

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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Mar - May 2017
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IN FOCUS PART 1



Osprey, Rose Valley Lake, Lycoming County, 11 April (David Brown)



Horned Grebe, Conodoguinet Creek (West Fairview), Cumberland County, 8 May (Dave Kerr)



Black-billed Cuckoo, North Park, Allegheny County, 12 May (Alan Buriak)



Red-necked Phalarope, Middle Creek WMA, Lancaster County, 21 May (Zach Millen)



Western Tanager, Penn State main campus, Centre County, 23 April (Ron Crandall)



Black-backed Oriole, Sinking Springs, Berks County, 30 March (Damon Orsetti)



PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

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Cover Photo: For the third consecutive year, one or more **Summer Tanagers** were present on private property on Neversink Mountain, *Berks*. Last year, two singing males appeared to be holding territories; a female was also present, but breeding was not confirmed. This year, one male was detected, initially 29 April, seen here 23 May. Beginning around 1970, Summer Tanagers nested in small numbers in extreme southwest Pennsylvania; however, this breeding population was apparently gone by the beginning of the second PA Breeding Bird Atlas in 2004. There are presently no known regular breeding locations in the state and there appears to have been a slight southward retraction from the northern edge of their breeding range in West Virginia and Maryland. (*photo by Dave Kocher*)

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Annual PSO meeting held in Carlisle

In a change from the usual spring time frame, the 2017 PSO meeting was held September 15-17 at Carlisle, *Cumberland*. Details about the meeting will come in the next *PSO Pileated* newsletter. For the moment, I just want to convey a few Thanks and Congratulations. The chief organizer of the meeting was PSO VP Vern Gauthier, who did a masterful job on a complex project. Thanks also to other PSO board members who had a part in organizing the meeting. Extra special thanks go to the many volunteers who led the field trips that will be described in the newsletter. Among highlights was the chance to visit nearby Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch.

Excellent talks were presented by Ian Gardner (fall warblers), Andy Wilson (use of drones in ornithology), Art McMorris (Peregrine Falcon nesting in Pennsylvania), and banquet speaker Ted Floyd (on walking around Carlisle at one a.m. and other related topics).

A highlight of the meeting each year is the presentation of the Earle Poole award, "presented annually to a person or persons who have made significant contributions to Pennsylvania's ornithology". The awardee this year was Scott Weidensaul, in recognition both of his prolific and skilled nature writing and of his field projects, which include banding of Northern Saw-whet Owls at the Ned Smith Center in *Dauphin*, identification and banding of winter hummingbirds in Pennsylvania, and telemetry on Snowy Owls (Project SNOWSTORM).

The Conservation award honored the Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch, represented by four long-time volunteers – Dave Grove, Ron Freed, Gene Wagner, Keith Gingrich – who have logged thousands of hours of counting migrating raptors and, just as important, opening a window to the marvel of migration for many people who have little idea of the phenomenon occurring right above their heads.

Youth scholarships were awarded to Carl Engstrom (*Centre*), Joshua McCoy (*Butler*), and Paul Heveran (*Montgomery*). This is the first time we have had three scholarships awarded and a big reason we could do so is thanks to generous sponsorship by Rockjumper Birding Tours and George Armistead.

Registration for the meeting was about 130, probably the highest ever, but in any case far above average, thanks perhaps to a combination of factors: Centralized location just off the Pa Turnpike, good pre-meeting publicity, and scheduling in fall rather than spring (when some birders are too busy birding to attend a birding meeting!). Look for a fall meeting again next year exactly when and where soon to be announced.

Photos and more color

In most issues, we run 40-50 photos, though we may get double that number submitted. As I wrote previously, if you submit a photo that is not used in the journal, don't give up – please submit again. To some degree, we make a special effort to use photos from new contributors.

A difficult task, always, is to choose photos to print in color on the *In Focus* page inside the back cover. In some seasons we could fill that page (and more) with just the warblers! We have improved that situation by a factor of two in this issue by putting six more color photos inside the front cover.

Thanks once again to Ted Nichols for being point man on the photos, collecting and prepping for print, a task which takes considerable time and work. For each issue, Ted sends me a folder with an excess of photos, from which I select those to be used. In other words, any inquiries or complaints about your submissions should come to me.

As a reminder, photos should be sent to Ted at the special email address on the Table of Contents page (pabirdsphotos@gmail.com). Photos can be sent anytime but note that for each season Ted announces through social media deadlines for submitting photos for the current issue in preparation.

Compiler News

As was the case with the winter issue, three new compilers join the line-up beginning with this issue. **Zach Millen** takes over in *Lancaster* for Pamela Fisher. In this issue you will find the spring report for *Lancaster* as well as the winter report missing from the previous issue. Thanks to Pamela for her service to

Pennsylvania Birds. **Joe Gyekis** is the new compiler for *Union*; Joe lives in next-door *Centre*. Andy Kiester has jumped in with two counties – *Columbia* (where he lives) and *Northumberland*. With the addition of Joe and Andy, and also Evan Houston, who took over *Montour* last issue, we now have coverage in four contiguous counties (*Union*, *Northumberland*, *Montour*, *Columbia*) that have not been covered for many years.

The following counties have no compiler: *Bradford*, *Carbon*, *Luzerne*, *Potter*, and *Tioga*. Please contact me if interested.

County compilers: **Phil Keener** (Adams, York), **Mike Fialkovich** (Allegheny, Fayette), **Marjorie Van Tassel** (Armstrong), **Geoff Malosh** (Beaver, Lawrence, Washington), **Tom Dick** (Bedford), **Rudy Keller** and **Matt Wlawniewski** (Berks), **John Carter** (Blair), **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), **Any Kiester** (Columbia, Northumberland), **Rob Hodgson** (Crawford), **Vern Gauthier** (Cumberland, Perry), **Annette Mathes** (Dauphin), **Sheryl Johnson** (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**, **Aden Troyer** (Juniata), **Zack Millen** (Lancaster), **Tim Becker** (Lebanon), **Bill Etter** (Lehigh), **Bobby Brown** (Lycoming), **Gigi Gerben** (McKean), **Neil Troyer** (Mercer), **Jon Kauffman** (Mifflin), **Brian Hardiman** (Monroe), **Brian Henderson** (Montgomery), **Evan Houston** (Montour), **Michael Schall** (Northampton, Pike), **Doris McGovern** (Philadelphia), **Dave Rieger** (Schuylkill), **Jeff Payne** (Somerset), **Rob Megraw** (Sullivan), **Evan Mann** (Susquehanna), **Joe Gyekis** (Snyder, Union), **Gary Edwards** and **Russ States** (Venango), **Scott Stoleson** (Warren), **Josh Jones** (Wayne), **Tom Kuehl** (Westmoreland), **Joe DeMarco** (Wyoming).

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Pennsylvania Raptor Migration Summary - Spring 2017

Laurie Goodrich

Winter temperatures were above-average across the state and through much of the eastern United States in early 2017 (www.ncdc.noaa.gov), which may have spurred early northward movement for some migrants. After a warmer than usual February, March brought an unwelcome surprise for migrants and for hawkwatchers, with notable snowfall and colder than normal temperatures. April and May rainfall was above-average across the state challenging migrants and migration watchers once again.

Migration Summary

Despite the weather, seven migration sites tallied an above-average 26,057 hawks statewide in 1792 hours and 301 days (Table 1). Counts ran from 18 February to 23 May across the state with numbers peaking in April at 17,899. Higher counts were recorded, in part, due to additional sites as well as higher numbers for some sites. Stone Mountain and Bucktoe Creek Preserve expanded their hours in 2017 while Millersville University in Lancaster County launched a new migration watchsite on campus, recording their data in real time using tablet apps, (dunkadoo.org and trektellen.org). With the additional spring coverage and the new site, statewide hours of effort swelled in 2017 by 35% over prior years.

Total migrant raptors were 24% higher than the ten-year average, although the rate of 14.6 hawks per hour was near the ten-year average of 15.7 (Table 1). Only three species were below-average statewide: Cooper's Hawk, with 213 tallied compared to an average of 238; Northern Goshawk, with 4 counted compared to an average of 8.6; and Rough-legged Hawk, 10 recorded compared to the average of 24.2 (Table 1). The Turkey Vulture total of 14,690 was 27% above the ten-year average. The count of 574 American Kestrels was 58% above-average and the Northern Harrier total of 185 was 31% above-average (Table 1). The bump in the latter two species was a spot of hope as both farmland-associated raptors have shown declines in recent years. Merlin also had a strong showing with 40 tallied, 45% above the average of 25.3. Broad-winged Hawks were 21% above-average with 5538 counted compared to the average of 4584 (Table 1).

Bald Eagle counts continued their amazing ascent across the state with 321 migrants sighted in spring 2017, setting a new spring record statewide; the ten-year average is 198. The record came despite a below-average 101 Bald Eagles at Presque Isle, a stronghold for this species. The total of 321 Bald Eagles was particularly notable when compared to the recent decade's statewide totals that ranged from 98 to 263. The Golden Eagle statewide count, 296, was near the ten-year average, 302, but well above last year's low count of 226.

Kite sightings increased in 2017 due to increased coverage at Bucktoe Preserve in Chester, a known kite hot spot. Presque Isle counted a single high-flying Mississippi Kite on 17 May. Bucktoe

ten-year average of 22 (Table 1) contrasting with a below-average count of Turkey Vulture, 76; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; and American Kestrel, 8 (Table 1). The total of 160 Ospreys was especially

Table 2. Peak One-day Counts

Site	Br-winged Hawk		Bald Eagle		Golden Eagle	
	Count	Date	Count	Date	Count	Date
Allegheny Front	195	4/14	9	4/27	16	2/24
Bucktoe Creek	64	4/14	4	several	-	-
Hawk Mountain	302	4/23	15	4/8	2	4/1
Jack's Mountain*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Millersville U	3	4/13	3	4/28	-	-
Presque Isle	1419	4/27	19	4/27	1	4/3
Stateline Woods*	1	4/22	-	-	-	-
Stone Mtn.	-	-	-	-	2	several
Tussey Mtn	216	4/27	4	3/28	44	3/20

*Only one day coverage.
(Peak two counts for season are bolded).

counted a peak of three Mississippi Kites on 18 May and singles flew past on 20 May, 1 June, and 2 June, bringing the statewide count to seven Mississippi Kites (Table 1). No other raptor rarities were recorded

Presque Isle recorded the highest spring numbers of any site, leading with 13,914 Turkey Vultures and 3475 Broad-winged Hawks (Table 1), while Allegheny Front and Tussey Mountain once again had impressive Golden Eagle tallies, with a combined total of 280 Golden Eagles (Table 1, 2). Allegheny Front also tallied more Ospreys in spring than other sites, 160, whereas Hawk Mountain had the second highest Bald Eagle count, 75, a new spring record for the site.

Site Highlights

Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford) – Allegheny Front hawkwatchers tallied 1324 hawks in 377.5 hours and 59 days from 18 February through 7 May. The count began earlier than some years due to the mild weather in February, which allowed counters to tally 140 hawks by month's end. The best early day was 24 February when 79 hawks, including 16 Golden and 4 Bald Eagles, mostly adults, glided north. The overall raptor count was slightly below average (Table 1), possibly affected by unfavorable March weather. A notable flight of 15 Golden Eagles passed on 13 March, on the eve of a snowstorm. Other highlights included the flight on 27 April when east winds ushered in one of the best days of the season. Counters tallied a record-setting 82 Ospreys, along with 9 Bald Eagles, 2 Peregrine Falcons, and 23 Broad-winged Hawks. The seasonal Bald Eagle count of 44 was double the

notable, the highest since 2008, when 185 were tallied.

Bucktoe Preserve's Southern Chester County Watch & Kite and Shorebird Watch (Chester)

Bucktoe Preserve watchers led by Larry Lewis conducted two separate counts at Bucktoe Preserve in Avondale during 2017: a hawk count during March and April for all raptors and a "kite watch" in May and June sponsored by the Delaware Nature Society (DNS). The numbers are presented together in Table 1, but could be viewed as two watch efforts. Overall, Bucktoe Preserve watchers tallied 1125 hawks in 74 days and 524 hours of effort among the two counts. Turkey Vultures and Broad-winged Hawks led the counts with 283 and 228, respectively (Table 1), highlighted by a peak one-day count of 64 Broad-wings on 14 April. Bucktoe tallied the second-highest Red-shouldered Hawk total statewide, 54, with 18 migrating north on 25 March among 88 total raptors. Light wind and cloudy skies on 14 April brought the highest one-day count, including 13 Turkey Vultures, 7 Red-tailed Hawks, 2 American Kestrels, and the afore-mentioned 64 Broad-winged Hawks.

The DNS May and June watch tallied 13 raptors for the period including 6 Ospreys, one Broad-winged Hawk, and 6 Mississippi Kites, with a peak of 3 sub-adult kites on 18 May.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Berks/Schuylkill) –

Hawk Mountain recorded 1276 hawks in 40 days and 195 hours from 23 March to 15 May, for a rate of 6.6 hawks per hour. Effort was slightly below the ten-year average of 234 hours due to frequent rain and fog. Despite the weather, new records were set for both Bald and Golden Eagles, 75 and 8, respectively (Table 1). Hawk Mountain trainees and volunteers tallied 642 Broad-winged Hawks, the highest spring season count in over a decade and an impressive 77%

above the ten-year average of 361. A notable flight of 15 Bald Eagles migrated past on 8 April when winds turned steady from the northwest. The first migrant eagles were sighted soon after 8 am and most flew past before midday. The total of 15 eagles was the second highest Bald Eagle tally for 2017 spring season statewide (Table 2). Light north winds on 23 April ushered in the best day of the season with 302 Broad-wings as well as 13 Ospreys, 4 Bald Eagles, 9 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 2 Northern Harriers among 342 total raptors (Table 2). Several Broad-wings put on a show through the day diving on the decoy owl atop the rocks. Flights slowed substantially in May with the best day bringing 4 Bald Eagles - 3 adult and one immature – on 9 May.

Millersville University (Lancaster) - Millersville University biology students and professor Dr. Aaron Haines launched this new watchsite from atop a science building on campus in Lancaster. Despite classes and other commitments and constraints they counted 116 hawks in 28 days and 155 hours (Table 1). They also took abundant notes on movements of local birds and embarked on a study of weather using special instrumentation available in the science facility. Count highlights include 4 Bald Eagles, with 3 on 13 April (Table 2). They also tallied 27 Black Vultures and 48 Turkey Vultures. South winds brought their highest one-day count including one Black and 15 Turkey Vultures as well as one unidentified *buteo* on 3 April, a peak migration date for vultures at Presque Isle as well. As students hone their skills in identification and detection we hope to see more reports from this new southern Pennsylvania site!

Presque Isle (Erie) – Presque Isle watchers counted 19,966 hawks in 40 days and 142 hours from 1 March through 23 May. Effort was slightly lower than average due to frequent north winds and inclement weather. Numbers were 20% above-average primarily due to increased Turkey Vultures, 13,914 compared to a ten-year average of 10,970 (Table 1). Birds per hour for the site continued strong with 140 birds per hour of observation. An increase in 2017 also was seen for Broad-winged Hawk, up 9% with 3475 tallied compared to a ten-year average of 3169. Other upswings were seen for Northern Harrier, 93 compared to a ten-year average of 68, and for Sharp-shinned Hawk, with 966 counted compared to the average of 855. Of particular note, American Kestrel numbers also were above-average with 473 counted compared to the average of 275. March days were slow as northerly and easterly winds kept birds off shore. The highest vulture count was recorded 3 April when 3683 flew by along with 10 other species that included both Rough-legged Hawk (2) and Golden Eagle. April 27 brought the highest count for Broad-winged Hawks, 1419; also that day saw the one-day peak count of 19 Bald Eagles (Table 2). Both were the highest one-day counts statewide for these

species. Twenty-five Ospreys and 192 Sharp-shinned Hawks also were counted helping bring the total raptor count for that day to 1948. The rarest raptor for the site was a Mississippi Kite sailing high above the site on 22 May. The watchsite shut down early due to rainy weather in May.

Southern Chester County Watch at Stateline Woods (Chester) – Stateline Woods Preserve in Kennett Square was the site of a one day hawkwatch on 22 April 22. Rain and clouds limited the hawk totals to one Broad-winged Hawk, however local Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks kept watchers busy.

Stone Mountain (Huntingdon/Mifflin) – Stone Mountain counters covered five days during spring 2017, launching their count on 26 February and counting 50 hawks in 5 days and 15.5 hours of coverage through 3 April for 3.2 hawks per hour. This traditionally fall site tallied 7 north-bound Golden Eagles with a peak of 2 on several days (Table 2). With the early timing of the watch, Stone Mountain counts also included 16 Red-tailed Hawks, 19 Turkey Vultures, and 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks as well as single sightings of Osprey, Northern Harrier, Merlin, and Red-shouldered Hawk (Table 1). Light northwest winds brought the peak one-day count for the site, 30 hawks in 3.5 hours including 10 Red-tailed Hawks and 14 Turkey Vultures.

Tussey Mountain (Centre) – Tussey Mountain watchers counted an above-average 2285 raptors in 56 days and 375 hours from 24 February to 28 April for the 17th year of this renown spring site (Table 1). Counts were 21% above-average with higher than average counts for Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and American Kestrel. Notable lows were only 22 Cooper's Hawks, 54% below average, and 295 Red-tailed Hawks, 20% below average.

Golden Eagles are the highlight for this site with large flights often seen early in the spring. In 2017, Golden Eagle peak flights appeared delayed from the usual early March peak to later in the month. In late February and early March, Golden Eagles were seen nearly every day at Tussey, but no large numbers were detected. Raw cold and stormy weather in early March may have led to the delay in migration through the region and the lower counts of Red-tailed Hawks. The peak one-day count of 44 Golden Eagles was finally tallied at Tussey on 20 March, approximately 12 days later than usual, leading the state for one-day counts in 2017 (Table 2). The season peak eagle flight was foreshadowed on the afternoon of 19 March when 14 Golden Eagles streamed past between 2 pm and 5 pm. The next morning the first Golden sailed north at 8:43 am, and the parade continued through the day. On 25 March another 20 Golden Eagles were tallied

along with 4 Bald Eagles and 60 Turkey Vultures. April brought an above-average 869 Broad-winged Hawks (Table 1) with a peak of 216 on 20 April, the third highest one-day count in the state (Table 2). The last push of Broad-wings, 206, was on 27 April, the last day of the count, along with 83 Ospreys, setting a new one-day record for Osprey for the site.

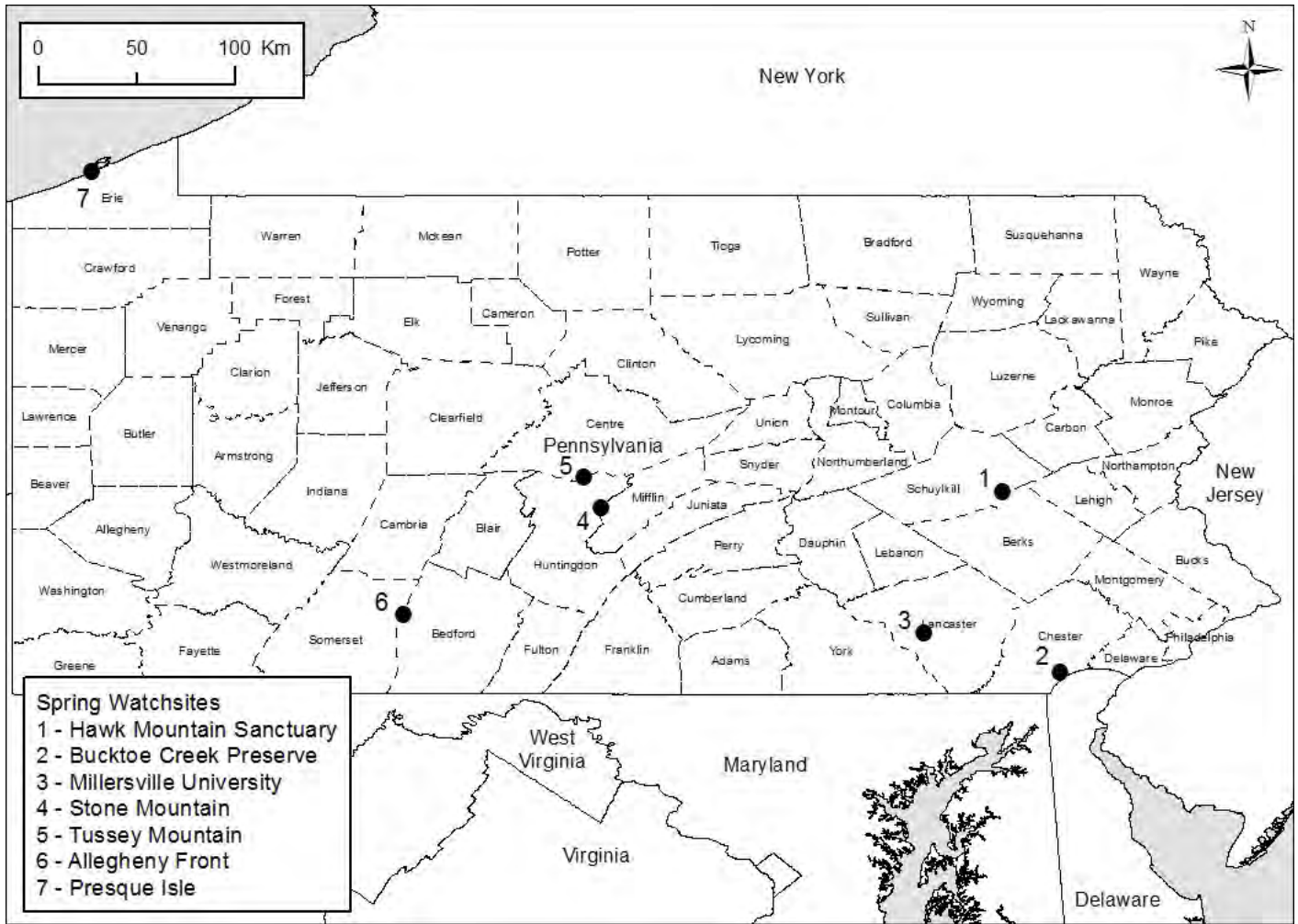
Conclusions

Spring hawk-watching is alive and well in Pennsylvania. In 2017, new sites and expanded coverage brought many opportunities for Pennsylvania birders to enjoy spring raptor flights across the state. Pennsylvania's diverse geography provides nearby opportunities to watch Golden Eagles parading north, Broad-winged Hawks kettling overhead, and Mississippi kites swooping aloft. Although raptors are the focus of this report, most of these same sites record amazing flights of other migrants (reports available on ebird.org or hawkcount.org) including waterfowl, passerines, wading birds, and shorebirds. If you are looking for an early spring birding activity, check out your nearest spring hawkwatch!

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the site compilers for providing insight and access to data, including Nick Bolgiano, Aaron Haines, Larry Lewis, Jerry McWilliams, Dan Ombalski, Bob Stewart, Merlyn Nkomuand Hawk Mountain, and all spring hawkwatchers statewide. David Barber created the site map, table preparation assistance provided by Tammy Weidmann. Daily data were gathered from www.hawkcount.org (accessed June 2016) a site managed by Jason Sodergren, HMANA database manager and Hawk Migration Association of North America. This is Hawk Mountain conservation science contribution number 287.

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PRESQUE ISLE (Erie) - Jerry McWilliams, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
February	1	2.5	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
March	12	37.0	0	4518	1	14	14	83	13	0	121	0	158	6	0	150	3	2	0	17	5100
April	21	82.3	0	8904	61	61	74	872	29	2	64	2662	386	3	1	323	11	4	1	26	13484
May	6	20.5	0	447	5	26	5	11	1	0	1	813	22	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1332
Total	40	142.3	0	13914	67	101	93	966	43	2	186	3475	571	9	1	473	14	7	1	43	19966
Total per hr			0.00	97.81	0.47	0.71	0.65	6.79	0.30	0.01	1.31	24.43	4.01	0.06	0.01	3.33	0.10	0.05	0.01	0.30	140.36
% of flight			0.0	69.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	4.8	0.2	0.0	0.9	17.4	2.9	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	100.0
Average last 10 yrs		183.4	0.6	10970.0	75.5	103.8	67.9	855.7	74.7	0.9	200.7	3169	563.7	19.4	1.2	274.6	11.7	6.7	0.0	40.0	16523.4

STONE MOUNTAIN (Huntingdon/Mifflin) - Greg Grove, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
February	1	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	5
March	3	9.0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	15
April	1	3.5	0	14	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Total	5	15.5	0	19	1	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	16	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	50
Total per hr			0.00	1.23	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	1.03	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.23
% of flight			0.0	38.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	32.0	0.0	14.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Average last 10 yrs																					

TUSSEY MOUNTAIN (Centre) - Nick Bolgiano, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
February	5	30.5	2	50	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	6	0	18	0	0	0	0	1	81
March	25	161.5	14	215	3	20	7	53	7	0	30	0	130	1	153	24	2	1	0	10	670
April	26	183.0	5	59	145	31	31	146	15	1	7	869	159	0	20	30	4	0	0	12	1534
Total	56	375	21	324	148	52	39	200	22	1	38	869	295	1	191	54	6	1	0	23	2285
Total per hr			0.06	0.86	0.39	0.14	0.10	0.53	0.06	0.00	0.10	2.32	0.79	0.00	0.51	0.14	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.06	6.09
% of flight			0.9	14.2	6.5	2.3	1.7	8.8	1.0	0.0	1.7	38.0	12.9	0.0	8.4	2.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.0	100.0
Average last 10 yrs		378.3	22.5	190.3	85.3	44.1	27.6	180.1	48.4	1.5	49.4	585.0	367.6	4.0	198.2	39.9	5.0	2.1	0.1	27.0	1878.1

2017 TOTALS FOR ALL WATCHSITES

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total*,**	
February	17	98.3	11	117	0	11	4	5	3	0	17	0	69	0	42	1	1	0	0	9	290	
March	86	499.5	14	4882	20	71	32	234	50	1	191	0	465	7	196	185	8	4	0	32	6392	
April	151	926.1	65	9244	455	203	143	1324	159	3	102	4709	968	3	58	388	30	7	1	137	17999	
May	41	229.0	11	447	27	36	6	19	1	0	1	829	36	0	0	0	1	1	4	55	1474	
June	6	39.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	
Total	301	1792	101	14690	502	321	185	1582	213	4	311	5538	1538	10	296	574	40	12	7	233	26157	
Total per hr.			0.1	8.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.2	3.1	0.9	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	14.6	
% flight			0.4	56.2	1.9	1.2	0.7	6.0	0.8	0.0	1.2	21.2	5.9	0.0	1.1	2.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.9	100.0	
Average last 10 yrs		223.5	1225.5	81.0	10092.6	349.8	198.0	137.0	1228.8	237.6	8.6	290.0	4184.2	1335.0	24.2	302.3	326.1	25.3	12.9	1	214.0	18979.5

*Includes data from February 22 from Jack's Mountain including 2 Turkey Vultures, 9 Black Vultures, 3 Red-tailed Hawks.

**Includes data from April 22nd from Stateline Woods Preserve (Chester) with 1 Broad-winged Hawk.

**Twenty-first Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
Covering 2012-2013
August 2017
Andrew McGann (2012), Mike Fialkovich (2013) for the Committee**

**2012 Records
Andrew McGann, PORC Chairman**

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter "PORC" or "the committee") evaluates and archives documentation it receives of any species or recognizable form that is on the official Review List for Pennsylvania. In addition, the committee reviews documentation for species or subspecies that were previously unrecorded in the Commonwealth. This report covers 140 records of 59 species. The 128 records accepted represent an acceptance rate of 91%. Reports were received from 31 counties.

Highlights in this report include the unprecedented scale of hurricane-dispersed vagrants related to the meteorological phenomenon of Hurricane Sandy. In fact, so many rare birds were observed as a result of Hurricane Sandy that the backlog of records to review was a large part of why this report and those of the subsequent years were so greatly delayed.

The first records of Trindade Petrel, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, "Vega" Herring Gull, Dovekie, Black-chinned Hummingbird, and Lesser Goldfinch bring the state total to 432. There are 423 in Class I and 9 on the Provisional List. (Pulcinella 2011, PB V25:N3).

PORC encourages observers to document their sightings with photos, video, or audio whenever possible. Even poor photos can be diagnostic and elevate a report from Class III to Class I. However, written documentation is also important, as will be seen in this report where there are several instances in which a photograph was judged to be less than diagnostic, but the report was still accepted as a Class III (sight record) based on the merits of the observer's written account.

Indeed, the entire birding landscape has changed in the years since the previous PORC report was published, cataloging observations from the year 2011. Smartphone cameras have improved to the point where they can rival digital SLR cameras in certain situations. Many birders use an adapter to combine their smartphone with their binoculars or spotting scope in the technique dubbed "digiscoping." The modern smartphone is ubiquitous and constantly tagging along in the pockets of most birders. As of 2017, the smartphone has become the ultimate tool for birders, second only to binoculars. They include not just still cameras but also excellent video cameras and sensitive microphones. They also leverage GPS receivers and applications for recording the observers exact location or path traveled anywhere on the planet. And the ultimate feature is the almost ubiquitous direct link to the Internet, delivering unlimited connectivity with the outside world. Birders relish meteorological information and modern weather services present it in ways not only useful but also graphically beautiful, such as Doppler radar and wind maps illustrating wind currents flowing over the surface of the Earth, both live and forecast into the future. Birders can connect to each other and share news, information, and multimedia in real time. The birding community has grown too. The "barriers to entry" have never been lower, and it's never been easier for new birders to catch up to experienced birders through the democratic access to the kind of information that used to take multiple lifetimes to accrue. Birding and sharing go hand-in-hand.

PORC encourages observers to document their sightings with photographs, videos, or sound recordings whenever possible. The observation of a bird in the field is a fleeting moment and an ephemeral personal experience. While the observer might be 100% convinced of their identification judgement, the purpose of sharing an observation is to convince others that the observer was in fact correct. Unlike a court of justice, the burden of proof lies with the

observer. This problem then falls on the reporter's abilities as a writer, which may or may not do justice to their experience in the field or their correctness or incorrectness in the identification. Thus the gold standard is physical evidence. Photographs, video clips, or sound recordings do not fade or deteriorate over time, and they can be preserved indefinitely for future reviewers to revisit and see not just with fresh eyes but with the benefit of future ornithological knowledge not yet known. PORC does not want to discourage the writing and submission of reports without physical evidence, and it's true that physical evidence is hardly useful without any written context. Rather, we encourage birders to obtain physical documentation evidence whenever possible.

Many birders have foregone the paper notebook in favor of directly recording their notes in eBird, the global database of bird observations, which benefits ornithologists and fellow birders alike. The trusty field guide has taken the leap from physical book form to digital, and for essentially the same cost of buying a book, you can now also get a comprehensive library of birds' sounds as well. And everything is always right there in your pocket.

Committee News

The committee is currently comprised of Andy McGann (Chair), Ian Gardner (non-voting Secretary), Dave DeReamus, Mike Weible, Devich Farbotnik, Mike Fialkovich, Holly Merker, and Billy Weber. The Committee has undergone several changes in the time since the Twentieth Report was published in July 2013. Drew Weber succeeded Al Guarantee as Chair and held the position from 2012 to 2015. Ben Coulter and Cameron Rutt left the committee in 2013 and 2014, respectively. The critical position of non-voting Secretary changed hands from Jan Getgood to Ian Gardner in 2015. Mike Lanzone, Devich Farbotnik, and Mike Fialkovich joined in 2013. Holly Merker, Billy Weber, and Mike Weible joined in 2015. Mike Lanzone left in 2016.

Classification of Records

Class I: An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph, or a diagnostic recording. Abbreviations are (P) photograph, (R) sound recording, (V) video clip, (S) specimen

Class II: An accepted sight record written up independently by two or more observers.

Class III: An accepted sight record documented by one observer

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

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

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

Class V: The identification is correct, but the bird represents or may represent an escapee from artificial aviculture or an introduced bird not yet established in Pennsylvania.

Format of this Report

The 2012 report is divided into two sections. The first section includes only the records relating to the extraordinary meteorological event of Hurricane Sandy. The second section includes all of the records throughout the rest of the year 2012.

The records in each section are arranged taxonomically following the 2017 American Ornithological Society Check-list of North American Birds. The number in parentheses after the species name represents the number of accepted records, including those in this report, since the establishment of PORC in 1989. A (+) after the number signifies accepted historical records prior to the formation of PORC. Each accepted record includes the locality and county and date(s) when known. In many cases, dates are taken from the seasonal reports published in *Pennsylvania Birds*, and from incidental information gleaned from the PABIRDS email listserv, the Pennsylvania Birders Facebook Group, the PARBA GroupMe text message alert service, and its regional sub-groups, and—most helpful of all—the eBird database. Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the name(s) of the observer(s) who submitted documentation. Following the list of observers is the record's classification and the PORC record number. All photographs, video, and sound recordings are currently being held with the Secretary.

Accepted Records from Hurricane Sandy

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (17+)

One individual in a flooded pasture along Back Creek, viewed from Edgewater Drive, Chambersburg, *Franklin* on 30 October 2012. (Chris Blazo, Bill Oyler, Lori Nichols; 261-04-2012; Class II). 6/1.

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) (9)

Two adults were observed flying south down the Delaware River from Marcus Hook, *Delaware*, on 30 October 2012. (Al Guarente, Chris Langman, Tom Johnson, Cameron Rutt, Doug Gochfeld; 266-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

One individual was observed flying from the rocks of the fishing pier at Nockamixon SP, *Bucks*, on 30 October 2012. It remained present, flying around the lake for several hours, eventually spending more time on the docks at the Marina area. (Devich Farbotnik, Billy Weber; 266-02-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

Two adults were observed flying over the lake at Shawnee SP, *Bedford*, on 30 October 2012. (Geoff Malosh; 266-03-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) (56)

Two individuals at Yellow Creek SP, *Indiana*, on 30 October 2012. (Tim Shreckengost (p), Eleanor Kwik; 331-02-2012; Class I-P). 7/0

Six individuals at Marsh Creek SP, *Chester*, on 30 October 2012. (Amy Davis (p), Barry Blust, Jeffrey Davis, Brian Henderson, Larry Lewis, Holly Merker, et al.; 331-03-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

One at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia*, on 30 October 2012. (Todd Fellenbaum, Adrian Binns, Debbie Beer, Al Guarante, Frank Windfelder, et al.; 331-04-2012; Class III). 7/0.

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, on 30 October 2012. (Bill Keim, Ken Reiker; 331-05-2012; Class I-P). 7/0

One on the Susquehanna River at Marysville, *Dauphin*, on 30 October 2012. (Cameron Rutt, Tom Johnson, Doug Gochfeld, Melissa Roach, Andy McGann; 331-06-2012; Class III). 7/0.

One sitting on Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks*, on 31 October 2012. (Cameron Rutt, Tom Johnson, Doug Gochfeld, Melissa Roach, Andy McGann; 331-07-2012; Class III). 7/0.

Two on Lake Minsi, *Northampton*, on 30 October 2012. (Matt Sabatine, 331-08-2012; Class III). 6/1.

One at Chambers Lake, *Chester*, on 1 November 2012. (Rick Robinson, Rand McIlvane, Marian Quinn; 331-10-2012; Class I-P). 7/0

One on Springfield Lake in Churchville Park, Churchville, *Bucks* on 31 October 2012. (Nick Zahn, found by Vince DeAntoniis, and Tim McFadden; 331-11-2012; Class III). 7/0.



Image 1. Red Phalarope at Marsh Creek SP, *Chester* 30 October 2012; one of six individuals. (Photo by Amy Davis)

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) (36)

A remarkable 19 individuals (3 adults, 16 subadults) were observed flying over the Delaware River from Norris Street in Chester, *Delaware*, on 30 October 2012. (Amy Davis, Jeffery Davis, Bert Harris, Ben Schweinhart, David S. Wilcove; 332-02-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

Even more remarkable, 29 individuals were observed flying around Greenlick Run Lake, *Fayette* on 30 October 2012. (Mike Fialkovich; 332-03-2012; Class III). 7/0.

Five light-phase adults were observed floating together on Lake Ontelaunee, Leesport, *Berks* on 30 October 2012. (Ken Lebo, 332-04-2012; Class III). 7/0.

One light-phase immature was photographed at Bald Eagle SP, *Centre*, on 30 October 2012. (Alex Lamoreaux, Anna Fasoli, Ian Gardner, Josh Lefever, Michael David, et al.; 332-08-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

One light-phase adult was observed on the Ohio River at Dashields Dam, near the outlet of Flaugherty Run, *Allegheny*, on 30 October 2012. (Geoff Malosh; 332-09-2012; Class III). 7/0.

Jaeger species (*Stercorarius* sp).

One immature individual was observed before sunrise on the Delaware River, viewed from Pennypack on the Delaware, *Philadelphia*, on 30 October 2012. The photograph submitted was judged to be less than unquestionably diagnostic, and this record was accepted as a sight record. (Tom Johnson, Doug Gochfeld, Cameron Rutt; 332a-01-2012; Class III). 7/0.

One light-morph immature individual was observed at Rose Valley Lake, Gamble Township, *Lycoming*, on 30 October 2012. (Dan Brauning, Steve Pinkerton, Norwood Fredericks, Dave Ferry; 332a-02-2012; Class III). 7/0.

One immature individual was observed at Lake Minsi, near Bangor, *Northampton*, on 30 October 2012. (Matthew Sabatine; 332a-03-2012; Class III). 7/0.

One light-morph adult was observed at the swimming beach area of Yellow Creek SP, *Indiana* on 30 October 2012. (Tim Shreckengost, Lee Carnahan, et al.; 332a-04-2012; Class III). 7/0.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) (26)

Two light-morph immature individuals were observed at the fisherman's pull-off from PA-73 at Lake Ontelaunee, near Leesport, *Berks* on 30 October 2012. (Ken Lebo, Harold Lebo, Matt Wlasniewski; 333-01-2012; Class III). 6/1.

One was observed on the Delaware River, from Pennypack on the Delaware, *Philadelphia* on 30 October 2012. The photograph submitted was helpful but judged to be less than diagnostic, so this record was accepted as a sight record. (Tom Johnson, Cameron Rutt; 333-05-2012; Class III). 7/0.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (16)

At the end of the day, at approximately 8:40 PM, one juvenile was observed flying over and sitting on the water of the Susquehanna River, *Dauphin*, viewed from Marysville on 30 October 2012. Tom Johnson, Melissa Roach, Doug Gochfeld, Andy McGann, Cameron Rutt et al.; 357-01-2012; Class III). 7/0.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (12)

One immature in basic plumage was observed near Seven Points Marina at Lake Raystown, *Huntingdon*, on 31 October 2012. (Ian Gardner, Andy Markel, Dave Wilton, Dave Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Michael David, Jason Horn, Peter Robinson, Devich Farbotnik; 360-01-2012; Class II). 7/0.

One juvenile was observed flying up Delaware River from Pennypack on the Delaware, *Philadelphia*, at 7 am on 30 October 2012. (Tom Johnson, George Armistead, Marshall Iliff, Doug Gochfeld, Cameron Rutt; 360-02-2012; Class III). 7/0.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) (14)

Five individuals, including both adults and immatures, were observed flying over the Delaware River from Pennypack on the Delaware, *Philadelphia*, on the morning of 30 October 2012. Four birds, two groups of two, were northbound flying upstream, and one immature bird was southbound. (Cameron Rutt, Tom Johnson, Doug Gochfeld, Frank Windfelder, George Armistead, Todd Fellenbaum, Martin Dellwo; 364-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

One observed at Nockamixon SP, *Bucks*, on 31 October 2012. The submitted photograph was not conclusive and the report was accepted as a sight record. (Bill Etter; 364-02-2012; Class III). 6/1.

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) (18)

A juvenile observed flying over the Delaware River, initially detected from New Jersey, flew over Pennsylvania waters with Laughing Gulls. The tern was detected by observers at Pennypack on the Delaware, *Philadelphia*, as it flew over the New Jersey side of the river. (Cameron Rutt, Marshall Iliff, Tom Johnson, Doug Gochfeld, Frank Windfelder, George Armistead, Todd Fellenbaum, Martin Dellwo; 375-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) (13)

Four juveniles were observed in a flooded pasture along Back Creek, viewed from Edgewater Drive, Chambersburg, *Franklin*, on 30 October 2012. (Chris Blazo, Bill Oyler, Lori Nichols; 382-01-2012; Class III). 6/1.

One juvenile was observed at Avocet Point of the Conejohela Flats, in the Susquehanna River near Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, on 31 October 2012. (Meredith Lombard, Mike Epler; 382-02-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

Two juveniles were observed at McKees Rocks on the Ohio River, *Allegheny*, on 4 November 2012. (Mark Vass, Mike Fialkovich (p), Jeff McDonald (p); 382-03-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

Trindade (Herald) Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*) (1)

One moribund individual was found under a mailbox in Hollidaysburg, *Blair*, on 3 November 2012. The bird was taken to a veterinarian, but did not respond well to treatments. It was measured and photographed by Mike Lanzone before it died. The specimen was then sent to a museum collection. (Mike Lanzone; 019a-01-2012; Class I-P/S). 7/0. This represents the first state record of this species. Photo published in PB V26:N4.



Image 2. Trindade (Herald) Petrel, Hollidaysburg, Blair 3 November 2012. (Photo by Mike Lanzone)

Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma oceanicus*) (1)

One observed "pattering" and actively feeding on Lake Raystown, from Seven Points Marina, *Huntingdon*, on the morning of 31 October 2012. (Ian Gardner, Dave Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Jon Kauffman, Greg Grove, Jason Horn, Andy Markel, Dave Wilton, Michael David, Peter Robinson, Mike Dreibelbis, Devich Farbotnik; 046-01-2012; Class III). 6/1.

Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) (10)

One flew downstream on the Delaware River, viewed from Pleasant Hill Park, *Philadelphia*, on 30 October 2012. (Amy Davis, Jeffrey Davis; 050-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

One photographed from a distance of 15 feet, sitting on Memorial Lake in Memorial Lake SP, *Lebanon*, on 30 October 2012. This bird was not observed to fly and appeared exhausted. (Jarrod Derr, Tim Becker, David McNaughton, Ed Bellamy; 050-02-2012; Class I-P). 6/1.

One photographed flying to escape the predatory interest of a gull on the Delaware River, viewed from Radcliffe and Monroe Streets in Bristol Borough, *Bucks*, on 30 October 2012. This individual

spent most of its time sitting on the water, apparently resting. (Gerard Dewaghe, Christine Dewaghe; 050-03-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

Two observed sitting on Lake Ontelaunee, viewed from the dam in Leesport, *Berks*, on 30 October 2012. Neither bird was observed flying, but they drifted conveniently closer to the dam breast. This record was accepted as a sight record as the photo documentation was not undeniably diagnostic. (Ken Lebo, Mike Slater, Steve Fordyce, Harold Lebo, Ken Hass, et al.; 050-04-2012; Class III). 6/1.

One individual was independently reported by multiple observers at Rose Valley Lake in Gamble Township, near Williamsport, *Lycoming*, on 30 October 2012. (Dan Brauning, Dave Ferry, Steve Pinkerton, Norwood Fredericks; 050-05-2012; Class II). 6/1.

One individual was photographed on 30 October 2012, in flight over the Delaware River from Marcus Hook, *Delaware*, shortly before it was captured by a Peregrine Falcon. Photo published in PB V26:N4. A second, more amazing photo was submitted with the unfortunate Storm-Petrel in the talons of the immature Peregrine. (Tom Johnson, Doug Gochfeld, Cameron Rutt; 050-06-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photos published on the cover of PB V26:N4.

An astounding six-to-twenty individuals observed on the Delaware River from Pennypack on the Delaware, *Philadelphia*, on 30 October 2012. (Tom Johnson, Cameron Rutt, Doug Gochfeld, George Armistead, Frank Windfelder, Todd Fellenbaum, et al.; 050-07-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

Three observed on the Susquehanna River, *Dauphin*, viewed from West Fairview (*Cumberland*) on 30 October 2012. Another case where the photo submitted was less than undeniably diagnostic and the report accepted as a sight record. (Alex Lamoreaux, et al.; 050-08-2012; Class III). 6/1.

One was observed resting on the water at Lake Nockamixon SP, *Bucks*, on 30 October 2012. The bird was only briefly viewed in flight, scrambling to get out of the way of a Merlin coursing low across the water. (Bill Etter; 050-09-2012; Class III). 7/0.

One individual, initially incorrectly identified as a Wilson's Storm-Petrel, was observed at Shawnee SP, *Bedford*, on 30 October 2012. Identification was unusually tough but benefitted from both photo and video documentation. (Geoff Malosh, Mike Lanzone, Ben Coulter, Jeff Payne, Shannon Thompson, et al.; 050-10-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) (11)

One adult observed floating downstream on the Susquehanna River, *Dauphin*, occasionally flying upriver towards Marysville, as viewed from West Fairview (*Cumberland*) on 30 October 2012. (Alex Lamoreaux et al.; 065-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

Cattle Egret (*Bulbulcis ibis*) (128)

One adult was observed flying over the Susquehanna River, *Dauphin*, heading downstream, as viewed from the West Fairview boat launch (*Cumberland*) on 30 October 2012. (Alex Lamoreaux et al.; 089-03-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) (31)

One was observed perched among Tree Swallows and then in flight over the impoundment at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia*, on 31 October 2012. (Al Guarente, Frank Windfelder, Mike Rosengarten, Todd Fellenbaum, Adrian Binns, Debbie Beer, et al.; 576-01-2012; Class II). 7/0.

One observed at Aitch boat launch at Lake Raystown, near Marklesburg, *Huntingdon*, on 31 October 2012. (Ian Gardner, Dave Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Mike Dreibelbis; 576-02-2012; Class III). 6/1.

Two observed at Nockamixon SP, *Bucks*, on 31 October 2012, at midday. (Cameron Rutt, August Mirabella, Bill Etter, Rick Wiltraut; 576-03-2012; Class II). 7/0.

One at private fly ash pond off of Depues Rd, near Martin's Creek, *Northampton*, not far from the Delaware River, on 31 October 2012. (Matthew Sabatine; 576-05-2012; Class III). 7/0.

One observed among thousands of Tree Swallows, from the boat launch at West Fairview, flying over the Susquehanna River in *Dauphin*, on 31 October 2012. (Jarrod Derr; 576-06-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

At least three individuals observed the previous day at same location in West Fairview, over the Susquehanna River in *Dauphin*, 30 October 2012. (Alex Lamoreaux, Anna Fasoli, Ian Gardner, Josh Lefever, Melissa Roach, Michael David, Steve Brenner, Ramsay Koury, Jason Horn, Andy Markel, Ian Gardner, Peter Robinson, Joan Renninger, Annette Mathes, Dick Colyer, Jarrod Derr, Dave McNaughton, Andy McGann, et al.; 576-07-2012; Class III). 6/1.

One was observed foraging over the water at Beaver Run Reservoir, *Westmoreland*, on 1 November 2012 (Geoff Malosh, Dave Wilton; 576-08-2012; Class III). 7/0.

Saltmarsh Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) (3)

One individual was observed at Pine Run Reservoir, *Bucks*, two days after the passage of Sandy, on 1 November 2012. (Cameron Rutt, August Mirabella; 830b-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

Other Accepted 2012 Records

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (13)

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, on 17-19 November and 20 December 2012. (August Mirabella, et al.; 108-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

Green-winged Teal (Eurasian) (*Anas crecca crecca*) (43)

A drake was photographed in a LaSalle College stormwater basin, Newtown Twp., *Bucks*, among a flock of American Green-winged Teal, on 17 January 2012. (Mark Gallagher, August Mirabella; 119a-01-2012; Class I-P). 6/1. Photo published in PB V26:N1.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (24)

A drake was photographed at Breakwater 57 in Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 8 January 2012. (Shawn Collins, et al.; 149-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N1.

One was photographed at Sunset Point in Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 5 December 2012. (Jerry McWilliams, Jimmy Marz; 149-01-2013; Class I-P). 7/0.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) (78)

One individual in "nearly full breeding plumage" was observed at Prince Gallitzin SP, *Cambria*, from 24 to 26 April 2012. (Michael David, Alex Lamoreaux, et al.; 009-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N2.

One in non-breeding plumage observed at Memorial Lake SP, *Lebanon*, from 28 October, through at least 10 December 2012. (Jarrod Derr, David McNaughton, Tim Becker, Rosemary Spreha,

Chuck Chalfont, Randy Miller, Jonathan Heller, Al Guarente, et al.; 009-02-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

Two in non-breeding plumage at Nazareth Quarry, *Northampton*, from 14 December through the end of the year. (Dustin Welch, Matthew Sabatine, et al.; 009-03-2012; Class III). 7/0.



Image 3. Eared Grebe at Memorial Lake SP, *Lebanon* 29 October 2012. (Photo by Jarrod Derr)

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) (6)

One long-staying individual at Memorial Lake SP, *Lebanon*, on 4 November 2012. At the time, there were 5 species of grebes present together, offering birders an ultra-diverse *Podicipedidae* spectacle. The Western was accompanied by the aforementioned Eared Grebe, alongside Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe and Pied-billed Grebe. (Jarrod Derr, Tim Becker, Randy Miller, Chuck Chalfont, Jan Getgood, Al Guarente, David McNaughton, Chris Bortz, Joan Renninger, Rosemary Spreha, Richard and Pat Williams, et al.; 010-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) (1)

A female visited a backyard feeder in Morrisville, *Bucks* during a 2-hour window on the afternoon of 10 November 2012. This bird was observed only for a tiny period of time, and it's remarkable that the homeowner was able to record diagnostic photos of this bird at his feeder. (Rich Dulay (p); 489-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) (3)

An immature male visited backyard of Joe Flood, Devon, *Chester* 1 November 2012. (Wayne Laubscher, Nick Pulcinella (p); 492-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

An immature male visited the backyard of Bob & Amy Weiss, Lancaster, *Lancaster* from 11 November to 10 December 2012. Banded by Lockerman on 1 December 2012, her report contained excellent photographs of the individual feathers and measurements recorded. (Sandy Lockerman (p); 492-02-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) (11)

One at Greencove Wetlands, *Washington*, on 5-6 October 2012. (Geoff Malosh, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton, Mike Fialkovich, Michael David; 231-01-2012; Class II). 7/0.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) (5)

One at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, from 3-4 June 2012. (Jerry McWilliams, Shannon Thompson, Geoff Malosh, et al.; 257-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N3.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (17+)

One banded adult at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 13 July 2012. (Mike Weible, Sarah Rood, et al.; 261-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

One banded adult at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 12 August 2012. (Daniel Parsons; 261-02-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

One adult at Avocet Point on Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, on 18 September 2012. (Chuck Chalfont, Meredith Lombard, Mike Epler; 261-03-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

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

One individual at the Conewago Recreational Trail Wetlands, *Lancaster*, on 22 May 2012. (Richard and Pat Williams, Mike Epler et al.; 268-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.



Image 4. Black-necked Stilt at Conewago Recreation Trail Wetlands, *Lancaster* 22 May 2012. (Photo by Mike Epler)

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (7)

One male undergoing pre-alternate molt at Somerset Lake IBA, *Somerset*, on 18 April 2012. (Michael Lanzone, et al.; 321-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N2.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) (56)

One individual in basic plumage was photographed at Imperial Grasslands, *Allegheny*, on 24 February 2012. (Shawn Collins; 331-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) (36)

One individual at Sunset Point, Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 21 November 2012. (Jerry McWilliams, Jim Flynn; 332-05-2012; Class III). 7/0.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) (26)

One dark morph and two paler individuals were observed from Sunset Point at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 24 November 2012. (Jerry McWilliams; 333-02-2012; Class III). 7/0.

Again, three individuals were observed from Sunset Point at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 25 November 2012. (Jerry McWilliams, Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson, Geoff Malosh; 333-03-2012; Class III). 6/0.

One photographed from the mouth of Walnut Creek in Fairview Twp., *Erie*, near Presque Isle SP on 5 December 2012. (Jerry McWilliams; 333-04-2012; Class I-P). 6/1.

Dovekie (*Alle alle*) (1)

One individual was found in a driveway with a broken leg by homeowner Stephanie Ponist in New Hope, *Bucks*, and taken to Aark wildlife rehabilitation clinic on 21 December 2012. It died a

couple of days later and the specimen was given to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Mirabella reported, "On 12/20 and 12/21 there were strong winds and heavy rain overnight. At Cape May Point, 31 Dovekie and 9 Razorbill were observed leaving Delaware Bay in the early morning of 12/21. The Dovekie count was reported as a modern day record per a post to the NJ ABA Birding News site. A similar occurrence in 1932 referred to as a 'wreck' of Dovekies in the same post provided one of two other *Bucks* records." (Leah Stallings, Matt Danihel, Zach Boles (p); August Mirabella; 383-01-2012; Class I-S). 7/0. Photo published in PB V27:N1.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (41)

A second-cycle bird was observed on the Susquehanna River at Washington Boro, near the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, from 5 February to 10 March 2012. (Meredith Lombard, Eric Witmer, et al.; 340-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N1.

An adult in basic plumage was observed at Lake Arthur in Moraine SP, *Butler*, on 2 December 2012. (Geoff Malosh, Shannon Thompson, et al.; 340-02-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N1.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) (8)

One adult in basic plumage, of the "short-billed" (American) population, was observed flying in a group of Ring-billed Gulls over harvested hay and corn fields near the intersection of Liberty Lane and Academy Road in Colerain Township, *Lancaster*, on 11 December 2012. The bird was studied in flight and the observer provided a very detailed description. (Chuck Chalfont; 344-01-2012; Class III). 6/1.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (19)

An adult in basic plumage was found and photographed at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 29 January 2012. (Jerry McWilliams; 346-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

"Vega" Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus vegae*) (1)

One adult undergoing primary feather molt was observed on a "mountain of trash" at the GROWS North Landfill, a Waste Management property, in Tullytown, *Bucks*, which was accessed with permission during a Christmas Bird Count. (Tom Johnson, George Armistead, Melissa Roach, Rick Mellon, Chuck Chalfont, Shannon Thompson, and Dave Wilton; 347a-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V27:N1.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) (55)

A first cycle individual found and photographed by Jerry McWilliams at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 12 February 2012. (Jerry McWilliams, Mike Weible; 348-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

A different first cycle bird found and photographed by Jerry McWilliams at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 3 March 2012. (Jerry McWilliams; 348-02-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

A first cycle individual at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 22 December 2012. (Alex Lamoreaux, Ian Gardner, Josh Lefever; 348-03-2012; Class I-P). 6/0.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) (24)

Two were observed at Elk SP, *Elk*, on 22 May 2012. (Al Guarente, 369-01-2012; Class I-P). 6/1.

One observed at Beltzville SP, *Carbon*, from 21 to 22 May 2012. (Rick Wiltraut, Drew Weber, Dustin Welch, et al.; 369-02-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N2.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (11)

One individual in non-breeding plumage at "Pond 6" off of Ridge Road in Somerset Twp, *Washington*, 3 December 2012. (Andy

Berchin, Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson, Geoff Malosh, et al.; 002a-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) (37) One at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, from 27 May to 1 June 2012. (Shannon Thompson, Jerry McWilliams et al.; 087-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N2.

Cattle Egret (*Bulbulcus ibis*) (128)

One observed in a small horse pasture along Washington Crossing Road, *Bucks*, on 5 November 2012. (Barbara and Phillip Stollsteimer, Bill Keim, et al.; 089-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

One in pasture at intersection of Moyer Rd and PA-113, near Blooming Glen, *Bucks*, on 15 May 2012. (Henry Rosenberger, Devich Farbotnik, August Mirabella; 089-02-2012; Class I-P). 6/0.

One observed foraging on the lawn & parking lot area in front of the visitor's center at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia*, on 6 November 2012. (Todd Fellenbaum, Debbie Beer, Adrian Binns, Denis Brennan, Frank Windfelder et al.; 089-04-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) (38)

One juvenile observed along Gut Road, near Saginaw, *York*, from 9-12 August 2012. (Jason Miller, Lou Carpenter, Ramsay Koury, Andy McGann, Chris Bortz et al.; 093-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) (3)

One at Old Crow Wetland, *Huntingdon* 3 May 2012 (David Kyler, Trudy Kyler; 096-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (24)

One observed from the Accomac Inn near the banks of the Susquehanna River in Hellam Twp, *York*, on 3 May 2012. (John and Jean Prescott, Phil Keener; 168-01-2012; Class III). 6/1.

One observed from a backyard in Marshall Township, *Allegheny*, on 30 April 2012. (Grace Smith; 168-02-2012; Class III). 7/0.

One observed circling over agricultural fields less than one mile west of East Berlin Borough, *Adams*, on 23 August 2012. (Benjamin Leese; 168-03-2012; Class III). 6/1.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (94)

One observed and photographed from the parking lot of Tom Ridge Environmental Education Center at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 24 May 2012. (Jerry McWilliams; 171-01-2012; Class I-P). 6/1.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (42)

One was observed at Militia Hill Hawk Watch, *Montgomery*, on 11 September 2012. (Chris Dooley, Rich Conroy, Andy Fayer; 186-01-2012; Class III). 6/1.

One photographed at eye-level, migrating on Tuscarora Mountain, near Fannett, on the *Franklin/Huntingdon* border, on 17 October 2012. (Randy Flament; 186-02-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) (4)

An individual at SGL 230 near Carlisle, *Cumberland*, on 23 November 2012. (Ramsey Koury; Tom Johnson (r), Malcolm Harter, Jackie Harter, et al.; Geoff Malosh (p); 538-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) (6)

An individual at Newville, *Cumberland* 4-5 January 2012. (Vern Gauthier et al.; 545-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N1.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (26)

An individual on Long Pond Trail at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 29 September 2012. (Shannon Thompson; Jerry McWilliams (p), Randy Stringer; 557-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (13)

One found by Mark Vass at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 8 June 2012. (Mike Weible (p), Shawn Collins; Jerry McWilliams; 561-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N3.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) (67)

One found perched on a sign at the entrance to Van Sant Airport, Yardley, *Bucks*, on 27 May 2012. (Mark Gallagher, 699-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.



Image 5. Loggerhead Shrike, Yardley, *Bucks* 27 May 2012. (Photo by Mark Gallagher)

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) (31)

Two at Northeast Water Treatment Plant near Richmond, *Philadelphia*, 17 November 2012. (Cameron Rutt (p) and Ramsay Koury; 576-04-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4. This site may have served as a collection point for Cave Swallows in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, as up to 9 Cave Swallows were reported here the next day by Matt Sharp.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) (7)

An individual at Reading Area Community College, *Berks*, on 4 October 2012. (Michael Slater, Chuck Chalfont, Jerrod Derr, M. Wlasniewski, M. Spence, J. Eckert, et al.; Michael Slater; 646-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) (18)

One appeared during "Big Sit" count at Allegheny Front Hawk Watch, *Somerset*, on 13 October 2017. (Josh Lefever, Ian Gardner, Tim Anderson, Janet Kuehl, et al.; Alex Lamoreaux; 650-01-2012; Class III). 7/0. This bird was photographed, but the photos were judged to be less than diagnostic; however, the report was supported by a written description and accepted.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (26)

An adult male was briefly spotted along Tanger Road, Boiling Springs, *Cumberland*, on 4 November 2012 at 9:45 am. (Vern Gauthier et al.; 666-01-2012; Class III). 7/0.

Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*) (1)

One adult male of the Texas-type population/plumage was photographed at the backyard feeder of Dale Gearhart in Shady Grove, near Greencastle, *Franklin*, present for only a few hours in the afternoon and evening of 9 April 2012. (Dale Gearhart, Carl Garner, Robert & Marion Carmack, Bill Oyler, Eric Martin, Bob Keener; 889-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) (17)

One long-staying individual was at Waterloo Mills Preserve, Devon, *Chester*, on 27 November 2012. (Kevin Fryberger, 829-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N4.

"Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) (15)

One juvenile was photographed in a suburban backyard setting in Blooming Glen, *Bucks*, on 27 November 2012. (Cameron Rutt, Regina and Robert Rutt; 838a-01-2012; Class I-P). 6/0.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) (26)

One in a backyard in Howard, *Centre*, on 16 April 2012, and subsequently observed by over 30 people at the site until 21 April. Then it disappeared for several days until observed last on 2 May 2012. (Robert Snyder; 839-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N2.

"Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*) (21)

One male was photographed at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 25 March 2012, by Michele Rundquist-Franz; 840a-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

Chronologically last but not least for 2012, one hatch-year female was photographed in a backyard setting in State College, *Centre*, on 31 December 2012. This bird was only observed during extreme winter weather and reappeared in 2013: 26-28 January, 16-19 March, and 3-4 April. (Nick Bolgiano; 840a-02-2012; Class I-P). 6/1.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) (48)

One adult male was photographed feeding with a group of Brown-headed Cowbirds, under a feeder at a home on Worthington Mill Road, Wrightstown, *Bucks*, on 19 December 2012. (Pat Fenstermacher; 859-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) (15)

One adult male at a feeder in Gilbertsville, *Montgomery*, from 29 January to 7 April 2012. (Mary Ache, Howard Eskin; 874a-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N1.

A female was photographed visiting a feeder at Decorum, *Huntingdon*, from 20 February to 7 March 2012. (Jim Hamilton, Drew Weber, Greg Grove, Alex Lamoreaux et al.; 874a-02-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N1.



Image 6. Lesser Goldfinch, Shady Grove, *Franklin*, 9 April 2012. (Photo by Dale Gearhart)

Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*) (12)

Adult male in *Erie, Erie*, on 22 May 2012. (Found by Mike Weible, submitted by Jerry McWilliams, Shawn Collins (p); 746-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N2.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*) (21)

One recorded singing along Linn Run Road, *Westmoreland*, on 22 May 2012. (Mike Lanzone(r); 756-01-2012; Class I-R). 7/0.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) (74)

One male at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, on 13 May 2012. (Shawn Collins; 780-01-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

One at Spring Hill Acres development near Mount Gretna, *Lebanon*, on 4 July 2012; subsequently observed by others for several days and reported to be carrying food by Tim Becker. (Jonathan Heller, Alex Lamoreaux (p); 780-02-2012; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V26:N3.

One male was photographed and recorded in Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, *Allegheny*, from 6 May 2012 to 1 June 2012. (Mike Fialkovich, Hiro Fukuda (p,r); 780-04-2012; Class I-P). 7/0.

One male was recorded at Pennypack Trust, *Montgomery*, on 6 May 2012. (Paul Driver, 780-05-2012; Class I-R). 7/0.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established.

(Votes are listed as for/against. A vote of 6/1 or 7/0 is required for acceptance).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*)

One in Levittown, *Bucks*, 13 August 2012. Class IV-B; 494-01-2012. 0/7. The committee felt the lack of details and brief observation did not conclusively rule out Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

One at Middle Creek WMA, *Lancaster*, 2 June 2012. Class IV; 235-01-2012. 2/5. This was a heard only record. A recording is necessary for acceptance to eliminate other rails.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) Seven at Marsh Creek SP, *Chester* 30 October 2012. Class IV; 331-09-2012. 1/6. Description did

not include details regarding the back or bill to distinguish from Red-necked Phalarope.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

One light-morph adult observed flying downstream on the Susquehanna River, *Dauphin*, from West Fairview boat launch (*Cumberland*) 30 October 2012. Class III; 333-06-2012. 4/3. This submission went through two rounds of voting. The other species of jaegers were not conclusively eliminated based on the description submitted.

