The continuing **Western Tanager** in State College was last spotted 4/17. "The molt on his head is progressing with the red color becoming more noticeable each day. He's still feeding regularly on mealworms and raisins and I saw him hawking as well" (WL ph). Two lucky birders saw and heard a **Dickcissel** fly over Colyer Lake 4/30 (AL, IG).

Observers: **N.J. Butkovich, 550 Toftrees Ave. #248, State College, PA 16803, (814) 234-6086, njbutkovich@verizon.net**, Tina Alianiello, Nick Bolgiano (NiB), Mark Bonta, Steve Bonta, Susan Braun (SBr), Beth & Don Brobst (B&DB), Linder & John Carter (L&JC), Allie Causey, Bill Chambers, Jack Cochran, Jason Collens (JCo), Shawn Davis, Mike Defina, Rob Dickerson, Jim Dunn, Kurt Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom, Bill Fatula, Robert Ferguson, Ian Gardner, Joe Gyekis, Sean Herrmann, Kelly Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Andy Keister, Nick Kerlin, Nancy Ellen Kiernan (NEK), Alex Lamoreaux, Aaron Lapp (ALa), Wayne Laubscher, Cynthia Lukyanenko, Alan MacEachren, John Mackin, Crystal McNeal, Gary Metzger, Mark Nale, Julia Plummer, Matthew Rockmore, Brian Schmoke, Debby Smith, Bob Snyder (BSn), Darla Snyder (DSn), Joe Verica, David Yeany II, three unidentified observers.

### **Chester County**

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), Exton Park (EP), Great Marsh (GM), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES).

The spring was wet. Rain was a feature of nearly every weekend, and temperatures were moderate. The migrant activity picked up in early May, after what seemed to be a slower start in April. There were some outstanding birds for the spring, including two simultaneously in-the-county Painted Buntings! One bunting, previously reported in winter, was outstanding in itself, but two was remarkable. Other highlights of the season included: A Clapper Rail at MCSP, Whimbrels seen in migration over Unionville, Red Knots seen in migration, and one discovered injured lakeside, and singing Clay-colored Sparrows in a private area of Longwood Gardens.

The high count for migrant **Tundra Swans** was 100, seen in the Devon area, 3/9 (AC). A lucky find was a male **Eurasian Wigeon** on a farm pond in Cochranville, 3/2 (MG). This handsome drake was swimming among a small gathering of **American Wigeons**. Another Eurasian Wigeon encounter, possibly the same bird given proximity, was at OCTRES 3/11 (JS). This species is a rare migrant, but is found more often in spring, usually during the last week of Feb and first two weeks of Mar. The drake **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** that was present through winter, continued his residence into spring, seen through 4/11 (m.ob.).

A solo **Canvasback** found on the lake at MCSP 3/4 (MH) lingered through 3/9 (m.ob.). A dapper drake **White-winged Scoter** appeared on the lake at MCSP 3/14 (HM, m.ob.), a treat for the eyes to see this uncommon and irregular visitor. **Red-breasted Mergansers** started appearing on area lakes 3/18 and continued through 4/15. This is a regular, but uncommon, spring migrant here in *Chester*. A good high count was of 14 found on CL 4/7 (RR).

A **Red-throated Loon**, an uncommon spring migrant, appeared at MCSP 4/7, and stuck around through 4/15, offering the opportunity for many to see (m.ob.). **Horned Grebes** frequented area lakes 3/11-4/13 (m.ob.). A nice high count for **Double-crested Cormorant** was of 105 seen at OCTRES 5/7 (PM), of which over 78 were flyovers in migration.

The **American Bittern** is often hard to detect due to its shy behavior, and eagerness to camouflage into its wetland environment, but a few lucky birders managed to find the big bittern at the ChesLen marsh 4/13-23 (JF, LL, KP, MH), an area where breeding has been suspected, but never confirmed. An adult **Little Blue Heron** was a wonderful discovery at ChesLen marsh 4/26 (CH). This species is more likely to be found as immature birds in post-breeding dispersal in late summer and early fall, so an adult in spring was a good find. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was spotted flying over the OCTRES, 5/1 (PM).

*Chester* remains the best county in the Commonwealth to try your luck at seeing a **Mississippi Kite**. The Bucktoe Creek Preserve is one of the best locations, hosting a dedicated "Kite Watch" mid-May through 6/6. This year, 2 were seen there, both subadults, observed 5/20, and 5/27 (LL, KP). Another fantastic encounter with a Mississippi Kite occurred 5/27, when an observant birder, commuting to work, spotted an imm. kite being harassed by crows in Avondale (DS). Two pairs of **Red-shouldered Hawks** were discovered nesting in Mar. One was found in Uwchlan Twp., and the other in

West Whiteland (HM). While this is a regular nesting species, not many active nests are known.

A shocking encounter was provided by a **Clapper Rail** that seemed to drop into the parking area out of nowhere at MCSP while two birders stood chatting (RM, HM)! The bird ran across the shoreline, standing long enough for a few photos before flying off. This species has not been recorded in the county since 1958. An historical record of note was a Clapper Rail "taken" in Kennett Square in 1908, and which is now a specimen at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia (*Birds of Pennsylvania*, 2000).

A **Common Gallinule** was seen via webcam swimming around the wetland at the GM property 5/7 and 5/11 (MC). This is a rare, and irregular migrant in *Chester*. Only a few **Virginia Rails** were located, all but one encounter was from the GM Area 4/24-5/26. The other was of 2 found at the Laurels Preserve 4/13 (KF). A high count of 3 was tallied at the GM 5/26, and the late May date indicated possible breeding (BB). **Soras** were found in multiple locations 4/24-5/20 (m.ob.). A high count was of 3 heard at the ChesLen marsh 5/18 (JM, HM), a likely breeding location.

Shorebird migration is a highlight of the *Chester* spring, since this county is one of the best-known inland counties in which to witness the early evening flyover spectacle, where strings of shorebirds are seen *en route* to their *Arctic* breeding grounds. The BCP hosts an evening shorebird watch 5/17-6/6, manned by LL. The biggest flight there occurred the evening of 5/26, when over 7,000 shorebirds were tallied moving across the skies. String-after-string, were witnessed, some holding several hundred, or more, shorebirds at a time. Most go unidentified to the species level due to distance, but some can be identified with optics, especially by using digital photography to aide the identification process. One such species that is easier to detect than most, due to its bulky build, and V shape migratory formation, is the **Black-bellied Plover**. This species was encountered with tallies of 31 at BCP 5/25 (LL, KP, HM, RM), and 50 seen from a Unionville backyard the same evening (KN). A grand high count was of 430 flew over BCP on that date (LL, KP, HM, RM). A staggering count of 280 **Whimbrels** flying over a backyard in Unionville 5/23 marks the highest count for the species in the county (KN)! This species is rare and irregularly encountered, but watching for them in migration during the second and third weeks in May can increase your chances. While on their way to the *Arctic*, 105 **Ruddy Turnstones** were seen flying over BCP 5/26 (LL, KP, HM, RM). This species is rarely encountered on the ground in *Chester*, so always a treat to see during their migration. A striking breeding plumaged **Dunlin** was seen along the muddy shoreline of the OCTRES 5/3 (PM). Up to 12 **Red Knots** were detected in a flock of turnstones over BCP 5/26, a species that is always hoped for during the shorebird watches. A surprise find at CL 5/28 was a Red Knot running the shoreline, with an apparent injury (CW). Attempts to recover this knot, in order to take it to a rehab center, were unsuccessful when the bird seemed no longer present.

Only a few **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen this spring, with reports of only singles each time. Two reports were from MCSP - 4/5 (AG) and 4/ 11 (HM), and another at Longwood Gardens 4/7 (KN). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were in good supply, with multiple spring encounters (m.ob.). Many birders speculated that the widespread outbreak of tent caterpillar nests may have something to do with this. The **Black-billed Cuckoo** is harder to find, and this spring provided just 6 reports 5/2-19 (m.ob.). Flyover **Barn Owls** were detected through a nocturnal listening microphone in Unionville 3/22 and 4/25 (KN). This species is known to frequent this area, based on previous recording of its hissing screech as it passes over. A pair of Barn Owls is known to reside in the county, and continues in that location (KF).

A remarkable recording of an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was made from a property in West Chester 5/6, an area where they are not known to occur in the modern era (DS). Other reports came from Goat Hill, where they are expected during spring and summer (m.ob.). It was a great spring for watching migrating **Common Nighthawks** in the evening skies. At the BCP Kite and Shorebird Watch, seeing these graceful fliers hawking insects as they migrated was a real treat. The highest single-day count was of 133 at BCP 5/20 (LL, KP), followed by 88 there 5/25 (LL, KP, HM).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was noted at hole #5 at the Honey Brook Golf Course, 5/4 (RR). Another was seen at Coventry Woods Park, 5/21 (m.ob.). This species is an uncommon spring migrant, and is a probable breeding bird, but in extremely low density.

There were 2 reports of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** - one at Ellis Woods Park 5/17 (EH) and another at BCP 5/25 (LL, KP, HM). **Alder Flycatchers** were found at Crow's Nest Preserve 5/15 (CH, MD) and at EP 5/20 (CH). It seemed to be a good spring for Alders in the region, with adjacent counties also tallying several in mid-to-late May. Providing another "twosome" of flycatcher reports, **Least Flycatchers** included one from OCTRES 4/28 (PM) and one from Longwood Gardens 5/5 (KP, LL).

There are now 2 active **Common Raven** nests in *Chester*. This species had no records of nesting here until 2014, and was not reported in the county prior to 2008. A new nest has been monitored along the

Schuylkill River Trail at Cromby, where the birds built a nest on a smokestack at the power plant. At least 3 juveniles were present in a nest until the end of the reporting season (RK, m.ob.). The pair in Downingtown's Hanson Quarry nested successfully, and 6 ravens were documented within the quarry 5/28 (BB).

A fantastic discovery was of a nesting colony of **Bank Swallows** at the Hanson Quarry in Downingtown 5/28 (BB). It was speculated the swallows could be nesting in the area after a few late May reports in the last two years, but no nests were discovered. This species has had few nesting records in *Chester* in the last decade, so this was a very good find. During that day at the quarry, up to 20 Bank Swallows were counted, a very nice count for *Chester*.

In wake of a non-irruptive fall and winter, there were no reports of Black-capped Chickadees. Following a winter with only a few **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, there were just 2 encounters during the spring: 2 individuals a private residence in Devon 3/8 (AC) and one at Nottingham CP 4/17 (m.ob.). A **Marsh Wren** was found singing at the ChesLen marsh 4/23 (HM), but was not detected on later dates when the property was surveyed. This area held breeding Marsh Wrens during the summer of 2010. Another Marsh Wren was found at Ellis Woods Park 5/22, and presumed to be a migrant (EH).

There were multiple reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**. These plain-faced, spot-breasted thrushes debuted 5/11, and continued through 5/25, when one was captured in a mist net at the Rushton Farm Banding Station (DM, m.ob.).

While a noticeable fall-out of **Tennessee Warblers** occurred in other regions of *Pennsylvania*, here in *Chester*, only 3 encounters of the species occurred: one at Jenkins Arboretum 5/7 (SG), another at Harmony Hill Nature Area 5/19 (NP, SP, HM), and another there 5/25 (HM). **Kentucky Warblers** have become scarce breeding birds in *Chester* during recent years, with only a few known presumed nesting locations. This spring, reports came from Warwick CP 5/7 (RM), Peacedale Preserve 5/14 (TR), and Coventry Woods 5/17-19 (NP, JW, PW). **Cape May Warblers** were found on twice – one in Uwchlan Twp. 5/10 (HM) and 2 at Hibernia CP 5/14 (RR). The most reliable location for **Yellow-throated Warblers** is small Kerr Park along the Brandywine Creek in the heart of Downingtown. This year, the warblers returned first 4/15, continuing through the period (m.ob.). Up to 3 sang there 5/4 (LW), and other reports were of 2 singing individuals. Additional reports were from Pickering Creek Trail 4/29 (CH), Black Rock Sanctuary 5/4 (RK, WS), and Nottingham CP 5/14 (HM). There were only 2 discoveries of **Bay-breasted Warbler**, which is not atypical, found more readily found during fall migration. Reports came from the Pickering Creek Trail 5/11 (MC) and Laurel Woods Trail 5/14 (AL).

Thought to be the first documented incident of two **Painted Buntings** simultaneously in *Pennsylvania*, two in the same county was quite remarkable indeed for *Chester*! The "green" bunting continuing since Dec stayed through 4/5 in the West Chester area (AW), but the bunting star of spring was undoubtedly a flamboyant male, discovered on a private property in Chester Springs 3/4 (TC, CH ph)! This flashy-plumaged Painted Bunting made sporadic appearances, but was seen through 4/4, only a day prior to the other Painted Bunting's last observation. Both were not reported widely due to the wishes of the property owners.

A **Dickcissel** in flight was heard and recorded through a live-listening nocturnal flight-monitoring rig in Unionville 5/23 (KN). A singing male Dickcissel was found in the Doe Run area 5/31, a region where presumed to have nested in the past (NP).

A remarkable find was two singing **Clay-colored Sparrows** in a private area of Longwood Gardens 5/27, detected during a professional biological survey. This species is not known to have nested in *Chester* in modern times, so a report this late into the spring is most intriguing (MM). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen on a walk at EP 3/31 (m.ob.). **Lincoln's Sparrow** are less commonly found during spring migration, but 2 were reported, at GM 4/30 (MC) and at Ellis Woods Park 5/19 (EH).

The **Rusty Blackbird** population continues to decline at an alarming rate, so all reports are noteworthy. There were many encounters this spring, and a nice high count of 17 came from the GM 4/17 (MC). Reports continued through 5/18. **Pine Siskins** were not as numerous as last spring, but the wheezy sounding dramatically streaked finches continued in small numbers through 5/19 (TS, m.ob.)

Observers: **Holly Merker, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335, 610-733-4392, HCybell@gmail.com**, Barry Blust, Rob Blye, Carol Blye, Evan Coates, Tom Connett, Steve Cottrell, Mike Coulter, Alan Crawford, Hank Davis, Mike Defina, Barb Elliot, Nikki Flood, Judy Ford, Kevin Fryberger, Laura Gathercole, Michael Gardner, Louise Gensemer, Peter Gibb, Blake Goll, Hannah Greenberg, Steve Grunwald, Barbara Haas, Frank Haas, Denice Hartmann, Michael Hartshorne, W.Brian Henderson (WBH), Eric Hughes, Chad Hutchinson, Kristen Johnson, Sheryl Johnson,

Dale Kendall, Rick Keyser, Carol Kuniholm, Andrew Leidig, Larry Lewis, Dave Luning, Sarah MacLellan, Carol Majors, Ron Majors, Doris McGovern, Michael McGraw, Rand McIlvaine, John McNamara (JMcn), Rob Megraw, Patrick Millar, Kelley Nunn, Kathleen Pileggi, Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella, Brian Quindlen, Brian Raichich, Tom Raub, Rick Robinson, Joe Sebastiani, Vince Smith, Kim Steininger, Arthur Steinberger, Tim Sterrett, Scott Stollery, Derek Stoner, Wendy Sykora, George Tallman, Jaime Thomas, Lisa Tull, Laura Wagner, Cathy Wasaman, John Werth, Patty Werth, Judy White, Ann Williams.

## Clarion County

Locations: Curlsville (CV), Mt. Airy (MA), Mt. Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330 (MZ), Redbank Valley Trail/Lawsonham (RV), Sarah Furnace (SF).

The only water bird worthy of note was a single female **Hooded Merganser** on a wooded pond near Fisher 5/10 (GE, RM). Breeding records are not common for *Clarion*, so investigation at this location in the future will be of interest.

At the CV strips site, **Northern Bobwhites** were reported starting 5/22 and continued through the season (m.ob.). These birds are almost certainly released birds from a local breeder, but it will be interesting to see how long they remain at the location, especially with resident Northern Harriers.

In this writer's time as compiler for *Clarion*, **Black Vultures** have never been included in the report. This season, 2 sightings were received independently, from the same general area, both recorded the I-80 corridor. Four were reported 3/2 along with **Turkey Vultures** (AK), and 2 were reported feeding on a deer carcass 3/20 (CK). No further observations came in for the season, so likely these were birds that just wandered out of range early in the season. With no current records of **Osprey** nesting in the county, a bird observed 5/13 at Beaver Creek Wetlands near Knox was promising, close to the safe breeding date (ML). **Northern Harriers** enjoyed a mild winter and continued to be seen in increased numbers this season with promising breeding activity in several areas. A pair was noted at MZ 5/9 through the end of the season (GA, CB, JF, SS) and an adult was also present at CV strips site 5/20. At MA, a single bird was seen 5/9 (MM) and 5/20 (MS). One bird was present on Packing Rd. outside of New Bethlehem 3/5 (JC), and at a property near CV, a pair was observed 4/30-5/4 (DD, RN, CW). One of 2 known active **Bald Eagle** nests, the site at Climax along Redbank Creek was checked 4/21 and revealed an adult bird with 2 young ones (MM). They were still active at this site 5/4 and through the season (MM), and hopefully the 2 young birds fledged successfully.

Shorebirds are always in short supply, so worth a mention are 2 species that are often not annually recorded. A single **Greater Yellowlegs** was seen at a pond site at MA 4/23 and again 5/9 (MM). A single **Lesser Yellowlegs** was noted along the shores of Redbank Creek at New Bethlehem 5/4 (MM). **Upland Sandpipers** were first noted back at their traditional breeding area at MA 5/24, with 2 birds along Morris Rd. and a single bird on Mt. Airy Rd. (RN). A single bird was also reported at MA 5/29 (SS). **American Woodcocks** continued to actively call and display at a known breeding area near CV, with 3 still present at dusk 5/11 (CW).

One owl species not always well-reported for the county is **Barred Owl**, so it is good to have at least 4 birds calling after dark 5/19 at SGL 74 (MH, RM), for **Short-eared Owls**, only 2 sightings were noted. A single bird was seen near CV on Rankin Rd. 3/7 (CW) and another at MZ 4/17 (JH, RMC, SZ). In the same area as the Barred Owls, **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were found at SGL 74, with several calling after dark 5/18 (MH, RM). At another location, a single bird called for a brief period at dusk 5/11 (CW).

A **Merlin** was seen in Knox 3/25 (ML), likely in migration, although potential breeding habitat is present and always something that should be considered with the increasing range of this species. Thrush reports were limited. Near CV, in the predawn hours 5/25, flight calls of both late migrating species were heard, with 2 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** calls and 3 **Swainson's Thrush** calls (CW). A single Swainson's was seen 5/29 at MZ (GM).

**Worm-eating Warblers** continue to be regular in their stronghold along the southern and western boundaries of the county, on riparian hillsides. They were first seen back at RV with 2 birds there 5/3 (RN, CW). Two were seen at SF 5/2 (CW), 3 noted 5/22 (SC), and 2 birds again noted 5/29 (SG, SS). They have been reliable at this location for at least the past 11 years. **Louisiana Waterthrush** inhabit the same areas, along the runs that empty into the river; they were first noted back along SF Rd. 4/16, with 3 singing (CW). Two were also present along the creek at RV 5/3 (RN, CW). A species not often reported, especially in spring, is **Orange-crowned Warbler**, but this year one was at SGL 63 near Shipperville 5/8 (MW). **Northern Parula** is another warbler not so often reported but also present along the southern waterways; this year one was noted singing at RV 5/3,

hopefully remaining to nest (RN, CW).

Among grassland sparrows, **Grasshopper Sparrows** were back pretty much on typical time, with one reported at MZ 4/25 (RN). **Henslow's Sparrows** also were found back at the same location at their usual time in Apr, with 8 singing at dusk 4/18 (CW). The last of the sought after sparrows for the county is **Clay-colored** - they were first seen in their traditional area of CV strips with 4 singing males 5/11 (MM). They continued at this location through the season with up to 6 birds noted, although overall reports show a numbers decline as the season continues (SC, LC, SG, MK, GK, et al.). At MZ, the second regular location for this species, 2 birds were found 5/29 (GM).

The only finch of note was **Pine Siskin**, with birds lingering at a feeder in Clarion through 5/4 (DF). A pair also continued through the end of the spring season at a feeder in Rimersburg, but no confirmation of breeding was noted (MM).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net**, Garry Annibal, Chuck Berthoud, Jack Chaillet, Linda Chittum, Shawn Collins, Donald DeWolf, Gary Edwards, Deb Freed, John Freese, Steve Gosser, Mal Hays, Janice Horn, Dave Inman, Chad Kauffman, Andy Keister, Mary Alice Koenke, Glenn Koppel, Michael Leahy, Ray McGunigle (RMC), Geoff Malosh, Ron Montgomery, Mark Moore, Richard Nugent, Theo Rickert, Steve Sanford, Mike Weible, Susan Zeff.

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### Clearfield County

One **Long-Tailed Duck**, first observed at Bimini Lake 4/8, was still present 5/20, a late date for this expected migrant (DR). Two **Ospreys** were observed at a nest at the Shaggers Inn Shallow Water Impoundment 4/16 (DG), a known nesting area. One **Upland Sandpiper** was observed along Sandy Ridge Rd. 5/29 (TG), the fourth consecutive year that one or 2 have been seen in this area. A **Marsh Wren** exhibited territorial behavior at the Platt Rd. swamp 5/20 (DR). **Northern Mockingbirds** are still a summer rarity in the high plateaus of the state so the late winter sighting of one near Dubois 3/18 (MA) is noteworthy.

Observers: **Diane K. Bierly, 143 W. Lytle Ave., State College, PA 16801, (814) 238-8183, dkb246@usa.net**, Marianne Atkinson, Tom Glover, Doug Graham, Dan Richards.

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### Clinton County

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

One **White-winged Scoter** was observed with a small group of **Buffleheads** and scaup on the SR at LH 3/14 (WL). A minor waterfowl fallout on the SR at LH 4/9 included 8 **Common Loons** (CCH). Another small fallout occurred on the SR at LH 5/1, highlighted by several **White-winged Scoters** and one **Red-necked Grebe** (CCH).

The wetlands at both Mill Hall and Central Mountain High School produced both species of bitterns in early May. An **American Bittern** was at Mill Hall 5/6 and a **Least Bittern** at the high school (AL, m.ob.), the latter again seen 5/7 (EH). At Farrandville, a flyover **Golden Eagle**, a rarity in *Clinton*, was seen enduring a crow mobbing 5/7 (DB, m.ob.).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, (570) 748-7511, wnlaubscher@comcast.net**, David Brown, Eric Hartzell, Charles and Carol Hildebrand, Alex Lamoreaux.

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### Columbia County

No compiler.

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### Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Marsh (CM), Conneaut Marsh- McMichael Rd. (CM-MMR), Custards Marsh (CUSM), Greendale Cemetery and Ravine (GCR), Pymatuning-Hartstown Project (P-HP), Pymatuning-Miller's Ponds (P-MP), Pymatuning-Spillway (P-SP), Woodcock Lake-Abandoned Rd. Trail (WART).

The historically unprecedented irruption of **Greater White-fronted Goose** in Western Pennsylvania and *Crawford* continued into Mar. A group

of 6 were observed at P-HP 3/6 (RSt). The flock at P-HP grew to counts of 40 on 3/6 (AH), 37 on 3/6 (JH III), 38 on 3/7 (TN, KP), and 39 on 3/9 (m.ob.). A group of 44 were observed at P-MP 3/12 (KD) and a single was at Pymatuning-Jamestown Marina 3/26 (LG). One **Cackling Goose**, a notable bird for the county, was observed at P-HP 3/5 (SG). **Trumpeter Swans** are observed infrequently in *Crawford*, so an observation of 5 at Lake Latonka 3/5 (RSt) represented an excellent find. Good counts of **Tundra Swans** included approximately 150 at Wilson Chute Rd. 3/2 (SC), 130 at Geneva Marsh 3/5 (RS), and 138 at CUSM 3/8 (TN, KP). Two late birds were seen at P-MP 4/18 (MAK, GK, RN) and 4/19 (RH).

A nice count of 100 **Gadwalls** at Pymatuning-Fish Hatchery 3/27 (TN) was the high for the season. A good count of 80 **Northern Shovelers** came from P-HP 3/16 (RM). A great count of at least 3000 **Northern Pintails** was made at Tamarack Lake 3/3 (IF, RL). Several large rafts of waterfowl occurred at Conneaut Lake in early to mid-Mar. These rafts yielded great counts of **Canvasbacks**, including 415 birds (with one leucistic bird) seen at Conneaut Lake Park Beach 3/2 (RH) and 526 at Conneaut Lake 3/12 (IF, RL). Several great counts of **Redheads** occurred as well, including 400 at Conneaut Lake Park Beach 3/2 (RH) and 1023 at Conneaut Lake and CM 3/12 (IF, RL). A single late bird was observed at P-SP 4/29 (RH). A very high total of 100 **Greater Scaup** were observed at Conneaut Lake Marina 3-29 (RS) and a quite late hen was at Pymatuning-University of Pittsburgh Laboratory of Ecology 5/26 (MV). A great count of 4375 **Lesser Scaup** was made at Conneaut Lake 3/2 (IF, RL).

Four **Surf Scoters**, a great bird for *Crawford*, were observed at Pymatuning-Causeway 4/23 (RL). Excellent observations of **White-winged Scoters** included a single bird at Woodcock Lake 3/1 (RL) and one at SGL 277 on 3/9 (RS). **Long-tailed Duck**, an expected but good bird for *Crawford*, was observed in lower than usual numbers. Sightings included one at CM, 3/20 (SC), one at Conneaut Lake 3/22 (RL), one at Woodcock Lake 4/6 (RL), and 7 at Erie N.W.R.-Sugar Lake 3/25 (RE). A good count of 100 **Buffleheads** was made at Conneaut Lake-Boat Ramp 4/12 (TN, KP). Late birds included one at Pymatuning-Fish Hatchery 5/19 (MV) and one at Pymatuning-Espyville Marina 5/20 (MJ). A count of 1283 **Ruddy Ducks** at Conneaut Lake 3/12 (IF, RL) was notable but lower than in previous years.

**Northern Bobwhites** are an unexpected bird for *Crawford*. Notable observations included one in the fields off I-79 near Greenwood 3/25 (LN) and 2 at Shaffer Rd. 4/30 (TN, KP). **Ruffed Grouse** observations in *Crawford* typically increase in the spring but are still notable. Sightings included one at Pettis Rd. 3/5 (RL), 2 at Erie N.W.R.- Swamp Rd. 3/9 (RS), 2 near Erie N.W.R.-Sugar Lake continuing 1/4-3/11 (RE), one at Erie N.W.R.- Seneca District 3/15 (DG), and one at Erie N.W.R.- Shaffer and New Rd. 4/30 (TN, KP).

Observations of **Red-throated Loon**, a notable bird, included 2 at Conneaut Lake 4/16 and one there 4/23 (RL). A good flock of 30 **Common Loons** was at Conneaut Lake Park Beach 4/12 (TN, KP). Observations of late **Horned Grebe** included one at P-SP 5/9 (RR) and one at WART 5/30 (RS). A single **Red-necked Grebe**, an excellent bird for *Crawford*, was at Pymatuning-Espyville Marina 4/10 (RSt).

A great count of 1003 **Double-crested Cormorants** came from Pymatuning-Fish Hatchery 5/3 (IF, RL). A single **American Bittern**, infrequently seen in *Crawford*, was found at Erie N.W.R.-Swamp Rd. 4/27 (RS). One of the most notable birds for the season was a single **Snowy Egret**, a rarity for *Crawford*. It was noted flying in and landing at P-MP 4/16 (SC, JD, KD, RH, DK), but was only observed for about an hour and then not seen again.

**Merlin** sightings are becoming increasingly common, but are still notable. Observations included one at Allegheny College 3/9 (OL), 2 in the Meadville area 3/30 (KP), one at a private residence near Richmond Rd. 4/8 (RS), one at Conneaut Lake Boat Ramp 4/12 (TN, KP), one at a private residence in Meadville 4/18 (TN) and one at CM-MMR 5/17 (AJ). A single **Peregrine Falcon**, infrequently observed, was found at Pymatuning-Causeway 4/16 (RL).

A good tally of 12 **Virginia Rails** came from CM 4/16 (SC, JD, KD, DK). A count of 7 **Soras** at CM-MMR 5/9 (IF, RL) was the high for the season. Early observations of **Common Gallinule** included one at CM 4/16 (SC) and one at CUSM 4/18 (RN). **Sandhill Cranes** were seen in expected numbers (m.ob.). Notable observations included a juv. at P-MP 4/2 (ML) and 2 colts with 2 adults at P-MP 5/14 (MV).

Two early **Semipalmated Plover** were at P-MP 5/6 (JA). An early **Greater Yellowlegs** was observed at P-MP 3/9 (SD, VM, BVN). The high count was 120 at P-MP 4/18 (MAK, GK). Good counts of **Lesser Yellowlegs** included 49 at P-MP 4/2 (FM) and 47 at P-MP 5/8 (PF). **Upland Sandpipers**, expected in the Pymatuning area but notable nevertheless, were observed in the P-MP and Pymatuning-Wilson Rd. area beginning 4/16 through the rest of the season m.ob.). A good count of 5 birds were observed at Pymatuning-Wilson Rd. 4/21 (AB, MH, RH). A single **Baird's Sandpiper**, notable for the county, especially in the spring, was found at a

pond off Brooks Rd. 5/18 (IF, RL). Two early **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at P-MP 3/22 (KA). Twelve were found at P-MP 4/2 (SG). There were several early observations of **Dunlin**, all of a single bird at P-MP 3/27 (TN, SW, SC) and 3/29 (RS).

The most notable bird of the season was a **Long-billed Dowitcher** found at P-MP 3/20 (MJ, GM, et al.) and seen again at P-MP 3/21 (CN), 3/22 (KA), and 3/23 (JM). This observation represents a record early date for the species in Pennsylvania by several weeks. The bird was first identified as **Long-billed Dowitcher** (MJ) and then later confirmed by call (GM). Two early **Short-billed Dowitchers** were observed at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 4/23 (IF, RL).

A great number of at least 50 **Wilson's Snipe** were at P-MP 4/2 (ML). Six were at Woodcock-Dickson Rd. Trail 3/26 (TN) and a single was at CM 4/23 (SC), a new location for this species. A single **Wilson's Phalarope**, a notable bird for *Crawford*, was located in a pond off Brook's Rd. 5/9 (IF, RL).

A single **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, a good bird for *Crawford*, was observed at Pymatuning-Causeway 3/5 (RSt). Two **Great Black-backed Gulls**, notable for *Crawford*, were at Pymatuning-Espsville Marina 5/15 (LC, MAK, GK). Good counts of **Caspian Tern** included 31 at P-SP 4/21 (AB, MH, RHi) and 32 in the Pymatuning area 4/23 (IF, RL). Observations of **Common Tern**, a notable bird for the county, included 2 at Pymatuning-Causeway 5/1 (IF, RL) and 2 at Pymatuning-Fish Hatchery 5/1 (IF, RL). Observations of **Forster's Tern**, a good bird here in the spring, included one at Pymatuning-Ford Island 4/4 (RT), 2 at Pymatuning-Causeway 4/19 (IF, RL), one at P-SP 4/25 (SG), and one at CUST 4/26 (AK).

An early **Black-billed Cuckoo** was observed at SGL 213 on 5/4 (SC). Early observations of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** included singles at SGL 213 on 5/1, 5/4, and 5/7 (SC). Two **Eastern Screech-Owl** fledglings were observed in the Rundletown area 5/21 (CN). Three **Great Horned Owls** were observed at GCR 4/10 (RH, TN, KP), including one recently fledged bird and one still in the nest.

**Common Nighthawk** observations were fewer than normal. Notable sightings included one in the Meadville area 5/11 (RL), one at CM-MMR 5/17 (AJ), 3 at CM-MMR 5/18 (NA, CN), 7 at Geneva Marsh 5/18 (CN), 4 at SGL 269 on 5/19 (TV), 7 near Erie N.W.R.-Sugar Lake 5/23 (RE), and 2 near Erie N.W.R.-Sugar Lake 5/25 (RE). The pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** that over-wintered at Pymatuning-Tuttle Beach continued to be seen this spring (m.ob.). A pair at CM-MMR, an expected location, was seen beginning 4/21, a somewhat early date (AB, MH, RHi). A single early bird was at Pymatuning-Nature Center 3/26 (LS).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed at CUSM 5/24 (SC). Observations of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, infrequently found in the county, included one at the Ernst Bike Trail 5/18 (IF) and one in the Pymatuning area 5/25 (RL). Sightings of **Common Raven** have been increasing in eastern *Crawford* in recent years. Notable observations included one at P-HP 3/20 (CK, AM, RN), one at Pymatuning-Hartstown Marsh 3/20 (SS), one at Geneva Marsh-The Wells 3/20 (JB), one at I-79N near Greenwood 3/31 (TN), one at Geneva Marsh 4/19 (IF, RL), 2 at Woodcock 4/26 (CL), one at CM-MMR 5/4 (RH), 2 at WART 5/10 (RH, TN), 2 at WART 5/12 (TN) and 2 at SGL 277 5/16 (RS).

**Horned Lark** is relatively scarce in the spring. Observations included one at P-HP 3/6 (AH), one at Pymatuning-Wilson Rd. 3/6 (AH), one at P-MP 3/20 and 3/26 (GM), one at P-MP 3/27 (TN), one at P-MP 3/28 (RH), and one at P-MP 4/16 (DK). There were several early observations of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, including 3 at Geneva Marsh-The Wells 3/18 (MW), one at P-MP 3/26 (GM), one in the Pymatuning area 4/2 (ML), and 10 at CUST 4/3 (AH). An early **Barn Swallow** was observed at P-MP 3/26 (GM). A **Cliff Swallow** at CUSM 4/10 (RSt) represented in early date.

Observations of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, a good bird in the spring here, included 2 at WART 3/6 (TN), one at Woodcock Lake 3/11 (TN), one at Woodcock-Dickson Rd. Trail 3/19 (TN), 2 at Woodcock-Dickson Rd. Trail 4/2 (TN), one at Erie N.W.R. 4/9 (TrN), and 2 at Woodcock-Dickson Rd. Trail 5/12 (TN). An early **Marsh Wren** was at CM-MMR (TN). Three birds seen at the Helen B. Katz area 5/1 were notable as a new location and a good count of 6 birds was made at CM-MMR 5/20 (MS).

An early **Gray Catbird** was at CUSM 4/1 (SC). A single **Northern Mockingbird**, notable for *Crawford*, was seen at Yankee Hill Rd. 3/5 and 3/17 (RS). Fourteen **American Pipits**, a good count, were observed at WART 4/3 (TN). **Snow Buntings** are expected but scarce in early March - observations included 14 in the Pymatuning area 3/5 (RSt), 2 at Pymatuning-Causeway 3/6 (IF, RL), and 11 at Pymatuning-Causeway 3/9 (SD, VM, BVN).

Seven early **Ovenbirds** were observed at SGL 60-TTR/GAP 4/30 (TN, KP). A single **Worm-eating Warbler**, an excellent bird for *Crawford*, was observed at GCR 5/4 (IF). An early **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at GCR 4/10 (IF, RH, TN, KP). There were several notable and early observations of **Northern Waterthrushes**, including one at CM-MMR 4/21 (AB, MH, RHi), one at CM-MMR 4/26 (SC), 2 at CM-MMR 4/27 (SC), 2 at CM-MMR 4/29

(RH, TN, KP), and 3 at SGL 60-TTR/GAP 4/30 (TN, KP). Six were observed at SGL 213 on 5/1 (SC), 4 at Helen B. Katz Natural Area 5/1 (TN), and one at Erie N.W.R.-Trolley Line Trail 5/7 (RH, TN, KP), notable as new locations. Two early **Blue-winged Warblers** were observed at CM-MMR 4/29 (RH, KP). One of the most notable birds of the season was a single **Lawrence's Warbler** (hybrid) seen at the Erie NWR-Deer Run Trail 5/20 (IF, RL). Only one other observation is known to have occurred in *Crawford* in the last 70 years.

There were several early observations of **Prothonotary Warblers** at expected locations, including one at CM-MMR 4/25 (SG), 2 (both male and female) at CM-MMR 4/26 (SC), one at CUST 4/27 (SC), one at CM-MMR 4/27 (SC), and one at CM-MMR 4/29 (RH, TN, KP). Early observations of **Nashville Warbler** included one at CM 4/26 (SC) and one at SGL 60-TTR/GAP 4/30 (TN, KP). A good count of 6 **Mourning Warblers** came from the Rundletown area (JH III, AT). A single seen at the Helen B. Katz Natural Area 5/19 was notable as a new location (TN). A good count, 14 **Hooded Warblers** were observed at CM 5/9 (RL). Early observations of **Cerulean Warbler** included one at SGL 213 on 5/4 (SC), one at Custards Marsh-Shafer and Towpath Rd. 5/6 (RN), and one at SGL 213 on 5/7 (SC). Several early observations of **Northern Parulas** included one at CUST 4/26 (SC), one at SGL 213 on 5/1 (SC), and one at CM-MMR 5/6 (RN). An early **Pine Warbler** was observed at GCR 3/27 (SC). Observations of **Wilson's Warbler** included one at the Ernst Bike Trail 5/18 (IF) and one at CM-MMR 5/19 (AJ). A **Yellow-breasted Chat**, a great bird for *Crawford*, was found at Geneva Marsh 5/9 (RL).

Early observations of **Chipping Sparrow** included 3 at Geneva Marsh 3/9 (SD, VM, BVN) and 3 at P-HP 3/9 (AB, MH, RHi). Observations of **Vesper Sparrow**, a notable bird for *Crawford*, included one near Erie N.W.R.-Sugar Lake 4/14 (RE) and 2 at CM 4/15 (SC). A **Grasshopper Sparrow**, scarce here, was seen at P-MP 5/6 (JA). A good count, 9 **Fox Sparrows** were observed at WART 4/3 (TN). A finding of 4 **Lincoln's Sparrows** at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 5/18 was notable (BG, JG, RL). An early **Swamp Sparrow** was at CM 3/9 (SC).

**Rusty Blackbirds** were seen in expected numbers during the early spring, particularly in the Pymatuning and Conneaut Marsh area. A high count of approximately 513 at CM-MMR 3/19 was notable (IF, RL). Two late birds were at CM-MMR 5/19 (AJ). Particularly notable were observations of **Brewer's Blackbird**, a very rare bird for the county. These included 3 birds at CM-MMR 3/12 (IF, RL) and 4 at Marsh Rd. near CUSM 3/19 (IF, RL). An early **Orchard Oriole** was observed near Erie N.W.R.-Sugar Lake 5/1 (RE).

Eight **Purple Finches** were observed at a private residence near Richmond Rd. 4/9 (RS). **Common Redpoll** observations were very infrequent this winter and spring, so observations of a single bird at a Townville residence 3/4 (TL) and 2 birds at the same residence present for multiple weeks up to 3/18 (TL) are particularly notable. **Pine Siskin** observations were down this spring and are notable. Sightings included one at a personal location at Richmond Rd. 3/19, 3/20 and 3/25, and 2 birds at the same location 4/17 (RS). Further observations included multiple sightings at a personal location in Meadville, including 6 on 4/28, 2 on 4/30, 4 on 5/1, 12 on 5/1 and 5/2, 15 on 5/3, 4 on 5/4, 18 on 5/5, 2 on 5/9, 4 on 5/18, and one 5/19 and 5/22 (TN). A single bird was also seen near Erie N.W.R.-Sugar Lake 5/10 (RE).

Observers: **Rob Hodgson, 709 Alden Street, Meadville, PA 16335, (515) 708-0603, robhodgson888@gmail.com**, Jim Ackerman, Katie Anderson, Nancy Anderson, John Baird, Anthony Bruno, Linda Chittum, Shawn Collins, Sheree Daugherty, Karyn Delaney, Jamie Dillon, Rich Eakin, Isaac Field, Patience Fisher, Bonnie Ginader, Janice Grindle, Steve Gosser, Linda Goodfellow, Debra Grim, Dave Grise, Amy Henrici, Mary Higbee, Roger Higbee, James R. Hill III, Anne Jacobs, Matthew Juskowich, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Chad Kauffman, Andy Keister, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Michael Leahy, Ron Leberman, Terry Lobdell, Owen Ludwig, Chris Lundberg, Geoff Malosh, Annette Mathes, Jeff McDonald, Florence McGuire, Virginia McQuown, Robert Mulvihill, Lauren Nagoda, Claire Nicolls, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Trevor Northrop, Richard Nugent, Ken Pinnow, Rich Rehrig, Matthew Sabatine, Larry Sachs, Robert Scribner, Susan Strassner, Randy Stringer, Andy Troyer, Robert Turk, Tyler Vath, Bob Van Newkirk, Mark Vass, Matthew Webb, Suzanne Winterberger, Eric Zawatski.

#### Cumberland County

Locations: Boiling Springs Children's Pond (BSCP), Conodoguinet Creek (CC), Michaux State Forest (MSF), Mountain Road Marsh (MRM), Opossum Lake (OL), State Game Lands 169 (SGL 169), West Fairview Boat Ramp (WFBR).

March was warm and fairly dry with wet areas in fields drying up by the end of the month. April continued dry and turned cooler. May remained relatively cool but was wetter with a couple of strong storms during the first week.

Waterfowl for the season included one first year **Mute Swan** at OL 3/31-4/14 (DK). This species is not often reported in *Cumberland* other than at BSCP. Two **Redheads** that had wintered on BSCP were reported through 3/8 (DK), and one was on the Big Spring at Laughlin Mill 3/20 (VG). Twenty **Common Goldeneyes**, representing a great count, were at LRQ 3/6 (SK); one was North Middleton Park 3/10 (DK); and one at OL sitting on a grassy bank 3/13 (DK, VG). Stormy weather the first week of May led to waterfowl fallouts that included 4 **Greater Scaup** at OL 5/1-2 (VG, DK), 13 **Ruddy Ducks** at OL 5/1 (VG, DK), and an exceptional count of 9 **Red-breasted Mergansers** on the CC near WFBR 5/7 (RK, AM).

An **American Bittern** was at SGL 169 Cabin Road 3/27 (BK) and one was at OL 4/1 (DK, VG). Two others were at SGL 196 MRM 5/7-11 (VG, SK, BO) where on 5/7 it was noted "Both birds were in flight circling the marsh for 15-20 minutes, sometimes flying together other times alone. We flushed two other bitterns but cannot be sure that they were not the same two birds that returned undetected" (VG, BO). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was seen feeding on the banks of the CC at WFBR 5/16 (DK) and 2 more at the same location flew across the Susquehanna R. from Harrisburg to the CC to feed 5/27 (AM, RK). These birds are part of the small established breeding group in Harrisburg. Only one **Virginia Rail** was reported, at SGL 169 MRM 5/7 (VG), an annual breeding site. Three **Sandhill Cranes** were at OL 5/14 (DK); cranes are reported in small numbers most springs in western *Cumberland*.

Granted, there is little upside for the building of warehouses, especially as they many times seem to be built on prime agricultural land, but perhaps there is a silver lining in the retention ponds that come along with the warehouses in that they can provide habitat for migrating shorebirds. One such place is the relatively new Key Logistics Park located on Rte. 233 between I-81 and Route 174. The only shorebirds of note this season were found on the two ponds there, with one **Semipalmated Plover** 5/12 (VG), 2 **Dunlins** 5/2-14 (VG, DK, PB, MM), and one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/8 (VG). There is even greater shorebird potential for this site going into the future. It will be interesting to see what shows up there during fall migration.

Two **Caspian Terns** were reported at OL 4/21 (DK) and another 2 there 5/22 (DK). Two sightings represent a good find as this species is not reported annually. A **Black Tern** reported on eBird at WFBR 5/7 was actually seen over the Susquehanna R. and therefore officially a *Dauphin* bird (AM). Three **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were found at Meadows Road, Lower Mifflin Twp. 3/1 (VG) and one at the same location 3/6 (JC). This species seems to have established a small population north of Newville with up to 4 reported both spring and summer since 2013, but breeding has not been confirmed.

Migrant flycatchers of note included one **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Miller's Gap 5/14 (AM, RK) and one **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Mount Holly Marsh Preserve 5/14 (EB). Approximately a dozen **Least Flycatchers** were reported at various locations, making it a very good spring for this species.

The **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Camp Michaux MSF 4/26 (VG) was a good find as Orange-crowns are a very unusual spring migrant for *Cumberland*. One **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen singing on the trail along the CC at WFBR 5/14 (RK), but the prize at that same location the observation of nest building by a pair of **Yellow-throated Warblers** 5/1 (AM, RK, AL). There are a number of records for this species along the banks of the Yellow Breeches and CC, but this is the first confirmation of breeding in *Cumberland* of which I am aware; none was obtained during either Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlases and An Annotated List of the Birds of Cumberland County notes it as, "a likely breeder." Only one **Mourning Warbler** was reported, at Miller's Gap 5/14 (AM, RK). Reports of **Wilson's Warblers** came from the Yellow Breeches near Kings Gap 5/5 (AG), Failor's wetlands off Creek Road near Newville 5/14 (BF, LF), and the Pine Hill Arboretum 5/14 (RK).

Two reports of **Lincoln's Sparrow** provided good finds for a species more common in spring than fall migrant, with one reported at SGL 230 5/7 (AM) and the other at Zion Road Pond, Mount Holly Springs 5/7 (PB). A **Dickcissel** was at Hilltop Rd. 5/20 (MS), a usual location for this species.

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Paul Banks, Ed Bernot, Jonathan Campbell, Bill Franz, Linda Franz, Andy Green, Stefan Karkuff, Dave Kerr, Bob Koontz, Ramsay Koury, Alex Lamoreaux, Annette Mathes, Mark Markiewicz, Bill Oylar, Mathew Sabatine.

## Dauphin County

Locations: Former Harrisburg State Hospital (HSH), Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG), Gratz Grasslands (GG), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Hershey Important Bird Area (HIBA), Highspire (HIGH), Hummelstown (HUM), Lamoreaux Property/Fishburn Farmland (LAM), Meadowood Nursery (MDW), Milton S. Hershey School campus (MSH), Susquehanna River (SR), SR at Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR at Front Street Harrisburg (SRFS), SR at H.C. Shrauder Park (SRSP), SR at HBG (SRHB), SR from Heritage Park (SRHP), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Susquehanna Township (SUS), Weiser State Forest (WSF), Wildwood Lake (WL), Williamstown Water Authority (WWA).

March and April weather for the Harrisburg area generally was dry. The first week of March saw consecutive low temperatures below freezing, but by the end of the month and into mid-April temperatures reached into the 70s and 80s. On 27 April, however, the temperature dropped to a high of only 59 degrees, and then it rained for 21 out of the next 34 days. Harrisburg did not see 80 degrees again until the last week of May, when temperatures quickly rose into the low 90s.

While the rain may have slowed migration for some species, the days and nights of steady light rain coincided with a few good days of migration along the SRHB. May 1 was an especially good day. Eight **White-winged Scoters** were observed from the SRSP 5/1 (IG) and 6 reported from SRFH 5/1 (DH). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported from SRFH 3/9 (DH) and 17 from SRFS 5/1 (DH). Two **Red-throated Loons** were reported from SRWF 4/11 (DH). One **Red-necked Grebe** was reported from SRWF 4/11 (DH) and 2 were observed from SRFS 5/1 (IG).

An **American Bittern** was reported at WL 4/15 (DH) and again 5/5 (EB). Reports from WL of a **Least Bittern** 5/10 (DH) and a **Little Blue Heron** 4/24 (RP) were the only reports for *Dauphin* and surrounding counties. **Great Egrets** made their first-of-the-year appearance at WL 3/12 (LG). The Wade Island Nest Survey, conducted each spring by the PGC since 1985, took place the first week of May. Results showed that, compared to 2015, the number of Great Egret nests was down, with 112; **Black-crowned Night-Heron** nests were up, with 47; and the 65 **Double-crested Cormorant** nests were about the same. All numbers were well below the 10-year average (DB, PB, et al.). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were observed returning to their Hamilton Street rookery in midtown HBG and first reported 4/7, when 4 were observed at the nests (EG, AL). Individuals on nests were reported at 3 other locations within about a half-mile of Hamilton Street through 5/26 (m.ob.). A high of 17 birds was counted on nests in the area on 4/23 (IG). No tenants returned to the old nest at the Governor's Residence (JK). The Harrisburg City Police and local neighbors have taken an interest in the birds and have offered to keep an eye out for them (JK).

WL had reports of 3 adult **Glossy Ibis** flyovers 5/3 (EB) and 2 **Virginia Rails** 4/15 (DH). A very cooperative **Common Gallinule** appeared at WL throughout the day 4/30, allowing excellent views and photos for several birders (SF, IG, et al.). The last eBird report of a Common Gallinule at WL was 5/25/1997, with the only other *Dauphin* sighting coming from Haldeman Island 5/10/2003. The nearest recent record was from the West Fairview Trail in *Cumberland* 4/22/2007 (RK). A **Sora** also appeared at WL 4/15-17 (DH, CF, EF, SFr), and one was reported from Canal Street near HER 5/27 (NM).

A second pair of **Osprey**, seen with feet full of sticks atop a utility pole near the steel plant in HIGH, have become neighbors to a pair that have established themselves in the area over the last few years and who were seen on the same day, 5/10, also building a nest (SH). An adult leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk**, with many white feathers throughout its primaries, belly, head, and uppersides, was perched in HUM 3/11 with another adult, possibly its mate, along with a begging juv., presumably from last spring (AL).

A single **Semipalmated Plover** was reported from WL 5/10 (DH) and 5/18 (GT). Six **Willetts** were observed from SRWF on a small spit of an island 5/1 (RK, AM). Five **Dunlins** were reported from SRFS 5/1 (DH). WL had reports of **Least Sandpipers** 5/6-19 (IG, EB, DH, et al.); a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/11 (EB); a **Pectoral Sandpiper** 3/26-4/15 (RK, EG, AL), with 9 appearing 3/31 (AL, EG, DK, DH); and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/7 (EB, DH). Over a dozen **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen foraging on rocks in the SRHB 5/1 (IG), which was a good day for river migration.

**Little Gulls** made brief appearances at SRHP 3/12-13 (AL, DH) and 3/17 (RK), and on 3/19 at SRFH (DY). Caspian, Black, Common, and Forster Terns were sighted along the *Susquehanna R.* from City Island north to SRHP 4/8-5/27 (IG, AL, RK, DH, et al.) and include the following highlights: Four **Caspian Terns** were found on both 5/3 (AL) and 5/7 (DY). Two **Black Terns** were observed 5/7 and one 5/27 from SRWF (RK, AM),

and 3 were reported from SRFH on 5/1 (DH) and 5/12 (EB). A high of 25 **Common Terns** was tallied from West Fairview 5/1 (AL). **Forster's Terns** were spotted at SRFs, SRHP, and SRFH 5/1-4 (AL, IG, EB, DH).

**Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported during an Appalachian Audubon Society bird walk at Stony Cr. 5/7 (TS, et al.), from MDW 5/11 (JG), and from the HSH 5/12 (DH). Two adult **Barn Owls** flew out of one nesting box, and a female was found incubating eggs in a second nesting box, in the HIBA 5/12 (TB, NM). The only reports of **Common Nighthawks** were of 2 from Hamilton Street in Harrisburg 5/19 (EH); 6 and 2 from Harrisburg Hospital 5/13 and 5/14, respectively (DH); a single in the HER area 5/24 (CW); and a peenting flyover in Swatara Twp. 5/26 (AM).

The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** of the season appeared at a feeder in Harrisburg 4/26 (SL). The last report of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was 4/11 in SUS (EB). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** made several unexpected backyard appearances. One visited a yard in SUS 4/9 (EB) and another appeared in a yard in Clark's Valley along Rte. 325 on 5/3 and stayed until 5/9 (JL). A yard in HUM was host for a day 5/1 (SZ), and just a few miles away in HUM one arrived 5/13, stayed about a week, and was observed checking out a tree cavity while an agitated starling swooped at it (PF).

A wintering **Merlin** at LAM was last observed 3/16 (AL), and one was reported in SUS 3/20 (EB). *Dauphin* eBird reports of **American Kestrels** were concentrated in the areas surrounding HER (AL, IG, EG, DH, DW, PW), and although no May reports came from HER after 5/12, several observations were made of probable pairs, and a nest with eggs was confirmed at the HIBA 5/12 (NM). The last eBird report for May was from Dauphin Borough on 5/20 (BB).

The first of four of Harrisburg's **Peregrine Falcon** eggs arrived on the nest at the Rachel Carson Building 3/5 and hatched on 4/14 after 34 days of incubation. Two more hatched on 4/15. By 4/18 it was apparent that the fourth egg would not hatch, but the 3 hatched chicks were healthy. The two male chicks fledged on 5/23 and 5/24, while the female fledged 5/25, all three approximately 39-40 days old. The fledglings had to be rescued from failed launches several times by fledge watchers, and the female distressed several of the watchers when her days-long disappearance compelled them to walk for miles along the city streets, only to find that she had been at the Red Creek Wildlife Rescue all along, having been taken there by a conscientious member of the Harrisburg City Police (CT). In addition to the resident adults and 3 fledglings, a banded adult male intruder was observed three times landing at various points on the Carson building. The resident adults chased him from the area without combat, possibly indicating that this was an offspring from a previous year. The 2 male fledglings were competent flyers by 5/27, and the female, having recovered from minor injuries, was returned from rehab and released in HBG 6/2. In HER, a first-year female was found perched on top of the old chocolate factory cocoa bean silos 3/13, with a second observed circling overhead (TB). A pair also was found again this year at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant and appear to be nesting on a building between the two reactors 5/29 (DC).

**Least Flycatchers** made their first appearance with a single at LAM 4/29 (AL), and reports of singles continued through 5/13 at WL, Stony Creek, and HSH (EG, AL, EB, DH, CW). **Cliff Swallows** arrived 4/30 at WL (AL) and stayed through 5/16, making appearances at SRFH and SRWF (EB, DH, IG, AL, RK). Sightings were of 5 birds or less, except for 10 that were observed from SRWF 5/7 (RK). **Barn Swallows**, **Tree Swallows**, **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, **Cliff Swallows**, and **Bank Swallows**, as well as **Purple Martins**, joined many of the birds mentioned above on 5/1 in an active day of migration along the SRHB (IG).

May reports of a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** came from Stony Cr. with a single 5/5 (DH), WSF with 2 on 5/7 and one 5/14 (DH), and a single at SRFH 5/14 (DH). The last **Brown Creeper** was observed at FIG 3/25 (DM), while the last **Golden-crowned Kinglet** passed through MDW 4/6 (JG), and the last report of a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was from WVA 5/14 (DH).

The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported from HSH 5/13 (DH). A **Swainson's Thrush** made a visit to a backyard in Lower Paxton Twp. 5/13 (RS), one was photographed at SGL 246 on 5/12 (HW), and several reports came from HSH 4/19-5/16 (DH, IG, AL, EB). Four **American Pipits** were reported from SRWF 4/11 (DH), and 9 and 4 from GG on 5/7 and 5/14, respectively (DH). Six were at the MSH 4/4 (AL).

The incessant rain from late April past mid-May could well have contributed to a lackluster warbler migration that offered concentrated mixed

flocks to only a few lucky birders. The only report of a **Mourning Warbler** was from WVA 5/15 (DH). The only reports of **Cape May Warblers** were from WSF 5/14 (DH) and HSH 4/30 (DH). And the only reports of a **Bay-breasted Warbler** were from WSF 5/7 and 5/14 (DH) and HSH 5/6 (DH). A **Prothonotary Warbler** made a surprise appearance and was photographed in a yard in HIGH 5/17 (KK), and one was reported at HSH 5/4 (DH). Singles of **Kentucky Warblers** were reported from WSF 5/14 (DH), Stony Creek 5/5 and 5/26 (DH), Peter's Mt. 5/7 and 5/14 (DH), and one was observed at HSH 5/7 (DY). Single **Canada Warblers** were reported only from HSH 5/7 (DH) and 5/14 (AL, IG, DH), while lone **Wilson's Warblers** were reported only from HSH 5/2 and 5/12 (DH), Peter's Mt. 5/14 (DH), and WL 5/12 (JM). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was observed in HUM 5/7 (DY), and one reported from HSH 4/29 (DH) and SRFH 5/2 (EB).

According to eBird, *Dauphin* arrivals and departures, respectively, for **Northern Waterthrush** were 4/27 and 5/18; **Tennessee Warbler** 5/3 and 5/24; **Nashville Warbler** 4/27 and 5/14; **Magnolia Warbler** 4/29 and 5/18; **Blackpoll Warbler** 5/2 and 5/28; and **Palm Warbler** 4/9 and 5/4 (multiple sites and m.ob.).

HUM hosted the last of both an **American Tree Sparrow** 3/11 (AL, JL, MM) and 2 **Fox Sparrows** 3/27 (IG). The last **Dark-eyed Junco** was a yard bird in SUS 4/26 (JF), as was the **White-crowned Sparrow** who visited a yard in Swatara Twp. 5/7 (AM). The last report of a **White-throated Sparrow** came from Carsonville 5/14 (DH). The only reports of **Vesper Sparrow** were 2 from GG 5/14 (DH) and one from HIBA 4/14 (DH). **Lincoln's Sparrow** reports came from Carsonville 5/14 (DH), Stony Creek 5/5 (DH), WL 5/10 (DH), and HSH 5/14 and 5/10 (DH).

The Second Breeding Bird Atlas states that, "although the **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** is widely distributed, with an estimated statewide population of 210,000 singing males, it is abundant nowhere," but for a brief period of time Rose-breasted Grosbeaks seemed to be abundant in *Dauphin*. They began their trek through the area with the first eBird report of a single from WL 4/22 (EB). Daily eBird reports continued, peaking during the first week of May, with eBird reporting the week's total at 71 birds on 28 checklists. Numbers suddenly dropped off 5/14, after days of continuous rain finally gave way to the sun. Throughout their stay, multiple birds graced backyard feeders with daily appearances at locations including Stony Creek (GH), HUM (SZ), and Swatara Twp. (AM). For comparison, during roughly the same time in May over the last 5 years, a high of 36 birds on 12 checklists was reported. The nearly 100% increase this spring is likely in part attributed to an increased number of birders who were active and using eBird. **Blue Grosbeak** sightings were confined to the Hershey area, with one photographed near Rte. 39 on 5/3 (LM), one observed at MSH 5/5 (TB) and 5/18 (NM), and one reported at HIBA 5/12 (DH).

HER also hosted 2 **Bobolinks** at the Rte. 39 Swatara Cr. Portage Area 4/29 (AL, IG). Six were reported from GG 5/7 and 5/14 (DH). The last **Rusty Blackbird** of the season was from WL 4/27 (EB), and the last **Pine Siskin** was an unexpected calling flyover on Peter's Mt. 5/24 (TJ). A **Common Redpoll** was photographed in HER near Rte. 39 on 3/13 (LM) and one was observed in Derry Twp. 3/30 (CM).

Observers: **Annette Mathes, 661 South 80<sup>th</sup> Street, Harrisburg PA 17111, (717) 514-4512, amathes19@verizon.net**, Patricia Barber, Tim Becker, Ed Bernot, Barry Blust, Dan Brauning, Dick Cleary, Scott Fisher, Pete Fox, John Frain, Carolina Fraser, Eliza Fraser, Scott Fraser (SFr), Ian Gardner, Janet Getgood, Linda Gosschke, Elora Grahame, Sue Hannon, Eric Hartshaw, Deuane Hoffman, Gail Huffman, Tom Johnson, Dave Kerr, Joseph Kosack, Ramsay Koury, Karl Kugle, Alex Lamoreaux, John Laskowski, Josh LeFever, Sandy Lockerman, Chris Markiewicz, Nate McKelvie, Dave McNaughton, Lauren Messinger, Mark Mizak, Joshua Moritz, Robert Peda, Tom Smith, Rosemary Spreha, George Tallman, Officer Chris Thomas (Harrisburg City Police), Howard West, Cathleen Wetzel, Dick Williams, Pat Williams, David Yeany II, Sally Zaino.

## Delaware County

Locations: Bridle Trail (BT), Brinton Lake, Broomall's Lake, Chadds Ford Marsh, Darlington Tract, Delaware River (DR), Episcopal Academy, Glen Providence Park (GPP), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Louis W. Scott Memorial Park, Marcus Hook Municipal Park, Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir, Tyler Arboretum, The Willows (WILL).

The 2016 spring migration season in *Delaware* boasted 188 species. Although this total is ten less than in spring 2015, this year's list included a number of exceptional sightings. A flyover **Anhinga**, vocal **Soras** in unusual

places, and a fast-moving flock of **Ruddy Turnstones** were most certainly treats for those who found them. However, the most significant observation of the spring season was the first breeding record of **Hooded Merganser** in *Delaware*.

**Snow Geese** were abundant in early Mar but tapered off throughout the month. The highest number was observed at DR with 650 on 3/9 (AG). **Mute Swans** were found only in the southern part of the county along DR - 3 were at JHNWR 5/5 (JM) and a high of 4 were on DR 5/27-30 (AG).

One drake **Gadwall** was at GPP and Broomall's Lake 3/3-19 (m.ob.). **American Wigeons** were observed only during a short window in early Mar, with 2 at JHNWR 3/6 (DO) and a high of 4 on Brinton Lake 3/7 (AG). **American Black Ducks** were numerous throughout Mar, but the only record in Apr was of 2 at JHNWR 4/24 (TB, VD, CP). **Northern Shovelers** were observed only in southern *Delaware*, with 2 at JHNWR 3/21 (TG) and 3 on DR behind PHL 3/23 (TB). **35th Northern Pintails** were observed only at JHNWR with 5 on 3/12 (TB) and 3 on 3/21 (TG). The only observation of **Ruddy Duck** this season was one of bird photographed along DR from Marcus Hook Municipal Park 4/10 (NP). A regular rare migrant to the county, 2 drake **Red-breasted Mergansers** were photographed at Springton Reservoir 3/9-3/20 (DB, AB, TB).

**Hooded Merganser** was a confirmed breeder this year as one female and eight recently fledged young were observed at Chadds Ford Marsh 5/9 (AG). According to the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania, there was one possible breeding record of this species in the northern section of *Delaware* during the 2004-2009 survey, but the current observation represents the first-ever confirmed breeding record of this species in the county.

Individual **Great Cormorants** were observed in Apr on DR - one flew past PHL 4/7 (AG) and another was under the Commodore Barry Bridge 4/11 (AG). An accidental find in spring, one **Anhinga** was observed over a private residence in Swarthmore 5/8 (DE), flying low towards the southeast, which suggests it was heading toward JHNWR, where one Anhinga was seen throughout the summer in 2015.

A **Least Bittern**, a species known to breed in nearby *Philadelphia* at JHNWR, was heard singing near the overlook pavilion 5/25 (DH). Individual **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were observed only in late May at JHNWR 5/25 (DH) and along DR at Marcus Hook Municipal Park 5/27 (AG). A regular rare to uncommon migrant, one **Glossy Ibis** was observed at JHNWR 5/25 (DH). The only rail species recorded this season was **Sora** - one sang by the FedEx Complex in Lester 4/17-4/30 (AG) and another at the Villanova Law School water retention pond 4/22 (PB).

*Delaware* boasted an impressive 14 species of shorebirds this season. One **Semipalmated Plover** was at PHL 5/3 (AG). Accidental in spring, a flock of 70 **Ruddy Turnstones** was observed over DR 5/27, representing an eighth county record (AG). With one exception, all previous observations have been in May. A new early record for the county, 2 **Dunlins** were observed at PHL 4/11 (AG). The only **White-rumped Sandpipers** were 2 at JHNWR 5/25 (DH). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were present at PHL 4/6-5/14, with a high of 2 (DB, AG, NS). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were recorded at JHNWR 5/25 (DH).

Of the five species of gulls observed this season, the most notable was **Bonaparte's Gull**, seen only on the DR in small groups 3/17-4/11 (AG). Terns were found only in southern *Delaware*, near the DR. **Caspian Terns** were at PHL 4/22 (AG), JHNWR 4/23 (DO), and a high of 3 along DR 4/9-4/22. **Forster's Tern** were noted along DR 4/22-5/3 with a high of 6 (AG).

Two **Black-billed Cuckoos** were observed and one photographed at Louis W. Scott Memorial Park 5/3-4 (TB, AG); otherwise, one was heard at BT at RCSP 5/14 (ZB). **Barred Owl** was confirmed breeding once again on the BT at RCSP - recently fledged young were noted 5/8-24 (m.ob.) There was an earlier observation of one heard at Episcopal Academy 3/17 (WS). The most notable of the 7 expected woodpecker species was a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Hildacy Farm Preserve 5/6-12 (MC). A very late **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at WILL 5/11 (WS).

The BT at RCSP was loaded with a variety of flycatchers during May. An irregular rare migrant, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was photographed at the BT at RCSP 5/12-14 (ZB, EW). RCSP is the only location where this species occurs in May. Other notable flycatchers included one singing **Alder Flycatcher** 5/26 (AG) and one **Least Flycatcher** 5/20 (AG).

**Common Ravens**, which began breeding at a quarry in Glen Mills in 2013, were observed only as solitary flyovers along Chester Creek 5/9 (BB, MC, TF), Bethel Springs Elementary School 5/18 (BQ), and the Darlington Tract 5/20 (NS) this season. A regular uncommon winter resident, 2 **Horned Larks** at PHL 3/9 represent the only observation this season (AG). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present only in Mar, with 2 in Chadds Ford 3/12

(SW), one at RCSP 3/26, and one at Tyler Arboretum 3/26 (JZ).

Twenty-nine warbler species graced *Delaware* with their presence this season with the majority of sightings reported from the BT at RCSP. **Worm-eating Warblers** were observed only in early to mid-May, with solitary birds at a private residence in Media 5/7 (DM) and on the BT at RCSP 5/14 (ZB). The only **Nashville Warbler** was at BT 5/14 (ZB). A regular uncommon summer resident, 2 **Kentucky Warblers** were heard on the BT 5/20 (DO). **Cape May Warblers** were found only as solitary birds - one at the BT 5/14 (ZB) and another at Tyler Arboretum 5/25 (SB). One **Cerulean Warbler** was seen foraging along the creek at Crum Woods 5/10 (TB). One very cooperative **Prothonotary Warbler** stayed 5/19-30 and into Jun, providing great looks along the paved multi-use trail of RCSP (m.ob.).

A regular rare and local summer resident, one **Blue Grosbeak** was observed on the BT 5/20 (DO). **Bobolink** were seen only in early May, with a high total of 30 at the Episcopal Academy 5/2-5 (CA, DM, WS) and a flock of 8 at Liseter Pond 5/3 (BS). A regular uncommon migrant, 4 **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed feeding among **European Starlings** on Little Crum Creek behind the Folsom Wawa 3/1 (MB) and 2 were at JHNWR 4/24 (DO).

**Observers: Brian Quindlen, 5 Winding Way, Malvern, PA 19355 (484) 356-8435 brian.quindlen@gmail.com**, Christian Anthopoulos, Zach Baer, Debbie Beer, Paul Bernhardt, Adrian Binns, Merri Brownwing, Sara Busch, Tom Bush, Brian Byrnes, Michael Coll, Vance Downing, David Eberly, Tony Fernandes, Thomas Galaskewicz, Al Guarente, Deuane Hoffman, Jim McConnell, Doris McGovern, Dominic Minicozzi, Damon Orsetti, Chris Pugliese, Nick Pulcinella, Navin Sasikumar, Win Shafer, Brian Storey, Eric Weislogel, Susan Worteck, Jamie Zigarelli.

### Elk County

Locations: Allegheny NF—Buzzard Swamp (BS), Benezette Twp. (BT), East Branch Lake (EBL), Jones Twp. (JT), Laurel Run Reservoir (LRR), Rasselas Marsh (RM), Wapiti Woods (WW).

This spring's weather was definitely odd. Temperatures into the seventies in March were near record highs, inches of snow were recorded in early April, and a sudden cold snap brought an inch of snow 5/15. These temperatures very likely affected the bird life in the county with **Red-eyed Vireos** seen foraging close to the ground 5/15 trying to get food. The warmer than average temperature during the past winter and into early spring may have led to a new nesting location for **Carolina Wren** at JT where this species has never been recorded before.

Compared to the number of waterfowl reported during the fall of 2015, this spring's movement was much better with 14 species being reported. Overall, diving ducks were seen in greater number and variety than puddle ducks. A rare bird in mostly forested *Elk*, and even more unusual for the exact location at which it was seen, was a **Mute Swan** seen along PA 948 in Highland Twp. in the middle of the Allegheny NF 4/24 (BB). The first **Wood Ducks** seen were at JT 3/25 (BB). The only report of **American Wigeon** was of 4 at EBL 3/24 (BB).

**Ring-necked Duck** was reported from 3 locations across in Mar and Apr. These included 5 at BS 3/20 (TR), 18 at EBL 3/23, 3 at LRR 3/25, and one at EBL 4/15 (BB). Both species of scaup were present at LRR 3/25 with 2 of both **Greater** and **Lesser Scaups**. The most notable waterfowl were the 2 **Surf Scoters**, a male and a female, seen at EBL 4/15 (BB). **Buffleheads** were also reported at 3 locations with 3 at BS 3/20 (TR), 10 at EBL 3/23, and 9 at LRR 3/25 (BB). Up to 3 **Hooded Mergansers** were at EBL 3/23-26 and at RM 3/24 (BB). Of the 3 merganser species, the **Common Merganser** is by far the most common, reported at 5 locations, including EBL, JT, LRR, SGL 25, and along US 219 in Ridgway Twp., where the high count of 6 was recorded. (BB). **Red-breasted Merganser** was at EBL and LRR on the expected dates of 3/23 and 3/25, but a late bird seen at EBL 5/28 was more notable (BB). Two **Ruddy Ducks** at EBL provided the only reports of this species (BB).

*Elk's* most regularly reported fowl-like bird, the **Ruffed Grouse**, was at JT, SGL 25, (BB), and Alan's Spot in the Allegheny NF (CW) throughout the season with a high of 6 at JT 4/23 (BB). **Wild Turkey** reports include 2 at Belltown 3/20 (TR), 6 along Mt. Zion Rd. in Jay Twp. and one at JT 5/14 (BB). Not reported every year, a **Red-throated Loon** was seen with a **Common Loon** at LRR 3/25 (BB). Common Loons were reported at EBL and LRR beginning 3/25 and lingering to the end of the season at EBL (BB). **Pied-billed Grebe** was at EBL 3/23 and at RM 4/16 (BB), and 4 **Horned Grebes** were at EBL 3/23 and one 3/25 (BB). **Double-crested Cormorants** were at EBL multiple times beginning 4/23 (BB). Only 2 sightings of **Great Blue Herons** - 5 along the West Branch of Clarion R. 3/25 and one at RM 5/14 (BB). The only **Green Heron** report came from BS 5/7 (TR).

The nesting **Ospreys** returned to EBL 4/16, and were seen there through the end of the season. Reports of Osprey also came from BS 3/27 (FM) and 5/7 (TR) and SGL 25 on 5/14, which was likely an individual from the nest at EBL (BB). The nesting **Northern Harriers** at RM returned 3/24 when 2 pair were seen, but only one pair stuck around throughout the rest of the season (BB, LC). Harriers were also at BS 3/20 (TR), JT 3/27, and SGL 311 on 3/27 (BB). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were at LRR 3/25, SGL 25 4/16, and EBL 5/28 (BB). The only report of **Cooper's Hawk** was from Johnsonburg 4/15 (BB). A rare nester in *Elk*, the **Northern Goshawk**, was reported at a nest at an undisclosed location in the southeast corner of *Elk* (DB). **Bald Eagles** are doing fairly well with reports from BS (TR), JT, SGL 25 (BB), and WW (AB). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were at multiple locations (BB, DG). The first report of **Broad-winged Hawk** came from JT 4/15 (BB).

A nice find was a **Sora** heard calling at JT 5/14 (BB), but not found thereafter. **Spotted Sandpipers** were at their regular breeding location at EBL beginning 5/14 as well as at SGL 25 on the same date (BB). **Solitary Sandpiper** was at JT 5/14, and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** was there 4/17 (BB). A very unusual sighting was of an **Upland Sandpiper** heard singing at RM 5/14 (BB). This location has a large field which is next to a sedge marsh and pool, so Upland Sandpiper could breed here, however this bird was not found again. A **Wilson's Snipe** was flushed from the shore at EBL 3/23 (BB). **American Woodcock** was heard displaying at JT 4/16 and was seen there 4/17 (BB). **Bonaparte's Gull** reports came from EBL, with one 4/15 and 17 on 4/17 (BB). **Ring-billed Gulls** were also seen at EBL 3/24, 4/17, and 5/27; with a high of 40 on 4/17 (BB).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were seen multiple times at JT and RM during May, while **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported only once, at RM 5/14 (BB). All of the common owl species were reported except Eastern Screech-Owl. A night-time walk at JT 5/14 yielded one **Great Horned Owl**, 2 **Barred Owls**, 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, and one **Common Nighthawk** (BB). A Saw-whet heard calling at JT 4/15 (BB). **Belted Kingfishers** were at EBL, SGL 25, and Horner Rd. in Jones Twp. throughout the season (BB). Uncommon in the county, **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were seen at 2 locations in the southern third of the county, including singles in BT and Weedville (BB, KH). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, common breeders in *Elk*, were seen at multiple locations during Apr and May (BB).

**American Kestrels** were reported only from was their traditional location of RM, where up to 2 were seen there throughout the season (BB). **Alder Flycatchers** were on breeding territory at JT and RM in May. The only **Willow Flycatcher** was at SGL 25 (BB). **Warbling Vireo** was at RM 5/14 and 5/29 (BB). Common in *Elk*, **Common Ravens** were reported from 6 locations across the northern two-thirds of the county (m.ob.).

Still uncommon in *Elk*, **Tufted Titmouse** was reported from 5 locations (BB). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen at their year-round location of JT throughout the period with a high of 6 on 5/28 (BB). This species was also present at SGL 311 on 3/27 and RM 5/14 (BB). The **Carolina Wren** seen at JT beginning 3/23 provided a first-time record at this location (BB). This bird likely moved north up the East Branch of the Clarion R. after the mild winter. Away from JT, one Carolina Wren was also present at BT 3/27 (BB). The only report of **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at SGL 25 on 5/14 (BB). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** pushed through *Elk* mainly during mid to late Apr, but 2 were at SGL 25 on 5/14 as well (BB).

Other than **Hermit Thrush**, spot-breasted thrushes seemed to be in low numbers, with single **Veeries** at JT 5/14-15, and **Swainson's Thrush** there as well 5/14 and 5/28 (BB). Hermit Thrush returned to JT 4/15 with the high count of 19 on 5/14 (BB). A bird in decline across its range, **Wood Thrush** was seen only at JT 5/14, 5/27, and 5/30 (BB). The only location reporting **Brown Thrasher** was RM with up to 3 there 5/14 and 4 on 5/29 (BB). A rare migrant in the county, **American Pipit** was reported at EBL 5/14 (BB).

Twenty-three species of warblers were reported, including some relatively unusual species - only the more notable species are mentioned here. One **Worm-eating Warbler** was heard singing at JT 5/14 (BB). **Tennessee** and **Nashville Warblers** were at RM 5/14 (BB). Four **Nashville Warblers**, probably breeding individuals, were at RM 5/29. **Cape May Warbler** was reported from RM and SGL 25 on 5/14 and JT 5/15 (BB). **Northern Parulas** were at RM 5/14 and JT 5/29 (BB). The only **Bay-breasted Warbler** was one at JT 5/27 (BB). One **Blackpoll Warbler** was at JT 5/14 (BB). **Palm Warblers** were at JT 4/24 and RM 5/14 (BB). **Pine Warbler** returned to its regular breeding location at JT 4/23, and one was also heard singing in a hemlock ravine along Rocky Run Rd. in Jones Twp. (BB). **Canada Warblers** were at RM and SGL 25 on 5/14 (BB). A **Wilson's Warbler** was at RM 5/14 and possibly the same individual was still around 5/29 (BB).

Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at JT 5/14, and 4 were there 5/30 (BB). The last **American Tree Sparrows** were 4 at RM 3/24 (BB). **Fox Sparrows** passed through in good numbers with sightings from JT, LRR, and SGL 25 during Mar and Apr, with a high of 8 at JT 3/26 (BB). **White-**

**crowned Sparrows** were at BS 5/7 (TR), and JT and SGL 25 on 5/14 (BB). **Savannah Sparrows** were at JT 5/14 and RM 5/29 (BB). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at RM 5/14 (BB). **Swamp Sparrows** were at their breeding location of RM during May (BB); individuals were also at JT and Clarion St. in Jones Twp.

**Bobolinks** were at RM 5/14 and 5/29 along with **Eastern Meadowlarks** (BB). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were at RM 3/24. The only sighting of **House Finch** was of 2 in Johnsonburg 3/22 (BB). **Purple Finches** were seen in good numbers across the county with a high of 12 at JT 4/23 (BB). **Pine Siskins** were reported from 6 locations, with a high of 13 at SGL 25 on 4/16 (BB).