Shearwater sp.

One at Lake Minsi, *Northampton* 30 October 2012. Class IV; 035a-01-2012. 0/7. Viewing conditions were less than ideal given the weather at the time of the observation and the bird was flying high over the location, adding difficulty in identification that the observer candidly admitted in the submission.

Wilson's Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma oceanicus*)

One at Leesport Lake, *Berks*, 30 October 2012. Class IV; 046-02-2012. 3/4. The description lacked sufficient details in plumage characteristics for the committee to unanimously agree on the identification.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

One at Toftrees, *Centre*, 8 August 2012. Class IV-B; 780-03-2012. 0/7. Some committee members felt the identification was probably correct but there were not enough details in the description such as bill structure and overall color of the bird to allow a definitive conclusion.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

One at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 24 September 2012. Class IV; 788-01-2012. 3/4. Some members of the committee felt the description was well-written; however, it lacked some diagnostic details and given the difficulty in separating grosbeaks along with the short duration of the encounter, the committee felt the identification was not conclusive.

Bear, DE

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**2013 Records
Mike Fialkovich for the Committee**

This report covers submissions for 2013 and includes 47 records of 27 species. The 47 accepted records represented a 96% acceptance rate. Reports were received from 17 counties.

Highlights include the first state records of Bahama Woodstar, Tropical Kingbird and Shiny Cowbird bringing the state total to 435. Other notable records include the second record of Black-chinned Hummingbird, the sixth Brown Pelican, the second MacGillivray's Warbler, three Eurasian Green-winged Teal, and a Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler.

The Committee

Committee Membership in 2013 included Drew Weber (Chair), Jan Getgood (non-voting secretary), Dave DeReamus, Devich Farbotnik, Mike Fialkovich, Mike Lanzone, Andy McGann, and Cameron Rutt.

2013 Accepted Records

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (16)

One at Newton, *Bucks*, 1 January 2013 (Philip Stollsteimer, Judy Hayman, Barbara Stollsteimer; 108-01-2013; Class I-P). 6/0.

One at Fogelsville Quarry, *Lehigh*, 5 January 2013 (Frank Dickman, Rick Wiltraut, Jeff Hopkins, Bill Etter, Matt Loyko, Mike Schall; 108-02-2013; Class I-P). 6/0.

One at Lake Muhlenberg, *Lehigh*, 7 January 2013 (Tom Johnson (p), Peter G. Saenger, Dr. Daniel Klem, Jr., Scott Burnet; 108-03-2013; Class

I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V27:N1. According to the Lehigh County report in *Pennsylvania Birds* this was a different individual than described in the preceding *Lehigh* report.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) (35)

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 10 January 2013 (Tom Johnson (p)(v); 115-01-2013; Class I-P). 6/0. Two appeared in New Jersey the same day as this individual, indicating birds were moving through the region.

Green-winged Teal (Eurasian) (*Anas crecca crecca*) (33)

One in Newtown Twp., *Bucks*, 17 January 2012 (Mark Gallagher, 119a-01-2012; Class III). 7/0.

One at a waste water treatment pond in Upper Uwchland Twp., *Chester* 10 February 2013 (Holly Merker (p), Jeff Davis (p); 119a-01-2013; Class I-P). 7/0.

One at Newtown Twp., *Bucks* 21 March 2013 (Mark Gallagher (p), Henry D'Alessandro; 119a-02-2013; Class I-P). 7/0.

The European race is nearly annual in southeastern Pennsylvania and is important to track because it is a potential split from the American race. Documentation of occurrence adds to our knowledge of distribution and migration patterns of the European race of this species. A photo of the Feb. 10 bird was published in PB V27:N1.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (27)

One at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 5 December 2013 (Jerry McWilliams, Jimmy Marz (p); 149-01-2013; Class I-P). 6/0.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) (85)

One in transitional plumage with Horned Grebes at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 17 April 2013 (August Mirabella (p); 009-01-2013; Class I-P). 6/0; Class I-P). 6/0.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) (7)

One at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 21-26 June 2013 (Jerry McWilliams (p), Mike Fialkovich (p); 010-01-2013; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V27:N3.

Bahama Woodstar (*Calliphlox evelynae*) (1)

An adult male in Denver, *Lancaster* 20-22 April 2013 (Witmer family, Shirley Hamilton, Michael Burkholder (p); banded 22 April by Sandy Lockerman; 491-01-2013; Class I-P). 7/0. Initially thought to be a hybrid, it was subsequently identified as a Bahama Woodstar, an extraordinary first record for Pennsylvania and only the fourth for the ABA Area. Extensive photos and measurements were taken and details submitted and summarized in an article in PB V27:N2.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) (2)

An adult male banded at Greencastle, *Franklin* 1-25 November 2013 (banded 13 November by Sandy Lockerman; Gary Lockerman, Geoff Malosh (p), Dale and Helen Gearhart, et al.; 489-01-2013; Class I-P). 7/0. Banded, extensively photographed and documented initially by the Lockermans, details were exceptional regarding this individual. Photo published in PB V27:N4.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) (11)

One observed and heard in a wet grassy area between Reading and Knauers, *Berks* 20 May 2013 (Kathy Grim, Matt Wlasniewski (r), Ken Lebo (r), Joan Silagy, Rudy Keller, Joanne Kintner, Mike Slater, Peter Wolfe, Jane Wolfe, Ryan Fick, Jim Eckert; 232-01-2013; Class I-R). 6/0. First heard calling 20 May 2013 and recorded 23 May 2013. Many heard the bird which remained concealed by vegetation. It was seen briefly by a single observer as it dashed across a small open area and continued to be heard to 8 June.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) (25)

One at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia* 29 May 2013 (Todd Fellenbaum (p), Marty Dellwo, Patty Rehn, Frank Windfelder; 235-01-2013; Class I-P). 7/0. This individual was spotted feeding on an open mudflat and also heard calling on occasion. Photo published in PB V27:N2.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (14)

One at Christman's Pond, *Shartlesville, Berks* 19-21 July 2013 (Ken Lebo (p), Matt Wlasniewski (p), Kerry Grim, Matt Spence, Joan Silagy, Rudy Keller, Toni Wlasniewski; 268-01-2013; Class I-P). 7/0. A weekly check of this pond was rewarded with this rarity. Photo published in PB V27:N3.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (25)

One at Gull Point at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 15 May 2013 (Jason Fidorra, Julie Dell, Jerry McWilliams (p); 261-01-2013; Class I-P). 6/0. The bird had bands on both legs.

One at Gull Point at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 30 May 2013 (Mary Birdsong (p); 261-02-2013; Class I-P). 6/0.

One at Gull Point at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 10 June 2013 (Mary Birdsong (p); 261-03-2013; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V27:N3.

Perhaps the same bird on both dates; neither bird was banded. Access restrictions during the breeding season as well as habitat improvements at Gull Point have increased the presence of this species which is becoming annual at the site.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) (63)

One in Williamsport, *Lycoming*, 11 May 2013 (Nathan Fronk (p), Drew Weber, Tim Schreckengost; 331-01-013; Class I-P). 7/0.

One at State Game Lands 236, *Susquehanna*, 5 May 2013 (Sherry Sparks (p); 331-02-2013; Class I-P). 7/0 Photo published in PB V27:N2.

One at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 28 October 2013, (Jerry McWilliams, Roger Donn; 331-03-2013, Class III). 6/0.

Jaeger sp. (*Stercorarius* sp.)

Two flew past Sunset Point, Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 19 November 2013 (Jerry McWilliams; 332a-01-2013; Class III). 6/1. Two light morph jaegers were observed in flight but due to distance, identification to species was not definitive. The observer submitted the observation conservatively as Pomarine/Parasitic Jaeger.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) (33)

Two light morphs flew past Sunset Point, Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 28 October 2013 (Jerry McWilliams, 333-01-2013; Class III). 7/0.

One immature light morph flew past Sunset Point, Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 11 November 2013 (Jerry McWilliams, 333-02-2013; Class III). 7/0.

One light morph flew past Sunset Point, Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 19 November 2013 (Jerry McWilliams, 333-03-2013; Class III). 6/0.

One photographed at Gull Point, Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 2 December 2013 (Sam Stull (p), 333-04-2013; Class I-P). 6/0.

Gull Point is one of the most reliable locations for jaegers. Many are seen annually during Jerry McWilliams' nearly daily fall waterbird count. Jerry has extensive experience identifying jaegers as they pass by the watch site. The last record was documented with excellent photographs that even showed the pointed central retrices (and ironically not photographed by Jerry!).



Image 1. Parasitic Jaeger, Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 2 December 2013. (Photo by Sam Stull)

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (18)

A first cycle bird at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 24 March 2013 (Mike Weible, Geoff Malosh (p); 357-01-2013; Class I-P). 6/0. Seen and photographed well during an amazing concentration of gulls at the park.

A first cycle bird flew by Sunset Point at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 7 November 2013 (Jerry McWilliams (p); 357-02-2013; Class III). 7/0. Another bird at Presque Isle, this time in the fall. Photos were a bit distant but identifiable, however the written description provided the fine details necessary for acceptance so it's listed as Class III.

A first cycle bird flew by Sunset Point at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 19 November 2013 (Jerry McWilliams (p); 357-04-2013; Class I-P). 7/0.

A first cycle bird at the foot of East Avenue in *Erie, Erie* 27 November 2013 (Bob Grubbs (p); 357-05-2013; Class I-P). 7/0. Yet another first

cycle beautifully photographed in *Erie* during an exceptional year for this species.



Image 2. Black-legged Kittiwake, East Avenue, Erie, *Erie* 27 November 2013. (Photo by Bob Grubbs)

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (54)

One at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 16 March 2013 (Mike Weible, Jerry McWilliams (p); 340-01-2013; Class I-P). 7/0. Photographs in flight show the dark underwing pattern nicely.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (12)

One on the Susquehanna River at the Lower Marietta Public Boat Launch, *Lancaster*, 23 April 2013 (J. Eric Witmer; 002a-01-2013; Class III). 6/0.

One at Memorial Lake SP, *Lebanon*, 11 May 2013 (Jonathan Heller, Jarod Derr, Dave McNaughton, Chris Bortz, Tim Becker, et al.; 002a-02-2013; Class I). 6/0. Photo published in PB V27:N2.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) (38)

A female flew southwest over Stone Mt. Hawkwatch, *Huntingdon* 3 November 2013 (Nick Bolgiano, David Kyler; 074-01-2013; Class III). 7/0. One was observed at this site two years prior. This species is most often seen during migration at hawk watches and by being in the right place at the right time.

Brown Pelican (*Pelicanus occidentalis*) (6)

One observed in flight over Roslyn, *Montgomery* 22 September 2013 (Susan Sullivan; 067-021-2013; Class III). 7/0. One of the few records for the state, it falls within the peak timeframe for this species in the mid-Atlantic region.

Cattle Egret (*Bulbulcus ibis*) (130)

One at a pond in Lower Nazareth Twp., *Northampton* 1 May 2013 (Bill Etter (p); 089-01-2013; Class I-P). 6/0.

One in Falls Twp., *Bucks*, 3 November 2013 (August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik (p); 089-02-2013; Class I). 6/0.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (30)

One observed from the North Lookout at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Berks/Schuylkill* 28 April 2013 (Chong Puan, Joe Binder; 168-01-2013; Class III). 7/1.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (102)

One near Oxford Valley Mall in Middletown Twp., *Bucks* 22 May 2013 (Gerard Dewaghe, Christine Dewaghe; 171-01-2013; Class III). 7/0.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) (18) One at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 14 April 2013 (Jerry McWilliams (p), Drew Mortensen; 542-01-2013; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V27:N2.

One in Whitehall Twp., *Lehigh*, 18 November 2013 (Lance Leonhardt (p); 542-02-2013; Class I-P). 7/0.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) (1)

One at Philadelphia Gray's Ferry Crescent Trail, *Philadelphia*, 20 June 2013 (George Armistead (p), Tony Croasdale, Debbie Beer, Patty Rehn, Kate Atkins, Tom Magarian, Alex Zorach (p); 563-01-2013; Class III). 7/0. Detailed photographs and comments submitted including a description of the calls clinched the identification of this first record. A photo of this bird was published on the cover of PB V27:N3.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (17)

One at Bartram's Garden, *Philadelphia*, 16 November 2013 (David Allen (p), George Armistead (p) (v), Tony Crossdale, Todd Fellenbaum, Frank Winfelder, et al.; 561-01-2013; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo and article published in PB V27:N4.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) (35)

One at Trachsville, *Carbon*, 1 January 2013 (Richard Rehrig (p)(v), Barbara Rehrig, Dustin Welch (p), Corey Husic (p); 839-01-2013; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V27:N1.

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) (1)

One visited a feeder in *Adams*, 2 June 2013 (Linette Mansberger (p); 865-01-2013; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V27:N3.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*) (2)

A first fall bird at Highspire Reservoir Park, *Dauphin*, 11-28-2013 (Tom Johnson (r), Timothy Reichard (p); 763-01-2013; Class I-P). 7/0. The bird was discovered 22 November and remained to mid-December. It spent its time in the thick brush along a heavily used walking trail, seemingly unbothered by people passing by. It was observed, recorded and photographed by numerous observers. A photo of the bird was published on the cover of PB V27:N4.

Audubon's Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*) (6)

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 2 January 2013 (August Mirabella, Ian Baldock, Devich Farbotnik (p); 736a-01-2013; Class I-P). 7/0. Photographs showed the diagnostic bright yellow throat.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established.

(Votes are listed as for/against. A vote of 6/1 or 7/0 is required for acceptance).

Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*)

One found dead in Chambersburg, *Franklin* 4-17-2013. Class IV-B; 234-01-2013. 0/7 The committee was unanimous that the identification was correct, however details regarding the specimen were not available leaving the committee with questions regarding its origin.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

One near Ft. Washington SP, *Montgomery*, 11 May 2013. Class IV-A; 168-02-2013; 3/4. The committee felt there was not enough detail in the description and after two rounds of voting, decided there was a lack of sufficient evidence for acceptance.

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BIRD BRAIN: An Exploration of Avian Intelligence by Nathan Emery, with a foreword by Frans de Waal, 175 color illustrations, glossary, references, further reading, index, acknowledgments, 8 x 10 in., 200 pp., published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2016, cloth, \$29.95.

For decades, birds have not been known for their high IQs, which is why a person of questionable intelligence even today is sometimes called a “bird brain.” This erroneous idea of the bird brain can be traced to the latter part of the 19th century and the work of a comparative anatomist Ludwig Edinger who said that birds are not endowed with intelligence because their brain was largely composed of the striatum, the part of the brain responsible for instinctual behavior with little or no areas responsible for thinking, such as the cortex. Edinger’s logic was that if the avian brain had evolved from the striatum, then birds should not be capable of thought. Unfortunately, this idea held sway into the 20th century. Studies of complex avian learning on navigation, young waterfowl imprinting, and song learning in the 1950s and 1960s changed opinions about the mental capabilities of birds. Still scientists carefully avoided the term “cognition” when it came to birds. This was partly because any contemplation of what might be happening in the head of any wild animal, not just birds, was taboo, and also because of the special anatomy of the avian brain: its central nervous system was thought to lack anything like the prefrontal cortex of primates. Having feathers, it was concluded, simply could not go together with advanced learning, let alone thinking. Thus birds were simply lumped with fishes and insects as organisms driven by instinct.

However, in the past two decades the study of avian intelligence has witnessed dramatic advances. From a time when birds were seen as simple instinct machines responding only to stimuli in their external worlds, we know now that at least some birds have complex internal worlds as well. This beautifully illustrated book provides an engaging exploration of the avian mind, revealing how science is exploding one of the most widespread myths about our feathered friends – and in doing so, changing the way we think about intelligence in other animals as well.

Nathan Emery, author of this fine book, is well qualified to publish this extraordinary work of science. He is currently senior lecturer in cognitive biology at Queen Mary University, London with research focus on what corvids, parrots, and apes understand about their social and physical worlds, especially their mental state, insight, and imagination leading to evolution of innovation and creativity. Emery is author of 80 publications, including papers in *Nature*, *Science*, and *Current Biology* and presently researching ravens in the London Tower.

Intelligence in bird families

Thankfully, since pioneer research in the 1990s, science now knows that at least three wild bird families (*Corvidae*: jays, crows, ravens, magpies and other species – the “masterminds” of the avian realm; *Psittacidae*: parrots, parakeets, lovebirds, and kea; and *Cacatuidae*: cockatoos and cockatiels) have complex internal systems. Cognitive concepts, such as planning for the future or theory of the mind, were translated into carefully controlled tests. Results have been eye-opening and hard to disavow by skeptics due to the rigor of the experiments. This research has revolutionized our appreciation of what birds are capable of doing. Further, birds’ brains have taken a different evolutionary path to that of mammals while at the same time arriving at what seem to be similar solutions to the same problems. Such research results force humans to rethink the traditional linear ladder of IQ with the human species on top. We now realize that intelligence is more like a tree with many lateral branches in which each species evolves its own mental powers needed to survive. As a result, some avian species and families may be mentally closer to *Homo sapiens* than ever imagined. Scientists, like Nathan Emery, are no longer reluctant to propose thought processes in at least higher animals like birds and mammals. Birds clearly show evidence for precise memory of past events, perspective-taking, prospective planning based on the nature, time, and location of a future event based on previous experiences, versatile tool making and use, reconciliation, and perhaps even empathy. The goal ahead is to examine scores of other wild avian families for their IQ quotients.

Parallel to the exciting 1990s findings about avian cognition were discoveries of avian neuroscience itself. Bird brains achieved doing identifiable cognitive feats with brains much smaller (hummingbird) than mammals. Further, bird brains could support multitasking, with one hemisphere controlling one behavior (e.g., watching for predators) while the other hemisphere was controlling a different behavior simultaneously (e.g., looking for food). Adult bird brains could produce new neurons either seasonally (e.g., a song control system) or when needed (e.g., remembering caching events). Thus in early 2004 a complete change was made to the naming of the parts of the avian brain, reflecting a new understanding of how it had evolved. No longer was the avian forebrain seen as consisting of the striatum, rather the forebrain evolved from a pallium (upper surface of the cerebrum) shared with ancestral reptilian and mammalian cousins. These findings placed the new study of avian cognition on a much stronger foundation, so much so, that more recent findings suggest the term “bird brain” be used as a solid compliment, not as an insult. As Emery emphasizes (p. 22): “It is not necessary to understand the details of brain organization or remember the Latin names of different brain regions to appreciate how brains work. Basically the brain takes in information from its immediate environment, information being a representation of some aspect of the world, such as the shape and color of a flower, its smell, location, a memory of the last time the same object was encountered, and the emotion it evoked. This information is interpreted and stored by the brain and used to initiate plans of action. This basic neural architecture is common to all vertebrates.” These words are further supported by vivid color illustrations of a monkey brain and a rook brain (pp. 22-23) and shared vision of a cat and a pigeon (pp. 24-25).

Making decisions

The brain of a bird makes decisions about how to react to information, ignoring most of what is received, only attending to that which is biologically relevant. Decisions are made in the context in which information is currently experienced as well as previous experiences, emotional states, and social context. Once a decision

has been made, an action plan is initiated leading to a specific behavior. This avian decision may be how to react to a vocalization. If this is an alarm call by a bird or other creature, the appropriate response is to move quickly in the opposite direction of the call. However, corvids (ravens, crows, and jays) can do just the opposite with sentinels alerting the extended family members by special calls to gather and attack the predator en masse. Crows that breed in our Slippery Rock Borough woodlot are uncanny in identifying what hawks are predators for them (Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Red-tailed) and what hawks are not (Broad-winged and Red-shouldered). Of course, the crow alert system also warns other avian species in the area, such as American Robin, Northern Cardinal, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse and others to join in the challenge, even mammals like chipmunks, squirrels, and deer. So the system works at an ecosystem level.

The most critical region for intelligence in the mammalian brain is the prefrontal cortex (PFC), located at the front of the brain. This area has been attributed roles in personality, the theory of mind, self-awareness, problem-solving, and executive functions such as planning, flexibility, and working memory. All of these traits are keys to what it means to be human. Birds, it turns out, have a region at the rear of the brain called the caudolateral (NCL) that is functionally equivalent to the primate PFC, allowing an individual bird to make appropriate decisions. Both primates and birds can do this by sorting through alternate scenarios in their working memory (p. 27 illustration).

Finally, certain animals, such as elephants, chimpanzees, parrots, crows, dolphins, and humans all have brains larger than predicted from their body size, yet all face similar challenges in their own environment. So does brain-size matter for intelligence? Bird brains tend to be small. Even the largest bird, the Ostrich, is a mere two percent the size of the largest land mammal, the African elephant. Despite vast differences in their body size, the part of the body taken by the brain is significantly larger (1/24) in the Bee Hummingbird (1/5 oz.) than in the Ostrich (1/2900 and 254) lbs.

In fact, the tiny hummingbird has a brain much larger than expected for its size. Scientists know from living species, however, that absolute brain size is an inadequate indicator of IQ because there are animals with large brains that could be classified as dumb and animals with small

brains that could be classified as smart. Although some birds have large brains, there is no one convincing theory to explain why. However, the author uses the term Feathered Apes (p. 38), suggesting birds may have the same minds as apes, but within the limitations of a differently structured brain.

Navigation

The book deals next with how birds navigate, how they use their impressive memories to find their way around, to find food, even to remember the specific time and place they encountered or hid a specific type of food – something resembling human episodic memory. Distances birds can traverse are greater than for any other creature, potentially spanning the entire globe. Birds also travel through some of the most complex three-dimensional environments on Earth, especially when compared to those traveled by ground-dwelling mammals. Yet, spatial problems from short to long distances can dominate some birds' entire lives, even influencing the design of their brains, and the way they use them.

For migratory birds, changes in hormone levels related to changing day length, lower temperatures, and decreases in available food, ultimately cause physiological and behavioral changes and initiate what is called migratory restlessness. Perhaps the most striking case is the Arctic Tern flying from the Arctic Circle feeding grounds to new feeding grounds in Antarctica, an annual round trip of 55,000 miles. Nevertheless, such long-distance species have evolved a natural suite of navigational tools – the equivalent of compasses, satellite imagery, and GPS – that are used at different stages of the trip but always under genetic control. Once off from home, the bird encodes a map of its local environment based on the arrangement of landmarks. Out of site of home, the bird shifts from using a cognitive mapping system to a physiological compass-based system for the longer stages of the journey. Birds traveling thousands of miles employ sun, celestial, and/or magnetic compasses to guide them. Because the sun does not remain fixed, it can only be used as a navigational guide in conjunction with a mechanism for telling time. So birds have three internal (circadian) clocks in the retina, pineal gland, and the hypothalamus in the brain that can process basic information about the time-using cycles of light levels. The sun is at a specific

position at a specific time of day as gauged by the available light.

Not all birds migrate during the day, in fact, some birds continue to fly day and night. Nocturnal birds use a star map. Experiments with migrating birds in planetariums indicate that they learn star maps based on the position of a certain number of major constellations and their position relative to the North and South Poles. Celestial objects (sun and stars) are conspicuous but not fixed, so other mechanisms, such as an internal clock, are required to make use of them for navigation.

By contrast, geomagnetic fields provide a relatively fixed map of horizontal space across the Earth's surface and are probably the reason why so many birds are capable of long distance migrations. Two mechanisms have been proposed for how birds use magnetic fields: 1) magnetoreceptors called cryptochromes have been discovered in the birds' primarily right eye retina. This is equivalent to a chemical compass that is responsive to changes in magnetic directions; and 2) iron oxide or magnetite (tiny magnets) has been found in the nasal cavity and skin of the upper beak of pigeons. Magnetite aligns with the magnetic field, providing information as to the bird's position, forming part of its navigational toolbox. When encountering a new environment, birds memorize key features and their relationships to each other and construct a navigational map. The features are separated into "close" by beacons and "distant" landmarks that form a picture of the goal's exact location. Adding more than two landmarks ultimately increases accuracy.

Food caching

For many birds, the greatest problem is not finding enough food to eat but determining what to do with what food they collect. Some birds cache or hide food in stores. There are two types of food hoarders: larders that create one store location, and scatters that distribute caches over a wide area and protect them by hiding them out of sight, thus making them difficult to find. The Scrub Jays of the west can remember *what* they cached, *where* they cached, and *when* they cached, all critical components of episodic memory and still are the best example among non-human animals. There are at least ten cache protection strategies by food-caching birds to counter theft: 1) consumption, 2) enhanced, 3) reduction, 4) cessation, 5) delay, 6) spacing, 7) out of view, 8)

difficult to see, 9) multiple moves, and 10) re-caching.

Communication

How smart do birds need to be to communicate? Of course, sight and sound are the main sensory systems used by birds. Birds have more complex eyes than most mammals. Most birds have eyes located at the side of their head, while a few have forward-facing eyes. The different positions tend to reflect whether the species is predator or prey. Avian eyes contain four color photoreceptors (humans have two) or cones capable of aiding the perception of a wider frequency range of light wavelengths than mammals. The sense organ (photoreceptor or auricle) translates the light or sound energy into an electrical signal that can be detected by sensory nerve cells that, in turn, transfer this information to the specific sensory pathway of the brain. Birds communicate because they are social and need to transmit information to others of their kind, using a variety of both visual signals (colors, displays, dances, social cues) and auditory channels (calls and songs) to produce and perceive them. Visual signals advertise good health and good genes while the wide variety of shapes and colors of different avian eyes is strongly related to a species reliance on visual communication, especially color, food eaten and occupied habitats. Most signals display four properties: they are *stereotyped*, meaning that they are usually displayed in the same manner; *repetitive*, meaning that they are repeated in order to reinforce the message; *simplified*, meaning that the number of their components is reduced, if possible; and *exaggerated*, meaning that they are conspicuous and easy to perceive above visual and auditory background noise.

Birds vocalize either with calls or songs. All birds call (inherited trait) but not all birds sing. Further, usually only males sing because such action helps in courtship and territoriality. However, flycatchers are born with songs and both males and females sing. Bird songs are seasonal, usually reaching a peak in the breeding season. But over the years this reviewer has recorded some permanent male species (Carolina Wren, Northern Cardinal) singing throughout the year and many neotropical and northern male visitors singing during north and south migrations and irruptions besides using special call notes. Bird song varies within a species too, depending upon geographical location. Avian variation is more likely to occur if

there is some natural barrier, like mountains, between populations to prevent intermingling. By restricting song to those birds in the same vicinity, regional dialects form in a similar way to local accents in human populations. Finally, a neural circuit controls the perception of songs and calls, memorization, and imitation of these vocalizations, and their production.

Interestingly, about twenty percent of songbirds are open-ended learners with no restriction on when they learn new songs. Some species learn entirely new repertoires of new songs each year. Classic cases of vocal imitation or mimicry are mockingbirds and starlings that imitate huge numbers of songs. Mockingbirds have at least 150 songs in their songbook, a number that increases with age and includes amphibians, insects, other bird calls and songs, even human alarms and ringing phones. But why mimic in the first place? Perhaps males who produce longer, more accurate repertoires are more attractive to females, or a local Blue Jay imitates a Red-shouldered Hawk so as to scare other birds at a feeder to take cover, allowing the jay to eat at will. How about dancing to the beat? An Australian cockatoo became entrained to rhythm, moving in time to the music, even bobbing his head, raising his crest, moving his feet in concert with changes in temps. Yet, it is still unclear why vocal imitation is essential for this skill. Finally, teaching a parrot to talk is the ultimate avian vocal imitation. The pallial vocal learning pathway of parrots provides a supportive structure for them to learn human language. However, language utilizes grammar and syntax to support the meaning and intention behind any utterances. Birds have yet to demonstrate that level of comprehension.

Social systems

Until the 1960s, it was assumed that only humans require complex social skills. We now know that these skills are found in a wider range of vertebrates, including birds, than we imagined 60 years ago. For most animals, getting and staying together has only one purpose: the production of healthy offspring that can be expressed in six avian social systems: 1) the Classic Social System represented by the raven with birds living in large groups/colonies primarily for protection from predators. Pairs live in proximity with non-overlapping territories containing non-breeding non-helpers. 2) Coloniality, for example, Blue Jays show the start of colonies with pairs living in the same

territories as other non-breeders close by. 3) Nesting Colony represented by Jackdaws in a large nesting colony with many pairs living in the same territory. 4) Single Social System represented by a single pair Clark's Nutcracker that breed in a large territory, remaining solitary outside the breeding season. 5) Communalism, with Alpine Chough as example that live in pairs but in environmental conditions that may necessitate pairs living in simple communities with non-breeding helpers. 6) Cooperative Breeding, with Mexican Jays representing the case of a true cooperative breeding community in which multiple pairs live together with their offspring, non-breeding helpers of previous years, who help in raising their current brood (see p. 91 for diagram).

In sum, all vertebrates (including humans and birds) have a brain of two primary networks as part of a social evaluation system: the Social Behavior Network (SBN) and the Mesolimbic Reward System, yet there is little to suggest that they play more than a minor role in social knowledge (see p.93 illustration). We do know, however, that crows recognize human facial expressions and the direction of their eye gaze. It also pays in a social world to make friends, recognize your enemies, and determine who are the friends of your enemies. Such forms of social computations require the ability to recognize individuals, but also relationships among individuals, so-called third party relationships. Ravens, for example, will support their valuable partners in flight and also those that have helped them in the past. Yet, fights do occur between friends, family members, and partners. Have no fear because ravens have ways that a broken relationship can be salvaged, even repaired. This is reconciliation and after a fight the aggressor preens its partner, which serves a social function of solidifying a long-term bond and a cleaning role in removing parasites. Learning from others' mistakes vastly increases your chances of survival. Birds learn socially when, where, what, what not, and how to eat, but also who might make the best mating partner and what the best method is of evading predators.

Tools

Of the 10,000+ species of birds in the world, only a few are known to use tools and, of those, only a handful have been observed making tools. In fact, only two species, the Woodpecker Finch and the New Caledonian Crow, habitually make

tools in the wild. Tool use and making is therefore extremely rare in the avian world (pp. 114-115). Why so few? Many avian species may have the brain to use a tool but not the opportunity in their particular environment because diets are perfectly adequate without needing a tool. Common features of habitats of tool-using species lack competitors for foods they would acquire with tools and lack predators, so they can afford the time required to make an efficient tool. Only the New Caledonian Crow makes two kinds of tool: 1) by making a small cut in one edge of a Pandanus Tree leaf with barbs, it then makes one of four different tears (wide, narrow, step, and multistep) to create the required tool before removing it from the leaf. This action suggests that the tool-maker has an image of the required tool in its head before making it. 2) The other tool created by the New Caledonian Crow is the hook-stick made from long sticks broken from low-hanging trees. To make the hook tool, crows select a series of interconnected twigs with leaves, then remove and discard all side twigs with leaves, finally removing the tool twig and producing an upturned hook at one end. No other animal in the wild makes as many small changes to their tools – even during use – as does this crow master toolmaker.

The minds of birds

The idea that some animals are self-aware is controversial, but the idea that some animals understand what others think and feel has been argued just as strongly. Is a relatively large brain required for self-awareness as well as intelligence? Despite decades of study, the idea of theory of mind in animals remains highly contentious because it is still unclear how the human theory of mind works. Some bird studies have put mind-reading within a strong evolutionary framework, such as protecting food caches not only from their own species but also other avian or mammalian thieves like woodpeckers and chipmunks.

The study of empathy by birds is relatively recent but unfortunately based on conjecture and anecdote rather than hard scientific evidence. On the other hand, birds' memories of a specific past event, even see themselves taking part in that event in their imagination, should challenge the uniqueness of human

episodic memory. Further, Hooded Crows have been shown spontaneously to display analogical reasoning to stimuli based on color, shape, and numbers. Any bird that can distinguish quantities will have an advantage over other birds. Likewise, birds display three types of play: 1) locomotor play, like aerial acrobatics, hanging, and flying upside down; 2) object play, involving the close inspection of objects to learn how they work; and 3) social play providing a method for learning how to fight and court, involving chasing and tussling. Apparently the distribution of dopamine neurons and receptors in the raven brain play a role in different forms of play.

Let me present a personal experience of avian object play. As a summer National Park Service ranger-naturalist years ago in Shenandoah National Park, I lived in a quaint wooden cabin surrounded by a dense deciduous forest one mile east of the Skyline Drive in the central district of the park. One early morning, I found a live, young, uninjured American Crow at my front doorsteps. It could hardly fly and apparently fell or was pushed from a 25-foot high nest. I suspected foul play the previous night when commotion and noise disturbed the tranquil cabin setting. So I adopted "Crow" for most of the summer. The bird followed me everywhere but was particularly fascinated by my hanging laundry outside every few days and patiently studied my laundry antics for hours. Then one morning after hanging my clothes and going into the cabin, Crow flew from its favored front pole, landed at one end of the gray line, and methodologically picked the clothes pins from the hanging clothes one end of the line to the other, allowing the clothes and pins to fall to the ground. Next, Crow picked up each felled pin, flew to the clothes basket, and dropped each pin into the basket until all pins were displaced from the grassy ground. I desperately tried everything to dissuade the bird, even hiding the pins in my hanging shirt sleeves and pants pockets, but as soon as I entered the cabin, the bird quickly pick-pocketed the pins and dropped them into the basket. Crow definitely enjoyed winning the game. Unfortunately, my only solution after playing weeks of this one-sided game was to hang my laundry inside the cabin. However, the strategy discouraged Crow to

stay much longer even though daily food and water were provided.

In grand review, "Some birds display great feats of memory, recalling the location of thousands of different items, even after long intervals. Birds travel some of the longest distances of any animals on the planet, yet possess a natural suite of tools to aid them. They communicate their intentions using visual signals and recognize what others are seeking, even when hidden from view. Their unique vocal communication shares traits with human language. They are social, yet the pair bond is at the heart of their society. Birds form intense long-lasting relationships with others and can remember friends and enemies. They cooperate, share food to curry favors, and help and support one another. Some birds use different tools for different jobs, and stick to the same tool that their peers use, displaying something akin to culture. They create tools to solve novel problems, perhaps using insight. Birds remember specific events in their past, what happened where and when, and use these memories to plan for their future. Because some birds respond to hidden marks on their bodies in the presence of a mirror, they may be even self-aware. Finally, some birds may be able to use another's behavior to predict their intentions, and distinguish between different states of knowledge. Importantly, you don't need to travel to the rainforest or the deep oceans to experience these examples of intelligence. All you need to do is to look out your window and focus on the activity on your bird table. This list of cognitive achievements suggests that the intellectual abilities of some birds may have been underestimated by the general public. Moreover, birds may even be better models for how human cognition evolved than our ape cousins," concludes the author Nathan Emery (p.168).

Please let me add that this outstanding, beautifully illustrated scientific, yet easily comprehended, treatise on avian intelligence deserves to be on the book shelf of everyone who loves our feathered kin.

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Summary of the Season: Spring 2017

Mike Fialkovich

Following a mild winter and a dry start to the spring season, a late winter storm in mid-March (Winter Storm Stella) affected the eastern part of the state. The storm was mentioned in reports from *Adams, Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Columbia, Cumberland, Huntington, Lancaster, Monroe, Montour, Sullivan, and Susquehanna*.

Early May featured winds out of the north that delayed the northbound movement of birds, at least in numbers that result in a day filled with a wide variety of migrants. When the relentless north winds finally shifted near the middle of the month migrants seemed to move in for a brief period and then quickly depart, but of course migration never seems long enough for birders. Rain affected the PAMC for many observers.

Speaking of the PAMC, it remains uncertain if it will continue in the manner to which we in Pennsylvania are accustomed. The day has now become the Global Big Day and advertised by ebird, with observers are encouraged to enter ebird checklists online. This creates a dilemma for birders who do not use online checklists (or ebird) and also overshadows our state count in a sense. As more and more observers use ebird regularly to enter and keep track of their sightings, where does that leave the state count? While the Global Big Day is a great activity and encourages birders to enter data tracking bird distribution, it also causes an overwhelming amount of data to summarize on a state level.

Reports were received from 56 counties, one more than last year.

Greater White-fronted Goose was reported in only four counties. One in *Northampton* lingered from last season and *Mercer* was the only western county where reported. *Mercer* was also the western representative for **Ross's Goose** with one at Shenango Reservoir. Middle Creek is a normal stopover for this species and one was there in March. **Snow Goose** remains an uncommon species away from the southeast. Notable observations came from *Blair* and *Centre*. There was a movement of **Brant** in May with reports from four counties. High counts include a raft of 33 in *Centre* in early May and 60 in flight over Memorial Lake SP in *Lebanon* in mid-May. Normally Brant appear during a period of a few days at most with northeast winds but sightings this spring were spread across nearly the entire month of May.

Mute Swans were in *Adams, Bucks, Butler, Delaware, Jefferson, Lebanon* and *Philadelphia*. *Bucks* had the highest totals with *Philadelphia* not far behind. **Trumpeter Swans** are now found annually and observers have been sending in the neck band or wing tag numbers to assist researchers in tracking the birds and learn about their origins. Details are in the *Chester* and *Lycoming* narratives.

Eurasian Wigeons were in five counties. A **Common Teal** that wintered in *Chester* remained into the spring; one was also at Middle Creek. **Common Mergansers** continue their expansion with first confirmed breeding in *Beaver* and

Washington. A **Harlequin Duck** was a nice find in *Dauphin* but did not remain for long. All three scoters were reported with **White-winged Scoter** most numerous. **Long-tailed Ducks**, mostly storm-related, were in twenty-one counties; 30 were tallied in *Berks*.

Hybrid ducks include **Gadwall X Mallard** in *Berks*, **Eurasian X American Green-winged Teal** in *Lebanon*, and **Eurasian X American Wigeon** in *Somerset*.

Northern Bobwhites were in *Allegheny, Bedford, Butler* and *Centre*. Apart from *Bedford* where a small population has been reported in recent years (and noted as declining in the spring report), all were single birds and certainly released.

Red-throated Loons were in thirteen counties topped by a flock of 12 in *Centre*. **Red-necked Grebes** were in seven counties during this non-invasion year. **Eared Grebe** had a good showing, found in four counties. As always, **Great Cormorants** continued from the winter in expected *Bucks* and *Delaware* locations. One lingered in *Bucks* through May. Details regarding the origins of a banded **Double-crested Cormorant** can be found in the always informative *Bucks* report.

American White Pelicans were in three counties. For the third consecutive year one was recorded in *Montour*. Pelicans in *Crawford* moved on just hours after their discovery.

Least Bitterns were in expected counties with the exception of *Huntington* where irregular. **Snowy Egret** was in four counties with a rare western sighting from *Butler*. **Little Blue Herons** were in five counties with a rare report in *Erie*. A **Cattle Egret** was in *Berks* and 2 in *Chester*, the lone reports. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** notably away from the southeast were in *Armstrong, Centre, Crawford, Mercer, Somerset, and Westmoreland*. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were at the breeding area in *Cumberland* and a pair provided an exciting find among the Black-crown rookery in *Lancaster*. **Glossy Ibis** were in the southeast as expected. Unexpected was an ebird entry with a photograph of one in *Allegheny* that unfortunately did not linger for more than a few hours - only the third record in the county.

Black Vulture reports outside of the regular southeastern counties are listed in the Birds of Note. All were in western counties (one could argue *Bedford* is in the middle of the state) but generally this species is rare west of the Allegheny Front.

Swallow-tailed Kites were in *Bucks* (first county record) and *Monroe*. **Mississippi Kites** were found in *Chester* and *Delaware* where now regular spring migrants; they were also in *Lebanon* and *Montgomery* and one provided a rare sighting at the Erie Hawkwatch. **Northern Goshawks** were in six counties. A few were at hawkwatches while others were surprise flyovers. Wintering **Rough-legged Hawks** often linger into March so they are included in the spring reports. Read about an injured **Swainson's Hawk** originally found in *Lancaster*

and rehabilitated in *Chester*. Extremely interesting was a possible **Harlan's Hawk** that passed over the Erie Hawkwatch. **Golden Eagles**, typically recorded on passage at hawk watch sites, were found away from the ridges in *Crawford, Lancaster, Mercer, Union, and Venango*. **Merlins** were noted nesting at DuBois in *Clearfield*. **Peregrine Falcons**, suspected to breed in *Erie* for a few years, were finally confirmed this year. In *Montgomery* a pair was confirmed nesting for the first time after several years of attempts.

A **King Rail** was heard in *Bucks* and one or two in *Crawford* where they were suspected to have bred previously. **Common Gallinules** were in five counties, including four in the usual northwestern breeding areas. **Sandhill Cranes** were in twenty-one counties. They were confirmed breeding in *Sullivan* and confirmed for the second year in *Wyoming*. Breeding continues in *Crawford, Lawrence, and Mercer*.

The season was highlighted by an excellent variety of shorebirds, typically a feature of the fall migration. A fallout occurred in *Northampton*, a result of the combination of bad weather and a drained lake; be sure to read the county report about the excitement. **Black-bellied Plovers** were in ten counties. Rare in spring, an **American Golden Plover** was at Presque Isle's Gull Point. Three **Piping Plovers** were also at Gull Point; it's terrific to see this species becoming a regular there during migration.

Amazing were reports of **American Oystercatcher**, in *Bedford* and *Philadelphia*, a species normally brought to Pennsylvania by hurricanes. Another rarity, **Black-necked Stilt** provided *Lancaster* with a sixth county record. The only **American Avocet** report came from *Erie*.

Willetts were reported from nine counties across the state, from late April to mid-May, an unusually long time period; typically, they occur within just a few days in early May. The largest flock was in *Northampton* where approximately 66 were counted from a photograph - only the second 60-plus count in Pennsylvania history! **Upland Sandpipers** were reported in only four counties including birds returning to traditional breeding sites in *Clarion* and *Crawford*. **Whimbrel** counts were impressive: Two flocks in *Chester* totaled 115 birds passing over after lifting off from the Delaware Bay. Elsewhere, *Delaware* recorded a flock of 80 in flight, at least 42 were in *Erie*, and 16 were in *Northampton*. **Ruddy Turnstones** were in seven counties, all away from the *Erie* shore where regular; *Clinton* recorded its second county record. **Red Knot** reports were good for this declining species; most were singles but a flock of 100 was counted in *Chester* flying over the Bucktoe Creek Reserve.

Sanderlings were also found away from the *Erie* lakeshore - in *Bucks, Centre, Crawford, and Lancaster*. Very rare in spring, a **Baird's Sandpiper** was reported in *Crawford*. **White-rumped Sandpipers** were in fourteen counties. A **Purple**

Sandpiper in *Bucks* provided the second county record. Another spring rarity, **Stilt Sandpipers** were found in four counties, a surprising number for spring.

A **Ruff** was an amazing find in *Huntington* and the ninth in the state. Unfortunately, it did not remain long. Another rare spring migrant, a **Long-billed Dowitcher** spent most of April in *Crawford*. **Short-billed Dowitchers**, uncommon in spring, were found in nine counties; an impressive count of at least 62 was made in *Montgomery*. All three phalaropes made appearances. Single **Wilson's Phalaropes** were in *Bucks* and *Crawford*. **Red-necked Phalaropes** were in seven counties, with 3 in *Lancaster* and 3 also in *Clarion/Venango* (on a lake shared by the two counties), providing the third county record for *Venango*. A **Red Phalarope** was in *Montgomery*.

Black-headed Gulls were in *Bucks*, *Delaware*, and *Philadelphia* but were not found this year at the regular Susquehanna River locations. The birds in *Delaware* and *Philadelphia* wintered and remained into the spring. **Little Gulls** were reported from the expected Susquehanna River locations in *Lancaster*; however, single birds in *Pike* and *Wayne* were highly unusual and out of the expected migration corridor in Pennsylvania for this regular, yet rare and local migrant. Occasional outliers may assist in our understanding of the migration path taken by this species. This species is regularly reported along the Susquehanna River and on the Lake Erie shore during spring migration but went unreported this year, except in *Lancaster*. **Laughing Gulls** were in *Bucks* and *Delaware*, typical in spring; others were in *Bedford*, *Lancaster*, and *Northampton*. A **Thayer's Gull** was reported in *Erie* prior to its re-classification as a subspecies of Iceland Gull. **Iceland Gulls** were in *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Erie*, and *Philadelphia*. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were in seven counties; *Susquehanna* had its first county record and hundreds continue to be seen in *Bucks*. **Glaucous Gulls** were in *Bucks*, *Erie*, and *Northampton*. **Great Black-backed Gulls** were in *Erie*, *Lycoming* and *Montgomery*. A **Herring X Glaucous Gull** was an interesting find in *Bucks*.

Black Terns were reported in a respectable twelve counties and **Common Tern** in eleven. A **Least Tern** was photographed in *Philadelphia*.

A **White-winged Dove** was discovered in *Luzerne*, reported in eBird. A **Barn Owl** calling in *Allegheny* in the middle of the night provided insight to birds passing through undetected by field observers. Barn Owls were reported from known breeding sites in southeastern counties. A **Snowy Owl** in *Crawford* during March was at the same farm as a bird present in 2010. The property owners were just as gracious as last time, welcoming and assisting birders searching for this arctic visitor. **Long-eared Owls** were reported in six counties. **Short-eared Owls** were in ten counties with possible breeding in *Clearfield*. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were reported in six counties.

Eastern Whip-poor-will was reported in *Adams*, *Beaver*, *Bedford*, *Cambria*, *Crawford*, *Lancaster*, *Lebanon*, *Lycoming*, *Montgomery*, *Somerset*, *Sullivan*, and *Venango*; six counties less

than last year. **Chuck-wills-widows** returned to *Cumberland* again this spring, in two locations, one the same location as last year. Also of note, one was struck and killed by a car last year so two returning this year suggests the possibility that this species is moving into the area and that there may be more than are detected.

A **Rufous Hummingbird** that wintered in *Lancaster* was last seen in early March. A Rufous/Allen's that wintered in *Montgomery* lingered until early April. **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, for some a rare visitor, were reported in twenty-four counties, nearly identical to last spring.

Alder Flycatcher, noted in only eight counties, is one of the least common empids due to the requirement of shrubby wetland habitat for nesting. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, the other uncommon empid, was reported in seven counties. **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found in twelve counties. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was described from *Centre* and one was reported in *Northumberland*.

Northern Shrikes were found in only three counties. **Common Raven** reports continue away from the high elevations. This spring, a second nest location was found in *Lancaster*, two nests have been found in *Chester*, and a second nest site was discovered in *Washington*. **Fish Crow** sightings continue away from the southeast. A **Bank Swallow** in *Forest* was a rare find. It's interesting to learn of such notable records, made possible by the local knowledge of our county compilers.

Following a moderate winter invasion, lots of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** lingered into the spring, reported from 21 counties and many well into May. A pair attempted to nest in *Allegheny*, but never progressed beyond excavating a cavity; there is only a single confirmed breeding in that county. Ten counties reported **Marsh Wren**, a mixture of returning breeders and migrants. There were two **Sedge Wren** reports, from *Crawford* and *Lancaster*.

Snow Buntings were in *Adams*, *Bucks*, *Centre*, *Crawford*, *Lawrence*, *Mercer* and *Wyoming* and **Lapland Longspurs** in *Bucks*, *Lancaster*, *Lawrence*, *Lebanon*, *Mercer*, *Northampton* and *Venango*.

Golden-winged Warblers were in 15 counties. Both hybrids were reported with **Brewster's Warblers** in five counties and **Lawrence's Warblers** in three. **Prothonotary Warblers** were found in ten counties. Three in *Berks* held promise for breeding but moved on after spending a few days singing. For *Pike* it was a rare visitor and in *Chester* they are hard to find. A bird in *Mercer* was in an unexpected location away from the traditional Shenango Reservoir nesting area. **Orange-crowned Warbler**, an uncommon spring migrant, exhibited a good presence with observations in ten counties. **Cerulean Warblers** were found in sixteen counties as observers keep track of this declining species. *Montgomery* recorded a return of this species after a several year absence. A **Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler** was in *Erie*.

Clay-colored Sparrow records were in eBird at the usual locations in *Clarion*. Three were at Presque Isle in *Erie* where they are a rare migrant.

Summer Tanager reports were numerous, found in six counties and returning to *Berks* for the third consecutive year. A male **Western Tanager** was a pleasant surprise in *Centre* one year after one spent the winter in that county; this bird was in a different location and present for three days. **Blue Grosbeaks** were found in their usual range. A male **Painted Bunting** was a great find in *Lancaster* where it visited a feeder for a day, providing a third county record.

By mid-May it became evident that an influx of **Dickcissels** was occurring. In response to drought conditions in the Midwest, birds moved east in search of suitable breeding habitat and improved conditions, reported in eight counties across the southern part of the state. Pairs were observed so there should be breeding news in the summer reports. Dickcissels bred in *Cumberland* in 2016 (and have bred in that county fairly regularly the past few years) and returned to the same location this year, exhibiting amazing site fidelity, knowing a good thing when they see it.

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was in *Delaware*, one in *Lycoming* furnished a first county record, and one in *Lehigh* a second county record. **Rusty Blackbirds** were in twenty-one counties. The first-year male **Bullock's Oriole** in *Lancaster*, which entertained many birders all winter in Lititz, remained into early May. The amazing five **Baltimore Orioles** that overwintered in *Bucks* remained until the final days of April. The now famous, or infamous, **Black-backed Oriole** in *Berks* stayed until early April.

Pine Siskins were reported from eighteen counties following a minor presence in the state over the winter. Surprising were a few reports of **Red Crossbills**, apparently returning north. The highest count came from *Schuylkill*. **Evening Grosbeaks** that descended upon *Elk* and *Forest* in winter lingered into mid-April in *Elk* and mid-May in *Forest*. Single birds were in *Bucks* and *Chester*.

Leucistic birds are always interesting. In *Montgomery* a **Red-tailed Hawk**, a **Carolina Wren**, and an **American Robin** all exhibited this aberrant plumage. A leucistic **Chipping Sparrow** amazingly appearing very similar to a McKay's Bunting visited a feeder in *Perry*.

EXOTIC: A **Mandarin Duck** was in *Montgomery*.

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Birds of Note – March through May 2017

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 – *Mercer*: 2 at the Shenango Wildlife Area 3/3-23 (Neil Troyer); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 3/2-5 (Len Hillegass, m.ob.), one at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 4/3 (Curt Dunn, ph.); *Northampton*: one continued from winter at Albert Road Ponds to 3/26 (Michael Schall); *Northumberland*: 20 at Old Rte. 45 on 3/22-24 (Andy Keister, Ellen Snyder, William Snyder).

Ross's Goose – *Berks*: one in the Oley Valley 3/7 (Rudy Keller), 2 at Gotwal's Pond 3/22 (Rudy Keller); *Chester*: one flew over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 3/1 (Larry Lewis, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: single birds at Middle Creek WMA 3/1 (Zachary Millen) and 3/11 (Randy Miller), one near Landisville 3/14 (Ed Bernot); *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek WMA 3/9 (Randy Miller); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Wildlife Area 3/28 (Neil Troyer, Steve Sanford).

Brant – *Centre*: a raft of 33 at Bald Eagle SP 5/5 (Joe Verica, Jon Kauffman, Lewis Grove, Dennis McGillicuddy); *Delaware*: 2 at Fort Mifflin 5/10 (Al Guarente); *Lebanon*: 60 circled over Memorial Lake SP 5/13 (Jonathan Heller); *Lycoming*: 22 over Lycoming Creek Bikeway 5/13 (David Brown, et al.), several flocks over Montoursville 5/22 (David Brown, NFC Station).

Cackling Goose – *Bucks*: the last of the season at Peace Valley Park 3/3 (John Barton); *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds at Pymatuning 3/22 (Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee); *Franklin*: one at Fannettsburg Lake 3/9 (Bill Oyler); *Lancaster*: at three locations - 4 at Middle Creek WMA 3/11 (Vern Gauthier, Chad Kauffman, Zachary Millen, et al.); *Montour*: one at Montour Preserve 3/11 (Andy Keister); *Venango*: one at Two Mile Run County Park 3/14 (Gary Edwards, Russ States).

Trumpeter Swan – *Bedford*: 3 at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 3/25 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one continued at Lake Towhee Park and Nockamixon SP up to 5/28 (Paul Teese, m.ob.), one at Washington Crossing SP 4/14 (Dwight Molotsky, Lynn Falterbauer, ph.); *Chester*: one at the Loch Nairn Golf Course in Avondale 3/1 (Joe Sebastiani); *Cumberland*: 2 at Opossum Lake 4/10 (Jason McCoy, Scott Brookens, Vern Gauthier); *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 3/5 (Norwood Frederick, Dan Brauning, David Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown, Steve Pinkerton, ph.), 2 at pond on private property 4/1-7 (observer not listed); *Mercer*: one at East Cornell Rd 3/13 (Neil Troyer); *Schuylkill*: 2 on 3/2 and 3/11 at Swatara SP (Barb Ritzheimer) and at Eldred Twp. 3/24 (Timothy Becker) and 3/26 (Ted Nichols II).

Gadwall X Mallard – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/1-4/12 (Rudy Keller).

Eurasian Wigeon - *Centre*: one at Muddy Paws Marsh (Sean Hermann, *vide* Joe Verica) and probably the same bird at Coyer (Joe Verica, et al.); *Cumberland*: one at Lisburn Quarry 3/23 (Scott Brookens, Stefan Karkuff, ph), fourth county record; *Dauphin*: one at Haldeman Island 3/25 (Scott Bills, Stephanie Bills, Penn State Ornithology Lab); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 3/23-24 (Jerry McWilliams, Jamie Hill); *Venango*: one at Two Mile Run County Park 3/22 (Gary Edwards, Russ States, ph).

Eurasian X American Wigeon – *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 4/2 (Shannon Thompson).

Common (Eurasian) Teal - *Chester*: wintering bird at Eagleview continued to 3/21 (m.ob.); *Lebanon*: one from last season at Middle Creek WMA to 4/8 (Randy Miller, Paul Wolter, Michael Schall, Don Billett, Josh Lefever, m.ob.), third county record; *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 3/1-19 (Jason Horn).

Common (Eurasian) Teal X Green-winged Teal - *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek WMA 3/13-4/1 (Mike Fialkovich, Ted Nichols, Randy Miller, Stan Stahl).

Harlequin Duck* – *Dauphin*: one on Susquehanna R. 3/5 (Ed Bernot, Jason Horn, ph.).

White-winged Scoter - *Crawford*: one at Conneaut Lake 3/19 (Ron Leberman); *Franklin*: 2 at Bender's Farm 5/5 (Bill Oyler, Bob Keener); *Lycoming*: one on the Susquehanna R. 3/31 (Dan Brauning, Evan Houston, et al.), 3 at Rose Valley Lake 4/21 (Dan Brauning, et al.), 8 at Rose Valley Lake 5/5 (Bobby Brown, Dan Brauning, Deb Brown, Bob Brown, et al.); *Montour*: 5 at Montour Preserve 4/4 (Evan Houston); *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 5/5 (Michael Schall); *Perry*: 2 at Little Buffalo SP 5/5 (Vern Gauthier).

Black Scoter - *Bedford*: 2 at Shawnee SP 3/20 (Tom Dick); *Butler*: one at Moraine SP 4/30 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Centre*: one or 2 at Bald Eagle SP 4/30-5/5 (Joe Verica, et al.); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/13-19 (Kendall Zook, Andrew Markel); *Montour*: 3 at Montour Preserve 5/2 (Andy Keister); *Washington*: 2 near Bentleyville 4/24 (Roy Ickes).

Red-necked Grebe - *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon SP 4/1 (August Mirabella), 4/30 (Devich Farbotnik), and 5/2 (Paul Cooper); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle SP 5/3 (Carl Engstrom, Joe Verica, Linder Carter, John Carter); *Chester*: 3 at Marsh Creek SP 4/16 (Holly Merker, m.ob.); *Crawford*: one at Custards 3/21 (Ron Leberman), one at Erie NWR 4/22 (Rich Eakin); *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 4/5 (Lauren Shaffer, et al.); *Montgomery*: 4 at Green Lane Park 4/25 (Dennis Miranda, m.ob.); *Susquehanna*: 2 at Quaker Lake 3/21 (Evan Mann) and one 4/5 (Nancy VanCott).

Eared Grebe* - *Clarion*: one at Kahle Lake 3/30-4/8 (Gary Edwards, Michael Leahy, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, *no doc*); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/6-26 (Mary Birdsong, *no doc*); *Somerset*: one near Fairhope 4/21 (Christopher Payne, *no doc*); *Venango*: one at Kahle Lake 3/30-4/6 (Jerry Stanley, Gary Edwards, Russ States, *no doc*).

Great Cormorant - *Bucks*: seasonal high count of 9 at Bristol 3/9 (Dawn Denner), one lingered at Mud Island to 5/29 (Devich Farbotnik); *Delaware*: singles at the Commodore Barry Bridge and riverfront 3/17 and 3/29 (Al Guarente).

American White Pelican - *Crawford*: 3 at the Pymatuning Lake Causeway 5/23 (Ross Gallardy, Jeff McDonald); *Erie*: one in Fairview Twp. 5/15 (Leonard Graf); *Montour*: one at the Montour Preserve 4/24 (Wayne Stahl).

Least Bittern - *Berks*: one at Kernsville Dam Recreation Area 5/9 (MT Grobe, Matt Wlasniewski, Jane Wolfe, Peter Wolfe); *Crawford*: 3 at Conneaut Marsh on McMichael Rd 5/15 (Chris Lundberg) and one there 5/30 (Michael Schall); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 5/21 (Jim McConnell); *Erie*: present 5/6 through the season at various locations (m.ob.); *Huntington*: one at Old Crow Wetland 5/21-26 (Renee Lubert, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Greg Grove, ph); *Tioga*: one at the Muck 5/18-21 (Jim Florentino, Bruce Carl, m.ob., audio).

Snowy Egret - *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 4/29 (Devich Farbotnik); *Butler*: one near Slippery Rock 5/13 (Gene Wilhelm); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 5/11-14 (Ted Nichols II, Deuane Hoffman); *Montour*: one at Montour Preserve 4/24 (Evan Houston); *York*: one at lake Redman 5/14 (Ken Cooper).

Little Blue Heron - *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 5/2 (Ken Lebo); *Chester*: one at Pickering Creek 4/3 (Randy Richard), one at Exton Park 4/19 (Nick Pulcinella, m.ob.); *Delaware*: one flew up the Delaware R. at Ft. Mifflin 5/25 (Al Guarente), one at Haverford College 5/31 (Sheryl Johnson); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/30 (Mary Birdsong).

Cattle Egret* - *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 5/2 (Ken Lebo, *no doc*); *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek SP 4/11 (Patricia Verbosky, *no doc*) and one in flight over same location 5/16 (Holly Merker, *no doc*).

Black-crowned Night-Heron - *Armstrong, Bucks, Centre, Crawford, Cumberland, Delaware, Erie, Lebanon, Lehigh, Mercer, Montgomery, Northampton, Schuylkill, Somerset, Westmoreland*.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - *Bucks*: one at Quakertown Swamp 4/21-5/30 (Devich Farbotnik), one at Nockamixon SP 4/26-5/30 (Paul Cooper, m.ob.); *Chester*: one near Bucktoe Creek Preserve 4/15 (George Tallman); *Cumberland*: present at West Fairview during the season; *Lancaster*: one at Ephrata 4/8 (Robert Ferguson)

and another there 4/16 (Dennis Hamly); *Montgomery*: present at Norristown Dam 4/11 (Michael Rosengarten) and 5/22 (Paul Bernhardt).

Glossy Ibis - *Allegheny*: one at Peter's Creek in Jefferson Borough 5/10 (Kristen Sanderson, ph., eBird), third county record; *Bucks*: one at Lower Makefield Twp., 4/7 (August Mirabella, ph., m.ob.), 2 at East Rockhill Twp. 5/28-29 (Hart Rufe, Jewel Rufe, ph.); *Chester*: one in Newtown Square 5/4 (Bonnie Van Alen, ph); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 5/20 (Steve Dale, Tiffany Willow, et al.); *Lancaster*: one at Chestnut Grove Natural Area 4/30 (Larry Bernhardt); *Lebanon*: one along Upper Lawn Rd 5/4 (Aaron Bierly); *Northampton*: one near Wind Gap (Terry Master), date not listed.

Black Vulture - West of Allegheny Front: *Allegheny, Cambria, Greene, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland*.

Swallow-tailed Kite* - *Bucks*: one over Mechanicsville 5/21 (Brenda Shade, Jere Shade, *doc submitted*), first documented county record; *Monroe*: one near Stroudsburg 4/28 (Jeff Wilkins, *no doc*).

Mississippi Kite* - *Chester*: three at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/18 and one 5/20 (Larry Lewis, et al., *no doc*); *Delaware*: one at Big Bend Farms 5/23 (Al Guarente, *no doc*), one over a yard in Wallingford 5/27 (Rob Fergus, *no doc*); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 4/22 (Sam Stull, *no doc*), one over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 5/17 (Joao Taveres, Jerry McWilliams, Don Snyder, *no doc*); *Lebanon*: one at Ft. Indiantown Gap 5/31 (Ian Gardner, Larry Bernhardt, *no doc*); *Montgomery*: one over Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 5/19 (Matt Jewell, *no doc*).

Northern Goshawk - *Bedford*: one at the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch (Tom Dick); *Elk*: present in Jones Twp. 4/16 and 5/26 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Erie*: singles over Erie Hawkwatch 4/9 (Jerry Stanley) and 4/27 (Jerry McWilliams, Ken Felix, Russ States); *Huntington*: one at Old Crow Wetland 5/1 (Zachary Adams, Karl Suttman); *Pike*: one in Delaware State Forest 4/2 (Susan Schmoyer); *Somerset*: one soaring over Fairhope Rd 4/23 (Christopher Payne).

Harlan's Hawk - *Erie*: a possible individual at Erie Hawkwatch 3/25 (Jerry McWilliams).

Rough-legged Hawk - *Lebanon*: 2 at Middle Creek WMA 3/20-23 (Randy Miller, Don Billett); *Lycoming*: one at Williamsport Regional Airport 3/13 (Eric Hartshaw), one in Montoursville 3/20 (David Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown); *Mercer*: one at Williamson Rd 3/4-5 (Neil Troyer); *Mifflin*: 4 near Milroy in March (Rob Dickerson, Robert Hosler, m.ob.); *Montour*: one at Montour Preserve 3/17 (Evan Houston) and Betz Rd (Lauri Shaffer); *Venango*: one in the Windy Hills Area 3/14 (Gary Edwards, Mike Leahy).

Golden Eagle - *Bedford, Blair, Crawford, Erie, Huntington, Lancaster, Lycoming, Mercer, Montour, Susquehanna, Union, Venango*.

King Rail* - *Bucks*: one heard at Quakertown Swamp 4/8 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*); *Crawford*: one at Conneaut Marsh along McMichael Rd 4/9 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman, *no doc*), one at another area of Geneva Marsh 5/18 (Chris Lundberg, *no doc*) through the season.