Observers: **Brendyn Baptiste, 255 Claytonia Rd. Butler, PA 16001, (724) 496-4856, brendynbaptiste@yahoo.com**, Dan Brauning, Alan Buriak, Lisa Chapman, Doug Graham, Krysta Huff, Flo McGuire, Theo Rickert, Carole Winslow.

## Erie County

March was relatively mild, but April and May came off cold and rainy. The **Broad-winged Hawk** flight was completely missed this year at the Presque Isle Hawk Watch - because the site is on the lake, the daily NE wind pushed any flight well inland and out of sight. Passerine flights were delayed, with few birds on the move in April. A few days into May saw a decent fallout of warblers that was short lived. The next major passerine flight occurred in mid-May. Territorial male **Piping Plovers** were found at Gull Point on Presque Isle State Park, but they were gone by 18 May. **Common Terns** continue to set up territory at Gull Point with one or two nests present at the end of the reporting period. A spectacular flight of **Rusty Blackbirds** was seen coming to roost in the cattails at Niagara Pond on Presque Isle State Park (PISP) for several nights; see below.

The following birds of note were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PISP) unless noted otherwise.

Up to 4 **Surf Scoters** were at the north pier and Beach 11, at PISP 3/7-17 (m.ob.). Five **American White Pelicans** provided an exciting find 5/16 (JN, JS). **American Bitterns** were reported 4/29-5/13 (JMc, DSn, MB). Up to 2 **Least Bittern** sightings came from PISP - one at Niagara Pond 5/17 (*vide* MB) and one at Gull Point 5/31 (MB). Five **Great Egrets** were present at Gull Point 3/26-31 (RD). A **Snowy Egret** was at Gull Point 5/8 (MB). Sightings of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** came from PISP 4/26 and 4/28 (Dean Zeller, RSW).

A very early **Broad-winged Hawk** flew over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center 3/24 (JMc). Many **Sandhill Cranes** were reported from the hawk watch and from PISP 3/7-4/29 (m.ob.). Up to 2 male **Piping Plovers** with leg bands were on territory at Gull Point 5/8-18 (JMc, ST, MB). The 6 **American Avocets** at Gull Point represented a stunning find 4/26 (MB). Five **Willetts** made landfall in the Beach 9 and 10 area 5/2 and 7 were there 5/4 (MB). A single **Whimbrel** was at Sunset Point 5/24 (KA) and 2 were at Gull Point the same day (MB). A single **Red Knot** in breeding plumage was at Gull Point 5/23 (MB). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at Gull Point 5/17 (JN, JS) and 2 were there 5/24 (MB).

Single adult **Little Gulls** were spotted around PISP 3/19-4/5 (MB, MJ, JMc, LM). A few **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported around Presque Isle Bay and the Lake View Landfill from 3/2-5/6 (RSt, JMc, JD, DS). A **Glaucous Gull** was at PISP 3/5 (RSt) and one photographed 5/8 was quite late (KP). The only **Black Tern** reported was one at Gull Point 5/17 (JN, JS). **Common Terns** continue to attempt to nest at Gull Point with the first nest found 5/28 (MB).

The only **Snowy Owl** reported was one on a private residency 3/9-10 (JM). Up to four **Long-eared Owls** were in the pines 3/16-4/17 (RD). Single **Short-eared Owls** were present at Gull Point from 3/8-4/15 (RSW, RD, MB). **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were in the pines on PISP from 3/18-4/17 (MW, RD, DD). **Common Ravens** have become regular in the county, but are still quite rare, especially at PISP, where one was seen being harassed by **American Crows** near B-trail 4/18 (RD, RS). Another raven was reported in Greenfield Twp. 4/24 (TL).

A **Brewster's Warbler** was on Sidewalk Trail 5/7 (SC). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was well photographed on Gull Point Trail 5/8 (AL). A **Connecticut Warbler** was well described on Gull Point Trail 5/17 (JN, JS). An adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was photographed for one of few county records on in east Erie 4/17 (LB). A spectacular flight of **Rusty Blackbirds** was observed for several nights coming to roost in the cattails at Niagara Pond in late Apr, with a high count of 4500 birds 4/29 (JMc). The only **Common Redpoll** report was of one in Greene Twp. 4/9 (PBZ).

Observers: **JMc-Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA, 16508-**

2129, [jerrymcw@aol.com](mailto:jerrymcw@aol.com), Katie Andersen, Mary Birdsong, Larry Burlingame, Shawn Collins, Dave Darney, Julie Dell, Roger Donn, Matthew Juskowich, Alex Lamoreaux, Tim Lenz, Jared Magoon, Linda McWilliams, Johan Nilsson, Kevin Parsons, David Sibley, Don Snyder (DSn), Johan Sodercrantz, Russ States, Randy Stringer (RSt), Ruth Swaney (RSw), Shannon Thompson, Matt Webb, Pam & Bob Zelenak (PBZ), Dean Zeller.

### Fayette County

Locations: Bridgeport Reservoir (BR), Greenlick Run Lake (GRL) Ohioypyle State Park (OSP).

Spring started warm; March was mild. Even during rainy days, there was no major fallout of waterfowl on the lakes. Early April was cold then switched a week later to very warm, calm weather for over a week.

A male **Eurasian Wigeon** provided a great find at BR 3/4 (ME, fide MJ). It was also seen at GRL which is extremely close to BR. The bird was photographed and remained at BR through 3/13 (m.ob.) associating with a small group of **American Wigeons**. It moved around the reservoir so was in both *Fayette* and *Westmoreland* as the county line runs through the center of the reservoir. I believe this was a first county record. Five **Northern Pintails** and a **Northern Shoveler** were at the reservoir 3/6 (MJ) and 2 pintails were there 3/7 (JHa, JM, MF). A male was at GRL 4/8 (MF). There were only two **Blue-winged Teal** reports: 4 at GRL 4/8 (MF) and 2 at Jacob's Creek Wetlands 4/23 (MJ). The only **Green-winged Teal** report was of 2 at BR 3/7 (JM, JHa, MF). Amazingly there was just one **Ring-necked Duck** reported, a bird at Virgin Run Lake 4/9 (MJ).

There were no major fallouts of waterfowl at GRL. April 9 provided the most variety of waterfowl throughout the county including a **Wood Duck** at Virgin Run Lake; a **Lesser Scaup** at Dunlap Creek Park; 2 **Buffleheads** at Virgin Run Lake, 7 at Dunlap Creek Park, and 50 at GRL; 9 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at GRL; and 3 **Ruddy Ducks** at Dunlap Creek Park and 50 at GRL (MJ). Fourteen **Lesser Scaup** were at GRL 4/1 (MF).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was heard calling at OSP 5/30 (GM), certainly a released bird. An aggressive **Ruffed Grouse** attacked a car at Ohioypyle State Park 5/30 (GM). The bird chased after the car as it moved and even struck the vehicle with its wings. A **Common Loon** was at GRL 4/23-28 (MJ, MF). Five **Horned Grebes** at GRL 3/26 (MMc) provided the only report.

A **Black Vulture** was observed feeding along a road 4/17 (AT). Although they are resident, I receive few reports of **Red-shouldered Hawk**; one was at OSP 5/19 (KSJ). Shorebird reports were sparse as usual and all came from Jacob's Creek Wetlands including a **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers**, and a **Spotted Sandpiper** 4/23 (MJ). Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at GRL 4/23 (MJ). Single **Ring-billed Gulls** were at Connellsville 4/20 (MA) and GRL 4/23 (MJ). A **Common Tern** was reported on eBird at GRL 4/20. A **Forster's Tern** was there 4/23 (MJ). A **Barred Owl** was near Champion 3/12 (JK).

An interesting leucistic **Gray Catbird** was photographed at OSP 5/19 (KSJ). It had white patches on its back and belly. A **Swainson's Thrush** and a **Veery** were both at OSP 5/12 (DN).

Single **Tennessee Warblers** were at OSP 5/12 (DN) and 5/19 (KSJ). A **Cape May Warbler** was there 5/12 (DN). **Blackpoll Warblers** were found 5/12 and 5/19 (DN, KSJ). Two **Palm Warblers** were at the park 4/22 (MA) and one was there 5/12 (DN). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was along the bike trail in Connellsville 4/20 (MA) and 3 were at OSP 4/22 (MA). A **Northern Waterthrush** was at OSP 5/12 (DN). **Pine Siskins** continued to visit a feeding station in Dunbar up to 5/4, when the high count of 12 was present (AJ).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, [mpfial@verizon.net](mailto:mpfial@verizon.net)**, Mark Alt, Terry Bronson, Melissa Easter, Julia Ecklar, Gigi Gerben, Jim Hausman (JHa), Aleene Jones, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Matthew Juskowich, Jay Kadane, Mark McConaughy (MMc), Jeff McDonald, Dick Nugent, Kate St. John, Amy Taracido, David Yeany.

### Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Marienville (MA), Red Brush (RB), Tionesta Creek (TC), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake (TL).

There were 149 species reported. Warbler migration was less than spectacular; nevertheless, spring migration was full of surprises.

A rare migrant, a **Trumpeter Swan** was at BS 3/27 (FM, JM). Forty **Tundra Swans** were noted 3/12 near TI (FM, JM), and 22 at BS 3/22 (SG). Six **Northern Shovelers**, uncommon migrants in *Forest*, were on the Allegheny R. at TI 3/23. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** roosting over a marshy area near the Allegheny R. 5/5 was also unusual (FM, JM). Two **Black Vultures** spotted over the Tionesta Boat Launch 5/14 may be a county record for this species (FM, JM).

Two **Least Sandpipers**, unusual in the High Plateau, were feeding in a wet area in a farm field near TI 5/3 (FM, JM). A flock of 8 **Upland Sandpipers** were foraging at BS 4/18 (ZA); this is another uncommon migrant in Pennsylvania. There was a single report of **Wilson's Snipe**, at BS 4/18 (ZA).

There was a single report of **Great Horned Owl**, near MA 4/15 (ZA). There were 4 reports of **Swainson's Thrush**, 5/14-5, and 5/30, from different locations in the ANF (FM, JM).

A **Northern Waterthrush** was noted along TC 4/23 (FM, JM). There were only 2 reports of **Blue-winged Warbler** - at Sibbald Run 5/11 (FM, JM) and near Mayburg 5/29 (JS). There were two sightings of **Nashville Warbler**, 5/2 and 5/7, both at BS (AK, TR). **Cerulean Warbler** was noted 4/28-29 at locations near Mayburg (JS). **Palm Warblers** were spotted only near Kellettsville 4/29 (JS) and at BS 5/2 (AK). **Pine Warblers** were seen near MA 4/16 and 4/18 (ZA). The only **Canada Warbler** report was from the ANF near Guitonville 5/30 (FM, JM). The only **Wilson's Warbler** was spotted 5/14 at RB (FM, JM).

**American Tree Sparrows** usually linger until the first or second week of Apr, but the last one this year was near TI 3/4 (FM). **Fox Sparrows** were reported 3/20-4/15 near TI (FM) and near MA 4/15 (ZA). **White-crowned Sparrows** were not common this year — 5 were seen at BS 5/2 (AK), 3 at BS 5/7 (TR), and one at TI 5/4-19 (FM). The only **Vesper Sparrow** was noted at BS 4/18 (ZA), and the only **Savannah Sparrow** at RB 5/14 (FM, JM). Four **Swamp Sparrows** were at BS 4/18 (ZA), one at Kellettsville 4/23 (FM, JM), and one at BS 5/2 (AK).

There were 4 reports of **Bobolink**: one 5/6 at RB (FM, JM), 4 on 5/22 at the Neiltown fields (WDD), one 5/29 near Yellowhammer (AJ), and 12 on 5/14 at RB (FM, JM). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were noted only near MA 5/13 (BB), and 5/6 and 5/14 at RB (FM, JM). Another unusual migrant in *Forest*, an **Orchard Oriole** was spotted at TL outflow area 5/14 (FM, JM). Only 2 **Common Redpolls** were reported in *Forest* since March 2013, but a single **Common Redpoll** came to a feeder near TI 3/17-26 (FM, JM). **Pine Siskins** were noted at MA, where 3 were seen 4/23 (DY) and 2 were spotted 4/14 (ZA); 2 were observed near TI 3/24, and 7 were recorded at BS 4/18 (ZA). They were abundant at feeders near TI throughout the reporting period, with a high of 75 on 4/8; numbers dwindled to the single digits by the fourth week of Apr, and the last 2 were seen 5/29 (FM, JM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, [fmcguire1@verizon.net](mailto:fmcguire1@verizon.net)**, Zachary Allen, Brendyn Baptiste, Steve Gosser, W. Dwayne DelGrande, Andy Jones, Alyssa Karmann, Alex Lamoreaux, Jim McGuire, Theo Rickert, Jeff Sceपुरa, David Yeany II.

### Franklin County

Locations: Bender's Farm (BEFA), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Kriner Rd. Retention Ponds (KRRP), Letterkenney Reservoir (LERE), Lane Pond (LLP), Mountain Brook Rd. Pond (MBRP).

Many thanks to Dale Gearhart for his many years of compiling for the PSO reports and his leadership for birding information in *Franklin*. This is my first report to PSO.

May 1 became an eventful birding day in the county with highlight birds being White-winged Scoters, Caspian Terns, Forster's Terns, Black Tern, American Avocets, and Black-bellied Plover. Also found in unusual numbers here that day were Common Loons, Red-breasted Mergansers, Double-crested Cormorants, Bonaparte's Gulls, and Lesser Yellowlegs. The numbers and location of these sightings will be in the narrative that follows.

It was a good season for waterfowl for those who regularly paid attention to local spots. Highlights reported for the period include 19 **Redheads** at LLP 3/01 (CG,BO), 12 **Northern Pintails** at LLP 3/2 (CG, BO), 26 **Tundra Swans** at MBRP 3/2 (CG, BO), one **Snow Goose** at BEFA 3/6 (BO,VB), one **Cackling Goose** at Keefer Rd Pond 3/15 (CG), one **Long-tailed Duck** at Tallow Hill Rd Pond 3/16 (LL, BO), 11 **Northern Shovelers** at BEFA 3/17 (BO), 10 **Canvasbacks** at BEFA 4/9 (BO, CG), 2 **White-winged Scoters** at MBRP 5/1 (BO, CG, VB, JB), 5 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at MBRP 5/1 (CG), 19 **Ruddy Ducks** at BEFA 5/2 (CG, BO), and 10 **Northern Shovelers** at KRRP 5/4 (CG). There were also reports of both scaup species and the normal expected assortment of other ducks.

Other notable water/marsh habitat species reported were 4 **Double-**

**crested Cormorants** at Grant Shook Rd. Pond 4/9 (CG) and 50 at LERE 5/1 (BO), 12 total **Common Loons** at BEFA, LERE, & Fannettsburg Lake 5/1 (BO), one **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Sand Bag Rd. 4/19 (BO), 4 **American Coots** at KRRP 5/1 (CG), one **Common Gallinule** at BEFA 5/2 (CG, BO), and one **American Bittern** at BEFA 5/6 (BO).

Heisey Rd. and the old orchard near Stillhouse Hollow continued to be a good spot for early spring **American Woodcocks** with up to 4 reported in early Mar (BK, VB, CG). **Wilson's Snipe** frequently were found in numbers at GRRE meadow and KRRP in Mar and Apr (CG, DG, DC, BO). Shorebird activity was slow to develop during Apr despite certain ponds having good amounts of exposed shoreline. However, with the beginning of May, notable highlights occurred immediately. A flock of 34 **American Avocets** sat down to rest at KRRP in the afternoon 5/1 (JB, CG, DG, DC, BO, et.al.). Amazingly, four days later 50 **American Avocets** put down at GRRE (CG, DG). During the eventful 5/1, a **Black-bellied Plover** was found at GRRE (CG, DG, BO) and 9 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were reported at KRRP (CG). Other highlights were 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** at KRRP 5/17 (CG, DG) and one **White-rumped Sandpiper** at a Hamilton Twp. farm pond 5/18 (BO). Also, large numbers of common spring shorebirds **Spotted Sandpipers** and **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported in early May. Finally, there was a report from a reliable birder of 22 **Dowitchers** at LLP 5/13. Garner hesitated to have this included because of the unlikelihood of it in the spring let alone anytime, but he is confident there were 16 **Long-billed Dowitchers** and 6 **Short-billed Dowitchers** there. The basis for the LBDO ID was the heavy barring on the sides of the breast of those birds. The reporter is an experienced life-long birder who is careful with his ID's. Other birders informed were not available or arrived there after the birds departed.

Relatively speaking, it also was a decent spring for gulls and terns for *Franklin*, which has no major waterways passing through or bordering. Two **Herring Gulls** were found in the midst of a good size flock of **Ring-billed Gulls** near Fayetteville 3/14 (BO). A **Black Tern** was at GRRE 5/1 (CG, DG, BO, m.ob.) as well as 2 **Caspian Terns** (CG) and 3 **Forster's Terns** (CG, DG, BO, et.al.). **Bonaparte's Gull** reports were unusually frequent with one at GRRE 3/16 (VB), 2 at BEFA 4/1 (BO), one at Keefer Rd Pond 4/9 (BO), 7 at GRRE 5/1 (CG, DG, BO), 29 at BEFA 5/1 (BO), and 18 at KRRP 5/1 (DH, VB, et.al.). A flock of Ring-billed Gulls that numbered as high as 30 stayed in the area unusually late, into to mid-May, seen usually around the K-Mart parking lot in the south end of Chambersburg (CG, BO).

Raptor nesting reports included 4 active **Bald Eagle** nests (DG), at least two active **Great-Horned Owl** nests (DC, CG), and an active **Barn Owl** nest (DG, BO, CG). **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continue to be seen frequently in Shady Grove and from there to the GRRE area.

**Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported 4/29 (CG), 5/8 (DL), 5/17 (RG), and 5/28 (BO). Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found 5/25 in Michaux SF along Ridge Rd. 5/28 (BO) and one **Alder Flycatcher** in Horse Valley 5/28 (BO). T

GRRE is a prominent spot to assess the timing of returning swallows. **Tree Swallows** were reported 3/18, **Barn Swallows** 3/26, **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** 3/27, **Purple Martins** 3/31, **Cliff Swallows** 4/27, and **Bank Swallows** 4/30 (CG). **Cliff Swallows** returned to nest again under the Wenger Rd. bridge over Wilson Run in Hamilton Twp. (BO, VB, CG).

Notable field birds were 87 **American Pipits** at GRRE 4/2 (CG) and single **Blue Grosbeaks** on Ft. McCord Rd. 5/20 (CG) and in Little Cove 5/30 (BO). Two **Bobolinks** were reported at Portico Rd. 5/8 (CG), along with numbers in the twenties on 5/6 at two places near Pleasant Hall, Iron Bridge Rd. (BK, CAS), and Sandy Mt Rd. (BK, CAS, BO). Also on 5/6 during the Conococheague Audubon Field Trip to Path Valley, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found along Creek Rd. (BK, CAS).

Highlighting remaining birds of note was a **Summer Tanager** (probably a first-year male) found along the Conococheague Creek on paths behind Menno Haven at the north end of Chambersburg 5/6 (BO). The bird was watched feeding and singing for about 25 minutes before moving on. Other notables were **Lincoln's Sparrow** at BEFA 5/7 (BO), a **Kentucky Warbler** in Little Cove 5/30 (BO), and another Kentucky from the 5/14 PAMC at an unstated location (JB). There were a few reports of **Golden-winged Warbler** (RG, EM, RM, BO, LN). Unfortunately, the power line in Lower Horse Valley that had been a reliable place for them (as well as Lawrence's hybrid) the past years was sprayed this spring, and the best habitat destroyed probably for the near future.

Last of note are the **Pine Siskins** that continue at the feeders at the home of Val Barnes in the greater Caledonia area. There were also late feeders at Caledonia S.P.; however, Val has now had **Siskins** at her feeders daily for two years running. Recently, there was a documentation photo taken of one or two young birds feeding.

Observers: **Bill Oyler, 1216 Wilson Ave, Chambersburg, PA 17201, (717) 360-5191, oylerbill@gmail.com**, Val Barnes, Joan Bowen, Dave Cooney,

Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart, Ron George, Donna Hocker, Bob Keener, David Leaman, Larry Lehman, Eric Martin, Rhetta Martin, Lori Nichols, Conococheague Audubon Society.

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### Fulton County

Locations: Belfast Township (BEL), Buchanan State Forest – Bark Rd (BSFB), Cowans Gap S.P. (CG), Gem Bridge Rd (GB), Haines-Seville Wetlands (HS), Madden Rd (MR).

**Wood Ducks** and **Common** and **Hooded Mergansers** appeared in early Mar on Licking Creek in BEL. Mating behavior was observed throughout Mar and into Apr. A **Common Merganser** and **Northern Flicker** were seen at nests in the same tree, separated only by about 1-2 feet of distance 5/29 (CH). All waterfowl species mentioned above plus **Mallards** were successful nesters on or near Licking Creek, the first time in many years that Hooded Mergansers have nested in the area (CH).

**Wild Turkeys** continued strutting and gobbling through mid-May at GB (WH). A **Common Loon** was present at CG 5/1 (BO), as was a **Horned Grebe** 4/10 (DH).

After a lull in sightings since late winter, a **Bald Eagle** flushed several times from the area around the merganser/flicker nest tree noted above at BEL 5/29 (CH). A migrant **Solitary Sandpiper** was observed at a swampy farm pond in BEL 5/3 (CH). An **American Bittern** was at HS 4/10 (DH).

The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived at waiting feeders in BEL 4/21 (SH). Two adult **Red-headed Woodpeckers** visited a feeder in BEL 4/30. A juv. was photographed near Licking Creek, also in BEL, 5/11. Nesting was observed on the property in past years, but a nest was not readily apparent this season (CH).

Species infrequently reported from *Fulton* included an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at BSFB 5/19 (CB) and a **Cliff Swallow** at CG 5/14 (DW). Additionally, four **Vesper Sparrows** were reported along with two **Horned Larks** on MR 4/10 (GG).

Observers: **Amy Evans, 403 Walnut St, Columbia, PA 17512, (865) 804-4399, needmore.pa@gmail.com**, Chuck Berthoud, Greg Grove, Coy Hill, Susan Hill, Willard Hill, Deaune Hoffman, Bill Oyler, Doug Weidemann.

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### Greene County

Locations: Bell Farm (BF), East View (EV), Enlow Fork (EF), SGL 223 Garards Fort Wetlands (SGL 223), Jackson Twp. (JT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Morgan Twp. (MT), Ryerson Station State Park (RSP), Sycamore (SY).

Two **Northern Pintails** and 5 **Hooded Mergansers** provided a nice find at SGL 223 on 3/5; **Common Merganser** and **Ruddy Duck** were found at Lake Wilma on the same date (MJ). A **Northern Bobwhite** in a yard at Kirby was a nice surprise 5/25 (CL). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was found at SGL 223 on 3/11 (MJ). **Ruffed Grouse** were seen in Aleppo Twp. 3/23 (AC). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was enjoying the pond at Waynesburg Sportsman Club 5/5 (JH). **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported at Lake Wilma 5/1 (KK) and last sighted in Franklin Twp. 5/13 (AC, JC).

The first **Green Heron** and **Osprey** were reported at RSP 4/29 (AC, JC, TC). A **Northern Harrier** was found at EV 3/29 (MH). Now that *Greene* has nesting **Bald Eagles**, they were reported more this period (JW, JD, KH). **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported at EF 4/29 (KSJ). A **Red-tailed Hawk** nest with young was found in MT 4/28 (JD, KH).

At Lake Wilma, an **American Coot** was found 5/14 (KK). **Killdeer**, **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found at RSP 4/29 (AC, JC, TC) and **Spotted Sandpiper** 5/20 (DG). At Waynesburg Sportsman Club, a **Wilson's Snipe** was found 4/15 (JH). **American Woodcock** was displaying in MT 4/20 (KK).

A **Ring-billed Gull** flew by the airport while observers enjoyed breakfast 3/11 (JH, MH). At SY, the first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard 4/30 (JC). **Common Nighthawks** were seen for 3 days at BF 5/25 (CDB, LB). **Great-horned Owls** were heard calling back and forth at Claylick in Center Twp. 4/23 (RA, LA).

**Chimney Swift** was first sighted in Waynesburg 4/18 (KK). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at LCR 4/19 (MLP). **Belted Kingfisher** was first reported at RSP 4/29 (AC, JC, TC). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was first sighted in Morris Twp. 3/25, the same location where they have brought young to the suet feeder the last 3 years (CA).

**Acadian Flycatcher** was first heard at EF 5/1 (m.ob.). A first-ever sighting for the observers was a **Willow Flycatcher** allowing for great

pictures in Richhill Twp. 5/14 (RA, LA). **Eastern Phoebe** was first noted at EV at 3/9 (MH). **Great-crested Flycatcher** was first found in JT 4/29 (MM). **Eastern Kingbird** was first reported at RSP 4/29 (AC, JC, TC).

The first **White-eyed Vireo** was heard in EV 4/26 (MH), **Yellow-throated Vireo** was first heard at LCR 4/23 (MLP), **Blue-headed Vireo** was found in MT 4/24 (KK, MH), and EF was the location of the first **Warbling Vireo** and **Red-eyed Vireo** 5/1 (m.ob.). A **Tree Swallow** was sighted at LCR 3/31 (MLP). In MT, 4/24 **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was seen (KK, MH). LCR reported the first sighting of **Barn Swallow** 4/16 (MLP). The first **Purple Martin** was at BF 4/2 (CDB, LB).

SY was the location of the first **House Wren** 5/6 (JC). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was first sighted in MT 4/24 (MH, KK). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at JT 5/14 (MM). The first **Hermit Thrush** 3/24 and **Brown Thrasher** 4/2 were seen 3/24 and 4/2, respectively, at EV (MH). **Wood Thrush** was first reported in MT 4/24 (KK, MH). An **American Robin** nest found in rhododendron fledged 4 young 5/23 at LCR (MLP). **Gray Catbird** was first sighted at LCR 4/23 (MLP). EF was the location of first sighting of **Cedar Waxwing** 4/30 (RL, BD, MM).

**Ovenbird** was heard at LCR 4/28 (MLP). **Magnolia Warbler** was first heard singing in Center Twp. 5/7 (MH). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was first heard at LCR 3/31 (MLP). EF was the location of first sightings of **Blue-winged Warbler** 5/1 (m.ob.), **American Redstart** and **Cerulean Warbler** 4/29 (KSJ), and **Black-throated Green Warbler** 4/30 (MM, BD, RL). Many first sightings came from EV including **Black-and-white Warbler** 5/13, **Tennessee Warbler** 5/15, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 5/7, **Blackpoll Warbler** 5/2, and **Yellow-throated Warbler** 4/8 (MH). **Nashville Warbler** 5/13 and **Prairie Warbler** 4/25 were first reported in JT (MM). The first **Kentucky Warbler** was found at BF 5/28 (m.ob.). A **Common Yellowthroat** 4/16 and a **Northern Parula** 4/21, that built a nest in spruce tree which can be seen from the kitchen window, were first sighted at SY (JC). Franklin Twp. was the location of the first **Hooded Warbler** 4/24 (TD). At LCR, **Blackburnian Warbler** was seen 4/28 (MLP). **Yellow Warbler** was first sighted in SY 4/22 (JC). The last reported **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was 5/10 at SY (JC). **Yellow-breasted Chat** wasn't reported until 5/11 at SY (JC).

**Chipping Sparrow** was reported at Claylick 3/20 (LA, RA). **Field Sparrow** was first heard at LCR 4/13 (MLP). The first **Savannah Sparrow** was at SY 3/18 (JC). **White-throated Sparrow** was last seen at EV 5/2 (MH) and **White-crowned Sparrow** last at SY 5/14 (JC). The last **Dark-eyed Junco** was reported at LCR 4/19 (MLP). **Blue Grosbeak**, a rarity for *Greene* was spotted at bird feeders 4/23 at Claylick in Center Twp. (RA, LA). **Scarlet Tanager** was found at LCR 4/26 (MLP). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was sighted at SY 4/21 (JC). **Indigo Bunting** was seen at feeder in EV 4/25 (MH).

**Orchard Oriole** was first seen at SY 4/23 (JC) and **Baltimore Oriole** was in a blooming apple tree at LCR 4/23 (MLP). In JT 5/14 **Purple Finch** was last seen 5/14 in JT (BC) while 2 **Pine Siskins** were in Center Twp. 5/9 (AD).

Observers: **Marjorie Howard**, 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 852-3155, rkbirdclub@yahoo.com, Carol Andrew, Lyn Argent, Ron Argent, C. David Bell (CDB), Leah Bell, Jane Bonner, Al Churney, Jan Churney, Tom Churney, Diane Clark, Bobbi Cressey, Terry Dayton, Bill Deegan, Lucy DeFrank, Al Deynzer, Joe Diagneau, Myra Gibson, Deb Grove, Karen Holleran, Jerry Howard, Pat Hutcherson, Matt Juskowich, Kathy Kern, Cindy Laming, Rosanna Lane, Mary LaPlante (MLP), Marjorie Moffatt, Kate St. John (KSJ), Bill Wentzel, and Jerry Wolfe (JWo).

### Huntingdon County

Locations: Aitch Access at Raystown Lake (AA), Allison Road near Petersburg (ARP), Brumbaugh's Access at Raystown Lake (BA), Compropt Mills (CM), Entriken Overlook at Raystown Lake (ENT), Greenwood Furnace S.P. (GF), Huntingdon (HU), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Lower Trail at Alexandria (LT), Marklesburg waterfowl area-SGL 420 (MAR), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Petersburg (PET), Raystown Lake (RL), SGL 322, Petersburg Pike (SGL322), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Creek Ridge (SCR), Trough Creek Valley (TCV), Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch (TMHW).

Continuing the conditions from the winter, March was dry and unseasonably warm. April continued dry but cooler, but may brought more seasonal rain amounts. It was a good season for rarities with at least six species that have been reported fewer than about five times in *Huntingdon*.

A flock of 7 **Snow Geese** were at the dam spillway of RL 3/9 (CY). At least 2 different **Trumpeter Swans** were in the county. One seen at locations around RL 3/3-14 was a return visitor from winter of 2014-15, carrying wing tag L95 (GD). An unmarked Trumpeter was seen several times at OC or on the nearby JR 5/7-30 (m.ob.). **Tundra Swans** were reported from Feb through 3/26, with a high of 160 at MAR 3/1 (GG) and 79 at TMHW 3/6 (JK).

Nineteen duck species were reported, in uniformly unremarkable numbers, aside from good showings by the 3 mergansers. The best count of **Wood Ducks** was 24 at LP 4/14 (DW). Up to 10 **Blue-winged Teal** stayed long at the newly created wetland at CM 3/25-4/18 (GG, m.ob.). The high count of **Ring-necked Ducks**, which seem to be in reduced numbers in recent years, was a fairly modest 26 at MAR 3/3 (GD, ZA). Eleven **Ruddy Ducks** were at LP 5/1 (JB). No scoters or Long-tailed Ducks were reported.

As noted, mergansers were numerous. **Hooded Mergansers** were particularly widespread and breeding was noted at CM (m.ob.). **Common Mergansers** were seen routinely on the JR and RL; the high count was 150, at ENT 3/1 (Alex Bischer). The best **Red-breasted Merganser** count was 36 at AA 4/5 (GD).

Forty-one **Common Loons** were at LP during rainy weather 4/4 (TW). Forty **Double-crested Cormorants** were recorded at AA 4/6, a good count but within the expected range (ZA).

**American Bitterns** were reported from 5 locations 4/6-5/16 (m.ob.). Found far less often than their bigger cousins and not annually, one-2 **Least Bitterns** were seen regularly and fairly easily, even cooperating for photographers, at OC 5/15-20 (RL, GG, m.ob.). The 32 **Great Blue Herons** counted over TMHW 3/30 may have been a high for the watch (NB). At the long-established rookery near Airydale in Big Valley, there appeared to be at least 14 occupied nests on 3/31, a number that has been quite consistent for 8-10 years. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** are not annual so one at PET 5/6-7 was notable (JK, NM, m.ob.).

The 16th season of the Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch featured atypical results for **Golden Eagle**, the species of principle interest. After a record-breaking 239 in spring 2015, the count this year was only 156, ranking 13th highest of 16 seasons; the 10-year average is 194. The peak passage of Golden usually occurs by about 3/10, but this year eagle numbers built very slowly until 3/16 and 3/17, when 38 and 29 were tallied, respectively, following a couple days of rain. Red-tailed Hawks (249) and Red-shouldered Hawks (26) were nearly 50% below their 10-year averages. On the other hand, **Ospreys** and **Broad-winged Hawks** were well above average, with 74 and 1004, respectively. Rohan Kensey was the counter and statistics were compiled by Nick Bolgiano.

A **Virginia Rail** was found dead on a roadside on SCR 3/31, a very early date and miles from any wetland (GG). Possibly it mistook the road for water at night and was hit by a vehicle. There were more reports than usual of Virginia Rails, with singles at MAR 4/25 and 4/29 (GD), near PET 4/26 (JK), and at OC 5/6 (CM, DP). Single **Soras** were reported from 4 locations 5/7-18 (m.ob.), more than usual. A **Common Gallinule**, rarely found here, was at OC 5/2 and 5/14 (GD, ZA, DK, TK) and at the CM wetland 5/5-10 (JK, JB, m.ob.). Given the non-overlap of these dates, it may be that only one bird was involved; the two locations are less than 10 miles apart. The wetland at CM also hosted another species rarely seen in the county when 3 **Sandhill Cranes** stopped briefly 5/7-8 (TW, DW, m.ob.).

Thirteen shorebird species were reported, a good number for a county with no significant shorebird habitat. The most notable report was of 15 **American Avocets** that dropped onto the tiny beach during rain at GF 5/5 and were nicely photographed by park manager Matt Dinsmore. The only previous Avocet was a single bird in Aug 2009. Thirteen **Semipalmated Plovers** represented a very good number at ARP 5/22 (JK). Ten **Solitary Sandpipers** were at CM 5/2 (GG). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** at CM 4/1 was extremely early, but not quite a record (GG, DG). Three **Dunlins** at ARP 5/22 provided a good record for a species seen only once every few years (JK).

Among many reports of **Bonaparte's Gull**, the high count was 110 at AA 4/6 (CY, GD, ZA, Karl Suttman). As usual, tern reports were scarce. Three **Caspian Terns** were at ENT 5/2 (GD), 3 **Forster's Terns** at ENT 5/1 (DK, TK), and 3 Forster's at BA 5/7 (GG, DG, LG, DM, LM).

**Common Nighthawks** were few, with sightings limited to 1-2 at HU and LP beginning 5/12 (DG, LG, JK, TW, CM, DW, Ben Steines). Always hard to find, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported from at least 7 locations, more than usual (m.ob.).

The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SCEC 5/12-16 (DW, JB, DGr, et al.). **White-eyed Vireo** remains a very uncommon species, but they seem established at some RL locations, particularly in the thickets at SGL 420 at MAR, with as many as 3 there through May (m.ob.). **Philadelphia Vireos** are rare in spring – a well-described bird was at GF 5/7 (Shawn Davis).

Three hundred **Tree Swallows** were counted at LP 4/6 (AC). **Marsh**

**Wrens** made brief stops at their usual locations: singles were at MAR 4/25 and 5/7 (GD, ZA, ZM) and at OC 5/1 (JK, GD). The hot spot for **American Pipits** was PF, where they were seen throughout Apr and May, with a high count of 85 on 4/7 (JK, m.ob.).

Thirty-four warblers were reported. Most noteworthy was a territorial **Prothonotary Warbler** on the JR near Mill Creek, found 5/13 and seen collecting moss (GG, DK, TK, DG). It was still present and singing into early June, but no further breeding evidence was obtained. There are fewer than 5 previous records and no breeding records; closest known breeding is in the Susquehanna R. valley south of Harrisburg, but many areas along the JR between Duncannon and Huntingdon seem to have appropriate habitat.

**Golden-winged** and **Blue-winged Warblers** were reported in roughly equivalent numbers; there were 2 reports of **Brewster's Warblers**, the more common hybrid (JK, GG, m.ob.). One of the rarest warblers here is **Mourning Warbler**, reported twice, at LT 5/7 (GD, ZA, ZM) and LP 5/16 (JK). One **Kentucky Warbler**, a rare breeder, was near PET 5/7 (LG, GG, DG, DM, LM). It is likely there are more Kentuckys in the under-birded southern part of the county. **Cerulean Warblers** were widely reported as their population seems to be holding up well. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at their usual location at LT and were also noted from 4 other places along the JR and Spruce Creek (m.ob.). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was very early at the Juniata College Field Station on RL 4/29 (GD). Up to 3 Chats were counted at their established location on Longhorn Rd. in TCV (GG, DM, DG, JK).

A **Henslow's Sparrow**, possibly only the third county record, was found in a very unlikely location, deep in Rothrock S.F., where it stopped during migration at a small grassy opening of less than an acre 5/12 (JK, GG, DG). A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, not annual, was in TCV 5/7 (DM, DG, LG). High sparrow counts included 20 **Field Sparrows** at SGL322 on 4/24 (ZA) and 15 **Swamp Sparrows** at MAR 4/26 (GG). **Vesper Sparrows** seem increasingly hard to find - most reports were from the big fields at PF (JK, m.ob.).

**Rusty Blackbird** reports were numerous from LP and CM, but the high count was only 4 (m.ob.). **Pine Siskins** were persistent at a few feeders, with high counts of 79 at Ennisville 3/5 (DW) and 60 on SCR 3/14 and 3/19 (GG, DG, LG). Smaller numbers of siskins remained through the end of the season and it is likely that some stayed for nesting, with at least one report from mid-June.

Observers: **Greg Grove, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652, gwg2@psu.edu**, Zachary Adams, Jason Beale, Nick Bolgiano, Alyssia Church, Gordon Dimmig, Debra Grim (DGr), Deb Grove, Lewis Grove, Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Renee Lubert, Dennis McGillicuddy, Laurie McGillicuddy, Nate McKelvie, Crystal McNeal, Zachery Millen, Dale Plumley, Julia Plummer, Jerod Skebo, Doug Wentzel, Torri Withrow, Chuck Yohn.

#### Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Hemlock Lake (HL), Indiana (IN), Indiana University of PA (IUP), Lewisville (LV), Shelocta (SH), Waterworks Conservation Area (WCA), Yellow Creek (YC).

A **Cackling Goose** was photographed at YC 3/1 (MH, RH, DK). **Tundra Swans** moved quickly through the county between 3/3 (MC) and 3/20 (LC, PF, TG, GL), when the last 3 were observed at HL. The high counts were 100 over LV 3/6 (MC) and 130 over YC the same day (TR). Almost all waterfowl maxima were much lower than last year which we also considered low. At least one drake **Ring-necked Duck** and one male **Lesser Scaup** remained on the lake through the end of the quarter (LC). YC hosted a single **Red-throated Loon** 4/16 (JD).

Highlight of the season was an adult **Glossy Ibis** found at a farm pond near IN 4/15 (DL). It was seen later that evening (LC, MH, RH) and photographed the next day (SG), providing the seventh county record. Single **Great Egrets** popped up both at IUP (JT) and at YC (TB, LC, *et al.*) 4/12 and at the VFW in IN 5/23 (AB, DB, CL, GL). **Green Herons** were almost two weeks late, first seen near SH 4/30 (MH) and at YC 5/3 (LC, TG *et al.*).

Continuing the pattern set last year of an earlier arrival, first **Osprey** appeared at YC 3/19 (TB, LC, TG, MH, RH, GL). Prior to last year the earliest date on record was 3/24/2011 (GL); last year's arrival date was 3/17. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was found at Hemlock Lake 3/20 (AK, JK). A **Golden Eagle**, the seventh county record, was sighted at YC by six observers 3/20 (FR, KR).

A **Black-bellied Plover** and an **American Golden Plover**,

accompanied by 3 **Semipalmated Plovers**, were photographed near West Lebanon 5/22 (TB, SG). A **Common Tern** stopped at YC 5/4 (SG).

With few reports in recent years, it was great to have 4 **Common Nighthawk** observations, all single birds between 5/10, when one was found in IN (DL) and 5/27, when a silent bird flew over a yard near LV (MC). A **Merlin** was seen at IUP 3/29 and 4/7 (JT), and at Mack Park 5/23-27 (DL). A **Peregrine Falcon** was reported between Marion Center and Rochester Mills 5/29 (RS). The WCA yielded the season's lone **Oliver-sided Flycatcher** 5/19 (DL).

Twelve **American Pipits** stopped at HL 4/3 (AK, JK) while one visited YC 4/9 (MH, RH). The only **Vesper Sparrow** was one near Plumville 5/14 (MM). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** flew up onto a post and sat for several seconds before disappearing in the vegetation at WCA 5/8 (DL). YC hosted just a few **Rusty Blackbirds** which moved through between 4/5 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, KT) and 4/13 (DJM), when the best count of 6 was achieved.

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Eli Beiler, Tom Betts, Sid Blair, Tony Bruno, Lee Carnahan, Linderia & John Carter, Casey Cattie, Hannah Conley, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Jim Dunn, Karen Durham, Patience Fisher, Vern Gauthier, Tom Glover, Steve Gosser, Carol Guba, Roger Hatstrup (RHa), Roger Higbee, David Janetski, Pat Johner, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Jon Kauffman (JKa), Avis Keener, John Keener, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Rick Mauk, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, DJ McNeil (DJM), Lisa Meadows, Trish Mentzer, Marilyn Moore, Donna Meyer, Richard Nugent, David Poortinga, Joseph Pumford, Kevin Redway, Scott Reynolds, Theo Rickert, Fabiola Rodríguez, Karli Rogers, Nancy Smeltzer, Russ Smiley, Jim Stratton, Mark Syvertson (MSy), John Taylor, Phyllis Terchanik Ken Truitt, Marge Van Tassel, Linda Wagner, Ray Winstead, Andrew Wood, Friends of the Park (FOP), Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC).

#### Jefferson County

Locations: Ames Road (AR), Beartown Rocks (BR), Brookville (BV), Beyer Road (BY), Cloe Lake (CL), Filter Plant Road (FP), Fordham Lake (FL), Gobbler's Knob (GK), I80 Sensor Rd Ext (I80S), Kyle Lake (KL), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), O'Donnell Road (OR), PA Rt 536 (R536), Pensy Ringgold Road (PR), Punxsutawney (PX), Redbank Valley Trail (RB), Ringgold (RG), Sandy Ridge Rd (SR), Skyline Road (SK), Winslow Road (WR), Worthville (WV), Zion Cemetery (ZC).

A high of 36 **Canada Geese** were reported on FL 4/23 (TG) and a high of 16 **Wood Ducks** came from KL 4/2 (AK, JK). The only **American Black Duck** was on KL (AK, JK). The only **Blue-winged Teal** report was of 3 on FL 3/20 (AK, JK). Fourteen **Northern Shovelers** were seen on FL 3/18 (AK, JK). Only one **Green-winged Teal** was found, on KL 4/2 (AK, JK).

Six **Greater Scaup** provided the only report, on CL 3/18 (AK, JK); and only 4 **Lesser Scaup** were noted, on FL 3/18 (AK, JK). Four **Buffleheads** were also on FL 3/18 (AK, JK). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were on the MS 4/1 (KD). Only one **Common Merganser** was found on CL 3/18 (AK, JK), and another was located on FL also 3/18 (AK, JK). Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** were seen on KL 5/14 (AK, JK). The only **Ruddy Duck** was found on the MS 4/16 (JD).

Two **Common Loons** were seen on KL 5/14 (AK, JK). One **Pied-billed Grebe** was on KL 4/2 (AK, JK). Only one **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported, on KL 4/2 (AK, JK). The first **Great Blue Heron** was noted in BY 4/12 (TG) and the first **Green Heron** on the MS 4/25 (AK, JK).

The season's first **Turkey Vulture** was noted on R536 on 3/8 (AK, JK). First **Osprey** was on CL 4/6 (AK, JK). A lone **Northern Harrier** was found on PR 4/12 (AK, JK). The resident pair of **Bald Eagles** of the MS hatched two chicks, confirmed 4/23 (DG, TG, MH, RH, PM); as of the end of the period the chicks were surviving. The first **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen on I-80S on 4/23 (AKS). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was recorded on SR 4/23 (MH, RH) and another the same day on FP (MH, RH).

The season's first **Killdeer** was found on the MS 3/7 (JG, TG). The first **Spotted Sandpiper** for the period were found at CL 4/29 (AK, JK), and the only **Solitary Sandpiper** was found on FL 4/29 (AK, JK). Six **Ring-billed Gulls** represented an interesting find on KL 5/8 (IG, AL).

The first 2 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported in WV 5/17 (AK, JK). The only **Great Horned Owl** was in RG 5/4 (AK, JK). A **Barred Owl** was heard on OR 5/7, along with an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** (DR). The season's first **Chimney Swifts** were seen on the MS 4/23 (DG, TG, MH, RH, PM). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was in RG 4/30 (AK, JK)

and the first **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were on the MS 5/5 (AK, JK).

The season's first 2 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were found in WV 5/17 (AK, JK). A **Least Flycatcher** was found on MS 5/26 provided the only report (AK, JK). The first **Eastern Phoebe** was discovered in BV 3/20 (TR), the first **Great Crested Flycatcher** on the MS 4/27 (KD), and first **Eastern Kingbird** on AR 5/3 (AK, JK). A **Blue-headed Vireo** arrived on the MS 4/27 (KD), and 2 **Warbling Vireos** were discovered on the RB 5/22 (AK, JK). The first of many **Red-eyed Vireos** was reported on the MS 5/5 (AK, JK).

Two **Horned Larks** were seen on SK 3/13 (AK, JK). The first 3 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were found on FL 4/23 (MH, RH), and the first **Tree Swallows** showed up on KL 4/2 (AK, JK). The first 2 **Barn Swallows** were found on KL 4/23 (MH, RH), and 6 **Cliff Swallows** for the period were found at CL 5/21 (AK, JK). The season's first 2 **House Wrens** showed up on the MS 4/23 (MH, RH). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was first reported on the MS 4/16 (JD). A high count of 8 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** was made on the MS 3/19 (AK, JK), and the season's first 4 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were also on the MS 4/23 (DG, TG, MH, RH, PM).

The season's first **Veery** was on the MS 5/19 (KD). The periods only 2 **Hermit Thrushes** were found at BR 5/28 (SG). The first 2 **Wood Thrushes** were found on the MS 4/27 (KD). The first **Gray Catbird** appeared on the MS 4/23 (MH, RH), and the first 3 **Brown Thrashers** were on the MS 4/23 (DG, TG, MH, RH, PM) along with one on the same date on SR 4/23 (TG, MH, RH). A **Northern Mockingbird** was noted on AR 3/18 (AK, JK). The season's only 8 **Cedar Waxwings** were on the MS 5/26 (AK, JK).

The period produced 24 warbler species. The first **Ovenbird** was heard on the MS 4/27 (KD). The only two **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were on the MS 5/19 (KD). The only 2 **Blue-winged Warblers** were noted on the MS 5/2 (AK, JK), and the first 4 **Black-and-white Warblers** were found on the MS 4/27 (KD). The period's first **Tennessee Warbler** was located on the MS 5/16 (KD), and the first 2 **Common Yellowthroats** were on the MS 4/27 (KD). A **Hooded Warbler** was first seen on the MS 5/16 (KD), and two **American Redstarts** were on the MS 5/19 (KD). The first **Magnolia Warbler** was on the MS 5/5 (AK, JK), and the first 3 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were in PX 5/17 (KD). Five **Blackburnian Warblers** were found at BR 5/28 (SG). The first **Yellow Warbler** was noted on the MS 4/23 (DG, TG, MH, RH, PM), and first **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at GK 5/10 (BV). The period produced its first **Blackpoll Warbler** on the MS 5/16 (KD). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was a first on the MS 4/27 (KD). An interesting find was one **Palm Warbler** on the MS 4/23 (DG, TG, MH, RH, PM). Also of interest was a **Pine Warbler** in PX 5/27 (KD). The first **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 4 noted on the MS 4/23 (DG, TG, MH, RH, PM), and a high count of 15 was noted also on the MS 4/27 (KD). The only **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found on WR 5/16 (KW). Five **Black-throated Green Warblers** were the first on the MS 4/27 (KD). Eight **Canada Warblers** provided the only report for the season, at BR 5/28 (SG). A **Wilson's Warbler** was found on the MS 5/12 (AK, JK).

The first **Eastern Towhee** was on the MS 4/6 (AK, JK). The only **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found on SR 5/29 (JG, TG). Three **Henslow's Sparrows** were discovered on SR 5/29, the season's first (JG, TG). The last 4 **American Tree Sparrows** were on the MS 3/9 (MV). The first **Chipping Sparrow** was noted at RG 4/10 (AK, JK), and the first **Field Sparrow** noted was on the MS 4/23 (DG, TG, MH, RH, PM). The only **Savannah Sparrow** report came from SR 5/29 (JG, TG). The first 4 **Swamp Sparrows** appeared on the MS 4/23 (DG, TG, MH, RH, PM). Two late **White-crowned Sparrows** were observed in RG 5/5 (AK, JK). The last 6 **White-throated Sparrows** reported were on the MS 5/5 (AK, JK). It is always interesting to note the **Dark-eyed Juncos** in the county. The last noted in the southern part of the county was one in PX 4/15 (TG), while in the forested northern part of the county they were still being noted through the end of May even into June.

The first **Scarlet Tanager** was on the MS 5/12 (AK, JK), and one **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was first noted in RG 4/26 (AK, JK). The first **Indigo Bunting** appeared on the MS 5/2 (AK, JK). Two **Bobolinks** were noted at ZC 5/21 (AK, JK). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was the first found on AR 3/29 (AK, JK). The only two **Orchard Orioles** were found in RG 5/4 (AK, JK). The first returning 3 **Baltimore Orioles** were found in RG 5/5 (AK, JK). A late report of 4 **Pine Siskins** came from RG 4/10 (AK, JK).

Observers: **Thomas Glover, 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767, tomglover@comcast.net**, Kathy Dinsmore, Jim Dunn, Ian Gardner, Doris George, Jud Glover, Steve Gosser, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Avis Keener, John Keener, Andy Keister (AKS), Alex Lameraux, Pat Martin, Dan Richards, Theo Rickert, Marjorie Van Tassel, Benjamin Vizzachero, Kelly Williams.

## Juniata County

For the spring season, 153 species were recorded on eBird. The species count for PAMC on 5/14 was 155. A **Juniata Big Day** (24 hours, beginning 7:00 p.m. 5/6), done in connection with the Shaver's Creek Birding Cup fundraiser, netted 128 species (IG, CK, THP, AT).

An excellent count for **Juniata, 50 Snow Geese** flew over a yard near Mifflintown 3/16. That same day saw a **Peregrine Falcon** fly over the same location (CK). In a shorebird-poor county, 7 **Semipalmated Plovers** represented a good count on Cedar Spring Rd. 5/14 (CK). There is only one other county record of this species in eBird, though undoubtedly these and other shorebirds have been found often by the many Amish birders in **Juniata**.

**White-eyed Vireos** are infrequently reported – one was found at SGL 215 in southeastern **Juniata** 5/11 (IC). A single **Common Redpoll** briefly joined **Pine Siskins** at the feeders at the Lost Creek Shoe Shop, near Oakland Mills 3/2 (AD).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, chadkauffman@earthlink.net, cell 717-994-6715, home/work 717-436-8257. Aden Troyer, 610 Oakland Rd, Mifflintown, PA 17059, 717-463-3117. Ian Clarke, Ian Gardner, Chad Kauffman, Toby H. Petersheim.**

## Lackawanna County

No compiler.

## Lancaster County

Locations: Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Columbia River Park (CRP), Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Middle Creek WMA (MCWMA), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Speedwell Forge Lake (SFL), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River Commons Park (SRCP), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clark (SRLC), Susquehanna River Peach Bottom (SRPB), Susquehannock State Park (SSP), Wood's Edge Park (WE).

Jonathan Campbell was kind enough to send out a report on the PAMC. It was held at Middle Creek WMA 5/14, and was led by Doug Anderson; 104 species were tallied, the highest number in ten years.

Approximately 1000 **Tundra Swans** were at MCWMA 3/3 (DK) and approximately 2000 on 3/8 (DK); one remained 4/22-5/3 (BC, m.ob.). Two imm. **Mute Swans** were at SFL 3/23 (BC). Less than 15,000 **Snow Geese** were at MCWMA 3/3 (DK) but on 3/7 the number was 50,000 (DK). Twenty-two were still there 5/14 (JC). A **Ross's Goose** was at MCWMA 3/1-12 (BC, m.ob.). A **Cackling Goose** was at MCWMA 3/1-8 (AL, m.ob.). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at MCWMA 3/1-9 (AL, m.ob.), 3 were at MCWMA 3/5 (PHe), and 2 were at SFL 4/8-17 (TNII, VP, ZM, m.ob.).

Among ducks, a highlight was the **Eurasian Wigeon** at OR 3/1-10 (LB, m.ob.). Two **American Black Ducks** were on the SR 3/23 (PF) and 3/30 (MH). Two were at MCWMA 5/20 (TNII, VP, ME). Two **Gadwalls** were at WE 3/23 (PF), 12 were on the SR 5/1 (ME, TNII, ML), and one was at MCWMA 5/4 (TNII). Seven **Northern Pintails** were at MCWMA 3/8 (SC, KA), 8 were on the SFL 3/30 (MH), and one was at MCWMA 5/12 (BR). A **Northern Shoveler** was at Riverfront Park 3/23 (PF). Four **American Wigeons** were at WE 3/23 (PF), 9 were at MCWMA 4/22-23 (BC, FH), and 6 were there 4/24 (VP, TNII). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** was at WE 3/12 (ZM), 3 were on the SFL 3/30 (MH), and 4 were at MCWMA 4/25 (JC). Twenty **Green-winged Teal** were on the SR 3/23 (PF) and 45 were on the SFL 3/30 (MH).

Two **Ring-necked Ducks** were on the SR 3/23 (PF) and 3 on the SFL 3/30 (MH). Eleven **Buffleheads** were on the SR 3/23 (PF). Two female **Canvasbacks** were at MCWMA 3/1 (BC). Three **Long-tailed Ducks** were on the SR 3/6 (ME). A drake **Lesser Scaup** was on the OR 4/28 (PF). Three **Ruddy Ducks** were at MCWMA 4/25 (JC), 24 were there 5/1 (FH), and one 5/19 (BC). Eight **Common Mergansers** were on the SR 3/23 (PF), 2 on the SFL 3/30 (MH), and one on the SR at the Falmouth Access 5/26 (RK, AM). Sixteen **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on the SRPB 3/14 (BS) and 3 on the SR 3/23 (PF). A hen **Hooded Merganser** and her babies (at least 8) were along the Conoy Trail 5/3 (BH).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at SFL 3/30 (MH) and one was at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). A **Northern Bobwhite** was in Holtwood 4/15 (TA). Twenty-one **Double-crested Cormorants** were at MCWMA 4/27 (BC) and 22 were on the SR 5/4 (BH).

A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at MCWMA 3/6-7 (EB, ZA), 4

were at the Ephrata Community Hospital 3/31 (DH), and 26 were there 4/23 (PF). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** returned to Ephrata 4/18-5/22 (ZM, m.ob.) and a single bird was at Ferncliff Nature Preserve 5/28 (ZM). A **Green Heron** was at MCWMA 3/10 (PBr) and 2 were there 5/14 (JC). A **Great Egret** was at Riverfront Park 3/14 (LB), one was at MCWMA 5/1 (FH), and 3 were along the SR 5/4 (BH). Two **Snowy Egrets** were on the OR 4/22 (CG) and one was on the SR 3/19 (EW). A **Glossy Ibis** was at SFL 4/8-11 (SS, m.ob.).

A **Common Loon** was on the OR 4/28 (PF). Four flew over LCCP, with one calling 5/11 (RS). Twenty-seven **Red-throated Loons** were on the SRLC 3/25 (ME). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at the home of a Lancaster man 3/16 (WH) and 2 were at MCWMA 3/24 (DB). One **Horned Grebe** was on the SR 3/23 (PF).

A **Golden Eagle** was at MCWMA 3/1-7 (AL, m.ob.). A juvenile was at CGNA 3/12 (ME) and an adult was there 4/14 (LB). Early **Osprey** were at Observation Site Road 3/9 (ML) and in Paradise 3/16 (DS). A **Cooper's Hawk** was nest building in Gap 4/22 (PF). One **Broad-winged Hawk** flew over Overlook Park 3/30 (GS), one was at MCWMA 4/27 (BC) and 2 were there 5/14 (JC). A **Mississippi Kite** was over PSRD 5/7 (TNII, ME) and another was at Upper Hopewell Nature Preserve 5/9 (PBr). Two **American Coots** were on the SR 3/23 (PF), 8 were at MCWMA 4/27 (BC), and one was there 5/25-31 (BC, ME, ZM).

A **Semipalmated Plover** was on the SRCF 4/20 (ML), 2 were on the SFL 3/30 (MH), and 4 were at MCWMA 4/25 (JC). A **Black-bellied Plover** was on the SRCF 5/14 (ME), 3 were on SRLC 5/14 (ML), and 2 were on the SRCF 5/16 (GD). Three **American Woodcocks** were in the woods along the Little Conestoga Creek in Lancaster 3/9 (SS). Four **Wilson's Snipe** were at Riverfront Park 3/23 (PF); other reports include 8 on the SFL 3/30 (MH) and one at SFL 5/1 (FH). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at SFL 3/27-30 (VP, m.ob.), 2 were there 3/31 (VP), and one was on the SRCF 5/28 (ZM). Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were at SFL 4/12 (DH) and 4 along the SR 5/4 (BH). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at SFL 4/8 (TNII, VP, ZM, JL), 5 were at LCCP 5/11 (RS), and 2 were at CGNA 5/18 (LB). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Turtle Pond and on Shirktown Rd. 4/23 (FH). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at MCWMA 4/25 (JC) and one was at Junction Rd. 5/25-27 (ZM). One **Dunlin** was at the SRCF 4/24 (BC, EW). Five **Least Sandpipers** were at SFL 5/1 (FH) and 3 were in Gap 5/15 (PF). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at MCWMA 5/7 (FB, ME, TNII) and one was at Junction Rd. 5/19 (BC). Two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at the SRCF 5/16 (GD).

Several **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Riverfront Park 3/12 (CK), 58 were on the SR 3/23 (PF), and one was at the SRCF 5/28 (ZM). About 200 **Herring Gulls** were on the SRPB 3/14 (BS). One was on the OR 4/28 (PF). A total of 75 **Great Black-backed Gulls** were on the SRPB 3/14 (BS) and one was on the SR 3/23 (PF). A **Laughing Gull** was at OR 4/23 (ME). Single **Caspian Terns** were at MCWMA 4/20 (SS) and 5/5 (RM). Two **Common Terns** were at the CRP 4/30 (NPo, ZM). Two were also on the SR at Wrightsville on the same day (ME), 12 were on the SR 5/1 (ME, TNII, ML), and 3 were at CRP 5/19 (BC).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was in Gap 5/7 (PF) and 3 were at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). Three **Short-eared Owls** were at MCWMA 3/4 (TNII, PH, BH, ZM) and one was there 3/8 (SC, KA). A **Barn Owl** was in Rapho Township 4/30 (JH).

Two **Common Nighthawks** were at MCWMA 5/14 (JC); 25 were over the SRPB area 5/17 (BS). Three **Chimney Swifts** were in Ephrata 4/23 (PF) and 6 at LCCP 5/11 (RS). An early male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at a Narvon home 4/21 (FH); another was at a Bowmansville home 4/24 (AH).

A **Merlin** was at a home in Lancaster 5/2 (ZM). One was at Noel Dorwart Park 5/14-18 (BH, SM). A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** was at Riverfront Park 3/12 (CK). A pair nested on a cliff along the Enola Low Grade Trail in Manheim Twp. 4/18 (TWe). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** continued at Hickory/Sportsman Rd. area 3/5-23 (ZA, ZM, m.ob.). One was at Homewood Nature Preserve 4/14 (PF, TW, AW) and one was in Gap 4/17-5/14 (PF).

An **Eastern Wood-pewee** was on the Conoy Trail in Bainbridge 5/4 (BH). Three were at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at MCWMA 5/20 (EH, m.ob.), CGNA 5/23 (LB), and at the Cocalico Creek near Hickory/Sportsman Rd. 5/26 (BC). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at MCWMA 5/20 (TNII, VP, ME). A **Willow Flycatcher** was at MCWMA 5/11 (AH) and 4 on 5/14 (JC). An **Alder Flycatcher** was at MCWMA 5/17-30 (ZA, BC, FB, & ZM). A **Least Flycatcher** was on the Conoy Trail 5/4 (BH). Two **Acadian Flycatchers** were at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). Two **Great Crested Flycatchers** were at LCCP 5/11 (RS) and 4 at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). An **Eastern Kingbird** was at the OR 4/28 (PF) and 6 at CGNA 5/18 (LB).

Three **White-eyed Vireos** were at the OR 4/28 (PF); one was at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). Three **Yellow-throated Vireos** were at MCWMA 4/27 (BC) and one was on the Conoy Trail 5/4 (BH). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was

at Conestoga Pines Park 3/31 (ZM), 2 were at MCWMA 4/27 (BC), and one was in Gap 5/5 (PF). One **Warbling Vireo** was at the OR 4/28 (PF) and 4 at LCCP 5/11 (RS). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at LCCP 5/11 (RS). Three **Red-eyed Vireos** were on PSRD 4/27 (BH) and 8 were at MCWMA 5/14 (JC).

A pair of **Common Ravens** was building a nest at SH 3/6 (KL). There were at least a half dozen additional scattered raven reports through 4/29 (m.ob.). Ten **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were over the SRLC 3/19 (EW) and 18 were along the Conoy Trail 5/4 (BH). A **Purple Martin** was at MCWMA 4/25 (JC) and 22 at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). Two **Tree Swallows** were at MCWMA 3/1 (DK) and 110 were counted at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). Two **Barn Swallows** were at Noel Dorwart Park 3/20 (BH) and 40 were at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). A **Cliff Swallow** was at Conestoga Pines Park 4/27 (WV) and 5 were at SSP 5/17 (TA).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in a Gap yard 4/28 (PF). Three **House Wrens** were at Noel Dorwart Park 4/20 (BH). Eight were at the OR 4/28 (PF). Four **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at SH 4/13 (BH), 8 at MCWMA 4/27 (BC), and 8 on PSRD 4/27 (BH). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at Climber's Run 4/6 (PF), 3 were at SH 4/13 (BH), and 4 were at PSRD 4/27 (BH). Singles **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were at SFCP 3/30 (MH), Noel Dorwart Park 4/20 (BH), and MCWMA 4/20 (TNII, VP, ME).

Two **Veeries** were at MCWMA 4/27 (BC) and a nice count of 13 was made at MCWMA 5/17 (BC). Two **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were at MCWMA 5/17 (BC). Four **Swainson's Thrushes** were at LCCP 5/11 (RS), one was as at MCWMA 5/14 (JC), and 10 were there 5/17 (BC). Eight **Wood Thrushes** were at MCWMA 4/27 (BC) and 15 on 5/17 (BC).

A **Gray Catbird** was in a Gap yard 4/28 (PF). Three **House Wrens** were at Noel Dorwart Park 4/20 (BH). Eight were at the OR 4/28 (PF). Four **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at SH 4/13 (BH), 8 at MCWMA 4/27 (BC), and 8 on PSRD 4/27 (BH). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at Climber's Run 4/6 (PF), 3 were at SH 4/13 (BH), and 4 were at PSRD 4/27 (BH). Singles **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were at SFCP 3/30 (MH), Noel Dorwart Park 4/20 (BH), and MCWMA 4/20 (TNII, VP, ME).

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was in Gap 4/17 (PF). A **Fox Sparrow** was at MCWMA 3/12 (CK). One **Dark-eyed Junco** was at Climber's Run 4/6 (PF), 2 were at MCWMA 4/25 (JC), and 4 were at MCWMA 4/20 (JC). One **White-crowned Sparrow** was in Gap 5/2 (PF), 3 were at MCWMA 5/16 (ZA), and 2 were there 5/20 (TNII, ME). Eighteen **White-throated Sparrows** were at Climber's Run 4/6 (PF), 40 were along PSRD 4/27 (BH), and one was at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). Two **Savannah Sparrows** were in Gap 4/17 (PF) and 2 were at MCWMA 4/27 (BC). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was in the Ephrata farmlands 4/15-30 (BC, m.ob.) and one was at MCWMA 5/3 (BC). A **Swamp Sparrow** was at a Narvon home 4/21 (FH) and 4 were at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at SFPC 4/30 (BC) and one at CGNA 5/1 (ME, ZM, TNII). An **Eastern Towhee** was at SFPC 3/30 (MH) and 9 were at MCWMA 5/14 (JC).

A **Scarlet Tanager** was in Gap 5/2 (PF) and 3 were at MCWMA 5/14 (JC). Two **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were along PSRD 4/27 (BH), 2 in LCCP 5/11 (RS), and one at a Lancaster home 5/18 (RP). A **Blue Grosbeak** was in Gap 5/8 (PF) and 2 in LCCP 5/11 (RS). An **Indigo Bunting** was at the OR 4/28 (PF); 9 were at MCWMA 5/14 (JC).

A **Bobolink** was at MCWMA 4/24 (RR) and 9 at MCWMA 5/8 (PBI). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was singing at MCWMA 3/1 (BC) and 5 were there 4/27 (BC). Five **Rusty Blackbirds** were at MCWMA 3/8 (SC, KA), one was there 4/25 (JC), and one was at the OR 4/28 (PF). Eight **Orchard Orioles** were in LCCP 5/11 (RS) and 10 were at CGNA 5/18 (LB). A **Baltimore Oriole** was at SFPC 3/30 (MH, PF) and 8 were in LCCP 5/11 (RS).

A single **Purple Finch** was at Noel Dorwart Park 4/20 (BH). A **Pine Siskin** was at MCWMA 4/25 (JC). A flock of 200 **American Goldfinches** was at MCWMA 4/27 (BC).

Observers: **Pamela Fisher, 761 Willow Lane, Gap, PA, 17527, (717) 405-9448**, Zachary Adams (ZA), Tom Amico (TA), Katie Anderson (KA), Fern Bauman (FB), Larry Bernhardt (LB), Ed Bernot (EB), Don Billet (DB), Paul Blank (PBI), Craig Boyhont (CBo), Paul Brubaker (PBr), Jonathan Campbell (JC), Bruce Carl (BC), Shawn Collins (SC), Gordon Dimmig (GD), David Eberly (DE), Mike Epler (ME), Carlton Groff (CG), Al Guarente (AG), Frank Haas (FH), Eric Hartshaw (EH), Jonathan Heller (JH), Paul Heveron (PHe), Daniel Hinnebusch (DHi), Deuane Hoffman (DH), Mike Holmes (MH), Walt Honsinger (WH), Barbara Hunsberger (BH), Peter Hunsberger (PH), Dave Kerr (DK), Chad Kauffman (CK), Ramsay Koury (RK), Alex Lamoreaux (AL), Josh Lefever (JL), Keath Leidich (KL), Meredith Lombard (ML), Annette Mathes (Am), Seth McComsey (SM), Zach Millen (ZM), Randy Miller (RM), Ted Nichols II (TNII), Vince Pantanella (VP), Nick Polini (NPo), Richard Price (RP), Rich Rehrig (RR), Barbara Ritzheimer (BR), Bob Schutsky (BS), Glenn Shaffer (GS), Stan Stahl (SS), Derek Stoner (DS), Teresa Webster (TWe), Ted Wilson (TW), Ann Wilson (AW), Eric Witmer (EW), William Young (WY).

### Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Plain Grove Township (PG), Shaner Rd. Marsh (SR), Volant Strips (VSM), Wampum-New Galilee Rd. Marsh (WNGM).

The spring waterfowl flight was fairly good, but with no headlining rarities. **Gadwall** and **American Wigeon** had good showings and were fixtures on many ponds around PG throughout Mar and the first half of Apr. Max single-site counts were about 20 of each. Seven reports of **Blue-winged Teal** at BS 3/26-4/14 were topped by 9 on 4/9 (BB). Up to 9 **Northern Shovelers** were at WNGM 3/5-4/17 (MV, AK, et al.). **Northern Pintails** were quickly gone after early Mar, with the top count just 7 at SR 3/4 (RN).

Uncommon in *Lawrence*, 2 **Canvasbacks** were at BS 3/5 (SG). **Redheads** are more frequent in the county; last was a late bird at McConahy Rd. in PG 5/7 (MV). **Ring-necked Ducks** were very numerous throughout Mar and Apr, including 150 at BS 3/5 (SG), 47 at SR 4/16, and 22 still lingering at McConahy Rd. 5/1 (MV). Also uncommon were 2 **Greater Scaup** at SR 5/4 (BB). Top count of **Lesser Scaup** was 35 at the former Three Rivers Gravel Pond in New Beaver 3/20 (KJ, TJ). One was still at SR 5/4 (BB, m.ob.). A **Bufflehead** tarried at SR through 5/9 (GM, ST, DW, et al.). The most unusual duck of the season was a **Common Goldeneye**, quite rare in *Lawrence*, at the Three Rivers Gravel Pond 3/5 (MV). Two **Common Mergansers** were at McConnell's Mill S.P. 3/27 (MW).

**Ring-necked Pheasants** were frequently reported around PG through the season (m.ob.). Late **Common Loons** were at PG 5/1 and 5/13 (both MV). The only report of **Great Egret** was one at BS 4/30 (BB). A **Virginia Rail** was located at BS 5/1 (ST), the day after a **Sora** was found there 4/30 (BB). Another **Sora** was surprisingly foraging in the open at a duck pond on

an Amish farm in New Wilmington 5/25 (MV). First **Common Gallinule** appeared at WNGM 4/17 (MV), where they have bred annually in recent years. Two more were noted on the north end of Black Swamp on the *Lawrence/Mercer* line 5/15 (GK, MAK). The last sizeable winter flock of **Sandhill Cranes** in PG was 15 on 3/11 (SG). A few stayed to breed again, as usual; a pair with one young colt was noted 5/7 (MV).

Even besides the amazing Piping Plover noted above, there was a very nice shorebird flight in *Lawrence* this spring, with most of the action at SR. All sightings that follow were from SR unless noted otherwise. A **Semipalmated Plover** was found 5/4 (BB). A remarkable shorebird fallout in basically clear weather occurred 5/9, which included 20 gorgeous *hendersoni* **Short-billed Dowitchers** and a **Stilt Sandpiper** in high breeding plumage, the latter a rare spring sight anywhere in Pennsylvania (DD). Eight **Greater Yellowlegs**, 27 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 20 **Least Sandpipers**, one **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, and 3 **Dunlin** were also among the shorebirds at SR during the 5/9 event (DD, GM). The first **Greater Yellowlegs** of the spring were 4 (with one **Lesser Yellowlegs**) on 4/14 (MV). Only a few **Solitary Sandpipers** were noted in the first half of May (m.ob.); last was one at Miller Rd., PG 5/15 (BB). Two **Least Sandpipers** were getting late at New Wilmington 5/25 (MV). Two very early **Dunlin** were at SR 4/1 (MV) and another was in the company of the Piping Plover 5/1 (GM, ST, DW). A nice count of 20 **Wilson's Snipe** was made at VSM 4/9 (BB), and 2 were at SR 5/1 (GM, ST, DW).

One of the most remarkable finds in *Lawrence* history was made at SR 5/1: a banded and flagged **Piping Plover** (RS). It represented the first Piping Plover ever for *Lawrence*, and made for the 12th Pennsylvania county in which the species has been recorded. The flag on the bird's left leg was yellow and read "A48" (ph. GM). Mary Birdsong helped track down the origin of the bird, which turned out to be from the Great Plains breeding population, not the Great Lakes, and thus it established another first: all previous banded Piping Plovers recorded in Pennsylvania have been Great Lakes breeders—never before had a banded Great Plains bird been sighted in Pennsylvania. A48 was banded as an adult of unknown sex on the Missouri River near Washburn, North Dakota in the summer of 2013. It returned to nest in North Dakota in both 2014 and 2015, and was seen on wintering grounds on Topsail Island, North Carolina in the winters of 2013-14 and 2014-15. At press time it was not known where it wintered in 2015-16, or whether it returned to its nest site in North Dakota for the summer of 2016.

Terns are rare in *Lawrence*, so any sightings are notable. A **Caspian Tern** was at Elder's Pond (RW) and a **Forster's Tern** was at BS (ST), both on Piping Plover Day, 5/1. Another Forster's was at SR 5/3 (BB). Two **Barred Owls** were at BS 3/11-12 (SG, ST). Up to 4 **Short-eared Owls** were still around VSM through 3/29 (SG, GM). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was noted at McConnell's Mill S.P. 3/27 (MW).

As usual birders did not pay much attention to *Lawrence* woodlots, a situation that is not often remedied even in the spring. As a result, reports of passerines were light. An **Alder Flycatcher** was at McConahy Rd., PG 5/25 (GK, MAK). Up to 40 **Bank Swallows** were noted around SR in the first week of May (MV, BB), where they nest in the many sandy slopes of the quarries and gravel ponds at the site. Two **Cliff Swallows** were also there 5/1 (MV). A **Veery** was at BS 5/1 (ST) and a **Hermit Thrush** was there 4/9 (BB). Warblers included a **Blackpoll Warbler** at WNGM 5/22 (MV), **Palm Warbler** at SR 5/4 (BB), and **Pine Warblers** at WNGM 4/17 (MV) and at BS 4/30 (BB). VSM continues to host outstanding numbers of grassland birds. Eight **Henslow's Sparrows** were counted on a 5/25 trip (GK, MAK), and huge numbers of **Bobolinks**, perhaps up to 50, were noted there in late May (GK, MAK, AH). Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were at WNGM 3/9 (AK). The only report of **Purple Finch** was of 2 at BS 4/30-5/1 (BB, ST).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Brendyn Baptiste, Debbie Darney, Steve Gosser, Amy Henrici, Karena Johnson, Timothy Johnson, Andy Keister, Mary Alice Koeneke (MAK), Glenn Koppel, Richard Nugent, Randy Stringer, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass, Robert Walczak, Matthew Webb, Dave Wilton.

### Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand Powerline (CSP), Cornwall Area (CA), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Fox & Prescott Roads (FXP), Governor Dick Park (GDP), Kreider's Pond (KP), Lion's Lake (LL), Marquette Lake (ML),

Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Millardsville Quarry (MVQ), Mt Gretna (MG), Pine Rd (PR), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), SGL 80, SGL 211, Shuey Lake (SL), Spangler Road Pond (SRP), Spring Hill Acres (SHA), Swatara State Park (SSP).

The PAMC was held on 5/14, highlighted by good numbers of **Ruffed Grouse**, rails, and warblers. At 2Mtn, 8 **Tennessee Warblers**, 2 **Cape May Warblers**, 16 **Blackburnian Warblers**, 3 **Bay Breasted Warblers**, and 7 **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found (DM, JD, SW, m.ob.).

Up to 6 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported at MC 3/1-5 (AL, EG, JD, DH, JH, BC, m.ob.). A Greater White-fronted Goose was among 4000 **Snow Geese** at MC 3/19 (RCM). A **Ross's Goose** was sorted from the hordes of Snow Geese at MC 3/1-5 (AL, AG). A **Cackling Goose** was seen at SRP 3/1 (AL, EG); and 2 were there 3/14 (AL, IG). Two Cackling Geese were at MC 3/2-5 (AG, AL, EG, JL). Two **Mute Swans** continued from the winter quarter through 4/15 at MLSP (TN, TB, KB, IG, m.ob.). Two **Tundra Swans** flushed from FXP 5/28 (BC) and relocated to a pond at Mine and Birch Rd 5/28-29 (TB, KB), providing a new county late date.

Up to five **Blue-winged Teal** were intermittent at MLSP 3/30-4/24 (TN, TB, SW, IG, m.ob.). They were also found in small numbers at MC, SL, and FXP during the last half of Apr (m.ob.). **Redheads** were found in several locations. Two were at MC 3/2 (SW); 2 continued at MVQ 2/23-3/6 (TB, KB); and 5 were at MLSP 3/11 (P&RW). Four **Greater Scaup** were reported at MLSP 3/3 (RCM); and 3 were there 3/15 (MS). A female **Greater Scaup** continued at MVQ from the winter quarter through 3/6 (TB, KB). Fourteen **Lesser Scaup** provided a nice find at MLSP 3/14 (AL, IG). **Buffleheads** were found at MLSP beginning 3/1 through the period (m.ob.), with a pair lingering fairly late 5/31 (TB, KB). Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at MLSP 4/3-12 (JD, TB, KB, IG, RCM, TN). **Ruddy Ducks** were at MLSP beginning 3/14 through the period (m.ob.), with a single one persisting through 5/31 (TB).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was drumming at SGL 211 on 4/12 (TB), with 4 there for the PAMC 5/14 (JH). A grouse was in the Camp Strauss area of SGL 80 on 4/14 (TK); one was at 2Mtn 4/22-23 (TN, SW) and 2 there for the PAMC (JD, DM, SW, m.ob.); and another PAMC grouse was at SGL 80 on 5/14 (GK).