Common Gallinule - *Crawford*: first of season at Conneaut Marsh 4/11 (Shawn Collins) and 4/13 (Andy Keister); *Erie*: singles at Presque Isle SP 4/24 (Ryan Edwards, eBird), 5/5 (Robin and Sean Minnick, eBird), and 5/11 (James Hill, eBird); *Lawrence*: first of season at Black Swamp 4/22 (Brendyn Baptiste, et al.), one at Wampum-New Galilee Road Marsh 5/28 (Mark Vass); *Mercer*: singles at Pennsy Swamp 5/13 (Brendyn Baptiste, eBird) and 5/23 (Ross Gallardy, eBird); *Tioga*: present at The Muck 5/13 (Richard Faber, eBird) and 5/21-26 (Ken Cooper, Doug Wentzel, et al., eBird).

American Golden Plover - *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/18 (Mary Birdsong).

Piping Plover* - *Erie*: a banded male 4/18, joined by a banded female it 5/11. Another banded male appeared 5/16 with all 3 remaining through the season at Presque Isle SP (Mary Birdsong).

American Oystercatcher* - *Bedford*: 2 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/6 (Tom Dick, *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: one in flight at Pennypack on the Delaware 3/18 (Frank Windfelder, *no doc*).

Black-necked Stilt* - *Lancaster*: one in flight near Norman Wood Bridge 4/28 (Meredith Lombard, Jeff Musser, *doc submitted*), sixth county record.

American Avocet - *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 4/29 (Mary Birdsong).

Willet - *Bedford*: 2 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/6 (Tom Dick); *Butler*: 2 at SGL 95 on 4/29-5/1 (Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke, et al.); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle SP 4/11-29 (Mark Bonta, Bill Chambers, Audrey Chambers); *Erie*: one in Fairview Twp. 4/29 (Brian Pardini), one in Mill Village 5/15 (Jamie Hill), 7 at Presque Isle SP 4/29 and 4 on 5/4 (Mary Birdsong); *Lawrence*: 5 at the Shaner Road Marsh 4/30 (Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke), second county record; *Northampton*: 66 at Nazareth Quarry (Michael Schall, Adam Miller); *Venango*: 2 at Two Mile Run County Park 4/28 (Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick), fourth county record; *Washington*: 14 near Bentleyville 4/30 (Roy Ickes), fourth county record; *Westmoreland*: one at Donegal Lake 4/29 (Matt Juskowich, Dick Byres), 2 at Beaver Run Reservoir 5/5 (Ken Byerly), second and third county records.

Upland Sandpiper - *Clarion*: returned to Mt. Airy 5/3 (Carol Winslow); *Clearfield*: 3 on Sandy Ridge Rd 5/31 (Diane Bierly); *Crawford*: Miller Ponds area with a high of 5 on 5/30 (Michael Schall); *Jefferson*: one on Sandy Ridge Rd 5/3 (Nick Voris).

Whimbrel - *Chester*: 40 over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/19 (Larry Lewis, Kathleen Pileggi, m.ob.), 75 over Longwood Gardens 5/24 (Sarah MacLellan); *Delaware*: a flock of 80 over Marcus Hook 5/21 (Al Guarente); *Erie*: at least 42 at Presque Isle SP 5/25 (Mary Birdsong), one remained to 5/27 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lycoming*: a presumed flock was recorded by a nocturnal flight call recorder at Montoursville 5/21 (David Brown); *Northampton*: 16 at Minsi Lake 5/25 (Billy Weber).

Ruddy Turnstone - *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/6 (Tom Dick); *Clinton*: one at South Avis 5/29 (Bobby Brown, Brian Schmoke, Charles Hildebrand, Carol Hildebrand), second county record; *Huntington*: one near Orbisonia 5/25 (Greg Grove, Deb Grove, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Jon Kauffman, Julia Plummer); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek SP 5/12 (Gloria Lamer); *Lancaster*: 2

at the Conejohela Flats 5/13 (Mike Epler, Zachary Millen, ph.); *Northampton*: one at Minsi Lake 5/22 (Billy Weber); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 5/17-22 (Jeff Payne).

Red Knot - *Bucks*: one over Milford Twp. 5/31 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: 100 over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/21 (Larry Lewis, Michael Hartshorne, Lauren Diamond, Holly Merker); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/1 and 5 there 5/25 (Mary Birdsong); *Warren*: one at Hatch Patch Fields 5/9 (John Fedak).

Sanderling - *Bucks*: a flock over Milford Twp. 5/31 (Devich Farbotnik); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle SP 5/1 (Joe Verica); *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 5/19-20 (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 5/13 (Mike Epler, Zachary Millen, ph.).

Baird's Sandpiper - *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 5/20 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman) and 5/23 (Ron Leberman).

Purple Sandpiper - *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon SP 5/30 (Ken Rieker), second county record.

Stilt Sandpiper - *Beaver*: one at Independence Marsh 4/27 (Mark Vass); *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 4/29 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 4/9-16 (m.ob.); *Monroe*: one at Lynchwood Lake 5/22 (Bruce Johnson).

Ruff* - *Huntington*: one at Old Crow Wetland 5/18 (Greg Grove, m.ob.), first county record, ninth state record.

Long-billed Dowitcher* - *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 4/2-30 (m.ob.).

Wilson's Phalarope - *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 5/27 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: one at Linesville Fish Hatchery 4/13 (Ron Leberman).

Red-necked Phalarope - *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 5/5 (Devich Farbotnik); *Clarion*: 3 at Kahle Lake 5/24 (Gary Edwards, Margaret Higbee, Nick Kolodick, Jerry Stanley, Mike Weible); *Franklin*: one at Bender's Farm 5/5 (Bill Oyler); *Huntingdon*: one near Petersburg 5/29 (Jon Kauffman, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: 3 at Middle Creek WMA 5/21 and 2 remained to 5/23 (Loretta Gehman, Mike Epler, m.ob.); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 5/21-22 (Matthew Juskowich); *Venango*: 3 at Kahle Lake 5/24-27 (observer not listed), third county record.

Red Phalarope* - *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 4/29 (Scott Godshall, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Black-headed Gull* - *Bucks*: one at Lower Makefield Twp. 4/7-8 (Mark Gallagher, ph., Steve Schmit, Richard Smith, Vicky Smith, Michael Schall); *Delaware*: continued from the winter, last seen at John Heinz NWR 3/30 (Jim McConnell); *Philadelphia*: continued from the winter, last seen at John Heinz NWR 4/19 (Frank Windfelder).

Little Gull - *Bucks*: one at Washington Crossing Park 4/5 (Mark Gallagher), 3 first year birds at Penn-Warner Tract 5/22-29 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: one at Lake Clarke 4/2 (Mike Epler, Meredith Lombard, m.ob.), one at Middle Creek WMA 4/4 (Randy Miller); *Pike*: one at Lake Wallenpaupack 4/22 (Michael Schall); *Wayne*: same bird as in *Pike*.

Laughing Gull - *Bedford*: 2 at Shawnee SP 5/16 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: 4 at Peace Valley Park 3/27 (Ken Rieker, August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik, ph.), 2 at Nockamixon SP 3/27 (Paul Cooper, Devich Farbotnik), an estimated 445 at Bristol Marsh 5/10 (Bob Mercer) and an estimate of 1000 in lower *Bucks* 5/13 (observer not listed); *Delaware*: first of spring at Fort Mifflin 3/29 (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 5/20 (Mike Epler, Eric Witmer); *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 3/27 (Adam Miller, Michael Schall).

Thayer's Gull* - *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 4/5 (Jerry McWilliams, no doc).

Iceland Gull - *Bucks*: one or 2 at five sites during the season, the last at Penn-Warner Tract 4/29 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 3/19 (Larry Lewis); *Erie*: one at Lakeview Landfill 4/6 (Jerry McWilliams); *Philadelphia*: one at the Delaware River Trail 4/14 (George Armistead).

Lesser Black-backed Gull - *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Erie*, *Lancaster*, *Lycoming*, *Montgomery*, *Susquehanna* (first county record).

Glaucous Gull - *Bucks*: one reported at two sites, last at Penn-Warner Tract 4/15 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/4 (Mary Birdsong); *Northampton*: one at Grand Central Landfill 3/3 (Michael Schall).

Herring X Glaucous Gull - *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 4/22 (Devich Farbotnik).

Great Black-backed Gull - *Erie*: present during the season; *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 3/15 (Dan Brauning); *Montgomery*: up to 2 at Bala Cynwyd and Norristown Dam in March (m.ob.).

Least Tern - *Philadelphia*: one at Philadelphia Naval Yard 4/20 (George Armistead, ph.).

White-winged Dove* - *Luzerne*: one at Plymouth Flats 5/4-7 (Jonathan DeBalko, et al., eBird).

Barn Owl - *Allegheny*: one recorded calling during the night in Moon Twp. 5/27 (Geoff Malosh); *Centre*: one southwest of Coburn 4/18-5/10 (Joe Verica, et al.); 4 north of Coburn 5/13 (observer not listed); *Chester*: one at Octorara Reservoir 4/26 (Patrick Millar); *Lebanon*: one at Ft. Indiantown Gap 4/17 (Dave McNaughton); *Lycoming*: present in known locations; *Mifflin*: pair outside Milroy (Jon Kaufman, John Mackin), others in the same area during the season, one on Back Mt. Rd 4/29 (Robert Hosler, Chad Kauffman), one on Siglerville Pike 5/6 (Ted Nichols II, Deuane Hoffman, Ian Gardner, Vince Pantanella).

Snowy Owl - *Crawford*: one near Spring Twp. 3/13-26 (Eric Miller).

Long-eared Owl - *Blair*: one at Canoe Creek SP 4/2 (reported to park staff; observer not listed); *Bucks*: one found dead near Peace Valley Park 3/3 (Jochen Baurmeister); *Erie*: 2 at Presque Isle SP 4/11-12 (Roger Donn, Jerry McWilliams); *Lebanon*: one heard near Kleinfeltersville 4/2 (Brandon Snavely); *Montgomery*: one in Upper Gwynedd Twp. 4/9-11 (August Mirabella); *Northampton*: one in Williams Twp. 3/15 (Adam Miller).

Northern Saw-whet Owl - *Berks*: one in Hamburg 3/11 (Bruce Johns, Barb Johns); *Cameron*: one at Four Mile Road 3/19 (Brandon

Snavely); *Columbia*: one calling near Lightstreet 4/4 (Clay Corbin); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 4/11 (Roger Donn); *Sullivan*: one calling at McCarroll's Corner during the season (observer not listed); *Philadelphia*: last reported at John Heinz NWR 3/20 (observers not listed).

Chuck-wills-widow* - *Cumberland*: one at the Ridge Rd. location for the third consecutive year 5/24 (Bill Oyler, Vern Gauthier), one east of SGL 230 on 5/19 (Peter Lusardi).

Rufous Hummingbird - *Lancaster*: the bird that wintered in Denver was last seen 3/3 (Evan Houston); *Montgomery*: a probable bird that wintered in Bryn Mawr was last seen 4/8 (observer not listed), not banded and consequently not identified positively as a Rufous.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 5/27 (Mike Epler); *Lebanon*: one at Fort Indiantown Gap 5/31 (Ian Gardner); *Mercer*: one at Skunk Run Road 5/25-31 (Neil Troyer); *Monroe*: one in Saylorburg 5/23 (Rick Wiltraut); *Northampton*: one at Monacacy Nature Center Park 5/26 (Linda Freedman); *Schuylkill*: one near Frackville 5/27 (Thomas Buehl, Jr.); *Westmoreland*: 2 in Murrysville 5/12 (Dean Demarest), 9 banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve in May.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* - *Centre*: one at Penn State campus 4/5 (Sheri Edelson, no doc); *Northumberland*: one at Riverside Airport 4/23 (Sean Jeffreys).

Northern Shrike - *Chester*: one at Exton Park 3/16 (John McNamara); *Clarion*: one at Mt. Airy 3/2 (Carole Winslow), one near Curlsville 3/4-6 (Mark Moore, Carole Winslow), one at Curlsville Strips 3/6 (Mark Moore); *Crawford*: one at Erie NWR 3/22-29 (Randy Stringer, Ken Pinnow).

Marsh Wren - *Centre*: one heard at Julian Wetlands 4/29 (Jim Dunn, Scott Lewis); *Chester*: reported at Octorara Reservoir 4/29 and 5/8 (Patrick Millar); *Clinton*: 2 at the Mill Hall Wetlands 4/29 (Brian Schmoke); *Crawford*: one at Conneaut Marsh 4/5 (Shawn Collins); at least 100 tallied during a canoe trip at Conneaut Marsh 5/18 (Chris Lundberg); *Delaware*: first noted at John Heinz NWR 4/20 (Jim McConnell); *Huntington*: one at wetland along Myton Road 4/23 (Ben Steines, Jon Kauffman); *Lancaster*: one at Wood's Shed Park 3/7 (Mike Epler, Zachery Millen); *Mercer*: one at SGL 130 and others at Pennsy Swamp 5/17 (Neil Troyer); *Susquehanna*: one at Mack Rd Wetland 5/26 (Dave Andre, Jerry Skinner, Evan Mann); *Westmoreland*: singles captured at Powdermill Nature Reserve 4/28 and 5/17, one singing there 4/29.

Sedge Wren - *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 5/18 (Kendall Zook) and 5/23 (Ross Gallardy); *Lancaster*: one at Wood's Edge Park 3/7 (Josh Lefever, Mike Epler, Zachary Millen), ninth county record.

Golden-winged Warbler - *Berks*, *Chester*, *Crawford*, *Cumberland*, *Erie*, *Franklin*, *Huntingdon*, *Indiana*, *Lancaster*, *Montour*, *Northumberland*, *Perry*, *Somerset*, *Wayne*, *Westmoreland*.

Prothonotary Warbler - *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 4/30 (Matt Spence), 3 at Pete's Creek 5/25-29 (Jane Wolfe, Peter Wolfe); *Bucks*: one at Dark Hollow Park 5/26 (Jochen Baurmeister); *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 5/8 (Rick Robinson) and one at Kerr Park 5/18 (Barry Blust); *Crawford*: returned to the expected areas in Geneva Marsh and Conneaut Marsh, one at Erie NWR 5/10 (Rich Eakin); *Delaware*: one at Darlington Tract 4/28 (Jim

McConnell); *Mercer*: one near New Hamburg 4/27 (Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke, Neil Troyer); *Montgomery*: one at Trewellyn Park 4/30 (Matt Jewell, Christopher Ibsen); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR 4/22-5/31 (Frank Windfelder); *Pike*: one at Tarkill Creek Swamp 5/31 (Terry Master).

Brewster's Warbler - *Allegheny*: one at Frick Park 5/10 (Dan Weeks); *Berks*: one at SGL 110 on 4/30 (Danny Stoner); *Dauphin*: one at the Stony Creek Utility Right-of-Way 5/4-6 (Annette Mathes, Ed Chubb, Rosemary Sprea, Doris & Scott Brookens); *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake SP 5/30 (Ted Nichols, Timothy Becker); *Perry*: one at Loysville 5/1 (Annette Mathes, Vern Gauthier); *Westmoreland*: one at Hunter's Lane 5/22 (Josh Lefever).

Lawrence's Warbler - *Berks*: one at SGL 106 on 5/1 (Dan Altif); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 230 on 5/14 (Ramsay Koury, Annette Mathes); *Perry*: one at Little Buffalo SP 4/30 (Ted Nichols, m.ob.).

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler* - *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/7 (Shawn Collins, no doc).

Clay-colored Sparrow - *Clarion*: one at Piney Tract 5/28 (Kraig Cawley, eBird), one at Curllsville Strips 5/29 (Steve Schmit, eBird); *Erie*: up to 3 at Presque Isle SP 5/14-15 (Jerry McWilliams, Jamie Hill, Robert Scribner).

Summer Tanager* - *Berks*: one at Neversink Mountain 4/29 (Ken Lebo, Jay Drasher); *Chester*: one in West Chester 5/13 (J. Atkins, no doc); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 230 on 5/7 (Ramsay Koury, Peter Lusardi, m.ob., no doc); *Lancaster*: one at Noel Dorwart Park (Seth McComsey, Marvin Stauffer, doc submitted); *Montgomery*: one in Plymouth Meeting 5/19 (Paul Bernhardt, doc submitted); *Philadelphia*: one at Independence Historic Park 5/4 (Jason Waanders, no doc).

Western Tanager* - *Centre*: one at Penn State campus 4/20-23 (Joe Gyekis, no doc), second county record.

Blue Grosbeak - *Bucks*: first reported at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/5 (Devich Farbotnik) and Maple Knoll Farms 5/14 (Richard Smith); *Cumberland*: reported regularly north of Newville; *Dauphin*: one at Fort Indiantown Gap 5/26 (Ian Gardner), one at Fulling Mill Boat Launch 5/26 (Deuane Hoffman); *Delaware*: one at Ridley Creek SP 5/17 (Jim McConnell) and one at Big Bend Farm 5/21 (Sharon Pulcinella); *Franklin*: 2 at Little Cove 5/29 (Bill Oyler); *Lebanon*: one at Fort Indiantown Gap 5/19 (Ian Gardner), one at SGL 145 on 5/20 (Jonathan Heller); *Montgomery*: one at Trewellyn Park 4/30 (Matt Jewell, Christopher Ibsen), present at Valley Forge National Historical Park 5/8 (Mary Ellen Heisey), the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove 5/14 (Mirko Schoenitz), and SGL 234 in Linfield 5/21 (Paul Driver); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR at Tinicum 5/7 (George Armistead) and one at Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education 5/19 (Patrick McGill).

Painted Bunting* - *Lancaster*: one in Mohnton 4/1 (Barbara Good, no doc.), third county record.

Dickcissel - *Adams*: First reported at Bullfrog Rd. 5/22 (Andy Wilson) and a pair at that location 5/30 (Kathy Calvert); *Berks*: 3 in Kutztown 5/21-28 (Dan Altif, Brandon Swaysyer), 3 near Hamburg 5/31 (Ellen Grim, Kerry Grim, Matt Wlasniewski); *Chester*: a pair near Coatsville 5/27 (John McNamara), one near Cochranville 5/30 (Kevin Fryberger); *Cumberland*: up to 7 at the intersection of Rock

Rd and Hunter's Rd where they bred in 2016; *Franklin*: up to 5 near Williamson 5/18 (Lori Nichols, Bill Oyler, Val Barnes, Nancy Magnusson, Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart, Andy Keister), 2 near Pleasant Hall 5/22 (Bill Oyler); *Lancaster*: 2 pairs at Octoraro Reservoir 5/20 through the season (Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, et al.); *Montgomery*: one at Dixon Meadow Preserve 5/30-31 (Peter Burns, Bill Murphy, et al.); *Westmoreland*: 2 near Blairsville 5/30 (Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee).

Yellow-headed Blackbird* - *Delaware*: one at Philadelphia Airport 3/7 (Al Guarente); *Lehigh*: One at Dorneyville 5/31, second county records (Jillian Shellhammer, ph). *Lycoming*: one in Montgomery 3/15 (Mark Hall, ph.), first county record.

Bullock's Oriole* - *Lancaster*: continued from the winter in Lititz to 4/7 (Jane Yutzy, LaVern Yutzy, doc submitted)

Black-backed Oriole* - *Berks*: continued from winter in Sinking Spring to 4/9 (Linda Binder, Tom Binder, m.ob.).

Red Crossbill - *Centre*: one in Julian 3/18-19 (Ann Wilken), 5-8 at Bald Eagle SP 4/8 (Julia Plummer, Linder Carter, John Carter); *Cumberland*: 19 at Pine Grove Furnace SP and Camp Michaux 4/13-17 (Bob Koontz); *Huntington*: heard over Shaver's Creek Environmental Center 3/30 (Jon Kauffman); *Montour*: 3 at Montour Preserve 4/9 (Ian Gardner); *Northumberland*: 3 at Elysburg 4/2 (Karol Pasquinelli); *Perry*: 2 at Tuscarora State Forest 3/30 (Vern Gauthier); *Schuylkill*: up to 28 at Owl Creek during the season (m.ob.).

Evening Grosbeak - *Bucks*: one at private residence 4/27-28 (Troy Ostrander, ph.); *Chester*: one in Coventry area 5/13 (Patty Van Landeghem); *Elk*: 12 at Jones Twp. continued from last season to 4/14 with 2 on 4/16 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Forest*: flock continued from winter at Marienville with 37 on 3/13 (David Yeany II), 7 remained 5/13 (Mark Vass).

ADDENDUM TO WINTER 2016-2017

Townsend's Warbler* - *Columbia*: one in Bloomsburg 1/3-2/15 (Katie Yelinek, m.ob.).

Photographic Highlights



This female **Harlequin Duck** spent a day on the Susquehanna River near the Rockville bridge 5 March, perhaps only the second *Dauphin* record; rare anywhere in Pennsylvania, they are most often found at Presque Isle SP, Erie (Jason Horn)



The elegance of a **Great Egret** at Central Mountain High School wetland at Mill Hall, Clinton 20 April. (Wayne Laubscher)



This **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Crooked Creek Lake, Armstrong 10 May was about the third county record. (Marjorie Van Tassel)



Black Vultures feeding along Big Spring Creek, Cumberland 25 March. (Paul Dyarman)



Rarely documented by photo in Pennsylvania, this distant **Mississippi Kite** was seen at the Presque Isle Hawk Watch, Erie 17 May; another had been seen at the park 22 April. (Jerry McWilliams)



Sandhill Crane captured beautifully overhead at John Heinz NWR, Philadelphia/Delaware 3 May. (Kristen Johnson)



Red-throated Loons were found in at least 13 counties - this loon was at Lackawanna SP, *Lackawanna* 26 March. (*Ted Nichols II*)



This **Ruff** at Old Crow wetland, *Huntingdon* 16-18 May (here 18) provided a first county record and one of less than about ten in the state away from the Lower Delaware River and the Conejohela Flats. (*Dave Kerr*)



This handsome **Sanderling** came down during heavy rain on the Conejohela Flats on the Susquehanna River, *Lancaster* 13 May. (*Zach Millen*)



This **Sandhill Crane** lingered in Caernarvon Township, *Lancaster* 26 March - 15 (here 4) April; though seen to fly, it appeared to have an injury on left wing. (*Frank Haas*)



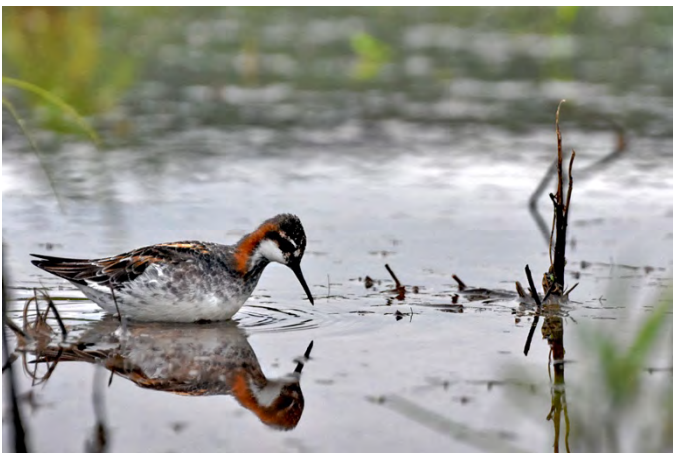
Most **Purple Sandpipers** in Pennsylvania are found at Presque Isle SP; this bird at Lake Nockamixon, *Bucks* 30 May was the second ever for that county and a very rare spring occurrence for anywhere in the state. (*Ken Rieker*)



This **White-rumped Sandpiper** provided a first spring season record at Independence Marsh, *Beaver*, 21-22 (here 21) May. (*Jeff McDonald*)



A very rare, perhaps unprecedented, bird for the city of Pittsburgh, this **Dunlin** was at Duck Hollow, *Allegheny* 13 April. (*Dave Kerr*)



One of three **Red-necked Phalaropes** at Middle Creek WMA, *Lancaster* May 21-23 (here 21), seen and photographed by many. (*Ted Nichols II*)



This female fledgling **Great Horned Owl**, seen here 16 April, left the nest a week before her brother in Rapho Township, *Lancaster*. (*A J Vogtman*)



Always a wonderful find, this **Black Tern** was one of two at Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny* 12 May. (*Jeff McDonald*)



This **Little Gull** at Browning's Pond, Wyalusing, *Bradford* 27 March was probably a first for the county. (Kevin Raymond)



Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Conestoga River Park, Lancaster 21 May. (Zach Millen)



This **House Wren** nested at a baseball field at Rocky Ridge County Park, York, seen here 23 April (Dean Newhouse)



This **Merlin** was photographed in Dubois, *Clearfield* 4 May, where they have nested the past three years. (Carole Winslow)



One of a pair of **Louisiana Waterthrushes** gathering nesting material 26 April in Walker Park, *Allegheny*, part of the Sewickley Creek watershed where the species breeds. (Jeff McDonald)



Golden-winged Warbler photographed 12 May at Bald Eagle SP, Centre, where they breed along with Blue-winged Warblers. (Anthony Bruno)



Hooded Warbler at Hillman SP, Washington 20 May. (Linda Widdop)



Kentucky Warbler, an uncommon, perhaps rare, nesting species in Indiana, was at Conemaugh Dam 14 May. (Anthony Bruno)



The beauty of **Northern Parulas** may be somewhat under-appreciated as they are often heard only or briefly glimpsed from far below their tall-tree habitat, often dense Norway spruce; this Parula was at Conemaugh Dam, Indiana 29 April. (Anthony Bruno)



Prothonotary Warbler seen for only 20 minutes at Kerr Park, Downingtown, Chester 18 May. (Barry Blust)



Yellow-throated Warbler at Conemaugh Dam, *Indiana* 1 May, another uncommon nesting warbler for the county. (*Anthony Bruno*)



Ahead of the summer invasion, some **Dickcissels** arrived in May; this bird at Embreeville, *Chester* 28 May was one of a pair present until their field was mowed. (*Barry Blust*)



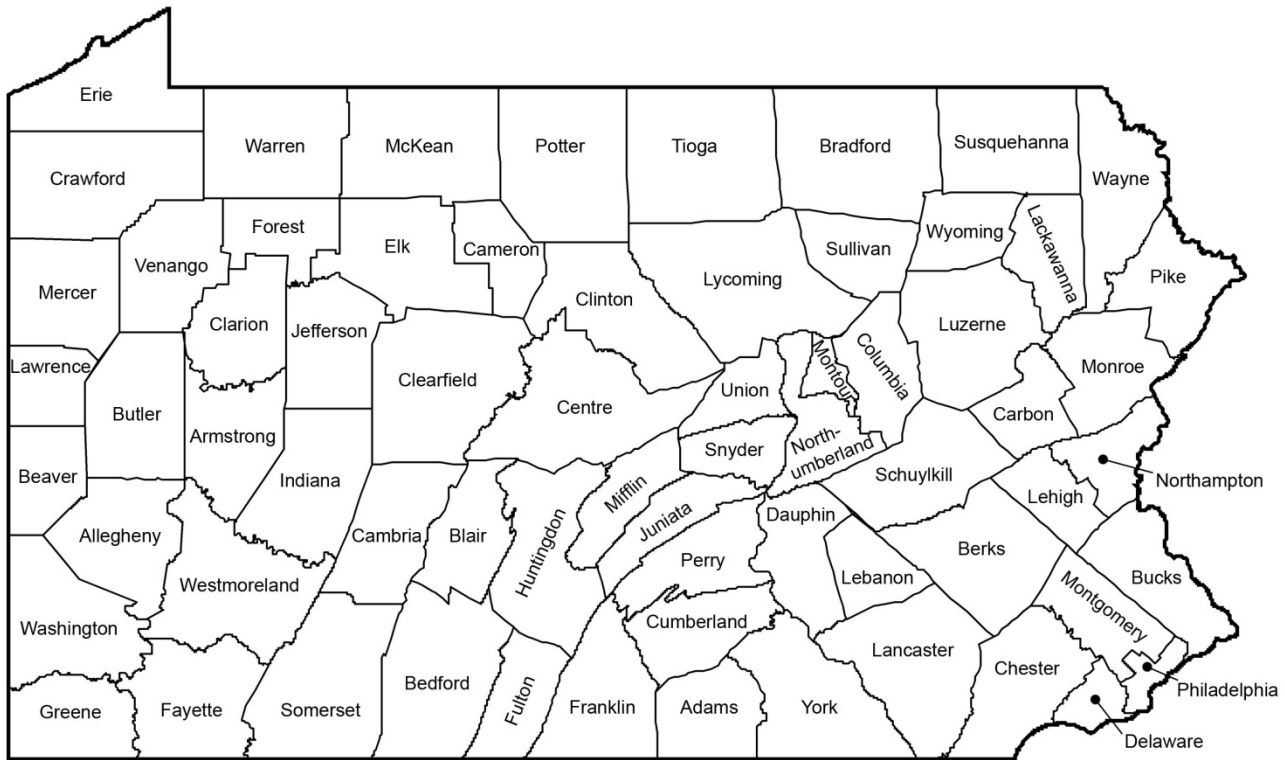
One of three **Red Crossbills** that stopped just long enough to be photographed in top of a blue spruce tree in Elysburg, *Northumberland* 2 April. (*Karol Pasquinelli*)



Visited by over 1600 birders, the famous **Black-backed Oriole** was first reported in Sinking Spring, *Berks* 26 January and remained until 9 April (here 11 February); endemic to central Mexico, the how and why of this oriole's appearance in Pennsylvania will likely never be known. Will it return next winter? (*Jay McGowan*)



A rare sight in Pennsylvania since the 1990s, this lone **Evening Grosbeak** visited a feeder in Doylestown, *Busks* 27-28 (here 28) April. (*August Mirabella*)



ABBREVIATION

BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	max	maximum	RBA	Rare Bird Alert
C.A.	Conservation Area	min	minimum	Res.	Reservoir
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	m.ob.	many observers	Rte.	Route
C.P.	County Park	Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain/Mountains	SF	State Forest
Cr.	Creek	NA	Nature Area or Natural Area	SGL	State Game Land
et al.	and others	NF	National Forest	SP	State Park
Ft.	Fort	NM	National Monument	S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant
G.C.	Golf Course	NP	National Park	subad(s).	subadult(s)
G.P.	Game Preserve	NWR	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	WA	Wildlife Area
juv(s).	juvénal [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.	River	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
L.	Lake	RA	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: Gettysburg College (GC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Heritage (LH), Lake Meade (LM), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Michaux State Forest (MICH), Mountain Road (MTN), Ridge Road – Cumberland Twp (RRCT), Ridge Road – Huntingdon Twp (RRHT), State Game Lands #249 (SGL),

The two weather highlights of the spring season for south-central PA involved opposite ends of the spectrum. Winter storm “Stella” dumped ~ 15” of snow on 3/14-15 but it melted rather quickly. April’s average temp at Harrisburg of 58.3F set a new April record and was 6.1F above the historical average. These events didn’t seem to impact arrivals/departures but the balmy April temps accelerated leaf-out.

The species count of 179 is a new high for the spring period. Waterfowl reporting was a bit on the low side but warbler and sparrow reporting were above average. The PAMC on 5/13 produced 96 species under early wet conditions with eventual clearing skies. Highlights for the period included concentrations of swallow species (including **Purple Martin**) at LPRR 5/12-24, a very late **Snow Bunting**, and **Dickcissels** beginning 5/22.

Mute Swan remains resident on a number of small ponds in the Gettysburg area. The 9 reports of **Tundra Swan** spanned 3/10–4/5 (m.ob.). High count was ~ 280 at LM 3/10 (DH, CM, PP, JW). A pair of **American Black Ducks** was at LPRR 3/23–4/2 (BO). **Blue-winged Teal** reports included trios at LPRR 3/28 (BO) and LK 4/12 (CM), and a single at SGL 4/2 (CM). Up to 24 **Northern Shovelers** were at Lake Kay 3/9–31 (m.ob.). A nice count of 17 **Redheads** came from LH 3/11 (DH, PP, JW). LPRR held both scaup species; a **Lesser Scaup** at that locale 5/23 was running late (MB). A nice **Greater Scaup** count for the county of 14 birds was reported from LH 3/10-11 (DH, CM, PP, JW). **Common Loons** were found at LH 3/27 (CM), LPRR 3/24–4/11 (DB, MB, CM, DSi), and LM 4/29 (JV). After a strong reporting period for grebe species last spring, this year was lackluster with only a couple reports each of **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebe**, and counts were low.

A small **Great Blue Heron** rookery was identified near Knoxlyn Rd 4/15 (ML). The only **Great Egret** was a single at GNMP 4/22 (JH). Raptor highlights included 20+ reports of **Red-shouldered Hawk** following a strong winter presence and 6 reports of **Broad-winged Hawk**. A nice springtime kettle of 16 Broad-wings was over SGL 4/16 (DJG). Two **Cooper’s Hawks** were also in the kettle.

With limited mudflat potential in the county and precipitation for the period 1.8” above normal, open areas for shorebirds were limited. The 7

reports of **Solitary Sandpiper** and 6 of **Spotted Sandpiper** were paced by high counts of 6 at Bullfrog Rd 5/13 (CM) and 7 at GC 5/16 (AW), respectively. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at GC 5/27 (CM). GC was the sole location reporting **Least Sandpiper**, present 5/12-18, with a max of 11 (CM, AW). Unlike the very limited reports of other sandpipers, the damp ground specialists, **Wilson's Snipe** and **American Woodcock**, were reported at very high levels. Seven locales reported snipes 3/5-24 (m.ob.) with a nice high of 15+ along Red Rock Rd 3/11 (DH, PP, JW). Five woodcock reports spanned 3/1-26 (IC, ED, CM, RDS) with a sixth sighting 5/25 (ED) at SGL. High count for woodcock was 5 birds at RRHT 3/25 (ED). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at LPRR 4/1-3 (MB, RDS) and 4 **Forster's Tern** were at LM 4/19 (JV).

Frequently missed, **Black-billed Cuckoo** reports came from McSherrystown Fish & Game 5/11 (SK) and SGL 5/15 (DS). Three reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** spanned 5/13-27 (PK, CM, RMF, AW). Nine reports of **Barred Owl** were above average. A **Common Nighthawk** was at RRHT 5/16 (CM) and **Whip-poor-will** singles at Shippensburg Rd 4/14 (MB) and MICH 4/29 (IC). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was a male at MTN 4/21 (RDS).

Following a very unusual winter with essentially no evidence of overwintering **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, the species made a strong return beginning the week of 4/8. There were 20+ reports with the majority of the coming from the Gettysburg area. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** reports came from 4 locales spanning 3/7-4/8 (MB, DJG, CM, RDS). **Merlin** was reported only from B & F Rd 3/16 (DS). A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** was at GNMP 4/1 (RS).

Flycatchers were paced by a report of an **Alder Flycatcher** at SGL 5/26 (AW), and 2 **Least Flycatcher** reports - at B & F Rd 5/14 (DS) and SGL 5/15 (DS). **Acadian Flycatcher** enjoyed good reporting with highs of 6 at SGL 5/26 (CM, AW) and 7 at B & F Rd 5/18 (DS). **Willow Flycatcher** was also present in good numbers with sightings at SGL of up to 7 birds 5/26-31 (CM, AW). The PAMC highlight was a **Philadelphia Vireo** at GNMP 5/13 (m.ob.). **Horned Lark** was well reported in March and missed in April; May produced singles at Buttonwood Rd and Bullfrog Rd 5/13 (both CM).

As mentioned above, LPRR must have provided excellent hatch conditions 5/12-24. Starting 5/12 (RGTS), **Tree Swallow** and **Barn Swallow** counts of 150 and 100, respectively, were noted (RGTS). A likely conservative count of 120 **Purple Martins** was generated 5/23 (AW) and a count of 80+ martins on 5/24 continued their remarkable showing (CM). A visit on 5/25 produced 4 **Bank Swallows** (BO).

Latest of 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports was 4/18 at GNMP (LB). A pair of **Brown Creepers** was at GNMP 4/1 (RS) and a single at SGL 4/9 (DJG). **Winter Wrens** were limited to singles at Shippensburg Rd 3/6 (MB) and B & F Rd 4/16 (DS). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** reports were at expected times and at normal levels. Fourteen reports of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were higher than normal.

Catharus sp. reporting was exceptionally strong with 5 reports each of **Veery** 5/13-26 (CM, BO, PAMC) and **Swainson's Thrush** 5/19-21 (CM, DS, DJG). Seven of the 8 reports of **Hermit Thrush** came from the April migration period; and 3 were counted in MICH, a possible breeding locale, 5/20-24 (CM). A **Brown Thrasher** along RRHT 3/19 was on the early side (ED). **American Pipit** was detected five times, all 3/10-17 (PK, CM, DS, AW) with a high count of 32 at LH 3/10 (CM). A late **Snow Bunting** was among a flock of **White-crowned Sparrows** and **Dark-eyed Juncos** near the Rte 94 quarry ponds 3/21 (DW).

The 26 reported warbler species represents a better than average count for *Adams*. Highlights included a **Cape May Warbler** and a **Bay-breasted Warbler** at GNMP 5/13 (CM, PAMC), a **Blackburnian Warbler** at MICH 5/14 (DSi), a **Kentucky Warbler** at SGL 5/26 (AW), 2 reports of **Wilson's Warbler** (LM, DS), 4 reports of **Canada Warbler** (DJG, CM, DS, DSi), and 4 **Yellow-breasted Chats** at SGL 5/31 (AW). Along with the encouraging high count of 4 chats were indications that pairs may be on two territories. June observations gave further support that breeding territories were established.

Sparrow reporting was also positive. A **Vesper Sparrow** was nicely photographed at GNMP 4/15 (BP). Five **Savannah Sparrows** were at Possum Hollow Rd 3/10 (PK) and a pair were along B & F Rd 4/16 (DS). Five reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow** (KE, CF, DJG, CM) included a high of 4 from GNMP 4/24 (KE). Fifteen reports of **Fox Sparrow** covered their typical March to mid-April migration period. A great count of 12 "foxies" was recorded at MTN 3/28 (RDS). Less frequently reported in *Adams* during spring migration than fall migration, a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at SGL 5/14 (DJG). Four reports of **Swamp Sparrow** were a repeat of last year's better than average reporting frequency (CM, DS, JV).

Dickcissels were first noted 5/22 (AW) along Bullfrog Rd and a pair was reported there 5/30 (KC). **Bobolinks** were found in the Freedom Twp grasslands with a high of 3 birds 5/13 (CM) and GNMP produced a single 5/21 (AW). The 25+ reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** were heavily concentrated in the GNMP/Freedom Twp. locales with 8 being the high count (m.ob.). A single **Rusty Blackbird** was at MTN 3/14 (RDS) for the only report. Four reports of **Orchard Oriole** and 15+ reports of **Baltimore Oriole** represent a good spring showing. The 7 **Purple Finch** reports spanned 4/2-21 (m.ob.) with the high of 8 coming from B & F Rd 4/16 (DS). The only **Pine Siskin** report was of a single at GNMP 4/18 (ML).

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Allegheny County

The spring was rainy and the first week or so of May was cool with persistent north winds, so migration appeared to be short and birds were seen in small numbers. Rain storms brought in a few terns and shorebirds. Habitat destruction took a drastic turn at the Imperial Grasslands. Early this spring a large area were **Prairie Warblers** breed was completely destroyed as well as an adjacent larch plantation that provided habitat for **Ruffed Grouse**.

The only report of **Tundra Swans** was of 2 in flight over the Allegheny R. 3/20 (JS, SS); no reports were entered into eBird. A nice total of 21 **Gadwalls** were at Imperial 3/10 (MV). One was found along the Allegheny R. in Harmar Twp. 3/11 (AH, PM) and 6 remained at Imperial 3/12 (AP, SA). A nice count of 18 **American Wigeons** was made at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 3/20 (MV). **Redheads** were at Imperial for most of Mar (m.ob.) with a max of 8 on 3/17 (JHA, et al.). A flock of 14 **Lesser Scaup** flew past Dashiels Dam 3/31 (GM).

Long-tailed Duck reports include one at Dashiels (GM) and 4 at Wood's Run 3/31 (MJ). A **Common Goldeneye** was at Blawnox 3/11 (AH, PM). All mergansers were sparse. Normally **Red-breasted Mergansers** move past Dashiels in the spring, but the max. count was only 2, on 4/15 (JM), and they were only seen four times at the site. Four **Ruddy Ducks** were at Imperial 3/10 (MV) and 6 at Duck Hollow 3/21 (JS, SS).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was in Jefferson Hills 4/21 (JHa) and one was heard at Harrison Hills Park 5/21 (ABU) and again 5/27 (TH). Although introduced, I like to keep track of sightings. A **Common Loon** was seen in flight along the Ohio R. at Wood's Run 3/31 (BP).

Single **Great Egrets** were at Beechwood Farms (BSH) and along the Allegheny R. (SK), both 3/28. One was at Jefferson Borough 5/10 (KS). The bird at Beechwood was likely a first for that location, which includes a very small pond. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was well-described at Duck Hollow 5/9 (DM). A **Glossy Ibis** report at Jefferson Borough 5/10 was entered into ebird along with a blurry but identifiable photograph (KS), providing a third county record. Subsequent searches for the bird were unsuccessful.

A **Black Vulture** was spotted in Etna 5/1 (DYe). Two **Ospreys** were at Neville Island 3/25 (PB) and one at Leetsdale 3/29 (MV). Both locations are nesting sites. The last report of the dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** at Imperial was 3/5 (ABU). A **Merlin** was at Mt. Royal Cemetery 3/19 and 2 were there 4/9 (JH). The **Peregrine Falcons** downtown nested on the Gulf Tower after a three-year hiatus. By 3/10 two eggs were laid. A local news station aired a segment showing the banding and physical exam of 3 chicks at the nest 5/16 featuring our Summer Seasonl Editor Dan Brauning. Four chicks were banded at the McKees Rocks Bridge 5/17, the first known nesting at that location. One bird is still hanging around the Tarentum Bridge (AH, PM).

A **Virginia Rail** was heard calling at Wingfield Pines 4/13 (DF, DKL), the location where nesting was confirmed last summer. The **Sora** found at Duck Hollow in Feb. remained to 3/4 (DWe). A late **American Coot**

was at a pond in Jefferson Borough 5/11-14 (SSn). A **Sandhill Crane** was heard calling as it flew over Deer Lakes Park 4/26 (MW).

Both yellowlegs made brief appearances at Imperial - 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** were there 4/17 (MV) and one 4/22 (ABU), and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** on 4/22 (MV). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was a good find at Duck Hollow 5/22 (TM). Three **Pectoral Sandpipers** flew past Dashields Dam 4/10 (GM), a first for that location; and 4 were at Imperial 4/19 (GM). A **Dunlin** was a nice find at Duck Hollow 4/13 (DK) and one was at Imperial 4/22 (MV). **Wilson's Snipe** were at Imperial 3/5-12 (ABU, MV, AP SA) with a high of 10 on 3/10 (MV). One flushed from a small pond at Homewood Cemetery in Squirrel Hill 4/16 (MVV).

The gull and tern migration at Dashields Dam on the Ohio R. was very slow. The max count of **Bonaparte's Gull** was only 24, on 4/13 (GM). **Caspian Terns** were seen only as singles with the exception of 3 that passed by 4/17 (JHa). A Caspian Tern was seen along the Monongahela R. just upriver from Duck Hollow 4/29 (MH, et al.). A rather early **Forster's Tern** flew past Dashields 3/31 (GM). Forster's Terns passed by the dam 4/10-14 with a high count of 5 on 4/12 (GM). Two spent nearly an hour near the dam flying up and down the river 4/14. They eventually landed on the water and floated downstream (MF). I don't think I've ever seen a Forster's Tern resting on the water, at least not for an extended period of time. Eight were resting on a boat dock along the Allegheny R. at Sharsburg 4/29 (JH). A **Common Tern** was a nice find at Imperial 5/13 (MJ). Two **Black Terns**, always an exciting find, stopped by Wingfield Pines 5/12 (JL).

A **Barn Owl** was recorded calling at night in Moon Twp. 5/27 (GM) by nocturnal call recording equipment. The bird called several times and from the recording appeared to be on the move. This setup provides a revealing insight to what passes through the area during the night. **Common Nighthawk** reports include one over Shaler Twp. 4/26 (JH), one over Carnegie Mellon University 4/30 (SA), 2 in Shadyside 5/1 (FI), one at Wingfield Pines 5/12 (AK), one in Lawrenceville 5/12 (AB, CB), and one in Squirrel Hill 5/16 (MVV). One returned to Aspinwall 5/28 (STh, SuT), a long-time breeding area.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a great find at a new park in Hays 4/20 (SA, JC). This park is still undeveloped and has great habitat so I look forward to future reports from the site. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Frick Park 5/28-29 (JS, SS) and one at North Park 5/29 (BVN).

Purple Martins nest in the county in a few locations, so reports away from the nesting sites are notable. One was at Deer Lakes Park 4/15 (DYe) and 2 at Imperial 4/17 (MV). A **Cliff Swallow** was at Dashields 4/19 (GM). This species is only known to nest at North Park where one was seen 5/11 (ABU). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** remained well into May after a winter when fairly widespread. A pair was excavating a nesting cavity in Ohara Twp. 4/13 (BSh). If successful, it would only be the second confirmed nesting in *Allegheny*. Late birds include singles at Frick Park 5/1 (DWe), Harrison Hills Park 5/13 (JV), and Beechwood Farms 5/13 (DYe).

Thirty-two species of warblers were reported. **Palm Warblers** seemed more numerous than usual. A **Brewster's Warbler** was an interesting find at Frick Park 5/10 (DWe). **Northern Waterthrush** was reported from seven locations (m.ob.). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Beechwood Farms 4/27 (BSh), another was photographed at Barking Slopes 4/30 (TH), and one was in Oakland 5/16 (MVV). A **Mourning Warbler** at Dashields Dam 5/16 (MV) represented a first for that location. Other singles were at Beechwood Farms 5/17 (BSh), North Park 5/18 (CS), and Frick Park 5/21 (SS). Two were recorded over Moon Twp. at night 5/18 (GM). **Cape May Warblers** are uncommon migrants so any reports are notable. Two were at Barking Slopes 4/30 (TH), one at Frick Park 5/1 (DWe) and 5/13 (AP), 2 at Schenley Park 5/9 (MA), and one in Pine Twp. 5/11-13 (PL, SL). **Prairie Warblers** returned to Imperial to find a large portion of their former habitat destroyed. There is still some habitat in the area where one was singing 5/27 (MF). A migrant was in a backyard in Forest Hills 5/9 (TBI). **Wilson's Warbler**, another uncommon migrant, was reported from Pine Twp. 5/11 (PL, SL), Frick Park 5/14 (KSJ), and Beechwood Farms 5/20 (JM).

Late **American Tree Sparrows** include one at Imperial 3/12 (AP, SA) and one at Homewood Cemetery 3/17 (MVV). A **Vesper Sparrow** at North Park 3/26 (AH, PM) was a rare find; they are rarely reported during migration. **Savannah, Grasshopper, and Henslow's Sparrows** returned to the dwindling habitat at the Imperial Grasslands. How long it will be before we lose them as breeders in the county is uncertain but it seems likely. **Fox Sparrows** were reported in seven locations including a late bird in Pittsburgh 5/10 (MVV). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported at Frick Park 5/6 (JC), Beechwood Farms 5/14 (DYe), and Frick

Park again 5/20 (AP).

A **Purple Finch** visited a feeder in Natrona Heights 4/4, 4/9, and 4/21 (PH); and 2 visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 4/4 followed by 3 on 4/6 (JV). A male was singing in Penn Hills 4/9 (MF) and 2 were in Hays 4/23 (JC, AP). Purple Finches were in Pine Twp. most of Apr and May with a high of 11 there 4/14 (PL, SL).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Locations: Buffalo Creek (BC), Cherry Run (CRun), Cochran's Mill (CM), Creek Road (CR), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL), Dayton (DT) Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Logansport (LT), Mahoning Creek Lake (MCL), Murphy's Bottom (MB), New Bethlehem (NB) Nicholson Run Road (NR), Northpointe (NP), Parks Bend Farm (PBF), Polka Hollow Road (PH), Roaring Run (RR), Robbs Fording Road (RF), Sportsmans Road (SR), Worthington (WT).

The best find of the season was a **Black-crowned Night Heron** in breeding plumage that graced a pond area at CCL 5/10 (JB, SG, KK, MVT, phs.), possibly only the third record for *Armstrong*. Other "good birds" were **Swainson's Thrushes** at SGL 247 (TR) and a "pair" at RR calling (SWL, ph.), both on the PAMC 5/13; noted again on 5/17 (MVT ph.) and one near CM 5/29 (MH, RH).

The only **Tundra Swans** were 2 at Manorville 3/16 (MVT) and 3/18 (DF). Three **Wood Ducks** were at Logansport 3/8 (JB); elsewhere, a high of 29 were on the AT 3/12 (TR), 13 at LT 4/7 (JB), 6 at PBF 4/8 (MVT), and 5 at KR 5/13 (MH, RH). Only 4 **Gadwall** in the county - singles at RT and CCL 3/11 (TR), and 2 at PBF 3/11 (MVT). Two **American Wigeons** visited LT 3/8 and 3/11 (JB). A few **American Black Ducks** showed up on the AT 3/12 (TR). Only **Blue-winged Teal** report was of 4 at CCL 4/6 (MD). PBF provided views and photos of 2 **Northern Shovelers** 3/7 (MVT). Two **Northern Pintails** stopped at CCL 3/5 (MH, RH). LT was a good stopover for 4 **Green-winged Teal** 3/11 (JB).

Six **Canvasbacks** and 5 **Redheads** were at CCL 3/10 (JB, ph.). Seven **Ring-necked Ducks** were at CCL 3/10 (JB) and a high of 17 on the AT 3/12 (TR). Nineteen **Greater Scaup** were at CCL 3/10; one **Lesser Scaup** was at Manorville 3/7 (JB) and 10 visited the AT 3/29 (MH, RH). Few **Buffleheads** were reported, but 2 graced the pond at PBF 3/11-21 and a late female was noted 4/30 (SGo, MVT); others were on the AT and RT 3/18 (JB, TR). Four **Common Goldeneyes** stopped at CCL 3/11 (JB). There were 6 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at CCL 3/23 (JB), 2 **Hooded Mergansers** at Manorville 3/16 (MVT) and 4 at CCL 3/18, and the usual **Common Mergansers** were seen frequently and at quite a few locations with the highest count 81 at CCL 3/7 (JB). Ten **Ruddy Ducks** were at CCL 3/10 (JB, ph.).

One **Common Loon** enjoyed CCL 3/11 (DF, MVT) and 3/16 (SGo, with 2 observed in the rain 3/31 (MVT, ph.), one in non-breeding plumage 4/5 (MVT), 2 on 4/6 (MD), and one 4/6 (DG, GG). One was on the AT 4/30 (TR) and 7 at KR 5/13 (MH, RH). A nice find at CCL was 3 **Wilson's Snipe** 3/12 (KK, ph.). **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported in several areas. A **Horned Grebe** arrived on the AT 3/12 (TR), 2 were at CCL 3/23 (JB) and 4 there 3/29 (AK, JK), and 5 were photographed on the Kiski R. near LB 4/20 (MVT).

Double Crested Cormorants returned to CCL 4/5 (MVT) and

remained, with 16 the high 5/12; cormorants were also reported elsewhere in the county. An early **Great Blue Heron** was at PBF 3/5 (MVT). First **Great Egret** was at Rosston 3/31 (JB, ph.). Two **Green Herons** were at PBF 4/12 (MVT, ph.), one at CCL 5/1 (MVT), one at CR 5/4 (MVT), and one on the AT 5/13 (TR).

Earliest **Ospreys** were at CCL 4/5 (KK) and BC 4/8 (DH); others were at CR 4/11 and 4/17 (SGo, MVT) and 4/27 (MD), at CCL 4/28 (JB), 2 at KR 4/28 (MH, RH), and one at MCL 5/6 (AK, JK). One **Northern Harrier** was noted near NB 3/5 (AK, JK), and one at WT 3/12 (TR) and 3/16 (MVT). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Coopers Hawks** were scattered. Numerous **Bald Eagle** reports included the AT, CCL (nest), FC (nest), LT, DT, KT, MCL (nest), NB and RT. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were at a half dozen locations (m.ob.). Earliest **Broad-wing Hawks** were near LT 4/16 (JB), 2 at MCL 4/21 (AK, JK), one on CR 4/26 (MVT), one on 422 at CRun & Margaret Rd. 4/27 (LD), one at CCL 5/1 (MVT), and one on Redbank Rd. 5/3 (MH, RH).

Two **American Woodcock** were noted at CCL 3/22 (JB), one on SR 3/27 (TR), one at SGL 105 on 5/8 (RB), and 2 on Racetrack Rd. near KR 5/13 (MH, RH). First **Spotted Sandpipers** were 2 at PBF 4/30 (MVT). Only one **Solitary Sandpiper** was reported at PBF, on 5/7 (MVT, ph.). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was on a farm pond in WT 5/13 (MVT, ph.). A lone **Bonaparte Gull** was noted at the AT 3/29 (MH, RH). Three **Forster's Terns** were a nice find at CCL 4/12 (KK, MVT, ph.) and one was perched on a post in the water near the flooded beach 5/6 (MVT).

Murphy's Bottom provided the only **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** report, 2 on 5/7 (BP, et al.). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were more widespread with 2 calling back and forth at RR 5/17 (MVT). One **Eastern Screech Owl** was near NB 3/11 (DY11) and one on CRun 4/2 (MVT, ph.). One **Great Horned Owl** was at SR 3/11 (TR) and a **Barred Owl** was at SGL 105 on 5/8 (RB). Three **Short-eared Owls** were still being seen in Dayton 3/29 (AD), with 5 noted 4/1 and 2 on 4/2 (MVT).

One **Red-headed Woodpecker** remained at CC 3/5 (MH, RH, ph.) and 1 imm. was observed molting into adult plumage 3/23 (JB). Two **Hairy Woodpeckers** were at a feeder near KT 3/5 (SGu) and one on the AT 3/19 (TR). **Pileated Woodpecker** reports were numerous. First **American Kestrel** was reported from WT 3/18 (DK). One was at DT 4/2 (MVT), one at LT 4/7 (JB), one on the AT 4/30 (TR), and 4 at WT 5/13 (MVT). A **Merlin** was at MCL 3/14 (AD, ph.), one at RR 4/10 (MH), and one on Myers Pickle Farm 4/13 (MVT). A nice find was 2 **Peregrine Falcons** at Manorville 4/25 (MH, RH), indicating probable nesting on the Graff bridge again.

First **Eastern Wood Pewee** was at the AT 5/13 (TR). First 2 **Acadian Flycatchers** were noted near KT 5/16 (TR) and 4 were at RR 5/17 (MVT). **Single Willow Flycatchers** returned to SR 5/27 and SGL 247 on 5/29 (TR). One **Least Flycatcher** returned to the AT 4/30 (TR), one was spotted at RR 5/17 (MVT), and one at PH 5/24 (MVT). **Eastern Phoebes** were first reported from KT 3/26 (SGu), at CCL 3/29 (AK, JK) and 4/18 (MD), and 4 at MCL 5/13 (AK, JK). A nest was found at NP 4/23 (DF) and another nest near LB by a garage door (MVT, ph.). Four **Great-crested Flycatchers** returned to MCL 5/10 (AD), 2 were there 5/13 (AK, JK), and one stopped at CR 5/13 (MVT). First **Eastern Kingbird** was at NP 4/23 (DF), one visited CCL 4/24 (MVT), one was at MB 5/7 (BP, et al.), and one was at PBF 5/7 (MVT).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was reported on the AT 4/30 (TR), 2 at MB 5/7 (BP, et al.), one at CM 5/9 (MVT), and one at CCL 5/10 (JB). First **Yellow-throated Vireo** was on the AT 4/30 (TR), they were widespread including one at RR 5/17 (MVT, ph.). **Blue-headed Vireos** were sparse with only one at CC 4/25 (JB) and one on the Great Shamokin Path 4/26 (MH, RH). **Red-eyed Vireos** were numerous and widespread. A **Common Raven** pair at CCL fledged 2 on 5/10 (MVT, ph.). The only report of **Horned Lark** was of 3 in WT 4/29 (JB).

First sighting of **Rough-winged Swallow** was one at the AT 3/29 (MH, RH), followed by one at RT 4/1 (JB), 4 at CR (where they nest) 4/17, one at MCL 4/21 (AK, JK), and 2 on NR 4/23 (TR). A nice count of 12 **Tree Swallows** was made at MV 3/23 (JB); 2 returned to CCL 4/6 (MD) and 4 were at PBF 4/22 (MVT). Two **Barn Swallows** were in a yard near LB 4/4 (MVT), one at LP 4/14 (JB), one at CR 4/17 (MD), and 3 at CCL 4/28 (JB). **Cliff Swallows** are nesting near the KR dam again this year, where 6 flew in and out feeding young 5/22 (MVT).

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported near DT 3/2 (AD), 2 near KT 3/5 (SGu), and one at CCL 3/13 (KK). **Brown Creepers** seen in winter continued to visit a home near LB through 3/15 (MVT) and one was reported from SGL 247 on 3/5 (TR). A single **Winter Wren** was observed at CCL 3/11 (JB).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported throughout the county. The

only **Golden-crowned Kinglet** reports were from the AT 3/12 and 3/19 (TR). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** reports were more numerous. The only **Veery** sighting was from SGL 247 on 5/13 (TR). A **Hermit Thrush** was at CR 4/17 (MVT) and one heard at CCL 4/24 (MVT). **Wood Thrushes** returned 4/26, observed in many locations. **Cedar Waxwings** were scattered, with highs of 15 at SGL 247 on 4/2 and 12 near KT 5/21 (PR).

Ovenbirds were heard or seen through much of *Armstrong* as usual, including LT (JB) and CR (MVT), which is one of the breeding grounds. A lone **Worm-eating Warbler** was at SGL 105 on 5/8 (RB). Three **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were observed at PH 4/3 (SGo), one at LT 4/8 (JB), one at CR 4/11, 2 at PH 4/18 (MD), and one was photographed with food at PH 5/26 (MVT). A **Northern Waterthrush** was reported from MB 5/7 (BP, et al.) The first report of **Blue-winged Warbler** was of 4 from KR 4/26 (MH, RH); one was at Racetrack Rd. near KR 4/29 (JB), one at RF 5/4 (MVT), a high of 5 at SG 105 on 5/8 (RB), and one from the AT 5/13 (TR). A **Black and White Warbler** was reported near LT 4/15 (JB), one at CM 4/18 (MD), and 4 at SGL 105 on 5/8 (RB). Three **Tennessee Warblers** were enjoyed at MB 5/7 (BP, et al.) and one on the Lower Cowashannock Creek 5/16 (TR).

The only **Nashville Warblers** were one at KR 5/13 (MH, RH) and one at PH 5/24 (MVT). **Common Yellowthroats** were abundant throughout *Armstrong* (many were reported by MH and RH on BBS routes and other observers at lakes, parks, and trails). A single **Hooded Warbler** was at CCL 4/30 (BB), 8 at SGL 247 on 5/9 (TR) and 2 at CR same day (MVT), 3 at CCL 5/20 (PR), and 2 at RF 5/29 (MH, RH). First **American Redstart** was at CR 4/27 (MD); one was at CCL 5/12 (MVT), 3 at SGL 5/13 (TR), and last to be seen for spring were 3 at RF 5/29 (MH, RH). A decent turnout for **Cerulean Warbler** started at CR (MVT) and near LT 4/26 (JB), one at CR 4/27 (MD), one on the AT 5/13 (TR), 2 at CM 5/29, RF, and at CCL 5/29 (MH, RH). Single **Northern Parulas** were noted near CCL 4/30 (AB), at PBF 5/6 (MVT), at MB 5/7 (BP, et al.), at CCL 5/7 (JB, TR, MVT), and at MCL 5/13 (AK, JK). The only **Magnolia Warbler** was on the AT 5/13 (TR). Two **Bay-breasted Warblers** were reported at CCL 5/20 (PR). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was at CCL 5/10 (MVT), 2 at MCL 5/13 (AK, JK), and one near KT 5/21 (PR). First **Yellow Warbler** was spotted at CR 4/17 and many more were reported with the highest count of 10 on the AT 4/20 (TR). There were 12 reports of **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, mostly concentrated in or near CCL. Only 2 observations of **Blackpoll Warbler** were reported - one in LT 5/17 (JB) and 1 at CCL 5/31 (MH, RH). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were 2 at SGL 105 on 5/7 (RB) and 1 at CCL 5/12 (MVT). Single **Palm Warblers** were noted at MCL on 4/30 (AK, JK) and 1 at CCL 5/6 (TR). One **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was reported from RT 3/18, one at CCL 3/29 (AK, JK), and 2 at PBF 4/14 (MVT). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were observed interacting where they breed at CM 4/11 (SG, MVT); one was at CR 4/11 (SG, MVT, ph.), one at RR 4/16 (JK, TK), 2 at CM 4/18 (MD), and one at MB 5/7 (BP). **Black-throated Green Warbler** reports were scattered, with at least 15 sightings.

Four **Tree Sparrows** were noted at SGL 247 on 3/5 (TR) and a high of 11 on the AT 3/12 (TR). A lone **Field Sparrow** was at LT 3/8 (JB), one at CCL 3/16 (MVT), and one near LB 3/19 (MVT). Six **Fox Sparrows** were reported from SGL 247 on 3/5 (TR), one was at CCL 3/23 (JB), and one at PBF 3/26 (MVT). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were numerous through most of the period. **White-crowned Sparrows** included only 2 at CCL (KK), at SR (TR), 2 near LB 5/9 (MVT, ph.), and one in WT 5/13 (TR). **White-throated Sparrows** were widespread. One **Savannah Sparrow** was at RF 4/3 (SGo), one in WT 4/23 and 5/13, and at RF 5/1 (MVT, ph.). A lone **Fox Sparrow** was noted at SGL 247 on 3/23 (JB). First **Eastern Towhee** was from Clinton 3/24 (JB) and one at CCL 3/30 (MVT). First **Scarlet Tanager** was at CCL's ELC 4/30 (BB, AG) and they were heavily reported throughout as were **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, with the exception for KR.

First **Red-winged Blackbirds** were 23 in DT (AD); a high of 150 were at LT 3/7 (JB). A nice find of 3 **Rusty Blackbirds** came from LT 3/11 (JB, ph.). First **Bobolink** to return was one in WT 4/23 (TR), 6 were observed at RF 5/1 (MVT), 6 were at Redbank Rd. 5/6 (MH, RH), and 7 were in WT 5/13 (TR). Two **Eastern Meadowlarks** were in WT 3/16 and 3/24 (MVT), 8 at MCL 3/30 (AD), 2 on RF 4/3 (SGo), and a high of 15 in WT 4/23 (TR). Seven **Purple Finches** were reported 3/23 at SGL 247 (JB), 3 at a feeder near LB 4/18 (MVT), and 13 near CCL 4/16 (AB).

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Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Economy Borough (ECON), Independence Marsh (IND), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH), Vanport (VAN).

Ducks were generally scarce but a few dabblers at county lakes and ponds along with a small selection of waterfowl at RCH kept birders occupied through Mar and early Apr. A **Gadwall** was at RCH 3/19 (MV), providing the only report. Three **American Wigeons** were at IND 3/3 (MV) and one at RCSP 3/17 (MV). **Blue-winged Teal** were fairly well reported with 5 at New Brighton 3/31 (GR), up to 4 at IND 4/5-18 (m.ob.) and 3 at AR 4/5 (GR, DR). A nice count of 7 **Northern Shovelers** was made at RCH 3/25 (MV) and 3 were still there 3/31 (JF). **Ring-necked Ducks** were very scarce, with the top count for the season maxing out at just 4 birds, those at AR 4/8. A **Greater Scaup** noted a few times at RCH 3/12-31 (JF, LF, MV) was the only one reported. As usual, especially in a milder early spring like this one, **Lesser Scaup** was much more frequently reported, including up to 32 between VAN and RCH 3/21-31 (GR, JF).