**Common Loons** were frequent drop-ins at MLSP. Some of the better counts there were 8 on both 4/7 (IG, TN, TB) and 5/1 (JD, TB, KB), and 17 on 5/13 (TB). One was fairly late at MLSP 5/28 (P&RW). A **Red-necked Grebe** was a Briar Lake near Lebanon 5/5-7 (DL, MSh, TN, TB, KB, JH).

Two **American Bitterns** flushed from a wetland near MLSP 4/11 (TB, JD) and one was found at the same location 4/27-5/11 (TN, KB, JH, SW, JB, IG). A **Cattle Egret** provided a new county early date at PR 4/2 (KB). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at MLSP 4/6-8 (TN) and 5/7-14 (JH).

**Bald Eagles** were found nesting at 6 locations in the county, up from 4 last year. Nesting continued at Pine Rd., Governor Dick Park, Jonestown, and near Marquette Lake. The Marquette Lake pair moved their nest further up the mountain at FIG, and out of sight from the lake (JD, TN). New locations were along the Little Swatara Creek south of Fredericksburg (m.ob.), and along Hammer Creek 5/14 (BC). The Pine Rd. pair were observed incubating 2/26 (TB), with two chicks hatched 3/29 (TB). The Governor Dick pair were incubating as of 3/5 (L&AW). Three eaglets hatched at the Fredericksburg nest as early as 3/28 (DB, RCM, JHi). An eaglet was seen in the Hammer Creek nest 5/14 (BC).

A large kettle of 132 **Broad-winged Hawks** circled over the training areas of FIG 5/3 (IG). Single **Merlins** were at SGL 145 on 3/25 (JH), FXP 3/26 (SW), MLSP 5/2 (JD), and Cleona 5/8 (MN). A **Peregrine Falcon** harassed a Bald Eagle, with an **Osprey** overhead, at the Rt. 322 & 934 intersection 4/12 (PBI). A Peregrine was circling with 3 Ospreys at MLSP 5/3 (JD, TB) and another was at Snitz Creek Park 5/4 (JD).

A **Virginia Rail** returned to a site at FIG where nesting occurred last year 4/11 (JD, IG). Two were found there 4/28-5/15 (JD, IG, SW, DM, m.ob.). One was seen in a different section of FIG 4/19 (IG, JD) and for the PAMC, 2 were found at a swamp in SGL 145 on 5/14 (RCM). A **Sora** was skulking along the edge of MLSP 5/1 (MC, JD, SW, TB, KB), 2 were at a small cattail patch near MLSP 5/7 (JH) and again 5/14 (JH), 4 were at FIG (DM, JD, SW, m.ob.), and one was at SGL 145 (JH, RCM), for the PAMC.

Three **Semipalmated Plovers** provided a new county early date at SL 5/1 (JD). Three were also at Snitz Creek Park 5/13 (P&RW). Two Semipalmated Plovers were at FXP 5/20 (TN) and a single was there 5/27-31 (BC, SW, SS, m.ob.). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at Conewago Lake in MG on a new county early date 3/18 (PB, m.ob.). Accidental, and providing a first Mar record, was a **Solitary Sandpiper** at FXP 3/26-31 (TB, KB, BC,

m.ob.). Up to 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at FXP on a new county early date 3/19-31 (BC, GR, RCM, m.ob.). Thirty-four **Pectoral Sandpipers** provided a good count at FXP 4/22 (TN). A **Dunlin** tied the county early date at FXP 4/14-16 (P&RW, JBe, TB, KB, m.ob.). Two Dunlins were at FXP 4/22-24 (TN, TB, KB, DH, m.ob.), with a breeding plumage individual there 5/23-25 (DB, RCM, TB). One was also at KP 5/21 (JH). Twelve **Wilson's Snipe** represented a nice find at FXP 3/20 (DB, FB).

Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at MLSP 4/7 (TN); with singles there 4/12 (TB), 5/2 (JD, TB), and 5/11 (TN); and one was at KP 4/12 (JH). A **Caspian Tern** was at MLSP 4/22 (TB, TN, SW), with 2 there 5/4 (JD, TB, KB). A Caspian Tern was in both *Lebanon* and *Lancaster* at MC 5/5 (RCM, CD). A **Common Tern** provided a twelfth county record at MLSP 5/2 (TN, TB, JD).

A **Great Horned Owl** nest was found at Stover's Dam Park 3/12 (RW). Two **Bared Owls** were heard at SGL 211 on 3/12 (JD, TB). Up to 3 were there 4/12-27 (TB, NM, SW, m.ob.) and 2 were at FIG 5/14 (JD, DM, SW, m.ob.). Up to 3 **Short-eared Owls** were in both *Lebanon* and *Lancaster* at stop #3 of MC 3/4-9 (ZM, SW, TN, TB, m.ob.).

Up to 5 **Common Nighthawks** were at MLSP 5/18-21 (TB, SW, KB). Singles were south of Lebanon 5/21 (GR) and at FIG 5/23 (DM), and 2 were at CA 5/23 (P&RW). Notable for its absence this year was the Chuck-wills-widow, which failed to return to Tomstown Rd. at FIG, breaking a string of six consecutive years beginning in 2010. The first **Eastern Whip-poor-will** of the spring was calling along Cold Springs Rd. at FIG 4/17 (TB, KB). Thirty-eight Whip-poor-wills provided a new county high count during a survey at FIG 4/27 (JD, m.ob.).

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported at FIG through the period, with up to 8 there 4/21-5/14 (JD, IG, DM, SW, m.ob.). Single Red-headed Woodpeckers were at FXP 4/23 (P&RW) and 5/28 (BC); at Hergelrode Dr 5/3-4 (MH); and at ML 5/21 (TN). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was on a snag at GDP 5/18 (P&RW). **Alder Flycatchers** were found at MC 5/25 (BC) and FIG 5/27 (JD). Five **Yellow-throated Vireos** provided a good count at FIG 4/26 (JD, IG). **Common Ravens** are uncommon in the southern part of the county, but a pair were at MVQ 3/19 (DB) and a single one was seen there 4/18 (DB).

Four **Purple Martins** occupied martin condos along E. Strack Dr. 4/1 (TB). A **Tree Swallow** provided a new county early date at MC 3/1 (JF, RCM). Rare in Mar were 4 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at MLSP 3/28 (TB, RCM, DB). Four **Bank Swallows** were at MLSP 5/4 (CW) and 9 **Cliff Swallows** perched on a wire there 5/6 (TB, KB).

A **Winter Wren** was at the CSP 3/19 (JH). Two **Marsh Wrens** provided both a new county high count and an eleventh county record at FIG 4/28-29 (IG, JD, SW). A Marsh Wren at a small cattail patch near MLSP provided a twelfth county record 5/7 (JH). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found at SHA 5/17 (JH) and at a home in Grantville 5/19-21 (KB, TB, SW). Four **American Pipits** were at FXP 4/22 (TN); 11 represented a nice find at KP 4/25 (P&RW).

A male **Golden-winged Warbler** provided a good PAMC find at SGL 145 on 5/14 (RCM). A **Brewster's Warbler** was at MLSP 5/3 (TB, JD) and a **Lawrence's Warbler** there 5/7 (MCo, LB). A singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** provided an eleventh county record at SSP 4/23 (BC). Two **Palm Warblers** provided a new county early date at MLSP 4/4 (TN). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at 2Mtn 4/26 (JD, IG) and 5/26-27 (TB, SW). Ceruleans were found during the PAMC at both SGL 80 (GK), and nearby Camp Barachel (NM, JHi). A **Kentucky Warbler** returned to the same location where they likely bred last year at SSP 5/13-17 (TB, SW); 2 were singing at a second nearby location in SSP 5/26-27 (TB, JD) and one was photographed at an unknown location within SSP 5/20 (HW). **Mourning Warblers** represented nice finds at Camp Strause for the PAMC (GK) and at FIG 5/26 (IG, JD, DM). **Wilson's Warblers** were found at MLSP 5/12 (TN), at SGL 80 on 5/14 (GK), and at SGL 211 on 5/14 (JH).

**Vesper Sparrows** were found at Lights Church Rd. 4/1 (TB) and along Lindley Murray Rd. 4/1 (AL). Three **Savannah Sparrows** were at SL 4/28 (JD). Fifteen **Fox Sparrows** provided an excellent count at SGL 145 on 3/25 (P&RW). An estimated 40 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at PR 3/13 (TB, SW). Seven Rusty Blackbirds were at MC 3/1 (DH), with 4 there 3/20 (BC); one was at SGL 145 on 3/25 (MM); and 5 were at FIG 4/19 (JD, IG).

Two **Purple Finches** were at MG 3/25 (PB), with 9 there 4/15 (SH, PB, m.ob.). Singles were at SHA 3/19 and 4/14 (JH); Grantville 4/13 (TB, KB); and CA 4/14 (P&RW). Seventeen **Pine Siskins** were found at FIG 4/13 (IG). Up to four were at a residence in CA 3/1-5/11 (P&RW). At a home in MG up to 3 siskins were present 3/25-4/1 (SH, RCM, DS, m.ob.), with a single there 4/15 (SH, PB, m.ob.). A single Siskin was at SHA 4/16 (JH).

Observers: **Timothy Becker**, 10283 Jonestown Rd, Grantville, Pa 17028, [tjbecker81@aol.com](mailto:tjbecker81@aol.com), Kathy Becker, Don Billett, Florence Billett, Lisa Black, Paul Blank (PBI), Paul Brubaker, Bruce Carl, Mary Coomer (MCo), Morris Cox, Jonathan DeBalko (JDe), Jarrod Derr, Curt Diffenderfer, Jim

Florentino, Ian Gardner, Elora Grahame, Al Guarente, Jonathan Heller, Michael High, Jerry Higley (JHI), Deaune Hoffman, Sid Hostetter, Ted Keen, Gary Kinkley, Alex Lamoreaux, Darlene Landis, Josh Lefever, Michael Mayer, Nate McKelvie, Zach Millen, Randy Miller (RCM), Michael Newhouse, Ted Nichols, Gary Robson, Mike Shull (MSh), Mike Slater, Dave Steinke, Steve Walthius, Ray Weik, Lee & Audrey Wells (L&AW), Howard West, Cathleen Wetzel, Pat & Richard Williams (P&RW).

## Lehigh County

Birders in *Lehigh* reported 197 species this period, all but two of which were represented in the eBird database.

The greatest **Snow Goose** total (5000) was at Lynn 3/5 (DT). The larger winter flocks soon departed, and after 3/19 only single digit reports were received. A **Ross's Goose** was at the same location 3/1 (DT). A **Cackling Goose** was photographed at Lake Muhlenberg 3/1 (KD). There were several reports of **Tundra Swans** in the county 3/2-21, with the max count (20) at Fogelsville Quarry 3/2 (FD).

Seventeen duck species were noted, including a few less commonly reported species. A pair of **Northern Shovelers** paid a short visit to Dorney Pond 3/15 (KD). The only **Redhead** was a drake at Copley Quarry 3/4 (BE). A lone **Greater Scaup** dropped in at New Tripoli 3/2 (FD). At Leaser Lake, a group of 5 **Buffleheads** was found 5/15, a bit late in the season (KD). Wintering **Common Goldeneyes** continued from the previous period at Fogelsville Quarry, where one or two were seen fairly regularly through 3/19. Late season **Hooded Mergansers** (6) were at LL 5/21 (FD); breeding here is probably not out of the question given habitat, but hasn't been confirmed.

A **Northern Bobwhite** was at Leaser Lake 4/30 (FD), almost surely a stocked bird, but present none the less. Single **Ruffed Grouse** were on the south side of Blue Mountain 4/5 and 5/4 (EK, SKe). **Wild Turkeys** were reported fairly frequently, with a max count (61) at Heidelberg 3/2 (BE). **Common Loons** were just about daily visitors at Leaser Lake 4/6-5/19, but the max count was 118 flyover birds at Lehigh Gap Nature Center 5/7 (SK). A very early **Double-crested Cormorant** reached Leaser Lake 3/2 (FD).

This was certainly a notable spring for herons in *Lehigh*, with 6 species reported - a great total and double what would ordinarily be expected. There were multiple reports of **American Bittern** at Leaser Lake 4/16-5/28 (m.ob.). Another American Bittern was very cooperative at a pond at Pleasant Corners 5/2 and 5/3 (m.ob.), and yet another was at North Whitehall 4/25 (DT). Oddly, **Great Egret** was reported slightly less, just 4 times with a max of 2 birds. **Green Heron** arrived 4/20 at Leaser Lake (KD). A pair of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** was photographed at Lehigh Canal Park in Allentown 4/5 (RL) and a lone bird was at New Smithville 5/4 (DA). Finally, and least expected of all, a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was found at Leaser Lake 4/26 (EK). This is an excellent bird for the county, but was at an area of the lake that's a bit difficult to access. It was seen well by the finder, and was heard by a few others.

**Bald Eagles** were reported to eBird 32 times during the period. One-third of the reports were from Leaser Lake. In late Mar, the PA Game Commission confirmed *Lehigh's* first known Bald Eagle nest (*fide* ES), in the southwestern quadrant of the county. Despite some issues with human disturbance, 2 young eagles fledged around the final days of the reporting period (JF). It's very nice to finally add Bald Eagle to the county's list of breeding birds!

**Sora** was reported a few times in the county this period, first at Alburts 5/5 (*fide* DD), then present on territory where known to breed near Slatington beginning 5/21. Another was found at Leaser Lake 5/21 (FD). A late season **American Coot** was at Leaser Lake 5/28. Shorebird highlights were a **Semipalmated Plover** at Fogelsville 5/16-21 (m.ob.), and 2 **Dunlins** at Leaser Lake 5/21 (FD). The last **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at Dorney Pond 4/13 (RR). Terns should never be taken for granted in *Lehigh*, so single **Caspian Terns** at Leaser Lake 4/30 and 5/4 (FD, KD), and **Forster's Terns** (SKe, DH) 4/29-30 (max 3) were of note.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** was more evident than usual compared to recent years; 8 of 16 records came from Leaser Lake, where nesting was confirmed. **Barred Owls** were present at Zionville, where a pair was active in Mar (BS). There was only one report of **Common Nighthawk**, at Alburts 5/26 (FD). The absence of this species across the region has been reported on various listservs and social media platforms this spring - see the rest of this issue for details for the season, with fingers crossed that the bad news has been exaggerated.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** wasn't found at the usual breeding location, but was noted from the south side of Blue Mountain at the west end of the county 4/27 and 5/8 (RR, EK). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Ontelaunee Park near New Tripoli 5/19 (FD). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at the same place four days earlier 5/15 (FD). There were 7 records of

**White-eyed Vireo**, beginning 4/25. **Common Raven** reports away from Blue Mountain continue to fascinate. A wild raven was observed responding to the calls of a captive raven at the Lehigh Valley Zoo 3/11 (JM). This particular property is in the middle of the Lehigh Valley, surrounded by a nature preserve and State Game Lands, but not all that close to either mountain ridge or any quarries; wild ravens have been reported from here consistently for the past several years, however.

**Purple Martins** returned to the Slatedale colony by 3/26 (JH); all three known colonies were active. **Bank Swallows** arrived at the Upper Saucon breeding location by 4/19 (BE). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at Trexler Park 3/4, Allentown 4/24, and Lehigh Furnace 5/16.

Two **Kentucky Warblers** provided a great find at SGL 217 on 5/17 (AS), at New Tripoli 5/19 (FD), and at Leaser Lake 5/21 (FD). The first and third records were probably birds on territory based on further reports into the following period. **Mourning Warbler** was also at New Tripoli 5/19, and at Leaser Lake (2) 5/22 (FD). **Wilson's Warbler** is often missed in *Lehigh* in spring, but was reported three times at Leaser Lake 5/10-21 (FD, EK). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Pleasant Corners 5/3 (FD), Leaser Lake 5/20 (KD), and west of Leaser Lake 5/22 along Blue Mountain House Rd. (RR); the latter two seemed to be on territory.

The last **American Tree-sparrow** report (3) was from Leaser Lake 4/10 (JFr). Other last dates for wintering sparrows were **Dark-eyed Junco**, quite late at Lower Macungie 5/19, and **White-throated Sparrow** at Pool Wildlife Sanctuary in Emmaus 5/24 (TY). There were two reports of **Summer Tanager** in May, the first a beautiful male photographed at Center Valley 5/7 (MS, AS; PORC report filed). The second report was of a female at Leaser Lake 5/17, but with minimal detail (EK). These would be the fourth and potentially the fifth known county records. All records of **Rusty Blackbird** came from Leaser Lake 3/12-5/7, with a max count (4) 5/7 (CS). There were seven reports of **Purple Finch**, the last being at Emmaus 5/14 (LC). **Pine Siskin** was not recorded.

Observers: Bill Etter, 407 S. Cigar Rd, Northampton, PA 18067, billetter01@gmail.com, Dan Altif, Linda Campbell, Dave DeReamus, Frank Dickman, Kevin Dougherty, Jesse Fricker (JFr), James Funk, Dan Hinnebusch, Jeff Hopkins, Chris Hugesson, Scott Keys (SKe), Stephen Kloiber, Ed Komito, Renae Losey, John Mercel, Dave Neimeyer, Rich Rehrig, Chad Schwartz, Ed Sinkler, Adam Smith, Alan and Maryanne Snyder, Brandon Swayser, Danny Tyler, Ted Young.

## Luzerne County

Locations: Beech Mountain Lakes (BML), Forty Fort Rec Fields (FFRF), Harveys Lake (HL), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Plymouth Flats (PF), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Susquehanna River (SR).

The spring birding season started slowly in March. Above average temperatures throughout the winter held many species of waterfowl and hardy birds north of Pennsylvania resulting in less early season migration in the spring. By late April, tumultuous weather patterns resulted in some very interesting observations including a county-first western vagrant. Another county-first, a southern specialty, was taken to a rehab facility in May.

While most expected species of waterfowl were recorded from hotspots such as PF, HL, and BML, numbers were generally lower than normal. Two exceptions were high counts of 14 **Blue-winged Teals** at PF 4/4 (JD) and 14 **Northern Shovelers** also at PF 3/13 (JD). Four **White-winged Scoters** at PF 5/1 (EG, JG) were the first ever recorded from that location. Five **Long-tailed Ducks** at North Lake 4/3 (CL) and a few **Red-breasted Mergansers** from BML (JD) and HL (JH) round out significant waterfowl sightings for the period.

An impressive fallout of 91 **Common Loons** was observed following a storm at HL 4/4 (SGo). A week later, the only **Red-necked Grebe** of the season was at the same location 4/11 (JD). Waders tend to be more prevalent in the summer and fall seasons in *Luzerne* as water levels drop in the SR and PF. One notable exception is the **American Bittern**, which is observed almost exclusively in the spring season and occasionally into the summer. The resident male bittern at "The Meadows" on Mountain Springs Lake Rd. in State Game Lands 57 was first observed in Mar and persisted throughout the period, but as of this writing was unsuccessful in finding a mate. Another location that has become dependable in spring for American Bittern is the Houck Sanctuary in Nescopeck, where one was observed this year 5/13 (BH, NH). The public status of this sanctuary however is currently uncertain due to a change in ownership at the end of May. Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at the SR in Wyoming 5/13 (JS) were significant as this species, once presumed to breed in the county, has become a less than annual occurrence in *Luzerne*.

The only shorebird highlight of the period was provided by 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** that made a quick pass into *Luzerne* from a larger flock present a few hundred feet away in *Schuykill* at the Kelayres Reclaimed Minelands 5/24 (JD). Most seasons go by with no terns observed in the county, but this spring 3 species were present. **Caspian Tern** is the most likely to occur, and one was observed from the FFRF 5/2 (SG). Much less likely, a **Common Tern** noted 4/29 from the same location (SG, RK) was the first in the county in several years. The final tern species was a **Forster's Tern** seen with **Ring-billed Gulls** at PF 5/2 (TG).

On an evening in May, a large nightjar was struck by a car near NSP and was brought to a local wildlife rehabilitator for care. Unfortunately, the bird died, but not before it was identified as a female **Chuck-will's Widow**, the first recorded in *Luzerne* (SuG). Since this bird was a female and likely would have never been identified had it not met this unfortunate fate, it begs the question, 'how often do secretive, rare species of nightjars, owls, and rails pass through the county completely undetected?'

The Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) was held 5/14 and in addition to the expected breeding species were a few scarce spring migrants. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was heard calling in a wooded area of a farm road near Hobbie (JD, JhD) and a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was detected by nocturnal flight call over West Wyoming (SG). A **Mourning Warbler** was found at the Hunlock Creek Boat Launch 5/20 (TG). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found back on territory along the Penobscot Ridge Mountain Bike Trail in Glen Lyon 5/28 (EG, JG). Sparrows tend to be less prevalent in spring than in fall migration, but each year a few harder-to-find species show up in the county. A **Vesper Sparrow** was at PF 4/18 (JD) and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was along the Warrior Trail near the Hunlock Creek Boat Launch 5/10 (JD).

The most exciting discovery of the spring season was an adult male **Western Tanager** that spent only a few hours at FFRF 4/26 (SG, RK). This sighting represented the first record in *Luzerne* and generated some speculation as to whether this could have been the long-staying *Centre* bird that fully molted into breeding plumage and departed from its winter home only a few days earlier. **Rusty Blackbirds** are under constant surveillance because of falling numbers, so a flock of 32 was an encouraging sight at NSP 4/14 (JD). For a second straight year, **Pine Siskin** numbers remained high throughout the winter and spring seasons, with a high count of 55 recorded from HL 4/27 (JD).

Observers: **Jonathan DeBalko, 235 Buck Ridge Drive, Drums, PA 18222, (570) 956-1849, jonathan.debalko@wilkes.edu**, John DeBalko (JhD), Thomas Galaskewicz, Stan Galenty (SG), Sue Gallagher (SuG), Trudy Gerlach, Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Ed Groshek, Jarret Groshek, Bob Houck, Nancy Houck, Jim Hoyson, Rick Koval, Cindy Lohmann, Jim Shoemaker.

## Lycoming County

Locations: County Conservation District (CCD), Canfield Island (CI), Lycoming County Landfill (LCL), Mill Hill Rd. (MHR), Market Street Bridge (MSB), Mill Street (MS), Pine Creek (PC), North White Deer Hawkwatch (NWDHW), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), South Williamsport (SWPT), Susquehanna River West Branch (SR), Susquehanna River Walk at Williamsport (SRW), White Deer Hawk Watch (WDHW), Williamsport (WPT), Williamsport Water Company (WWC).

This is a season of great transitions. Winter lingers into March, some years more than others. The season ends with almost all breeding birds in place, with this season yielding 204 species to eBird reports. Many striking birds were found, including several for the first time in *Lycoming*, thanks to attentive birding activity by the growing aficionados! Note the new web-based summary of birds of *Lycoming* recently published by David and Bobby Brown ([www.lycomingbirds.com](http://www.lycomingbirds.com)) – with details of places and all species known from the county.

The season was ushered in with an assortment of water birds at RVL 3/2, including single **Lesser Scaup**, **Greater Scaup** and **Canvasback**, 6 **Green-winged Teal** (DvB); a great mix of dabbling and diving ducks. **Long-tailed Duck** was reported only at RVL, with 2 on 3/6 (BB) and sightings until 4/3 (NoF). **White-winged Scoter** was found at RVL 4/30 (NoF), with 10 there 5/2 (BB, NoF). Other waterfowl highlights include as many as 350 **Buffleheads** in several flocks and a notable count of at least 46 **Horned Grebes** seen from the SRW 4/12 (JY).

Two species not normally found beyond the end of May persisted into the next season; **Ring-necked Duck** remained to 6/1 at a fairly small pond at Muncy Heritage Park (BB) and on the SR at the dam (m.ob.), and a pair of **Red-breasted Mergansers** was seen from the SRW 5/10 (JY) and a female remained into Jun (DvB).

For a second year, both an **American Bittern** and a **Common**

**Gallinule** were in a shrubby impoundment on SGL252, this year on 4/24 and 5/8 (DvB, BB). Not often reported, a **Sora** gave a whinny call and was seen at a very small wet area at the west end of the Williamsport Airport near MS 5/5-6 (BB, SP, EH).

The hawk watching at both the RT15 overlook and NWDHW continued to provide good reports of migrant raptors as well as other early migrants like **Tundra Swans** and **Snow Geese**. **Golden Eagles** were seen from both locations (but not as frequently as last year) and from a private residence in Montoursville 3/11 (DvB, DbB). The Golden Eagle spotted 5/4 from the SRW migrating down the ridge (JY) and then low over the SR (DvB, MD, JD), was unexpected. Was this a late migrant like another bird in Virginia a few days earlier? **Broad-winged Hawk** migration was well-documented with more than 1,000 in a kettle moving over Montoursville 5/2 along with at least 20 **Osprey** moving northeast (DvB).

The most unprecedented bird of the year (to date) was the **Parasitic Jaeger** found and photographed (DvB) at RVL 5/1 (SP, DvB, BB, DbB), pending PORC review. First seen at 7:05, it skimmed low over the water on a few occasions and was seen soaring over the lake until 7:42.

Another species not previously known in the county, an adult-plumage **Laughing Gull** was in company of **Ring-billed Gulls** briefly resting and flying upriver 5/8 (DvB, photo), notably the only eBird report of this species in Pennsylvania west of *Lancaster* during the season. Lack of other previously-reported gulls this year in Mar was probably due to low ice conditions throughout the region.

Shorebirds maintained their scarcity, but 7 **Semipalmated Plovers** at MS 5/2 (DvB) was a high count. **Wilson Snipe** were noted at multiple locations, notably MS and RVL (m.ob.), and along a farm pond on Saw Mill Rd 4/30 (WE). An unexpected fly-by **Common Tern** was spotted from the CCD trail 4/30 (DvB, DBr).

**Peregrine Falcons** were observed at two historic nesting areas, but not at Montgomery this year. **Merlins** remain an enigma, with scattered reports through the season but nothing suggesting local nesting. Although **Purple Martins** no longer breed at the CCD, 2 were seen at an Amish farm pond in the Nippenose Valley 4/28 (DvB) and a single bird later that day at CI (BB). Overlooked during migration (based on the potential to detect them by flight-calls), a **Gray-checked Thrush** was well-photographed along the trail to Jacoby Falls 5/20 (DvB).

Uncommonly in spring, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was heard singing (recorded) and seen in flight at SGL252 on 5/8 (DvB, BB) and another was reported near Montoursville 5/18 (EH). Single reports of **Cerulean Warbler** and **Yellow-throated Warblers** during the season reflect the challenge of detecting these uncommon species, during what has otherwise been a very active birding season! A rare warbler in the county, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** found 5/16 (BB) in a field of Japanese knotweed persisted until at least 5/30 (BB).

The discovery of not just one, but 2 **Summer Tanagers** over a 5-day period added another species to the county list this season. On 5/8 at about 3:10 pm a first-year male was heard and seen at CI and remained until dark (BB, DbB, SP, DvB photo). A second different first-spring male Summer Tanager was heard and photographed at MS 5/11 (BB, DvB, DbB, EH).

Likely overlooked in migration, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** spotted at CI 5/9 (BB) and seen by others (DvB, DvB-photo, NoF, DH, AK, SP) vainly searching for the Summer Tanager, did not remain long. Not (currently) known to breed within the county, **Vesper Sparrows** were found at MS 4/4 (DvB, BB). **Pine Siskin** reports continued through the period (m.ob.), suggesting some of these birds remained to breed, but no solid evidence of nesting was provided.

Observers: **Dan Brauning, 1920 Inverness Rd, Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 567-4511, dan@thebraunings.com** (DvB), David Brown (DvB), Bobby Brown, Deb Brown (DbB), Jean Dalton, Maddi Dunlap, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Norwood Frederick (NoF), Eric Hartshaw, Deuane Hoffman, Andy Keister, Steve Pinkerton, Joe Yoder.

## McKean County

No compiler.

## Mercer County

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

The 7 **Greater-white Fronted Geese**, present at the SWA since the last period, remained until 3/11 (NT). A **Blue-winged Teal** was at the SWA 3/26 (SS) and **Northern Pintails** were reported from the same location until

3/11, with a high of 40 on 3/6 (SS). The only scoter report was of a **Surf Scoter** at LW 4/9 (RS). Four **Long-tailed Ducks** at LW 4/11 provided the only reports of this species (NT). Five **Common Goldeneyes** were seen at the SWA 3/3 (NT). A major storm system grounded an estimated 250 **Buffleheads**, 800 **Ruddy Ducks**, and 147 **Common Loons** at LW 4/11 (NT, JS).

The number of **Ruffed Grouse** at SGL 130 remains stable. Two were found on the PAMC 5/14 (NT). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at SRR 3/9 (SS), as were 200 **Double-crested Cormorants** 4/8 (SS). Single **Great Egrets** were reported at PS 5/3 (SS) and WR 5/6 (NT). Single migrant **Broad-winged Hawks** were noted at WR 4/20 and 5/1 (NT), and several were found at SGL 130 where they nest 5/14–24 (NT, SS).

Three **Virginia Rails** were heard at PS 4/13 and one was heard at SGL 130 on 4/15 (SS). **Sandhill Cranes** were found at Rattlesnake Swamp 3/15 (NT) and a pair was seen at PS 5/3 (SS).

Eleven species of shorebirds were reported. Noteworthy were 2 **Black-bellied Plovers** seen in flight at LW 5/14 (NT). This was one of the few, if not the first, spring reports for *Mercer*. Up to 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at the SWA 5/19–20 (SS, NT). The first report of **Solitary Sandpiper** was of one at WR 4/22 (NT). There were no reports of Greater Yellowlegs, but 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at EZR 5/1 (NT) and one was at the SWA 5/11 (SS). One **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at the SWA 5/19 (SS). Eleven **Least Sandpipers** were found at the EZR 5/5 (NT). They were also present 5/11–21 at the SWA with a high of 17 on 5/20 (NT). Single **Dunlins** were found at the SWA 5/14 (JB) and 5/23 (SS).

Two **Caspian Terns** were at SRR 5/11 (SS). A **Common Tern**, seldom reported in the spring, was found at SL 5/21 (ST, HT). **Forster's Terns** were reported from SRR 4/12–5/12, with a high of 6 (SS) and 3 were seen at the Marina at LW 5/14 (NT). There were only 2 reports of **Common Nighthawk**, both singles seen 5/22 and 24 at WR (NT). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard calling in the pre-dawn hours at Airport Rd. 5/3 (JT).

The five expected *Empidonax* flycatchers were reported. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was heard and seen along Limber Rd. 5/24 (SS, NT). Two **Alder Flycatchers** were at the same location 5/24 and several were present at SGL 130 through the end of the period (SS, NT). **Philadelphia Vireos** were found 5/14 at SGL 130 and 5/18–20 at Poole Rd. (NT). A **Common Raven** was along I376 near Hermitage 5/19 (MV). Five **Lapland Longspurs** were found at Tieline Rd. 4/2–3 (RS), but were missed at the expected location at EZR.

Though somewhat late, warbler migration was exceptional. A total of 32 species was reported, missing Worm-eating, Golden-winged, Connecticut, and Prairie Warblers. Golden-wings are increasingly hard to find and this was the second consecutive spring with no reports. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was heard at PS 5/3 and one was at W River Rd. 5/6 (KS, SS). A pair was seen at the Golden Run area of SRR 5/11 (NT). The following were reported from SGL 130 on 5/14: **Orange-crowned, Mourning, Kentucky, and Cape May Warbler** (NT). **Cerulean Warblers** were reported from W River Rd. 5/6 (SS); Barry Road, where a high of 4 were found 5/8 (KS, SS); and N River Road 5/11 (NT). A **Pine Warbler** was located at Poole Rd. 4/30 and one was singing along Montgomery Dam Rd. 5/24 through the end of the period (NT, SS). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found near the Hamburg – Big Bend Trail 5/6 (KS, SS). The only report of **Yellow-breasted Chat** was of one at SGL 130 on 5/24 (NT, SS).

**American Tree Sparrows** were last seen at WR 4/18 (NT). The only report of **Vesper Sparrow** was of one singing at Forester Rd. 4/22 (HT). **Savannah Sparrows** were first reported at EZR 3/25 (NT). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were noted at Spring Rd. 5/13 (NT) and a **Henslow's Sparrow** was heard there 5/10 (SS). **Fox Sparrows** were at SRR 3/19 (SS) and WR 3/25 (NT). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were noted at Buhl Park 4/26 (SS) and through 5/23 at Poole Road (NT). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were present at SGL 130 through the end of the period (NT). **Purple Finches** were first reported at WR 4/30 (NT). **Pine Siskins** were present 3/15–5/1 at WR (NT) and 3 were found in the yard along Airport Rd. feeding on dandelion seed heads 5/18 (JT).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137**, Jeff Brinker, Bill Drolsbaugh, Steve Sanford, Kim Springer, Jerry Stanley, Randy Stringer, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Mark Vass, Kendall Zook.

### Mifflin County

Locations: Milroy (MI), Belleville (BV), Victory Park (VP).

Shorebirds are often not easily found in *Mifflin*. Reports this season included 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** 5/1, and one each 5/4 and 5/7 in BV (JZ);

also there one **Greater Yellowlegs** on 5/1 (JZ). Seven **Least Sandpipers** and one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were observed in a flooded field on Waynesburg Rd. (JK). Also on Waynesburg Rd. were 2 **Wilson's Snipe** 3/1 (RD) and a high count of 5 on 3/7 (RH).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at VP 4/11 (CK). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard outside of Milroy 4/1 (GS). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed on Old 3 Cent Lane a well-known location, 4/23 (RD). Other Red-heads, reported southwest of BV, included one in BV on 5/7 (JZ), one on Rockville Rd. 5/16 (EP), one on Ivan Byler's property 5/19 (JZ), and one on the corner of Rt. 655 and Bunker Hill Rd. 5/22 (JK). The only raptor of note was a **Merlin** outside of Milroy 4/28 (RH).

Uncommon in *Mifflin*, a **White-eyed Vireo** was noted outside of Milroy 5/1 (JG). Three **Bank Swallows** were observed at VP 4/23 and one 5/1 (RD). A few scattered **American Pipits** were reported: One on Waynesburg Rd. 3/7 (RH), 2 on Kanagy Rd. 4/16 (RD), and one on Bunker Hill Rd. 5/22 (JK). There were 3 reports of **Swainson's Thrush**, a good find in *Mifflin*. One was on Upper Licking Creek Rd., one on Black Log Rd. 5/14 (CK), and David Yoder reported one near Swarey's Orchard.

This spring was the first season to have a birding hotline to report bird sightings, mainly to reach out to Amish communities that lack internet services. With this available, an increase in spring migrate reports was seen, warblers in particular. Those of note included **Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler**. One warbler of special note was a calling **Yellow-breasted Chat** on Licking Creek Rd. 5/28 (JZ, RH).

Reports of grassland birds included **Grasshopper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Vesper Sparrow**. One **Bobolink** was reported outside Barrville 5/13 (DG). Six **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported outside of Reedsville 4/15 (RH) and at VP 3/10 (RD). The last **Pine Siskin** was 5/16 in BV (JZ).

Observers: **Jon Kauffman, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, jvk5019@gmail.com**, Rob Dickerson, Deb Grove, Joe Gyekis, Robert Howler, Chad Kauffman, Ed Peachey, Glenn Stauffer, Stephen Swarey, Howard West, David Yoder, Jay Zook.

### Monroe County

Locations: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center (KCEEC).

Overall the season was warmer than average with record high temperatures in early March. A somewhat dry March and April was followed by a wet May. A high count of 40 **Common Loons** in a single raft was reported from Swiftwater Lake 4/4 (BJ), and at least 6 individuals were on Trout Lake 4/8 (BH). The flock of 130 **Brant** passing overhead in DWGNRA 5/19 was exceptional both for the date and the number of individuals (CH, DH, SK, MM, TM, SS). Always a treat to see was the pair of **Redheads** on Weir Lake 3/10 (TS).

The first shorebird report came from Lynchwood Lake 3/15 where a single **Lesser Yellowlegs** was found (BJ), and another Lesser was found with a single **Greater Yellowlegs** at Long Pond 3/24 (BJ). The single **Dunlin** at Long Pond 3/24 was early (BJ), but the 3 **Wilson's Snipe** at the same location on the same date were right on time (BJ).

The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** report came from Saylorburg where 2 visited a feeder in early Apr (SP). The **Golden-winged Warbler** foraging in an apple tree in a Mountainhome yard 5/11 gave the observer a pleasant eye-full (DS). Solid counts of the following warbler species resulted from a single morning of birding in DWGNRA 5/19 with the number of individuals in parentheses (CH, DH, SK, MM, TM, SS): **Ovenbird** (64), **Hooded Warbler** (35), **American Redstart** (88), **Cerulean Warbler** (39), and **Northern Parula** (21). A **Yellow-breasted Chat**, uncommon in the county, was a nice discovery in a Delaware State Forest clear-cut 5/20 (BJ).

A single **Fox Sparrow** lingered at KCEEC feeders until the slightly late date of 4/13 (BH). A high count of 14 **Purple Finches** visited Saylorburg feeders in early Apr (SP), and up to 5 were at KCEEC feeders 4/5 (BH). The latest date for **Pine Siskin** was 4/12, when 2 were observed at KCEEC feeders (BH).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629 – 3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Corey Husic, Diane Husic, Bruce Johnson, Stephen Kloiber, Matt Marshall, Terry Master, Susan Pecota, Susan Schmoeyer, Talma Solomon, Darryl Speicher.

## Montgomery County

Locations: Evansburg S.P. (ESP), Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

Predominantly unfavorable migratory weather conditions for passerines, minimal winter irruptives, and a mediocre waterfowl season conspired to keep *Montgomery's* species count to a relatively low 198 for spring 2016 compared to the average for the previous three spring seasons of 210.

Arguably the best find of the season was a female **Western Tanager** photographed at a feeder in Cheltenham 3/27 (RI, doc. submitted). Sadly, it was a one-day wonder.

**Snow Goose** reports were light, with the majority occurring as flyovers (m.ob.). These included a high of 770 at Pennsburg 3/9 (PH), observed alongside an estimated 5700 flyover **Canada Geese** (the period high count, by thousands, for this species). The first Snow Goose actually noted on the water at GLP wasn't until the late date of 5/12 (GF). The only **Cackling Geese** reported were a pair at Loch Alsh Reservoir in Ambler 3/10 (AA). There were just 3 reports of **Tundra Swan**, with the highest count 14 at GLP 3/9 (LH).

A late male **Blue-winged Teal** was at GLP 5/7 (KR). Few **Northern Shovelers** were observed, but a pair lingered at GLP until at least 5/15 (KR). A male **Redhead** was observed on a pond near Perkiomenville 3/2-7 (PG, AC). The northern tier saw a strong **Ring-necked Duck** presence in mid-Mar, including counts of 248 at GLP 3/13 (PB), 230 at GLP 3/20 (PD), 213 at UCV's Skymount Park 3/19 (SK, et al.), and 203 at GLP the same day (LH). There was some speculation that the large flock was moving back and forth between Skymount and GLP - the two locations are only about 5 miles apart - but it could just as easily have been two similarly-sized groups. Three **Greater Scaup** were at GLP 3/19 (SK, et al.), with one sticking around until the following day (PD). A late **Lesser Scaup** was noted on the Schuylkill R. at Flat Rock Park 4/30, a stone's throw from *Philadelphia* (WBH).

A male **Long-tailed Duck** was seen at GLP 4/7 (GF). A pair of late, female-type **Buffleheads** were at GLP 5/7 (WBH). A male/female pair of **Hooded Mergansers** was seen at GLP through at least 5/14 (m.ob.), but no breeding evidence was obtained. Another late Hooded Merganser was seen in the UCV 5/14 (SG). **Common Merganser** breeding was confirmed once again when 9 juveniles were seen at GLP 5/7 (KR). Single female **Red-breasted Mergansers** were noted on 3 non-consecutive days at GLP 4/3-11 (KR, PD, PH), the only reports.

Oddly enough, the period high count of **Wild Turkey** was not from one of the usual turkey hotbeds, but from the UCV 3/5, when a group of 23 strolled through TR's yard, his first time encountering them there. A couple vocal **Common Loons** were noted at GLP on the somewhat late date of 5/28 (MR). **Pied-billed Grebe** was spotted at GLP as late as 5/20 (SG). A single **Horned Grebe** was at GLP 5/1 (KC) after 3 were reported there 4/3 (KR). A **Red-necked Grebe** in stunning alternate plumage was photographed at GLP 5/8 (PB).

Single **American Bitterns** were spotted at GLP 4/20 (GF), SGL 234 on 4/23 (PB), and Norristown Farm Park on the relatively late date of 5/15 (PK, m.ob.). Solitary adult **Black-crowned Night-Herons** provided nice finds in Horsham 5/7 (KM, MM) and at Ambler's Four Mills Nature Reserve 5/14 (MRo). Fifty-six **Black Vultures** over GLP 3/18 represented a good count for the area (LH). Hatfield's leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was observed with its "normal" presumed mate 5/30 (KR).

Two **Soras** were discovered at SGL 234 on 5/14 (PB). A solo **Semipalmated Plover** was at WWP 5/18 (PB). The only other slightly unusual shorebird migrant, a **Dunlin**, was detected at GLP 4/20 (RM). Nine **Wilson's Snipe** popped out of one of the wetland mitigation areas at Norristown Farm Park 3/25, a new high count for the park (WBH).

There were 3 widely-separated reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** at GLP: one adult 3/19 (SK, et al.), 2 adults 4/19 (GF), and a single immature 5/7 (GF, KR). Two noisy adult **Laughing Gulls** were observed flying over Elkins Park 5/22 (PD). An immature **Herring Gull** was spied from the Cynwyd Heritage Trail in Bala Cynwyd 4/30 (GG, SP). Bala Cynwyd was also the site of one of only two **Great Black-backed Gull** reports, 3/1 (MCo). The other, a sub-adult, was at nearby Flat Rock Park 4/30 (WBH). Although late by general *Montgomery* standards, this area is close to the Delaware R., where breeding-season Great Black-backs are more expected.

It seemed to be another decent season for **Black-billed Cuckoo**, with reports logged from at least 6 different locations 4/30-5/14 (m.ob.). **Barred Owls** were noted in 6 locations, spread throughout the county (m.ob.). A minimum of 10 **Common Nighthawks** were seen at Skymount Park 5/21 (WBH), the high count. An estimated 180 **Chimney Swifts** were reported

from the Cynwyd Heritage Trail 4/30 (GG, SP). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** of the season showed up slightly early, at Wayne 4/21 (EP).

At least 5 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were noted at assorted locations, most in the north end of the county (m.ob.). One or 2 were seen at GLP several times 5/14-22 (SF, EF, CF, m.ob.). **Pileated Woodpecker** was widely-reported. Although generally rare within the heavily-developed Norristown/King of Prussia/Plymouth Meeting area, a Pileated made a thirty second appearance in East Norriton 4/24 (WBH). It is likely that **Peregrine Falcons** attempted to nest along the Schuylkill R. in Norristown again (m.ob.). Unfortunately for the humans trying to confirm this, the suspected nesting area was in a spot that was near-impossible to view. If procreation was indeed attempted, the result was, disappointingly, failure. No juveniles were ever spotted.

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at Haverford College 5/8 (SJ, KJ) and PERT 5/24 (PD). Two **Alder Flycatchers** were at GLP's Church Rd. 5/17 (ML). At least one of appeared to be setting up territory, with reports continuing through the end of the period (m.ob., vr.). Another Alder was at GLP's Knight Rd. 5/28 (PD) and one was also at ESP 5/28 (WBH, vr.). A big push of migrant **Blue Jays** was observed at VFNHP 5/8, with at least 139 counted flying over, including a flock of 60 (WBH). A murder of 34 **Fish Crows** was seen/heard in Maple Glen 3/5 (AA). **Common Ravens**, becoming more common with each passing year, were observed at a minimum of 13 locations, spread across the county (m.ob.).

Eighty **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were noted feeding over the Schuylkill at VFNHP 5/1 (EF). A **Tree Swallow** showed up about a week early at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 3/1 (PH). A healthy number of reports of as many as 10 **Bank Swallows** were logged from a half dozen locations (m.ob.). A hundred **Barn Swallows** at GLP 5/3 was above average for the date in recent years (GF). One or two **Cliff Swallows** were seen semi-regularly at the WWP 5/4-18 (AA, m.ob.). At least one of this species, uncommon-to-rare in *Montgomery* in recent times, was noted at GLP 5/7 (WBH). In exciting potential-breeder news, a Cliff Swallow was observed gathering mud next to a GLP bridge 5/30 (PH, m.ob.).

A **Marsh Wren** sang its head off at GLP 5/3-8 (GF, m.ob.). Another Marsh Wren, or possibly the same, was also seen there 5/17 (ML). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was more than a week earlier than typical at ESP 3/24 (JH). There were no confirmed reports of either Black-capped Chickadee or Red-breasted Nuthatch. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were observed in at least 5 locations, including 3 at Lorimer Park 5/14 (PD). That same outing at Lorimer Park also netted 14 **Swainson's Thrushes**, the season's high count (PD). Leucistic **American Robins** were seen at PERT 3/23 (LA, et al.) and West Norriton 4/9 (BM). In both cases, the robin had a washed-out red breast, but entirely white plumage otherwise.

Several early **Gray Catbirds** were found, most early enough to indicate that they probably overwintered in the region (m.ob.). The earliest of these was a pair found at SGL 234 on 3/6 (KR). An early **Brown Thrasher** was located at Crossways Preserve 3/1 (MRo). An **American Pipit** was reported at WWP 4/27 (AA), rather late for this species in *Montgomery*.

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was observed at ESP 5/5 (EF). A **Prothonotary Warbler** lingered at an atypical, upland location at FWSP 5/10-14 (PB, SP). It seemed to be a good spring for the spruce budworm specialists, with **Tennessee, Bay-breasted** and **Cape May Warblers** reported more widely than normal, each from at least 7 locations (m.ob.). A **Mourning Warbler** was found in an East Norriton yard 5/14, and another 5/24 (both WBH). A Mourning Warbler was also recorded at PERT 5/20 (PD). There was an unusually high number of **Hooded Warbler** reports 4/30-5/24, mostly from PERT and FWSP (m.ob.). A **Cerulean Warbler** was seen at FWSP 5/13 (DB).

Early **Blackpoll Warblers** popped up in several locations across southeastern PA, including single birds at Norristown Farm Park 4/28 and at Norristown Dam 4/30 (both WBH). The overwintering **Yellow-throated Warbler** in Skippack remained as things warmed up, and continued to be seen semi-regularly through the end of the period, despite no longer being dependent on suet for sustenance (GB). A Yellow-throated Warbler had returned to GLP by 4/13 (PD) and heard singing, sporadically, through the end of the period (m.ob.). Another was seen in the UCV's Fulshaw Craig Preserve 5/22 (SG). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at GLP 5/13-14 (JT).

As many as 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were observed in the Graterford Prison grasslands 4/23-5/14 (m.ob.), a location that has previously hosted a small breeding population. A single Grasshopper Sparrow was noted at Dixon Meadow Preserve 5/3 (KB). There were several early reports of **Chipping Sparrows** (m.ob.). These included one in Maple Glen 3/11-13 (AA) and a pair at Crossways Preserve 3/11 (MRo). A leucistic **Dark-eyed Junco** by ESP 4/16 had white wings and tail (EF). Another, pale all over, persisted from the winter until 3/25 in Collegetville (MAC).

An early **Indigo Bunting** made an appearance in Lower Merion 4/23 (JW). Reports of migrant **Rusty Blackbirds** were lean, and none of them

numbered more than 5 individuals (m.ob.).

After a dud of a winter finch season, it's no surprise that few continued into spring. **Purple Finch** was the most abundant of these species, but was far from common. They were reported from only 8 locations (m.ob.), with a high count of just 6, tallied in the UCV 4/2 (TR). A **Common Redpoll** was heard in Elkins Park 4/10 (PD). **Pine Siskins** were very localized, guests at select venues only. One or two were reported infrequently in a Haverford yard 3/2-4/11 (WS). As many as 12 were noted in Schwenksville, almost daily through 4/28 (MC). An East Greenville residence had a wintering flock regularly through 4/9, with a high of 10 on 3/19-20 (JG). A solo siskin was observed again at this location on the late date of 5/7 (JG).

**ADDENDUM:** A late report was received of an immature **Golden Eagle** at GLP 1/27 (KC).

Observers: **W. Brian Henderson, 2408 Swede Rd, Norristown, PA 19401, (610) 505-5571, wbhenderson@gmail.com**, Andrew Albright, Leigh Altadonna, Dave Belford, Paul Bernhardt, Kevin Berkoff, Ginger Bruntrager, Mary Ann Clayton, Marcia Clouser, Mike Coulter (MCo), Kevin Crilley, Andy Curtis, Paul Driver, George Franchois, Carolina Fraser, Eliza Fraser, Scott Fraser, Scott Godshall, Gregg Gorton, Joe Greco, Paul Guris, Jason Hall, Paul Heveran, Len Hillegass, Robin Irizarry, Kristen Johnson, Sheryl Johnson, Stephen Kacir, Paul Krepto, Michael Lyman, Robert Megraw, Bill Moses, Karen Musselman, Mike Musselman, Edie Parnum, Samuel Perloff, Madelyne Ray, Trevor Redding, Kenneth Rieker, Margaret Rohde (MRO), Win Shafer, Jaime Thomas, Jason Weckstein.

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### Montour County

No compiler.

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### Northampton County

Locations: East Bangor Dam (EBD), Jacobsburg State Park (JSP), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Minsi Lake (ML), Monacacy Nature Center (MNC), National Park Road (NPR).

Birders did very well at finding a high number (221) of species during spring migration. The number of rare species found was more than normally expected and included **Cattle Egret**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Common Gallinule**, **Willet**, **Wilson's Phalarope**, and **Black-headed Grosbeak**. A few stormy days helped contribute to the 15 shorebird species reported. An impressive 35 species of warbler were observed.

Waterfowl numbers for Mar/Apr were imposing. A **Ross's Goose**, a **Cackling Goose**, and 24 **Tundra Swans** were on Nazareth Quarry 3/10 (MSa). Another Cackling Goose was at Becker Farm Pond 3/4 (BE). Up to 4 **Blue-winged Teal** were seen by many at Green Pond 4/3-16. An unusually high number, 13 **Northern Shovelers** were at MCEP 5/4 (BW). The important fact to note with many of the waterfowl sightings I reference in this report is that weather almost always is a factor in the uncommon observances made in the county.

Two **Surf Scoters** were at Echo lake 4/12 (MSa) and a **White-winged Scoter** was at MCEP 5/7-14 (RR). **Long-tailed Ducks** were seen at Nazareth Quarry 3/28 (MSa, BE) and 4/12 (MS), and at ML 3/28 (MSa). The scoters and Long-tailed Ducks probably would not have been seen if a rainy weather system had not hit the area. There was a high count of 34 **Ruddy Ducks** at Nazareth Quarry 3/25 (MS).

Weather was also responsible for 73 **Common Loons** and a **Red-throated Loon** down at ML 4/7 (MSa). Another Red-throated Loon was on the Delaware R. at Riverton 4/7 (MSa).

An **American Bittern** was flushed at MNC 4/26 and another was seen at EBD 4/21-25 (MSa). A **Cattle Egret** was found at Seiples farm pond 5/29 (BE) but it didn't stay long – it was re-found an hour later at Silver Crest Rd. pond (MS, CCS). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was heard calling as it flew over the woods near EBD 5/8 (MS, CCS). The overnight storm on 5/4 resulted in sightings of **Glossy Ibis** at ML (MSa) and at the Tatamy exit retention ponds (JH). A **Sora** was found at EBD 5/3 (MSa, BW). **Common Gallinule** is a rare sighting in this county and birders would expect to find one on a pond or lake – one turned up at a boat launch on the Delaware R. at the MCEP 5/7 (RR).

Several retention ponds have been built off the Rt. 33 Tatamy exit alongside some massive warehouses over the last two years. Four **Black-bellied Plovers** were reported there 5/4 (MSa) and a high count of 17 **Semipalmated Plovers** were there 5/25 (MSa). These new ponds are located along Main St. and Van Buren Rd. in Palmer Twp. between Nazareth and Tatamy. This site had a **Dunlin** 4/7 (MSa), 11 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 3/23 (BE), and a high of 77 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/30

(MS). A rare **Willet** put down at the St. Lukes Anderson Campus retention pond 5/3 (BW, MSa) and a female **Wilson's Phalarope** was at the same location 5/30 (BW). The Willet and phalarope were the result of storms.

The only gull of note was an **Iceland Gull** at ML 4/5-7 (MSa). Like some shorebirds, terns are typically found in the county as a result of poor weather. Seven **Caspian Terns** and 2 **Common Terns** were found at ML 5/3 (MSa). Then on 5/4, a high of 12 Caspians plus one Common were seen at ML (MSa). You had to be there during the rain, because the terns, as is typical, stayed only a few hours. Less than 10 miles away at Martins Creek Quarry, 4 Caspian Terns were seen late in the afternoon 5/4 (MS).

**Northampton** is usually lucky to get a migrant **Red-headed Woodpecker** but this year was exceptional. The wintering bird on Valley View Rd. was seen until at least 3/10 (MSa). Adult individuals were seen at feeders in Bushkill Twp. 5/8 (TM) and in Plainfield Twp. 5/25 (KR). An adult pair spent the entire period at a private residence in Upper Mt. Bethel Twp. (MSa). We shall see if nesting occurred.

Uncommon spring flycatchers include an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at JSP 5/25 (MSa) and at MNC 5/17 (LF) and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Mt. Bethel Fens 5/18 (MSa). A late spring **Least Flycatcher** was at Bear Swamp 5/28 (MSa). On 5/14, **Philadelphia Vireo** was found at Mt. Bethel Fens and on NPR of the Delaware Water Gap NRA (MSa, BW). An early **Tree Swallow** was seen at JSP 3/10 (RW). At Bear Swamp, a **Brown Creeper** was seen 5/30 (SK). The reporters of the Least Flycatcher and Brown Creeper each noted that the habitat could support nesting for these species.

Observers found 35 species of warbler and one hybrid during the period. The hybrid was a **Brewster's Warbler** on NPR seen 4/30 and 5/7 at the same spot on NPR (RR). A male **Golden-winged Warbler** was found on NPR 4/27-28 (MSa, BW). **Prothonotary Warbler** is a rare nester in the county and a male heard singing at Bear Swamp 5/28-29 (MSa) offers hope of nesting. **Orange-crowned Warbler** is another uncommon bird that birders hope to see in spring - birds were seen at Mt. Bethel Fens 4/25-29 (MSa, BW), MNC 4/26 (MS), and at JSP 5/9 (MSa) and 5/17 (RW). Another highly sought after spring migrant is **Mourning Warbler** - individuals found at Mt Bethel Fens 5/11 and 17 (MSa, BW), JSP 5/20 (RW), and MNC 5/25 (LF). The only **Kentucky Warbler** reported was a singing male on Mountain Rd. near Smith Gap 5/26 (MS). This species has been an uncommon nester in the county. **Yellow-breasted Chat** is a former nester; a male found at MCEP 5/21 (MSa) that continued into June offers hope of nesting.

The 2 **Clay-colored Sparrows** visiting a feeder in Pen Argyl during the winter continued into early Apr (B & RH). The male **Black-headed Grosbeak** that showed up at a private feeder on Springtown Hill Rd. in Hellertown 3/12, straddling the *Northampton/Bucks* line was last seen 4/22 (D & EM). When I saw the bird 4/16, it was molting and its head was almost entirely black. An early **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen at the Koch property in Williams Twp. 4/22 (AK). There was a flyby **Blue Grosbeak** at JSP 5/9 (SK, DH). In Bangor, 3 **Common Redpolls** were seen in a backyard 3/15 (SA), significant considering how few reports were in PA this spring.

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N. Chestnut St., Bath, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Scott Angus, Bill Etter, Linda Freedman, Bill & Regina Hobbs (B & RH), Jason Horn, Diane Husic, Stephen Kloiber, Arlene Koch, Terry Master, Don & Elaine Mease (D & EM), Rich Rehrig, Kathy Romano, Matthew Sabatine (MSa), Corinne Campbell Schall (CCS), Billy Weber, Rick Wiltraut.

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### Northumberland County

No compiler.

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### Perry County

Locations: Little Buffalo State Park (LBSP), State Game Lands 170 (SGL 170), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF).

March was fairly warm but relatively dry. April remained dry but cooler. May remained mostly cool but wetter.

A **Mute Swan** was on the Warm Spring along Warm Springs Rd. 3/13 (VG), the second consecutive year this species has been reported there during the spring season. The only other eBird reports of likely non-captive birds in *Perry* are of one at LBSP 3/13-4/25/2013 (SJ) and one at Millerstown 11/29/2014 (TR).

There were up to 5 **Blue-winged Teal** reported from LBSP 4/4-9 (VG, BS), a first eBird record at this location. There are but 2 other all-time eBird records for this species in *Perry*, one from Muddy Run Marsh in Loysville and one at Millerstown Community Park. Records from Duncannon and

Marysville along the Susquehanna R. probably refer to birds technically in *Dauphin* as the whole of the river is in that county.

One **Redhead** was at LBSP 3/22 (VG), only the fourth report in *Perry*, and only the second spring report, and second at LBSP. The previous report from LBSP was on 12/10/2013 (SJ). Two **Common Goldeneyes** were on the Juniata R. between Newport and Millerstown 3/8 (VG), the fifth eBird record for this species on this section of the Juniata. The only other eBird records (2) are at LBSP. Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at LBSP 4/3 (VG); this species was not reported in *Perry* on eBird in 2014-15.

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard at LBSP 5/9 (VG) and 5/29 (EB, CK). LBSP is the only location in *Perry* from which this far less common of the cuckoo species was reported from this year. There was one **Least Flycatcher** reported from Lamb's Gap 5/5 (VG, AM), one at SGL 170 on 5/8 (AM, RK), and 2 on Laurel Run Rd. in TSF 5/10 (AM, SS). The only **Cliff Swallow** was seen at LBSP 5/1 (JD). The only **Swainson's Thrush** was found at LBSP 5/29 (CK).

One **Golden-winged Warbler** was reported at Bryner Rd. in TSF 4/27 (VG, DK) and again 5/9 (TN, m.ob.). This is the only site that I currently know of in *Perry* where this species breeds. In 2015 there were up to 5 singing males present and breeding was confirmed by a female carrying food. This year, only one singing male was reported. A **Brewster's Warbler** hybrid was seen at LBSP 5/29 (EB). Historically both winged-warblers have bred at this location, though currently only Blue-wings breed.

Among the **Cape May Warblers** reported was one at Bryner Rd. TSF 4/27 (VG). This represents an early date for this species in *Perry* with the prior earliest date in eBird being 5/5/2011 at Miller's Gap (RK). To wrap up warblers of note, 2 male **Kentucky Warblers** were singing at Laurel Run Rd. in TSF 5/9-14 (VG, AM, SS). Although it is likely that this species breeds in appropriate habitat in other locations on the north and south ridges of *Perry*, this is the only known current location.

One **Rusty Blackbird** was found at Valley Rd. Marysville 4/16 (KC) and another at LBSP 4/21 (NR) - this species has not been reported annually in *Perry*. Two **Purple Finches** were at SGL 170 in Duncannon 4/24 (VG, AM), the only sighting of this species from the winter of 2016 in a non-invasion year. Nine **Pine Siskins** at Bryner Rd. in TSF 3/26 (VG) provided a good count for a non-invasion year.

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Ed Bernot, Emily Boyd, Ken Copenhaver, Jim Dunn, Steve Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Dave Kerr, Ramsay Koury, Annette Mathes, Ted Nichols II, Nina Rego, Timothy Reichard, Becky Shaw, Sue Strassner.

## Philadelphia County

Locations: Bartram's Garden (BG), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware River (DR), Delaware River Trail (DRT), 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), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

An Internet weather report called this April a "sharp, prolonged siege of Arctic air which shattered daily, even April monthly records in the Northeast." Early migrants endured 14 consecutive days of rain, snow showers on April 9, and a string of nights with temperatures below freezing. The death toll for early migrants, particularly obligate aerial insectivores such as **Purple Martin**, was the largest since hurricane Agnes in 1972. Dozens of banded dead martins were recovered including several 6- and 7-year-olds. Even some 8-year-old experienced birds did not survive the extremes. Not one hatchling banded in spring of 2015 was recovered.

This spring's notable migrant was a singing **Summer Tanager** on the Lavender Trail in WC, just north of Towanda St. 5/11 (TF, AR, JZ, BH, audio). This tanager was the byproduct of a 5 AM search for 2 Barred Owls discovered in the area for all to see. Remarkably, a well photographed second Summer Tanager, a first spring male, was found just three days later at BG, ten miles south of WC, where it remained 5/14-18 (EO, m.ob., ph.). A new record was set by the BirdPhilly team topping their 2014 Big Day record of 114 species with 118 species within the city limits of Philadelphia 5/15 (AR, TF, JZ).

**Tundra Swans** often fly over Philly, but 3 resting on the impoundment at TI 3/2-8 were uncommon (m.ob.). Waterfowl numbers were normal or slightly below average with a few notable differences from recent springs. A Mar count of 150 **Wood Ducks** at TI was very high 3/27 (DB). Two

**Northern Shovelers** 5/7 (TC) were a little later than usual as was a **Northern Pintail** at TI 4/23. Diving ducks were less abundant and were able to leave earlier in Mar given the unusually mild weather at that time. Although mergansers were less abundant, 2 **Common Mergansers** were at TI 5/19 (PK), one was seen in flight 5/21 (AR), and a single was still present 5/28 (JF). A **Red-breasted Merganser** at GF 3/27 (TC) and a **Red-throated Loon** at POD 4/8 (JM) were the only ones seen. Two flights of **Double-crested Cormorant** totaling 700 birds were noted over TI 4/24 (DO, FW) and 150 were moving northward 5/14 (MD). The last **Great Cormorant** was reported on the DR 4/17 (DMo).

**American Bittern** was first reported along the edge of the TI impoundment 3/27-4/2 and presumably another bird rested there 4/23-30 (m.ob., ph.). **Least Bittern** arrived 4/23 (AR, TF) and stayed to breed. An adult **Little Blue Heron**, common to the south in Delaware, was the only Philly sighting 4/26 (JM). Among 3 reports of **Glossy Ibis** was one of 16 flying over Moyamensing and Third Sts. 5/8 (GA).

**Virginia Rails** stopped at TI 4/10 (BM, ph.) and 5/10 (AR, JZ, GA) A **Sora** lingered 4/16-30 and 3 were found 5/9-11 (m.ob.). Shorebird migration was limited to a few species with low numbers, 11 **Least Sandpiper** being the largest group and the only species found at several tidal areas along the DR. First to arrive were **Greater Yellowlegs** 3/29 (BK) and **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/16 (AM). Our breeding **Spotted Sandpiper** came 4/20 (FW). At the MA wetland, 5 **Solitary Sandpipers** provided a good find 4/30 (KJ, KR). Usually present in small numbers at TI and FDR, a group of 10 **Wilson's Snipe** was a good sighting 3/12 (JM).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** migrated in early Apr, with 7 seen at TI 4/3 (MH, NS, TC) and 14 at DRT 4/12 (AR). A flock of 111 **Laughing Gulls** was on the move 4/24 (DO) and a departing **Iceland Gull** was at GF 3/27 where 4 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** also rested on the DR (TC).

The tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma americanum*) abundance might foretell an exceptional breeding year for cuckoos. Certainly, a dozen **Black-billed Cuckoos** seen at multiple locations were more than twice the normal number of sightings and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was also more abundant. The northwest section of the city hosted 2 great finds, a **Barred Owl** pair seen along the WC and presumed to be breeders; and a visitor posted a photo of a **Long-eared Owl** taken at TI 3/27 that was noted by LR and identified by GA. Small numbers of **Common Nighthawks** are found in May migration over natural areas such as WC, FP and TI, but also over the flat roofed row homes in South Philly where they are likely to nest. Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** at the Awbury Arboretum were recorded 4/19-20 (BR, RI).

**Least Flycatchers** were at GF, FDR and BG in May as expected, but a minimum of four were at TI for several days each (m.ob.). An early arrival of note was **Warbling Vireo** at the Manayunk Canal 4/17 (KJ).

Late Apr brought the first **Veery** to TI 4/21 (FW) and **Swainson's Thrush** reached peak migration in mid-May, but with far fewer birds than usual, at CW where 6 were seen 5/14-18 (AB, MS, KR, MD) and in Houston Meadow where 5 were found 5/15 (LJ). However, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, always less numerous, had only 2 records, a bird at TI 5/10 (FW) and second at CW 5/14-16 (KR, AB, MS, HP). By 4/10, an **American Robin** at TI was on a nest incubating 4 eggs (MH). **Hermit Thrush** was widespread and numerous through late May.

There were excellent warbler flights with 20 species or more on 5/6-8, 5/14 and 5/20. On 5/7, birders at TI reported 22 **Ovenbirds** (DO), 4 **Worm-eating Warblers**, 4 **Blue-winged Warblers** (DO, TF), 14 **Black-and-white Warblers**, and 3 **Hooded Warblers** (TF), with another 2 of the latter at WC (JM).

A **Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler** (hybrid) in CW 5/6 looked most like a Golden-wing, but sang the "bee-bzzz" of the Blue-wing (AB, MS). The first of 2 male **Prothonotary Warblers** briefly sang and explored **Tree Swallow** nest boxes at TI 5/11 (SB, JL) and 5/24-25 (GV, KS). Water-based nest boxes periodically attract male Prothonotaries who fail to entice a female to stay and nest. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** that overwintered with a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at pond's edge at FDR stayed through 4/11 (JM, AR). A male **Mourning Warbler** visited TI 5/14-16 (FW, MD) and 5/25-26 (GV, m.ob.).

**Yellow-throated Warbler** was singing from an island in the SR 4/9 (RI, HP) and at Lemon Hill in FP 5/10 (HP). Among the spruce budworm *Choristoneura fumiferana* (Clemens) specialists, only **Cape May Warbler** was abundant. Three were at TI after 5/8 (HP) and 6 were present by 5/14 (GV, NS). Two more in CW (KR) and 2 were at BG 5/14-16 (AR, BM, KB). The declining **Cerulean Warbler** was seen at TI 5/5 (AR) and only heard at the Tree House in WC 5/6 (TC). An early migrant, **Pine Warbler** is also a lingerer in Philly 3/10-5/20 and at least 2 stayed to breed. **Yellow-breasted Chat** was scarce as usual but migrants at FDR 5/15-20 (AR, MD, HP) and at TI 5/11 (JM) suggest that some changes in habitat might induce them to breed again in the county.

Sparrows of note included an excellent find at POD, a **Grasshopper Sparrow** that allowed great views at close range 5/4 (JM). In the field with it

were 28 **Savannah Sparrows** and 4 **Bobolinks** (JM). **Lincoln's Sparrow**, either one lingering or different individuals, was at TI 4/17, 4/24, and 5/10-20 (KB, BM, TF, JM); and also at BG 5/15 (BM, KB, AR, GA). A larger than average group of 5 **White-crowned Sparrows** was at TI 4/24 (LR). Northeast Airport, where the season's only **Horned Lark** was seen 4/13, is the traditional spot for **Eastern Meadowlark**, of which 5 were found 4/13-14 (FW, DO, RI). Not far from this airport at POD a meadowlark was seen 3/26 (DO), but the newest location for these grassland birds is the abandoned Island Green golf course, about 250 acres that have been untouched for about five years, where 2 pairs of meadowlarks were found 4/17 and 3 were located 5/21 (AR).

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484 mcgovern100@comcast.net**, George Armistead, Sylvia Beck, Debbie Beer, Anne Bekker, Kristi Buchholz, Tony Croasdale, Martin Dellwo, Todd Fellenbaum, John Finch, Al Guarente, Matt Halley, Brian Henderson, Lynn Jackson, Ken Januski, Beth Kurtz, Peter Kurtz, Robin Irazary, Judy Lin, Jim McConnell, Brian McMahon, Adrian Melck, Denis Mora (DMO), Damon Orsetti, Emily Ostrow, Holger Pflücke, Bill Reaume, Ann Reeves, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Navin Sasikumar, Karen Schwager, Jerene Shroeder, Kate Somerville, Michael Sonkowsky, Geoff Veith, Peter Volkmar, Frank Windfelder, Jamie Zigarelli.

### Pike County

Pike County is under birded, one of those Pennsylvania hot spots that people miss out on. Waterfowl do not get reported much, likely because no one is looking. It is actually hard to get **Snow Goose** in *Pike* – but 400 were seen flying over Greentown, south of Lake Tangwood 3/10 (RL, SL). Snow Geese do migrate over *Pike* but apparently don't like to use its lakes as a resting stop.

A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flew over Pine Flats Rd., which is in Delaware State Forest 5/13 (MS, CCS). A male **Northern Harrier** was seen along Rt. 209 by the Old Heller Farm (within the Delaware Water Gap NRA) 3/21 (SD). At Beaver Run Pond, 2 **Soras** were heard calling 5/24 (CCS). Migrant shorebirds are difficult to find, so a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Promised Land SP 5/27 is noteworthy (RJ).

There was a good push of **Common Nighthawks** migrating over the Delaware Water Gap NRA 5/14 with 10 seen at the Dingmans Ferry Bridge and 27 seen at the Flying Hawks Airfield (MS, CCS). Five Common Nighthawks were seen at the Pocono Environmental Education Center 5/21 (DT). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** is a nesting species doing well in *Pike*. Several nocturnal bird trips in Delaware State Forest were quite successful, producing 16 Whip-poor-wills along Hobday Rd. 5/10 (RJ) and 6 on High-Line Rd. 5/13 (MS, CCS).

**Philadelphia Vireo** is scarce anywhere in Pennsylvania in spring so a bird seen 5/20 in Greentown represented a good find (RL, SL). Two **Brown Creepers** and 2 **Winter Wrens** were found in a large stand of mature pines next to the Old Heller Farm 4/20 (BS, TM). Perhaps these species will nest here.

*Pike* Birders observed 26 species of warbler for the season. Birders travel to *Pike* to look for **Golden-winged Warblers**, which are fairly easy to find in May and Jun. The timber harvests along Flat Ridge Rd. and Snow Hill Rd. are two popular areas for finding Golden-wings - on 5/14, birders had 11 on Flat Ridge Rd. (MS, CCS) and on 5/21, 13 Golden-wings and a Brewster's Warbler were tallied on Snow Hill Rd. (MS, CCS).

A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was located on the Two Ponds Trail at the Pocono Environmental Education Center 5/14 (MS, CCS). Four **Pine Siskins** were at a feeder in Paupac 4/18 (PT).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St., Bath, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Stephanie Dalke, Ryan Johnson, Randy Laporte, Sandy Laporte, Terry Master, Corinne Campbell Schall, Brandon Swayser, David Trently, Peter Trueblood.

### Potter County

No compiler.

### Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Kelayres Reclaimed Minelands (KRM), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary North Lookout (HMS), Landingville Dam (LVD), Lebanon Reservoir (LR), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Still Creek Reservoir (SCR), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tamaqua High School Area (THS), Tumbling Run

Reservoir (TRR), Tuscarora State Park (TSP), West Deerview Drive (WDD).

Weather through the reporting period was a bit inverted. We experienced a rather warm and dry April but a cool and wet May. Overall, the spring migration period was typical with two notable occurrences - waterfowl numbers were very low and a number of very uncommon species for the county were seen.

*Schuylkill* has no large water bodies that attract good numbers of ducks. The lakes we have range from farm ponds to medium size municipal reservoirs. The reservoirs are in steep valleys so they generally lack extensive shallow zones that support aquatic vegetation. With some minor exceptions, what waterfowl we get are few in number and range from uncommon to occasional to rare. This year, the mild temperatures in Mar and an abundance of open water allowed waterfowl to move through early and faster than normal.

A pair of tagged **Trumpeter Swans** (Z603 and Z675) appeared this spring, a species not previously seen in *Schuylkill*. Overall, 3 tagged birds were found in the region; one was also seen in both *Cumberland* and *Adams*, while the other 2 set down in *Schuylkill*. They first appeared in the SAL region 3/22 (*vide* AL) and were reported off and on through 5/2. **Tundra Swans**, uncommon in the county, were seen in only 3 locations, last on 3/15, a month earlier than last year. Six were at SSP 3/4 (BR), 57 at SGL 227 on 3/9 (TB), and 7 at LVD 3/15 (DR).

**Gadwalls** are occasional; the only one found was at APWS 3/21 (JoD). **American Wigeons** are uncommon but can be seen on many county lakes. This year they appeared in very small numbers at 2 locations, both in the south. Three were at LVD 3/6 (DR) and 2 were seen 3/14-23 at SSP (BR, DD). The only **Blue-winged Teal** were at LVD where small numbers were found 4/8-5/9 (DR, DH). Reports of **Northern Pintail** were limited to single birds at LVD 3/6-8 (DR, JoD) and SSP 3/16 (BR). This late date is more than a month earlier than last year. **Green-winged Teal** were also reported in small numbers (individuals and pairs) at SSP (BR, JD), LVD (DR, TB) and SCR (JD) 3/24-5/3.

**Ring-necked Duck**, common in *Schuylkill*, was pretty uncommon this year. Aside from 3 found 4/2 on a small farm pond near the fairgrounds in the southern portion of the county (RR), all other reports were from the north, found at APWS (JoD), SCR (JD), LLSP (TB), and TSP 3/9-4/6 (JoD, DR). For the second consecutive year, a **Greater Scaup** was found, this one at SCR 3/11 (JoD). Last year's bird, the first in many years, was found a month later, also in the northern portion of the county. **Buffleheads**, an uncommon species, were also only found to the north this year with a high count of 4 at any location 3/17-4/18, typical dates. Buffleheads were reported at LLSP (TB), #8 Reservoir near McAdoo (JD), SCR (JD), TSP (JoD), and APWS (JD, JoD).

**Hooded Mergansers** were reported in small numbers. Pairs were found at SCR 3/11 (JD), SSP 3/15 (BR), and at LLSP 4/13 (TB). The most consistent location was APWS where single birds or pairs were seen 4/1-5/5 (JD, JoD). **Common Mergansers** have become more common over the last five years with breeding records in two of the last three. This year, reports were limited to SSP (BR), LVD (DR), and SAL (JaD, DD) 3/2-4/18. All these locations are in the southern part of the county and the late date is a month earlier than the five-year average. A single **Red-breasted Merganser**, a species not seen annually, was at LLSP 4/22-30 (TB). Also, a single **Ruddy Duck** at SCR 3/11 and again 4/8 provided the only report of this species (JD). Two **Horned Grebes**, occasional in the county, seen at SCR 3/22 (JD) represented the only report.

We average one **American Bittern** a year in the county. This year we had 2, thus doubling our average - reported at SSP 4/5 (BR) and APWS 5/10-11 (JoD). The first eBird county record of **Least Bittern** was entered this spring when one was seen and photographed at SSP 5/13 (MF, MS). The only **Great Egret** was at LVD 5/14 (DR). The first **Black-crowned Night-Heron** in 4 years was found at APWS 5/4 (JoD, JD), the same location as the last one reported, in 2012. Also at APWS, 6 **Glossy Ibis** were reported 5/6-7 (JD, JoD), the first reported in recent history away from the north lookout at HMS.

**Bald Eagles** continued their presence, reported at most of the larger reservoirs along with numerous reports from HMS (m.ob.). Of special note, one of the 3 confirmed eagle nesting pairs in *Schuylkill* successfully hatched 2 eaglets this year (DD). There is an unconfirmed report of a fourth nest in the Hegins area that has yet to be verified. No **Peregrine Falcons** were reported moving past HMS but one was reported at KRM 4/26 (JD) and a second in Wayne Twp. 4/30 (SW).

Rare in the county, a **Sora** was reported at SSP 5/24 (IG), the first report in the county since 2007. **Common Gallinule** is considered "accidental", thus the second one in three years was a surprise - found at SSP 5/9-11 (BR). At LVD, two **Semipalmated Plovers** were found on the mudflats 5/9 (DR). **Least Sandpipers** were at LVD 5/9 and 5/14 (DR) and KRM 5/24 (JD, JoD). Rare here, a **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at LVD 4/11

(DR).

For the third year in a row, 3 species of gulls were noted. A single **Bonaparte's Gull**, considered 'occasional', was reported at THS 3/18 (FD). **Ring-billed Gulls** considered 'uncommon', were anything but, reported at 5 different locations 3/14-4/15, including LVD (DR), SCR (JD), SSP (BR), THS (FD), and 1-81 Exit 112 (JD). **Herring Gulls**, also considered 'uncommon', were at THS 3/18 (FD) and at LVD, where single birds were reported 3/6, 3/10 and 3/12 (DR). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited a feeder on WDD 5/5 (TW). Two days later another report came from Wayne Twp. (BC), about three miles to the north of the first report. Due to the occasional nature of this bird in the county, there's a good chance it was the same bird.

Thirty-one warbler species were found, one more than last year. The overall warbler migration was fairly typical with a few notable species. The only record for **Prothonotary Warbler** was at SSP 5/1 (BR). For the third time in five years, a **Mourning Warbler** was reported at SSP 5/15 (TB). **Cerulean Warbler**, a species that has declined in *Schuylkill*, has been showing up every year in small numbers in recent years. This year one was reported along the powerline at TRR 5/29 (DK). Given the late date, there is a chance the bird will try to breed here. Another bird declining in the county, **Yellow-breasted Chat** was also found along the same powerline 5/29 (DK).