Three **Long-tailed Ducks** at RCH 3/31 (MV) provided the only waterfowl rarity of the season. Along with the flock of Lesser Scaup were 13 **Buffleheads** at VAN 3/31 (GR). Certainly the most noteworthy event of the season among waterfowl was the presence of a pair of **Common Mergansers** at the RCSP wildflower reserve beginning 3/2 (JF). They were seen periodically into late Apr, and eventually the female was seen with 10 ducklings on the creek 5/10 (DC), providing the first breeding record for the county, at long last. They were last reported 5/19. A good flock of 30 **Red-breasted Mergansers** was on the Ohio R. at VAN 4/6 (GR), and the next day 37 were at RCH (GGr, DG, MV, JF, LF). Up to 4 were also at AR 4/9-15 (AP, MJ). Six rather late **Ruddy Ducks** were at RCH 4/29 (MV).

The only **Common Loon** of the season was a late bird at RCSP 5/15 (LN). A **Great Egret** was seen flying over the Beaver Valley Expressway near Aliquippa 3/25 (GR, DR). First **Osprey** was a bit early at RCH 3/19 (MV), and they were frequently reported at RCSP through May (RT, et al.). No reports of the county's nests were made this spring, though certainly at least a few of them were occupied. **Bald Eagles** were reported at RCSP and elsewhere quite frequently through the end of May, including late May sightings at Montgomery Lock and Dam where there has been a nest in recent years. A **Virginia Rail** calling at Big Beaver Wetlands 4/23 (MJ) was a rare find for *Beaver*.

IND provided the only shorebird habitat of any interest, but it was a good season there. All shorebird reports that follow were from IND. A few **Semipalmated Plovers** hung around beginning 5/7 (MV, m.ob.). First **Greater Yellowlegs** appeared 3/24 (MV), and frequent sightings of up to 5 continued through 5/12 (m.ob.), a somewhat late departure date for *Beaver*. Top count of **Lesser Yellowlegs** was 27 on 4/27 (MV); last bird was 5/22. **Solitary Sandpipers** were quite numerous from mid-Apr to mid-May, with double digit counts the norm beginning 4/20. Top count was 42 on 4/27 (MV). Small counts of up to 8 **Least Sandpipers** were made consistently 4/27-5/23 (MV, et al.). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was present 5/21-22 (MV), providing the first spring record of this species for IND, though they were seen in the spring on a few occasions at Little Blue Lake over the past decade or so. Five **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at IND 3/24-25 (MV), and one was there 4/27 (MV). A single **Dunlin** was present 5/14 (MV), and 6 were there the next day (DK, SM, DC, KS), yet another rare spring shorebird record for IND. Best of all was a beautiful **Stilt Sandpiper** that put down for just one day 4/27 (MV), the first spring record for *Beaver*. A **Wilson's Snipe** was seen 5/21-22 (MV), suggesting that they bred in the area this year.

Aside from the lackluster showing of birds passing Dashields Dam in *Allegheny* and into *Beaver* during the annual spring waterbird watch there (GM), the only report of **Bonaparte's Gull** was one at RCH 3/31-4/1. A late **Herring Gull**, along with a **Caspian Tern**, was at VAN 4/20 (GR). A **Forster's Tern** was seen passing VAN 5/16 (GR).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was variously reported around the county in May, but Black-billed Cuckoo went unreported. A **Common Nighthawk**

was over Beaver 5/22 (GR), and 8 were tallied at Sahli Nature Park 5/27 (TJ). An interesting report of a calling **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was made to eBird from the vicinity of Brunner Road in New Sewickley Twp. 5/15 (BSm). The only known and annually reliable location in the county for whips is still SGL 285, where 2 were heard 5/20 (MV). An immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** continued at the RCSP campground from late Feb to at least 3/6 (DC).

Two **Great Crested Flycatchers**, rare breeders in the county, were at Brady's Run Park 5/29 (TJ, KJ). First **Blue-headed Vireos** were 2 at RCSP 4/21 (KD), and a somewhat early **Warbling Vireo** was at IND 4/21 (GR). **Common Ravens** continued their relentless expansion. One bird was reported in the RCH area 3/11-26 (MV, GR, DR) but not thereafter; it appears they gave up early this year on their brave but ill-advised nesting attempts at this location in close proximity to the long-resident Peregrine Falcon pair. Ravens were also reported at Sahli Nature Park 4/9 (eBird) and at RCSP 4/9 and 4/21 (CD, et al.). A **Bank Swallow** at RCSP 5/2 (CD) and 2 at IND 5/12 (MV) were nice finds; most county records of this species are from around the Ohio R. Speaking of which, 2 Bank Swallows were at VAN 5/12-14 (GR, DR). Two **Cliff Swallows** were also at IND 5/12 (MV), an even nicer find for *Beaver*.

The only report of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was of one at ECON 4/26 (KD). Eager **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** singles appeared at IND 4/3 (GR) and 4/2 (CD), respectively. Reports of migrant spot-breasted thrushes were close to nil. A **Veery** was at IND 5/16 (JF) and a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at ECON 5/12 (KD). A few **Swainson's Thrushes** were reported at RCSP 5/15-19 (m.ob.) and a handful of **Hermit Thrushes** were noted at a few locations in Apr (m.ob.).

Warbler migration was uneventful, but the county did not receive much coverage. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was an exciting find at Montgomery Lock and Dam 5/29 (MV), a former breeding location for this rare *Beaver* species. A **Northern Waterthrush** put on a nice show at IND 5/20 (GM) but was the only one reported. First **Black-and-white Warbler** appeared at RCSP 4/22 (GR, DR). **Tennessee Warbler**, a vocally conspicuous migrant when present, was reported just twice, at ECON 5/2 (KD) and at IND 5/15 (GR). **Kentucky Warbler** was singing at the RCSP wildflower reserve 5/19 (JF), a location they have not been known to breed in recent years. Two were at Brady's Run Park 5/29 (TJ, KJ).

Cerulean Warbler was very frequently reported in various sections of RCSP beginning 4/21 (m.ob.), but this was the only location for them in the county again this year (possibly due, in part, to a general lack of spring-season coverage in the county away from a few hotspots). A late **Magnolia Warbler** was at Montgomery Lock and Dam 5/29 (MV). A few **Palm Warblers** were noted by shorebird watchers at IND 4/21-27 (GR, et al.), and a **Pine Warbler** was a good find at IND 4/22 (MJ). First **Black-throated Green Warbler** was early at RCSP 4/16 (GG). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found near Little Blue Lake 5/22 (MV), a known breeding location.

The only real news among sparrows was the frequent reports of **Fox Sparrow** at the RCSP park office feeders through 4/2 (MV, RT, et al.). One was at ECON 3/26-4/2 (KD) as well. A few **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported at IND 3/26-4/8 (CD, JF, LF, et al.). An early **Orchard Oriole** was noted at RCSP 4/21 (KD, et al.). A **Purple Finch** was seen at feeders in ECON 4/15-22 (KD).

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Bedford County

Locations: Allegheny Front (AF), Dunnings Creek Wetlands (DCW), Whitetail Wetlands (WTW), Shawnee State Park (SSP).

The weather was severe in this season, with 40 mph west winds, and snow in early March. However, this forced waterfowl down. The result was high numbers of migrating ducks and geese settling on the ponds and lakes. The more interesting reports included **Trumpeter Swan**, **Sandhill Crane**, **American Oystercatcher**, and **Least Bittern**.

The peak numbers for waterfowl were as follows: 160 **Canada**

Geese at DCW 3/27, 3 **Trumpeter Swans** at DCW 3/25, 430 **Tundra Swans** at DCW 3/12, 620 **Wood Ducks** at DCW 3/12, 187 **Gadwalls** at DCW 3/25, 152 **American Widgeons** at SSP 3/11, 114 **American Black Ducks** at SSP 3/11, 458 **Mallards** on DCW 3/12, 150 **Blue-winged Teal** at DCW 3/19, and 50 **Northern Shovelers** at SSP 3/11. Twenty-two **Green-winged Teal** were at SSP 3/11, accompanied by 72 **Canvasbacks**, and 74 **Redheads**. Two hundred and forty **Ring-necked Ducks** were counted at DCW 3/19. At SSP on 3/11, the count for **Greater Scaup** was 14 and **Lesser Scaup** was 5.

Of scoters, only 2 **Black Scoters** were counted, at SSP 3/20. Twenty-seven **Buffleheads** were at DCW 3/17. At SSP, **Hooded Mergansers** spiked at 113 on 3/8, along with 21 **Common Mergansers**. Forty-eight **Ruddy Ducks** provided the high count at DCW 5/6.

Ring-necked Pheasant and **Wild Turkey** continue to show good numbers; however, **Northern Bobwhite** continues to decline. Three **Common Loons** were counted at SSP 5/6. Three **Pied-billed Grebes** were at DCW 3/3 and 8 **Horned Grebes** were there 3/11. **Doubled-Crested Cormorants** peaked at 95 at SSP 5/6.

Two **American Bitterns** were observed 3/27 and one **Least Bittern** 3/20, both at DCW. The Least Bittern takes a lot of effort in finding, but they are always somewhere at DCW. Three **Great Blue Herons** were at SSP 3/19. At DCW were one **Great Egret** 3/19, one **Little Blue Heron** 3/8, and 3 **Green Herons** 3/18.

The Allegheny Front Spring Hawk Count logged 377.5 hours of observation, with the following numbers: 16 **Black Vultures**, 76 **Turkey Vultures**, 160 **Ospreys**, 44 **Bald Eagles**, 15 **Northern Harriers**, 132 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 55 **Cooper's Hawks**, one **Northern Goshawk**, 27 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 316 **Broad-winged Hawks**, 334 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 89 **Golden Eagles**, 8 **American Kestrels**, 9 **Merlins**, and 4 **Peregrine Falcons** - for a total, including unidentified, of 1324 raptors.

DCW can be regulated by drawing water down, creating mud flats and encouraging sandpipers and rails to feed. Seen on 5/6 was a unique combination of the following: 1 **Sora**, 1 **Sandhill Crane**, 2 **Black-bellied Plovers**, 3 **Killdeer**, 2 **American Oystercatchers**, 2 **Greater Yellowlegs**, one **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 2 **Willetts**, 3 **Spotted Sandpipers**, one **Ruddy Turnstone**, 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, one **Western Sandpiper**, 2 **Least Sandpipers**, 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers**, 4 **Dunlins**, 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, **Wilson's Snipe**, and an **American Woodcock**.

Gulls and terns were seen at SSP 5/16: 2 **Laughing Gulls**, one **Bonaparte Gull**, 4 **Ring-billed Gulls**, 2 **Herring Gulls**, 2 **Caspian Terns**, one **Common Tern**, and 2 **Foster's Terns**. The following owls were heard or seen at AF 5/16: 2 **Eastern Screech-Owls**, 2 **Great Horned Owls**, one **Barred Owl**, and one **Short-eared Owl**. Also at AF, 2 **Common Nighthawks** 5/15 and one **Eastern Whip-poor-will** 5/30.

Four **Chimney Swifts** were seen along fields at AF 5/15. The following woodpeckers were at SSP: 2 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, one **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, one **Hairy Woodpecker**, 3 **Northern Flickers**, and one **Pileated Woodpecker**. The following flycatchers were at DCW 5/13: 2 **Acadian Flycatchers**, one **Alder Flycatcher**, 2 **Willow Flycatchers**, 3 **Least Flycatchers**, 2 **Eastern Phoebe**s, and one **Great Crested Flycatcher**.

At DCW, the following vireos were seen 5/16: one **White-eyed**, one **Yellow-throated**, 2 **Blue-headed**, 2 **Warbling**, and 3 **Red-eyed Vireos**. One **Fish Crow** was seen in an interaction with **American Crows** and **Raven** at SSP 5/10. The following swallows were mostly seen at WTW 5/14: 3 **Tree**, 2 **Northern Rough-winged**, 2 **Bank**, 2 **Cliff**, and 5 **Barn Swallows**.

Thrushes seen were 3 **Eastern Bluebirds**, 2 **Veeries**, one **Hermit Thrush**, and 2 **Wood Thrushes** at DCW 5/20. Three **Gray Catbirds**, 2 **Northern Mockingbirds**, and 4 **Brown Thrashers** were seen and heard on the AF 5/23.

The following warblers were mostly seen at AF, DCW, and WTW: one **Blue-winged** 5/18, 2 **Yellow** 5/18, 4 **Chestnut-sided** 5/15, 2 **Magnolia** 5/17, one **Cape May** 5/10, 2 **Black-throated Blue** 5/4, 3 **Yellow-rumped** 5/18, 2 **Black-throated Green** 5/6, one **Blackburnian** 5/18, one **Pine** 5/15, 2 **Bay-breasted** 5/15, 2 **Blackpoll** 5/15, one **Cerulean** 5/15, 2 **Black and White** 5/18, 3 **American Redstarts** 5/18, 2 **Worm-Eating** 5/18, one **Ovenbird** 5/18, 2 **Kentucky** 5/18, one **Mourning** 5/6, 4 **Common Yellowthroats** 5/15, 2 **Hooded** 5/18, and one **Canada Warbler** 5/15.

Two **Scarlet Tanagers** and 4 **Eastern Towhees** were at DCW 5/19. Also there that date: 3 **American Tree**, 4 **Chipping**, 3 **Field**, one **Vesper**, 2 **Grasshopper**, 3 **Fox**, 4 **Song**, 5 **Swamp**, 2 **White-throated**, and 3 **White-crowned Sparrows**. On 5/15: 7 **Rose-breasted**

Grosbeaks, 3 **Indigo Buntings**, and 2 **Bobolinks**. Bobolinks continue to decline due to lack of healthy grass fields and early mowing. One **Orchard Oriole**, 2 **Baltimore Orioles**, and 3 **Purple Finches** were on WTW 5/18.

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Berks County

Locations: **Blue Mountain Academy (BMA)**, **Blue Marsh Lake (BML)**, **Blue Marsh Lake State Hill Boat Launch (BMLSH)**, **Gotwal's Pond (GP)**, **Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS)**, **Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KDRA)**, **Lake Ontelaunee (LO)**, **Lake Ontelaunee West Shore Drive (LOWS)**, **Peter's Creek (PC)**, **Shartlesville Farm Pond (SFP)**, **State Game Lands 52 (SGL52)**, **State Game Lands 106 (SGL106)**, **State Game Lands 110 North Kill Gap (SGL110)**.

The Spring Quarter sputtered along in wait for a strong front to push large numbers of migrants into *Berks*. A late March storm brought some waterfowl to larger bodies of water, but that was a one-time event. When found, migrants were in small flocks with low numbers of individual species.

Among the large flocks of **Snow Geese** that negotiated around *Berks*, one of 3000 that stopped in the Oley Valley 3/7 contained a single **Ross's Goose (RK)**. On 3/22, a flock of 208 **Snow Geese** resting at Gotwal's Pond had an apparent **Ross's Goose** pair that kept each other company as the flock gleaned the nearby fields. That same flock also contained 5 blue phase **Snow Geese**, including 4 that seemed to be a family unit (RK).

The most interesting spring storm arrived 3/28 with birders finding a few unusual species on LO and BML. Four **Long-tailed Ducks**, 12 **Common Loons**, one **Horned Grebe**, and 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** were on LO 3/28 (KL, MW, DA). On that same day at BML 30 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 14 **Buffleheads**, and 7 **Common Loons** were counted (KL). A single **Surf Scoter** stopped on LO 4/21 (TK, DS) and on that same day, a **Red-throated Loon** joined 3 **Common Loons** at BMLSH (KL). **Common Mergansers** continue to breed at Schuylkill River's Bern Bridge where a pair was seen 5/28 (MW); however, this season, the pair kept their off-spring out of sight north of the bridge.

Kernsville Dam Recreation Area is coming to be the most reliable *Berks* site for bitterns, when they are to be found. An **American Bittern** played hide-and-seek in the reeds there 4/3 (MTG, KG, KLK, NL, MW). Another **American Bittern** was more cooperative as it moved stealthily in the open marsh 5/5 (KG). A **Least Bittern** would not leave its reedy cover but was observed throughout the day 5/9 (MTG, MW, JW, PW). A **Great Egret** feeding along the LO shore line 4/9 was the first of the season (JW, PW). An immature **Little Blue Heron** was in the company of a **Cattle Egret** at the public beach of BML 5/2 (KL). The dam spillway at LO is a reliable place for **Black-crowned Night-Herons**; MS found his first there 5/23. **Virginia Rail** responded to its recorded call 4/19 at Peter's Creek (KLK, DA) where they have been found the past five years. A cooperative **Sora** showed itself in Greenwich Twp. 4/9 (NL).

Due to lack of storms, shorebirds were hard to locate. A single **Dunlin** fed in a farm pond 5/2 (KL). The pond at BMA can host shorebirds when the water level is low and the model airplane club that rented the air strip in 2016 isn't active. On 5/15, conditions were good for these species: 4 **Lesser Yellow-legs**, 6 **Least Sandpipers**, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers**, 6 **Spotted Sandpipers**, one **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, and 7 **Killdeer**. Eight **Semipalmated Sandpipers** fed at Shartlesville Farm Pond 5/29 (KL). The management of the pond has changed, with new owners making this once excellent site less productive.

Three **Caspian Terns** were at LO 4/21, where they appear each year (RK). The more irregular **Black Tern** was a one-day visitor at LO 5/5 (KL, et al.) Another rare visitor to *Berks*, a single **Common Tern** took refuge on the buoys at BML 5/16 (KL, MW).

On 03/11, self-proclaimed novice birders, Bruce and Barb Johns of Hamburg noticed an unusual amount of white "stuff" on their back deck one morning when they didn't have to rush off to work. Upon close inspection, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found nestled in the pine tree

next to the deck. Based on the large mess on their deck, the Johns figured the owl had roosted there for several days. Unfortunately, it didn't appreciate being photographed and flew off to another tree later in the day, not to be seen again.

The always anticipated warbler migration followed the now normal pattern of scattered flocks with low numbers of species. Again, there were no major fall-outs and the best migrants were found along the ridges. **Prothonotary Warbler** is rare in *Berks* although a single bird was seen for seven straight years at Moselem Springs inlet of LO. On 4/30, MS found a single bird in that spot; however, subsequent searches were unsuccessful. On 5/25, a singing Prothonotary Warbler was at Peter's Creek (JW, PW); from that day until 5/29, several birders saw or heard as many as 3 of this brilliant yellow warbler. Then, they disappeared as mysteriously as they appeared. To date, there has been no confirmed breeding of this elusive warbler.

Other rare warblers located during migration were: **Golden-winged Warbler** along the Northkill Gap 4/27 (KG), **Mourning Warbler** at KDRA 5/23 (KG), and **Yellow-throated Warbler** at LO 4/21. The two hybrids of the **Blue-winged** and **Golden-winged Warblers**, **Brewster's** and **Lawrence's** were seen at SGL110 on 4/30 (DS) and SGL106 on 5/1 (DA).

Summer Tanager appeared again, for the third year, in the tree tops of Neversink Mountain 4/29 (KL, JD). **Dickcissels** were found in two locations after not being found in 2016. Up to 3 were at Rodeo Farms 5/21 and 5/28 (DA, BS) and 3 were busy in the grasslands along Clauss Rd. outside of Hamburg 5/31 (EG, KG, MW), which appears to be excellent habitat as long as the farmers do not harvest the grasses at the wrong time.

The **Black-backed Oriole** that created a media frenzy in Reading and was a life bird for North American birders was last recorded 4/9 (LB, TB). Since the bird first appeared 1/26, hosts Tom and Linda Binder had 1825 visitors sign their guest book; 36 states and Canada were represented. Most important was the good will displayed by the host family and their neighbors and the good manners of the birders that arrived almost daily to this location in Silver Spring near Reading. There have been subsequent reports of a Black-backed Oriole in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The bird in Massachusetts was photographed. Research and discussion about this Mexican oriole is on-going at this date.

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Blair County

Locations: Albemarle Nature Trail (ANT) Canoe Creek S.P. (CC), Frosty Hollow (FH), Henry's Pond (HP), Lower Trail-Mount Etna (LT), Plummer's Hollow (PH), Reese Pond (RP), State Game Lands #278 North (SGLN).

The spring weather was seasonably warm with moderate amounts of rain. Although *Blair* continues to be under-birded, 178 species were reported. Information was obtained primarily from eBird. The Penn State Altoona Earth Day Birding Classic brought local and traveling birders together for its second annual event 4/22.

A pair of rare **Snow Geese** was photographed at HP 3/18 (LP) and a large group of 330 **Tundra Swans** found its way to RP 3/10 (JC, LC, MN). Nineteen duck species were documented. Uncommon ducks included 3 **Long-tailed Ducks** at CC and 4 more spotted with 3 **Common Goldeneyes** at RP 3/7 (MN); 2 more Goldeneyes were at CC 3/11 (JC, LC).

The only **Great Egret** was observed hunting for a meal at RP 4/23 (JC, MN, ph). An uncommon **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed near Tyrone 3/18 (JC). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen near CC 3/21 (JF) and another at PH 3/31 (MB). A **Golden Eagle** glided over CC 4/2 (JC, LC, MN). A single **Merlin** was at PH 5/29 (MB) and a **Peregrine Falcon** soared past SGLN 5/13 (JC, LC).

An uncommon **Long-eared Owl** was reported to CC park staff by

an anonymous birder 4/2. **Virginia Rails** were heard near Sabbath Rest Wetland 4/23 and a wetland near SGLN 4/25 (JC, MN). A **Sora** was found on SGLN along with 2 uncommon **Red-headed Woodpeckers** 5/13 (JC, LC); another Red-head was near FH 4/16 (LB).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was photographed at CC 5/21 (JC, LC), and another was observed on the ANT 5/30 (MN). The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was in PH 5/27 (MB). **Swainson's Thrush** were reported at FH 5/20 (LB) and 5/27 at PH (MB).

Twenty-eight warbler species were recorded. The most notable uncommon warblers include a **Prairie Warbler** at CC 4/23 (JK), and **Kentucky, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warblers** at PH 5/27 (MB). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were at FH 5/16 (LB) and PH 5/27 (MB). Two **Lincoln Sparrows** were spotted at the ANT 5/12 (MN ph). Single **Vesper Sparrows** were at CC 3/9 (JD) and near Ft. Roberdeau C.P. 5/30(JK).

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Bucks County

Locations: Hilltown Twp. (HIT), Lower Makefield Township (LMT), Maple Knoll Farms (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), State Game Land #157 (SGL#157).

The average temperature for March was 2°F below normal and April was 5.8°F above. May was about average. Monthly precipitation deviated slightly from average, with a net for the period of 0.16 above. The most significant weather event was a nor'easter 3/14, with snow that crusted over giving ground feeding birds a tough time.

In general, migration was disappointing. There was one larger duck fallout 3/27. The only good shorebird numbers and diversity were in the PWT area. Long distance passerine migrants seemed to be somewhat delayed in arriving and peaked later than recent years. However, the only decent fallout day was 5/16. The season total was 234 species compared to 244 for the previous five-year average. Six species provided new spring early arrival dates and five established new late departure dates.

The county participated for the 25th year in the Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) 5/13. The intent in *Bucks* was to maintain the same protocols as in the previous years rather than the new eBird Global Big Day free for all. However, the weather brought heavy rain to *Bucks* and the comparable data resulted in the lowest number of species 113 and individuals 5472. Counters were way down as well, with 41 participants. It is uncertain if *Bucks* will continue the past format or not in future years (DA).

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.

Again with mild weather, **Snow Goose** was in short supply, with a total of only 221 individuals reported with the last 4/4 (m.ob.). The last **Cackling Goose** was at PVP 3/3 (JBa ph.), the same date for the last report in 2016. Again, the high count of 27 **Mute Swans** came from PWT 5/6 (AP). The **Trumpeter Swan** that has frequented Lake Towhee Park and NSP irregularly since 2013 continued 2/21-5/28 (Pte, m.ob.). Another was at Washington Crossing SP 4/14 (DM ph., LFr). The latter is only the fifth individual to be reported in the county, which includes 3 that stopped at PWT in Feb 2014. Five **Tundra Swans** at PVP 3/1 (AM) provided the only report.

Twenty-two duck species were reported. An **American Wigeon** at PWT 5/27 provided a new spring late date (DFa). Always a good find, 7 **Canvasbacks** were at NSP 3/21 (PC, Dfa) and one at Solebury Twp. 3/29-4/1 (MR). Also scarce this spring, a total of 14 **Redheads** were reported from three sites, with the high 8 at NSP 3/27 (KR, AM). A new spring late date was established by one at PWT 5/5-6 (DFa) as did a **Ring-necked Duck** there 5/29 (DFa). The only high counts for **Lesser Scaup** were 116 at NSP 3/27 (AM) and 62 at PVP 3/27 (KR, AM). One

Surf Scoter at NSP 5/7 matched our previously established spring late date (DFa) and was the only report. Seventeen **Long-tailed Ducks** at NSP 3/27 (PC) provided a good local count, with one there 3/28 (SS, DFa) and 4/1 (AM). Two were also at PVP 3/27 (AM, KR, MFO, RM). **Common Merganser** numbers were mostly in single and low double digits in the first half of Mar but increased to hundreds 3/16-24 at PVP (m.ob.), probably due to the nor'easter 3/14. The high was 510 at PVP 3/23 (MFO). A female and 10 juvs. were at Lake Afton, Yardley 5/9 (DDe, *fide* MD). A large number of **Ruddy Ducks** staged for a few weeks at PVP, not decreasing until the second half of Apr. The high counts were 98 on 3/19 (RS, KR) and 101 on 4/12 (AM, KR). The only other standout count was 140 at Falls Twp. Community Park 4/8 (BK).

Red-throated Loon stopped at NSP 4/1 (PC ph.), and one was at PWT 4/22 and 5/5 (DFa). This species is rarely seen in breeding plumage here, so one at PVP 5/1 (KR, AM ph.) was a surprise. Compared to historical highs, **Common Loon** highs were modest, with 30 at PVP 4/4 (EL) and 35 at NSP 4/4 (KR, DFa). **Red-necked Grebe** was the only noteworthy grebe species. It was an off year for numbers, but one was noted at NSP 4/1 (AM ph.), 4/30 (DFa), and 5/2 (PC ph.). A **Double-crested Cormorant** at PVP 4/10 with a color band XBZ (LFA ph.) had been tagged as an adult on June 9, 2015 at Four Brothers Island, Lake Champlain, Wellsborough, New York. **Double-crested Cormorant** counts were normal, with the highest report 158 at PVP 4/22 (AM). With only three sites reporting on five dates, the high report for **Great Cormorant** was 9 at Bristol 3/9 (DDn). A late one at Mud Island was present in May until at least 5/29 (DFa).

American Bittern was monitored again this year at QTS, with 17 total birds seen leaving the swamp on seven nights between 4/11 and 5/11 (DFa). The peak tally was 8 on 4/23 (DFa). The **Great Blue Heron** colony near Churchville Park increased to 8 nests (MFu). The large colony at NSP had about 52 active nests 4/17, with 55 birds visible (AM). After several years of decline, the QTS colony almost tripled to 16 nests this year (DFa). **Great Egret** was reported at 15 sites starting 3/27 at PVP (AM) and were well represented for the rest of the season (m.ob.). The highest count was 5 at PWT 4/6 (DFa). One **Snowy Egret** was at PWT 4/29 (DFa) for the only report. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** continues to be noteworthy for its scarcity. Three were at Morrisville Levee 4/23 (SH). The high count at their only somewhat reliable Silver Lake Park location was 3 on 5/14 (DFa). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at QTS starting 4/21 and seen a couple of more times through 5/26 (DFa). Another was first noted at NSP 4/26 (PC) and seen a couple of more times through at least 5/30 (PC, PTe, DFa, KR). There is some thought that the same bird traveled back and forth to the two sites. A **Glossy Ibis** was at LMT 4/7 (AM ph., m.ob.); 2 were unusual for the date and being away from the lower county at East Rockhill Twp. 5/28-29 (HR, JRu ph.).

A new **Osprey** nest was reported at Kintnersville 4/27 (EB). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** flew over Mechanicsville 5/21 (BS, JS doc.). If accepted by PORC, this will be the first documented record for the county. An imm. male **Northern Harrier** settled into a field 5/31 at Milford Twp. (DFa), providing a new spring late date. The **Bald Eagle** juv. at the NSP nest was found dead below the nest (*fide* DFa). The high report for migrant **Broad-winged Hawks** was only 9 at NSP 4/12 (EB). Rare as a breeder here, a pair of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** at Riegelsville 5/2 (EB), one at Lake Towhee Park 5/3 (DFa), and one at NSP 5/16 (PC) provided the only May reports.

A rare **King Rail** was heard at QTS 4/8 (DFa). Two **Virginia Rails** were first heard at QTS 4/8 (DFa). Two **Sandhill Cranes** near Richlandtown 3/24-28 (MFr, m.ob.) provided an attraction and only our thirteenth known report.

An excellent tally for spring, 20 shorebird species were recorded. Many were represented by only one report or very low counts. Since many of these are not entered in eBird, I will provide details here. Single **Black-bellied Plovers** were at PWT 4/30-5/1, a new spring early arrival date, and also 5/22 (DFa). The only reports of **Semipalmated Plover** were from PWT on eight dates 4/29-5/29, with a high count 8 on 5/27 (DFa).

A fly over **Red Knot** was picked out of a migrant flock at Milford Twp. 5/31 (DFa) for only our third known report. One **Stilt Sandpiper** at PWT 4/29 (DFa) provided a new spring early arrival date and the only report. A flock of **Sanderlings** flew over Milford Twp. 5/31 (DFa) for the only report. **Dunlin** was noted at PWT on seven dates 4/30-5/29, with the high only 2 on 5/5 and 5/27 (DFa). An estimated 300-400 **Least Sandpipers** at PWT 5/5 (DFa) provided the high count. **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at PWT on six dates 4/29-5/29, with a high count of 7 on 5/28-29 (DFa). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Bradford Dam 3/3 established a new

spring early arrival date by almost three weeks (BK ph., GJ). In total, there were three sites reporting one or 2 birds (m.ob.), and a fourth at LMT had 12 birds 4/7 (AM). The high count on the ground for **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was about 35 at PWT 5/25-29, but a large migrating flock flew over Milford Twp. 5/31 (both DFa).

A **Short-billed Dowitcher** at PWT 5/28 provided the only report (DFa). **American Woodcock** was stressed due to heavy crusted snow 3/14. Two roadside birds in Buckingham Twp. were assisted 3/15-17 by providing worms, which they readily accepted (DFa). Rare anytime but more so in the spring, the county's second reported **Purple Sandpiper** was on the fishing pier at NSP 5/30 (KR ph.). A rarely reported **Wilson's Phalarope** was at PWT 5/27 (DFa ph.). This was our 15th known report, 6 of which have been in the last 10 years. A **Red-necked Phalarope** at PWT 5/5 (DFa) provided a new spring early date, as did a **Spotted Sandpiper** at NSP 4/4 (KR, DFa). **Solitary Sandpiper** as usual was not solitary at Bradford Dam, where the season high count by far was 22 on 5/3 (AM). The modest high count of about 15 **Greater Yellowlegs** was at PWT 4/29 (DFa). A very high count of 133 **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at PWT 4/29, with even more 5/30 that were not counted due to being flushed (DFa).

An excellent total of 11 gull species was reported. **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported from 10 sites, with the stand out high being 72 at PVP 4/6 (TF). A **Black-headed Gull** at LMT 4/7-8 (MG doc., ph., SS, RS, VS, MS) provided the county's ninth report. A **Little Gull** was at Washington Crossing Park 4/5 (MG). I believe unprecedented here for date and number, 3 first year Little Gulls were identified at PWT 5/22-27, with 2 present 5/28 and one last seen 5/29 (DFa ph.). They were suspected of being present earlier but overlooked mixed with distant Bonaparte's Gulls (DFa ph.). These are our ninth and tenth known reports. The first **Laughing Gull** report for the spring was unusual for the number and site away from the lower county, with 4 at PVP 3/27 (KR, AM, DFa ph.) and 2 also 3/27 at NSP (PC, DFa). The high single site report was a conservative count of 445 at Bristol Marsh 5/10 (BM). A rough estimate of 1000 was made by one party for PAMC in lower Bucks 5/13. One or 2 **Iceland Gulls** were reported from five sites (m.ob.), with the last at PWT 4/29 (DFa). One **Glaucous Gull** was reported from two sites (m.ob.), with the last report at PWT 4/15 (DFa). A **Herring x Glaucous Gull** (hybrid) was at PWT 4/22 (DFa). The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** high count was approximately 400 at NSP 3/12 (PC), with much lower highs at other sites. About 10 **Caspian Terns** were reported from four sites 4/10-5/5 (m.ob.). The high count was 5 at PWT 4/29 (DFa). A **Black Tern** at PWT 5/5 (DFa) represented the only report (DFa), as did a **Common Tern** at PWT 5/13 (DFa). Single **Forster's Terns** were at Core Creek Park 5/8 (SF, CFI), PVP 5/8 (BC ph.), and PWT 5/13 (DFa).

Both cuckoo species benefited from a timely availability of tent caterpillars. As usual the 19 sites reporting **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** far outnumbered the 5 for **Black-billed Cuckoo** (m.ob.). Quite a surprise, the head of a dead fox could be seen on the edge of a **Great Horned Owl** nest in Solebury Twp. (DFa ph.). A freshly road-killed **Long-eared Owl** along Rt.313 adjacent to PVP 3/3 (JBU) was another blow to the decreasing wintering numbers at this site. The specimen went to the Academy of Natural Sciences. **Common Nighthawk** reports were disappointing as usual, with almost all in very low single digits (m.ob.). The only exception was about 20 at NSP 5/13 (DFa).

Increased reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** continued this year, although this may be just more reporting rather than more birds. Our best known area, on the east side of Haycock Mt., had 2 at one site 4/16 and a high report of 3 at another site 5/4 (DFa). The Buckingham Twp. annual site also reported one starting 5/1 (DS). One was in Nockamixon Twp. at a feeder 5/4 (eBird, ph.). A site reported last year near Perkasio in HIT again had at least one bird 5/21 (DFa). One was in Tinicum Twp. 5/13 (DA), possibly another previously unknown breeding site. A female **American Kestrel** banded as a juv. in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania June 2015 was on eggs 5/21 in Plumstead Twp. (DFa).

The sparingly reported pass-through migrant flycatchers barely were noticed. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at SGL#157 on 5/27 (DFa, AM ph.) provided the only report. There were no Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reports. An **Alder Flycatcher** at NSP 5/22-23 (PC, DFa) was the sole report and provided a new spring late date. Formerly a local breeder, **Least Flycatcher** fared better with five sites reporting one or 2 each (PC, DDn, DFa, MG, SG). **White-eyed Vireo** was reported from only six sites, with NSP being the only site reported to have multiple birds lingering through the season (m.ob.).

Common Raven was reported from 17 sites (m.ob.), with another successful nesting at Kintnersville where 4 fledged juvs. with 2 adults

were noted 5/23 (EB vr.). A flock of up to 103 **Horned Larks** continued into mid-Mar at MKF (m.ob.), with the last group of 36 there 4/2 (RS). Two presumed breeding birds continued through the period there for the second year (RS). Another flock of about 100 was at HIT 3/15 (DFa). The last **Black-capped Chickadee** from this winter's irruption was at HIT 4/20 (RM), and the last **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at PVP 5/17 (AM).

Reports are always low for **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, with as few as 9 at 7 sites this year (m.ob.). **Swainson's Thrush** was reported less this year, at 16 sites. The sum of the highest counts from each site was 30 (m.ob.). **American Pipit** was reported from six sites, with low single digit counts (m.ob.) except for MKF where 40 on 4/22 and 35 on 5/3 were tallied (RS). A **Lapland Longspur** at MKF 3/15-17 (RS) provided a treat for many birders thanks to seed spread by the landowners. As an added attraction, a **Snow Bunting** was also present at MKF 3/15-16 (RS).

Thirty-three warbler species were reported for the season. Species diversity and numbers of individuals were very disappointing on almost all outings. There were no Golden-winged Warbler or Yellow-breasted Chat reports. A **Prothonotary Warbler** at Dark Hollow Park 5/26 (JBU) provided the only report. The **Orange-crowned Warbler** first reported 2/11 at a Falls Twp. feeder continued until 3/5 (KB). Another was at Warrington Twp. 5/4 for a rare May report (MFO). The wintering **Nashville Warbler** first reported 12/25/2016 in Bristol Twp. continued until last seen 4/17 (GD). **Mourning Warbler** is another warbler now harder to find, with only one reported, at Idlewood Environmental Center 5/17 (KF ph.). The only **Kentucky Warbler** reports were one at PVP 4/22 (JBr), a new early spring arrival date, and one at Tyler SP 5/8 (BK). No potential breeders were reported for the second year in a row. Single **Cerulean Warblers** were at Neshaminy SP 5/11 (DB) and SGL#157 (DFa). The multi-year wintering **Pine Warbler** at LMT was last noted 3/15 (Cfa). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was first noted at Riegelsville 4/15 (EB, EN) and remained through the period for the only report. Other warblers with less than 10 reports were **Tennessee Warbler** (6) and **Cape May Warbler** (4) (m.ob.).

Again, Van Sant Airport provided the most **Grasshopper Sparrow** reports, with the first one 5/3 (PC). While managing the American Kestrel box route, Grasshopper Sparrow was also found at a Tincum Twp. site 5/8 and HIT site 5/21 (DFa). Surviving mowing is a challenge for sustaining this species here. Sometimes unreported in spring, 2 **Vesper Sparrows** were at MKF 4/9, with one noted 4/11 (RS). **Lincoln's Sparrow**, also hard to find in spring, was at PVP 5/1 (DFa), Bradford Dam 5/14 (JRo, LR, PT), and Tyler SP 5/16 (MFO). **Blue Grosbeak** was first reported at PWT 5/5 (DFa) and MKF 5/14 (RS), both regular breeding sites. There never seems to be any significant increase in the reporting of this species despite the many more birders using eBird.

The only significant **Bobolink** report was 65 near MKF 5/10 (RS). **Rusty Blackbird** was reported in eBird at 11 sites in mostly low single digit counts (m.ob.). The last two were at Silver Lake Park 5/14 (DDn), a good site, where the high was 22 on 3/29 (KW). QTS is a major location for Boblinks, but often not quantified, so a minimum high count of 387 on 4/11 (DFa) was welcome. The good count of 46 still there 5/8 was considered unusually late (DFa). The now annual wintering **Baltimore Orioles** at one site in Middletown Twp. stayed later than usual. It is believed that 4/28 was the last day all 5 were still present, with one last seen 4/29 (DP). Returning **Purple Finches** moved steadily starting 3/14 through 5/11 but in mostly low single digit counts from 19 sites (m.ob.). The highest count was 12 at SGL#157 on 4/16 (DFa). Not expected this year, a single **Pine Siskin** was at Tincum Twp. 3/27 (DFa). Finally, but certainly not least, a now rarely reported male **Evening Grosbeak** was at a private residence 4/27-28 (TO, ph.).

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Jere Shade, Michael Schall, Steve Schmit, Diane Smith, Richard Smith, Vicky Smith, Patrick Taylor (PTa), Paul Teese (PTE), Ken Walsh.

Butler County

Locations: Burton Road (BR), Clay Twp. (CT), Lake Arthur (LA), McDanel Boat Launch (MBL), North Shore (NS), South Shore (SS), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), State Game Lands 95 (SGL 95), Watts Bay (WB). BR, LA, MBL, NS, SS and WB are all located in Moraine State Park.

The first of March saw temperatures in the 50s but winter quickly returned with a vengeance with snow and night temperatures in the teens. Warm periods alternated with wintery conditions until the end of the month which saw mild temps and lots of rain. The changing of seasons was gradual - a cold snap in early April temporarily dampened birding activity but migration was already well underway. April closed out with warm sunny days that accelerated leaf growth and encouraged many FOY migrants. May brought a few very nice surprises including **Western Sandpiper** and **Willet**, both rarely seen in *Butler*.

A pair of **Mute Swans** was in Cranberry Twp. 4/26 (HW) and 2 were spotted at various locations around Lake Arthur 4/29-5/9 (m.ob.). Three were at South Shore 5/13 (BB). Hopefully they moved on. **Tundra Swans** moved through 3/12-25 with the high count of 40 flying over Callery 3/13 (CT).

Because the movement of ducks through started in Feb, it was an extended and productive season for ducks in terms of species diversity, though not spectacular in terms of numbers. Twenty-three species were seen this season, with 4 known to breed in *Butler* (**Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, and **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers**). By far the most frequently reported was **Bufflehead** followed by Mallard, Wood Duck, and then **Ruddy Duck**. The following species were reported less than 10 times: **American Black Duck**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Surf Scoter**, **Black Scoter**, **Long-tailed Duck** and **Common Goldeneye**. **Gadwall** are regular migrants in *Butler*, moving through in higher number in the fall. Twenty-one reports included a high count of 40 at Burton Road 3/12 (BB). Nineteen reports of **American Widgeon** included a high count of 20 at Burton Road 3/12 (BB). There were only 4 reports of **American Black Duck**: one at BR 3/12, one at State Game Lands 95 on 3/15, 2 at SGL 95 on 3/20, and 2 at South Shore 4/2 (all BB). Six Sightings of Blue-winged Teal, always less numerous than Green-winged Teal, consisted of 4 reports from SGL 95, only one from Lake Arthur 4/9 (BB), and one from the newly resurrected Glade Run Lake 4/2 (AB). Empty for a number of years due to issues with the dam, local residents pushed for repairs and now the recently filled lake is attracting a variety of birds and other natural delights. The high count for Blue-wings was 11 at SGL 95 on 4/9 (GK, MAK). The high count for **Northern Shoveler** was 15 at Burton Road 3/12 (BB). Reports of **Northern Pintail** were scarce with singles at SGL 95 on 3/12 (TF), Moraine SP 3/22 (RN), and BR 3/24 (MVT); and capped by 7 at McDanel Boat Launch 4/1 (DB). Nine reports of Green-winged Teal produced a high count of 12 at Watts Bay 4/1 (DB).

Eighteen reports of **Canvasback** included a high count of 17 at Porter's Cove 3/24 (OM). While most sightings tallied single digits, 24 appearances of **Redhead** included nice counts of 30 at Burton Road 3/12 (BB) and 24 at South Shore 3/21 (JF). Movement of **Ring-necked Duck** through *Butler* revealed nice flocks of 200 at BR 3/12 (BB) and 150 at Porter's Cove the same day (BB). A late "ringbill" lingered near Greece City until at least 5/27 (KB). Reports of **Lesser Scaup** always outnumber **Greater Scaup** and this season continued the pattern with a near 5:1 ratio in favor of lesser "bluebills". High counts included 14 Greater Scaup at BR 3/24 (MVT) and 80 Lesser Scaup at SS 4/12 (KB).

Scoters continue to be scarce with 2 sightings of Surf Scoter: one at SS 4/5 (GK, MAK) and one, perhaps the same bird, there 4/9 (BB). A single Black Scoter was seen at Sunken Garden Trail 4/30 (BB). A very nice count of 21 Long-tailed Ducks was a nice surprise at SS 3/28 (DD fide MV) and a single long-tail was seen at SS 4/9 (BB). Among the nearly 120 reports of Bufflehead, most were single or double digit counts but the high was 150 at Watts Bay 4/2 (BB). Only 3 reports came in for Common Goldeneye: 2 at Bear Run Boat Launch 3/12, 2 at SS 4/2, and 2 at Watts Bay 4/2 - all (BB). Of the three merganser species, Hooded Merganser was the most frequently reported with a high of 20 at SS 4/2 (BB). Common Merganser was the least reported merg with a high of 30 at SS sdigit counts including 130 at SS 3/11 (AL), 120 at North Shore 3/19 (CT),

161 at SS 3/21 (JF), and 102 at SS 4/5 (GK, MAK). A big day for Ruddy Ducks followed a big rain 4/12, with 232 at SS, 326 at NS (KD), and 330 at LA (AK). There could have been some overlap in numbers as specific locations in Moraine SP were not clear. A great tally of 474 Ruddies was a treat the same day at SGL 95 (KB). Sadly, impaired by fishing line wrapped around its body, a late Ruddy hung around Squaw Valley Woodlands until at least 5/29 (DW).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was heard at Lake Arthur Golf Course 4/28, 5/13, 5/19 (BB). In light of their continuing decline, and compared to only 2 reports last spring season, 5 scattered sightings of **Ruffed Grouse** were somewhat encouraging (m.ob.).

Common Loons arrived at LA 3/18 (CT) and were spotted regularly through most of the season with the last loons lingering until 5/13, including 2 at Porter's Cove (OM, JG) and one at Poplar Forest (Bartramian Audubon). The high count for loons was 11 at Watts Bay 3/25 (TR). **Pied-billed Grebe** and **Horned Grebe** were seen through the season, mostly at LA. **Double-crested Cormorants** are found on LA in small numbers spring through fall; occasionally a nice flight touches down during migration. A good group of 290 stopped at Lakeview Beach 4/5 and 68 were at MBL the same day (GK, MAK). Single **Great Egrets** were seen at scattered locations 3/28-5/13 (m.ob.). A lone male **Snowy Egret** in full breeding plumage visited a farm pond near Slippery Rock 5/13 but did not stay (GW).

Turkey Vultures continue to stop at Slippery Rock Borough in numbers during migration. Northward migration was split into 2 waves with 1250 birds 3/19 and 1799 on 4/1 (GW). **Ospreys**, now a fixture at Moraine SP, are being seen in areas other than LA more frequently. A new nest, marking the sixth confirmed active nest in *Butler*, was located at SGL 95 on 4/16 (BB). **Bald Eagles** were reported through the season from LA, Lake Oneida, and SGL 95. The second BBA showed that **Northern Harrier** is in decline state-wide. Although there were 3 "probable" records, breeding was not confirmed in *Butler*. Despite limited habitat, there has been evidence of possible breeding activity in the Cherry Twp. area and at the Barkeyville Grasslands. Confirmation would be nice. **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted twice: one at Little Creek Road 3/7 (BB) and one at Cherry Road 3/11 (KB).

All reports of **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** came from SGL 95 (BB, GK, MAK). **Sandhill Crane** sightings are increasing in *Butler* with 6 seen near Slippery Rock Borough 3/21 (DM), 2 at BR 3/25 (BB), 2 Near West Liberty 4/2 (MC), and 6 at SGL 95 4/23 (GK, MAK). Eight species of shorebirds were seen during the season, with surprises including a **Western Sandpiper** at SGL 95 on 5/13 (BB, GW) in the company of a flock of **Spotted Sandpipers**, and 2 **Willetts** that visited Lakeview Beach 4/29-5/1 (GK, MAK et al). Other shorebird included **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Wilson's Snipe**, and **American Woodcock**. A regular spring and fall visitor, **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported 9 times, all but one from LA. Not often seen in *Butler*, a **Common Tern** was at Lakeview Beach 4/29 (GK, MAK). **Forster's Tern** was reported 3 times: 9 were at Upper Boat Launch 5/1 (GK, MAK), one at Lakeview Beach 5/7 (TR), and 8 at WB 5/12 (BB).

The normal trend with cuckoos was reversed this season with **Black-billed Cuckoo** reports outnumbering **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 10 to 7. The only report of **Common Nighthawk** was of a single over Clearview Mall 5/8 (KB). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** remain scarce with one at Branchton Road 5/13 and one at CT 5/13, 21, and 24 (BB). A lucky homeowner had one visit a suet feeder in Cranberry Twp. 5/18-20 (DP).

Seen more frequently in the fall, a **Merlin** was at SGL 95 on 3/15 (BB) and a **Peregrine Falcon** visited SVW 4/22 (DW). Not often reported, **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SGL 95 on 5/21 (GK, MAK). **Common Raven** was seen 9 times in widely scattered locations through the season (m.ob.). **Bank Swallow** sightings are increasing in *Butler*, perhaps because of increased coverage. During the second BBA, this small and least-seen of the resident swallows was confirmed as breeding in only 2 locations in the county.

After a nice winter irruption, many **Red-breasted Nuthatches** remained through the season with widely scattered appearances until 5/15 (m.ob.). Evidence of nesting was found near Slippery Rock Borough (GW). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Succop Nature Park 5/18 (CK) and 2 were heard at night at CT 5/20 (BB). **Swainson's Thrush** moved through 5/14-28 highlighted by 3 at CT 5/17 (BB). The **Gray Catbird** seen near Three Degree Road 3/8-12 (JT) was either an early migrant or a hardy holdover that had been seen in Feb. Another early bird was a **Brown Thrasher** at NS 3/29 (KD). The only **American Pipit** was at SS 3/25 (BB).

The warbler-show, like many spring delights, started early with

Louisiana Waterthrush at Butler-Freeport Trail 4/1 (TH, OL) and **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at Glade Run Lake 4/3 (DB, KAB), the latter not being reported since Dec. A nice movement of Yellow-rumps came through mid-April with 3 reports of over 30 birds at SGL 95 on 3 different dates (BB, GK, MAK). By the end of April, warbler migration was in full swing with 19 species seen before the start of May. The most frequently reported were **Yellow Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, followed by **American Redstart** and **Ovenbird**. Seen only once was **Pine Warbler** with 3 at Muddy Creek Wetland 4/14 (GK, MAK) and the only **Prairie Warbler** was one at SGL 95 on 4/27 (KB). The following uncommon warblers were only reported twice each: **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Wilson's Warbler**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat**. Bartramian Audubon had a wonderful warbler day at Poplar Forest 5/13 with 17 species reported.

Joining early warblers were **Eastern Towhees** near Gallery 3/9 (CK), and one the next day at CT (BB). A **Vesper Sparrow** was at Dassa Elementary 5/17 (BB). The Barkeyville Grasslands continues to be the source of most grassland sparrow reports including the following high counts: 16 **Savannah Sparrows** 5/13 (BB), 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 5/29 (JM), and 6 **Henslow's Sparrows** 5/20 (BB). A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at BR 5/12 (BB). **White-crowned Sparrows** lingered until mid-May. **Rusty Blackbirds** moved through in small numbers 3/12-5/12 (m.ob). A nice count of 149 Rusties passed over SRB in the company of 1000 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 2500 **Common Grackles** (GW). One exotic, a **Rock Partridge** was spotted near Herman 3/8 Kurt Sintz.

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Cambria County

Locations: Beldin Hollow (BH), Patton Area (PA), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG), Wilmore area (WM).

Hundreds of **Tundra Swans** were present at PG during Mar (DG, RL, TA, JS). Due to the mild weather, large numbers of ducks moved through PG. Most species were present including a single **Northern Shoveler** 4/23 (RL). **Greater Scaup** numbers were above average through the period (TA, JS).

Very rare for our area, 2 **Black Vultures** were at PG 4/11 (JD, SD). Six **Sandhill Cranes** provided a very rare find in a field near Glasgow 4/6 (FO, CO). A flooded field near WM yielded **Semipalmated Plover** as well as **Solitary**, **Spotted**, **Least**, and **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/18 (MD). Hundreds of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were present at PG during Apr. Providing a high count, 31 **Forster's Terns** were at PG 4/23 (DG).

First **Whip-Poor-Wills** were heard at St. Lawrence 5/7 (DG). Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen at different locations during the second week of May. Two **Warbling Vireos** were at PG 5/13 (TA, BG). An amazing fallout of swallows at PG on 5/13 included 182 **Cliff Swallows** (BG, JS).

A nice count of 21 **Wood Thrushes** was tabulated for PAMC 5/13. Nice finds of **Blue-Winged**, **Tennessee**, **Cape May**, **Bay-Breasted**, and **Blackpoll Warblers** came from PG 5/13 (TA, BG). **Ovenbirds** seemed to be everywhere this spring. Three **Bobolinks** were seen at BH 4/29 (GG), which is earlier than usual.

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Cameron County

Locations: Camp Metro (CM), Elk SF--Hicks Run (HR), Four Mile Rd. (FMR), Quehanna Wild Area--Wycoff Run (WR), Sinnemahoning SP--George B. Stevenson Dam (SGSD), Sterling Run (SR).

There were more reports than normal this season for *Cameron*, which led to 111 species reported. Waterfowl were seen in semi-decent numbers with 7 species recorded. Besides the expected **Canada Goose** and **Mallard**, other include 3 **Wood Ducks** at Sinnemahoning 3/18 (BS), 4 **Gadwalls** at SGSD 4/12 along with 2 **Lesser Scaup**, one **Bufflehead**, and one **Common Merganser** (DG, GG). Other Common Mergansers were 10 at Sinnemahoning 3/18 (BS), 3 at Sinnemahoning 4/12 (DG, GG), 8 at CM 4/29 (AB), and 4 at SR 5/13 (MJ).

Reports of **Ruffed Grouse** from a few locations across the county include singles at FMR 3/19 and 3/27 (BS), CM 4/29, and SR 4/30 (AB). Eight **Wild Turkeys** were at FMR 3/19 (BS) and 2 at CM 4/29 (AB). The only **Osprey** was at CM 4/29 (AB). The only accipiter noted was **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, found at FMR 3/27 (BS) and at SR 5/17 (DG, GG). **Bald Eagles** are usually fairly well reported - singles were at CM 4/28 and 4/29 (AB), and at SR 5/13 (MJ). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at SR 4/30 (AB).

Shorebirds are not usually well-represented in *Cameron*, but this spring 5 species were reported, although none out of the ordinary. Up to 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** were at CM 4/29-30 (AB). A flock of shorebirds in a flooded field at SR 4/30 included 5 **Killdeer**, one **Solitary Sandpiper**, one **Greater Yellowlegs**, and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** (AB). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were at SGSD 4/12 (DG, GG). A good species for *Cameron*, 6 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at SGSD 4/12 (DG, GG). An **Eastern Screech-Owl**, not always recorded in the county, was at CM 4/29 (AB). **Barred Owls** were at FMR 3/19 and 3/27 along with a **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, also at FMR 3/19 (BS).

The only *empidonax* flycatcher was **Least Flycatcher**, reported at CM, SR, and Logue Run from late April through May (m.ob.). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at SR 5/17 (DG, GG). **Common Raven** was noted at 6 locations (m.ob.). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at CM, SR, and DW in late April and May (m.ob.). A few **Cliff Swallows** were at CM, DW, SGSD, and SR in late April and May (m.ob.).

Surprisingly after the **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption of last fall, only 2 were at SR 4/30, found in conifers at the edge of a strip mine field (AB). Four **Veeries** were found at SR 5/13 (MJ), but only one 5/17 (DG, GG). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at SR 5/17 (DG, GG). Somewhat rare, 2 **Brown Thrashers** were at SR 5/17 (DG, GG).

Among warblers, **Louisiana Waterthrush** was reported from HR and WR 5/17 (DG, GG) and a **Northern Waterthrush** at SR 5/13 (MJ). Other notable warblers include **Tennessee Warbler** at SR 5/13 (MJ), **Nashville Warbler** at SR 5/17 (DG, GG), **Mourning Warbler** at SR 5/13, 3 **Cape May Warblers** at SR 5/13, **Cerulean Warbler** at SR 5/13 (MJ) and Sinnemahoning 5/17 (DG, GG), **Northern Parula** at SR 5/13 (MJ) and Sinnemahoning 5/17 (DG, GG), **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Logue Run 5/17 (LG), **Pine Warbler** at SR and WR 5/17 (DG, GG), **Yellow-throated Warbler** at SR 5/13 (MJ), and **Wilson's Warbler** at Sinnemahoning 5/17 (DG, GG).

Grassland sparrows can be difficult to find in heavily forested *Cameron* but the field at SR provides some good sparrow habitat. Four **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at SR 4/30 along with the even more notable **Henslow's Sparrow**, also 4/30 (AB). Buriak describes the area as being a grassland with a number of small pine trees about 3-5 feet high, which would provide good habitat for Henslow's Sparrow. The only **Fox Sparrows** were 4 at FMR 3/19 (BS) and the only **White-crowned Sparrows** were 3 at SR 5/13 (MJ). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at SR 5/13 (MJ). As is the case with the grassland sparrows, **Eastern Meadowlarks** can be hard to find in *Cameron* - the only report was of 2 at SR 4/30 (AB).

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Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP).

Amidst the weird spring weather – periods of mid-summer heat followed by mid-winter cold - the birds still found their way back to *Centre*. The PA Migration Count was held 5/13 when area birders recorded 7,853 birds representing 153 species, three of which – **Barn Owl**, **Warbling Vireo**, and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** – are rarities and will be discussed below. Information for this report were 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).

Sixteen **Snow Geese** were observed flying with **Canada Geese** at BESP 3/7 (JP). More Snow Geese were spotted there 3/22 (JoW). A single Snow Goose was observed 5/8 at Lederer Park (JV); this species is a rarity during migration. A raft of up to 33 **Brant** was spotted at BESP 5/5 (DM, et al.), an unusually large number for this casual migrant. A **Eurasian Wigeon**, possibly the same bird, was spotted in two *Centre* locations 4/2. One was flushed at Muddy Paws Marsh and flew south (SH *fide* JV). The second was spotted about 10 miles to the south at Colyer Lake (JV, et al.). One or 2 female **Black Scoters** were seen napping on the lake at BESP 4/30-5/5 (JV, et al.).

Likely an escapee, a **Northern Bobwhite** was "heard [giving] the classic 'bobWHITE' call" at BESP 5/24 (JP). This species is considered extirpated in *Centre*, although it was "formerly regular and [found] year-round" (B&G, 2010). Up to 12 **Red-throated Loons**, rare during migration, were at BESP 3/30-4/6 (BS, et al.), and a single bird was observed there 4/21-5/6 (MB, et al.). A **Red-necked Grebe** in breeding plumage was seen at BESP 5/3 in the company of a **Lesser Scarp** (CE, JV, L&JC).

Great Egrets are regular, but rarely encountered during migration; one or 2 were at BESP 4/17-5/6 (SBr, et al.). Three fortunate birders spotted a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flying over the lake at BESP 4/29 (L&JC, MB). Although rare, **Virginia Rails** were reported in at least five locations across the county.

Several rare shorebirds were spotted at BESP. A **Black-bellied Plover** was there 5/25 (JP), and a **Sanderling** 5/1 (JV); both occur casually. A rare **Dunlin** was present 5/25 (JP, BSn, BC). The white rump of a **White-rumped Sandpiper** was seen 5/27-29 (MaB, JP, SBr). Some lucky birders found an accidental **Willet** 4/11-29 (MB, BC, AuC).

Barn Owls are rare any time of the year. A single was at a known location SW of Coburn 4/18-5/10 (JV, et al.); however, 4 were seen at a location north of Coburn 5/13 (Anon). A rare **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen in a dead tree at Colyer 5/20-30 (JM, L&JC). On 4/5 there was an unconfirmed report of a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** on Big Hollow Rd. on the Penn State campus. The observer noted that "The extremely long tail feathers, dark band of coloration near the beak and eye, overall size, and fluffed-up crest of feathers on the forehead are a dead-on match" (SE). Unfortunately, the bird was not re-located.

The wintering **Northern Shrike** at BESP lingered into the spring, with sightings 3/4-23 (BC, AuC, MS, SS, JoW). The only **Philadelphia Vireo**, a rare spring migrant, was spotted at BESP 5/24 (JV). **Warbling Vireo**, uncommon in *Centre*, was reported widely. A **Marsh Wren**, another rarity, was heard at Julian wetlands 4/29 (JD, SL). An unknown number of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were heard during a nocturnal flight call count in State College 5/13 (JV); one was also noted in the Bald Eagle SF south of Loganton 5/21 (BC, AuC). A single **Snow Bunting** was spotted "eating grit on the side of the road in snow" along S. Nixon Rd. 3/10 (JD).

Of the thirty-three warbler species reported, thirty are abundant, common, or uncommon but regular. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was described at BESP 4/24 (JV). This species is considered casual and is "very rare in spring" migration (B&G, 2010). Two rare **Mourning Warblers** were spotted, one at BESP 5/23-31 (MB, et al.) and a second at Scotia 5/27 (CT). A few rare **Yellow-throated Warblers** were also reported. One was located 4/17 and again 4/29 at BESP (L&JC, CE, MB), one or 2 were seen and heard 4/19-28 in Unionville (JV, JP, DO, SL), and a single was noted 4/21 along Bald Eagle Cr. NE of Milesburg (MB).

Centre's second **Western Tanager** appeared in the trees of Penn State's central campus 4/20-23 (JG, et al.). In addition to exciting local birders, it also attracted a **Cooper's Hawk** on 4/20. According to one birder, "Coop went straight at it as it was preening! WETA saw Coop at the last second and took off with Coop in pursuit." Fortunately, a little while later the birder noted "WETA is back and Coop is still hungry" (JV).

Red Crossbills, rarely found, were sighted twice. One visited a feeder in Julian 3/18-19 (AW), and approximately 5-8 flew through the trees at BESP 5/8 (JP, L&JC).

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), Exton Park (EP), ChesLen Preserve (CP), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES), Struble Lake (SL)

The spring season was fairly unremarkable, but featured erratic patterns of both unseasonably cold and unseasonably warm temperatures. This seems to be the trend of recent years, making an interesting unraveling of spring migration. The season's highlights included Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Cattle Egret, Black Tern, Golden-winged Warbler, and Evening Grosbeak.

A single **Ross's Goose** was picked out of a skein of approximately 700 **Snow Geese** making their way north over BCP 3/1 (LL, m.ob.). This date seems falls within the peak for sightings of this species, presumably coinciding with the peak window of *Chen* migration through the region. A great find was a wing-tagged **Trumpeter Swan** on a small pond within the Loch Nairn Golf Course property in Avondale 3/1 (JS). This individual continued through 1/9, offering good studies of the species for multiple birders (m.ob.). Information was sent to JS from the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration, who provided information confirming that the swan was a male and had been banded 10/1/16 in Port Severn, Ontario, Canada. This individual had also been reported in Georgetown, Delaware in Jan 2017. **Tundra Swans** were in good supply during spring, many taking a short respite from their journeys northward, using MCSP as a stop over. The high count was 96 Tundras on 3/20 (HM).

The "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** continued wintering in Eagleview through 3/21 (m.ob.); presumably the same individual was spotted at the Glenmoore WTP 4/1, which is a new location for this subspecies of the Green-winged Teal (SS, NF). All three scoters were missed by birders searching local lakes for these sea ducks this spring. **Long-tailed Ducks** were noted twice at MCSP - one found 3/19 (CH) and a pair there 3/29 (HM, MD, JA). **Common Goldeneye** is less common than some other diving ducks, but were found at MCSP 3/12 (KC) and 3/13 (JA). Mid-Mar through mid-Apr tends to be the best window of the year for **Red-breasted Merganser** in Chester. This year, the species made appearances from 3/16-4/16, holding true to this timetable (m.ob.).

It was a good spring for seeing **Red-throated Loons**, which tend to be irregular migrants on the piedmont. There were 5 occurrences, all at MCSP. Solo birds were there 3/28-29 (HM, m.ob.), 4/25 (NP), and 5/6 (CH, MH). During some springs this species goes unreported. Three **Red-necked Grebes** provided a surprising find at MCSP 4/16 (HM, m.ob.), the only report for both winter and spring of this irregularly encountered large grebe. All were sporting breeding plumage, always a treat to see here in *Pennsylvania*.

American Bitterns migrate through in Apr., and all reports this spring were from that month. Two were photographed conspicuously standing in the Pickering Creek 4/3 (LH); singles were at OCTRES 4/12 (PM), CP 4/12 (HM), EP 4/20 (MH), and Great Marsh 4/23 (MC). An adult **Little Blue Heron** was photographed standing in the Pickering Creek 4/15 (RaR). Another adult Little Blue discovered at EP 4/19 (NP) lingered through 4/20 (m.ob.). Spring occurrence of Little Blues typically features adult plumaged birds but overall this species is more often found in post-breeding dispersal in July and into early fall

Once common during post-breeding, **Cattle Egrets** are now irregular and rare in Chester, so two occurrences this spring were noteworthy, both observations coming from MCSP. The first was spotted foraging in the grass on the west side of the park 4/11 and stayed only long enough for observers to snap a few images before it flew east, never to be seen again (PVe). The second was an unexpected high flyover on the evening of 5/16, traveling west to east (HM). A super find was an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** spotted along the Red Clay Creek 4/15, seen from Chandler Mill Rd bordering BCP (GT). It lingered at least through 4/16, but was not relocated thereafter (m.ob.). This species is rarely encountered in Chester, making this discovery of great interest to local birders. A **Glossy Ibis** was photographed standing in a tree bordering a small pond in Newtown Square 5/4 (BV *fide* DM), providing the only report of this species, irregularly encountered in spring.

The BCP is widely known to be the best location to maximize one's chances of spotting a **Mississippi Kite** in the Commonwealth. BCP hosts an annual "Shorebird and Kite Watch" from mid-May to early June. This season, 4 kites were reported there, 3 on 5/18, and one 5/20 (LL, m.ob.). A sub-adult **Swainson's Hawk** found injured in Lancaster in fall and rehabbed at TriState Bird Rescue was released near Coatesville 4/9 (LS). It was not detected after its release into the wild.

Most rails migrate through the region beginning during the first half Apr. and continuing through mid-May. **Virginia Rails** were detected at CP and Great Marsh 4/8-5/13 (m.ob.). Reports of the often-secretive **Sora** came from suitable habitats 4/12-4/30 (m.ob.), including one from the Indian Knoll wetlands 4/24, which is a new location for the detection of this secretive marsh bird (JA).

The lakes and ponds in the region were well supplied with water after good amounts of rain, so shorebird foraging habitat was scarce. There were no standout records of migrants, but the evening shorebird watch at BCP proved to be a good location to watch the amazing phenomenon of Arctic-bound shorebirds as they coursed over Chester after departing the Delaware bayshore. **Black-bellied Plovers** are expected, winging their way over; this year a count of 120 was made from BCP 5/27 (LL, MS, CS, PF, m.ob.). **Whimbrel** is one of the earlier migrants of the group, peaking the third week of May as they make their way to Ontario. The best window for these large shorebirds is typically 5/18-24, with a peak around 5/22. This year, 40 Whimbrels were recorded at BCP 5/19 (LL, KP, m.ob.) and 75 from Longwood Gardens 5/24 (SM). **Red Knots** are dependent on the Delaware bayshore as a critical refueling stop during migration from South America to their Arctic breeding grounds. With luck and persistence in watching the skies, knots can be detected annually in the early evening as they move across the sky heading north. One hundred Red Knot were documented as they flew over BCP 5/21 (LL, MH, LD, HM). The **Dunlin** is another shorebird that races over the county heading to its breeding grounds in the far north. An identifiable flock of 200 Dunlins raced over BCP 5/27 (LL, MS, CS, PF, m.ob.). Thousands of unidentified shorebirds passed over the site during the watch at BCP, and while more fun to be able to narrow down to species, still they provide a thrill for birders witnessing this special migration phenomenon. A good find was a **Pectoral Sandpiper** along the edge of MCSP 3/26 (MH, LD, m.ob.). This *calidrid* sandpiper is one of the earliest to pass through our region; finding one in Mar. is always a treat. The only other report came from Unionville 5/7 (LW).

Bonaparte's Gulls, found most consistently as they migrate through in March and April, peaked at 19 at MCSP 3/27 (JA, m.ob.). The more expected "black-backed gull" in Chester, **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was recorded 3 times in Mar: from Struble Lake 3/17 (MH), BCP 3/19 (LL), and New Garden WTP 3/19 (JA). A flyover **Iceland Gull** was a good find at BCP 3/19 (LL). The only tern recorded was the **Black Tern**, one of the less frequently encountered of the possible terns during migration. Decked out in its namesake black alternate plumage, one appeared at MCSP 5/19, staying for a few hours (BB, m.ob.).

Observations of **Black-billed Cuckoo** were in better number this spring than in most years. The same was true for **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** as both species were presumably encouraged by the boon in tent caterpillar populations. **Black-bills** were reported from many areas of the county 5/4-27 (m.ob.). **Barn Owls** are scarce in this corner of *Pennsylvania*, but one made itself known at OCTRES 4/26 (PM). There were no reports of Eastern Whip-poor-wills, due only to the fact that birders did not report visits to the stronghold in the Chrome Barrens region at the right time.

The bold and beautiful **Red-headed Woodpecker** is scarce in Chester at all times of the year. Nesting is irregularly confirmed, and most sightings are during migration. This spring, Red-heads were reported

from Honey Brook 3/19 (LW), East Fallowfield 4/19 (MN), Coventry 4/29 (PV), and Downingtown 5/24 (KF). The habitat at BCP is favorable for migrating **Olive-sided Flycatchers**, who make annual appearances at this location, this spring reported there 5/18-20, and 5/23 (LL, m.ob.). One seen near St. Peter's 5/27 was an exciting yard bird (PW, JW). Another was spotted at MCSP 5/28 (DS). **Alder Flycatchers** surely are regular migrants through our region, but are hard to detect if not vocalizing, so reports tend to be few. This year, reports came from Coventry 5/20 (JW) and Waterloo Mills Preserve 5/31 (KF). The only **Least Flycatcher** encounter was at MCSP 5/16 (HM).

A **Northern Shrike** that made its debut at EP in Feb was not relocated again until a lucky birder spotted it there 3/16 (JM). This immature shrike lingered through the following day, seen and heard by many (m.ob.). **Common Ravens** have been a confirmed nesting species in two locations in *Chester* - Phoenixville's Cromby Power Plant and Downingtown's Hanson Quarry. Both nests were successful in producing offspring this season (m.ob.). Raven reports are now widespread but the species is still uncommon.

The Hanson Quarry provides great habitat for nesting **Bank Swallows**, who take advantage of the enormous fine gravel piles that sit on the rim of the quarry. Bank Swallows were observed going in and out of their burrows 5/20, presumably attending active nests (BB, HM). The **Cliff Swallow** historically nested in *Chester*, but has not been known to do so for the past few decades. Still seen in migration, there were multiple reports 5/4-5/30 (m.ob.)

Marsh Wrens were reported at OCTRES 4/29 and 5/8 (PM). These are presumed migrants, since the species irregularly nests in the county. The season was good for migrant spot-breasted thrushes. Reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were numerous, spanning 5/4-27 (m.ob.).

After a long winter, birders always look forward to the arrival of colorful neo-tropical warblers, certainly the stars of spring migration. This season, 33 species were tallied. The **Golden-winged Warbler**, found irregularly during migration, is always well sought after due to their plummeting populations. A notable record was of one singing at Laurels Preserve 5/22 (KF). Historical nesters in the county, **Prothonotary Warblers** are now very hard to find any time. Two were observed this spring - one was at Chambers Lake 5/8 (RR), and another was a surprise at Kerr Park 5/18 (BB). Single **Tennessee Warblers** were found on 5 occasions 5/10-16 (m.ob.). An **Orange-crowed Warbler** that overwintered in Landenberg continued there through at least 4/14 (AL). **Nashville Warblers** were encountered 5 times 5/3-23 (m.ob.). A good find was a singing male **Mourning Warbler** at the Pickering Creek Trail 5/21 (JW); another was detected at the Lorimer Preserve 5/31 (RK). The **Kentucky Warbler** stronghold seems to be in the extreme northern portion of the county, where they nest at Coventry Woods. This spring, reports away from there came from Pickering Creek Trail 5/12 (CH) and Warwick CP 5/9 (RM).

Cape May Warblers were documented in multiple locations in a short-spurt of time 5/21-26 (m.ob.). Missing were documented Cerulean Warbler reports from anywhere in the county. This warbler nested consistently along the Struble Trail in Downingtown until the last 5 years, when it has been scarcely reported anywhere. **Bay-breasted Warblers** visited during a 3-week span 5/6-26 (m.ob.). Kerr Park in Downingtown is the only known nesting site for **Yellow-throated Warbler**, despite *Chester's* excellent habitat with its rolling riparian zones. This year, this boldly patterned warbler was first detected at Kerr Park 4/11 (MH) and reports continued through the period. A Yellow-throat visited a suet feeder in Paoli 4/13 and 4/17 (MN). Another was reported from the Red Clay Greenway 4/13 (JA). Six reports of **Wilson's Warblers** came within a week's time 5/8-16 (m.ob.).

Grasshopper Sparrows, which nest in suitable grassland habitats in our region, were first noted 4/11 (LW). A **Lincoln Sparrow** was caught and banded at Rushton Far 5/16 (DM) and another was in a yard in West Chester 5/16 (NP). This species is harder to find in spring migration than in fall, so all reports are noteworthy. A **Summer Tanager** was spotted picking dead bees from a hive in West Chester 5/13 (JA). This species is an irregular nesting bird in Pennsylvania and an annual though rare migrant through the state. A significant influx of **Dickcissels** into Pennsylvania began around the third week in May. In *Chester*, the first was discovered along Scott Rd. near Coatesville 5/27 (JM). This bird was found to have a mate, and the pair continued in this location through the period, inspiring hopes of nesting (m.ob.). Another Dickcissel was found along Wertz Rd. near Cochranville 5/30 (KF).

It was not an irruptive fall or winter for **Pine Siskins**, so naturally reports were scarce with one at OCTRES 3/4 (PM), in Kennett Square

3/19 (JA), and from West Grove 5/4 (KaF). One of the season's biggest surprises was an **Evening Grosbeak** spotted in a yard in the Coventry area 5/13 (PV)! This large winter finch is rare in *Pennsylvania* and last was noted in *Chester* in 2012, when a significant irruption occurred. Interestingly, there was another "stray" Evening Grosbeak in *Bucks*, just two weeks earlier (m.ob.).

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Clarion County

Locations: Curlsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mt Airy (MA), Mt Zion/Piney Tract/SGL330 (MZ), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT), Rimersburg (RI).

Several waterfowl deserve mention, beginning with a single **Blue-winged Teal** present at CV 4/1 (MW) and 2 near RI 4/11 (MM). They are not a regularly reported migrant. **Northern Pintails** were also noted near RI, with 4 seen 3/6 (MM), and one at KL 3/20 (RN). A female lingered past normal migration at Redbank Creek in New Bethlehem, present 3/11- 5/8 (J&AK, MM). **Long-tailed Ducks** were found at KL, with between 2 to 9 birds seen 4/1-5 (m.ob.). The most unusual waterfowl was an **Eared Grebe** at KL found originally 3/30 (GE, ML, JS, RS) and present through 4/8 (m.ob.).

There were numerous sightings of **Northern Harriers**, scattered at established grassland sites throughout southern *Clarion*, including CV strips and CV area, MA, and MZ. A more unusual report was from Rankin Rd near CV where 6 harriers were present and hunting together toward dusk 3/1 (CW). Windy and ongoing poor weather conditions may have led to this unusual assemblage of harriers at one spot. The most-often reported area for this species continues to be at MZ, where 1-2 birds were seen regularly throughout the season (m.ob.) and breeding evidence was seen with a male bird exhibiting agitated behavior 5/30 (MS). **Bald Eagles** continue to have nesting success in *Clarion* with a new nest along the Clarion River at Canoe Ripple bridge found 3/1 (SG) and again observed 3/2 with an adult present on the small nest in a large white pine (RM, CW). Activity continued at that site through the end of May, along with known nest sites near Knox on the Clarion River and Climax on Redbank Creek (SG, MM, CW).

Shorebirds are always hard to come by so several reports are worthy of note. A single **Semipalmated Plover** was at MA 5/22(RN). **Upland Sandpipers** returned to their traditional nesting site at MA, with a single bird seen 5/3 and again 5/15 (CW). A single was seen again 5/21 (m.ob.) and 3 birds were found calling and doing display flights 5/30 (MS). Another great record for KL was provided by 3 **Red-necked Phalaropes** found 5/24 (GE, MH, NK, JS, MW); they continued through 5/25 on the *Venango* side of KL. **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen near KL with 3 present 4/1 (MD), and 2 noted at MA 5/3 with one still present 5/15 (CW). Also at MA 5/15 was one **Lesser Yellowlegs**, providing a nice size comparison (CW).

Another species worth noting at KL is **Black Tern**, with 3 found 5/24 (GE, MH, NK, JS, MW), not a regular spring occurrence there. At Foxburg, along the Allegheny R., a **Forster's Tern** was found and photographed 4/4 (MM), probably a migrant that would be more-often reported with better coverage of this location.

The only **Short-eared Owl** reports were from Rankin Rd near CV with one bird 4/14 (SS) and 2 at MZ 3/11 and 3/17 (GE, ML). **Red-headed**

Woodpeckers are less than annual, so occurrence of 2 adults at Riverstone Estate in Foxburg is very promising, with birds seen near a possible nesting site (KC). Hopefully follow-up at this location might yield some breeding evidence for this rare nesting species in *Clarion*.

The only flycatcher of note was an **Alder Flycatcher** present at MZ 5/30 (MS). They migrate through the county and are seen yearly but reports are irregular and always worth noting. **Northern Shrike** occurs regularly in winter in *Clarion*; this year 3 separate birds lingered into the spring season. An adult was present at MA 3/2 (CW), another was near CV at Packing and Bug Rds 3/4 and 3/6 (MM, CW), and a third was at CV strips area 3/6 (MM).

Several vireo sightings are notable for their relative limited occurrence as both migrant and breeder. **White-eyed Vireos** were found outside of RI at a known nesting location 5/15, with 2 birds seen (MM); and 2 were also noted in good habitat along Armstrong Trail near East Brady 5/20 (TR). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were reported along the RVT in several areas, with 1-2 seen 5/20, 5/22, and 5/30 (CW, RN, TR). **Warbling Vireos** are not common but most often found along the waterways, so it was nice to have one at MA singing in good habitat from 5/21 through the end of May (m.ob.). Another singing male was found at KL 5/26 (RN).

Along Rankin Rd near CV, 2 singing **Horned Larks** were heard at dusk 4/12, possibly a breeding record at this hilltop grassland with good habitat for a declining nesting species (CW). Following an irruptive winter for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 1-2 continued at feeders in RI through 5/9 (MM), and 1-2 birds were present and calling in spruce and pine in a yard near CV 4/14-5/16 (CW). Both sites are outside of their normal breeding range in the forests of northern *Clarion*. A **Swainson's Thrush** was found in a yard near CV 5/27, a rather late date for this migrant. As with some late migration records of other species this spring, adverse weather in May possibly held up migration for this bird. A single **American Pipit**, another species not regularly reported in migration, was seen at KL 3/18 (GE, ML).

Among notable warblers, the first was **Worm-eating Warblers**, first seen back on territory 4/28 along the RVT near Lawsonham (CW). Six singing males were found on this date scattered along a 4-mile stretch of this excellent south-facing wooded hillside location along Redbank Creek. This species was reported in various areas along this trail from the Allegheny River to Climax through the end of May, with up to 4 birds present (MH, RH, RN, TR, CW). A late **Tennessee Warbler** still heading north was heard singing near CV 5/30 (CW), and at the same location a late migrating **Blackburnian Warbler** was found singing in spruce stands 5/29, far from any known nesting areas where it would be expected at this late date (CW). Also at this location near CV, a **Mourning Warbler**, one of the rarer spring warblers, was found singing in scrubby woods edge habitat 5/17 (CW).

Northern Parula is often associated more with the northern woods but has been more regularly reported in recent years along southern waterways; this year a singing male was on territory at Lawsonham on the RVT 4/17 through the end of May (CW). Two more singing males were found near here on Phillipston Rd 4/28 (CW). At a wooded hilltop area near CV, 3 singing males were present throughout the day 5/15, just another example of late migrants that would be typically found already on territory by this date (CW). This was an unusual sighting with no breeding habitat at this location, and possibly as with previously noted birds, weather disrupted migration patterns this year.

The best warbler story of the season is that of an apparent fallout of **Blackpoll Warblers** at SGL 74 near Strattanville. Over an estimated 10-acre area with blocks of spruce, thick hedgerows with jack pine, and interspersed grassland, they were reported in singles or groups of 2-3 birds during a heavy migration period 5/27 (MH). Between 40-50 individual birds were seen with a total estimate of birds (made through both sightings and birds heard only) at possibly over 200, a remarkable number for this area even with the excellent habitat at this gamelands location. **Yellow-throated Warblers** are not a common breeder, but have been recorded along the southern borders of *Clarion* previously. This year, a singing male was seen regularly at Lawsonham on the RVT 4/14-5/10 (CW), clearly on territory in a large sycamore, as well as a singing male heard nearby at Phillipston 4/28 (CW). Just a single **Yellow-breasted Chat** was noted at its usual stronghold at the CV strips, seen there 5/29 (CW). A new possible breeding location was found at a property near CV with excellent habitat, where a singing male was seen and heard 5/7 through the end of May (CW).

Matching the early record date (from 2015) for **Henslow's Sparrow**, 5 singing males were heard at dusk on Rankin Rd near CV 4/12 (CW).

Also near CV, a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was noted 5/15 in a brushy field edge where they are much more commonly found in fall than in spring (CW).

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Clearfield County

Two **Merlins**, rare but increasing breeders throughout the state, were observed building a nest and copulating in DuBois 5/5 (DN, CW). A pair of **Soras** was located at the Platt Road Swamp 4/24 (DR).

Three **Upland Sandpipers** were observed along Sandy Ridge Rd. 5/31 (DB). This is the fifth consecutive year that they have been observed in this area during the breeding season. A **Short-Eared Owl** was observed hunting and carrying prey in Morris Twp. 5/5 (ZA, ZM) and again in the same area 5/13 (DB), which represents probable confirmation of breeding activity.

Observers: Diane K. Bierly, 143 W. Lytle Ave., State College, PA 16801. (814) 238-8183, dkb246@usa.net, Zach Adams, Todd Gulvas, Don Nixon, Zach Millen, Dan Richards, Carole Winslow.

Clinton County

Locations: Lock Haven (LH).

A large fallout of waterfowl occurred on the Susquehanna River at LH 3/7. Highlights included **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Ruddy Duck**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Redhead**, **Horned Grebe**, and **Tundra Swan**. Some waterfowl remained 3/8 with 10 **Gadwall** in addition (CCH, JB, DR).

A breeding plumaged **Great Egret** was at the Central Mountain High School wetlands 4/20 (WL). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** and 4 **Least Sandpipers** were in a field west of LH 5/13 (WL). The county's second record **Ruddy Turnstone** was found at South Avis 5/29 along with a **Semipalmated Plover** and 2 **Dunlins**; the Dunlins remained to 5/30 (BB, BS, CCH).

Two **Marsh Wrens** at the Mill Hall wetlands provided a nice find 4/29 (BS). A few **Pine Siskins** visited a feeder in Swissdale in early March, with up to 6 on 3/4 (WL).

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Columbia County

Locations: Bloomsburg Airport (BA), Briar Creek Lake (BCL), Crow Hill (CH), Fort McClure Boulevard (FMB), Home Depot (HD), State Game Lands 55 (SGL55), Weiser State Forest (WSF).

Waterfowl numbers were good for the season. Notable species include a single **Northern Shoveler** at WSF 3/25 (AK), only the third eBird report for the species for *Columbia*. An eBird high of 18 **Greater Scaup** were at BCL 3/27 (EG). **Long-tailed Ducks** were noted on the Susquehanna R. near BA on several occasions with a high count of 5 on 4/4 (AK, EH). **Double-crested Cormorants** are common spring birds at BCL; a high eBird count of 98 were there 4/6 (AK).

Red-shouldered Hawks are rarely reported here, probably due to a lack of birders - notable sightings include one over Buckhorn 3/21 (AK) and 3 migrating over Montour Twp. 3/27 (AK). A single **Broad-winged Hawk** near Catawissa 3/21 (ES) represents an eBird early date.

Shorebirds are always difficult to find in *Columbia*, but hard work has

resulted in the location of a few hotspots that can produce given the right conditions. One such location is FMB, where a wet spring produced 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and 21 **Least Sandpipers** 5/17 (AK). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were reported at the BA 3/29 (AK) and at a flooded driving range in Scott Twp. 4/1 (AK). These sightings represent 2 of only 3 eBird reports all-time for the county. Normally the observation of a **Ring-billed Gull** wouldn't be noteworthy, however one visited a backyard feeder in Bloomsburg 3/15 during Winter Storm Stella (ET). Terns are also rarely reported but this year 4 **Caspian Terns** were at BCL 4/20 (JG), representing only the fourth eBird report and also is the new high count.

A single **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was tooting away near Lightstreet 4/4 (CC), the first eBird report for the county. A **Common Nighthawk** was observed on its northbound migration over Montour Twp. 5/17 (AK), matching the previous early date. **Peregrine Falcons** recently established a nesting site near Catawissa. The only observation this spring was of a single **Peregrine** 5/28 in the same general area (TF), raising hopes that they are again nesting on the bluffs above the Susquehanna R.

Warblers are often the highlight of the birding year and many birders were out scouring the local hotspots. SGL 55 produced just the second eBird report of **Mourning Warbler** 5/15 (AK). Three singing **Cerulean Warblers** were at SGL 55 on 5/17 (AK), and 2 were building a nest 5/20 (JG). SGL55 is one of the few known breeding locations for Ceruleans in *Columbia* so it's good to see that they've returned for another year. The brushy hillside above Walmart in Hemlock Twp. produced the only report of **Yellow-breasted Chat** 5/25 (AK).

Sparrows put in a good showing. The undeveloped fields near HD produced 2 **Savannah Sparrows** and one **Grasshopper Sparrow** 4/22 (AK). This is a reliable location for both species. Winter Storm Stella dropped over 24" of snow across much of the county, driving birds to feeders. Most notably, **Fox Sparrows** showed up at many odd locations including downtown Bloomsburg; the high count was 7 at CH 4/8 (DG). After being absent much of the winter, **Pine Siskins** pushed through the area this spring with multiple observations topped by up to 15 at CH 3/26 (DG).

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Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Marsh- McMichael Road (CM-MMR), Erie N.W.R.-Sugar Lake (E N.W.R.- SL), Pymatuning S.P.-Miller's Ponds (P S.P.-MP), Pymatuning S.P.- Spillway (P S.P.-S)

The beginning of the spring season was similar to the winter in many aspects. Warm weather seemed to usher in early arrival dates for many species which spend the winter season in the southern United States. Conversely, while some neo-tropical migrants arrived a couple days early, the majority arrived on schedule. Whether this was an anomaly or the beginning of a new trend is certainly of interest and worth tracking.

A single **Cackling Goose**, a notable bird especially for spring, was observed at P S.P.-MP 3/22 (MHi, RH). Good counts of **Tundra Swan** included approximately 300 near E N.W.R.- SL 3/6 (RE), 487 off of Route 18 near Conneaut Lake 3/19 (KS), 552 in the Pymatuning and Conneaut Lake areas 3/19 (RFL), and 218 at Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Project 3/22 (MHi, RH).

Two late **American Wigeons** were at Pymatuning S.P.-Hartstown Project 5/23 (MV). Early observations of **Blue-winged Teal** included one at P S.P.-MP 3/4 (BB; outing of the Bartramian Audubon Society) and another single at the same spot 3/17 (JMc). A good count of 43 **Northern Shovelers** was made at Pymatuning S.P.-Fish Hatchery 3/5 (MAK, GK). Fifty **Northern Pintails** at the north end of Tamarack Lake 4/21 (KP) made for a notable count at that late date. A good count of 870 **Ring-necked Ducks** came from at Custards Marsh 3/5 (MAK, GK). Good scaup counts included 20 **Greater Scaup** at Conneaut Lake 3/19 (KS) and 31 near Geneva marsh 3/20 (JF); and 785 **Lesser Scaup** at Conneaut Lake 3/9 (RFL).

A **White-winged Scoter**, notable for *Crawford*, was observed on Conneaut Lake 3/19 (RFL). Observations of **Long-tailed Duck**, also notable here, included 2 at Pymatuning S.P.-Causeway 3/14 (SG), one

at Conneaut Lake Park Beach 4/2 (RH), and a good count of 10 at Woodcock Lake 4/5 (RFL). A nice count, 115 **Common Mergansers** were at Pymatuning S.P.-Fish Hatchery 3/25 (MF, JV). An incredible estimated 10,000 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were in the Pymatuning area 4/5 (RFL). There were several excellent counts of **Ruddy Duck**, including 450 at Conneaut Lake 4/12 (CN) and approximately 500 at P S.P.-S 4/28 (MV).

Notable observations of **Ruffed Grouse** included singles at CM-MMR 4/2 (RH), at Tamarack Lake 4/9 (RFL), and near E N.W.R.-S L 4/22 (RE). One **Red-throated Loon**, uncommon in *Crawford*, was at Conneaut Lake 4/23 (SC). Making a good count, 87 **Horned Grebes** were at Conneaut Lake 3/29 (IF, RFL). **Red-necked Grebe** is found infrequently, so observations of a singles at Custards Marsh 3/21 (RFL) and at E N.W.R.-SL 4/2 (RFL) are especially notable. A good count of 1657 **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed at P S.P.-S 4/13 (RFL). Three **American White Pelicans**, very infrequently observed, were at P S.P.-S 5/23 (RG, JMc).

American Bittern is likely under-reported, so observations of one at CM-MMR 4/5 (SC) and 5/13 (JH, RT) are especially notable. Another likely under-reported bird, 3 **Least Bitterns** were at CM-MMR 5/15 (CL) and one there 5/30 (MS). The only reports of **Great Egret** included a single at Geneva Marsh- The Wells 4/14 (SS) and 2 at Cussewago Bottom 4/30 (JF). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, very infrequently reported in *Crawford* was at Geneva Marsh 5/19 (SS).

Rough-legged Hawks were seen in usual numbers throughout March, especially in the Pymatuning area (m.ob.). The last one reported was at the Pymatuning S.P.-Goose Management Area 4/2 (RFL). Notable was an increase in **Golden Eagle** observations, with singles at Pymatuning S.P.-Hartstown Project 3/19, (MHa, CNI), off N. Center Road near Springboro 3/26 (PF), and off of Townline Road 3/29 and 4/18 (IF, RFL). **Merlins** are increasingly observed but still rare in *Crawford*. One was at P S.P.-MP 3/19 (RFL) and a pair was on the Allegheny College campus in Meadville 3/27 (TN) where a single was also observed 5/13 (KP). A **Peregrine Falcon**, a scarce in the county, was on Rundelltown Rd near Cussewago Twp. 4/30 (AT).

The most notable reports of the season were of 2 separate observations of **King Rail**, a very rare bird throughout Pennsylvania. One was observed at CM-MMR 4/9 (IF, RFL). A second was initially found at Geneva Marsh 5/18 (CL). This individual (along with a recently reported second bird) was present for over a month, extending into the summer, and is almost certainly engaging in territorial and possibly breeding behavior (m.ob.). An early **Virginia Rail** was heard calling at CM-MMR 4/5 (SC). A **Sora** heard calling at CM-MMR 4/5 (SC) was also early. Early observations of **Common Gallinule** included one 4/11 (SC) and 4/13 (AK) at CM-MMR. **Sandhill Cranes** were noted in their usual numbers around the Pymatuning S.P., Conneaut Marsh, and SGL 277 areas (m.ob.). The high count, 26 were at Pymatuning S.P., Wilson Road 5/30 (MS).

A single **Black-bellied Plover**, infrequently observed, was at P S.P.-MP 4/14 (RH, CN, KP), 4/15 (MH), and 4/21 (IF). P S.P.-MP is reliable for large numbers of **Greater Yellowlegs** during the spring. A high count of 134 was made there 4/30 (GK, MAK). An early **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at P S.P.-MP 3/4-5 (m.ob.) and a good number of up to 80 were observed at P S.P.-MP 4/30 (MAK, GK, TN, KP). **Upland Sandpipers**, expected but notable, were observed in the usual number in the P S.P.-MP and Pymatuning S.P.-Wilson Road areas (m.ob.) A high of 5 birds were at Pymatuning S.P.-Wilson Road 5/30 (MS). **Sanderling** is an excellent bird for *Crawford*, so one at Pymatuning S.P.-Miller's Ponds 5/19-20 (m.ob.) was notable. A possible record high count for the county of 4 Sanderlings occurred at the same location 5/22-24 (m.ob.).

Two early **Least Sandpipers** were at P S.P.-MP 4/9 (IF, RFL). A good count of 57 birds occurred at the same location 5/20 (MV). Up to 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers**, a relatively rare but probably under-reported species, were at P S.P.-MP 5/18-23 (m.ob.). **Baird's Sandpiper** is also rare for *Crawford*, especially in the spring; observations included a single at P S.P.-MP 5/20 (IF, RFL) and 5/23 (RFL). **Stilt Sandpiper** is difficult to find in *Crawford* in spring, so the observation of one at P S.P.-MP 4/9-16 (m.ob.) is especially notable. An early **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at P S.P.-MP 3/25-26 (m.ob.). Three **Long-billed Dowitchers**, a great find for the county, were at P S.P.-MP 4/2-30 (m.ob.). A remarkable 7 Long-bills were seen at that location 4/30 (MAK, GK, TN, KP). A **Wilson's Phalarope**, scarce in *Crawford*, was at Pymatuning S.P.-Fish Hatchery 4/13 (RFL).

A very good count, 2600 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were observed at Pymatuning S.P.-Causeway 4/18 (IF, RFL). A single **Black Tern**,

increasingly rare, was at P S.P.-MP 5/23 (RFL). A great count of 17 **Common Terns**, notable for the spring, was made at Pymatuning S.P.-Espyville Marina 5/7 (RSt). Also of note at that location were 14 **Forster's Terns** 5/7 (RSt). Additional Forster's Tern reports included an early bird at Pymatuning S.P.-Causeway 4/18 (IF, RFL) and multiple late observations including one at Pymatuning S.P.-Spillway 5/21 and 5/23 (m.ob.), and at Pymatuning S.P.-Espyville Marina 5/22 (KP).

This season included multiple excellent owl observations. An **Eastern Screech-Owl** observed at Pymatuning S.P.-Ford Island 3/19 (RFL) provided the only report. **Great Horned Owls**, likely under-reported, included one in the Meadville area 3/9 (CC), one found off of Spring Street in the Meadville area 5/11 (TN, KP), 3 at Custards Marsh 5/13 (RT), and one at SGL 214 on 5/23 (RG). A **Snowy Owl** found 3/13 (EM) in a field at the corner of Shadeland and North Center Road near Spring Twp. continued through 3/26 (m.ob.). A **Short-eared Owl** found initially in fields off Beaver Street near Beaver Twp. 3/6 (CN) proved to be the first of up to 9 Short-ears eventually observed in those fields 3/6-5/7 (m.ob.). Eight were noted 3/31 (TN, KP) and 4/12 (CN); and up to 9 on 3/29 (CN) and 4/14 (CN, SS). A single Short-eared Owl was at Pymatuning S.P.-Miller's Ponds 4/5 (SS).

There were several observations throughout the county of **Common Nighthawk**, relatively scarce in *Crawford* (m.ob.). An excellent conservative number of 22 birds were at Geneva Marsh 5/19 (SS). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** is rarely reported, so the observation of one at a private residence in the Saegertown area 4/23 (BV) is notable.

There were higher than average numbers of **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, including at their expected locations at Pymatuning S.P.-Tuttle Beach and CM-MMR (m.ob.). Of note was one at a feeder at a private residence near Springboro 5/26 (CN) and another at a feeder at a private residence in Meadville 5/31 (KP). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** does not usually over-winter in *Crawford*, so several early observations were notable, including one at a private residence on N. Richmond Rd 3/12 (RS), one at CM-MMR 3/24 (RN), and one continuing from the winter season at a private residence along French Creek in Meadville (SC).

A single **Least Flycatcher** at CM-MMR 4/28 was notably early (RH). **Northern Shrike** is expected but scarce at the beginning of spring. A single bird, likely continuing from winter, was at Erie N.W.R.-Swamp Rd 3/22, 3/24, 3/28 (RS), and 3/29 (KP). A single **White-eyed Vireo** at Erie N.W.R. 4/25 (IF) represented an early arrival date. Early observations of **Yellow-throated Vireo** included up to 2 seen at CM-MMR 4/30 (GK, MAK, TN, KP) and one at SGL 277 on 4/30 (RS). An early **Warbling Vireo** was observed at Pymatuning S.P.-Miller's Ponds 4/21 (AB, MHI, RHi),

Observations of **Common Raven**, notable for *Crawford*, included one near E N.W.R.-SL 4/5, 4/11, and 4/12 (RE); one near Cussewago 4/26 (RH); and one at CM-MMR 5/21 (m.ob.). Infrequent **Horned Lark** sightings in April and May likely represent breeding birds; notable observations included up to 2 at P S.P.-MP 4/5 (SS), 5/13 (RT), 5/19 (AM), and 5/23 (JMc) as well as 2 near Cussewago Township 5/28 (AT). Three early **Tree Swallows** were at Custards Marsh 3/5 (MAK, GK). A single early **Barn Swallow** was at SGL 277 on 3/28 (RS). There were multiple early arrival dates for **Cliff Swallow**, including one at Pymatuning S.P.-Fish Hatchery 4/9 (IF, RFL) and up to 6 at P S.P.-S 4/14 (RH, KP, SS).

The mini-irruption of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** occurring over the winter continued into the spring, with higher than average numbers throughout the county (m.ob.). Several locations reported birds continuing from the winter season. These included a pair of birds at a private residence near French Creek in Meadville last reported 4/11 (SC), from one to 3 at a private residence on N. Richmond Rd last reported 5/4 (RS), and from one to 2 at private residences in Meadville last reported 5/8 (RH, KP).

Observations of **Winter Wren**, scarce in *Crawford*, included singles at Bousson Environmental Research Reserve 3/9 (RFL), near Wayland Rd near Meadville 3/19 (RFL), and near E N.W.R.-SL 4/5 (RE). A **Sedge Wren**, an excellent bird for the county, was reported at P S.P.-MP 5/18 (KZ) and 5/23 (RG). A very early **Marsh Wren** was at CM-MMR 4/5 (SC). An excellent count of at least 100 Marsh Wrens occurred on a kayak trip through Geneva Marsh 5/18 (CL). Two early **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were observed at CM-MMR 4/9 (IF, RFL).

Gray-cheeked Thrush is not reported annually, so multiple observations this spring are especially notable—these included one heard at SGL 69-Turkey Track Road Game Lands Path 5/14 (TN, KP) and one at Erie N.W.R. 5/19 (JoM). Reports of **Swainson's Thrush** were few -

one at SGL 277 on 5/16 (RS), one near Erie N.W.R.-Sugar Lake 5/19 (RE), and 2 at Erie N.W.R. 5/19-20 (JoM).

Observations of **Northern Mockingbird**, a notable bird for the county, included one at P S.P.-MP 4/5 (SS), one at Pymatuning S.P.-Hartstown Marsh 4/21 (AB, MHI, RHi), and one in fields off of Yankee Hill Rd 5/2 (RS). The only **American Pipits** were 4 at P S.P.-MP 4/10 (AK) and 2 off of Wayland Rd near Meadville 5/15 (RFL). A good count for March, 7 **Snow Buntings** were at Pymatuning S.P.-Causeway 3/16 (IF).

An early **Ovenbird** was observed near E N.W.R.-SL 4/26 (RE). Especially notable was the report of a **Worm-eating Warbler**, rare for *Crawford*, from Custards Marsh 5/23 (RFL). A **Blue-winged Warbler** near E N.W.R.-SL 4/28 (RE) and one at Woodcock Lake-Abandoned Road Trail 4/28 (TN) represented early arrival dates. **Golden-winged Warbler** is very rare here so sighting of one at Custards Marsh 5/12 (SC, TN, KP) represents an excellent record for the county. Observations of **Prothonotary Warbler**, expected but notable, occurred around the expected arrival dates and in the usual locations around the Conneaut and Geneva marsh areas (m.ob.). One was heard near E N.W.R.-SL 5/10 (RE), a new location for this species. The only observations of **Mourning Warbler**, an infrequently reported bird, included 2 on private land near Rundelltown Rd 5/13 (JH) and one observed on private land near Rundelltown 5/25 (CN). An early **Hooded Warbler** was near E N.W.R.-SL 4/30 (RE).

Observations of **Cape May Warbler**, infrequently reported, included one at Tamarack Lake-South End 5/2 (KP), up to 2 seen at CM-MMR 5/11 (NA, RE), one at P S.P.-MP 5/13 (RT); and one at Pymatuning S.P.-Ford Island 5/31 (RFL). **Cerulean Warbler** is expected but infrequently reported. Observations included one off Rundelltown Rd near Cussewago Twp. 5/7 (AT), one at CM-MMR 5/11 (NA), one near Blue Falls Rd 5/21 (CN), and one on private land near Rundelltown Rd 5/25 (CN). **Bay-breasted Warbler** observations in spring are notable. Sightings included one at SGL 69-Turkey Tracks Gamelands Path 5/14 (KP, TN), one in the Titusville area 5/14 (RH), one at Pymatuning S.P.-Ford Island 5/15 (RFL), 2 at Erie N.W.R. 5/19 (JeM), and one in the Woodcock Lake area 5/19 (RH, KP). An early **Blackpoll Warbler** was at Custards Marsh-Shafer Rd 5/7 (RH, TN, KP). A pair of **Palm Warblers** observed at P S.P.-MP 4/10 (AK) represented an early date. **Prairie Warbler** is very rarely reported so one at Custards Marsh-Shafer Rd 4/30 (IF) represents a great sighting for *Crawford*. A **Yellow-breasted Chat**, rare for the county, was observed off of Bell Hill Rd in the Cochranon area 5/23 (RFL).

An early **Field Sparrow** was at a private residence on N. Richmond Rd 3/26 (RS). Observations of the uncommon **Vesper Sparrow** were 2 off Route 285 near Pymatuning 4/5 (RS) and one at P S.P.-MP 4/10 (AK). An early **Savannah Sparrow** was at Pymatuning S.P.-Teakettle Rd 3/24 (RN). **Grasshopper Sparrows** included one at P S.P.-MP 5/21 (m.ob.), 2 at the same location 5/23 (RG), and one off of Marsh Rd 5/31 (RFL). Observations of **Fox Sparrow** were few - reports included one near E N.W.R.-SL on the early date of 3/3 (RE), another early individual at a private residence on N. Richmond Rd 3/13 (RS), one on Route 27 near Titusville 3/15 and 3/17 (ES), a singing bird on S. Watson Rd 3/25 (MF, JV), and one at SGL 277 on 4/3 and 4/10 (RS). **Lincoln's Sparrow** is infrequently reported - observations included one at a private residence in Meadville 5/11 (RH), one at Woodcock Lake-Abandoned Road Trail 5/12 (KP, TN), and one along Brooks Rd 5/15 (RFL).

Early observations of **Scarlet Tanager** included one at Woodcock Lake-Abandoned Road Trail 4/28 (TN) and 4/30 (RH). A high count of 12 **Bobolinks** were reported at P S.P.-MP 5/23 (RH, TN, KP). A good count of 150 **Rusty Blackbirds** came from CM-MMR 3/24 (TN, KP). Nine **Purple Finches** were notable at a private residence along French Creek in Meadville 4/11 (SC).

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McPeck, Eric Miller, Jalen Miller, Jean Miller, Joseph Miller, Steve Miller, Claire Nicolls, Todd Nicolls, Connie Nierzewski, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Richard Nugent, Bill Oyler, Ken Pinnow, Aidan Place, Kathy Saunders, Michael Schall, Steve Schmit, Robert Scribner, Anna Marie Senita, Kevin Shannon, Emily Smith, K Springer, Kate StJohn, Randy Stringer, Stephen Thomas, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Adam Troyer, Jim Valimont, Brett Vath, Mark Vass, Diane Walkowski, Nathan Weyandt, Carole Winslow, Suzanne Winterberger, Colleen Yeany, David Yeany II, Kendall Zook.

Cumberland County

Locations: Opossum Lake (OL), State Game Lands 169 (SGL 169), State Game Lands 230 (SGL 230).

The spring period was relatively warm with near-average precipitation. Please note that unless otherwise stated occurrences and the number of prior occurrences of the species listed in this report are according to eBird records and An Annotated List of the Birds of Cumberland, Pennsylvania Birds 2016 Volume 30 NO. 3 (Gauthier). It should also be noted that there may be current and historical sightings for *Cumberland* listed on eBird from the Susquehanna River but for the purpose of this report they are considered *Dauphin* birds as the county line is on the west shore of the river and without clear documentation otherwise the assumption is made that the reports are of birds on or above the river itself.

Among waterfowl, 2 Trumpeter Swans were at OL 4/10 (JM, SB, VG), the third county record for the species. A Eurasian Wigeon was photographed on the Lisburn Quarry 3/23 (SB, SK), the fourth county record.

American Bitterns were extremely hard to find; the only report was of one seen flying at SGL 230 (KJ, TJ). Black-crowned Night Herons returned to their usual areas at Cabin Rd., SGL 169, though reduced in numbers (6 at most compared to approximately 20 in other years) and Huntsdale. As in the past, no breeding could be confirmed. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported along the Conodoguinet at West Fairview. The only places Yellow-crowned Night Herons regularly breed in the state are in Harrisburg and along the Conodoguinet. The only Sandhill Crane was seen in a field off of McCormick Rd. east of Bowmansdale 5/11 (KA, SM).

In a less than overwhelming season for shorebirds, the best were one Semipalmated Plover at the Key Logistics Ponds 5/16 (VG) and then 3 more at the same location 5/21 (VG). Additionally, 2 Dunlins were reported on Hilltop Rd. 4/23 (AnM). One Semipalmated Sandpiper was on Lerew Rd., Boiling Springs 5/4 (TJ) and 2 at Key Logistics 5/16 (VG), with one at the same location 5/21 (VG).

Two Common Nighthawks were seen on Meadows Rd. 5/24 (BO, VG), providing the only report. Not one but 2 Chuck-will's-widows were reported, with the one on Ridge Rd. 5/24 (presumably the same bird) returning for a third straight year (BO, VG) and another at a new location east of SGL 230 on 5/19 (PL).

The only Philadelphia Vireo was at SGL 230 on 5/21 (RK, AM). One Gray-checked Thrush was at Camp Michaux (VG, AM, BF, LF, CC, ViG) and another at SGL 230, both 5/23 (RK).

A Golden-winged Warbler observed at SGL 230 on 4/30 (RK, AM) was not reported again and was most likely a migrant. Golden-wings have not been confirmed breeding here for at least three years. A Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid) was also seen at SGL 230 on 5/14 (RK, AM). Unusual in spring, an Orange-crowned Warbler was reported at Village Park, Carlisle 4/30 (TJ). A Mourning Warbler was seen at SGL 230 on 5/12 (VG, AnM, BO) and then heard at the same location 5/14 (RK, AM). Kentucky Warbler was not found at Camp Michaux, where it had bred the last four years, but was reported from other historical breeding locations in Thompson Hollow 5/12 (VG, AnM) and east of SGL 230 on 5/21-30 (PL), and at a new location on Milesburn Rd. 5/29 (PL). Yellow-throated Warbler was confirmed breeding for a second straight year along the Conodoguinet at West Fairview 4/8-5/31 (RK, m.ob.) One Wilson's Warbler was seen at SGL 230 on 5/12 (VG, AnM, BO), 2 at Green Ridge Village in Newville 5/13 (CC), and another near SGL 230 on 5/27 (PL).

There were a number of reports of Blue Grosbeak from the area around Rock Run and Hunter's Rd. north of Newville, with at least 3 different male/female pairs identified. Reported there in the past, a Summer Tanager singing at SGL 230 on 5/7 represented a great find (RK, PL, m.ob.). Up to 7 Dickcissels (5 males and 2 females) returned to

the alfalfa and hay fields at the intersection of Rock Rd. and Hunter's Rd. after having bred successfully in 2016. Successful breeding in 2017 will depend in large part on how long the fields are left unmowed. In 2016, the farmer who owns the fields waited until the birds fledged before mowing.

In a non-invasion year, only one Pine Siskin was reported, at Elk Hill Rd. 5/12 (VG, AnM). Finally, up to 19 Red Crossbills were seen at Pine Grove Furnace SP and Camp Michaux 4/13-17 (BK, m.ob.).

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Dauphin County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Susquehanna River West Fairview (SRWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

After a winter that produced barely any snow, a mid-March storm dumped nearly 18 inches on Harrisburg and surrounding areas. The rest of the month, however, was relatively dry, with normal temperatures. April and May were wet and windy, with temperatures and rainfall about normal.

The star of the season was a female **Harlequin Duck**, found near rapids on the Susquehanna R. south of the Rockville Bridge and observed for an extended period of time near the quicker water and rocks 3/5 (EB), and later photographed (JH). The only other record for *Dauphin* is a pair observed and photographed 4/5/1997 at SRWF (D&RH). A **Eurasian Wigeon** found on Haldeman Island 3/25 (S&SB, PSOL) provided another good find for *Dauphin*, as eBird shows only 3 other spring records: 3/26-27/2003 at WL (TJ, et. al), 3/24/2001 at WL (RK), and 2/28/16 at SRWF (RK, et.al). A female **Surf Scoter** found at City Island 3/16 (AK, DH) was likely the same bird observed later that day from SRWF (TN, RK, AM); 3 were seen from SRWF flying up the river 4/29 (AMa, VG).

An **American Bittern**, 2 **Virginia Rails**, and an **American Woodcock** were observed at FIG 4/5 (IG, JD). WL hosted a **Snowy Egret** 5/11-14 (TN, DHo, et. al.) and a **Glossy Ibis** 5/20 (SD, TW, et. al.), as well as 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/19-21 (EB, S&DB, MS) and 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/19-23 (EB, S&DB, IG).

The intruder who earlier in the season challenged the long-established male **Peregrine Falcon** on the fifteenth floor of the Rachel Carson Building in downtown Harrisburg was quickly ousted when the 14-year-old male reestablished his presence; his mate then laid 4 eggs 3/8-15. One egg was rejected and the remaining 3 hatched by 4/18. All 3 offspring fledged by 5/26, but one is in poor health and being treated at Red Creek Wildlife Center (SH).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** perched conspicuously on the dead top of the tallest tree in the area around the storage barn on SGL 211 on 5/20, giving its signature "quick three beers" call before diving out of sight (S&SB). A **Brewster's Warbler**, singing a Blue-winged Warbler song, was observed at the Stony Creek Utility Right-of-Way 5/4-6 (AM, EC, RS, D&SB.) The bird had the facial markings of a Blue-winged Warbler, but was mostly white underneath with a yellow wash on its throat, breast, and wings.

SGL 211 hosted a **Vesper Sparrow** 5/13 (S&SB), and a **Bobolink** 5/14 (CW). A Bobolink also was observed on SGL 290 on 5/7 (S&SB). The March snowstorm brought **Fox Sparrows**, which appeared 3/12, the day before the storm hit, at WL and feeders in Halifax; several continued visiting feeders and other areas over the next three weeks, with the last report from the Halifax feeders 4/9 (SB, et. al.). A **Blue Grosbeak** was at FIG 5/26 (IG) and another the same day at the Fulling Mill boat launch (DH). Blue Grosbeaks are annually reported in small numbers from FIG and the Hershey area, but the Fulling Mill observation represents a first report for eBird.

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Johnson, Andy Keister, Ramsay Koury, Andy Markel (AMA), Ted Nichols II, Penn State Ornithology Lab, Rick & Peggy Price, Michael Schall, Rosemary Spreha, Cathleen Wetzel, Tiffany Willow.

Delaware County

Locations: Bethel Springs Elementary School (BSES), Big Bend Farm (BBF), Chadds Ford Marsh (CFM), Commodore Barry bridge/riverfront (CB), Concord Trail (CT), Crum Creek (CC), Crum Creek Reservoir (CCR), Crum Woods, Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware County Community College (DCCC), Delaware River (DR), Earles Lake (EL), Episcopal Academy (EA), Fort Mifflin (FM), Garnet Valley High School (GVHS), Garrett-Williamson (GW), Glen Providence Park (GP), Greenbank Farm (GF), Haverford College (HC), Hildacy Farm Preserve (HILD), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Marcus Hook (MH), Newlin Grist Mill (NGM), Philadelphia Airport (PHL), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Wawa Preserve (WP), The Willows (WILL).

The average temperature for March was about 42°F with approximately 7" total of snow/ice, most falling between the 10th and the 14th. Temperatures were about 1.4 degrees below normal while precipitation was about a half-inch above normal. Weather conditions in April and May were not particularly conducive to migration. Temperatures topped 80°F on 4/10 and 4/11 and reached 87°F on 4/16 and 88°F on 4/29. The average monthly temperature of 59.5°F for April was 5.4° above normal, while precipitation at 3.15 in., nearly half of which fell on 4/6, was about a half-inch below normal, thus cancelling out the March surplus. In spite of three 90+ days May 17-19, the average monthly temperature in May of 63.1°F was 0.8° below normal as 20 of the 31 daily averages were below normal. Precipitation jumped back up again with 6.33 in., representing more than 2.5 in. above average. Rain fell on 18 days during May; a large influx of migrants was noted after the rain 5/13-14 especially on Tuesday the 16th as warm air began to filter in with favorable winds at the start of the heat wave.

Snow Geese were migrating 3/25 with 70 reported over HILD (DE) and more from sites in other counties. Two **Brant** were on the DR at FM 5/10 (AG). **Mute Swans** continued to hang out throughout the period at the Liseter development, SR, and JHNWR, where up to 11 were reported 4/23 (JMc). A large group of 51 **Tundra Swans** was reported from CB 3/17 (AG).

Gadwall were reported at JHNWR (m.ob.), with a high of 18 on 4/3 (AG). From 2-6 **American Wigeons** were reported on multiple dates from Brinton Lake, SR, and JHNWR (m.ob.). Five **Redheads** and 2 **Lesser Scaup** were a nice find at CB 3/21 (AG). Patrolling the river on that date, a dozen **Greater Scaup** were spotted flying upriver at FM (AG) as well as 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, always a good species for *Delaware*. Up to 4 **Common Goldeneyes** spent multiple March days on CCR (m.ob.) SR harbored 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 4/28 (JMc). A single **Ruddy Duck** was also seen at that location 4/28 (JMc), where by 4/30 there were 2 (RF). Five at JHNWR 4/30 (JMc), however, raised the bar.

A **Red-throated Loon** was present on the DR at HM 5/5 and 5/10 (JMc), whereas **Common Loons** were widely reported as flyover migrants or on water from multiple locations during March and April (m.ob.). Multiple **Pied-billed Grebe** reports were received, but only a single **Horned Grebe** was found, at SR 3/13 (AG). Single **Great Cormorants** were at CB 3/17 and 3/29 (AG).

Although **Least Bitterns** can be found with patience and persistence in the impoundments at JHNWR, they are less often detected in the *Delaware* portion of the refuge; however, one flew across a Darby Creek channel while JMc and his wife were canoeing 5/21. A **Little Blue Heron** was reported flying up the DR at FM 5/25 (AG) and another was seen at HC 5/31 (SJ) during an evening shorebird watch. Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were first reported from another successful canoe trip at JHNWR 4/9 (JMc). Two additional birds were reported from Penn's Grant/Concord Woods in flight, low over the treetops, 5/11 (BB), and a single was at MH 5/21 (AG). A flyover group of 16 **Glossy Ibis** was noted at JHNWR 4/28 (DO).

Delaware hosts nesting **Bald Eagles**, and **Coopers**, **Red-shouldered**, and **Red-tailed Hawks**, but the first migrant **Broad-winged Hawks** were noted over RCSP (PT) and DCCC (BB), both 4/7. There were scattered reports of **Northern Harrier** through March and April with JHNWR accounting for the vast majority (m.ob.). The best raptor, however, waited until May to show. Single **Mississippi Kites** were

reported from BBF 5/23 (AG) and over a Wallingford yard 5/27 (RF).

American Coots were spotted at JHNWR on three dates: 3/9 (TK), 4/9 (JW), and 4/27 (AG). A calling **Sandhill Crane** came through *Delaware* from over the Folcroft area to the impoundments at JHNWR 4/23, where it circled for several minutes before drifting off (KJ, SJ), thus it was reported from both counties.

Delaware is not a shorebird hotspot so a dozen **Semipalmated Plovers** at DR at FM 5/5 (AG) were nice; an estimated 60 **Least Sandpipers** were also reported at the same time and place. That species was also noted a few times at JHNWR, as were **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** (m.ob.). **Common Snipe** were regular at JHNWR and at PHL, but the largest count was 20 on 3/31 at the DR at FM (AG). River-watching paid off 5/21 as a flock of 80 fast-flying **Whimbrels** was spotted above MH (AG). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** at PHL 4/27 was also notable (AG). Though difficult to detect, **American Woodcocks** popped up in multiple locations in the county, generally from mid- to the end of March (m.ob.).

The long-staying **Black-headed Gull** at JHNWR was sighted a few more times in *Delaware*, the last 3/30 (JMc). This was about the time that gulls started moving; the first **Laughing Gull** was seen at FM 3/29 (AG), and a group of 10 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was noted, also at that location, headed upriver 3/31 (AG). During April and May, both **Caspian** and **Forster's Terns** put in periodic appearances at JHNWR and the DR at FM (m.ob.).

As usual, cuckoo reports were few: **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Colonial Plantation 4/29 (AG), at the BT 5/9 (AG) and 5/18 (DE), and in Media 5/12 (AG); **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at DT 5/3 (JMc), on the CT 5/9 (BQ), and BT 5/19 (DE). **Great-horned Owls** were confirmed breeding in the Crum Woods with a photograph of an adult and a fluffy juvenile 5/4 (TR), and likely nested in Furness Park with observations 4/17 and 4/26 (DO). RCSP is another known location for Great Horned and also **Barred Owl**, the latter sighted periodically along the BT (m.ob.). There were only 2 reports of **Eastern Screech-Owl**, one from the BT 4/18 (SP) and one from JHNWR 3/19 (JD); surely they must be more common than the reports indicate!

Speaking of common - a **Common Nighthawk** at 8:50 AM at the BT 5/15 (AG) and one at Penn's Grant/Concord Woods 5/17 (BB) fall within the normal spring migration dates for this species, which is not "common" in our region except during fall migration. The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** flitted through a Springfield yard not yet equipped with feeders 4/25 (DB), but **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** had headed back north the first week in April with several reports across *Delaware* of migrants at that time and the last report from a Media yard 4/10 (DM). The timing difference indicates that our hummers were not drinking or taking bugs from fresh sap wells drilled by sapsuckers.

American Kestrel, **Merlin**, and **Peregrine Falcon** all put in spotty appearances at various locations during the time period (m.ob.). Time will tell if any chose to nest in *Delaware*. Flycatchers arrived in early May as expected, although **Great-crested Flycatcher** and **Eastern Kingbird** beat the rush and were seen at the end of April. There were reports of **Least Flycatcher** from the BT 5/14 (DE) and on 5/15 from both DCCC (BB) and EA (WS). At least one **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at the BT 5/23 (GB), 5/26 (AG), and 5/27 (JMc).

The vireos arrived mostly in late April or May as expected, although **Blue-headed Vireo** at JHNWR 4/9 (JW) was early by more than a week, and the first **Warbling Vireo** at the same location 4/20 (JMc) was also pushing its usual arrival date forward by several days. **Yellow-throated Vireo** is most reliably found at RCSP (m.ob.). Only 2 reports of **Common Raven** came in, one from the Glen Mills area 3/28 (BB) and one from DT 5/4 (AG). **Barn Swallow** arrived on time 4/4 at JHNWR (JMc). A single **Bank Swallow** at JHNWR 4/25 (DO) provided the only report and Cliff Swallow went unreported.

The last **Red-breasted Nuthatches** left from RCSP 4/30 (JMc), from the same yard in Aldan where the last **Brown Creeper** was reported 4/20 (RH). By that time, **Winter Wren** had also moved on - last reported from the BT 4/8 (AG). As those species were leaving, **House Wren** and **Marsh Wren** were arriving on the early side; 3/29 in Edgmont (Kate Garchinsky), and at JHNWR 4/20 (JMc), respectively. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** arrival, 4/2 in Kent Park (SW) was on the early side of normal. **Ruby-crowned** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were reported nearly every week through the end of April (m.ob.).

Gray-cheeked Thrush, an uncommon migrant, was reported in the expected period - from RCSP 5/17-17 (JMc), BSES 5/17 (BQ), and DCCC 5/18 (BB). **Hermit Thrush** had departed by the end of April with the last report at BSES 4/24 (BQ), a little earlier than expected, in time

for **Swainson's Thrush** to arrive at BSES 5/4 (JMc), a little later than anticipated. Although the first **Brown Thrasher** was reported from BSES 3/24 (BQ), most of these uncommon breeders arrived at the end of April. **Cedar Waxwings** continued to be few and far between until the end of April and beginning of May when flocks were finally widely reported (m.ob.).

The first singing **Louisiana Waterthrush** was heard at Crum Woods 4/1 (DE), but it took until 4/14 for the next warbler to arrive, a **Northern Parula** at HC (KJ, SJ). Warblers began arriving in earnest in mid-April with 33 species reported during the period. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** at JHNWR 3/17 (JMc) may have been the same bird reported earlier in the year. April 28 was a good day for unusual warblers. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was singing and foraging at DT as it made its way upstream next to the railroad tracks (JMc). A singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Governor Prince Park tantalized before finally got a look (AG). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was found that same day at Memorial Park and Mineral Hill (AG). **Hooded Warbler** first appeared at the BT 4/29 (AG).

A singing **Cerulean Warbler** at BSES 5/2 (BQ) was recorded on what was described as a particularly birdy morning at that location. The only other Cerulean report came from the BT 5/16 (AG). The first **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen well at the BT 5/3 (JC) and **Kentucky Warbler** arrived at the same location 5/6 (JM). The first and only **Cape May Warbler** showed up 5/11 in a Wallingford yard (RF) and even sat still long enough to be photographed. The first **Wilson's Warbler** appeared at CT 5/16 (BQ), the same day **Bay-breasted** and a **Blackburnian Warbler** showed up at a yard in Wallingford (NS). The only other Blackburnian reports were also 5/16 when 2 were at RCSP (JMc) and one at Widener (AM). Interestingly, in preparing this report I noted many scattered Blackburnian reports from neighboring counties on exactly the same day. All warbler high counts on any checklist were a half-dozen birds or fewer except for **Black-and-White Warbler** (8), **American Redstart** (11), **Ovenbird** (15), and the normally numerous **Yellow Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, and **Common Yellowthroat**. Clearly, the best warbler spot in the county is the BT at RCSP.

American Tree Sparrows are hard to come by in *Delaware* and were found only at JHNWR 3/17 and 3/30 (JMc). **Fox Sparrows** were on the fly in March with many reports from various locales and as many as 5 in a single yard in Media 3/29 (DM). Two **White-throated Sparrows** lingered in the same yard through 5/30 (DM). **White-crowned Sparrows** are always appreciated in *Delaware*. One was at NGM 4/9 (JS), one visited a Swarthmore feeder for several days around 5/14 (SO), and one that seemed injured on 5/3 at EA may have been re-sighted 5/12, but at that time it seemed fine (WS). **Savannah Sparrows** were reported from PHL, CT, JHNWR, RCSP, DCCC on several dates (m.ob.). A **Vesper Sparrow** at JHNWR 4/26 (JMc) was seen and photographed the next day as well (AG, DO).

A **Blue Grosbeak** was reported from RCSP 5/17 (JMc) and from BBF 5/21 (SP). EA hosted up to 4 migrating **Bobolinks** 5/11-16 (WS). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported 4/4, 4/21, and 4/30 from DR near the UPS building and once from PHL 4/27 (AG). An excellent find, also from PHL, was a male, **Yellow-headed Blackbird** 3/7 (AG). **Rusty Blackbirds** frequented JHNWR throughout March and April (m.ob.) but were also seen at Indian Orchard 3/3 (AG), Memorial Park/Mineral Hill 3/8 (BQ), and DCCC 4/20 (BB).

Although this was not a finch year, **Purple Finches** were periodically reported from mid-March through the end of April with females being seen more often than males (m.ob.).

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Elk County

Locations: Allegheny NF--Buzsard Swamp (BS), Dr. Colson E. Blakeslee Memorial Recreation Area (DCBRA), East Branch Lake (EBL), Elk SF--Hicks Run (HR), Jones Twp. (JT), Quehanna Wild Area--Beaver Run Impoundment (BRI).

Waterfowl were seen in average numbers for *Elk* with 11 species recorded. Notable were 2 **Ring-necked Ducks** at EBL 4/12 along with 2 **Greater Scaup**, 18 **Lesser Scaup**, 5 **Buffleheads**, 3 **Common Mergansers**, and 5 **Red-breasted Mergansers** (BB). Others reports of waterfowl include 4 Lesser Scaup at EBL 4/13 (BB), an excellent count of 8 **Long-tailed Ducks** at BRI 4/12 (DG, GG), a Bufflehead at Benazette 3/21 (MC, JS), a Bufflehead at BRI 4/5 (PW), 3 Buffleheads at BRI 4/12 (DG, GG), and a high of 14 Buffleheads at EBL 4/13 (BB). **Hooded Merganser** reports came from the southeast corner of the county including 2 at DCBRA 3/12 (JC, LiC, MN), 4 at BRI 4/5 (PW), and one at BRI 4/12 (DG, GG). Additional Common Merganser sightings include 4 at EBL 4/14, 2 at EBL 4/15 (BB), and 2 at Medix Run 5/17 (DG, GG). The only other Red-breasted Merganser report was of 2 at BRI 4/5 (PW).

Ruffed Grouse was reported from its regular location of JT throughout the season (BB), and one was at BRI 4/12 as well (DG, GG). Reports of single **Wild Turkeys** came from WH 5/15 (TB) and JT 5/26-27 (BB). **Common Loons** were at their regular location at EBL 4/13-14 (BB) and one was also at BS 5/13 (FM). **Pied-billed Grebes** were at 3 locations including singles at BRI 4/5 (PW) and 4/12 (DG, GG), a nice count of 5 at BS (EM), and one at EBL 4/12 (BB). Two **Horned Grebes** were present at BRI 4/5 (PW) and 3 there 4/12 (DG, GG), plus 2 at EBL 4/12 (BB).