Some grassland birds of note were found. A single **Grasshopper Sparrow** was reported at KRM 5/24 (JD). The first **Dickcissel** in recent times visited a feeder in Wayne Twp. 5/3-7 (BC). A bird that breeds in the county but is hard to find is **Bobolink** - 2 were reported at APWS 5/5 (JoD) and others were found near New Ringgold during the PAMC 5/14 (DW).

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stony Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**, Timothy Becker (TiB), Jamie Buehl, Thomas Buehl Jr., Jennifer Boyer (JeB), Dan Brennan, Josh Cantor, Bruce Carl (BrC), Kyle Clark, Brian Clauser, Michael Cox, John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko JD), Todd Deininger, Frank Dickman, Denise Donmoyer, Jamie Drake (JaD), Bill Etter, Mike Frederick, Ian Gardner, Laurie Goodrich, Ellen Grim, Kerry Grim, Richard Guthrie, Eric Hartshaw, Paul Heveran, Daniel Hinnebusch, Tonia Jordan, Barb Jucker, Ted Keen, Edward Komito, Dave Krueel, Nancy Krueel, Josh Lefever, Andy Martin (AnM), Anne Mayville, Ted Nichols II, Jesse Pack, Ed Peahey, M. Pruitt, Pete Rattigan, Mark Rauzon, Trevor Redding, Rich Rehrig (RiR), Rich Rieger, Barb Ritzheimer, Lynn Roman, Chad Schwartz, Mike Schneck, John Stetson, Paul Stathis, Scott Weidensaul, Andy Wilson, Nicholas Wisner, Joseph Wojtanowski, Doug Wood, Tanya Woomert.

#### Snyder County

No report

Compiler: Jason Weller

#### Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA); Buffalo Creek (BC); Confluence Area (CA); Garrett Mud Flats (GMF); Hidden Acres Farm (HAF); High Point Lake (HPL); Kimberly Run Natural Area (KRNA); Payne Property (PP); Somerset Lake (SL); Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

Weather for the spring was rather confused, very warm early and generally cold and wet later. This resulted in some near 80-degree weather in early to mid-March bringing an early and quick push of waterfowl at a time lakes are normally just losing ice cover. On the other end was a May 15 day spent looking at Golden-winged Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats in a snow flurry!

The county was honored to host the PSO annual meeting this year. It was exciting to have so much concentrated birding ability, and, despite the less than stellar 45-degree rainy weather, field trips turned up 144 species with at least 12 other species found over the weekend and several others present but not chased down.

Waterfowl slipped through, over, and past early with no major weather-induced fallouts. The biggest day count at SL was just over 1000 birds 3/11 with other decent days like 4/9 having 350 birds. An exciting find, and well photographed, was the 2 **Trumpeter Swans** at QR 3/21 (LG). **Tundra Swans** topped out at 313 at QR 3/13 (LG) and 40 at SL 3/6 (SC).

A nice count of 26 **Wood Ducks** was made at the north end of SL 5/20 (Ann M, SS). **Gadwall** are becoming a more numerous migrant as witnessed by 80 on 3/11 (CP) and 30 on 3/18 (PL) at SL. A decent count of 31 **American Widgeon** came from SL 3/11 (CP). There were over 20 **American Black Ducks** at a marsh north of Berlin in Mar and early Apr. One hen stayed and paired with a male **Mallard**, seen by a PSO group 5/21 (JP, et al). **Blue-winged Teal** had a maximum tally of 39 on 4/8 at SL (LG). **Northern Shovelers** were somewhat scarce with 6 at SL 3/11 (CP) being

high. **Northern Pintails** were in groups of less than 20.

**Canvasbacks** were a bit scarce with 6 on 4/3 at SL (AP, JP) being the high. **Redheads** had a good showing with 38 at QR 3/6 (LG) and an impressive 180 at SL 3/11 (CP). Over 200 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at SL 3/11 (CP) and one very late male was still at the lake 5/22. There were 120 scaup sp. at SL 3/11 (CP), with 14 **Greater Scaup** there 3/19 and 21 **Lesser Scaup** 4/1 (LG) being the highest counts of each species.

A lone **Long-Tailed Duck** was at SL 4/9 (AP, JP). **Bufflehead** maximum was 200 on 4/3 at SL while a late male was still present 5/20 (JP). The only **Common Goldeneye** was a single at SL 4/12 (JP). Mergansers included 15 **Hooded Mergansers** at QR 3/20 (LG), 11 **Common Mergansers**, confirmed breeders, in CA 5/22, (IG, CK, AL, JR, SS, AnnM), and 27 migrating **Red-breasted Mergansers** at SL 4/8 (LG). No large **Ruddy Duck** flocks this year – the maximum was 45 on 5/3 (JP) with a late one at SL 5/22 for PSO observers.

Up to 4 **Ring-neck Pheasants**, including 2 hens, were at HAF 5/5 (SD). There are very few pheasants in the Wild Pheasant Recovery Area in BA with some present known to be recent stockees migrating in. There has been a tremendous loss of habitat due to changed farming practices and wetland clearing since the project started, yet it is still an ongoing project. **Wild Turkeys** had an easy winter and large flocks, including 36 in BA 3/1 (TM), were reported. Interesting was a calling **Northern Bobwhite** in the overgrown northern area at SL (JP, ST), provenance unknown, but surely a released bird. **Ruffed Grouse** numbers are low but a few are at PP.

No Red-throated Loons were reported, but up to 14 **Common Loons** were at SL 4/8 (LG). Fifteen migrating **Pied-billed Grebes** were at SL 4/9 and 35 **Horned Grebes** were there 4/12 (JP). The high for **Double-crested Cormorants** was 50 at SL 4/19 (JP). The only **American Bittern** was at Flight 93 Memorial 4/14 (DM). **Great Blue Herons** were building at least 2 nests far up a steep wooded hillside on Brush Creek above Fairhope – a rather unusual location (JP). **Great Egrets** were at SL 4/5 (JP), 4/12 (AM), and 5/7 (MJ). Representing a first *Somerset* record, a **Glossy Ibis** was found at SL 5/12 (LR), and was enjoyed by several other birders during its short stay.

The only **Black Vulture** was in BA 4/24 (JP). **Osprey** were seen only as singles - the nest at SL is inactive as is reportedly the Cranberry Lake nest. **Bald Eagles** are seen frequently at SL and QR with nesting probable near the latter. **Northern Harriers** were seen on PSO field trips to Flight 93 Memorial along with other significant grassland birds. There seems to be no management plan there to maintain some grassland habitat with tree planting being the chosen option. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were breeding in BC and SC's yard on Laurel Mountain. Most **Broad-winged Hawk** reports were in CA. A PSO trip to BC found **American Kestrel** nesting in a Wood Duck box. The same trip had calling **Virginia Rail** 5/21 and one was calling at SL 5/14-19 (MJ, DH, AMc). A **Sora** was heard and seen at SL 5/14 (SL, MJ) through at least 5/21 (m.ob.). A **Sandhill Crane** briefly touched down at SL 5/7 (MJ); one in BA was present a few days within 3 miles of the 2009-2012 breeding spot (fide JP).

Shorebirds were not as well represented at SL due to smartweed overtaking much of the exposed mud. Two **Semipalmated Plovers** were spotted from 5/2 (MJ, JP) to 5/11 (JP). Just a couple **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen there, 4/5 (AMat, SL) and 4/11 (TA). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was early in BA 3/19 (JP) and up to 12 were at SL 5/4 (AnnM, SL). **Solitary Sandpipers** were widespread but found only as singles or doubles. Up to 10 **Spotted Sandpipers** were at SC 5/3 (JP). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were around for PSO 5/19-21. Up to 20 **Least Sandpipers** were at SL 5/11 (JP). **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at SL 5/2 (MJ) to at least 5/15 (JP). Over 80 **Wilson's Snipe** were in a BA wet bottom 4/2, including an unusual light cream-colored individual (JP). One winnowing there 5/21 entertained PSO field trippers. **American Woodcock** was at QR 3/1 (LG) and bred at PP (JP).

Only small groups of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were found at SL, 77 **Ring-billed Gulls** were there 3/6 (MH, RH), and single **Herring Gulls** were present 3/1 (KH) and 5/9 (RL). A nice group of 13 loafing **Caspian Terns** was at SL 5/3 (JP, m.ob.) and on the same date a **Black Tern** was at QR (LG).

**Black-billed Cuckoos** were at Addison 5/20 (DH) and 2 were cooperative at BC for the PSO group 5/21. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at SL 5/4 (MJ, JP). A pair of **Barn Owls** was in a silo near Shanksville 4/16, hopefully accommodations for nesting will be available. **Common Nighthawks** were at both SL 5/19 (LB, AMc) and QR 5/20 (RH, MH, FM) where they are probably migrants. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** seem to be doing well in regenerating clear cuts on mountains, both at Mt. Davis where the PSO tour found 4 on 5/20 and Allegheny Mountain where 4 were heard the same night (JP, CaP). **Belted Kingfishers** were widely reported but generally uncommon.

The only **Red-headed Woodpecker** report was one bird 5/7-22 at Bluebird Hill farm (PL). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** are now regular

breeders on Laurel Mountain and Mt. Davis. Among the *Empidonax* flycatchers, both **Acadian** and **Willow Flycatchers** were widely reported, migrant **Alder Flycatcher** was at Confluence 5/22 (m.ob.), and several **Least Flycatchers** were reported in Flight 93 area, where they breed.

**White-eyed Vireos** are sparse, so reports from QR 5/3 (PH) and 5/20 (MH, RH) were a nice addition to expected CA birds. **Yellow-throated** and **Warbling Vireos** were found on PSO field trips in CA 5/20-22. **Blue-headed Vireos** are widely dispersed breeders. **Horned Larks** were found at Flight 93 5/20-22 on PSO field trips, another uncommon grassland bird which would benefit from proper management.

For the second year, **Purple Martins** were breeding in well-maintained houses in Springs. **Cliff Swallows** seem to be expanding range by breeding in more barns with **Barn Swallows**. The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at PP 3/8 (JP). Three **Brown Creepers** were on Laurel Mountain 3/12 (JMu) and are breeding at KRNA. **Carolina Wrens** are at a low point in their cycle but easily found in CA and expanding elsewhere. Both **Ruby-crowned** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** migrated through in normal numbers with some **Golden-crowned** breeding at sites like KRNA.

Migrant **Swainson's Thrushes** were detected at Fairhope 4/28 (RO) and Mt. Davis 5/20 (AL, CR). **Northern Mockingbird** is actually an uncommon breeder so birds reported in BA 3/29 (TM) and regularly in CA 5/21-22 (AMc, m.ob.) and at HAF (SD) were welcome.

**Golden-winged Warblers** were reported from CA 5/15 (JP, CaP) and 5/20 (AMc, m.ob.), SL 5/21 (ML, m.ob.) and QR 5/3 (PL). All "winged" warblers should be visualized if possible because hybrids and "traded songs" exist in *Somerset*. Up to 6 **Tennessee Warblers** were at SL 5/21 (MD). Other less common spring migrant **Warblers** included **Nashville** 5/1-30; **Cape May** at QR 5/9 (SD) and 5/19 (LG); **Prairie** 5/20-21 at Flight 93; **Palm** at Rockwood 5/1 (KS) and SL 5/4 (MK, JoeP); **Bay-breasted** at QR 5/9 (2) (SD), one at Fairhope 5/20 (RC), and one at Laurel Mt (CB); **Mourning** at CA 5/22 (PSO) and **Wilson's** at SL 5/21 (JF, LF). Less common county breeders included **Pine Warbler** at QR 5/22 (LG, TB Jr) and **Kentucky Warbler** in CA 5/22 (PSO) and North-Fork Reservoir (PSO). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was in CA 5/15 (JP, CaP) and 5/20-22 (PSO).

**Vesper Sparrows** were found near QR 3/12 (LG), at HAF 4/13 (SD), and at GMF 5/21 (PSO) - but best numbers were at Flight 93 on 5/20-22 (PSO). **Henslow's Sparrows** were at Flight 93 and in old fields on the east slope of Allegheny Mt. (JP, CaP). Up to 5 **Fox Sparrows** were at HA 4/10 (SD). **White-throated Sparrows** were reported 4/14-5/9 and **White-crowned Sparrows** 4/17-5/20. A good sighting during the PSO meeting was a young male **Blue Grosbeak** in the New Centerville area. **Bobolinks** were widely reported but numbers seemed a little low. **Pine Siskins** were at MacDonaldton 3/26-5/7 (TM) and HA 4/10 (SD).

Observers: **Jeffrey Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718, paynem@gmail.com**, Tina Alianiello, Scott Bastian, Chuck Berthoud, Thomas Brehl, Jr., Bill Cline, Sandy Cline, Michael David, Sally Dick, Leslie Ferree, John Flannigan, Ian Gardner, Linda Greble, Kayla Hartung, Amanda Hersch, Margaret & Roger Higbee, Daniel Hinnebusch (DaH), Deuane Hoffman, Joshua Humberson, Chuck Jones, Matthew Juskowich, Chad Kauffman, Alex Lamoreaux, Mike Lanzone, Paul Lehman, Renee Lupert, Anthony Marich, Annette Mathes (AnnM), Mark McConaughy (MMc), Andrew McGann (AMc), Florence McGuire, Tom Miller, Donna Mohny, Jim & Meg Moses, James Muller (JMu), Roy Ogburn, Joe Papp (JoP), Carolyn Payne (CaP), Christopher Payne, Alan Peterson, Joan Renninger, Leslie Rose, Kim Springer, Susan Stasner.

### Sullivan County

Locations: Briskey Mtn (BRM), Cherry Township (CT), Dutch Mtn (DM), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), High Knob (HK), Hunter's Lake (HL), Keystone Mtn Park (KMP), Kinsley's Corner (KC), Lake Makoma (LM), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), High Knob Overlook (HK), Nordmont, Ricketts Glen State Park Hayfields (RGSP), Sonestown Covered Bridge (SCB), SGL 13 Splashdam Pond (SDP), SGL13 Grassy Hollow, SGL 66 Shady Nook (SN), Sullivan Falls Rd (SF).

The months seemed to occur in reverse order based on the weather. March was relatively mild with no snow cover and open water. April days were mostly pleasant but there were multiple occasions when snow fell overnight. The month of May was mostly cold and wet. This year's PAMC started cool and damp with patchy fog, warmed and cleared until about noon when showers took over for the remainder of the day. The weather that day did not seem to diminish the overall count as a total of 97 species were tallied for the day.

Waterfowl migration seemed normal despite the open water present

throughout the season. Skeins of both **Canada** and **Snow Goose** were reported on multiple occasions. Seventeen **Tundra Swans** were seen 3/11-12 with 3 near Mildred and 14 at SDP. Two **American Black Ducks** were also present at SDP 3/12. A high of 52 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at KMP 4/8 (WE). An excellent find was provided by 4 **White-winged Scoters** 4/30. A pair were on EML and two males were on HL. A high count of 57 **Common Mergansers** occurred the weekend on 3/11-12.

A **Ruffed Grouse** was seen displaying on DM on multiple occasions. The male was showing full ruff and tail and each time had one or two females present. There were 10-12 **Ring-necked Pheasants** at SN 5/30. I was told that these birds had recently been released by the state although that info was third hand. A good count of 13 **Common Loons** sat on HL 4/8 (WE). Two **Horned Grebes** were on EML 4/30. A flyover flock of 5 **Double-crested Cormorants** was noted at DM 4/24.

**Osprey** was first seen 4/24 at SDP with sightings continuing through the end of the season. A total of 11 **Bald Eagles** was observed 3/12-13. Four immatures were seen at HL on 3/12 with one adult. The 4 imm. birds frequently interacted with one another by chasing and diving on other individuals. **Northern Harriers** were found on 7 separate occasions in Mar and Apr, most commonly at SDP with sightings there 4/17, 4/23, & 4/28 (DG). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was on DM multiple times in Mar and Apr, probably a holdover from a bird seen there in Feb. A high count of 9 **Broad-winged Hawks** was made at SDP 4/23 (DG).

**Sandhill Cranes** once again nested in *Sullivan*, in a well known location. Two adults were seen with 2 recent fledglings on the PAMC. This is the first time in several years that 2 chicks have been seen. Two other adults had been seen near BRM 5/13 and 5 adults were in that same location 5/22 (RM, AG, TR, SS). Shorebird numbers were generally low. The best were **Wilson's Snipe**, with a high of 5 on 4/2 in CT, and a lone **Greater Yellowlegs** at SDP 4/28 (DG). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** called at SGL13 on 4/22. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was in the same vicinity for the PAMC.

**Northern Flicker** counts peaked 4/16-17, with 18 seen throughout the county. Those same dates saw a high count of 6 **American Kestrels** at various locations. Four of the 5 eastern *Empidonax* flycatchers – **Acadian**, **Alder**, **Least & Willow** – were seen and heard during the Memorial Day weekend with at least 2 individuals of each found. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was singing at SCB on the PAMC. **Warbling Vireo** was singing near KC 5/22 (RM, AG, TR, SS). Swallow numbers peaked 4/30-5/1 with counts of 85 **Tree Swallows** and 35 **Barn Swallows** across the county.

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present on my DM property on multiple occasions. The bulk of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** reports were from late Apr. Individual **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were seen at LM 4/24 (SM) and SN 4/30. A **Swainson's Thrush** was seen near Nordmont 5/15. **Brown Thrasher** numbers were good with multiple birds found at several locations including 2 at RGSP 4/18 (DG). Single **Northern Mockingbird** sightings occurred on the PAMC near EML and in CT 5/21 (RM, AG, TR, SS). This is still a fairly uncommon bird in the county.

Warbler reports consisted primarily of local breeders. Good finds included a **Northern Waterthrush** in LSF 5/29 and **Mourning Warbler** on HK 5/21 (RM, AG, TR, SS) as well as 2 singing males at BRM 5/28. A **Hooded Warbler** was at SGL13 Grassy Hollow 5/11 along with one **Canada Warbler** and 7 **American Redstart** (DG). A **Northern Parula** was along SF 4/22 (JL). One **Bay-breasted Warbler** was counted on the PAMC in LSF and one **Wilson's Warbler** was at SN the same day. **Pine Warbler** was noted at LM 4/23 and again Memorial Day Weekend along Airport Rd. near Dushore.

Five **American Tree Sparrows** were still present in CT 3/11. A **Grasshopper** and a **Henslow's Sparrow** were found in a large grass field along Airport Rd. in CT 5/22 (RM, AG, TR, SS). This was the first record of Henslow's for me in the county since 1999. I spoke with the owner a week later who explained he had sown native grasses and only mowed periodically in order to keep out brush and trees. Three **Fox Sparrows** were on DM 3/13. Another 2 were seen at SN 4/17 in an area that had recently been subject to a prescribed burn. As many as 10 male **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** visited a feeding station in Nordmont 5/22 (WE, R&PP).

Large flocks of **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** were commonly seen in the agricultural fields in CT near KC through Mar and Apr. Flock numbers often reached 100. These flocks thinned in May when they were joined by good numbers of **Bobolinks**. An excellent count of 43 **Purple Finches** was made in the southern end of the county along Stanton Rd. 3/2 (EH). A high of 7 **Pine Siskins** was counted at my feeding station on DM over 3/12-13. A feeding station in Dushore held as many as 25 as late as mid-Apr.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@gmail.com**, Skip Conant, Wes Egli, Doug Gross, Al Guarante, Eric Hartshaw, Judith Lynn, Sean Minnick, Roy and Penny Peterman, Tom Reeves, Steve Strawbridge.

## Susquehanna County

Locations: Lake Montrose (LM), Quaker Lake (QL), Woodbourne Forest Preserve (WFP).

The spring migration season followed an unusually mild winter. And the seasonal averages for March, April, and May were warmer and drier than normal. In fact, March was the second least snowy and fourth warmest on record. What little ice that had covered our lakes and ponds melted quickly, creating an open water invitation for migrating waterfowl. With virtually no wait for ice-out, the movement of these birds through our region seemed more diffuse than normal. There was evidence that some temperate migrants arrived earlier than normal, while neotropical migrants' arrival dates matched historical averages. The Spring Migration Season is the most heavily birded in Susquehanna, with multiple, advertised bird outings drawing good numbers of people to our public birding hotspots. The total number of species reported to eBird for the period was 180.

In the words of Pennsylvania's Scott Weidensaul in a recent article, 3/7-9 were "Big Goose Days" in Susquehanna with large skeins of hundreds of northbound Canada Geese and Snow Geese passing overhead in seemingly endless streams (m.ob.). The 25 species of waterbirds reported included several less commonly seen species. A pair of **Gadwalls** was spotted 3/11 at LM (EM). A pair of **American Wigeons** appeared in a wetland along Hunsinger Rd. 4/4 (JS). Six **Northern Shovelers** were present at QL 3/16 (EM). Two sightings of **Northern Pintail** occurred in Apr. The first was at Sterns Lake 4/4 (EB), and the second was at Nagle's Pond 4/9 (m.ob.) Lake Montrose hosted four **Canvasbacks** 4/4 (m.ob.). Six **Common Goldeneyes** visited LM 3/16 (m.ob.).

It was a two-scooter spring. A **Surf Scoter** pair was present on QL 4/29 (m.ob.). A pair of **White-winged Scoters** was discovered on LM 5/2 (m.ob.). A beautiful adult **Red-necked Grebe** in breeding plumage photobombed the scoters on QL 4/29 (m.ob.), offering simultaneous spotting scope and camera views of both species. The **Common Loon** is an expected annual visitor. For a week in early Apr, they appeared in unusually large numbers. Thirty-one individuals were reported on Elk Lake 4/4 (JSt). Starting on the same date, for the next seven days the reported numbers for QL were 38, 38, 43, 30, 30, 35, 23. Numbers subsequently returned to more normal, single digits.

The combination of mild winter weather and the determined efforts of a local birder/landowner to reestablish **Northern Bobwhite** on his farm resulted in a number of second-year birds seen, heard, and photographed on Potter Hill Farm (DS).

Susquehanna listers believe they are allocated one **American Bittern** per season with its location changing annually. It was absent from last year's spot, but one presented itself briefly at Williams Pond 4/30 (JS). Those who checked last year's bittern spot, received runner-up status thanks to the presence of a **Common Gallinule** at Bendix Swamp 5/10-11 (m.ob.). A flyover **Sandhill Crane** created quite a stir during our first organized walk of the season at WFP on 5/7 (m.ob.). Two individuals returning to the parking lot were able to view and photograph the bird. The other nine members of the party were under forest canopy and several made the identification by "rattle." This was only the third eBird record for the county. A county first-record occurred when a **Black-bellied Plover** was located along the riverbank on Susquehanna Street in Susquehanna 5/20 (JS).

All four *Empidonax* flycatchers had arrived for the spring party by May, in the order of most reported to least: **Least, Alder, Willow, and Acadian Flycatcher**. With extensive tracts of deciduous forest found across this northern tier of the county, the main event for many local birders is enjoying the arrival of the warblers, vireos, and thrushes. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen and heard at Florence Shelly Wetland Preserve 5/25 (DA, EM), joining the serenade of our regularly occurring **Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Warbling, and Red-eyed Vireos**. Two separate reports of **Swainson's Thrush** occurred 5/19, one at WFP (JS) and one at SGL 35 (DA, EM). A single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was observed at WFP 5/18 (JS). Four **American Pipits** foraged along the water's edge of QL for several days beginning 4/5 (EM).

For some in Susquehanna, spring is spelled p-a-r-u-i-i-d-a-e. Thirty-one species of warblers plus one hybrid were present in the county during the Spring 2016, resulting in a significant outbreak of warbler-neck within a particular subset of the human population. A county-first record was made when 2 **Orange-crowned Warblers** were identified 5/15 at WF (JSt). A **Lawrence's Warbler** (hybrid) made a brief visit to the same location 5/8 (JS). A **Connecticut Warbler** was discovered on Cobb Rd. 4/20 (DA). A pair of **Wilson's Warblers** popped to the top of a hedge at Salt Springs S.P. 5/12 (DA, EM). Other migrants passing through the county that made strong showings included **Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted, Palm, and Blackpoll Warblers**; and **Northern Parula**. Even more exciting was the realization that robust populations of nesting **Canada, Cerulean, and**

**Hooded Warblers** are present in SGL 35. Much of this initial discovery came from one of our birding community's own who is doing avian field research at this location for his doctoral thesis (JM). During the second breeding atlas, there were no reported **Cerulean Warblers** in the county. Last spring a single singing bird was located in SGL 35. This year, 5 singing males were observed in the same general area 5/27 (JM, JS, TN, EM).

**Rusty Blackbirds** proved elusive. A single sighting of a single bird occurred on private property 5/8 (BM). Another one report-only species was **Orchard Oriole**, which was discovered on Manlove Farm 5/26 (NB). **Pine Siskins** remained at backyard feeders across the county and through all 3 of the spring months. The last report came near Lake Montrose 5/28 (TN).

Observers: Evan Mann, 8313 Laurel Lake Road, Montrose, PA 18801, (570) 663-2621, evanm@frontier.com, Dave Andre, Rob Blye, Edmund Burdick, Nick Bolgiano, Justin Mann, Bruce McNaught, Tom Norville, Win Shafer, Doug Sheldon, Jerry Skinner, Joyce Stone (JSt), Nancy VanCott, Nancy Wottrich.

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## Tioga County

No compiler.

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## Union County

No compiler.

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## Venango County

Locations: Barkeyville Area (BA), Barkeyville Strips (BS), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Cooperstown Sand & Gravel Co. (CSGC), Belmar Bike Trail (BBT), Kahle Lake (KL), Lamberton Road (LR), Oil Creek S.P. (OCSP), Pittsville-Emlenton Road (PER), Two-Mile Run County Park (TMRP), Russell Corners Road (RCR), Wyattville Pond (WP).

The species total for the period was 189, two fewer than last year. A **Cackling Goose** was seen at WP 3/10 (KG, JS). The last **Tundra Swans** of the season put down on KL 4/24 (GE). Other waterfowl of note included a late **Northern Shoveler** at KL 5/1 (GE), our only **Northern Pintail** at WP 3/5 (KG, JS), 150 **Redheads** at KL 3/26 (JS), one **White-winged Scoter** at KL 5/1-5 (GE, KG, JS, RS), small groups of **Long-tailed Ducks** 3/11-4/5 (GE, JS, RS), 150 **Ruddy Ducks** 3/26 (JS), and a **Red-throated Loon** 4/12-14 (JS), all at KL.

A **Golden Eagle** flew past WP 3/2 (JS) and a **Peregrine Falcon** was photographed soaring over KL 5/1 (GE). There were 2 reports of a single **Sandhill Crane** at KL 3/11 and 4/9 (JS). **Upland Sandpiper** was at BS 5/6 (BB, GW). A **Sanderling** was seen and photographed at TMRP 5/3-6 (GE, MKa, MK, NK). Three tern species made appearances at KL: **Caspian Tern** 4/21-5/1 (GE, RS), **Common Tern** 5/2 (GE, RS), and **Forster's Tern** 4/24-5/4 (KG, JS, GE).

The first **Common Nighthawk** was recorded in Franklin 5/8 (JH). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was photographed at a backyard in Oil City 5/17 (GE, MK, NK); another was at BHNS 5/23 (KG, JS). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at BHNS 5/25 (KG, JS). Alder and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher went unreported. **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen at BHNS 5/9 (KG, JS). **Common Raven** sightings are increasing, with 15 reports.

Our only active **Purple Martin** colony continues to thrive at an Amish lumberyard in the BS. The **Bank Swallow** colony at CSGC was doing well 5/12 (GE). There were 3 **Winter Wren** reports 4/7-5/2 (JS, RS). **Swainson's Thrush** moved through the BHNS 5/2-20 (KG, JS). **Northern Mockingbird**, uncommon here, was reported at BS 5/6 (BB, GW) and 5/14 (NB), and at BA 5/30. Small groups of **American Pipits** were at KL 3/11-5/6 (GE, NK, MK, JS, RS).

**Worm-eating Warbler** was reported at PER 5/11 and 5/30 (GE, RS), and at BHNS 5/25 (JS). For the second straight year, a **Brewster's Warbler** made a brief stop at a backyard in Oil City (MK, NK). There were 2 **Golden-winged Warbler** reports, one at OCSP 5/8 (DM) and one at RCR 5/30 (GE, RS). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at BHNS 5/7 (BB, JS) as were **Mourning Warbler** 5/12 (KG, JS) and **Cape May Warbler** 5/7 (BB, JS). Cape May was also reported at a backyard in Oil City 5/9-18 (NK, MK). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was in OCSP 5/14 (NB). **Prairie Warblers** were seen at BBT 5/12 (JH) and BA 5/30 (GE, RS). The only **Wilson's Warbler** was at BHNS 5/25 (KG, JS). In all, 31 warbler species and one hybrid were reported.

A **Vesper Sparrow** and 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at BS 5/6 (BB, GW). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at BHNS 5/12 (KG, JS). **Orchard Oriole**, uncommon here, was reported 5/3 (NK, MK) and 5/14 (NB). Small groups of **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported from KL 3/11-4/3 (KG, JS). **Pine Siskins** continued at LR through 5/19 (NB).

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net; Russ States, 111 E. Fourth St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pabirder@verizon.net**, Ed Atts, Nancy Baker, Brendyn Baptiste, Kathie Goodblood, Jeff Hall, Chuck Herrold (CHe), Craig Holt, Michael Karpinko (MKa), Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick, Michael Leahy, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Dot Monahan, Richard Nugent, Jerry Stanley, Gene Wilhelm, Jim Wilson.

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**Warren County**  
No compiler.

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### **Washington County**

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Bentleyville (BENT), Buffalo Creek IBA 80 (BC), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Hillman State Park (HSP), Peters Lake (PL), Peters Township (PET), Peterswood Park (PP), Robinson Township (RBT), Washington Park (WP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

A **Snow Goose** was at Frosty Valley G.C. 3/5 (ST), likely the same bird that was also seen for a few weeks around that time at Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny*. A **Mute Swan** was with **Canada Geese** along Georgetown Road north of AMD 4/7 (ph. FK). The only **Tundra Swans** reported were 2 near BENT 3/7 (RI).

Two **Gadwalls** were at CL 3/2 (GG), otherwise all other reports were from the BENT area, including 15 on 3/7 (RI). Two late birds were noted 4/24 (RI). A few reports of **American Wigeon** ended with a late bird at CL 4/26-27 (MJ). The first **Blue-winged Teal** was at R4 on 3/30 (RI) and one lingered at CL to 5/5 (m.ob.), with several sightings in between. Reports of **Northern Shoveler** included 6 near Muse 3/10 (RI), 6 at R4 on 3/13 (MJ), and 2 at AMD on the late date of 4/19 (MJ). As in other western Pennsylvania counties this season, **Northern Pintails** were gone early, with the last near BENT 3/7 (RI). The only report of **Green-winged Teal** for the season was a single at SGL 232 on 3/16 (RN).

Rare in *Washington*, a group of 7 **Canvasbacks** was on a pond near BENT 3/7 in the company of about 60 **Redheads** (RI). Last **Redhead** was still hanging on in the same spot 4/17 (RI). Good numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** in early Mar included 40 on the same pond with the Canvasbacks and Redheads 3/7 (RI) and one was still there 4/24 (RI). They were also noted at CL and R4 in Mar (m.ob.). Two **Greater Scaup** at CL 3/13 (JF) were a nice find. **Lesser Scaup** were far more numerous, with reports of 30 at Lake Joann 3/2 (GG), 10 near BENT 3/7 (RI), and up to 31 at R4 3/31-4/5 (LC). Six were still at CC 4/12 (MJ). **Buffleheads** also showed well at several locations 3/30-4/17 (m.ob.). Rare in *Washington*, a **Common Goldeneye** was at R4 from 3/9-13 (RI, MJ). Four **Common Mergansers** at CL 3/20 (GG) represented the only report. Always nice to see in the county, 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at R4 on 3/22 (LC), and one was at CC 4/10 (MJ). A nice group of 12 **Ruddy Ducks** was near BENT 4/17 and 4 remained there to 4/24 (RI).

Ten sightings of **Ring-necked Pheasant** were made in the GCW and BC areas 3/1-4/17 (m.ob.). Reports of **Common Loon** included one at CC 4/10-12 (MJ), 3 at R4 on 4/13 (LC), and one at R4 on 5/4 (RI). **Horned Grebes** can be hard to come by in *Washington*; one was at R4 from 3/22-30 (LC, RI) and one was at CC with the Common Loon 4/10-12 (MJ). Up to 4 **Double-crested Cormorants** were still lingering at CL 5/4-14 (RI). Very nice was an **American Bittern** at GCW 5/6 (RI) but sadly it was not reported thereafter. Single **Great Egrets** were at CL 3/25 (ST) and 4/29 (DP, JF), and one was at Boone Res. 4/27 (GG).

**Osprey** was reported frequently at CL though 4/29 (m.ob.), 2 were at CC 4/10-12 (MJ), and one was near BENT 5/6 (RI). *Washington* still waits for its first nest of this species in modern times. Not so for **Bald Eagle**, which established nests this spring at Cherry Valley Reservoir as of 3/13 (GG) and another at CL by the beginning of Apr (GG, ST, et al.). The fates of both nests were not reported by press time, but the CL pair included one bird still not in full adult plumage, and no young were noted by at least 5/5 (LC, et al.). A **Northern Harrier** was at CC 4/12-13 (MJ) and another was seen in RBT on the *Washington* side of the Imperial Grasslands on the intriguing date of 5/4 (LF). A **Rough-legged Hawk** near BENT 3/7 (RI) was one of very few seen in southwest Pennsylvania this spring.

GCW hosted both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** from 4/16 (JM) into early May (m.ob.). An impressive count of 45 **American Coots** near BENT 4/17 (RI) was one of the highest totals for the county in this compiler's memory. Shorebirds were few as usual. One or two **Semipalmated Plovers** were at CL 5/9-18 (ST). Four **Greater Yellowlegs** arrived at CL 4/5 (MJ) and singles

were seen there periodically through 5/11 (MJ, et al.). A nice count of 14 **Lesser Yellowlegs** was made at CL 4/29 (MJ). The observer witnessed one of these birds get attacked and injured by a nearby female **Mallard** that had hatchlings in tow. Eleven Lessers were still at CL 5/9 (ST). Various single-digit counts of **Solitary Sandpipers** were noted at CL 4/1-5/14 (m.ob.), and one was at PL 4/23 (GG); the latter was the only migrant shorebird reported away from CL. A flock of up to 23 **Least Sandpipers** was at CL 5/9-18 (ST).

**Bonaparte's Gull** was unusually well-reported and included 3 at New Eagle 3/30 (RI), 2 at Boone Res. 4/8 (ST), one at CC 4/12 (MJ), and 4 near BENT 4/17 (RI). A few **Herring Gulls** were around Charleroi in Mar (RI), and out of place birds were near BENT 3/6 (FK) and at CL 3/20 (GG). Three **Forster's Terns** were a nice find at CL 4/11 (JP).

Just 4 reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** were made in May, compared to 31 of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (m.ob.). A **Barred Owl** was at Dutch Fork Lake 3/13 (MJ). **Common Nighthawks** were over *Washington* 5/16 (AK) and 5/25 (LC) and one was over Canonsburg 5/25 (FK). A **Red-headed Woodpecker**, less than annual in the county, was at BC 4/27 (RI). Four reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** spanned 3/5-5/2 (m.ob.). A **Merlin** was spotted in *Washington* 5/3 (SG).

Also less than annually detected in *Washington*, an **Alder Flycatcher** called at HSP 5/25 (FK). The only reports of **Blue-headed Vireo** were one at HSP 4/17 (JF, LF) and a few sightings at WP 5/3-9 (LC). **Common Ravens** nested at Mingo Creek County Park and fledged at least 3 young (ph. FK, et al.). They were noted in 4 other locations as well, including in PET and PP in Apr (GG).

**Purple Martins** arrived near CC 4/12 (MJ, RI), and they were seen around martin houses near R4 in mid-Apr (LC). A very early **Tree Swallow** was at GCW 3/9 (RI). **Bank Swallows** are not common in *Washington* so a few around R4 from 5/9-14 (RI) and 3 at CL 5/9 (ST) were notable. Even more unusual were 5 **Cliff Swallows** at R4 on 5/15 (RI). Wintering **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were not seen at *Washington* Cemetery after 3/31 (LC). However, they certainly bred again at HSP, where they were noted 5/16 (RI). A late **Brown Creeper** was at PL 5/17 (GG).

The only report of **Marsh Wren** was at GCW 5/6 (RI), and the only migrant spot-breasted thrush was a **Swainson's Thrush** at WP 5/9 (LC). Five **American Pipits** were a nice find at CC 4/13 (RI). **Cedar Waxwings** thoroughly took advantage of the hatch of 17-year cicadas, for example a flock of 40 was seen feasting on the bugs at PP 5/29 (GG), and the same day a total of 166 waxwings were counted on a BBS route through the county, mostly associated with cicadas, a very high count for the route (RT).

The clear highlight among warblers was a **Golden-winged Warbler** at the *Washington* Park School pond 5/7 (LC). Expected migrants such as **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, and **Palm Warbler** were all reported but infrequently and in some cases only once. A **Cape May Warbler** was at Coal Center 4/28-29 (AT) and one was at the *Washington* Park School pond 5/8 (LC). A great count of 8 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** was made at WP 5/5 (LC). A **Pine Warbler** was at *Washington* Cemetery 3/23-26 (LC) and one was at PP 5/2 (GG). Most interesting, though, were the 2 at HSP 5/25 (ph. FK), probable breeders. A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** in East Findlay Twp. 3/8 (PH) was probably wintering in the county.

Both **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Henslow's Sparrow** were back at nesting areas at HSP by 4/20 (JM). **Fox Sparrow** was noted at GCW 3/16 (RN) and in RBT 4/6 (MH, RH). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at BC 5/12 (LC, RI) was a nice find for spring. Last **White-crowned Sparrow** was in *Washington* 5/16 (RI). **Bobolinks** were found near Atlasburg 5/16 (RI) and one was at RBT 5/29 (FK). Reports of **Rusty Blackbirds** included one at Frosty Valley G.C. 3/5 (ST), 2 at Cecil Twp. 3/14 (GG), one at GCW 3/16 (RN), and a number of them among a larger blackbird flock near Hickory 3/20-26 (GG). **Purple Finches** were reported from 5 locations including 10 in East Findlay Twp. 4/5 (PH) and one at HSP 4/20 (JM). Small numbers of **Pine Siskins** (no more than 4 at once) were at feeders in PET 5/8 (GG), *Washington* 5/16 (RI), and two different feeders in Finleyville 4/15 (RH) and 5/19 (ph. AK).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Paul Brown, Lauren Conkle, Leslie Ferree, John Flannigan, Gigi Gerben, Sayre Greenfield, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Pat Hutchinson, Roy Ickes, Matthew Juskowich, Fred Kachmarik, Alyssa Karmann, Jeff McDonald, Richard Nugent, Joe Papp, David Poortinga, Amy Taracido, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

## Wayne County

Locations: Galilee Pond (GP), Hankins Pond (HP), Himalayan Institute (HI), Lake Wallenpaupack (LW), Prompton State Park (PSP), White Oak Pond (WOP).