Unusual, the only **Double-crested Cormorant** reported was on buoys at EBL 4/16 (BB). The nesting **Ospreys** were back at EBL by at least 4/12 (BB). **Northern Goshawks** at JT 4/16 and 5/26 were likely nesters, but no nest for this year has been found (BB). This species has nested at this location in previous years.

A total of 4 displaying **American Woodcocks** were at JT 4/12 (BB) and one was at BRI 4/5 (PW). **Spotted Sandpipers** returned to their stronghold at EBL by 5/27 (BB), but the only other notable shorebirds were 3 **Greater Yellowlegs** at BS 4/16 (FM). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was noted with a flock of Buffleheads and a single **Ring-billed Gull** at EBL 4/13 (BB). Only one owl species was found, likely due to the lack of nocturnal effort. A **Barred Owl** called during the day at JT 5/26 (BB).

Acadian Flycatcher, uncommon in *Elk*, was reported from HR 5/17 (DG). **Common Ravens**, as usual, were widespread across the county. Following a small irruption across the state during the fall of 2016, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were only seen at 2 locations including one at the Ridgway Rails to Trails 5/13 (LC) and at their regular location of JT where up to 4 were present (BB). Among spotted thrushes, **Veery**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, and **Swainson's Thrush** were all heard flying over during an early morning nocturnal count at JT 5/27 (BB). Hard to find in the north woods, a **Northern Mockingbird** was reported from BRI 5/16 (JB).

A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at HR 5/17 (DG, GG). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** heard singing at JT 5/26 was slightly late (BB). Two **Pine Warblers** were seen and heard singing at their traditional locations among Jack, Red, and White Pines along a reclaimed strip mine at JT 5/27 (BB). A **Canada Warbler** was seen and heard singing at JT 5/27 (BB).

Four **Grasshopper Sparrows** were seen and heard singing in a strip mine field at JT 5/26-27 (BB). **Fox Sparrow** reports include 3 at DCBRA 3/12, 2 at JT 4/12, 5 at JT 4/14, and one at JT 4/16 (BB). **White-crowned Sparrows** were well-represented on a variety of sites in the northern half of the county 5/13 with the high of 6 at a private residence in Fox Township (LC). The only report of **Savannah Sparrow** was of one at the St. Mary's Airport 5/13 along with a **Bobolink** there that same date (LC). A **Bobolink** was also heard flying over JT 5/27 (BB). **Eastern Meadowlark** reports included doubles at both BS 4/16 (FM) and St. Marys Airport 5/13 (LC). A **Rusty Blackbird** was seen and heard singing among a flock of various blackbirds at JT 4/16 (BB), and 7 were at BS 4/16 (FM). The **Evening Grosbeaks** at JT that had been present since Feb remained with 12 seen 4/14 and 2 on 4/16 (BB).

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Erie County

March started off cold and wintry, but then it warmed in April. May was cooler than normal delaying Passerine migration by a few days.

There were no significant fallouts. Thrushes and flycatchers were a bit thin on the ground with few reported. **Peregrine Falcons** successfully nested for the first time in the county when a pair was found with young inside a ship repair building in Erie. The pair has nested in this building for the past several years, but never produced young. A pair of **Piping Plovers** present at Gull Point at Presque Isle SP suggested possible nesting, which would be a first for the park and the state since the mid-1950s. As expected for the spring, a few rarities showed up including an **American White Pelican**, **Little Blue Heron**, a possible **Harlan's Hawk**, and two **Mississippi Kites**.

All reports are from Presque Isle SP unless otherwise noted.

A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was in Thompson bay 3/23-24 (JM, JM). Four late **Surf Scoters** were off Beach 11 on 5/7 and a female **Black Scoter** was there 5/13-19 (KZ, AM). The breeding plumaged **Red-throated Loon** on in a pond at Gull Point 5/1 was a rare spring sighting (MB). A breeding plumaged **Eared Grebe** was off Leo's and Vista 4 on 5/6 (MB). It remained to 5/26 for a record late county record (JM). An **American White Pelican** was reported from Fairview Twp. 5/13 (LG).

Up to 7 **American Bitterns** flew out of Niagara Pond 4/15 (JM, KA). Ones and twos were reported from several areas of the park to at least 5/7 (m.ob.). Single **Least Bitterns** were at several sites from 5/6 through the period (m.ob.). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** flew out of Niagara Pond 4/26 and 3 were along Sidewalk Trail 4/29 (JM). A single Black-crowned Night-Heron was again along Sidewalk Trail 5/6 (DS). The adult **Little Blue Heron** at Gull Point 5/30 was the first county record since 2012 (MB).

An immature **Golden Eagle** flew over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 4/3 (RS, JM, JS). The first *Erie* April record of **Mississippi Kite** was established when one soared overhead near the park marina 4/22 (SS). Another Mississippi Kite was photographed as it passed over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 5/17 (JT, JM, DS). An immature **Northern Goshawk** flew over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 4/9 (JS) and yet another 4/27 (JM, KF, RS). The all dark **Red-tailed Hawk** with a pale tail mottled with dark gray observed going over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 3/25 may have been a **Harlan's Hawk** (JM). A large flock of 18 **Sandhill Cranes** was seen flying over Girard on the early date of 3/3 (TW). Singles and small groups of cranes were reported thereafter from 3/25 to 5/15 from various sites, though mainly along Lake Erie (m.ob.).

An **American Golden Plover** reported at Gull Point 5/18 was a rare spring sighting (MB). A banded male **Piping Plover** arrived 4/18 for a record early date in *Erie*, then was joined by a banded female 5/11 when breeding behavior began (MB). Another banded male appeared 5/16 with all 3 remaining through the period (MB).

An **American Avocet** was at Gull Point 4/29 (MB). A **Willet** was along Manchester Beach in Fairview Twp. 4/29 for the first sighting of this species away from Presque Isle SP (BP). A Willet in Mill Village 5/15 represented the first record away from Lake Erie (JH). Seven Willets were at Gull Point 4/29 and 4 there 5/4 (MB). A total of at least 42 **Whimbrels** were at Gull Point 5/25 (MB) and a single was there the following two days (JM). The **Red Knot** at Gull Point 5/1 was record early in *Erie* by about two weeks (MB). Five Red Knots were at Gull Point 5/25 (MB). Also there 5/25 were a dozen **White-rumped Sandpipers** (MB) and a single was present the following day (JM).

An immature **Thayer's Gull** was in Misery Bay 4/5 (JM). An adult **Iceland Gull** was at the Lake View Landfill 4/6 (JM). Four adult **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were resting together in a parking lot near the Lake View Landfill 4/6 (JM). A late **Glaucous Gull** was spotted at Gull Point 5/4 (MB). Rarely reported these days, a **Black Tern** was at the head of Presque Isle Bay 5/5-7 (ST) and another was in Waterford 5/14 (JH).

Two **Long-eared Owls** were in the pines 4/11 (RD) and 4/12 (JM). The only **Northern Saw-whet Owl** reported was one in the pines 4/11 (RD). The pair of **Peregrine Falcons** that have attempted nesting in Don Jon's ship repair building in Erie the past several years finally produced 3 young that hadn't fledged yet by the end of the period (*vide* MB). This is the first known successful nesting in the county.

The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was one near the park marina 5/21 (ST). A **Common Raven** was being chased by an **American Crow** near Thompson Circle 5/18 (JM). Though regular in the county, ravens are still very rare at Presque Isle or anywhere along Lake Erie.

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Fry's landing 5/13 and another on Pine Tree Trail the following day (JM). Two **Orange-crowned Warblers** were banded at Fry's landing 5/14 (*vide* JFe). Another Orange-crown was along Graveyard Pond Trail 5/16 (NA). Not reported every year, a **Kentucky Warbler** was in Fairview Twp. 5/21 (LB) and one at Fry's landing 5/23 (JM) was photographed and audiotaped by several

people. An adult male **Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler** was reported along Pine Tree Trail 5/7 (SC). A **Prairie Warbler** was along Pine Tree Trail 5/6-7 (SS) and another near the lighthouse 5/30 (JF). Apparently no longer annual in the county, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Fry's landing 5/23 (NA). Up to 3 **Clay-colored Sparrows** were at the north pier, Thompson Circle, and Dead Pond Trail 5/14 and 5/15 (JM, JH, RSc).

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Fayette County

Location: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL).

Waterfowl were scarce due in part to the lack of heavy spring rains that drop waterfowl onto county lakes. Waterfowl at GRL 3/29 included 7 **American Wigeons** (MF), 7 **Redheads** (CH), 32 **Ring-necked Ducks** (MF), 5 **Lesser Scaup** (MF), 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, 8 **Long-tailed Ducks** (CH, MF), and 14 **Ruddy Ducks** (MF). At GRL on 3/31 were a **Lesser Scaup** (MF), 10 **Red-breasted Mergansers** (MF), and 8 **Ruddy Ducks** (MF). Five **Ruddy Ducks** were at GRL 5/6 (MJ). Waterfowl at Virgin Run Lake included a Ring-necked Duck 4/29-5/13, and 3 **Ruddy Ducks** 4/29 with one lingering 5/13 (all MJ).

Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were at GRL 3/29-31 (MF) and one at Bridgeport Reservoir 4/8 (MD). **Horned Grebe** reports include 5 at GRL 3/29 and 2 there 3/31 (MF), and one at Bridgeport Reservoir 4/8 (MD).

An **Osprey** was at GRL 4/1 (MJ) and one at Virgin Run Lake 4/29 (MJ). Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were a nice find at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 4/12 (KSJ); few reports are received of this likely county resident. Two **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported 4/23 (KSJ) - one in Champion and the location of the other was not specified. A **Forster's Tern** was at GRL 5/6 (MJ) and a **Caspian Tern** was there 4/1 (MJ).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at Friendship Hill NHS 4/12 (KSJ) and one at Laurel Ridge SP 4/14 (TB). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were at Friendship Hill NHS 4/12 (KSJ) and 3 at Connellsville 4/15 (MA). A **Hermit Thrush** was at Laurel Ridge SP 4/14 (TB). A **Pine Siskin** was a nice find at Dunbar 4/16 (PL).

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Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Lighthouse Island (LI), Marienville (MA), Tionesta Creek (TC).

There were 138 species reported in *Forest* during spring migration. Waterfowl were few. The only report of **Tundra Swans** came from the Tionesta area 3/6 (FM, JM). A **Horned Grebe**, an uncommon migrant, was at Beaver Meadows 4/1 (KS). A **Forster's Tern** at LI 5/19 was notable, as this species seldom migrates through *Forest* (FM, JM).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted 4/28 and 5/13 near Yellowhammer (FM, JM). This is the third year at this location for this declining species. A rare migrant in the northern half of the state, a **White-eyed Vireo** at TC was a nice find 4/29 (KM). **Common Raven** sightings were very low. A report of 5 **Bank Swallows** at TC 4/29 is encouraging, as they are seldom reported in *Forest* (KM). Three **Swainson's Thrush** were found in the ANF near Guitonville 5/13 (FM, JM).

One **Blue-winged Warbler** and one **Tennessee Warbler** at West Hickory, both 5/20, provided the only reports (KS, MH, BD). There were only three reports of **Northern Parula**: 3 at TC 4/29, 5 at Salmon Creek Valley 4/29 (KM), and 3 at West Hickory 5/21 (KS, MH, BD). **Blackpoll Warblers** are rarely reported in spring, so the 2 spotted at West Hickory 5/21 are significant (KS, MH, BD).

Rusty Blackbird, one of North America's most rapidly declining species, was noted only 4/14 at LI (FM, JM). An **Orchard Oriole** was at LI 5/19 and 5/24 (FM, JM), and also throughout May at Endeavor (MS, SS). Orchard Orioles are uncommon in the northern half of the state but appear to be expanding northward. The **Evening Grosbeak** irruption that began in Jan continued throughout spring at MA, where a high of 37 were reported 3/17 (DYII). The last report was of 7 birds on 5/13 (MV).

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Franklin County

Locations: Bender's Farm (BEFA), Fannettsburg Lake (FALA), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Letterkenney Reservoir (LERE), St Thomas Little Dipper pond (STLD)

The 2016 March - May reporting period was full of good finds in *Franklin*. The 2017 period was slower in that regard; however, with May 5 being the standout day of the period. The weather that day brought periods of heavy rain and low clouds through morning and on again-off again showers later in the day producing three tern species, White-winged Scoters, and a Red-necked Phalarope.

Unusual waterfowl and water related species were tough to come by. The one goose of note was a **Cackling Goose** at FALA 3/9 (BO). A **Canvasback** was at Long Lane pond 3/11 (BO, CG). **Redheads** were at two locations 3/27, with 4 at Mountain Brook Road pond (BO) and 3 at GRRV (CG). **White-winged Scoters**, one male and one female, were at BEFA 5/5 (BO). Six **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at Black Gap Rd ponds 3/10 (BO), 12 at BEFA 3/10 (BO), 4 at GRRV 3/27 (CG), 3 at LERE 3/30 (BO), and 2 at FALA 4/8 (BO).

There were more **Double-crested Cormorant** sightings than normal for spring, from a number of different locations; of special interest were up to 15 that hung out at STLD 5/8-17 (CG). An **American Bittern** was in Horse Valley on private property 4/1 (BO.) **Great Egret** sightings were more numerous this spring; most are usually found mid-summer into early fall. There were reports from Doylesburg 3/27 (MW), LERE 3/31 (BO), Falling Spring 4/12 (RG, TG), and of 3 at Fort McCord marsh 4/20 (CG). A **Black-crowned Night Heron** was found at a pond along Conococheague Lane off of Grant Shook Rd near Greencastle 5/13 during the PAMC (DH, JD, CB).

Merlins, one male and one female, were at GRRV 4/4 and 4/11 (CG). **Bald Eagle** nesting continues to grow with six active nests monitored and 10 eaglets raised in five of those nests, and possibly more from a sixth nest which was built late. (DG). There have been infrequent but increased sightings of **Sandhill Crane** in *Franklin* over the past few years, including a report of one this spring at BEFA 5/22 (DB).

Shorebird activity was less than normal, probably because of a lack of muddy shorelines at ponds, the result of ample and frequent rainfall. **Dunlins** were at Keefer Rd pond 4/5 (CG, BO) and at GRRV 5/13 (CG). The previously mentioned **Red-necked Phalarope** was at BEFA 5/5 (BO). **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported at GRRV 5/8 (AM) and at a Hamilton Twp. farm pond 5/18 (BO).

Bonaparte's Gull, a good bird but expected in the spring, was reported only once, at GRRV 3/27 (CG). As mentioned above, there were good tern reports on 5/5, with 2 **Black Terns** at GRRV (CG, DG, BO), 3 **Caspian Terns** at STLD (CG), and a **Forster's Tern** at FALA Lake (BO). Two **Black-billed Cuckoos** were at BEFA 4/30 (BO) - one in a yard in Greene Knolls 5/15 (VB) and one at Creekside Nature Trail Menno-Haven 5/19 (RG, TG).

Songbird migration yielded few exceptional finds. Surprisingly, a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** spent several hours foraging in a yard in Chambersburg 5/18 (BO). The only notable warbler report was that of a **Golden-winged Warbler** found at the power line in SGL 076 in Horse Valley 5/17 (DC). Unfortunately, this power line, which had been a regular location for Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers and hybrids, was sprayed prior to last year's migration and only seems to have **Blue-winged Warblers** now, with 2 during May this year (DC, BO, LN). A good spring find was a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at BEFA 5/7 (BO).

May produced a couple good field bird species right on time. Up to 5 **Dickcissels** were found 5/18 and continued through the end of the period near the intersection of Rockdale and Windmill Rds near

Williamson (LN, BO, VB, NM, CG, DG, AK). Two more Dickcissels were located near Pleasant Hall along Church and Sandy Mount Rds 5/22 (BO). Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were in Little Cove 5/29 (BO).

As for lingering winter birds, the irruption of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** carried over with many sightings at feeders; the latest report was 5/10 (BK). **Pine Siskins** were few, with one at a Greene Knolls feeder through 4/9 (VB), one at Caledonia SP feeder 3/13 (JW), and one at a Horse Valley feeder 4/28 (BO).

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Greene County

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

Not many waterfowl species were reported in *Greene* for the spring season. **Wood Duck** was first observed 3/7 at SY and **American Wigeon** 4/9 at RY (AC, JC). **Ring-necked Ducks** were in Franklin Twp. 4/8 (MJ). **Hooded Merganser** was found in MT 4/3 (KK, MH) and **Common Merganser** at EF 4/28 (KSJ).

The first **Green Heron** was at Waynesburg Sportsman Club 4/23 (JeH). **Black Vulture** was reported in Rogersville 5/23 (DY). In Franklin Twp., **Osprey** was sighted 4/14 (WD) and not reported again until 5/16 in Rogersville (ArL, JL). An imm. **Bald Eagle** and a **Broad-winged Hawk** were at EF 4/30 (m.ob.). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was watched as it sat on a limb at LCR 3/16 (MLP).

A lone **American Coot** was found at RSP 3/29 and at same location **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Solitary Sandpiper** were sighted 4/28 (AL). **Spotted Sandpiper** was found at EF 4/30 (m.ob.). A **Wilson's Snipe** was found in Franklin Twp. 4/8 (MJ). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported at EF 4/30 (CS); **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** wasn't reported until 5/13 in JT (RL, BD, MM).

Chimney Swift was first sighted in Rogersville 4/16 (KK) and the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was in Center Twp. 4/22 (LA, RA). **Belted Kingfisher** was first reported at RSP 3/21 (AnL). **Red-headed Woodpecker** and **Eastern Wood-Pewee** were first noted at RSP 4/11 and 5/10, respectively (AnL). **Acadian, Willow, and Great Crested Flycatcher** were found on the PAMC in Richhill Twp. 5/13 (MH, RA, LA). **Eastern Kingbird** was first reported 4/28 at EF (KSJ). The first **White-eyed Vireo** was heard 4/26 in SY (JC); **Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Warbling, and Red-eyed Vireos** were all found first at EF (m.ob.). A **Philadelphia Vireo** provided a rare find in Wayne Twp 5/13 (LA, MH).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow was at RSP 4/11 (AnL). **Purple Martin** was reported in Jefferson Twp. 3/29 (JW). At LCR, **Tree Swallow** arrived 3/24 (MLP). **Bank Swallow** was located in JT 4/28 (RL, BD). The first **Barn Swallow** was in SY 4/15 (JC). A nice surprise at RY was 18 **Cliff Swallows** 5/13 (RA, LA, MH). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at SY 4/18 (JC). A **Brown Creeper** was at RSP 3/21 (AnL). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was first reported at RSP 3/30 (AnL) and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at EV 4/17 (MH). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was first located at EF 4/12 (JF, LF).

At SY, **Eastern Bluebird** young fledged 5/22 (JC). **Swainson's Thrush** was seen at EV 5/21 (MH). A **Hermit Thrush** was at EF 4/30 (ST, DW) and **Wood Thrush** at same location 4/23 (JF, LF). **Gray Catbird** was first sighted at RSP 4/22 (AnL). First **Brown Thrasher** was at MT 4/3 (MH, KK) and first **Cedar Waxwing** there 5/20 (m.ob.).

RSP was the site of the first reported **Ovenbird** 4/28 and **Northern Parula** 4/18 (AnL). EF was the site of the first reported **Worm-eating and Cape May Warbler** 4/30 (ST, DW); **Blue-winged, Nashville, and Kentucky Warbler** 5/13 (LH); **Black-and-White Warbler** 4/30 (m.ob.); **American Redstart** 4/23; **Yellow-throated Warbler** 4/12 (JF, LF); and **Cerulean Warbler** 4/28 (STJ). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was first heard in MT 4/3 (MH, KK). During the compiler's morning walk, **Common Yellowthroat** was heard calling at EV 4/19 (MH). **Yellow Warbler** was first heard at LCR 4/17 (MLP). **Yellow-breasted Chat** wasn't reported until 4/27 at SY (JC).

American Tree Sparrow on 4/13, and **Field and Fox Sparrow** both

3/30 were first sighted at RSP (AnL). **Chipping Sparrow** was reported in MT 3/27 (KK). At EF, the first sighting of **Savannah Sparrow** was 4/30 (DW, ST). At EV, **White-throated Sparrow** was last seen 4/28, **White-crowned Sparrow** 5/13, and **Dark-eyed Junco** 4/13 (MH). **Scarlet Tanager** was at EF 4/28 (KSJ). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Indigo Bunting** were at SY 4/27 and 5/3, respectively (JC). At SY, **Orchard Oriole** was first seen 4/26 and **Baltimore Oriole** 4/23 (JC). **Purple Finch** was last seen at LCR 4/10 (MLP).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Cornpropst Mills (CM), Entriken Overlook at Raystown Lake (ENT), Huntingdon (HU), Lake Perez (LP), Marklesburg waterfowl area-SGL 420 (MAR), Old Crow wetland (OC), Orbisonia (ORB), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Raystown Lake (RL), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Creek Ridge (SCR), Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch (TMHW).

When taken as a whole, the weather in spring 2017 was fairly normal. Overall temperatures at Huntingdon averaged about 1F above normal and total precipitation was also only moderately above normal. But the day-to-day details show many deviations from average. The first half of March was essentially the January we never had this year – Cold! The winter's biggest snow fell 3/14, with more than a foot in some locations. In sharp contrast, April was 6F above normal. The first week of May was cold and wet - a very wet last week of May saw more than 3 inches of rain in Huntingdon, but with considerably more in areas that took the worst of some storms.

The birding highlights came early and late in the season. Bad weather led to lots of waterfowl in Mar. The rainy weather of late in May may have been responsible for 3 "excellent" shorebirds were found over an 11-day period, providing the first county record of **Ruff** (and one of few ever in central Pennsylvania) as well as two second county records.

Extreme cold and fierce wind brought a big waterfowl fallout 3/10, the likes of which are seen only every few years. At LP, the **Tundra Swan** count reached a high of 647. At least 17 species of ducks were present highlighted by 38 **American Wigeons**, 47 **Northern Pintails**, 160 **Redheads**, 100 scaup sp., 17 **Long-tailed Ducks**, and 27 **Common Goldeneyes** (JK, DW, JS, GG, DG, m.ob.). On that same day, waterfowl at ENT included 586 Tundra Swans, 28 pintails, and 95 **Greater Scaup** (DK, TK). Another 150 Tundra Swans were at OC (BS, TA). An excellent count of 80 **Wood Ducks** was made at MAR 3/24 (Steve Schmit). Even more impressive were 285 **Ring-necked Ducks** at LP 3/22 (JK, JV, Noel Bond). A very late **Ruddy Duck** was near ORB 5/29 (GG, DG).

American Bitterns were reported more often than usual, with at least 5 birds at 4 widely scattered locations - MAR, OC, CM, and LP (m.ob.). A **Least Bittern** at OC 5/21-26 (RL, DK, TK, GG) marked the 4th time in 7 springs found at this location. A **Great Blue Heron** rookery in Big Valley, along Saddler Creek south of Allensville, had 20 birds and 14 apparently occupied nests 3/28; this number of nests has remained essentially unchanged since the first visit by the the compiler over a decade ago. A few **Great Egrets** are expected in spring, although no breeding in known; unusual was a count of 6 at OC 4/17 (KS).

The spring hawk watch at TM, conducted late Feb through late April, tallied 191 **Golden Eagles**, slightly above the 17-year average. However, it was not an average season in that the peak day of 44 (the third highest single-day count ever) came 3/20, nearly two weeks late (LG, NB, m.ob.). On 4/27, an incredible 83 **Ospreys** passed the watch, besting the previous one-day record of 44. Away from the watch, a late **Northern**

Harrier was on SCR 5/13 (GG, DG) and a **Northern Goshawk** was at OC 5/1 (ZA, KS).

Rails are quite uncommon in *Huntingdon*. Two **Virginia Rails**, the less-often seen of the 2 expected species, were at MAR 4/21 (KS, ZA) and one there 4/25 (GG, DG). **Sora** was found 4/30 and 5/3 at OC, where annual (RL, AB). Another was on private property 5/6 (BS).

Late May brought lots of rain to *Huntingdon*, and with the rain came 3 outstanding shorebirds. First was a very "different" shorebird at OC 5/18. Careful study led to the firm but startling conclusion that the bird was a female **Ruff**. Several birders were able view this Eurasian visitor at close range and many excellent photos were obtained. The last report in eBird was from the evening of 5/18. As it turned out, it had been seen twice in the preceding two days, but not identified. Not surprisingly, this was a first county record (GG, m.ob.).

Over an inch of rain fell in the county 5/25. In a wet field near ORB, the second-ever **Ruddy Turnstone** in *Huntingdon* was found in the company of 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** (GG, DG, DK, TK, JK, JP; ph.). After yet another round of heavy rain, another second county record was discovered in a flooded field along McMahan Rd. near Petersburg where a breeding plumage **Red-necked Phalarope** was found foraging actively 5/29 (JK, m.ob.). Both the phalarope and turnstone were observed on one day only.

A very early **Lesser Yellowlegs** was near Mooreville 3/13 (BS). The only terns reported were 2 **Caspian Terns** over TMHW 4/27 (NB). Up to 2 **Common Nighthawks** were in HU as early as 5/5, seen and heard a few times thereafter (KS, AB, DK, TK, GG, DG); whether they still nest is not known.

Good to report that **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found in at least 7 widely-scattered locations – certainly more than usual though the max. count was only 2 (m.ob.). Away from TMHW, **Merlins** were on SCR 3/13 (DG) and at OC 3/28 (KS, Cody Campbell). A **Peregrine Falcon** was at RL dam 5/6 (KS, AB). The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was along Standing Stone Creek in Miller Twp. 5/13 (DG).

Marsh Wrens are annual but still rare – one was in a small wetland along Myton Rd 4/23 (BS, JK). **American Pipit** reports were few but nice counts came from Sharpsburg Rd with 26 on 4/22 (JK, BS, DW, Noel Bond) and PF with 40 on 5/6 (JV, JK, LG, DM).

Thirty-two species of warbler were reported to eBird. Most reports were as expected, though with comments that numbers were low; details of expected species are available in eBird. Not routine was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at McAlevys Fort 4/28 (JK). **Kentucky Warblers**, regular but very uncommon nesters, were in SGL 322 where up to 3 singing birds were first found 5/18 (DG, GG, TK, JK, JV, JP); and one was at ORB 5/29 (DG, GG). **Cerulean Warblers** were found in a very robust dozen or more locations, with many reports from along the JR (m.ob.). Similarly, the regular though uncommon **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found in usual locations along the JR beginning as early as 4/10 (m.ob.). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at a min. of 6 locations – the chat population is low and sparsely distributed, but on a county-wide basis seems to be reasonably stable.

As usual, **Vesper Sparrows** were few – best location was PF where reported 7 times 4/23-5/31 (JK, m.ob.). Forty **Rusty Blackbirds** at MAR was a very nice count 3/24 (Steve Schmit), otherwise reports were few and of very small numbers. A **Red Crossbill** was heard over SCEC 3/30 (JK). The feeders at SCEC hosted up to 13 **Pine Siskins** 3/13-4/3 (JK, DW, JaS, Claudia Rosen) and 7 were at the Juniata College field station at RL 4/6 (ZA, GD).

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Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park, (BS), Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YC)

Two hundred **Tundra Swans** were noted at YC 3/6 (RL). After seven or more years of low waterfowl numbers, a few records were set this year. A high tally of 78 **Gadwalls** at YC 3/21 (LC, RC, ME, PF, MH, RH, DK, RN, LS) is the second highest spring count on record; the previous high

of 90 occurred 3/13/1990 (SK). YC yielded 107 **American Wigeons** 3/18 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL) and 81 **Northern Pintails** 3/11 (TB, LC, TG, MH, RH, JP), the highest counts since 2008. A drake **Blue-winged Teal** at YC 3/8 represented the earliest date ever (MH, RH).

YC also produced the top tally of 71 **Canvasbacks** 3/18 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL). A flock of 193 **Redheads** was present 3/21 (LC, RC, ME, PF, MH, RH, RN, LS); this number was last surpassed in 2008. Though nowhere near the top count of 715 in 2001 (SK), **Ring-necked Ducks** peaked impressively at 374 on 3/21 (LC, RC, ME, PF, MH, RH, RN, LS), the best count since 2011. The 421 **Lesser Scaup** tallied 3/11 comprised the fourth highest number on record (TB, LC, TG, MH, RH, JP). The only location for **Long-tailed Ducks** was YC, where 4 were listed 3/21 (LC, RC, ME, PF, MH, RH, RN, LS). Only single **Common Goldeneyes** were reported - 3/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL) and 3/9 (MVT). Previously occurring in much larger flocks, it was good to see a report of 145 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 3/25 (TG), the best tally since 2014.

Ruffed Grouse continue in very low numbers - only 3 were found on the PAMC despite 55 observers in the field. Thirty **Horned Grebes** at YC 3/24 was the highest count since 2013 (TR).

Early **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** appeared near LV 5/1 (MC) and near IN 4/30, respectively (SD); the previous early dates were 5/7/2002 (PJ) for Yellow-billed and 5/2/1991 (GL, GS) for Black-billed. **Common Nighthawks** were found twice - one roosted on a branch at YC 5/23 (CB, LC, PF, MH, RH, DK, GL, JT) and one flew over a yard near LV 5/29 (MC). An extremely early **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** appeared at Nolo 4/15 (GL), beating the previous early date of 4/22/2016 (SD) by seven days.

The high amount of precipitation (15.91") raised lake levels and reduced the extent of the mudflats at YC, thus, we saw few shorebirds. Two **Semipalmated Plovers** were sighted 5/23 (CB, LC *et al*). A **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/12 (GL) was the first found since 5/8/2013 (MH, RH). Two Lick Reservoir hosted the only **Least Sandpiper** 5/13 (PJ). **Wilson's Snipe** put in only two appearances - one 4/9 (KR) and 2 on 4/18 (LC, RC, PF, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL). The first 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** were listed at Hemlock Lake 4/22 (AK, JK) and the first **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen 5/13 at IUP (JT) and at Margus Lake (BF, TF). Three **Greater Yellowlegs** were at YC on 4/25 (LC, RC, PF, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL) and again 5/6 (LC, TG, GL DR, JT); the latter date produced the only **Lesser Yellowlegs** of the season, also at YC (LC, TG, GL, JT).

Six **Bonaparte's Gulls** at YC 3/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL) tied the previous early date set in 2000; the 150 Bonaparte's 4/14 (LD) was the top tally. The high count for **Ring-billed Gulls** was 39 at YC 3/21 (RC, ME, PF, MH, RH, DK, RN, LS). A single **Herring Gull**, not reported every spring at YC, was present 3/18-21 (m.ob.) and 2 were there 4/8 (MH, RH). A flock of 13 **Caspian Terns** at YC 4/22 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DK, JS, KT, RW) was the fourth largest group on record. Thirty **Forster's Terns** in IN 4/13 (JP) represented the sixth highest count ever in the county. Single **Black Terns** were at YC 5/12 (GL) and 5/13 (DK, GL), accompanied respectively by 11 and 24 Forster's Terns.

The total of 83 **Double-crested Cormorants** at YC 4/22 included 58 flyovers and 25 on the water (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DK, JS, KT, RW); this is one of the top ten cormorant counts at YC. The Crooked Creek **Great Blue Heron** colony near the *Armstrong* line was active again; 11 nests were counted 4/26 (MH, RH), but only 9 were obviously occupied with 11 birds present. Three juveniles and 10 adults were apparent 5/13 (MH, RH), but visibility was greatly reduced by leaf-out. Amazing was **Great Egret** that flew over a yard near SH 4/19 (MH).

Ospreys, showing a trend of earlier arrival dates since 2015, appeared at YC 3/24 (MHu), the third earliest date on record. The PAMC yielded 2 sightings of **Northern Harrier** - one on the Ferrence Farm (GF, JF) and one near Penn Run (BF, TF). Unusual was the flyover of two imm. harriers interacting in flight during a three-minute BBS stop near SH 5/29 (MH, RH). Two **Broad-winged Hawks** arrived at IUP 4/6 (JT), the earliest date ever; and 2 at BS 4/10 (CF) were also early. The previous early date was 4/7/2005 (MH).

A pair of **Eastern Screech-Owls** fledged 2 young from a recently installed backyard owl box IN 5/26 (EH, PH, RoH, SH). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** graced the YC feeder 5/3 (JTW) through at least 5/9 (LC, TG, DK, GL, JT); another visited a yard in Armstrong Twp. 5/13 (BM, HM). A **Merlin** was a nice find at YC 4/25 (LC, RC, PF, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL, ML). A **Peregrine Falcon** flew over a yard near LV 4/15 (MC).

Eastern Wood-Pewees returned to various parts of the county 5/13 (m.ob.). The only **Philadelphia Vireo** was at Blacklick Valley Natural Area 5/13 (ED, GS, MS, JT). A total of 31 **Purple Martins** was a good count at a colony midway between Smicksburg and Marion Center 4/20

(AK, JK). Few **Bank Swallow** reports were received, and all involved single birds - 5/6 at YC (LC, TG, GL DR, JT), 5/11 at IUP (JT), 5/13 at YC (DK, GL), and 5/27 at YC (LC, TG, MH, RH, JT). **Cliff Swallows**, too, were in low numbers with one at IUP 5/4 (JT), 5 at YC 5/6 (DR), and one at Hemlock Lake 5/13 (MH, RH) providing the only reports. A single **Winter Wren** was listed at YC 4/3 (DJM) and 4/8 (DJM, KR); another was found on the PAMC near Nolo 5/13 (JL).

Thirty warbler species were recorded including a **Golden-winged Warbler** at Blacklick Valley Natural Area 5/13 (ED, MS, GS, JT). Many species arrived early, including **American Redstart**, first seen at BS 4/27 (MH, RH), the second earliest date on record with the first 4/25/1992 (GC, BF, GL, GSy). **Northern Parula**, too, appeared early, at Conemaugh Dam 4/23 (RHa); this was the third earliest date with the earliest 4/15/2002 (MD). **Palm Warbler** at YC 4/5 (DJM), **Prairie Warbler** near YC 4/11 (GCa, CS), and **Black-throated Green Warbler** at YC 4/10 (LD) set all-time early dates; previous respective early dates were 4/11/1987 (TBC, WBC), 4/13/1992 (MH, GL), and 4/15/2006 (PJ). One **Wilson's Warbler** near IN 5/13 provided the lone report (SD). No longer considered a warbler, only one **Yellow-breasted Chat** was listed, at a location about 4 miles east of Pine Ridge C. P. 5/13 (ED, GS, MS, JT).

Four sightings of **Savannah Sparrow** were reported. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were noted only during two stops on the Parkwood BBS 5/30 (MH, RH). An **Indigo Bunting** near YC 4/11 (GCa, CS) was also extremely early, beating the previous early date of 4/20/1992 (MC) by 9 days. **Rusty Blackbirds** moved through between 3/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL) and 4/25 (LC, RC *et al*) with the top tally of 30 at YC 4/5 (DJM). Four reports of **Pine Siskins** - all one-day wonders - were received. All were singles: At Nolo 4/13 (AB, DB, GL), near YC 4/12 (LD), at a feeder near SH 5/13 (MH), and near LV 5/31 (MC).

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Jefferson County

Locations: Brown Road (BR), Clear Creek State Park (CC), Cloe Lake (CL), Fordham Lake (FL), Interstate 80 rest stop (I80), Kyle Lake (KL), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Pleasant Hill Road (PH), Redbank Valley Trail (RB), Ringgold (RG), Sandy Ridge Road (SR), Skyline Road (SK), State Game Lands No. 244 (SGL244), State Rt949 (Rt949), Winslow Pond (WP), Worthville Road (WR).

As stated in the past *Jefferson* is an under-reported county, and with that in mind some interesting observations occurred for the period. The lone **Mute Swan** at KL 4/8 (JD) represents the only record for the county. Two other species surprisingly reported this season also are the only sightings on record, one **Northern Pintail** at SR 3/24 (NV) and 5 **Redheads** at KL 3/17 (KW). Other highlights for the period include second ever reports: 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** at KL 5/14 (AK, JK), one **Lesser Yellowlegs** at WP 4/21 (DG, GG), and 2 **Herring Gulls** at KL 3/18 (AK, JK). A new high count for *Jefferson* of 380+ **Tundra Swans** was on KL 3/12 (AK, JK).

Sixteen water fowl species were reported. Included with those mentioned above, other notables were 3 **American Wigeons** on KL 3/22 (PW) that provided the highest count ever for the county, 2 **Hooded Mergansers** on CL 3/25 (AK, JK), 4 **Ruddy Ducks** on WP 5/10 (NV), and one **Horned Grebe** on CL 3/13 (LG).

Notable observations of raptors include the first **Osprey** of the season at FL 4/14 (AK, JK) and the only **Sharp-shinned Hawk** reported, on the MS 5/17 (MH, RH, FM, JM). The resident pair of nesting **Bald Eagles** on the MS produced 2 chicks. Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were at the Fordham terminus of the MS 3/9 (TG), where they have nested in past years.

Including the yellowlegs mentioned above, there were a few other notable shorebirds. The first 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** for the season were at WP 4/29 (DG, GG), and the only **Solitary Sandpiper** was at FL 5/7 (AK, JK). Included in this category is one **Upland Sandpiper** on SR 5/3 (NV).

Only one **Barred Owl** was reported, on WR 4/19 (AK, JK). The first **Chimney Swifts** were 2 observed on the MS 4/24 (MH, RH, FM, JM). First of the season **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was in RG 4/30 (AK, JK). Earliest **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were 2 noted on the MS 3/28 (AK, JK). A high count for the period, 4 **American Kestrels** were on SR 5/2 (NV).

Four **Acadian Flycatchers** were on the MS 5/17 (MH, RH, FM, JM) and 3 **Least Flycatchers** on Rt949 5/13 (JS), the later report the highest count ever for the species. The season's first 2 **Eastern Phoebes** were on the RB 3/25 (AK, JK) and the first 3 **Eastern Kingbirds** were on SK 5/3 (AKL, JK). The only **Great Crested Flycatcher** was on PH 5/31 (NV). The only **White-eyed Vireo** was on the MS 5/11 (NV) and the only **Yellow-throated Vireo** on the RB 5/17 (TS). The first **Blue-headed Vireo** was on BR 4/15 (JS) and first **Red-eyed Vireo** was also on BR 4/25 (JS).

The 2016/2017 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption came to an end in *Jefferson* with the last report of one at BR 5/13 (JS). Only one **Veery** was reported, in CC 5/3 (AK, JK). The only **Swainson's Thrushes** were 2 on the MS 5/17 (MH, RH, FM, JM). An odd report was 8 **Wood Thrushes** on the MS 5/17 (MH, RH, FM, JM), the highest count ever for the county.

Eighteen species of warblers were reported. Highlights included a **Worm-eating Warbler** on the RB 5/17 (TS), one **Nashville Warbler** on the MS 5/9 (AK, JK), one **Cape May Warbler** in RG 5/5 (AK, JK), one **Northern Parula** in CC 5/3 (AK, JK), and 3 **Blackpoll Warblers** on the MS 5/17 (MH, RH, FM, JM). The earliest **Hooded Warbler** was on BR 4/17 (JS). The first **Black-throated Green Warbler** was found on I80 on 4/20 (FM, JM). A report of 19 **Common Yellowthroats** found on Rt 949 on 5/13 (JS) proved to be a new high count for the county.

The season said hello to the first 4 **Grasshopper Sparrows** on SR 5/6 (ZA), and to the first 3 **Henslow's Sparrows** also on SR 4/29 (DG, GG). The last noted **American Tree Sparrow** was on BR 4/13 (JS) and the last **Fox Sparrow** was on BR 4/18 (JS). The last 15 **White-crowned Sparrows**, also on Rt949 on 5/13 (JS), proved to be a new high for the county, and the last **White-throated Sparrow** was on the MS 5/11 (NV). Only one **Vesper Sparrow** was noted, along with a **Savannah Sparrow** on Rt949 on 5/13 (JS). Also noted was a count of 20 **Eastern Towhees** in SGL244 4/25 (AS) providing a new highest count for the county.

The first of the season's **Scarlet Tanager** was found on BR 5/10 (JS), but a new county high of 13 was noted on the MS 5/17 (FM). The only **Orchard Oriole** was observed in RG 5/3 (AK, JK).

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Juniata County

For the spring season, 166 species were reported to eBird. A big day in *Juniata*, part of the Shaver's Creek Birding Cup 5/5-6 (7 pm to 7 pm), netted an impressive 129 species (VG, CK, ThP, AT). The species total for PAMC on 5/13 was 149, highlighted by **Black Tern** and **Red-throated Loon** on the Juniata River (m.ob.).

Shorebirds are always scarce in *Juniata*. Seven species this spring was a good showing highlighted by 4 **Semipalmated Plovers** on the PAMC; others that day included a good count of 18 **Least Sandpipers**, as well as **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and **Spotted** and **Solitary Sandpipers**. Seven **Greater Yellowlegs** were at East Waterford 5/5 (CK, VG). Another very uncommon species, 12 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Mifflintown 4/9 (DB).

Four **Common Nighthawks** were near Mifflintown 5/27, late enough to suggest nesting CK). **Golden-winged Warblers** were reported four times around McAllisterville 5/12-20 (CK, Paul Brubaker, Fern Bauman). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were seen near Mifflintown 5/13 and 5/30 (CK). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Mifflintown 5/6 (CK, VG). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Oakland Mills 3/15 (CK, AT). Single **Pine**

Siskins were noted 3/1 and 3/15 (CK, AT).

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Lancaster County

Locations: Alcoa Marsh (AM), Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Chickie's Rock County Park (CRCP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Muddy Run Reservoir (MRR), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Riverfront Park (RFP), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Speedwell Forge Lake (SFL), Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve (SFWP), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clarke (SRLC), Susquehanna River Long Level (SRLL), SGL 156, Susquehanna W.T.P Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Wood's Edge Park (WEP).

Average temperatures in Mar were 38.3°F (41°F mean), 56.8°F in Apr (52°F mean), and 56.9°F in May (61°F mean). Ice-free conditions persisted into Mar (the high on 3/1 was 72°F!), which was briefly interrupted by a cold snap and 10" snowstorm on 3/14. Precipitation was essentially normal for the season. ESE winds and a rain event overnight preceding 3/27 produced significant fallout of diving ducks around the county on that day. Similarly, strong south winds and a cold, rain-laden front overnight preceding 5/6 produced a massive local neotropical migrant fallout that lasted for at least four days.

Any distribution notes (were more abundant, less common, etc.) are compared to that species' 5-year eBird data trend. For many waterfowl species, numbers peaked lower and earlier than average, and generally before the period began. Despite generally cool and wet conditions in early May, charts for most neotropical migrants were generally normal. A stunning four review list species were reported, with three being definitively photographed. The species count for the reporting period was 232.

The PAMC took place on a rainy and cold May 13. Over 40 dedicated birders reported 140 species, about 10 below the average, likely due to conditions downgrading quality of birding and observer effort. Eight species of waterfowl was average, with several lingering diving ducks. Ten shorebirds were found, featuring two rain-assisted species. All spring vireos were found, but the disappointment was only 23 warbler species amassed, 5 below the average, with several notable misses. Grassland specialists, a strong suit for *Lancaster*, were well-reported.

Snow Goose quickly declined from an estimate of 40,000 on 3/1 to under 10,000 within days. By 4/1, a remnant of fewer than 1000 and small straggler flocks flowing through were all that were reported for several weeks until only a few injured birds remained (m.ob.). **Ross's Goose** reports included singles at MCWMA 3/1 (ZM) and 3/11 (RM), and one with a **Canada Goose** flock near Landisville 3/14 (EBE). **Cackling Goose** was seen at 3 locations, with up to 4 at MCWMA 3/11 (VG, CK, ZM, et al.). **Tundra Swan** gathered at normal levels at MCWMA, SRLC, and SRFC (m.ob.).

A nice count of 19 **Blue-winged Teal** was made at RFP 4/21 (GD). The count of 108 **Northern Shovelers** at MCWMA 3/24 (ME, TN) represented the highest 5-year peak for spring migration. **Northern Pintail** abundance was down fairly significantly and all birds disappeared several weeks early.

Canvasback was seen in singles during the second half of Mar, except for a raft of 6 on SRLC 3/20 (ME, TN). The only **Redheads** were on 3/27, with 3 at MCWMA (TN) and 45 at SRLC (ME, ML), and strangely a pair that persisted at CGNA 3/29-4/23 (KF, m.ob.), with the female disappearing after 4/17. **Ring-necked Duck** peaked at 200 on 3/5 at MCWMA (PW, RW, m.ob.), and late migrants were seen through the first half of Apr. Very late reports were comprised of a female at a pond in Manheim 5/16 (ZM ph.) and two females around the SRFC 5/26-29 (SS, m.ob.). General counts of scaup were low, but a raft of 400 not identified to species was at SRLC 3/27. A late male **Greater Scaup** was on the SRFC in the rain 5/13 (ZM) and again 5/16 (ME).

Four observations of **Long-tailed Duck** were made at three locations in Mar with a max of 3 (m.ob.); 8 were at MCWMA 4/4 after a late night rain shower (ZM, RM). **Bufflehead** occurrence was fairly normal, except for an estimate of 250 on the SRLC 3/27 (ZM, m.ob.). **Common Goldeneye** was regular on SRLC, but lower overall than the

past five years. The highest count of **Red-breasted Merganser** was 48 at SRLC 3/27 (ME, ML). **Common Merganser** was typical except for a flock of 600 at OR 3/27 (TA). Contrary to nearly all other waterfowl, **Ruddy Duck** was at a 5-year high for abundance, topping out at 80 at MCWMA 4/4 (ZM, BC).

Loon and grebe migration was fairly normal, except for a miss on Red-throated Loon, which is not recorded every spring. Forty-eight **Horned Grebes** were recorded on SRLC 3/27, providing a 5-year high count (ME). An estimated 300 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at a breeding colony below the Norman Wood Bridge on the Lancaster shoreline (ML).

American Bittern reports were 4, representing a min. of 3 individuals, which is a wonderful count for spring. One flew over the tour road at MCWMA 3/27 (TN), and one was heard there calling from a pond 4/19 (BC). Another was ensconced in brush near a creek at a Mt. Joy park (KD ph.), and one was reported at RFP 4/27 (BL). The **Great Egret** found in Jan continued at a Greenfield pond 3/8 and 3/22 (RS). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** arrived to their Ephrata rookery on schedule in early Apr, with the count of 61 on 4/20 representing around 30 breeding pairs (BC, m.ob.). By mid-May nestlings become visible, with a count of 75 on 5/24 including some of these (JS, m.ob.). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** joined the rookery 4/8 (RF, m.ob.) for the third season running, which may be a recurring individual. By 4/16, it acquired a mate for the first time, and nest-building was observed (DH ph., m.ob.). As of this writing, they have successfully produced two nestlings. **Glossy Ibis** is a casual spring overshoot - one individual appeared at CGNA 4/30 (LB).

Two overwintering **Golden Eagles** continued into Mar, with an imm. sighted 3/1 (BC), an ad. routinely photographed through 3/13 (m.ob.), and the final report 3/23 (LB). An early **Broad-winged Hawk** was over a Lancaster home 4/3 (DS), with migratory ramp-up beginning about a week later. After only a few inches of snow all winter, the late mid-Mar snowstorm brought an influx of **Rough-legged Hawks** to the county. The first, an intermediate-type ad. female, was at MCWMA 3/16 (LK ph.), and then came a light ad. male in Groffdale area farm fields 3/17-18 (JMc ph., ME, ZM). Shortly thereafter, at least 2 light type birds were reported at MCWMA 3/22-29 (RM, TK, m.ob.). Two additional reports were made from along route 283 in mid-Mar, possibly of the same individual (EBE, KM).

Virginia Rail was recorded only at WEP, with the 2 heard 3/7 probably our apparent year-round residents from Feb (JL, SS, m.ob.). These continued throughout the season (m.ob.). A season high count of 27 **American Coots** at MCWMA 3/4 (PB) was quite above average for so early a date, as coot typically peak in early Apr. A **Sandhill Crane** found with a Canada Goose flock in an East Earl pasture 3/26 lingered through 4/17 (FH, BH, m.ob.). It was observed to fly fairly often, but an injury at the base of p10 on its left wing may have contributed to its extended stay.

The first of the review species was a **Black-necked Stilt** observed in flight near the Norman Wood Bridge 4/28 (ML, JMu, doc. submitted). **Black-bellied Plover** is found in the county during spring in most years - an alternate-plumaged ad. was at the SRCF 5/17 (ML). **Semipalmated Plover** topped out at 55 on 5/20 at the SRCF (ME, TG, EW), and an unknown number were part of a mid-sized mixed flock of shorebirds migrating late in the evening over a Lancaster home 5/24 (DS). Overnight into 5/13, light southeast winds giving way to heavy rain produced shorebird fallout conditions for the PAMC. This brought a pair of **Ruddy Turnstones** and a **Sanderling** to the SRCF (ME, ZM ph.). **Dunlin** singles and pairs were on the SRCF several times as early as 4/30 (MS, EW, m.ob.), and some were also noted in the aforementioned migratory flock 5/24 (DS). **Least Sandpiper** topped out at 140 on the SRCF 5/20 (ME). A number of **White-rumped Sandpipers** were on the SRCF 5/16-29, with a nice high count of 10 on 5/20 (ME, m.ob.), and a single showed up at MCWMA for two days 5/23 (CB, m.ob.). **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** observations were made at 3 locations, each beginning in the last days of Apr, with a high of 21 for the latter at SRCF 5/20 being notable (EW). Twenty-eight **American Woodcocks** at MCWMA 3/27 doubled the 5-year eBird high count (TN). Very irregularly sighted in the spring were 3 **Red-necked Phalaropes** that appeared at MCWMA 5/21, 2 of which stayed through 5/23 (LG, ME, m.ob.).

Single ad. **Little Gulls** were with **Bonaparte's Gull** flocks at SRLC 4/2 (ME, ML, m.ob.) MCWMA 4/4 (RM). On 5/20, the SRCF featured a second cycle **Laughing Gull** (ME, EW). An ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was on the SRLC 3/20 (ME, TN). A high count of 13 **Caspian Terns** at MCWMA 4/22 was impressive (CG, GB). Spring **Black Terns** are

always a treat; a pair was seen at the SRCF 5/14 (ML) and one on the SRLC 5/30 (EW). On a similar schedule was **Common Tern**, with a pair on the SRCF 5/14 (ML) and another pair there 5/30 (EW). On the second observation, 2 additional birds seen several hours later upstream on the SRLC were suspected to be the same duo. Eighteen **Forster's Terns** at the SRLC 4/29 represents one of the higher counts at any point in the year.

Black-billed Cuckoo was found at 4 locations starting 5/2 at MCWMA (DHi, m.ob.). A **Short-eared Owl** lingered at MCWMA until the somewhat late date of 4/14 (TN, VP, m.ob.). Excellent counts of 75 and 45 **Common Nighthawks** were made at CRCP 5/16 and 5/17, respectively (ME, EBr, ML, TN). Reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-will** are always welcome - one was heard calling at a Narvon home 4/28 (anon.). The Denver imm. male **Rufous Hummingbird** was last seen 3/3 (EH). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at an impressive 16 locations. Resident **Peregrine Falcon** pairs returned to 5 established locations, 4 of which are along the Susquehanna R.

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen nearly every day 5/21-28 at MCWMA (ME, m.ob.), with at least 2 on 5/27 (ME). Also at MCWMA on 5/27 was a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, not always found in the spring (ME). **Alder Flycatcher** was recorded at 4 locations in May, with most found at MCWMA beginning 5/17 (ME, ZM, GS, m.ob.) and a high count of 4 there 5/24 (ZM). Reports at 7 locations were average for **Least Flycatcher**, as early as 5/4 (SM, m.ob.), with a notable high count of 4 at NDP 5/15 (SM). Twenty-three **Great Crested Flycatcher** at SGL 156 on 5/28 was an outrageous high count (ME).

Common Raven continues to increase, reported in every week during the period. Finally, this spring a nest was discovered under a bridge near Safe Harbor (ML, JMu), apparently only the second confirmed nesting record in Lancaster. One previous record exists from a quarry in the Denver area. **Cliff Swallow** remains an uncommon breeder, and of their 3 recent colonies they only returned to MRR during the period from 5/23 (TA). Two small flocks were also recorded along the Susquehanna R. in early May (BC, EW).

Lingering irruptive **Black-capped Chickadee** stuck around through Mar at 5 locations, with the last bird sighted 4/11 at WEP (FZ). After the massive influx of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in Sep 2016, our overwintering individuals tapered off into mid-May at numerous locations in the county, and the last was noted at the SRCF 5/20 (EW). **Brown Creeper** was frequent around the county and into the spring, and an unusually late bird was observed at NDP 5/10-12 (SM, MS ph.). This season was one for the wrens, in which all five in-range species were found by the second week of Apr! A fantastic **Sedge Wren** was discovered at WEP 3/7 (JL, ME, ZM), which may be one of, if not the earliest in the state. Hours later, while searching at WEP for the previous bird, a **Marsh Wren** popped out of the reeds (ME, ZM). This species was only found in the county during spring migration at this location, and up to 2 were reported through 5/9 (m.ob.). A slightly early **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at RFP 3/29 (GD). Four locations hosted **Gray-cheeked Thrush** in May (m.ob.). A **Brown Thrasher** was early near Washington Boro 3/19 (EBE). Several **Lapland Longspurs** were found in fields near Mt Joy and Groffdale 3/16-18 (ME, ZM, TN).

Thirty-three warbler species were found. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was heard at SFWP 4/18 (RK). Well less than annual in the county is **Golden-winged Warbler** - a female was found at NDP 5/17 (SM, ZM ph.). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was quite early at SGL 156 on 4/5 (ME), and a high count of 24 was made at SGL 156 on 5/7 (ME, ZM, TN). Only 2 **Mourning Warblers** were reported, both from MCWMA in early May (ME, JC). **Kentucky Warbler** remains an irregular breeder, with reports at 5 locations including several annual breeding spots. Thirty-one **American Redstarts** provided a nice high count at MCWMA 5/8 (JC). A few **Cerulean Warblers** were noted at SGL 156 and MCWMA 5/6-8 (BC, ME, ZM, TN). High counts of **Northern Parulas** came from MCWMA, 29 on 5/6 (ME) and 26 on 5/8 (JC). The best **Black-throated Blue Warbler** counts, both on 5/7, were of 31 at SGL 156 (ME, ZM, TN) and 43 at MCWMA (ME, TN). Two **Palm Warblers** showed up in early Mar, a Yellow ssp. at CGNA 3/5 (KF ph., et. al) and a Western at MCWMA 3/9-10 (CM ph., m.ob.). Multiple **Pine Warblers** filtered in to the county starting 3/28 at MRR, SFL, and SFCP (LB, PB, ME, TN, VP). Only one **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was recorded in Mar, at a Lancaster home 3/19 (DS). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was on the early side at SGL 156 on 4/17 (TN).

Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** arrived at MCWMA as early as 4/12 (BC). A **Chipping Sparrow** on 3/17 at a Lancaster home was a bit early (MB ph.). An abnormally high spike in **Fox Sparrow** numbers coincided

with the timing of the blizzard 3/14 (m.ob.). As usual, **Vesper Sparrow** was reported in low numbers during migration, beginning the first week of April, with singles at NDP 4/3 (SM), MCWMA 4/15 (ME, TN), and Millersville area (RJ). Numbers also returned to an Ephrata farmland breeding location, with a pair there 4/4 (ZM, m.ob.) and up to 5 on 4/8 (ME, TN), continuing through the period (m.ob.). Spring **Lincoln's Sparrows** are uncommon - observations were made at 4 locations, as early as 4/23 at NDP (SM).

The top find of the season came in the form of a female **Summer Tanager** at NDP (SM, MS ph., doc. submitted). Also fantastic was an adult male **Painted Bunting** that visited a feeder at a home in Mohnton 4/1 (BG ph., no doc.). This would comprise the third county record if submitted to and accepted by PORC. At the time of this writing, it was revealed that this bird overwintered at a feeder a half-mile from its Apr location. It first arrived sometime in Jan, and a birder was able to visit and document the bird 1/22 (AH, doc. submitted), but the homeowner desired privacy. A movement of **Dickcissels** into the county began with 2 pairs 5/20 at OR that were reported through the end of May (EF, MF, m.ob.); more would be discovered post-period. As previously reported, a first-year male **Bullock's Oriole** residing at a Lititz home through the winter was last seen by the homeowners 4/7 (JY, LY, doc. submitted). This will mark the second county record if accepted by PORC. Irregular **Pine Siskins** were nearly nonexistent, but a flock of 11 was recorded at a Lancaster home 3/3 (DS).

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Lancaster County (Winter 2016-17)

Locations: Alcoa Marsh (AM), Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Rock Springs Nature Preserve (RSNP), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clarke (SRLC), Susquehanna River Long Level (SRLL), Susquehanna W.T.P Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Wood's Edge Park (WEP).

Average temperatures were above freezing through the period, and around 5°F over the mean in January and February. Precipitation was a little down, most in forms other than snow. A general lack of ice kept waterfowl moving through quickly and never allowed numbers to build, as is typical. Overall, winter raptors and field bird numbers were a little down. The showstopper was a long-staying **Bullock's Oriole**. A total of 136 species were recorded.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found at AM 1/23 and continued to 1/24 (FB, m.ob.). One was possibly observed 1/25 at WEP and one was photographed there 2/5 (FZ, ML), both of which may have been the same bird moving with locally wintering **Canada Goose** flocks. Five were reported flying together at MCWMA 1/27 (RM). According to eBird data, **Snow Goose** saw its earliest migratory peak in the past five years, and numbers never crested 100,000 (m.ob.). **Ross's Goose** was only reported from MCWMA this season, with the first arriving with building Snow Goose flocks 1/20. Up to 2 at once were seen, no doubt a small number of total individuals, and reports continued through Feb (ME, RM, m.ob.). **Cackling Goose** was reported through the entire count period at 7 locations in the county, in line with past years, with up to 5 individuals seen 2/11 at MCWMA and WEP (LH, IS, ME, m.ob.).

A lone **Eurasian Wigeon** was at CGNA 12/14 (KL), and single males were at the SRCF 12/17-19 (BC, ME) and MCWMA 2/10-11 (EH, DY). Less than annual for the county, 3 **Surf Scoters** were found at the SRLL 1/5 and one there 1/9 (RC, ML). Per usual, **Long-tailed Duck**

reports were spotty with 2 on 12/4 and up to 2 from 1/2-4 on the SRLC (ML, ME, TN, PF). **Red-breasted Merganser** was limited in early Jan to a pair on the SRLC 1/2 (ME, TN) and 4 at MCWMA 1/4 (NP, SP). In the latter half of Feb, a pair was on the SRLC 2/17 (BC), one on the SRCF 2/17 (AH), and up to 2 from 2/14-28 at MCWMA (JD, m.ob.).

An exceptional surprise was an **American Bittern** at MCWMA 2/21 (SS ph.), by far the earliest in the county with records typically coming in late April during migration. Our unseasonably warm winter must have contributed to this sighting. A **Great Egret** provided another remarkable heron find at a pond in Greenfield 1/7 (RS, DS ph.), continuing off and on in the immediate area through Feb (RS). A sighting along the Conestoga River in Lancaster 2/2 may have been the same individual (BM).

Golden Eagles were spotted around the county, with the first at OR 12/22 (JSe, MG). A highlight of the season was at least 2 long-staying individuals at MCWMA, an adult and a second-year bird, first sighted 1/19 (RM, m.ob.) and continuing well into March. Another adult was observed from Rt. 283 near Mt. Joy 2/27 (ME). A **Rough-legged Hawk** near Holtwood 2/18 (PE) provided the only report for the period. For the second year running **Virginia Rail** apparently overwintered at WEP, with 2 heard 2/22 (ML, ZM). Single first-winter **Iceland Gulls** were reported on the SRLC on 12/31 (JH, JM) and 1/25 (ML, ZM). Up to 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** of varying ages were on the SRLC 1/24-2/17 (GD, ZM, m.ob.).

The Lititz CBC on 1/1 turned up 5 **Long-eared Owls** at MCWMA in their traditional roost site (ME, TN, ZM, et al.), and 6 were counted by PGC personnel 1/28 (SB). Up to 2 **Short-eared Owls** were at MCWMA in Dec, beginning 12/13 (IG, AL, JL, BV, m.ob.), and one again for the CBC (BC, ZM, m.ob.). Difficult to find in the county is **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, with one at RSNP 12/18 (LB), 2 at MCWMA for the CBC 1/1 (ME, ZM, m.ob.), and one there 1/31 (BC). The immature male **Rufous Hummingbird** banded in Oct at a home in Denver continued through the winter to 3/3 (ML, m.ob.). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was found at the SWTPWB 1/14 and continued on 2/5 (ML). The open chlorine tanks hold warm water, which supports insect hatches year-round, allowing certain species that can use them as a food source to overwinter.

As noted around the state, *Lancaster* received its share of **Black-capped Chickadees** and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in irruption, each with dozens of reports spanning the entire county. Most **Lapland Longspurs** and all **Snow Bunting** were found mixed with Horned Lark flocks in Groffdale area farm fields. Two longspurs were observed 1/7 and singles continued through Feb (BC, m.ob.). A male longspur was reported near Mountville 2/8 (SS). Up to 8 Snow Buntings were seen regularly through the same period starting 12/29 (ZM, m.ob.).

Five warbler species were discovered. For the second straight winter, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** visited a feeder at a private apartment in Elizabethtown from at least 12/9 to 1/17 when the resident was forced to remove her feeders (JSA, GD, TN, HW). An immature male **Common Yellowthroat** was seen at OR 12/24 (IG, AL, DWe), establishing a new late date for the county. A (Western) **Palm Warbler** was at the SRWTPWB 2/4-5 (EW, ML), feeding on insect hatches. This warbler is found nearly annually on CBCs or at other locations during the winter in the county. The only two **Pine Warblers** were 2 found together at OR 1/21 (ME, TN, ZM). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was uncommon, reported at 5 locations, in line with past years (m.ob.).

Eastern Meadowlark was reliable only at MCWMA all season, with up to 8 seen there 2/25 (FB, ZM, m.ob.). **Rusty Blackbird** was infrequently sighted at only 4 locations, with up to 14 at MCWMA 2/20 (BC, m.ob.). The star of the season was undoubtedly the first winter male **Bullock's Oriole** at a Lititz feeder, first noted 11/25 (JY, LY ph., doc. submitted), which will be the second county record if accepted by PORC. It was not seen again until 12/27 by the homeowners, and was then opened to the public for viewing. Over 100 eBird reports were submitted through 3/29, with many folks visiting the long-staying Black-backed Oriole in *Berks*, picking up 2 oriole rarities in the same day! According to the homeowners it was last seen 4/7 (JY, LY, m.ob.). Despite the earlier-mentioned irruption, winter finches were few and far between in the county this season. Three male **Red Crossbills** were seen at SGL 156 on 2/11 (TG), a species not sighted in the county since 2012. A basic plumage **Chipping Sparrow** was reported at MCWMA 1/7 (ML). **Pine Siskin** was limited to one individual at a home in Lancaster 2/22-23 (DS).

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Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Edinburg Lake (EL), Plain Grove Township (PG), Shaner Road Marsh (SR), Volant Strips (VSM), Wampum-New Galilee Road Marsh (WNGM).

Waterfowl migration was off by *Lawrence* standards. Two **Tundra Swans** were at BS 3/21 (KSJ, et al.). Very surprisingly, there was only one report each of **Blue-winged Teal** and **Northern Shoveler**, those at WNGM 4/23 (MJ) and EL 4/16 (MV), respectively. The 70 **Ring-necked Ducks** at SR 3/26 (BB) was a below average maximum, but the 73 **Lesser Scaup** there 4/1 (AP, JC, et al.) was a better than average top count. Three **Ring-necked Ducks** were still at SR 5/6 (MV). Two **Common Goldeneyes** were a rare find for the county at EL 3/11 (MV). A nice count of 8 **Horned Grebes** was made at the former Glacial Sands gravel pond along PA-108 on 3/28 (JF, LF). The only **Great Egret** of the season was at VSM 5/12 (DY).

Two **Virginia Rails** were noted at BS 4/22 (BB), which was also the first day that **Common Gallinules** were found in the BS area (BB, et al.). The latter species topped out at 5 birds 5/20. Another **Common Gallinule** was at WNGM 5/28 (MV), a traditional breeding spot. The wintering flock of **Sandhill Cranes** in the greater PG area was still 25 birds strong 3/28 (LM), but numbers quickly dropped off thereafter. Adults with colts were seen there later in spring again this year, beginning 5/19 (MV, KR).

SR was again the spring shorebird hotspot, though this year did not come close to matching last year's excitement. By far the best sighting was of 5 **Willetts** there 4/30 (GK, MAK), providing *Lawrence* with its second record of the species. A few **Semipalmated Plovers** were there 5/20-28 (m.ob.), and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and **White-rumped Sandpiper** were both noted 5/28 (MV), the latter rarely found in the county, especially in spring. Up to 12 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were present 4/16 (MV) to 4/28 (RN). A **Dunlin** was noted 5/20 (BB). Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were nearby at VSM 4/1 (AP, JC, et al.).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo**, increasingly rare in western Pennsylvania and especially in the northwest, was at VSM 5/12 (DY). **Barred Owls** were noted at BS 3/25 (JV) and SGL 178 on 4/28 (RN). **Merlin** was sighted at BS 3/26 (BB) and at VSM 3/27 (SS), possibly the same bird in both cases.

Passerine migration was quite unremarkable, the usual result of *Lawrence's* chronic lack of coverage. A **Cliff Swallow** at VSM 5/12 (DY) was notable. **Veeries** were noted in Mahoning Twp. (CH) and PG (BB) on 5/13. The season's two sightings of **American Pipit** were widely spaced: 4 were at VSM 3/26 (BB), and one was there 5/12 (DY). Other field birds at VSM 3/26 included 30 **Lapland Longspurs** and 6 **Snow Buntings** (BB). Three longspurs were still at VSM 3/30 (SD).

Northern Waterthrush and **Orange-crowned Warbler** were nice finds on an outing to BS 5/13 (BB). A **Pine Warbler** was noted there as well 4/9 (DK). First **Henslow's Sparrow** returned to VSM 4/18 (GK, MAK). **Bobolinks** continued their very strong presence at VSM, with top counts reaching 40 birds in May (m.ob.). Five **Rusty Blackbirds** were at SR 3/26 (BB) and one was seen near New Wilmington 4/22 (Bartramian Audubon). There were several reports of **Purple Finch** from various areas around the county 4/13-5/17 (m.ob.).

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Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand Powerline (CSP), Cornwall Area (CA), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Fox and Prescott Roads (FXP), Governor Dick Park (GDP), Kreider's Pond (KP), Lebanon Valley Rail Trail (LVRT), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Mount Gretna (MG), Pine Road (PR), Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands (QEW), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), SGL 145, SGL 211, Shuey Lake (SL), Spring Hill Acres (SHA), Stover's Dam Park (SD), Swatara State Park (SSP)

A **Ross's Goose** was at MC 3/9 (RCM). Sixty **Brant**, circling over MLSP at dawn during the PAMC, provided a new county high count 5/13 (JH). A **Mute Swan** was at SD 4/3-20 (P&RW, TB). **Blue-winged Teal** were found at MLSP 3/10 (IG, TB), 3/25 (MS), and 5/5 (JD). A pair were at FXP 4/28-5/1 (TB, KB, TN, P&RW) and one was at Farmer Dr. 4/11 (TB). A third county record **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** continued at MC from 2/14 of the winter until 4/8 (RCM, PW, MS, DB, JL, m.ob.). An intergrade **Green-winged Teal** was also at MC 3/13-4/1 (MF, TN, RCM, SSt). The only **Canvasback** of the period was a female at MLSP 4/2 (SW). A flock of **Redheads** continued from 2/27 at MLSP 3/1-27 (JD, TB, KB, IG, SW, m.ob.). The flock reached a peak count of 30 on 3/15 (IG). A single female was at MLSP 4/4-11 (TB, KB). A **Greater Scaup** was at MLSP 3/15-23 (IG, SW, TK, P&RW, SS). A female **Lesser Scaup** provided a second May record and new county late date at MLSP 5/30 (SB, SBI).

Three **Surf Scoters**, two males and a female, provided an eighth county record at MLSP 4/29 (MC, JD, TB, KB, P&RW, TN). A pair of **Surf Scoters** provided a ninth county record at MLSP 5/29-31 (TB, KB, SW, MSh, BO, m.ob.). Five **Long-tailed Ducks** were at MLSP 3/27-31 (IG, TB, MC, SW) and 8 were there 4/4 (TB, KB). A **Common Goldeneye** was a nice find at MLSP 3/1 (JD). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found at MLSP 3/1-9 (JD, TB, KB, IG, SW). Beginning with 5, the flock built to a high of 17 on 3/7 (IG, SW), before dwindling to 2 on 3/9 (IG, TB). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** was at MLSP 4/29 (P&RW, TB, KB, IG, TN), and again 5/5 (TB, JD).

Ruffed Grouse were reported from the northern end of the county on 5 occasions. Three flushed at SGL 211 on 3/6 (TB) and was there 3/27 (TK). One was found at FIG 4/18 (IG) and 4/29 (SW); and one at 2Mtn 5/16 (SW, JD). An **American Bittern** was at MLSP 3/31-4/4 (TB, KB, SW, IG, JD); and at nearby SL 4/4 (IG, JD). A **Black-crowned Night-heron** was at a pond along Ramona Rd 5/22 (TN). A **Glossy Ibis** provided county record number twelve along Upper Lawn Rd 5/4 (AB).

An adult **Mississippi Kite** provided a 12th county record at FIG 5/31 (IG, LB). The **Bald Eagles** along Hammer Creek, at one of 6 nests sites in the county, were incubating 3/13 (FH). Up to 2 light phase **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen in both *Lebanon* and *Lancaster* at MC 3/20-23 (RCM, DB). A **Merlin** flew over the Lebanon VA Hospital grounds 3/5 (TN) and another was at MLSP 3/6 (SW). A **Sora** was at FIG on a new county early date 4/4 (IG, JD).

Up to 4 **Semipalmated Plovers** arrived on a new county early date at SL 4/29-5/5 (TN, TB, KB, JD); one was at KP 5/27 (TB). An injured **Dunlin** was at KP 5/13-14 (JH, TN, SW). Up to 12 breeding plumage **Dunlins** were at FXP 5/15-27 (TN, RCM, JH, TB, KB) and single in breeding plumage at MC 5/16 (RCM). Seven **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at MLSP 3/27 (TB, IG) and 4 there 4/18 (P&RW). Up to 8 **Caspian Terns** were found on 5 occasions at MLSP 4/20-5/6 (JD, TB, RS, MC, RCM, m.ob.). Seven **Caspian Terns** were at PR 4/27 (EC). A **Common Tern** provided a 13th county record at MLSP 4/21 (TB, IG).

A **Barn Owl** flew over FIG 5/17 (DM). Two were calling at SGL 211 on 3/5 (TB) and one there 5/18 (P&RW); another called along Tomstown Rd at FIG 5/13 (JH). A **Long-eared Owl** was heard southwest of Kleinfeltersville 4/2 (BS). Two **Short-eared Owls** were seen at MC 3/13 (MF). A **Common Nighthawk** was at MLSP 5/12-15 (JD, DM, TB, KB, SW). Three were seen at SHA 5/16 (JH), and 2 at CA 5/17 (P&RW). Two nighthawks were at FIG 5/29 (IG). Fifteen **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** provided a good count during a survey at FIG 4/17 (JD, SW). Up to 12 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** remained at a winter colony at FIG 3/13-4/17 (IG, m.ob.), with smaller numbers found at various places within FIG throughout the spring (IG, JH, JD, P&RW, m.ob.). It is encouraging that they were also reported from 6 other locations 4/27-5/21 (m.ob.).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at FIG on a new county late date 5/31 (IG). An **Eastern Wood Pewee** was at GDP on a new county early date 4/18 (RCM). **Alder Flycatchers** was at FIG 5/24 (IG) and MLSP 5/24-30 (SW, TN, TB). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued in good

numbers from the winter with reports from 8 locations (m.ob.). The final report was of one on 2Mtn 5/10-16 (TB, JD, BW, DM, SW). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at MG 5/28 (WA). A **Lapland Longspur** was seen at Meadow and Forney Rds 3/15 (JH).

A **Brewster's Warbler** was at MLSP 5/30 (TN, TB). A **Yellow Warbler** tied the county early date at MC 4/17 (RCM). Four **Cape May Warblers** and 3 **Bay-breasted Warblers**, both of which can be difficult to find, were at 2Mtn 5/16 (JD, SW). Four Bay-breasted Warblers were at FIG 5/23 (IG). Up to 3 **Cerulean Warblers** were found along the ridge of 2Mtn 5/10 (JD, DM, SW), 2 at FIG 5/16 (DM), and 2 at SGL 211 on 5/18 (P&RW). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at SSP 5/17-27 (TB, SW), one at FIG 5/15 (JD), and 3 at FIG 5/27 (SW). A **Mourning Warbler** sang for the PAMC at MLSP 5/13 (JH). An early **Common Yellowthroat**, continuing from 2/22, was re-found at QEW 3/6 (TK). A **Wilson's Warbler** was at MLSP 5/13-15 (JH, JD, DM, SW, BW, TK), 2 at SSP 5/16 (TK), one at CSP 5/30 (TB), and 2 at FIG established a new county late date 5/31 (IG, PF).

A **Vesper Sparrow** flew across Greble Rd 4/11 (TB). A flock of 10 **Savannah Sparrows** provided a new county high count at MLSP 4/21 (TB), but that record was superseded by 12 at SL 5/3 (IG). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found at MLSP 5/13-16 (JD, DM, SW, BW, TK), at CA 5/14 (P&RW), and at SSP 5/16 (TK). Single **Blue Grosbeaks** were at FIG 5/19 (IG) and at SGL 145 on 5/20 (JH).

There were multiple sightings of **Rusty Blackbird** flocks at PR 3/5-4/3 (TB, SW, AK) with up to 40 there 4/2-3 (TB, SW). Other good counts included 35 at MC 3/22 (SS), 18 at CSP 3/29 (JH), 30 at MLSP 3/31 (TB, KB), and 20 near Bellaire 4/15 (MM). Smaller numbers were reported at multiple locations. A female Rusty Blackbird found during the PAMC provided a new county late date at MLSP 5/13 (JH). **Purple Finches** were reported from at least 4 locations. Better counts included 5 near Grantville 4/8 (TB, KB) and up to 10 at SHA 4/16-17 (JH). Later reports included one at SD 5/3 (P&RW), 10 at 2Mtn 5/8 (TB), and one at SHA 5/11 (JH).

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Lehigh County

Locations: Bake Oven Knob (BOK), Fogelsville Quarry (FQ), Leaser Lake (LL), State Game Land 205 (SGL 205).

Snow Geese lingered into April, with the highest count (1000+) noted over Upper Macungie 3/24 (ZM). Eleven **Tundra Swans** were at New Tripoli 3/7 and Leaser Lake 3/18 (FD). A flock of 7 Tundra's was at LL daily 3/26-4/1, with 2 as late as 4/14 (FD). Twenty duck species of ducks found this season is above average, even if numbers for many were not particularly high. The only expected species *not* found was **Canvasback**. A rain event produced a notable waterfowl fallout at LL 3/27-28, detailed below. Three long-staying **Blue-winged Teal** at Cetronia Rd in Upper Macungie were present 4/10-5/2 (RR, m.ob.) with reports of singles and pairs from three other locations. **Northern Shoveler** was at Fogelsville Quarry and LL 3/18-4/1, with max of 7 at FQ 3/19 (KD).

There was just one record of **Redhead**, a fallout flock of 18 (mostly hens) at LL 3/27 (BW, m.ob.). **Ring-necked Duck** was present as usual at multiple locations through 4/2, but triple digits at LL 3/17-25 was quite notable; max count was a careful tally of 386 birds 3/19 (KD). Four **Greater Scaup** were at LL 3/28 (FD) and a single drake stayed on a small farm pond in Heidelberg Twp 4/4-14 (BE, m.ob.). A flock of **Lesser Scaup** at LL 3/27 grew from 10 birds at 11 am (BW) to 30 by 5:30 pm (FD). Nine **Long-tailed Ducks** at LL on 3/28, was a nice total for *Lehigh* (BE). Associated with the Long-tails was a flock of **Red-breasted Mergansers** that increased in size throughout the day, from (9 am, BE) to 14 (5:30 pm, FD), to 25+ (6:30 pm, JH). A pair here 5/1 was a bit late in the season (KD). A pair of **Common Goldeneyes** was at LL 3/20 (FD). **Ruddy Duck**

at Krock Rd 5/14 was quite late for a migrant (JF).

A few escaped/released birds were noted: **Northern Bobwhite** was at SGL 205 on 4/14 (DH) and a **Chukar** spent a few days around an office building in Upper Macungie 4/26 (JH). The only reports of **Wild Turkey** came from LL 5/27-31, just 2 birds reported by several birders. A **Red-throated Loon** made a brief appearance at LL 5/1 (KD). **Common Loon** was found at LL daily 3/28-4/9 and again daily 5/1-12 with max of 17 on 5/1 (JHi, KD). **Horned Grebe** was noted occasionally at LL 3/11-4/3, with max of 3 on 3/27 (BW). **American Bittern** was a nice find at LL 4/17 (FD), as was an imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** there 5/31 (KD).

There were 30 eBird reports of **Bald Eagle** from all around the county, but it seems last year's nesting location was quiet this year. **Sora** was a good find at the marshy northeastern corner of LL 5/28 (FD). The flooded field along Cetronia Rd in Upper Macungie was particularly attractive to shorebirds, producing several good reports including **Dunlin** 4/19-30 (KD, m.ob.), a **Least Sandpiper** max of 75 on 5/8 (JL), **Pectoral Sandpiper** 3/28-4/30, and **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/1-5/14 (max of 38 on 4/28) (EK). Exceptional tallies of 21 Greater Yellowlegs and 36 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were noted at CR 4/30 (KD), for a grand total of 114 legs, all yellow. The max count of **Wilson's Snipe** was 14 at Haafsville 4/9 (DA).

Ten **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at LL 3/27 (BW). Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at the usual small lakes and ponds west of Allentown daily 3/12-4/1; as in recent years, the larger numbers found in surrounding counties were not noted in *Lehigh*. **Caspian Tern** was yet another nice find at LL 4/22 (FD).

A **Barred Owl** was heard at Zionsville 4/14 (BS); the species is fairly unusual anywhere in the county. The frequency of **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports was a highlight for the period, and reports from some "new" locations were particularly notable. In addition to the small year-round breeding population at Stine's Corner presumed migrants were found at North Whitehall 4/30 (CS) and Lynn Twp. 5/6 (JB). Near Slatington, a pair was reported on suitable territory beginning 5/23 (JG) where they were found consistently into the summer breeding period, very active and quite easy to find and photograph. Possibly that they have been there for a while, but just recently noticed by birders.

There were a few reports of **Peregrine Falcons** about the county in early April (m.ob.), but no reports of breeding birds from the downtown Allentown area this year. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Trexlertown 5/26 (AS) and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at LL 5/28-29 (FD). Of the 22 eBird reports of **Common Raven**, most notable was a pair at the fairgrounds well within the city of Allentown 4/24 (MC). A notable count of 15 **Cliff Swallows** came from LL 5/13 (AS).

A productive winter for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** yielded steady reports throughout most of the spring; the species was widespread, and reported somewhere in the county almost daily through 5/3, then lingered through at least 5/12 at LL. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found at LL 5/19 and 5/24 (JG, KD). A nice tally of up to 25 **American Pipits** was reported from Greenleaf St. in North Whitehall 4/23 (JH, EK).

Highlights among 31 species of warblers include 2 **Mourning Warblers** at LL 5/14 and **Kentucky Warbler** at New Tripoli 5/17 (FD). **Cerulean Warbler** was present on territories on Blue Mountain above LL and near BOK beginning 4/28, with a max of 5 at BOK 5/10 (SK). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was present consistently at LL beginning 5/12 (AS).

A **Dark-eyed Junco** was a bit late for the county at LL 5/17 (EK). **Blue Grosbeak** was at Germansville 4/29 (DA). A very notable report of a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** near Dorneyville came via eBird 5/31, accompanied by a photograph and full description (JS). Unfortunately, attempts by several parties to relocate the bird over the following days did not pan out. This is the second county record, the first having occurred just 19 months ago, on Halloween 2015. The only report of **Pine Siskin** was of 5 from Emmaus 4/16 (JL).

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Lehigh County (Winter 2016-17)

Greater White-fronted Goose has become nearly expected in the county in winter, and didn't disappoint this season. A single bird arrived at Fogelsville Quarry 12/30 and was seen sporadically through 1/15 (KD,

m.ob.). Two were present one day only at Coplay Quarry on New Year's Day (FD). The most reliable birds were a pair seen almost daily 1/18-2/22 at Dorney Pond. These geese each had unique characteristics that made them easily identifiable; one had an anomalous bit of white feathering around one eye, and the other was most likely a bird of the Greenland race. Bill color, thickness of the neck, extensive barring on the belly, and various finer points of the bird's plumage all pointed toward the Greenland subspecies (photographed by MS, et al.). At least one other bird was photographed here a few times during this time period, and 3 White-fronteds at once were reported to eBird 2/18 (SM). **Snow Geese** began to arrive in numbers by mid Dec, and about 10,000 were roosting at Fogelsville Quarry by New Year's Day (FD). Max counts were 20,000 at Fogelsville 1/22 (JH) and a fly-over flock of the same size at Slatedale 1/27 (RR). A **Ross's Goose** was found at Fogelsville 1/1 (FD), and reported there among the roosting Snow Geese by numerous observers through 1/22. Single **Cackling Geese** were reported fairly regularly from Fogelsville Quarry and Dorney Pond 12/16-2/23, with a max count of three photographed at Dorney 1/14 (KD). A **Snow Goose x Canada Goose** hybrid was at Lake Muhlenberg 12/26-27 (m.ob.). A flock of **Tundra Swans** (47) was seen migrating over Hanover Twp. 12/17 (IG). The same number was tallied at Leaser Lake ten weeks later, 2/27 (FD). Coincidence? Only the swans know...

Duck highlights included at least 17 species. **Northern Shoveler** was at Trexlertown 12/10 (TW). **Canvasback** was at Fogelsville 1/29 and Leaser Lake (2) 2/25 (FD). A **Redhead** was at Fogelsville 1/9 and at Dorney Pond 1/11-2/1 (FD, KD, m.ob.); up to 4 were at Leaser Lake 2/11-21 (TG, CS). The only scaup were at Fogelsville with 2 **Greater Scaup** 1/29 (FD), and 2 **Lesser Scaup** 1/13 (FD). **Common Goldeneye** should never be taken for granted in *Lehigh*, so the following 4 sightings are all quite good: 2 Lake Muhlenberg 12/30 (JH), 4 at Dorney Pond 2/8 (RR), one at Canal Park 2/23 (KD), and one at Leaser Lake 2/25 (FD). A single **Red-breasted Merganser** was with **Common Mergansers** at North Whitehall 1/14 (FD).

A late **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Leaser Lake daily 12/30-1/7 (m.ob.), then again 2/25 to the end of the period. A pair of **American Coots** was seen daily at Dorney Pond beginning 12/10; while not rare, they were the only coots reported. Despite plenty of suitable habitat across the entire county, the first **Killdeer** of the year were a pair seen and heard overshooting all of it, way up at the top of Blue Mt, flying north over the Appalachian Trail into *Carbon* (RB). Rounding out the "waterbird" category, and further straying from our usual taxonomically ordered lineup, up to 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found almost daily at Fogelsville and the various Cetrionia area ponds, with max counts 1/11 and 1/15 (BE, FD).

Black Vultures were present daily, but reports dipped in the first three weeks of Jan; max count (57) was at Bridge St. in North Whitehall 1/14 (JH). Nine **Northern Harriers** were reported, mostly from Trexler Game Preserve and the northern rural townships, with no high numbers. There were at least 34 separate eBird reports of **Bald Eagle**, nearly all of single birds, 12/10-2/28. Of these, 19 reports were from the west side of Allentown in the Cetrionia area, where an adult and a third/fourth year type bird were reported several times together in early Jan around Dorney Pond and Trexler Park (KD, BE, et al.). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** also spent the heart of the winter at Trexler Park, reported regularly 1/6-2/17; in early Jan, this bird was seen interacting with the resident eagle pair on a few occasions, a nice find for this particular suburban park.

The resident **Red-headed Woodpecker** pair was noted near Stine's Corner 1/8 and 1/14 (JH, FD). **Merlin** seemed to be somewhat easier to find than usual this winter, by anecdote at least, with 9 reports to eBird 1/27-2/25 serving as some backup. An adult **Peregrine Falcon** was seen multiple times on the same high tension cross bar feeding perch and in surrounding fields along Greenleaf St. in North Whitehall 12/23 to at least 2/5 (BH, BE, JH). Others were at Heidelberg Twp. 1/4 (RR), Trexler Nature Preserve 2/18 (AS), and two were recorded on the Northern Lehigh Winter Raptor Survey 1/29 (BH, FD, JH). **Common Raven** reports this season, away from expected areas along Blue Mt.: Fogelsville Quarry throughout Jan and Feb (m.ob.), South Mountain near Emmaus 2/17-19 (LC), plus somewhat more unexpected reports from Allentown 1/9 (BS) and Lower Milford 1/21 (KR).

The largest **Horned Lark** flocks seemed to be at the Greenleaf St. area at mid-winter, with 150 reported there 1/29 (JH) and a max of 270 by 2/28 (BE). As across the region, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** became widely reported beginning early Dec. There was a significant spike in eBird reports during the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) in mid-Feb, when people outside of the core birding community submitted private

feeder data across a four-day period, nicely illustrating the true scope of this species' irruption into the area this winter.

American Pipit was reported just once, a flock of 20 at Leaser Lake on New Year's Day (FD). **Cedar Waxwing** was found very sporadically and in low numbers; eBird shows just 9 reports (4 in Dec, 3 in Jan, and just 2 in Feb). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** often depends upon the same food sources as waxwings in winter, and was notable only in its complete absence this period.

Fox Sparrow was found beginning 2/19, with the max of 3 from Leaser Lake 2/28 (CH). **Eastern Towhee** was fairly scarce, with just 2 reports (none from the GBBC, which often reveals at least one or 2); one was at Dorney Pond 2/18 (m.ob.) and another at Zionsville 2/24 (BS). **Eastern Meadowlark** was even more elusive, with one at the previously mentioned Red-headed Woodpecker spot near Stine's Corner 1/15 (EK). Four **Pine Siskins** visited a feeding area at New Tripoli 1/4-5 (FD). An **Evening Grosbeak** was a nice find at SGL 205 on 1/22 (CH). First heard calling, the bird was eventually seen as it flew overhead, providing the observer a brief but convincing view.

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Lycoming County

Locations: Canfield Island (CI), Mill Street (MS), Montgomery (MTG), Montoursville (MTV), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), South Williamsport Park Complex (SWP), Trout Run Park (TRP), West Branch Susquehanna River (SR), Williamsport (WPT), Williamsport Dam (WD).

The weather during the spring was fairly strange. March started off cold, in contrast to a warm February. The only major snowstorm of the year was 3/14, with 15+ inches of snow in most of the area. April was fairly seasonable, but May for the most part was cool and rainy. The heart of migration in early to mid-May saw mostly unfavorable conditions, leading to very low numbers of many migrant songbirds. For the Pennsylvania Migration Count and eBird Global Big Day on 5/13, it was rainy for a good portion of the day, but the *Lycoming* teams did fairly well despite the tough conditions. Observers recorded 145 species during the count, and the highest personal total was 122 species (BB). *Lycoming* finished third in Pennsylvania for total species, and second in number of checklists submitted. Nocturnal flight calls were monitored throughout May in MTV, providing records for many rarities, especially shorebirds. In total, 212 species were reported during the spring.

Snow Goose were scarce because their migration took place mostly in Feb. The only sightings at RVL were 90 on 3/7 and 49 on 3/19 (SP, NF). The other report was 5 birds in a field near MTG 3/31 (BB, DeB, BoB). One of the best sightings of the spring was a flock of 22 **Brant** migrating over the Lycoming Cr. Bikeway during the migration count 5/13 (DB, et al., ph.), possibly *Lycoming's* first spring record of the species. Several flocks were also recorded flying over MTV during the early morning hours of 5/22 (DB NFC Station).

With only 2 prior *Lycoming* records, **Trumpeter Swans** were recorded twice. The first was individual M78, Harvey, at RVL for a few hours 3/25 (NF, BB, DB, DeB, BoB, SP, ph.). The bird was seen near Germantown, Maryland during the evening prior – a straight-line travel distance of roughly 150 miles – and was reportedly in that area for quite a while prior to that. Harvey is a male hatched in May 2013 to parents 150 and 198 in Ontario. He was found to have returned to his "birthplace" in early Jun, presumably seeking a mate. The second sighting consisted of birds with neck tags Z603 and Z675 photographed on a private pond near Pier 87 by a family member of the property owner. The birds were reportedly present 4/1-7. These swans have been traveling together, and are possibly escaped birds. **Tundra Swans** were seen through early Apr. The biggest numbers migrated through prior to the beginning of Mar, although there were still sightings in excess of 100 at a few locations in Mar.

Gadwall sightings were mainly limited to RVL, but the species turned up at a few other locations, including upwards of 20 at SGL 252 on 4/2 (BB, DB, DeB). Likewise, **American Wigeon** reports were mostly from RVL. An **American Black Duck** was reported as late as 5/29, with

a single associating with a Mallard in a puddle near MTG (BB, DeB, BoB). **Blue-winged Teal** were incredibly scarce - the only reports came from SGL 252 on 4/2 (BB, DB) and 4/9 (BB, DB, DeB), and from SWP 4/22 (DB, et al.). **Northern Shovelers** were seen a little more often than in past years, with a few sightings at Indian Park at the beginning of Apr, a single at Susquehanna S.P. 4/6 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB), and numerous sightings at RVL during Mar and Apr. **Northern Pintail** migration was primarily during Feb, so there were only scattered sightings during Mar. **Green-winged Teal** were regularly seen during Mar and Apr, with a count of 53 at MS 3/11 (BB) representing an all-time eBird high count for *Lycoming*.

Canvasback sightings were very limited, with up to 5 seen at RVL 3/7 (DB, et al.) during a big push of migrating ducks, and another 5 at WD 3/10 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, EvH). **Redheads** were limited to the same two locations, but were seen with more regularity throughout Mar and early Apr. **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen through mid-May, and were present in large numbers at RVL at times, including over 300 on 3/27 (EvH). In addition to the typical scattered sightings throughout Mar and early Apr, an incredible fallout of 525 **Greater Scaup**, along with other species, occurred at WD during poor weather 3/10 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, EvH), representing the all-time eBird high count for *Lycoming*. **Lesser Scaup** were mostly seen in small groups along the SR and at RVL during Mar through early May.

Surf Scoters, which have been very hard to find in recent years, were seen on three occasions. The first was a male at RVL 4/28 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, et al.), followed by a pair seen at the same location 5/5 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, et al.). The other sighting was a pair at WD 4/29 (DB, MD). **White-winged Scoter** reports were a single bird at Susquehanna S.P. 3/31 (DB, EvH, et al.), 3 at RVL 4/21 (DB, et al.), and 8 at RVL 5/5 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, et al.). There were quite a few **Long-tailed Duck** reports throughout Mar and Apr, probably more than normal. **Bufflehead** remained at RVL as late as 5/29 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). **Common Goldeneye** sightings were regular throughout Mar and early Apr, with the last report 4/6 at RVL (BB, DB, DeB).

Large numbers of **Hooded Mergansers** were present at RVL in late Mar and early Apr, with several counts over 100 (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were present through most of the season, with one as late as 5/26 at WD (DB, MD). **Ruddy Ducks** were also present for the majority of the season, with the last sighting being 3 birds at RVL 5/17 (BB, DeB).

After being missed in 2016, **Red-throated Loons** were found three times during the spring. The first sighting was at Susquehanna S.P. 3/31-4/1 (DB, EvH, et al.) and the other two reports were at RVL, one 4/21 (SP, EH) and another 4/30 (JDu). The first **Common Loon** was at RVL 3/9 (SP). The species was relatively common throughout most of the season, particularly at RVL, which had the seasonal high count of 71 on 4/20 (NF). A small number of **Pied-billed Grebes** stuck around at RVL into May. Likewise, **Horned Grebes** were reported several times during May at RVL and WD, which is a bit late for this common migrant. The only **Red-necked Grebe** was at RVL 4/5 (LS, et al.).

An **American Bittern** was seen at RVL 3/27 (EvH, et al.), and there were sightings in the same area through 4/5 (DB, DeB, EH). An annual site for the species, SGL 252 had two sightings: 4/4 (AK) and 5/1 (EvH). There were 10 sightings of **Great Egrets**, normally uncommon in the spring. The first was at MS 3/26 (BB, DeB), and one was seen as late as 5/30 at MS (BB). An early **Green Heron** arrived at RVL 4/13 (DB, SP).

Golden Eagles were spotted on numerous occasions, with the season's high count of 6 migrating over MTV on both 3/21 (DB, DeB, BoB) and 3/25 (BB, DB, DeB). **Bald Eagles** nested in many of the same locations as past years, but the Sylvan Dell Rd. nest lost one of the adults to a major line of thunderstorms on 5/1 that knocked down many trees throughout the county. **Ospreys** were seen in abundance at RVL during Apr, in addition to numerous birds spotted along the SR. A high count of 35 Ospreys were observed migrating over MTV during the course of an hour and a half 5/1 (DB, DeB). A fairly late **Northern Harrier** was reported in Cogan House 5/13 (DF), bringing up questions of possible nesting. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen in decent numbers during migration, including some in mid-to-late May in suspected nesting areas. **Broad-winged Hawks** were found in expected numbers, with a seasonal high count of 54 at RVL 4/21 (EvH). A few **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen in the MTV area during Mar, including the Williamsport Regional Airport 3/13 (EH), a residence in MTV 3/20 (DB, DeB, BoB), and MS 3/21 (BB).

American Kestrels were reported through the end of May in suitable nesting habitat. **Merlins** were seen fairly regularly throughout Mar and Apr, with some promising signs of potential nesting, but no sites were located. **Peregrine Falcons** were seen mainly in the normal

locations, along with some migrants. The nest sites at the Market St. Bridge in WPT and the Muncy Boat Launch appeared to be unsuccessful again this year, but a new site near the Montgomery Boat Launch did produce young.

A **Virginia Rail** was reported in English Center 5/13 (DF), and 2 were heard at a small wetland in Antes Fort 5/29 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). **American Coots** were not terribly abundant, but they were regularly seen in small numbers at RVL from mid-Mar to mid-Apr (m.ob.). Additional reports came from SGL 252 in early Apr, including a count of 22 on 4/4 (AK). The species was also seen at SWP 4/1 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB) and 4/9 (BB). **Sandhill Cranes**, normally pretty rare in *Lycoming*, were found at three locations. The first was a single seen briefly near Jersey Shore Airport 3/24 (ML, ph.). A flyover flock consisting of 3 cranes was observed at MS 4/10 (BB, ph.). The third sighting was a very cooperative bird at SWP 4/15-24 (m.ob., ph.).

A flock of **Black-bellied Plovers** was detected over MTV 5/28 (DB NFC Station). At least one **Semipalmated Plover** was heard calling over MTV during nocturnal flight call monitoring the evening of 5/25 (BB). **Dunlins** were detected by nocturnal flight call over MTV 5/28 (DB NFC Station). **Least Sandpipers** were observed several times at MS during May, one was at RVL 5/11 (SP), and a flock was detected over MTV by flight call in the early morning hours of 5/19 (DB NFC Station). Six **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at MS 5/29 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, SP), and another 4 on 5/30 (BB) that was possibly a subset of the first group. Five were seen in a different part of MS 5/31 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Short-billed Dowitchers** were detected flying over MTV 5/11, 5/17, and 5/21 (DB NFC Station). The first **Wilson's Snipe** report came from a reliable spot near RVL 3/10 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). The species was seen in the county through early May. A count of at least 28 in Nisbet 3/31 represents the all-time *Lycoming* high count on eBird (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, EvH, TN). **American Woodcock** reports were scarce after the snowstorm 3/14, but there were some scattered reports through mid-May.

Solitary Sandpipers were relatively plentiful during the beginning of May, with several locations recording double-digit counts. The species was seen as late as 5/29, with one in a puddle near MTG (BB, DeB, BoB). **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen in a handful of locations, with numbers perhaps just below normal. **Lesser Yellowlegs** were more numerous than the past few years, with at least eight different sightings, compared to a single spring sighting each of the last two years. A flock of presumed **Whimbrels** was detected over MTV 5/21 (DB NFC Station); Whimbrels have never been recorded on the ground in *Lycoming*.

Five gull species were reported. As is typical, **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen during the entire season, including as many as 1500 at WD 3/9 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, EH). There were scattered **Herring Gull** sightings throughout the spring that tapered off by May. The third and final expected gull species, **Bonaparte's Gull**, was first seen at MS 3/26 (BB, DeB), and was consistently seen through the second week of May, with a high of 310 at RVL 4/14 (EvH). A **Great Black-backed Gull** was at RVL 3/15 (DanB, ph.). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found at WD 3/26 (BB, DeB, BoB, MD, ph.); the only prior records are from the same location 3/30-4/2/2015, as part of a rare gull invasion.

Caspian Terns were seen with some regularity at RVL from mid-Apr through early May (m.ob.). The only Caspians away from RVL were 4 flying over MS 4/29 (BB, DB, SP). **Common Terns** dropped in at RVL 5/5 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, et al.) and 5/29 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, SP). Additionally, one was at WD 5/29 along with 2 more distant *Sterna* sp. that were probably also Common Terns (DB, MD). Up to 2 **Forster's Terns** were seen at RVL 4/28 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, et al.). Six unidentified *Sterna* sp. were seen at WD 5/13 (DB, et al.) and one was seen at MS the same day (BoB).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were recorded in most of their normal locations. Both species were heard nearly nightly, and sometimes in decent numbers, during the second half of May at nocturnal flight call stations in MTV. **Barn Owls** continue in previously known areas. Other owl reports were fairly typical.

Common Nighthawks were reported from various locations in the second half of May, but the total number was fairly limited. The highest count was 9, at MS 5/18 (BB, DeB). Reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-will** were limited as well, mostly due to effort, but the species was found at reliable locations. **Chimney Swifts** arrived back 4/20, first seen at WD (DB, MD, JD). There were some reports of a few slightly early **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** around 4/20, but the first major push started right on schedule in the last few days of Apr.

The only unusual woodpecker report was of an adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** photographed in a backyard in Moreland Twp. 4/30 (AS).

Acadian Flycatchers were mostly found where expected, but one was present at MS 5/18 through the end of the reporting period, in very odd habitat for the species (BB, et al.). Migrant **Alder Flycatchers** were detected for about a week in late May, seemingly in higher numbers than previous years. The high count for **Least Flycatcher** was 8 at CI 5/15 (BB). The first **Eastern Phoebe** sighting was outside of WPT 3/24 (DF), with an influx throughout the county 3/25, which is later than arrival dates in recent years.

Yellow-throated Vireos were fairly scarce, with only a few reports in early-to-mid May. **Blue-headed Vireos** were consistently reported after the second week of Apr. **Warbling Vireos** were noted in small numbers from the end of Apr through May. **Red-eyed Vireos** arrived at the end of Apr, with several sightings 4/29-30.

Tree Swallows were first seen 3/10 at RVL and WD (BB, DB, DeB, BoB), but the first good push was 3/25. The arrival date for **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was 3/25, first seen at MS (BB, DeB, BoB). **Bank Swallows** were reported many times during the spring, mostly along the SR and at RVL, including at least 10 at CI during the migration count 5/13 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Barn Swallows** returned the first week of Apr. **Cliff Swallows** were seen first at WD 4/10 (DB), and then consistently the rest of the spring. **Purple Martins**, which have been hard to find in recent years, were reported several times. Breeding colonies in the southern part of the county became known to the birding community in mid-Apr, and birds were confirmed to still be present in mid-May. Additionally, 3 were reported at MS 4/21 (EH) and one flew over RVL 4/28 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, SP).

Red-breasted Nuthatches continued in elevated numbers all spring after their winter irruption. The detection of **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** dramatically increased over past years, with the addition of nocturnal flight call monitoring at two sites in MTV. The species was detected 5/17 and 5/19-30 (DB NFC Station). A singing bird at Skyline Drive 5/19 provided a daytime record for the normally elusive species. **Swainson's Thrush** was frequently detected by nocturnal flight call during much of May, with hundreds of calls some nights. Daytime sightings were more frequent than in past years, especially at MS. An early **Brown Thrasher** was in Anthony Twp. 3/14 (ML). **American Pipits** were not terribly abundant, but there were scattered sightings, including several at MS.

Many of the breeding warblers arrived early, with much movement the second half of Apr. The weather pattern during much of May led to very few nights of favorable winds, and many of the less common warblers seemed to mostly bypass *Lycoming*, or at least heavily-birded areas. **Worm-eating Warblers** were reported a handful of times, including at MS during the migration count 5/13 (BB). As is typical, MS had an abundance of **Louisiana Waterthrush** sightings, and they were widely reported throughout in the county in expected habitat. The number of **Northern Waterthrush** sightings seemed above-average, and the species was reported at most of the major birding hotspots. **Blue-winged Warblers** were fairly difficult to find, but there were reports from a private residence outside of WPT 5/4, 5/9, and 5/10 (DF) and from SGL 252 on 5/7 (BB, DB) and 5/28 (BB, DB, DeB, AK). Additional reports came from TRP 5/1 (EH) and 5/6 (CH). **Tennessee Warblers** were a bit low compared to prior years. Among the best finds was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at a private residence outside of WPT 4/29 (DF). **Cape May Warblers** were relatively scarce, but were found at least a few times in many of the normal hotspots. **Magnolia Warbler** numbers were somewhat low, but there were scattered reports throughout the county. **Bay-breasted Warblers** were scarce, with most sightings coming from CI and MS in mid-May. A count of 3, seen together at CI 5/15 (BB), represents the county all-time eBird high count for the species. **Pine Warblers** were seen more frequently than most years.

Yellow-throated Warbler reports were limited to TRP, a reliable site in the past, with the first 4/30 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). **Prairie Warblers** were scarce, even in places normally reliable. **Black-throated Green Warbler** numbers seemed quite low overall, although there were still sightings scattered throughout the county. **Canada Warbler** reports were somewhat limited, with some noted on South White Deer Ridge during the migration count 5/13 (JF) and one at a private residence outside of WPT 5/22 (DF). Additionally, the species was detected by nocturnal flight call flying over MTV during the early morning hours of 5/17 and 5/27 (DB NFC Station), with another detected a little before midnight 5/27 (BB). The only **Wilson's Warbler** was at a private residence outside of WPT 5/4 (DF). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at SGL 252 on 5/28 (BB, DB, DeB, AK). There were 30 warbler species recorded this spring, but Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Mourning Warbler were

not found.

Grasshopper Sparrows were fairly hard to find, and seemed late returning to MS, which has been a reliable spot in the past. **Fox Sparrow** reports were fairly numerous, including an influx at feeders during the snowstorm 3/14. **Vesper Sparrows** were found only near the Lycoming Cr. Bikeway 4/4-5 (DB, et al.). **Savannah Sparrow** numbers seemed strong during the spring, and the species was frequently observed at MS during Apr and May. There were 2 records of **Lincoln's Sparrow**, a very uncommon spring migrant. The first was at MS 5/12 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB) and the second at TRP during the migration count 5/13 (DB, et al.).

Cogan House Twp. continues to be reliable for **Bobolinks**, but the species was seen in many other locations as well, such as Mill Hill Rd. **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen in good number throughout the spring, with MS continuing to be a reliable location. The best bird of the spring, ironically found after the major snowstorm, represented the first *Lycoming* record of **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at a backyard feeder in MTG 3/15 (MH, ph.). Several chasers relocated the bird nearby later in the day in a very large mixed flock (AK, BB, DB, DeB, BoB). More than a foot of snow the previous day had pushed many birds to backyard feeders all over the area, which is probably the only reason this bird was found. **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported Mar through early May, with the seasonal high count of approximately 25 in a field near MTG 3/31 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Orchard Oriole** observations were not terribly widespread, but they were reported consistently throughout May, especially at CI, where a nest was found. Interestingly, the species was not reported at RVL, despite nesting there in 2016. **Baltimore Orioles** arrived at the end of Apr and were widespread through the end of May.

Purple Finch migration peaked in mid-Apr, reported at feeders throughout the county. **Pine Siskins** were localized throughout the most of the spring, with some continuing as late as 5/21 near MTV (EH).

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Mercer County

Locations: East Zahnizer RD (EZR), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Pennsy Swamp (PS), Sandy Lake (SL), Shenango R. Res (SRR), Shenango Wildlife Area (SWA), Skunk Run Road (SKR), Williamson Rd (WR).

A total of 32 species of waterfowl were reported. Most were found in lower numbers than some years, possibly flying over the county due to the mild weather that persisted into March. A surprise, and providing possibly the best sighting among waterfowl, were 2 **Greater White-fronted Geese** at the SWA 3/3-23 (NT). Equally rare and somewhat late was a **Ross's Goose** at the same location 3/28-4/17 (NT, SS). Another good find was a neck-banded **Trumpeter Swan** seen in flight at East Cornell Rd 3/13 (NT). There was a major movement of **Tundra Swans** at SRR 3/13 with an estimated 500 counted at the Golden Run area (NT). The last one was reported at the SWA 4/17.

An early **Blue-winged Teal** was found at the SWA 3/8 (SS). Single **Canvasbacks** were reported 3/12-4/13, with a high of 2 at LW 3/21 (SS, NT). Possibly the highest single day count for **Long-tailed Ducks** in the county occurred 3/28 when a combined total of 82 were counted at SL, LW, and SRR 9NT). This species was first reported 3/21 at LW and the last were at SL 4/5 (NT). The only report of **Common Goldeneye** was of 2 at LW 3/21 (SS, NT). **Common Loons** were at LW 3/21-5/10, but no high numbers were noted (NT, SS).

With reports becoming increasingly rare here, two **Ruffed Grouse** heard drumming at SGL 130 on 5/13 represented a nice find (NT). Three **Great Egrets** were seen in flight at WR 4/3 (NT). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, not often reported in spring, was heard calling as it flew over WR 4/21 (NT).

Broad-winged Hawks were somewhat early. The first was at WR 4/6 (NT). The only **Rough-legged Hawk** was at WR 3/4-5 (NT). Following a tradition of one or two reports every spring, a low-flying **Golden Eagle** was seen at Fox Mine Road 3/5 (ST). **Virginia Rails** were heard at 3 locations - one at PS 4/21-5/4 (SS, NT), one at a small wetland along Forrester Road 4/27 (HT), and up to 2 at SGL 130 on 5/9 (NT).

Sandhill Cranes were reported at PS and Rattlesnake Swamp through the period (m.ob).

Twelve species of shorebirds were reported, a nice total considering the wet spring and high water at SRR. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at the SWA 5/19 (SS). The first **Solitary Sandpiper** was at WR 4/15 (ST). There were no reports of Greater Yellowlegs, which is unusual, but **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found at PS 5/17 (NT) and at the SWA 5/19 (SS). Three **Least Sandpipers** were at EZR 5/7 (NT) and several were at the SWA 5/10 (SS). A **White-rumped Sandpiper**, always a good find in spring, was reported with 20 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at the SWA 5/25 (BW), and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at the same location 5/10, though not identified to sub-species (SS).

Bonaparte's Gull was reported at LW 3/28 (NT) and **Caspian Tern** at the SWA 4/17 (NT). The last report of Caspian Tern was one at SRR 5/16 (SS). A **Common Tern**, not often found in spring, was at SRR 5/16 (SS). **Forester's Tern** were at LW 5/2 (NT) and a high of 20 was noted at SRR 5/13 (SS).

A **Short-eared Owl** was seen in flight at Forrester Road 3/28 (HT). A **Common Nighthawk** was at WR 5/17 (ST) and 5 were there 5/18 (NT). They were also reported in downtown Sharon 5/28 through the end of May (BD). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported at Buhl Park 4/18 (SS) and at EZR 4/28 (NT). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was confirmed nesting at several new locations alone Poole Road (NT).

A **Merlin** perched on a dead tree at the SWA 3/23 provided only report (NT, ST). Possibly often overlooked during migration, 3 reports of calling **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at SKR 5/16–28 were noteworthy (NT). **Alder Flycatchers** were reported at Poole Road 5/14 and one was calling at SKR 5/25–31 (NT). **Philadelphia Vireos** are possibly present in the county more frequently than reported. Two were at Poole Road 5/14 and one at SKR 5/16 (NT). Two **Common Ravens** were heard calling at SGL 130 in the Reids Furnace area 5/13–31. They were often seen flying east into *Venango* where they may nest (NT, ST).

There were multiple reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, first at LW 4/25 (NT) and the latest from Chestnut Run at SRR 5/16 (SS). A **Marsh Wren** was singing at the Triple Link area of SGL 130 on 5/17 and several were noted at PS on the same date (NT). Up to 4 **Lapland Longspurs** were at Tieline Road 3/24 (SS) and at least 5 at EZR 3/29–4/2 (NT). A small flock of **Snow Buntings** was found along Franklin Road near Jackson Center 3/3 (ST).

Warblers were well represented with a total of 32 species reported. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was heard along the Shenango Trail 4/27 and a **Northern Waterthrush** was heard at the SWA on the same date (GK, MAK, NT). Somewhat early and away from the known nesting area was a singing **Prothonotary Warbler** along the Shenango River near New Hamburg 4/27 (GK, MAK, NT). Two **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at SGL 130 on the PAMC 5/13 (NT, ST). A **Mourning Warbler** was at Griffin Road 5/9–31 (GK, MAK, NT). Two **Kentucky Warblers** were at Reids Furnace 5/13, both on territory and confirmed nesting by the end of the period (NT). **Cape May Warblers** were present in higher numbers than usual. They were first seen at WR 5/1 (NT) and were reported thought 5/15 at SRR (SS). **Cerulean Warblers** were found along the Shenango River where they nest 5/13 (SS). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were scarce, with only 2 reports - one at Chestnut Run 5/11 (SS) and one at SKR 5/16 (NT). **Blackpoll Warblers** were reported 5/14–28 at several locations (NT, SS). Ten different **Pine Warblers** were tallied in the Shenango area 4/14–23 (SS) and one was at Montgomery Dam Road 5/4–31 (NT). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was singing along River Road near New Hamburg 4/27–5/31 (NT, m.ob). **Canada Warblers**, which are sometimes hard to find, were reported 5/14–28 at several locations (NT, SS). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was heard at SKR 5/22–24 (NT).

American Tree Sparrows were present through 4/24 at WR (NT). Both **Grasshopper** and **Henslow's Sparrows** were at Spring Road 5/13 (NT, SS). **Fox Sparrows** were reported at several locations 3/12–4/2 (NT, SS). There were no reports of Vesper Sparrow, which seems to be harder to find in recent years. Only a few **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported - one at SGL 130 on 5/13 (NT, ST) and one at EZR 5/22 (NT). **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted 3/3–5/2 at WR (NT). An **Orchard Oriole** at WR 4/19 was somewhat early. It was found gathering nectar on flowering quince blossoms (ST). **Purple Finches** were at WR 3/3–5/31 (NT).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137**. Bill Drolsbough, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Steve Sanford, Harvey Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Bill Winkler.

Mifflin County

Locations: Barefoot Road (BFR), Victory Park (VP).

For *Mifflin*, the 2017 spring season saw an increase in observers in the field thanks to two events. The Birding Cup, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center 24-hour fundraiser, took place May 5-6. One team registered for *Mifflin*, limiting bird observations within the 24-hour period to the boundaries of the county. The year 2017 also marked a Big Year initiative for *Mifflin* with the focus on the goal of reaching 200 species (in eBird) for the year, thereby encouraging observers from outside the county to increase field observation hours and to report sightings.

Six **Snow Geese** were at VP 3/5 (RD) and a high of 30 came from near Milroy 3/26 (RD, RH, CK). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were observed outside of Milroy 4/29 (RH, CK). The only **Northern Shoveler** was on Back Mountain Rd outside of Milroy 3/11-26 (RD, RH, CK, JG, JD, SD). A **Long-tailed Duck** found on a small private pond on Knepp Rd in Big Valley 3/27 (JZ) remained to 3/30 (RH). A few days later another (the same?) individual was at VP 4/1 (RD, CK, JZ).

Once again farmland around the Milroy area provided great opportunities to observe wintering **Rough-legged Hawks**. All observations were on Back Mountain Rd in March with a high count of 4 (RD, RH, CK, SD, DG, GG, JG).

May produced periods of heavy rain creating great opportunities to search flooded fields and pond edges for migrating shorebirds. Fields along Barefoot Road near Milroy, known to have unfit soil for farming, flood very easily and can provide great sightings for shorebirds. A high of 5 **Least Sandpipers** were on BFR 5/2 (RH, CK) with many other sightings up to 5/10 (DH, IG, TN, VP, RD). Two Least Sandpipers were at a small pond near the Quality Inn just off the Freedom Ave exit on Route 322 on 5/10 (RD). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were on Waynesburg Rd 5/29 (JK). One **Greater Yellowlegs** was on BFR 5/2 (RD) and 2 there 5/10 (RH). A high count of 8 **Lesser Yellowlegs** was made on BFR 5/6 (RD). The only a **Bonaparte's Gull** was on Waynesburg Rd 4/1 (JK, JZ).

A pair of **Barn Owls** continue at a private residence near Milroy. The female was observed sitting on the ground inside an abandoned silo 5/20 (JK, JM). Other Barn Owls were reported in the same area but different locations including one on Back Mountain Rd 4/29 (RH, CK) and one on Siglerville Pike 5/6 (DH, IG, TN, VP). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported at SGL 107-Woodcock Management Area 5/28 (DH).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was heard during nocturnal flight outside of Milroy 5/6 (TN, IG, DH, VP). A **Cerulean Warbler** was found outside Milroy 5/10 (RH). SGL 107-Woodcock Management Area produced sightings of uncommon **Yellow-breasted Chats** 4/30 (RD), 5/6 (TN, DH, IG, VP), and 5/10 (RD).

Observers: **Jon Kauffman, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, jvk5019@gmail.com**, Rob Dickerson, Josh Donaldson, Susan Donaldson, Ian Gardner, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Joe Gyekis, Dueane Hoffman, Robert Hosler, Chad Kauffman, John Mackin, Ted Nichols II, Vince Pantanella, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center (KCEEC), Mt. Airy Lake (MAL).

The season began with a mid-March blizzard and ended with a relatively wet May, and included a number of highlights. The somewhat late **Red-throated Loon** on the Delaware River near Shawnee 5/20 provided a surprising find (SB, MG). Late waterfowl included a pair of **Northern Shovelers** on MAL 5/26 (RS, BJ). A **Green-winged Teal** lingered through May at the same location, last reported there 5/22 (BJ). A high count of approximately 500 **Ring-necked Ducks** was made at Trout Lake 3/21 (BJ). A **Hooded Merganser** hen was on eggs in a KCEEC nest box 4/24—this marks the eighth season out of the last ten that this species has used this same box (BH). The 7 **Red-breasted Mergansers** on MAL 4/27 represents a high count for this uncommon county species (BJ).

An outstanding rarity was the **Swallow-tailed Kite** seen and nicely photographed while it circled over Brodhead Park near Stroudsburg 4/28 (JW). Shorebird highlights included a **Black-bellied Plover** at a retention

pond near Pocono Manor 5/22, a **White-rumped Sandpiper** at the same location 5/17, and a **Stilt Sandpiper** at Lynchwood Lake 5/22 (BJ). Rare for the county were the 3 **Caspian Terns**, seen briefly and photographed at MAL 4/21 (RS).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was observed in a Saylorburg yard 5/23 (RW), a location that seems to be a magnet for this uncommon migrant. East Stroudsburg University's Terry Master conducted his annual survey in DWGNRA 5/16 and recorded some notable individual numbers: **Yellow-throated Vireo** – 17 (highest count ever), **Cerulean Warbler** – 27 (down from a high of 46 last year), **American Redstart** – 91 (high count), **Ovenbird** – 62 (high count), **Hooded Warbler** – 69 (highest count ever).

The 6 **Savannah Sparrows** at MAL 4/27 represented a high count (BJ). Following the blizzard, **Fox Sparrows** at the KCEEC feeders topped out at 12 individuals 3/22 (BH). High counts for **Bobolinks** included 25 at the old Mountain Manor golf course near Marshalls Creek 5/1 and 28 in the grassy lawn at Shawnee Inn on the same day (BJ). Another rarity was the male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** photographed at a Gilbert feeder on the day of the blizzard 3/14 (NK). Additional storm-related birds included the 5 **Rusty Blackbirds** at the KCEEC feeders 3/15 (BH).

The high count for **Purple Finch** was 10 at the KCEEC feeders 4/4 (DS) and the only **Pine Siskins** were singles at the same location 3/7 and 3/16 (BH).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570)629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net.** Stephen Bagen, Maura Griffin, Bruce Johnson, Nancy Kresge, Darryl Speicher, Rob Staiano, Jeff Wilkins, Rick Wiltraut, Scott Wood.

Montgomery County

Locations: Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve (GWP), Lorimer Park (LP), Norristown Dam (ND), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Trewellyn Park (TP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

A minimum of 208 bird species were noted in *Montgomery* during spring 2017, a good improvement over spring 2016's sorry 198. Not included in this total was a member of a waterfowl subspecies considered a full species elsewhere in the world, an unconfirmed hummingbird ID, and a long-staying exotic duck.

Four PORC review list species were detected during the period. A **Common Teal/Eurasian Green-winged Teal** that was probably captured in an inconclusive photograph taken at GLP 2/25 (LG) was confirmed 3/1 (JH), then noted several times thru 3/19 (m.ob, ph.). An adult **Mississippi Kite** was photographed over GWP 5/19 (MJ, doc. submitted). Potentially the biggest bird-tourist attraction of the period, a **Red Phalarope** was found at GLP 4/29 (SG, m.ob, ph, doc. submitted). As seems to be the case with nearly all wandering phalaropes, it was present for just the one day. A **Summer Tanager** made a brief appearance in a Plymouth Meeting yard 5/19 (PB, doc. submitted).

Worth mentioning in the highlights section as well was another vagrant that could not be absolutely assigned to a specific species. A probable **Rufous Hummingbird** successfully overwintered in Bryn Mawr at a private residence. First detected 11/28, the hummingbird was last observed 4/8 (anon.). The homeowners did not want the bird banded. Although photographs taken in Dec were, per SW, supportive of the Rufous ID, they did not completely rule out Allen's Hummingbird.

A single **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at GLP 3/2-5 (LH, m.ob). Another, found at WWP 4/3 (CD, ph.), represents a new record late date for this species in eBird for *Montgomery*. A lingering **Snow Goose**, possibly injured remained at GLP through the end of the period. Two **Redheads** were at GLP 3/28 (PD, LH), increasing to 5 the following day (m.ob). A massive count of 417 **Ring-necked Ducks** was tallied at the UCV's Skymount Park 3/19 (PB). A very late Ring-neck was at GLP 5/22 (WBH). Two **Greater Scaup** drakes were at GLP 3/7 (GF). Single hens were noted in a pond near Gilbertsville 3/16 (KR) and at GLP 3/31 (PD). Two **Lesser Scaup** were present at GLP 4/30 (LH), a bit more than a week beyond their normal time in *Montgomery*. Rain on 3/27 caused a large scaup fallout throughout the region, including an estimated 100 at GLP (LH), conservatively deemed too distant to identify to species.

Three **Surf Scoters** at GLP 4/21 (KR, m.ob) were the first found in

the county since 2012. Another Surf Scoter, a solo hen, followed them at GLP 4/27 (LH). **Long-tailed Ducks** were present at GLP on at least three days 3/19-28 (m.ob). An anticipated, but exciting, breeding confirmation was produced 4/30 when a female **Hooded Merganser** was photographed at GLP with 8 tiny merglings (PM). This species is not known to have bred in *Montgomery* previously, at least not within the past few decades, although Hooded Merganser presence at GLP through summer months in 2015-16 strongly hinted at an expansion in their breeding range. Young juvenile **Common Mergansers**, a sister species that has become a regular breeder in *Montgomery*, were seen at ND and GLP (m.ob). A handful of **Red-breasted Mergansers**, all in singles and doubles, were spied at GLP 3/28-4/29 (m.ob).

Three **Red-throated Loons** were at GLP 3/28 (PH, m.ob). Representing the season's high count, 5 **Horned Grebes** were at GLP 3/31 (PD). More surprising were 4 rain-stalled **Red-necked Grebes** at GLP 4/25 (DM, m.ob, ph.), looking spiffy in breeding plumage. **Double-crested Cormorant** numbers at GLP were strong in Apr, with a high of 135 on 4/21 (PB).

A calling **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flew over Red Hill 5/18 (ML). Adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were detected at ND 4/11 (MR) and 5/22 (PB). This species likely breeds somewhere in the vicinity of ND. The leucistic, almost entirely white **Red-tailed Hawk** of Hatfield was observed on 4 occasions 3/4-4/4 (SG, WBH, KH). Two **Virginia Rails** were recorded in Lower Moreland Twp. 3/26 (PD, vr.). A **Sora** was heard vocalizing at White's Mill Preserve 5/7 (ZM).

An alternate-plumaged **Black-bellied Plover** stopped by GLP 5/22 (WBH). The highest count of a smattering of May reports of **Semipalmated Plover** at GLP was 5 on 5/22 (SG). A **Dunlin** (possibly 2 different individuals) was at GLP 4/24-29 (PD). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** at WWP 5/27-30 were a great find (CD, m.ob, ph.). The sole **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at GLP 4/29 (MJ, GF, AM). Singles and doubles of **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were reported at WWP 5/8-30 (m.ob), as well as at GLP 5/20 (AK) and 5/29 (SG). The appearance of a solo **Short-billed Dowitcher** at GLP 5/22 (WBH) was completely overshadowed by a huge flock of 62-65 dowitchers feeding at GLP 5/31 (AA, m.ob, ph.). This number almost certainly represents a new Short-billed Dowitcher high count for the county.

Single **Bonaparte's Gulls** were found at GLP 3/29 (AM) and 4/29 (WK, m.ob). A pair of Bonaparte's Gulls also graced the reservoir 4/14 (GF, m.ob). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** numbers at GLP peaked at 88 on 3/19 (PB). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were found in ones and twos at Bala Cynwyd and ND in Mar (m.ob). The only confirmed tern species was **Caspian Tern**: 2 were at GLP 4/21-22 (KR, m.ob), and one at the same location 4/29 (WBH, KH, ML).

Black-billed Cuckoo seemed to be found with relatively more ease than in some years. There were 14 reports of the species from 6 locations (m.ob). A single **Long-eared Owl** was found in Upper Gwynedd Twp. 4/9-11 (AM) and one **Short-eared Owl** at PERT 3/1 (AnM, MG). A calling **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was a shock to its finder in West Norriton 4/27 (AU, vr.).

Spring 2017 marked the first successful nesting of the pair of **Peregrine Falcons** at ND, after a couple of failed attempts in previous years. Feeding behavior was first witnessed 4/28 (MR). It became apparent over the next few weeks, thanks mostly to the efforts of MR and RZ, that there were 3 juveniles. Unfortunately, per PGC Peregrine Falcon coordinator FAM, the youngsters could not be banded due to the location of the nest requiring a crane, and "severe budgetary restrictions."

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at TP 5/29 (MJ). Heavy **Blue Jay** migration was observed in Apr and May, with a high of 178 birds noted over Pennsburg 4/28 (PH). Several large groups of **Fish Crows** were spotted as well, including 80 at Wissahickon Park in Lansdale 4/9 (RW) and 78 in Souderton 4/20 (ZM). The **Common Raven** explosion into southeastern PA continued unabated with at least 27 credible reports of this large Corvid, from nearly as many locations (m.ob). Twenty-eight **Horned Larks** were counted on a farm field on Fell Rd., in the Telford area 3/18 (SG).

An estimated 100 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were counted at ND 4/25 (PB), the high count for the period, and certainly a large number in general. Pairs of **Cliff Swallows** were observed at GLP 5/5 (GF), at WWP 5/8-14 (AF, m.ob), and GWP 5/15 (MJ). The winter's **Black-capped Chickadee** irruption slowly ebbed back north, with many reports of the species through mid-Apr (m.ob). Irrupting **Red-breasted Nuthatches** also stuck around through much of the season, some lingering especially far into May (m.ob). The two latest reports, both 5/16, consisted of a pair detected in the Unami (WBH) and a single at Haverford

College (SJ). Single delinquent **Brown Creepers** were at Collegeville 5/5 (JD) and FWSP 5/7 (RD).

A white-headed, leucistic **Carolina Wren**, first reported from an Audubon yard during the Great Backyard Bird Count 2/20, continued until at least 3/12 (LM, ph.). An astonishingly high count of 50 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** came from from PERT 4/2 (PD). Another white-headed deviant, an **American Robin**, was photographed at St. Joseph's University's Maguire Campus 3/24 (JB). PERT boasted the high count of **Cedar Waxwings**, 184-200, noted 5/20 (PD, PM).

In total, 31 species of warbler were reported. A **Prothonotary Warbler** at TP 4/30 was a nice find (MJ, CI). Two **Mourning Warblers** were detected 5/20, one each at PERT (PD) and its southern neighbor LP (MG). A **Kentucky Warbler** was singing at LP 5/14 (PD). **Hooded Warbler**, normally a fairly scarce migrant through *Montgomery* (surprising considering how common they are as breeders in nearby counties to the north) were well above average, mostly from FWSP, LP, and PERT (m.ob). There were a handful of mildly early reports of **Blackpoll Warbler**, including one at ND 4/28 (PB). An early **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was recorded singing at Evansburg S.P. 4/21 (EF). A **Pine Warbler** spanned the winter/spring reporting transition at Haverford College, present 2/28-3/2 (SJ, KJ). Another Pine Warbler showed up early in Elkins Park, first noted at a suet feeder 3/5 and continuing past their normal mid-month arrival date (CT).