Spring migration brought a mix of waterfowl to the county. Three waves of flyover **Snow Geese** combined for a total count of 320 near Honesdale 3/7 (CF). **Wood Ducks** returned to local ponds and streams to breed and raise their young. Fourteen were spotted at PSP 5/28, 8 of which were juveniles (CF). Four northbound **Gadwalls** made a stopover at Spojnia Ponds 3/17 (CF), the only report for the season. **Northern Pintails** were reported at HP 3/18-30, with a high count of 5 on 3/30 (CF). Multiple ponds also hosted **Green-winged Teal**. The high count was 38 at HP 3/30 (CF) and the latest was one at Beaver Pond 5/29 (JH).

Four species of migrant diving ducks were recorded. **Ring-necked Ducks** were spotted at several locations, including a high of 40 at a pond along PA 590 near Everly Rd. 4/15 (RL, SL). A single report of 2 **Lesser Scaup** at Crystal Lake 4/11 marked the only sighting of the species (PM). **Buffleheads** were seen at 7 different locations (m.ob.). Keen Lake was the only body of water to host **Common Goldeneye**, with 2 high counts of 3 on 3/17 and 3/30 (CF).

Three **Common Loons** were flagged as an eBird high count at Belmont Lake 5/4 (CF). The season's only report of **Pied-billed Grebe** was of one at LW 3/22 (CF). A lone **American Bittern** provided a great find at HP 5/4 (CF).

**Osprey** returned to their nesting sites, the first individual arriving at the Mangan Cove Boat Launch at LW 3/30 (RL). The season's first **Broad-winged Hawk** was spotted near the intersection of PA 590 and Lake Shore Dr. 4/20 (RL). The wetlands along Upper Woods Rd. produced 2 species of marsh birds on 5/3, one each of **Virginia Rail** and **Sora**, the latter was relocated 5/14 (all CF).

Nine shorebird species were reported. Four **Semipalmated Plovers** at WOP 5/12 represent the first ever eBird record of this species in Wayne (CF). GP, HP, and WOP were prime viewing spots for **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** as well as **Solitary** and **Least Sandpipers** from the end of Apr to mid-May (CF, RF). Breeding **Killdeer** and **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen at multiple locations (m.ob.). Up to 4 **Wilson's Snipe** were at HP from 3/23-4/28, one at WOP 3/30, and one near the Lackawaxen R. by the Seelyville Fire Company Hall 5/10 (all CF). The earliest **American Woodcock** was at a residence north of Honesdale 3/18 (CF).

Gull highlights include 2 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at WOP 3/9 (CF) and a rare occurrence of a first winter **Herring Gull** at LW 3/16 (RL, SL). The only terns were **Caspian Terns** at WOP, 2 on 5/2 and 3 on 5/3 (CF).

*Empidonax* flycatchers arrived in May. **Acadian**, **Alder**, **Willow**, and **Least Flycatchers** breed in the county and were seen at many locations (m.ob.). A singing **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** spotted at the powerline on Mush Paw Rd. 5/23 represents only the third county record in eBird (CF). One **American Pipit** was noted at Cricket Hill Golf Club 5/8 (SG).

There were 28 species of warbler plus one hybrid reported. A single **Worm-eating Warbler** was present at Tanners Falls in SGL 5/13-14 (CF, RF). **Blue-winged Warblers** were seen at multiple locations county-wide (m.ob.). A first-generation adult male **Brewster's Warbler** reported at HI 5/11 marks the first eBird record of this hybrid in Wayne (CF). Two migrant **Tennessee Warblers** were spotted 5/14, one at HI (CF, RF) and one along Mush Paw Rd. (CF). Breeding **Mourning Warbler** was reported for the second consecutive year at the North Trailhead of PSP 5/28 (CF). Two, possibly 3, **Cerulean Warblers** were located, one heard singing at HI 5/11 and one each seen at two spots along Mush Paw Rd. 5/14 and 5/23 (all CF). Migrant **Bay-breasted Warblers** provided nice finds this spring: 3 at HI 5/14 (CF, RF), 2 at Varden Conservation Area 5/18 (CF), and one along Hancock Hwy., approximately one mile south of the Northern Terminus of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River 5/31 (HK). The season's only **Palm Warbler** was near the intersection of Hancock Hwy. and Dillontown Rd. 4/22 (RK).

**American Tree Sparrows** remained until mid-Apr before heading north as **Chipping Sparrows** arrived. A significant find was a rare **Clay-colored Sparrow** at the powerline cut on Mush Paw Rd. 5/10 (CF), which designates this species first eBird sighting in the county. Another Wayne rarity was **Lincoln's Sparrow** - one was located south of Hollisterville 5/13 (RJ) and another at HI 5/17 (CF). **Orchard Orioles** are uncommon, which makes one reported at a residence north of Honesdale 5/30 a nice sighting (CF). A late **Common Redpoll** was at the same location 4/4 (CF). **Pine Siskins** lingered in small numbers until mid-May, primarily at HI (CF, RF).

Observers: **Josh Jones**, [unclechu76@gmail.com](mailto:unclechu76@gmail.com), Bill Doyle, Chris Fischer, Ronnie Fischer, Trudy Gerlach, Scott Graber, John Harvey, Ryan Johnson, Rick Keyser, Helen Kochenderfer, Randy LaPorte, Sandra

LaPorte, Peter Melville, Harold Quinn, Jim Ridolfi, Chelsey Saam.

## Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir Rt. 380 Overlook (BRR-380), Beaver Run section of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail (BRR-WHT) Cedar Creek County Park (CCCP), Conemaugh Reservoir/West Penn Trail (CR), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Spring Lake (ESL, also known as Derry Lake), Hunters Lane (HL), Keystone State Park (KSP), Latrobe Reservoir (LR), Linn Run State Park (LRSP), Loyalhanna Dam (LD), Mammoth Lake (ML), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB), Turners Pond (TP) St. Vincent Wetlands (SVW), Trees Mill (TH).

The Pennsylvania Migration Count ("PAMC"), with *Westmoreland* compiled by Dick Byers, was conducted 5/14, and the Jeannette Breeding Bird Survey Route was run by Tom and Janet Kuehl 5/30.

Of several reports by Ken Byerly of **Wood Ducks**, the high-count was 18 at BRR-WHT 5/16. **Gadwalls** were reported in small numbers at various locations (m.ob.); the high-count was 12 at the Hamilton Rd. Pond 3/20 (KB). A **Eurasian Wigeon** drake in the middle of Bridgeport Dam Reservoir that was first observed in *Fayette* 3/7, had likely floated onto the *Westmoreland* side of the reservoir (MF). Eight **American Wigeons** were at TM 4/15 (KB). The high count of just a few reports, there were 5 **American Black Ducks** at BRR-380 on 3/28 (LH). Among Byerly's several **Blue-winged Teal** reports, the high was 5 at TM 4/9. The only **Northern Shovelers** were 2 at TM 3/20 (KB). One **Northern Pintail** was found at BRR-WHT 3/3 (KB) and 5 were present there 3/6 (RC). The highest of several reports for **Green-winged Teal** was the 6 found at the swampy section of the Five Star Bike Trail in Youngwood 4/9 (MJ).

Two late **Canvasbacks**, providing the only report, were at DL 4/28 (TA). Most reports of diving ducks were in Mar. Twenty **Redheads**, a substantial count of 50 **Ring-necked Ducks**, and 6 **Lesser Scaup** were at TP 3/4 (KB). The only report for the season, one **Greater Scaup** was at BRR-380 on 4/8 (PF). The high of two eBird reports for that day, 15 **Bufflehead** were counted at BRR-380 on 3/19 (MC). A winter regular at the location, 8 **Hooded Mergansers** were at BRR-380 on 3/19 (MC). There were 15 **Common Mergansers** reported at the Bush Run Recreation Area of the Loyalhanna Reservoir 3/5 (MD) and 30 at the LD on the same day (RC). Reports for **Red-breasted Merganser** were in April; 6 on 4/8 at BRR-380 (PF) and 10 on 4/13 at DL (AM). There were just 2 eBird reports for **Ruddy Duck** - 2 at DL 3/25 (AM) and one at BRR-380 on 3/26 (MM).

Often unreported, 2 **Ruffed Grouse** were observed at CR 4/17 (RH) and reports of singles came from Mack's home near Ligonier 3/15 and 3/27. A flock of 20 **Wild Turkeys** that came to the Kuehl property feeders 3/28 included several well-bearded gobblers who fanned their tails.

There were scattered reports for **Common Loon**, including a count of 4 at BRR-380 on 4/5 (MVT). **Pied-billed Grebes** were observed at many locations, but in low numbers, with no report of more than the 4 tallied at DL 4/13 (AM). On that same eBird checklist was a count of 3 **Horned Grebes**; the only other report for the season was of 2 at BRR-380 on 3/13 (KB).

There were many reports during the season of one or 2 **Great Blue Herons** at scattered locations, but just a single report of a **Green Heron**, at BRR-WHT 5/11 (KB). One **Great Egret** was reported at DL 3/25 (CJ) and 2 were observed at KSP 4/30 (KJ). The season-high count for **Double-crested Cormorant** was of 13 at BRR-380 on 4/26 (LG).

An eBird report (with photo) was made of one **Black Vulture** near Stahlstown 5/14, and a record number of 5 for the PAMC was recorded in the Ligonier Valley on the same day (JK, TK). Scattered locations provided for many reports of **Osprey**. Early reports included 2 at KSP 4/4 (KB) and 4/6 (MVT), and 2 at Twin Lakes Park 4/6 (AM). At the long-time nest at DL the first **Osprey** was noted 4/13 (AM). Many incidental eBird checklists were provided for **Bald Eagle** during the season. Two young Bald Eagles with an adult were observed at the Conemaugh R. Reservoir nest 4/27 (PF). Sightings were made of over-wintering Bald Eagles at the Loyalhanna Dam area; as many as 10 were seen there 3/5 (RC) and a kettle of 8 was observed there 3/6 (KB, JK, TK) with 2 **Common Ravens** and 2 **Red-tailed Hawks** joining that kettle. One **Northern Harrier** was reported at Pleasant Valley Park 5/3 (PF). Attracted by birds visiting his Delmont home feeders, Byerly observed one **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (3/21) and one **Cooper's Hawk** (3/27). Two **Broad-winged Hawks**, with one later chased through the woods by a Red-tailed Hawk, were observed at the Kuehl Property in Murrysville 5/8 (JK, TK).

One **Sora** was heard, and one **American Coot** was seen at the Youngwood Swamp section of the Five Star Trail 4/23 (MJ). Two **Spotted Sandpipers** (KB, PF) and 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** (PF) were reported at the BRR-WHT 5/2, and 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** were at that location 5/26 (KB).

One early **Greater Yellowlegs** was photographed at ML 3/26 (MM) and late in the season 5 were reported at BRR-WHT 5/23 (KB). Seldom reported in spring, a **Dunlin** was photographed in breeding plumage at ML 5/2 by Juskowich, who also included a photograph of one **Least Sandpiper** in an eBird checklist for DL (5/6). A longtime regular at the Kuehl property, peent calls and display sounds of **American Woodcock** were heard first on the warm evening of 3/8, and on a number of other occasions during the season (JK, TK). The only tern was a lone **Forster's Tern** at BRR-380 on 5/2 (MJ).

**Barred Owls**, which were heard on many nights at the Kuehl property, joined-in with the sounds of the American Woodcock with barking calls in the early evening 3/9. One Barred Owl was reported at the BRR-WHT 3/15 (KB) and one in New Alexandria 5/10 (KJ). One **Eastern Screech-Owl** was found near the Delmont trail head of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail 4/6 (KB). At Bushy Run Battlefield S.P., one **Great Horned Owl** was heard calling in the early morning 3/15 (MM).

Jackson forwarded a report from Nancy Blake that a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was coming to a feeder on Drop Rd, North Huntingdon Twp. for several days through 5/12. Migrants at the lower elevations of *Westmoreland*, 2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were tallied on a walk of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail near Delmont 4/1 (KB). Among the many reports at higher elevations of sapsuckers was a report of 11 at Roaring Run Natural Area 4/14 (AM) and a report that included a photograph of one of the 4 tallied on an eBird checklist 5/30 (TH). Not out-of-the-ordinary during migration at his Delmont home, Byerly observed a **Merlin** there 3/27.

One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was caught at the PNR Banding Station 5/17. Two **Alder Flycatchers** and one **Least Flycatcher** were reported at SFB 5/27 (AM). Abundant on that date, there were 4 **Yellow-throated Vireos** found during a walk on Pump Station Rd. just north of Delmont 5/1 (KB, JK, TK). A hike of the Roaring Run Natural Area provided for a high count of 6 **Blue-headed Vireos** 4/14(AM). A good location for the species, Byerly tallied 5 **Warbling Vireos** at CR 4/27. One **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported on the PMAC.

Observations of **Common Raven** at low elevations in *Westmoreland* continued with one observed in Delmont 4/30 and one at BRR-WHT 5/29 (both KB). Twelve **Horned Larks** were observed on Hannastown Rd. 4/9 and 30 **American Pipits** were counted near Trees Mills (both KB). Five **Purple Martins** were observed at the BRR-380 nest box maintained by the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County 5/5 (PF). Eight martins were observed at Brinker's Farm outside of Delmont 4/26 (KB) and 4 were observed at the nesting house at the constructed wetland at the Murrysville Community Park 4/30 (JK, TK). Early returning migrants, a flock of no less than 50 **Tree Swallows** was at BRR-380 3/27 (MM). Three **Bank Swallows** were reported at ML 5/1 (DM).

Often not reported for *Westmoreland*, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at LRSP 5/20 (CM). Reports of **Brown Creeper** came from many locations, including one at the KP 4/8 (JK). One **Winter Wren** was reported at CCCP 3/23 (RN); a target species for the PAMC, 3 were at LRSP 5/14 (JK, TK).

**Swainson's Thrushes** were limited to at BRR-WHT 4/26 (KB) and just north of Ligonier 5/23 (AM). Low-elevation reports of single **Hermit Thrushes** came from CCCP 3/23 (RN) and at Shields' Farm 4/17 (KB); and among several high elevation reports was of one found in LRSP 5/20 (ML). A high count of 38 **Cedar Waxwings** was reported at KSP 5/21 (Bl, G). Kuchta photographed a **Snow Bunting** in the parking lot of the Westmoreland Mall 3/28.

Among the many observations for **Louisiana Waterthrush** was a report of 3 found on a hike of CR 4/27 (KB). Both seen and heard, a male **Golden-winged Warbler** was reported at the Blair Brother's RR Grade Trail/Hunters Lane 4/30 (RN), a continuing reliable location for the species. One **Prothonotary Warbler** was reported feeding along a stream in the Mt. Pleasant area 4/22 (TA). Two **Tennessee Warblers** were at HL 5/21 (SG). Five **Nashville Warblers** were recorded for the PAMC, 2 of which were at SFB (JK, TK). Often missed for the season, one **Mourning Warbler** was reported at HL 5/21 (SG). A **Kentucky Warbler** was reported at the Lindsay home near Ligonier 5/19 (AC).

The only report of **Cerulean Warbler** for the PAMC was of one heard on Weaver Mill Rd. not far from the PNR (JK, TK); and although missed there on that miserable weather day, one Cerulean Warbler was reported at LRSP, a reliable location, on a return trip by 5/29 (JK, TK). Also, 2 Ceruleans were reported at SPB 5/27 (AM). **Canada Warblers**, while not uncommon at LRSP, were appreciated for their abundance and distinct vocalizations by observers who recorded 13 on the PAMC (JK, TK). One **Bay-breasted Warbler** was reported along Fish Run in the Laurel Ridge – LRSP area 5/17 (AC). One **Blackpoll Warbler** was at SFB 5/27 (AM).

Abundant that day, 5 **Palm Warblers** were reported on a hike at the CR 4/27 (KB). One **Pine Warbler** was at HL 4/30 (RN) and one at SFB 5/27 (AM). A high count of 15 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was tallied by Byerly on his very productive hike at the CR 4/27. At that same location, one **Yellow-throated Warbler**, often an early-returning species, was there 4/20 (KB).

One **Northern Waterthrush** and one **Wilson's Warbler** were tallied on the PAMC. Warbler species captured at the PNR Banding Station that were not otherwise reported during the season included **Orange-crowned Warbler** and **Cape May Warbler**.

Three **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported at Shield's Farm 5/10 (KB) and near Blairsville 5/30 (MH). A PAMC record-count, 19 **American Tree Sparrows** remained in *Westmoreland* 5/14. The only report for the season, one **Fox Sparrow** was at PNR 3/29 (AC). One **Vesper Sparrow** and 2 **Savannah Sparrows** were tallied on the PAMC. Often only reported as captures at the PNR Banding Station, 2 **Lincoln Sparrows** were recorded as field observations at the WPT 4/20 (KB). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** visited the feeders at Byerly's Delmont home 5/5.

Of the 36 tallied for the 5/14 PAMC 5 **Bobolinks** were reported at the farm fields near PNR (JK, TK). Three **Orchard Orioles** were reported on the Westmoreland Heritage Trail near Delmont 5/3 (KB). There were 5 **Baltimore Orioles** in New Alexandria 5/4 (KJ). A report of 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** came from the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve 3/17 (AM) and the Blair Brothers Rail Rd. Grade Trail 4/30 (RN).

One male **Purple Finch** was joined by 2 females at the Kuehl property feeders 3/3 (JK), and continued as irregular visitors to the end of the season. **Pine Siskins** were very regular visitors at that location feeders, with the high count of 8 occurring 3/3 and a final report of one 4/28 (JK). The season high count for **American Goldfinch** at the Kuehl property was 26 on 3/3 (JK).

Observers: **Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Rd., Export, PA 15632, (724)-325-1918, tjuehl@comcast.net**, Tim Anderson, Rich Carlson, Annie Cray, Marcy Cunkleman, Michael David, Mike Fialkovich, Patience Fisher, Gigi Gerben, Steve Gosser, Roger Hattrup, Margaret Higbee, Todd Hooe, Linda Huber, Matt Juskowich, Karen Jackson, Chuck Jones, Janet Kuehl, Chuck Kuchta, Mike Lanzone, Andy Mack, Mark McConaughy, Cletus Mcconville, Donna Mohny, Richard Nugent, Marge Van Tassel.

## Wyoming County

Locations: Beaumont (BM), Brown's Farm (BF), Davis Crossing (DC), Endless Mountains Nature Center/Vosburg Neck (EMNC), Iroquois Trail (IT), Lake Carey (LC), Mary Robbin's Pond (MRP), Oxbow Lake (OL), Sharpe's Lake (SL), Sordoni's Farm (SF), State Gamelands 57 (SGL).

This narrative focuses on species that migrate through *Wyoming* or that are transient winter residents. Twenty-four such species (not listed as PO, PR, or CO in the second BBA) were recorded, and I've provided detail below. This is close to normal, although we did have a few only rarely recorded here. For the most part, the numbers of each were small.

The 2016 PAMC, held 5/14, garnered 112 species, matching the five-year running average and 23% higher than 2015, which was unusually low. There were a few unusual records, as noted them in the narrative.

Thirty **Tundra Swans** were recorded at LC 3/10 (JD). They rafted together in late afternoon into evening and were gone the next morning. Three had been seen at LC 3/3 (MR); perhaps they were part of the 30 seen a few days later. Seven **Gadwall** were observed at LC 4/4 (JD), and some remained until at least 4/7. Five **American Wigeons** were also observed at LC 4/5 (JD). As many as 12 at a time were present throughout Mar at MRP, a fail-safe stop for the species in both spring and fall (MR). A pair of **Green-winged Teal** were recorded at LC 3/10 (JD).

A regular visitor during fall and spring migration, **Ring-necked Ducks** were recorded at several locations: 8 at LC 3/10 and a pair on her pond for much of the last two weeks of Mar (MR); 55 at Scavazzo's Pond 3/4 (MR); 18 at the propagation pond in SGL 4/16 (RM); 35 at SF 4/18 (JT); and 7 at LC 5/3 (MC). Twelve **Lesser Scaup** were at LC 4/12 (JD). Four **White-winged Scoters**, two males and two first spring females, were recorded at LC 4/4 (JD), possibly forced down by strong winds associated with a storm the previous day. According to my records, these are the first records of White-winged Scoter in the county in ten years. **Buffleheads** were reported at several locations throughout Mar and Apr, as they normally are during migration - at SGL (RM), OL (JD), and LC (MC, JD). Surprisingly, one late **Bufflehead** was recorded at LC 5/14, during the PAMC (MC). Up to 6 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at LC 4/4-12. Two **Ruddy Ducks** were recorded at LC 4/27 (DH) and 5/5 (ST).

The storm that likely forced down the White-winged Scoters was probably also a factor in the record of 27 **Common Loons** at LC 4/4 (JD), a much larger number than normally seen at one time. I had received previous reports of Common Loon in smaller numbers at LC prior to that date, and loons were recorded as late as 5/14 at that lake. In addition, one was recorded on the Susquehanna R. at Tunkhannock 4/27 (DH) and one at OL 4/5 (JD). Among non-breeding grebes, only **Horned Grebe** was recorded, all at LC: one 3/10, 2 on 4/4, 9 on 4/12 (all JD), and 3 on 4/28 (MC). One

**Double-crested Cormorant** was recorded on the Susquehanna R. at Tunkhannock 4/27 (DH). In addition, 5 were observed at LC 4/4, 3 at OL 4/12, and 5 at SL 4/28 (all JD).

A rarity for *Wyoming*, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** were observed in Nicholson Twp. 5/4 (MC), only the sixth record of the species in the last 7 years. Even rarer, **Least Sandpiper** was recorded at BF 5/14, during the PAMC (MC), the first record in 11 years and only the third in the last 15, according to my reports. Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were observed for about 30 minutes, skimming the surface of the Susquehanna R. at Tunkhannock 5/13 (JD); these also representing a rare record for *Wyoming*, and the first since the spring of 2014.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was observed by several folks at several locations throughout the period, as it has been over the years during spring and fall migration. Fifty **American Pipits** were at BF 4/17 (MC). A single **Tennessee Warbler** was observed during the PAMC at DC 5/15 (MC), the first record in *Wyoming* in ten years of which I am aware. Other rare warblers reported were a single **Cape May Warbler** at DC 5/14 (MC), 2 **Palm Warblers** at LC 4/27 (DH) and one at IT 5/3 (MC), and one **Bay-breasted Warbler** in a Tunkhannock backyard 5/9 (JD).

The first **Dickcissel** in over ten years was at a private home in the eastern part of the county 5/30 (CL). Records of **White-crowned Sparrow**, another winter transient, included 2 at IT 5/7 (JD) and a single in BM 5/10 (SG). There were few records of **Pine Siskin**.

Observers: **Joe DeMarco**, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468, [jdemarco@epix.net](mailto:jdemarco@epix.net), Dave and Phyllis Billings (BPB), Jim Borden (JB), Tom Boyle (TB), Mark Catalano ((MC), Justin Clarke (JC), Bob Daniels (BD), Joe DeMarco (JD), Laura Dickson (LD), Sandy Goodwin (SG), Deborah Grove (DG), Greg Grove (GG), Deuane Hoffman (DH), Joe and Rebecca Lesko (JRL), Cosmo Lovecchio (CL), Robbie and Gail Long (RGL), Robert Megraw (RM), John Miller (JM), Mary Robbins (MR), Mitch and Marie Rowland (MMR), Matthew Sim (MS), Kay Simons (KS), Jerry Skinner (JS), Cheryl Stone (CS), Joyce Stone (JS), Sharon Templin (ST), Alan Thatcher (AT), Jon Thomas (JT), Eric Zawatski (EZ).

## York County

Locations: Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP).

Species count for the period was 193, within the recent five-year average. Waterfowl reporting was sub-par with 24 species while the total of 33 warblers was on the high side. The 5/14 PAMC, co-compiled by Ann Pettigrew and Randy Phillips, produced 139 species; the highest since 141 in 2003. Interestingly, last year's PAMC was five days earlier (5/9) and the vast majority of warbler migrants had appeared to move thru the county in the days leading up to the 2015 PAMC. This year, the warblers were still around in good numbers as 29 species were found on the PAMC.

**Snow Goose** reports included 6 at Stewartstown 3/3 (RS) and birds at Ski Roundtop 3/7 and 3/16 (both CH). **Mute Swan** remains resident at Spring Grove. Of the 7 **Tundra Swan** reports, higher counts were 62 at LVV 3/1 (CK, DN, RS), 35 at LR 3/7 (CK), and 40 at PaHaGaCo Lake 3/11 (PK).

A nice count of 28 **Gadwalls** came from Lake Lea 3/1 (CH). The 4 reports of **American Black Duck** were paced by the 8 at Lock 12 on 3/30 (TA, DKO, PAMC). **Blue-winged Teal** reports included a trio at BI 4/11 (DN), a single at Gut Rd 4/13 (CB), and another single at LR 5/17-20 (m.ob.). The only **Northern Shoveler** find was of a pair at LW 3/15 (CK). Single digit counts of **Green-winged Teal** came from CSP 3/6 (DKO), Shepperd-Myers Reservoir 3/19 (BF), and Long Arm Reservoir 3/30 (PK).

Single **Redheads** were at CSP 3/19 (BF) and Spring Grove 3/22 (PK). A nice count of 20 **Common Goldeneyes** was at Wrightsville 3/20 (CM, RS). Max counts for mergansers included 8 **Hooded Mergansers** at GPSP 3/5 (DN), 200 **Common Mergansers** at LW 3/1 (CK), and 15 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Long Arm Reservoir 3/19-22 (BF, BR). **Ruddy Ducks** were found only at GPSP but an extended period, 3/9-5/16 (m.ob.). High count was 10 birds 5/3 (DN). Some of the more noteworthy misses for this period were Northern Pintail, Canvasback, and Greater Scaup.

**Common Loon** enjoyed good reporting from 7 locations, with a nice count of 31 at GPSP 5/5 (CB). **Ring-necked Pheasants** were at BI 5/2 (CK) and 5/20 (DK), the only reports. The 28 reports of **Wild Turkey** represent a very high number for York. High count was 13 in the 3/1-9 (JN) period at Lower Violet Hill.

A real highlight for the period was an **Anhinga** (doc. submitted) over Codorus Furnace Rd. 5/9 (PK, RP). As with most out-of-range observations of this species, it was accidentally spotted in the background sky while

scanning for other species. Initial elevation was likely around 1000-1500 feet and the bird was soaring and gaining altitude while headed north. This is the first Anhinga sighting for the county since a 5/5/11 (LC) report from BI, about three miles north of the location of this season's observation.

For a while, it appeared the **Great Blue Heron** rookery at Spring Grove was commandeered by Bald Eagles. Nest tiding and new nest building activity had not begun by the usual time in late Feb and this compiler was initially under the impression that the herons had deserted the site. However, a number of birds lingered and in late Mar, nest building began in an area, 150-200 yards away from the eagle nest. Up to five heron nests were seen before leaf out obliterated the view. **Great Egrets** continue at the Kiwanis Lake rookery with 31 birds counted 4/30 (CB). They were first detected at the site 3/23 (PK) and **Black-crowned Night-Heron** first arrived the next day 3/24 (DN). Their numbers reached 36 on 5/14 (CB). As is typical, LW and LR are in reasonable proximity (~ 6 miles) to the rookery and were visited by the night herons. However, one at GPSP 5/13 (CH) was more wide ranging (~ 11 miles) than normal for this period assuming that bird was from this particular rookery.

BI and CSP held nesting **Osprey** and a visit to Lock 12 produced a count of 8 birds with nesting activity noted below Holtwood Dam 4/14 (TA). **Bald Eagles** were well reported with extensive nesting but some nest failures occurred. The high profile CSP pair from last year produced 2 eggs with one hatchling but the hatchling died and the remaining egg did not hatch. A pair at LW produced at least one eaglet but wind damage to the nest apparently caused it to be deserted. On the positive side, the new nest site at Spring Grove, produced 2 young with a mid-Jun visit finding the youngsters in vigorous wing flapping mode. A rather late **Northern Harrier** was at HTP 5/28 (DF).

**Sora** was found at Sunnyside Rd. 5/14 (CB, JF). LR held **Greater Yellowlegs** 3/30-5/20 (m.ob.), with a high of 3 birds 4/6 (DN). Another trio was at Lock 12 on 4/30 (TA). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found only at LR 4/18-5/17 (m.ob.) with a high of 6 birds 4/26 (CB). Not so "solitary", 21 **Solitary Sandpipers** were found in various low spots holding 2+ inches of water at Sunnyside Rd. 5/14 (CB). It isn't often a nocturnal (4:45 am) shorebird count is received but 25 **Spotted Sandpipers** were on the dam spillway at LW 5/15 (CB, DC). Five **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at LR 4/30 (CB) and a single was there 5/7 (CM). The shorebird of the season was an apparent one-day only **Dunlin** at LR 5/14 (CB, DC). **Wilson's Snipe** was found at HTP 3/5-4/13 (DF, NH) with a nice high of 8 birds 4/13 (NH). A trio of peenting **American Woodcock** were at HTP 3/12 (DF).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were found at 5 sites with higher counts being 10 from CSP 4/13 (DHo, JW), 12 at LR 3/24 (DN), and 25 at Lock 12 on 3/18 (TA). Up to 4 **Herring Gulls** were at GPSP 3/6-9 (CH, TK), a single was at LR 3/24 (DN), and BI held one 5/2 (DN). Wrightsville produced 6 **Great Black-backed Gulls** 3/2 (CM). A pair of **Caspian Terns** at a pond along Bowman's School Rd was on the early side 4/8 (MC). It's rare for **Forster's Tern** reports to approach the frequency of Caspians but that was the case this year. A quartet was at LR 4/29 (DN), a single was at GPSP 5/14 (DN), and Lock 12 held a pair 5/5 (NP).

Apr outings in wooded areas showed signs of increased tent caterpillar activity and that may account for stronger cuckoo reporting this year. Three reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** came from LR 4/30 (CB) and RRCP 5/10-15 (CK, AW). The 14 **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports (m.ob.) included a very nice count of 13 on the PAMC. **Common Nighthawk** reports included singles at RRCP 5/9 (DoW), in Fairview Twp. 5/11 (RK), at Gateway Shopping Center retention ponds 5/19 (DN), and a quintet flying over Green Lane Farms 5/24 (RK).

It was a very solid period for **Red-headed Woodpecker** with 11 locations producing reports. High count was 9 at GPSP 3/3 (DN) which reflected their strong over-wintering presence at this site. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported from 8 locales 3/7-4/5 (m.ob.). All other expected woodpecker species continue to have high reporting frequencies. A nice count of 10 **Northern Flicker** came from HTP 4/2 (DF). A **Merlin** was seen at HTP 5/7 (DF), but belying its aggressive nature, departed after being harassed by a **Barn Swallow**. A pair of **Peregrine Falcon** successfully pirated the Osprey nesting platform at the York Haven Hydro Station. A visit on 5/20 found parents and 2 juveniles on the platform (DK).

**Acadian Flycatcher** was found at 6 locales and **Willow Flycatcher** at 5 sites. RRCP produced the only **Least Flycatcher** report 5/16 (CB, DoW). **Common Raven** reporting was limited to singles at Ernst Nature Park 3/26 (DF) and over Roth's Church Rd 4/12 (PK). Up to 2 **Horned Larks** were at HTP 3/12-27 (DF) and a pair was at Highpoint Scenic Vista & Recreation Area 3/21 (PM).

PABIRDS posts from southeastern Pennsylvania noted that extended periods of rain in May significantly impacted nesting success of **Purple Martin** in that region. Unfortunately, it may have been true for York as well. No count from the 5 reports exceeded 4 birds and the latest report was 5/7. Ten **Bank Swallow** were at GPSP 4/24 (DHo, JW). The **Cliff Swallow**

colony at CSP had a good year with a conservative count of 36 on 5/19 (DN). **Winter Wren** singles were at LW 3/22 (CK) and 4/10 (DN), and at CSP 4/13 (DN). A good find, a **Marsh Wren** was at LR 4/29-30 (CB).

**Veery** reports came from GPSP, RRCP, and Woods Rd. 5/6-20 (m.ob.) The sole **Gray-cheeked Thrush** report was of an accommodating bird at RRCP 5/11 (PK, RP). **Swainson's Thrush** observations included up to 3 at RRCP 5/11-13 (PK, RP, AW) and at GPSP 5/20 (DN). The overwintering **Gray Catbird** at LW continued into Mar (CK). A nicely photographed aberrant-plumaged catbird with distinctively white cheeks was at GPSP 4/30 (DN). **American Pipit** reporting was limited to singles at Prospect Hill Cemetery 3/13 (AK) and Sunnyside Rd. 5/13-14 (CB, JF).

The warbler migration produced some good days for county birders. RRCP maintained its reputation as the leading spot for migrating warblers with 29 species found (out of the 33 total species reported for the county). It provided the only reports of **Golden-winged Warbler** 5/7 (AW), **Tennessee Warbler** 5/11-22 (m.ob.), **Magnolia Warbler** 5/7-22 (m.ob.), and **Wilson's Warbler** 5/11-17 (DN, TN, AW, DoW). Nice counts of 3 **Nashville Warblers** and 5 **Yellow-throated Warblers** came from Green Lane Farms 5/7 (RK). A well photographed early **Blackpoll Warbler** was at GPSP 4/27 (DN). Lock 12 provided the only **Cerulean Warbler** report 5/7 (DC, DaH).

**Prothonotary Warbler** continues at BI with singles found 4/30-5/20 (CB, DC, CK). **Canada Warbler** reports included sightings from RRCP 5/11-23 (m.ob.), a single at SGL 5/14 (SCW), and 2 on the Rail Trail near Glen Rock 5/18 (RV). **Yellow-breasted Chats** continue on a year-to-year basis at Lock 12 with reports 5/16-29 (TA) and at RRCP 4/30-5/28 (m.ob.).

A very early **Chipping Sparrow** was in Hanover 3/7 (PJR). With the exception of the PAMC reporting 5 each **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Savannah Sparrow**, HTP was the only location producing reports on other dates. The 5 reports each of **Fox Sparrow** and **Swamp Sparrow** were about normal.

In this compiler's opinion, the **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** migration was the major migration story for the county. Twenty-six locales reported birds from 4/26-5/20 (m.ob.), with reports frequently noting more than 2 birds and often at backyard feeders. A Fairview Twp. backyard feeding station held 9 (5M/4F) birds 5/3 (DN). In my six years of compiling for *York*, reports rarely hit double digits and counts of 1-2 birds were the norm. I was unable

to find reference to past *York* spring migration highlights for this species but the 2016 Rose-breasted Grosbeak spring migration should be remembered as a special one. There was a pair of **Blue Grosbeak** at the entrance to RRCP 5/14 (DC, JP).

HTP held up to 3 **Bobolinks** 5/2-14 (DF). Five **Rusty Blackbirds** were at LR 3/18 (CK) and GPSP produced reports 4/17-5/5 (CB, RK, AM, DN) with a high of 7 on 4/17 (RK, AM). Other than HTP, 4 locales reported single **Eastern Meadowlarks** 3/16-4/1 (CB, CH, BR, RS). An established year round site, HTP held meadowlarks all period, with a high of 26 birds 3/31 (DN). **Orchard Oriole** and **Baltimore Oriole** enjoyed good reporting. A nice count of up to 10 Baltimore's came from GPSP 5/16 (DN). Four of 7 **Purple Finch** reports (MC, CH, CM, DN) came within their typical migration period while May reports were from 5/6 (MH), 5/10-13 (PT), and 5/14 (PAMC). A pair of **Pine Siskin**, first seen in mid-Jan, were last seen at Wyndham Dr. 3/27 (RE). A lingering pair (with singing) stayed at a Springettsbury Twp. yard from early Apr until 5/16 (DHe).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA, 17316, (717) 259 9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Tom Amico, David Arrow, John Baird, Chuck Berthoud, Emily Broich, Bruce Carl, Lou Carpenter, Dick Cleary, Andrew Clemens, Ken Cooper, Mary Creager, Mark Duigon, Robert Elser, David Farner, Meg Frantz, Bill Franz, John Freese, David Gibson (DG), Kathryn Grasso, Greg & Deborah Grove, M Harris, Dan Heathcote (DHe), Nancy Heiser, Carolyn Hoffman, Deuane Hoffman, David Hooper (DaH), David Horton (DHo), Georgia Kagle, Kevin Kane, Ted Keen, Andy Keister, Dave Kerr, Chuck Kling, Duane Kornbau (DKo), Ramsay Koury, Ken Lehman, Sean McCandless, Dennis McGillicuddy, Henry McLin, Peter Martin, Annette Mathes, Carolyn Mathur, Richard Miller, Mark Mummert, Jeff Musser, Joanne Nanez, Dean Newhouse, Tony Newhouse, Linda Ochterbeck, Ann Pettigrew, Randy Phillips, Nick Polini, Jean Prescott, Thomas Randall, Peter Robinson (PJR), Brian Roffinke, Leslie Romesberg, Brain Shade, Merlyn Sheldon, Larry Sizemore, Robin Smith (RS), Roger Stone, Barbara Taylor, Philip Tierney, Homer Trecartin, Ryan Votta, Joel Wagner, Scott & Carol Walker (SCW), Dennis Weaver (DeW), Donald Weidemann (DoW), David Wildasin, Andrew Wolf, Nathan Zalik.

**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:** Materials to be included in the publication are needed by the due dates below.

Issue	Sightings due to Compilers by...	Articles due to Editor by...	Publication Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 March	1 May	July
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 June	1 August	October
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 August	1 October	December
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 December	1 February	April

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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



*Ruffed Grouse, Ohiopyle State Park, see Fayette County report. (photo by Geoff Malosh)*



*Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Conodoguinet Creek, West Fairview, see Cumberland County report. (photo by Dave Kerr)*



*Palm Warbler, Taylor Marsh, see Bradford county report, (photo by Lewis Frederick)*



*Cerulean Warbler, Walker Park, see Allegheny county report. (photo by Geoff Malosh)*



*Yellow-breasted Chat, see Armstrong County report. (Photo by Tony Bruno)*



*Male Painted Bunting, Phoenixville, see Chester county report. (Photo by Chad Hutchinson)*