Cerulean Warbler formerly nested in the UCV, but had been extirpated or greatly reduced by the 1990s. A Cerulean singing on territory in the UCV, therefore, was a pleasant surprise. First found 5/6, the bird continued at virtually the same spot until the end of the period (PD, m.ob, ph., vr.). Graphical analysis by PD of song recordings indicated that it was one bird, not multiple individuals passing through.

A pair of **Grasshopper Sparrows** was found at Fell Rd. 4/29 (SG), just passing through. Other reports came from the two small-scale breeding sites of Fruitville Rd., west of GLP, and the grassland area surrounding Graterford Prison (m.ob). At least 2 overwintering **Chipping Sparrows** remained at PERT through 3/11 (AB, MS, m.ob). There was an uncharacteristically high number of feeder-reports of **Fox Sparrow** in Mar throughout the county, due primarily to late snowstorms (m.ob). A few **White-crowned Sparrows** remained into mid-May (m.ob). The latest of these was an adult at White's Mill Preserve 5/15 (KR). Even later, a **White-throated Sparrow** continued to frequent a North Wales feeder through the end of the period (AM). A **Vesper Sparrow** was found at GWP 4/4 (AM). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows**, scarce as a spring migrant, were photographed at Norristown Farm Park 5/6 (WBH) and GWP 5/17 (MJ).

Blue Grosbeaks experienced a minor influx into the area. The first was spotted at TP 4/30 (MJ, CI); additional birds were at Valley Forge National Historical Park 5/8 (MEH), the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove 5/14 (MSc), and SGL 234 in Linfield 5/21 (PD). A weeks-early male **Indigo Bunting** appeared at a feeder in Schwenksville 4/12 (MC). While most of 2017's **Dickcissel** irruption occurred after the spring period, the opening volley took place in late May with one at Dixon Meadow Preserve 5/30-31 (PBu, BM, m.ob, ph.).

Though typically observed in single digits only, there were 2 reports of large **Rusty Blackbird** flocks in Mar. An estimated 20 were noted at Schuylkill Canal Park (AKA "Lock 60") 3/20 (DL) and an even larger count, 26, was tallied at Bryn Athyn's Bethayres Swamp 3/25 (PD). **Purple Finch**, the only "northern finch" showing much of any irruption over the winter, was reported in small numbers semi-regularly between late Mar and early May (m.ob). The high count, 19 were at a feeding station adjacent to the Green Ribbon Trail near GWP 3/26 (AM). A fairly late female-type Purple was seen at the Militia Hill feeders at FWSP 5/13-14 (SP, m.ob).

EXOTICS: The Cheltenham **Mandarin Duck** was spotted on Tookany Creek on at least 4 occasions in Apr and May (RI).

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Rosengarten, Mirko Schoenitz (MSc), Michael Sonkowsky, C. Thomas, Anthony Uhrich, Scott Weidensaul, Rebecca Wilson, Ron Zigler.

Montour County

Locations: Greenhouse Ponds (GP) Montour Preserve (MP)

The most notable weather event was a massive snowstorm that dropped 24 or more inches in some areas on 3/14. Otherwise, more typical spring rainstorms produced some high counts of migrating waterfowl.

Perhaps the highlight of the period occurred when lightening struck twice on 4/24 at the MP, first with an **American White Pelican** (WS) that dropped in briefly, then with a **Snowy Egret** (EH) that stuck around the rest of the day. This is the third consecutive year that an American White Pelican has been reported at the MP! Is there another location in Pennsylvania that can make this claim?

The most unusual of 28 species of waterfowl recorded at the MP included a **Cackling Goose** 3/11 (AK) and 3 **Black Scoters** 5/2 (AK). Spring storms and increased observer coverage contributed to the following impressive high counts on eBird for *Montour*, all at the MP: 33 **Gadwalls** 3/1 (EH), 50 **Northern Pintails** 3/21 (EH), 52 **Redheads** 3/7 (AK), 315 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/13 (AK), 264 **Greater Scaup** (AK) and 7 **Common Goldeneyes** (PD) both 3/10, and 22 **Hooded Mergansers** 3/12 (AK). Other notable counts included 5 **White-winged Scoters** and 12 **Long-tailed Ducks** 4/4 (EH), 21 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 3/28 (EH), and 84 **Buffleheads** 4/12 (EH).

The MP hosted several other notable water birds, including up to 2 **Red-throated Loons** 4/6 (PD). A surprise **American Bittern** appeared 4/11 (KJ, SJ), and **Great Egrets** stopped by 4/17 and 5/11 (EH).

Raptor highlights included a rare-for-the-location **Golden Eagle** at the MP 3/6 (AK), up to 2 migrating **Red-shouldered Hawks** at the MP 3/30 (EH), and slightly late **Rough-legged Hawks** at the MP (EH) and at nearby Betz Rd. (LS), both 3/17, that may have been delayed by the aforementioned snowstorm. A **Barred Owl** at the MP 3/19 (AK) was notable. The **Peregrine Falcon** pair at the Montour Power Plant produced 4 eyasses.

A **Sandhill Crane** at the MP 3/13 (DB, EH) was likely the first record for the MP; probably the same bird was at the nearby Route 54 Wetlands 3/15 (EH). Notable shorebird species tallied on a rainy day at the GP 5/25, included 4 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, 5 **Dunlins**, and 13 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** (EH). Up to 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at a fluddle on Arrowhead Rd. 5/12 (EH). Another fluddle by the GP produced high counts on eBird for not-so-solitary **Solitary Sandpipers**, 17 on 5/10 (EH); and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 14 on 5/4 (EH). Terns occurred only briefly - 12 **Caspian Terns** at the MP 4/21 (AK) and one **Black Tern** at the MP 5/16 (AK).

Reported from at least 4 different locations, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** may have expanding their range. A pioneering **White-eyed Vireo** near the northern edge of its range sang at the MP from 5/8 (AK) to at least 5/29 (m.ob.). Up to 2 **Yellow-throated Vireos** were at the MP 5/11 (EH). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued their invasion from last season through at least 5/16 (m.ob.).

Standouts among 29 warbler species reported were the following migrants at the MP: A **Golden-winged Warbler** 5/7 (EH), a **Mourning Warbler** 5/11 (AK, EH), up to 2 **Canada Warblers** 5/14 (PD), and a high of up to 5 **Wilson's Warblers** 5/14 (EH). The first eBird report for the county of **Red Crossbills** was of 3 at the MP's West Branch trail 4/9 (IG), likely northbound migrants from the fall and winter irruption of Red Crossbills across Pennsylvania.

Observers: **Evan Houston, 136 Ridgeview, Danville, PA 17821, evanghouston@gmail.com**, David Brown, Paul Dennehy, Ian Gardner, Kirk Jeffreys, Sean Jeffreys, Andy Keister, Lauri Shaffer, Wayne Stahl.

Northampton County

Locations: Minsi Lake (ML), Nazareth Quarry (NQ).

March was very good for waterfowl in *Northampton*. The **Greater White-fronted Goose** found in late Feb at Albert Rd. Ponds (MS) stayed through 3/26. A waterfowl fallout at NQ 3/27 included 300 **Lesser Scaup**, 8 **Greater Scaup**, 30 **Redheads**, 50 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 4 **Long-tailed**

Ducks, 30 **Buffleheads**, 20 **Ruddy Ducks**, 12 **Green-winged Teal**, 4 **Northern Shovelers**, 5 **Gadwalls**, one **Northern Pintail**, and 50 **American Coots** (AM). A male **White-winged Scoter** was at NQ 5/5 following a rainy night (MS). Long-tailed Ducks were seen on multiple days at NQ 3/25-4/4 with a high of 10 on 3/28 (AM, BW). Nearby Northampton Quarry had 13 Long-tailed Ducks 3/28 (DT). Two **Red-necked Grebes** were at NQ 5/6-7 (AM).

A growing flock of **Double-crested Cormorants** began to stage at NQ in May with high counts of 79 on 5/13 (AM) and 80 on 5/22 (BW). An **American Bittern** was heard calling at the Sunset Rd. marsh 4/15 (MS, CCS). One lucky birder spotted a motionless American Bittern on the Plainfield Twp. Trail 4/30 (AM). An adult **Black-crowned Night-heron** flushed near the road at Bear Swamp 4/22 (MS). While driving home, a birder found a **Glossy Ibis** in a flooded field off Rte. 512 just south of Wind Gap (TM).

Minsi Lake in the northeast corner of the county is undergoing repairs to the dam and spillway. Authorities started draining the lake in early May, timing of which coincided nicely with shorebird migration. Needless to say, we had some great birds at ML. It started with 6 **Black-bellied Plovers** on a rainy PAMC 5/13 (AM). A **Ruddy Turnstone** was there much of the day 5/22 (BW), seen by several birders after word got out. A **Dunlin** in breeding plumage was at the lake 5/21-25 (EH). Many of these uncommon shorebirds were found on bad weather days.

The winds were easterly, the rain steady, and the Blue Mountain next to ML was covered in fog 5/25, excellent conditions for a fallout to occur - and it did. The ideal area to watch the sky was from the east lot, which was sheltered from the worst wind. At 0740, a flock of 16 **Whimbrels** put down for 5 minutes (BW). From 1100 to 200, a watch was conducted from the east lot. The rain stopped in the late afternoon. Highlights included 6 **Black-bellied Plovers**, a **Ruddy Turnstone**, and 18 **Short-billed Dowitchers** (MS, AM), none of which stayed more than 30 minutes. There were also 45 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and a **Lesser Yellowlegs**. The lake was about 80% drained that day and is now fully drained except for a small area so we shall see if the lake is as good for fall migration.

Away from ML, another unusual shorebird phenomenon occurred 4/29 when a large flock of **Willetts** were spotted resting on the water at NQ. Eventually they flew to shore a few at a time; from photos, we estimated about 66 **Willetts** (MS, AM). Rare for the county, an adult **Laughing Gull** was with **Bonaparte's Gulls** at NQ 3/27 (AM, MS). An adult **Glaucous Gull** was at Grand Central Landfill 3/3 (MS).

A **Long-eared Owl** was in a yard in Williams Twp. following a snowstorm 3/15 (AK). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Monacacy Nature Center Park 5/26 (LF). A **Winter Wren** staying late at Bear Swamp 4/23 and 5/7 could indicate a nesting attempt (BS). A **Lapland Longspur** was seen on Arrowhead Rd near Jacksonville Park 3/16-27 (AM, m.ob.), also the location for **Snow Bunting** 3/17-19.

Uncommon warblers included a first-of-year **Yellow-throated Warbler** on the Lehigh River Towpath 4/11 (AS), a **Mourning Warbler** at Jacobsburg SP 5/12 (MS), and a **Kentucky Warbler** at Monacacy Nature Center Park 5/6 (TK). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was near the ML dam 5/23 (BE). A late **Dark-eyed Junco** was in a Newburg yard 5/10 (TK).

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Northumberland County

Locations: Adam T. Bower Dam (ATBD), Amish Pond (AP), Beaver Run Road (BRR), Horseshoe Bend Road (HBR), Milton State Park (MSP), Old Route 45 (OR45), Old Swamp Road (OSR), Plotts Road (PR), Riverside Airport (RA), State Game Lands 84 (SGL84), State Game Lands 115 (SGL115), Warrior Run Wetlands (WRW), Weiser State Forest (WSF).

A combination of heavy snowfall from Winter Storm Stella and higher than average rainfall amounts resulted in good birding this spring, particularly shorebirds at the AP near Turbotville.

Although a small group of **Greater White-fronted Geese** spent the winter in the area, a larger flock of as many as 20 was noted at OR45 from 3/22-24 (AK, ES, WS). **Blue-winged Teal** were hard to come by with only 7 reports, from the AP and WRW 4/1-17 (AK, IG, EvH, KP).

Green-winged Teal, on the other hand, were abundant with a high of 90 at the AP 3/31 (AK, DB, EvH, TN). **Virginia Rails** were observed at the AP 5/26-31 (AK, EvH) and at a small wetland at the RA 5/27 (KJ, SJ). The lone **Sora** report came from the WRW where one was present and vocal 5/12-16 (EvH, KP).

At AP, always one of the best locations in the county to find shorebirds, snowmelt and heavy rain produced some of the best conditions in many years. **Semipalmated Plovers** were present 5/22-26 (m.ob.) with a high count of 5. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** arrived 5/23 and stayed through 5/31 (m.ob.) with a high of 7. **White-rumped Sandpipers** are very unusual here but poor weather put down as many as 7 on 5/25 (m.ob.) and at least one was still present 5/31 (AK). Two **Dunlins** were present 5/25-26 (m.ob.). Away from the AP, PR produced 7 **Killdeer** and 4 **Wilson's Snipe** 3/10 when snowfall pushed them to open water along the warmer waters of the limestone spring (AK). A high count of 16 snipe were present at the wetlands along BRR 3/12 (AK). Five **Forster's Terns** were at expected location of the ATBD 4/30 (AK) and one rode out bad weather at the AP resting on a pasture fence post all day 5/2 (AK).

Red-headed Woodpeckers are common breeders in the northern end of *Northumberland* where up to 4 were observed throughout the season from the AP, OSR, and BRR (m.ob.). A seasonal highlight was provided by a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at the RA, found late in the day 4/23 (SJ). Unfortunately, subsequent searches were unsuccessful. The only **Gray-Cheeked Thrush** sang an abbreviated song in SGL115 on 5/20 (ADK). **Swainson's Thrushes** were at SGL115 between 5/17-20 (AK) and one was heard in the wooded area behind the AP 5/31 (AK).

It wasn't a great spring for warblers. Notable sightings include one **Blue-winged Warbler** on HBR 4/27 (LS) and 2 at MSP 5/4 (AK). MSP also produced a **Golden-winged Warbler** 5/11 (AK). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were reported from several locations with singles at SGL84 on 5/10 (KP), the AP 5/16 (AK), and SGL115 on 5/18 (EvH). Three **Red Crossbills**, extremely unusual in the county, were seen briefly and photographed in a spruce tree in Elysburg 4/2 (KP). **Pine Siskins** were limited to a brief window of time 4/1-14 (KP) with sightings from feeders in Elysburg and WSF.

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Perry County

Locations: Little Buffalo State Park (LBSP), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF).

The spring period was relatively warm with about average precipitation. Unless otherwise stated, reports and the number of prior occurrences of a given species are only according to eBird records and data from the New Bloomfield CBC, which began in 1949. It should also be noted that there may be current and historical sightings for *Perry* listed on eBird from the Susquehanna River but for purposes of this report are considered *Dauphin* birds as the *Dauphin* line is on the west shore of the river and the assumption is made that the reports are of birds on or above the river itself.

Two **Blue-winged Teal** were on the Juniata R. in Millerstown 4/1 (BS), only the second spring record in the county. Two **Northern Pintails** were seen at LBSP 3/22-27 (SJ, PP, RP) and 2 others on the Juniata R. just north of Newport 3/18 (CK), the third and fourth spring records in *Perry*. Three **Greater Scaup** were observed at LBSP 3/31 (VG), the first eBird report for *Perry*. The 2 male **White-winged Scoters** photographed at LBSP 5/5 were only the second record for *Perry* (VG). Two **Caspian Terns** flying over the lake at LBSP 4/29 represented only the second county record (AW).

Two **Golden-winged Warblers** were reported on numerous occasions at Bryner Rd. in TSF. It is good to see that this species of concern is still breeding there, albeit in very small numbers; they are not currently reliable anywhere else in *Perry*. Winged-warbler hybrids included one **Brewster's Warbler** at Weaver's Mill Rd., Loysville 5/1 (AM, VG), one at Miller's Gap 5/9 (AM, RK), and one at Bryner Rd., TSF 5/29 (AWo). A **Lawrence's Warbler** was at LBSP 4/30 (TN, m.ob.). Of the less common spring warblers, a **Mourning Warbler** was heard

singing at Bryner Rd., TSF 5/29 (AWo).

Notable species found less than annually included one **Bobolink** in the fields off Miller's Gap Rd. 5/14 (AM, RK), 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** at Millerstown Community Park 3/3 (VG) and 5 at a feeder during a snow storm in Shermansdale 3/14 (TP), 2 **Red Crossbills** at Bryner Rd., TSF 3/30 (VG), and 7 **Pine Siskins** at Bryner Rd. 3/30 (VG).

Finally, in the "if it sounds too good to be true, it is" category, a bird was reported 4/17 at a Landisburg feeding station at Fisher's Greenhouse off of Bridgeport Rd. as a possible McKay's Bunting (which would be a mega-rarity, reported only in Washington and Oregon in the lower forty-eight). Not unexpectedly but still disappointingly, the bird turned out to be a leucistic **Chipping Sparrow**. One bright spot that came out of this was the discovery of **Purple Martins** breeding on the property making it the second known nesting location in *Perry*; the other colony being at Cisna Ru.

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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), Island Green Country Club and Golf Course-abandoned (IGCC), 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).

The unexpected proliferation of a few **Mute Swans** to 22 individuals has unfortunately resulted in the first known swan breeding at TI in at least 40 years, confirmed in May. A pair had previously bred in the lagoons near Ft. Mifflin, but thankfully no other breeding location is known. Late April brought a big push of migrants over TI including 41 **Common Loons** and 1075 **Double-crested Cormorants** 4/27 (GA, HM) followed by 680 **Cormorants** 4/28 (DO). First one **Virginia Rail** at TI, then 2, lingered at the impoundment edge where they were easily seen 4/4-28 (JMc, AG). At POD a **Sora** briefly visited the tidal flats 4/28 (DMo) and a **Sora** was easy to find at TI 4/9-5/1 (AG, m.ob.).

The repeated rolling rattle overhead alerted birders at TI to look up only to find a **Sandhill Crane** noisily trying to evade an aggressive raptor, gliding to the east, then circling the impoundment for about one hour 4/23 (TF, AR, ph. m.ob.). An **American Oystercatcher** flew up the DR at POD 3/18 (FW), the first here since September 2006, when Hurricane Ernesto carried one up the Delaware bay to a dock in Center City. Oystercatchers winter along the Atlantic and southern Delaware Bay northward to New England, but none has strayed farther north.

Fewer than 100 individual shorebirds of the 7 expected species stopped on their northward journey. Ten **Spotted Sandpipers** put on an unusual display for kayaking birders on SR north of BG 5/17 (MH, m.ob.). Spotted Sandpiper probably breeds along this river in areas where birding access is denied. There are several reports of multiple Spotted Sandpipers and one report of ten 5/23/14 (GA). A small restored wetland at BG is the usual viewing area. The kayakers wrote "at dusk a group of *Spotted Sandpipers* flew by our kayaks, giving 'poi poi poi' calls and chasing each other within 1m of the water. The flock passed all around our small armada of kayaks, then flew upriver. The whole encounter lasted ~10-15 seconds." In trying to understand this behavior, it should be noted that this species is polyandrous with territories less than 50m in length. Females often defend territory with up to 3 males. A female may wander trying to attract someone else's male into her territory. So if you have 10 birds it could have been 2-3 females and their consorts sorting out relationships.

The **Black-headed Gull** which thrilled hundreds of birders for more than three months (*and made the cover of the winter issue - ed.*) departed TI 4/19 (FW). Also notable was an **Iceland Gull** at DRT 4/14 (GA, ph.) and then a little farther south near Snyder Ave. 4/15 (MD). As with many species **Least Tern**, an irregular summer and fall visitor, has had more documentation recently due to iPhone cameras. This tern

arrives on its breeding areas along the coast in late April, but it is not seen inland on the Delaware Bay and never in April in Philadelphia until one this season fed at NBC 4/20 (GA, ph.).

The **Barred Owl** continues to be seen in WC, but with no indication of breeding. The last of 3 wintering **Northern Saw-whet Owls** departed TI at the usual time 3/20. Two sightings of **Black-billed Cuckoo**, at Lemon Hill 5/15 (HP) and BG 5/16 (MH), were brief compared to the cuckoo seen at TI 4/29-5/6 (GG, m.ob.). An unusually large group of 13 **American Kestrels** hunted at IGCC 4/15 (HP). This abandoned golf course offers a variety of habitats and as birders became familiar with it, it is viewed as an important stopover area for migrants as well as breeders. However, it is slated for development.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** on a Tacony Creek bird walk provided a good find and the only record 5/20 (KR, RI). **Least Flycatcher** was a little more numerous with a bird at Lemon Hill 5/15 (HP), at FDR 5/9-10 (HP, audio), and up to 3 at TI 5/14-18 (m.ob., ph.). **Common Raven** continues to be reported from Manayunk Canal in the Northwest 3/5 (KJ) and 2 were at TI 4/10 (GA).

A mini-fallout of 12 **Brown Creepers** represented a good find at Woodland Cemetery in University City 4/3 (DE). Only 6 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were reported, from three locations. Thrush are widely distributed as they move through the county, but the Northeast is where **Swainson's Thrush** congregate; of the 50 or more Swainson's Thrush reported, 11 were at CW 5/16 (AB). The last Swainson's at TI was a very late bird 6/3 (AG).

Of the 208 species recorded in Philly this spring, 32 were warblers. After 4/27, when the first front came through, passage migrants were present in numbers to satisfy even the most demanding birder. Another front on 5/14 brought double-digit numbers of the most common migrants. At CW, 20 species were tallied in one hour 5/16 (AB). Notable for their scarcity was **Blue-winged Warbler** - only 3 were reported on the best day 4/22. A male **Prothonotary Warbler** explored **Tree Swallow** nest boxes at TI 4/22-5/31 (FW), but failed to attract a mate. Spruce budworms are dormant in the north so not unexpectedly only 3 **Tennessee Warblers** were reported. Presumably the **Orange-crowned Warbler** at FDR 3/13-18 was the same individual that overwintered (JM), but the bird on 4/14 was a migrant (HP). A former breeder, the only **Kentucky Warbler** was in CW 5/10,16 (AB, KR). Always hard to find, 2 **Hooded Warblers** were at CW 5/15 (AB) and singles were at Andorra Meadow 5/17 (TC), at PEC 5/23 (LW), and of course at TI both sexes were reported 4/29 and 5/6-10 (FW, HM, AR). Two sightings of **Yellow-throated Warbler**, at FDR 4/25 (HP, ph.) and NBC 4/28 (GA), are so physically close to one another they might have been of the same singing male.

A **Yellow-breasted Chat**, no longer a warbler after the recent taxonomic revision but always a warbler in our hearts, must have been exhausted to stop at the tiny garden at the University of Pennsylvania Museum 5/4 (DE). In the area where they once nested at TI an illusive Chat was seen briefly and recorded 5/10-11 (FW, HM, AR). Any weedy field along the DR is a good place to look for **Savannah Sparrow**; POD held 22 on 4/15 (HP). Nine **Fox Sparrows** were at FDR 3/18 (HP) and 10 at TI 3/22. Fox Sparrow numbers are generally highest in mid-March and then dwindle; this year a rare bird was found as late as 4/30 (EP).

A first spring male **Summer Tanager** with red head, other red patches, and yellow-olive wings gave the picky-tuck-pick-a-tuck calls at Independence Historic Park 5/4 (JW). This park is one of the better migrant traps for birders who work or live in Center City. A male **Blue Grosbeak** gave its call note at TI 5/7(GA), but the bird at SCEE sang on 5/19 (PM). Except for the Northeast Airport **Eastern Meadowlark** is rarely sighted in spring so the bird at POD 3/4 was a good find (HP).

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Pike County

Locations: Delaware State Forest (DSF).

A very respectable 157 species were reported for the period, including 28 species of warbler. For persons unfamiliar with *Pike*, the roads and trails of DSF are prime areas for birding. The trees leaf out a bit later in spring, and the timber harvests and swamps can host desired species like **Golden-winged Warbler**.

A **Tundra Swan** was at Porters Lake (private) 3/23 (RJ). Two **Horned Grebes** and a female **Red-breasted Merganser** were at Lake Wallenpaupack 4/22-23 (MS, DA, SK). A **Northern Goshawk** flew over Pit Rd. in DSF 4/2 (SS). That goshawk would have been the best bird of the period if not for a rare gull at Lake Wallenpaupack. A beautiful **Little Gull** was among 50 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at the lake 4/22 (MS); the gulls stayed another day for other birders to enjoy this second county record. Shorebird habitat at Pecks Pond, which was drained for dam repair, produced a **Greater Yellowlegs**, 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and 2 **Least sandpipers**, all 5/16 (RJ).

A **Prothonotary Warbler**, rare in *Pike*, was found at the Tarkill Creek swamp on Hobday Rd. in DSF 5/31 (TM). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were at a feeder near Nyce Lake following a snow storm 3/14 (MH). Five **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Pecks Pond 4/19 (DM). Two **Pine Siskins** visited a yard in White House 3/5 (BW).

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Schuylkill County

Locations: Landingville Dam (LVD), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Owl Creek (OC), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL)

The county has no large bodies of water that attract good numbers of ducks. Our lakes range from farm ponds to medium size municipal reservoirs. The reservoirs are in steep valleys so they generally lack extensive shallow zones which would support aquatic vegetation. With some minor exceptions, what waterfowl in *Schuylkill* are low in numbers and range from uncommon to occasional to rare. This year, there was a rather typical assemblage of throughout the county including a few notable birds. A pair of tagged **Trumpeter Swans** (Z603 and Z675) that appeared in the county last year have been seen sporadically through the year and into this spring. They were seen 3/2 and again 3/11 at SSP (BR). There were also seen further north in Eldred Twp. 3/24 (TB) and 3/26 (TN).

A **Northern Shoveler** was found at LVD 4/5 (DR), for only the third report in six years. Ten **Redheads** were at LVD 3/27 (TD). A pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** was also at LVD, on 3/28 (DR). One **Red-breasted Merganser**, not found every year, was at SAL 4/21-23 (DD). **Horned Grebes**, occasional here, were at OC 3/25 (DK), LVD 3/31 (DK), and SSP 5/2 (TB).

We hit our average of one **American Bittern** a year with a bird found at St Boniface cemetery in St. Clair 4/16 (TJ). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were reported, the first in six years. One was at SAL 4/18 (DD) and an adult/immature pair was at LVD 4/29 (DH). A **Peregrine Falcon** was at OC 3/30 (SS), the fourth year in a row this species has been seen in *Schuylkill* in the spring.

A **Semipalmated Plover** was found on the mudflats at LVD 5/10 (DR). **Least Sandpipers** were at LVD 4/28 and 5/10 (DR) and also at KRM 5/3 (JD) and OC 5/31 (JG). For the fourth spring in a row, three species of gulls moved through the county. In addition to **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls**, a single **Bonaparte's Gull**, considered occasional, was reported at LVD 4/16 (DK).

It was a big year for **Red-headed Woodpeckers** with 4 reports. A flyover was noted in Wayne Twp. 4/19 in the same area where one was found last year (SW). Single Red-heads were seen near Hegins 4/22 (DB), near Frackville 4/24 (PK), and in Kaska 5/11-12 (PE). Rare for the county, a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was spotted near Frackville 5/27 (TB). Three **American Pipits**, unusual for *Schuylkill*, were in Eldred Twp. 3/26 (TN).

Thirty warbler species were recorded, one less than last year. Overall, warbler migration was fairly typical with a few notable species. For the fourth time in six years, a **Mourning Warbler** was reported, along the Batram Trail 5/24 (KG). Five **Yellow-throated Warblers**, considered accidental, were found in the eastern end of *Schuylkill* 5/13 (DW).

Wilson's Warblers were more common than normal, seen at SAL 4/29 (DD), Tumbling Run 5/6 (DK), and LLSP 5/6, 5/21 and 5/24 (TB).

A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found at SSP 5/17 (BR). **Bobolink** breeds in the county but is hard to find. This year there were two separate sightings, both on 5/7; one near LLSP (TB) and another near Hometown (JoD). The county hosted a flock of **Red-billed Crossbills** this winter at OC. Up to 28 birds were observed throughout the spring reporting period (m.ob.).

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Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA); Buffalo Creek (BC); Confluence Area (CA); Hidden Acres Farm (HAF); Laurel Hill State Park (LHSP); Payne Property (PP); Somerset Lake (SL); Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

Birds of note this quarter for the county included Eared Grebe, Red-necked Phalarope, and Ruddy Turnstone.

Waterfowl migration started early due to the warm winter and many birds had already moved through before the first of March. Then the second half of March provided probably winter's biggest blast, freezing most of the county's lakes. The largest movement was over 3000 birds representing 19 species of waterfowl at SL 3/10. A high of 136 **Tundra Swans** was at Stonycreek Lake 3/19 (CP) and a late swan persisted at SL until at least 4/2 (JP). A good count of 280 **Gadwalls** at SL 3/10 (JP) dwindled to 125 by 3/15 (SC). **American Wigeon** numbers peaked at 97 at SL 4/2 (ST). **Northern Pintail** numbers have been better in the county in recent years so counts of 50 on 3/10 (JP) and 48 on 3/19 (LS) at SL are not unprecedented. Fifty **Green-winged Teal** was a nice count 3/26 (JL).

Max. numbers of big diving ducks at SL 3/10 were 50 **Canvasbacks**, 200 **Redheads**, 800 **Greater Scaup**, and 600 **Lesser Scaup**. QR hosted 221 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/18 (CP). **Long-tailed Ducks** showed up later with 5 at LHSP 3/29 (J&MM, JP), 12 at SL 3/29 (CP), one at QR 3/30 (LG), and one at SL 4/2 (ST). The smaller divers arriving later were led by 497 **Buffleheads** and 1182 **Ruddy Ducks** at SL 4/12 (JP, CP). **Common Goldeneyes** are generally sparse migrants so 7 on 3/10 at SL represented a good find (JP). Merganser highs were 38 **Hooded Mergansers** at QR 3/19 (CP), 5 **Common Mergansers** at SL 3/24 (LG), and 40 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at SL 3/15 (JP).

Common Loon numbers were very low with highs of just 4 at SL 4/6 (CP) and QR 4/1 (LG). Nine **Pied-billed Grebes** at QR 3/19 provided a high count (CP), as did the 42 **Horned Grebes** at QR 3/19 (CP). An excellent find was a well described and photographed **Eared Grebe** swimming with a Pied-billed at the International Conservation Center near Fairhope 4/21 (CP). Although occasionally reported, these should be documented because they can be confused with molting Horned Grebes. **Double-crested Cormorants** maxed at just 26 on 4/16 at SL (CP). A migrant **American Bittern** flew in the evening at BC 4/15 (JP, CP). Eight **Great Blue Herons** at SL 3/28 (CP) and 3 **Great Egrets** near Fairhope 4/4 provided other high heron counts. A very good find was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at QR 5/5 (DR).

Black Vultures are still uncommon *Somerset* birds, so a migrant at PP 4/2 was appreciated (CP, JP). **Ospreys** were at the Cranberry Lake nest 4/1 (AM), Youghiogheny Lake 4/17 (MF), and sporadically at SL where they no longer nest. **Bald Eagles** were widely reported with nests near Meyersdale (J&MM) and Confluence (BO, TO), and up to 3 birds

fishing at SL frequently with nest location unknown. An intriguing sighting was a soaring **Northern Goshawk** on Fairhope Road 4/23 one week after a brief, suspected sighting (CP). This is not far from a known nest-site in the 1990's. A migrant **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at PP 3/27 (CP, JP) and a breeding pair near Fairhope through the season (JP). As usual, wide-spread brief looks at **Broad-winged Hawks** were scattered through the county including 3 in Confluence 5/14 (JP).

A **Virginia Rail** was at SL 5/16 (ST) and the next day a **Sora** was calling there (JP). Somerset Lake is still in a partial drawdown with draining for dam rehabilitation to occur later this year. There is extensive vegetation growing on previous mudflats but still enough mud to attract some shorebirds. Sightings included 10 **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/22 (JP), 5 **Spotted Sandpipers** 4/21 (CJ), 6 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/7 (MJ), a cooperative, beautifully plumaged **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/17-22 (JP), 2 **Dunlins** 4/16 (JP), 3 **Least Sandpipers** 5/17 (JP), a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/28 (MD, JL), and 10 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/22 (JP). Three **Greater Yellowlegs** were at HAF 4/5 (SD). The high count of **Wilson's Snipe** on Beulah Road was 87 on 3/18 (JP). A great find was a bright **Red-necked Phalarope** at SL 5/21-22 (MJ), cooperating for many observers during its stay.

Somerset Lake had no large fallouts of gulls. Seventeen **Bonaparte's Gulls** 3/30 (LG), 30 **Ring-billed Gulls** 3/10 (JP), and one **Herring Gull** 3/10 (JP) were reported. A nice migrating flock of 454 Ring-billed Gulls passed Klondike Ridge 3/7 (LG). Terns were also few in comparison to recent years. Two **Caspian Terns** at Confluence 4/29 (LG) and one **Black Tern** 5/27 (RF, MF) and 3 **Forster's Terns** 5/22 (JP) at SL provided the only reports.

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at PP 4/30 (JP) seemed early. **Common Nighthawks** were at Fleagle Mountain Road 5/13 (SD) and also at BC (JP, CaP). About 5 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were calling on Allegheny Mt. 5/18 (JP). **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports keep getting less frequent; one was at Bluebird Hill Farm 4/29-5/21 (PL) and one at SL 5/30 (LG). A nice sighting was a migrant **Peregrine Falcon** at SL 3/20 (BO).

Red-eyed and Blue-headed Vireos are common in the county. Of the less common vireos, a **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Confluence 5/14 (JP) and **Warbling Vireos** were reported at QR 5/18 (SD) and LHSP 5/29 (JB). **Bank Swallows** may only be nesting in one spot in county so most reports are likely of migrants, like the 2 at SL 4/12 (CP). **Cliff Swallows** seem to be more common than in past and are found in barns around the county as well as their bridge strongholds in Confluence.

Red-breasted Nuthatches moved through in small numbers in Apr at PP, at QR 4/10 (SD), and at SL 4/14 (CP). **Winter Wrens** were at QR 3/18 (JP, CP) with 2 there 3/21 (LG). No reports came from Laurel Mountain, where they usually breed. **Carolina Wrens** survived the winter in decent numbers and were widely found in small numbers. Fourteen **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found in migration at QR 3/31 (CP) and Golden-crowns stayed to breed at PP (JP). **Northern Mockingbirds** are sparse in the county away from Confluence and Fairhope so one in a blizzard at SL 3/15 was nice (JP). **American Pipits** were in small numbers in BA and LHSP in mid-Mar and a nice flock of 40 was at Bluebird Hill Farm (PL).

About 25 warbler species were reported. Among the more interesting were 2 **Golden-winged Warblers** in CA 5/14 (JP), **Nashville Warbler** at HAF 5/14 (SD), 2 **Kentucky Warblers** in CA 5/14 and one at PP 5/16 (JP), 3 **Cape May Warblers** at PP 5/16 (JP), 10 singing **Chestnut-sided Warblers** at PP 5/15 (JP), a western **Palm Warbler** at PP 5/15 (JP), a **Yellow-throated Warbler** along Youghiogheny R. 4/28 (KP), and 11 **Canada Warblers** at LHSP 5/16 (ST)!

Apparently not appreciated at Flight 93 is the tremendous grassland bird habitat. The goal there seems to be to plant the entire 2000-acre complex in trees. Reported from there were 11 **Field Sparrows**, 6 **Vesper Sparrows**, and 11 **Savannah Sparrows**, all 4/14 (all AK); also 15 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 5/5 (JL) as well as **Bobolinks** and 11 **Eastern Meadowlarks** 4/14 (AK), and **American Kestrels**. Three singing **Henslow's Sparrows** were in an old grass field near Fairhope from 5/1 (JP). **Fox Sparrows** at PP maxed out at 12 on 3/15 (JP). The highest **White-crowned Sparrow** count at HAF was only 3 on 4/4 (SD)

Fifty **Rusty Blackbirds** were in the shrub-scrub swamp on Willkow Road 3/28 (CP, JP). Both **Orchard** and **Baltimore Orioles** arrived at LG's farm 4/30. One lonely **Pine Siskin** was reported for one day at PP 5/16 (JP).

Observers: **Jeff Payne (JP) 9755 Glades Pike Berlin, PA 15530, 814-267-5718, paynemt@gmail.com**, Joe Blanda (JB), Bill Cline (BC), Sandy Cline (SC), Michael David (MD), Sally Dick (SD), Melissa Fabbro

(MF), Marie Furnish (MF), Ron Furnish (RF), Linda Greble (LG), Chuck Jones(CJ), Matthew Juskowich (MJ), Andy Keister (AK), Jeffrey Lauffer (JL), Josh LeFerer (JL), Paul Lehman (PL), Anthony Marich (AM), Jim & Meg Moses (J& MM), Becky Ohler (BO), Tiffany Ohler (TO), Carolyn Payne (CaP), Christopher Payne (CP), Ken Poerner (KO), David Rymal (DR), Lauren Schneider (LS), Shannon Thompson (ST).

Sullivan County

Locations: Airport Road (AR), Cherry Township (CT), Dutch Mtn (DM), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), High Knob (HK), Hillsgrove Covered Bridge (HCB), Hunter's Lake (HL), Jack's Road – Hillsgrove (JR), Kinsley's Corner (KC), Lake Makoma (LM), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), McCarroll's Corner (MC), Ogdonia Road (OR), Ricketts Glen State Park Hayfields (RGSP), Stonestown Covered Bridge (SCB), SGL 13 Splashdam Pond (SDP), SGL13 Grassy Hollow (GH), SGL 66 Shady Nook (SN), Shanersburg Bog (SB).

Early March saw a classic Nor'easter that dumped upwards of two feet of snow on the county. The snow took most of the month to melt and as a result there were virtually no reports for March. The remainder of the season stayed cooler than normal with many damp days. Weather for the PAMC was unremarkable although certainly not a washout. The pattern continued right through May with rainy days in the week after Memorial Day. All observations by the author except where noted.

The highlight of the waterfowl migration season came the first weekend of April with 16 species observed including 12 different ducks. Just under 100 **Canada Geese** were strewn across the county. **Tundra Swans** made their last appearance with 3 at HL. High counts of ducks in multiple locations included 31 **Wood Ducks**, 29 **Mallards**, and 27 **Hooded Mergansers**. A two or three-mile stretch covering three farm ponds in CT was especially productive. The best finds on these ponds included 2 male **Blue-winged Teal**, pairs of **Northern Shoveler** and **Common Goldeneye**, 7 **Green-winged Teal**, and a **Lesser Scaup**; all rare to uncommon in *Sullivan*. Three **Horned Grebes** were on EML 4/22.

Both **Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos** were present at MC 5/20, allowing a nice comparison of calls. Several **Common Nighthawks** were hunting low over the lake at SN 5/19. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was first heard near SDP 4/21. **Sandhill Crane** again returned to CT, first observed 4/1. Breeding was confirmed in mid-May (m.ob.).

A **Killdeer** nest with eggs was photographed at RGSP 5/28 (SF & MK). A lone **Greater Yellowlegs** was found at SDP 5/3 (DG). Two **Least Sandpipers** were at the same location 5/20. Seven **Ring-billed Gulls** were gathered in an agricultural field in CT 5/6, a high number for the county. **Double-crested Cormorant** is also uncommon in *Sullivan* but was observed multiple times with a high of 7 at HL 4/21 (SM). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling on several occasions at MC.

Several reports of **Pileated Woodpecker** included one from Shunk (JH) and 2 from LSF (WEa), both 5/13. The peak for **American Kestrel** was the first weekend in April with 12 found across the county. There always seems to be at least one along Hunsinger Rd in CT. Four **Alder Flycatchers**, the high count, were at RGSP 5/28 (SF, MK). Eighteen **Blue-headed Vireos** were present along a 2.5-mile stretch at GH 4/18, already establishing territories (DG). The only **Warbling Vireo** report was from CT 5/6.

Fish Crows, always a good find in the county, were at EML 4/22 and 5/21. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was heard at SN 5/7. **Brown Creepers** were also numerous at GH 4/18, with 6 reported. The only **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at SDP 4/23. **Northern Mockingbird** is still a good find - singles were at LM 4/23 (SM) and in CT 5/27.

Twenty-three warbler species were recorded. A single **Blue-winged Warbler** represented a good find along OR 5/13. A **Hooded Warbler** was found in the same location 5/6. A **Cape May Warbler** was at SN 5/12. **Bay-breasted Warbler** was recorded near HCB 5/13. **Mourning Warbler** returned again to HK, first noted 5/20. Six **Prairie Warblers** at RGSP 5/28 represented a high count (SF, MK). **Canada Warbler** and **Northern Waterthrush** were both on territory in SB 5/20.

American Tree Sparrow was last seen at SN 4/2. A **Henslow's Sparrow** sang in an excellent field planted in native grasses at AR 5/13. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found in the same field 5/20. One **Fox Sparrow** was present along JR 4/1. Nine **Swamp Sparrows** and 16 **Eastern Towhees** represented high counts at SDP 5/3 (DG). **White-crowned Sparrow** was present in CT 5/12.

Observers: **Rob Megraw**, Skip Conant, William Earley (WEa), Wes Egli, Steph Fullmer, Doug Gross, Josh Hilbert, Matthew Karns, Sean Minnick.

Susquehanna County

The total number of species reported in the county to eBird for Spring Season 2017 was 178, two species less than 2016, and fourteen above the five-year average. Weather conditions impacted the timing of waterfowl and passerine movements but not the overall numbers of birds. Waterfowl migration was interrupted by a record 35" snowfall 3/14-15. After a warm April, the first two weeks of May were cool and wet, delaying the arrival of many neotropical species. The pattern broke on 5/18 with two days of warm, strong southwest winds. Many migrants, heading to breeding territories north of us, either overshot our area or were present only briefly. The end of May seemed more like the beginning to middle of May in a typical year. Despite of the weather anomalies, the spectacle of spring migration was on display and enjoyed by many.

While this anticipated sign of spring was well underway in Feb, there were eight reports of flyover flocks of **Snow Geese** from across the county in Mar, with the last skeins reported 3/27. Four **American Wigeons**, often an unfulfilled hope here, were present on Lake Montrose 3/8 (JSt) and 2 more on Hollister's Pond 3/26 (TN). Our only visits by **Northern Shoveler** occurred 3/8, when 4 were on BelAir Lake (JS) and 6 on Lake Montrose (JSt). A pair of **Northern Pintails** was present at Quaker Lake 3/17 (JS, EM) and 5 were on Hollister's Pond 3/26-27 (JSt, TN) for the only reports.

Seven **Redheads** were on Lake Montrose 3/8 (JSt). A lone **Common Goldeneye** took refuge from the spring blizzard on Quaker Lake 3/13-16 (EM). The hapless bird spent the time in a small opening in the ice appearing very much like a traveler camped out in an airport terminal waiting for the resumption of air service. **Red-breasted Mergansers** were not present in large numbers, nor are they totally unexpected, but this season's birds were noteworthy by offering exceptional views of their breeding plumage to a number of birders at Quaker Lake 3/25-4/8 (TN, JS, EM) and at Big Elk Lake 4/5 (JSt, EM). A late pair was also seen at Quaker Lake 5/29 (JS). Four **Ruddy Ducks** appeared on Quaker Lake 4/17 (JS, EM) and 2 were at the same location 3/27 (EM).

A **Red-throated Loon** appeared on Quaker Lake 4/10 (DA, EM). **Common Loons** were present on a number of bodies of water, but not in the unusually large flock sizes of 2016 (m.ob.). A late flyover pair was spotted at Woodbourne Forest Preserve by a pair of youthful eyes 5/6 (AB). Our annual visits by **Pied-billed Grebes** (typically light) and **Horned Grebes** (typically frequent) were joined this year by the arrival of **Red-necked Grebes** (rare) on Quaker Lake, with 2 on 3/31 (EM) and one on 4/5 (NVC).

If it is Apr in *Susquehanna*, it is time to play our version of "Where's Waldo," called "Where's the Bittern?" This year it played out at two locations. An **American Bittern** was found at Mack Rd. Wetland 4/24-25 (JS, EM) and a second at a private wetland outside of New Milford 4/29 (NVC). *Susquehanna* put out the welcome mat for the Director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and other staffers, who spotted a **Golden Eagle** as they passed through the county 3/6 (JF, CW, SK). **Sandhill Crane** flyovers occurred 4/15 (NVC) and 4/23 (BM).

Flocks of **Bonaparte's Gulls** normally visit county lakes at ice-out each spring. This year they were unusually absent. A single birder located a handful at three different lakes within a week's time in mid-Apr (JS). A county-first **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, mixed in with a large flock of other gulls, was scoped on the edge of an ice flow on Quaker Lake 3/25 (JS, EM).

Common Nighthawk has been either absent from the county or underreported in the past. After all, the county is not known for its "city lights." However, more are being seen, recognized, and reported than in the past. This season, one was noted near Montrose 5/20 (BM) and 2 over Page Lake 5/27 (DB). The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** serenaded a party of one in SGL35 on 5/28 (JM). In contrast, a total of eleven people on three different late May dates went to the same spot in SGL35 to hear an **Acadian Flycatcher** sing his aria. It's no wonder performances were sold out as it is our only known location in *Susquehanna* to hear this short but sweet tune.

A **Marsh Wren** appeared where birders have long thought it should be, at Mack Rd. Wetland 5/26 (DA, JS, EM). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** is not reported annually here, but this year was exceptional with multiple sightings at multiple locations, including an occupied nest photographed

in Great Bend Twp. 5/15 (BS). *Catharus* thrushes were present and accounted for, excepting Bicknell's Thrush. The mix of the three most common thrushes seems to fluctuate from year to year. This season, **Veeries** were center stage with their beautiful song echoing through the county woodlands. **Hermit Thrushes** were lightly reported, a change from prior years. **Wood Thrush** numbers fell between the other two.

Twenty-nine species of warblers were reported on eBird. It felt like a fairly typical year in terms of the numbers seen, the sequence of the arrivals, and the excitement they engendered in the birding community. There was a thirty-minute period this spring that felt like the "good old days" of birding. During an organized walk at Woodbourne Forest Preserve 5/6, seven birders crossed paths with a wave of multiple warbler species foraging in a small grove of trees. First-of-season species were being tic'ed off right and left. On the other hand, of the 29 species reported, six were seen by only one or two birders: **Tennessee Warbler** (JM, EM), **Orange-crowned Warbler** (JSt), **Mourning Warbler** (JM, EM), **Cape May Warbler** (BS, EM), **Bay-breasted Warbler** (EM), and **Wilson's Warbler** (EM). Of these finds, the most exciting occurred 5/14 when one fortunate birder spotted an Orange-crowned Warbler within walking distance of, and exactly a year after, her 2016 observation of the species became the first record for *Susquehanna* (JSt). A fascinating and unique migration event was observed at Dunn Pond when a kayaker reported hundreds of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** perched, fly-catching, and hover-foraging along the mile-long eastern shore 4/28 and 4/30 (DS).

After a number of years of only one known location for **Orchard Oriole**, a beautiful female was seen and photographed at a new spot, coming to a jelly feeder at a private residence near New Milford 5/2-18 (NVC). Our traditional location also hosted up to 3 birds 5/19-28 (NB). **Purple Finches** were present in strong numbers across the county. Last spring, we saw a nice carryover of **Pine Siskins** from the 2016 winter irruption. This year, there were only two reports, both of single birds at feeders (JS, NVC).

Observers: **Evan Mann**, 8313 Laurel Lake Road, Montrose, PA 18801, (570) 663-2621, evanm@frontier.com, Dave Andre, Nick Bolgiano, Deborah Busby, Adrian Burke, John Fitzpatrick, Steve Kelling, Justin Mann, Bruce McNaught, Tom Norville, Douglas Sheldon, Jerry Skinner, Barb Bevin Stone, Joyce Stone (JSt), Nancy VanCott, Chris Wood.

Union County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Forest (BESF), Dales Ridge (DR), Spruce Run Reservoir (SRR), State Game Lands 252 (SGL 252), Turtle Creek Park (TCP).

A count 75 **Ring-necked Ducks** at SGL 252 on 4/1 was notable for a county with so little open water (DB). The 2 **Golden Eagles** at SGL 252 on 4/1 were a notable find in a county with little hawk watch effort (DB, DR, DBrau). A **Broad-winged Hawk** at Tea Springs in BESF 4/10 was relatively early (AK).

An **American Coot** was at Spruce Run fish ponds in Mazeppa 5/24 (SH). The 14 **Wilson's Snipe** at the Delta Place Depot Fields 4/2 was a high count for the area (MH), as were the 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** along Centennial Rd. 5/13 (SH). The 4 **Sandhill Cranes** found along Salem Church Rd. 3/20 may be the highest count ever for the county (AK). Another surprise was a **Caspian Tern** in Hartleton away from any significant lake 4/22 (BO).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** returned to TCP 5/1 (MH). A swirling flock of 18 **Common Nighthawks** near SRR 5/27 was impressive (PB). Fifteen **Common Ravens** were at SGL 252 on 5/4 (JG, LS). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at SGL 252 on 5/13 (SH). A high count of 5 **Blue-winged Warblers** were at SGL 252 on 5/1 (EH), but no Golden-wings were reported. The **Yellow Warbler** at SGL 252 (SH) and a **Black-and-white Warbler** at DR (MH), both 4/15, were early returnees.

Observers: **Joe Gyekis**, 720 N. Allen St., State College, PA 16803, j99@psu.edu, Dan Brauning (DBrau), David Brown, Paul Brubaker, Matthew Heintzelman, Sean Herrmann, Evan Houston, Andy Keister, Bonnie Ott, David Rothrock, Loanne Snavelly.

Venango County

Locations: Adams Road (AR), Barkeyville Area (BA), Barkeyville Strips

(BS), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Cooperstown Sand & Gravel Co. (CSGC), Guckert's Pond (GP), Kahle Lake (KL), Kolodick's Yard (KY), Nickleville Road (NR), Oil Creek S.P. (OCSP), Polk Wetlands (PW), Two-Mile Run County Park (TMRP), Van Game Lands (SGL 45), Waitz Road (WR), Windy Hills Area (WH), Wyattville Pond (WP).

The species total for the period was 191, two more than last year. A **Cackling Goose** was at TMRP, 3/14 (GE, RS). Other waterfowl of note: One **Eurasian Wigeon** photographed at TMRP 3/22 (GE, RS), one **Northern Shoveller** at TMRP 3/26 (MK, NK), a few **Northern Pintails** at KL 3/5-20 (GE, KG, JS), one **Surf Scoter** on KL 4/21 (GE), small groups of **Long-tailed Ducks** at KL 3/21-4/21 (GE, JS, RS), and an **Eared Grebe** found by JS at KL 3/30-4/6 (GE, RS).

A **Golden Eagle** flew past WP 3/8 (JS) and a **Rough-legged Hawk** was at WH 3/14 (GE, ML). A **Virginia Rail** was heard at PW 4/30 (GE, RS) and a **Sora** was heard at GP 4/23 (GE). A single **Sandhill Crane** was seen on NR 3/31 (MK, NK). A group of 10 **Dunlins** flew by KL 5/25 (GE, RS).

A **Wilson's Snipe** was winnowing at PW 3/10 (GE, RS) and a late snipe was reported 5/13 (NB). Three **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at KL 5/24-27, representing the third county record for the species. Two **Willetts** at TMRP 4/28 (MK, NK) provided the 4th county record and first since 2004. Four tern species made appearances at KL: **Caspian Tern** 4/21-5/6 (GE, JS), **Black Tern** 4/29-5/25 (JS, KG, GE), **Common Tern** 5/6-13 (KG, JS, GE), and **Forster's Tern** 4/20-5/26 (EA, KG, JS, MK, NK, GE).

The only **Eastern Whip-poor-will** report was from VG 4/21 (GE). There were no reports for Olive-sided, Willow, or Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. A **White-eyed Vireo** was seen along WR 5/3 (GE) and **Philadelphia Vireo** was at BHNS, 5/15-28 (KG, JS). Our only active **Purple Martin** colony continues to thrive at an Amish lumberyard in the BS. The **Bank Swallow** colony at CSGC is doing well, observed 5/12 (GE). **Winter Wrens** were at BHNS 4/15 (JS, KG) and OCSP 5/19 (RS).

Gray-cheeked Thrush was at BHNS 5/19 (KG, JS) and KY 5/22 (MK, NK). **Swainson's Thrush** moved through the BHNS 5/11-21 (KG, JS, MK, NK). **Northern Mockingbird**, uncommon here, was reported 5/5 at KL, (MK, NK) and at BA, 5/24. Small groups of **American Pipits** were at KL 5/13-18, (GE, NK, MK, JS). A **Lapland Longspur** was at KL 3/10 (KG, JS).

Twenty-nine warbler species were recorded. Highlights were: **Northern Waterthrush** 5/2 (JS), **Mourning Warbler** photographed at KY 5/22 (MK, NK) and seen also at BHNS 5/22 (JS), **Kentucky Warbler** at AR 5/28 (GE), **Cape May Warbler** at OCSP 5/7 (DM) and KY 5/16 (MK, NK), and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** in OCSP 5/14 (NB). The only **Wilson's Warbler** was at BHNS 5/25 (KG, JS). Lincoln's Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird were conspicuous by their absence. An uncommon **Orchard Oriole** was seen at GP 5/24 (GE).

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net; Russ States, 111 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pelagics202@gmail.com**, Ed Atts, Nancy Baker, Kathie Goodblood, Jeff Hall, Craig Holt, Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick, Michael Leahy, Dot Monahan, Richard Nugent, Jerry Stanley, Jim Wilson

Warren County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Brokenstraw Creek near Youngsville (BC), Hickory Creek Wilderness Area (HC), Hatch Patch fields (HP), Kinzua Dam (KD), North Warren (NW), Russell (RU), State Game Lands 86 (SG), City of Warren (WA).

Strange weather this spring, with above-normal precipitation and wide temperature swings, resulted in a generally poor migration in *Warren*. A total of 171 **Tundra Swans** flew over RU 3/7 (JF) and a single was seen with an **American Black Duck** and 11 **Bonaparte's Gulls** in flooded cornfield at HP 4/15 (JF). Fifty **Double-crested Cormorants** were at KD 4/15 (SS).

A female **Broad-winged Hawk** (named 'Patty') fitted with a satellite transmitter by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary last year arrived on her old territory in ANF 4/16; on 5/23 she was located incubating a new nest 100 yards from her 2016 nest (SHS, DW). A new **Bald Eagle** pair was located incubating a nest right across Conewango Creek from the commercial strip along Rte 62 in NW (m.ob.). An Audubon Birdathon team reported

one each of **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** at AS 5/6 (KE).

A **Red Knot** stopped briefly at HP 5/9, a pair of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/15, and 3 **Least Sandpipers** 5/16 (all JF). An impressive 5 **Common Nighthawks** were spotted at dusk over downtown WA 5/19 (NW). Again this year, a pair of very noisy **Merlins** nested somewhere near 5th Ave. in WA (m.ob.).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was seen along the trail at HC 5/16 (MY); these southern birds rarely get this far north. Another rare southerner but regular breeder locally is the hard-to-see **Yellow-throated Warbler**, spotted in sycamores along BC 4/30 (NW). Many migrant warblers seemed scarce this spring. **Cerulean Warblers** were found in numbers at SG 5/1, almost a week before their average arrival date here (SHS).

Observers: **Scott H. Stoleson, 114 Sanders Rd, Sugar Grove, PA 16350, (814) 489-3734, stoleson@aol.com**, Kate Ebersole, John Fedak, Steve Schmidt, Don Watts, Nathan Weyandt, Mia Yeager.

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), Taylorstown (TAY), Washington Park (WP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

Waterfowl were quite widely reported, owing to a great deal of coverage of the waterfowl migration by birders. A **Tundra Swan** appeared at PL 3/22 (JF) and remained there until 5/4 (LF), after which it apparently relocated to CL, where it was seen 5/6-18 (MJ, et al.). A flock of 30 was at CC 3/12 (MJ). **Gadwalls** were widely reported, and included a flock of 32 in a flooded field in the BC area 3/8 (TB) and a handful of double-digit counts near BENT through 4/9 (RI). **American Wigeon** was also well reported from several locations in Mar (m.ob.), but **Blue-winged Teal** were found only in small numbers 4/2-10 (m.ob.). Three reports of **Northern Shoveler** made for a nice flight here: 4 at Timber Lake and up to 5 at Lake Joann 3/15-16 (GG), and one at CL 4/8-9 (LC, MJ). There were just two reports of **Northern Pintail**, at Ciaffoni Rd. 3/12-20 (FK) and 2 at PET 3/22 (GG). Two late **Green-winged Teal** were at PL 4/29 (JF, LF).

Top count of 15 **Redheads** was made near BENT 3/26 (RI). **Ring-necked Ducks** maxed out at just 26 on Scenic Ridge Dr. 3/22 (JF). Two **Greater Scaup** were at R4 on 3/1 (RI), rare in *Washington*. **Lesser Scaup**, much more regular here, were well reported, headed by counts of 35 near BENT 3/19 (RI) and 28 at R4 on 3/1 (RI). Quite notable at a pond near BENT were late scoters: one **Surf Scoter** 4/30 (RI) and 2 well-described female **Black Scoters** there 4/24 (RI), the latter not only late but very rare at any time in *Washington*. Twenty-two **Buffleheads** near Eighty-Four 4/13 (GG) capped off a better than average season for them. A **Common Goldeneye** at Charleroi 3/20 (RI) was also rare for *Washington*. Quite exciting was the discovery of an adult **Common Merganser** with 6 ducklings in the BC area 5/16 (LC, RI, SG), representing the first breeding record of this species for *Washington* to this author's knowledge. Remarkably, *Beaver* also saw its first-ever breeding record of Common Merganser this season. Varying counts of 20-35 **Ruddy Ducks** were made consistently at BENT 3/19-4/9 (RI) and 6 were still there 4/30 (RI).

Common Loons were noted at R4 on 3/13 (RI), at BENT 4/9 (RI), and at CC 4/14-19 (JF). Like many other waterbird species, it was also a good season for **Horned Grebe** with reports from four locations concluding with 4 near BENT 4/2 (RI). *Washington's* fourth record of **Black Vulture** was furnished by 2 birds over TAY 5/21 (LC), continuing a growing trend of sightings of this species in sw. Pennsylvania counties west of the Laurel Ridge, as well as in the northern panhandle of West Virginia. *Washington's* first Black Vulture was found very nearby to TAY at GCW in May 2012, and each of the next three records was made since Nov 2016. **Ospreys** were reported a number of times, including birds deep into May at PL 5/16 (GG) and at CL 5/25 (PB). **Bald Eagles** attempted to nest at CL again this year, and were successful this time. Nest building was noted in early Mar and eggs may have been present as early as 3/17. Drama ensued as a third eagle, a male, arrived by mid-Apr and eventually drove the original male out. At least two eaglets were seen in the nest later in the season, offspring of the original male (LC, et al.).

Sora was sighted at GCW three times 4/18-5/21 (LC). A good aggregation of **American Coots** staged near BENT in late Mar and early Apr, topping out at 80 birds 3/26 (RI). Quite surprising, and rare for *Washington*, was a **Sandhill Crane** that hung around a residence near Finleyville 5/7-17 (ph. DW), one of just a small number of records for the county.

Shorebird migration was unremarkable as usual, aside from a location near BENT which has produced some amazing shorebird records in the past. A **Semipalmated Plover** stopped at CL 5/12-18 (MJ), and single **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were there 4/20-29 and 4/17-29, respectively (m.ob.). An early **Solitary Sandpiper** appeared at CL 3/29-4/3 (MJ), followed by several other reports through mid-May (m.ob.). Over the past decade or so, **Willetts** have increasingly been found in late Apr and early May in western Pennsylvania, as birders have become more aware of their habits and narrow migration window in this region. Despite this obvious trend, a flock of 14 Willetts at the location near BENT 4/30 (RI) was still remarkable, as it easily set a new high count for *Washington*, and provided the county with its fourth record, all at this location and all since 2008. A **Dunlin** was at this same location 4/30 (RI). A flock of 11 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was noted at CL 5/22 (RG).

Seven **Bonaparte's Gulls** at BENT 4/9 (RI) and one at R4 on 4/12 (LC) were good finds. Although Bonaparte's Gulls undoubtedly migrate through the county each spring, particularly in the first half of Apr, one has to make a deliberate effort to find them with any appreciable frequency, and so they remain an uncommonly reported species here. A **Herring Gull** at CL 3/12 (JF) was likewise a rare record for the county of a species that is otherwise not really rare in this corner of the state.

Black-billed Cuckoos were reported at least 13 times, a positive result for this apparently declining species. Last date for **Short-eared Owl** at their traditional wintering grounds in RBT was 3/12 (JM). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited a Burgettstown yard 5/2 (CB) and first **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was reported at HSP 3/12 (TH, LN). An **American Kestrel** at PP 4/8 (GG) was unusual for the location.

Eight reports of **Great Crested Flycatcher** were better than average. A **Blue-headed Vireo** was still hanging around HSP 5/8 (FK), a potential breeding area. **Common Ravens** nested again at Mingo Creek C. P. (m.ob.), and another nest was discovered this year near McDonald (FK, AK). They were also seen around CC 4/19-5/30 (FK, AK) and one was at PL 4/20 (GG). Two **Purple Martins** were scouting at R4 on 4/18 (LC) and 5 were at CL 5/7 (JF, LF). Three early **Tree Swallows** were at CL 3/21 (MJ).

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at Washington Cemetery 3/29-4/2 (LC) and one was in East Findlay Twp. 4/19 (PH). A few were at HSP as usual through May. A **Winter Wren** was a nice find at HSP 4/2 (JM). Very few *Catharus* thrushes were noted: **Swainson's Thrush** was reported three times 5/16-23 (m.ob.) and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at WP 5/9 (LC) and in the King's Creek area 5/26 (DY), a remote location near the West Virginia border nw. of Burgettstown.

The 5/26 foray to the King's Creek area demonstrated that despite its proximity to Pittsburgh, there still remains much to be discovered of *Washington's* birdlife. That same day near King's Creek a **Worm-eating Warbler** was certainly the day's highlight (DY), a very rare breeder in the county. **Tennessee Warblers** were few and included one near TAY 5/3 (RT) and one at HSP 5/18 (RG). A **Mourning Warbler** at BC 5/16 (LC, RI, SG) was a very nice find. **Kentucky Warbler** was noted at seven different locations. **Bay-breasted Warbler** was limited to a single at HSP 5/12 (RI, SG) and 2 at WP 5/3-15 (LC). A **Palm Warbler** was at CL 4/22 (ST). **Pine Warbler** was noted at HSP 3/25 (JM) and records continued there until at least 5/20. One was also at PL 4/12 (GG).

Henslow's Sparrow was noted only at their traditional areas at HSP and RBT, and those at RBT have been few in number recently. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was a nice spring find at PL 4/29 (JF). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at PET 4/22 (GG) was obviously eager to get north, at that date. Counts of **Bobolink** at Glass Hill Rd. topped out at 18 in May (FK). They were also seen along Ciaffoni Rd., near TAY, and at the RBT grasslands (m.ob.). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were occasionally reported at CL 3/5-17 (JF, et al.) and one was there 4/3 (JF). **Purple Finch** was noted at three locations (all feeders) through 4/11 (GG, CB, FK).

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Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, Don Weiss, David Yeany II.

Wayne County

Locations: Lake Ariel (LA), Lake Genero (LG), Lake Wallenpaupack (LW), Prompton State Park (PSP).

The most noteworthy migrant waterfowl species this season was a **Red-throated Loon** seen landing on the waters of LW 4/22 (MS). More common migrants included 22 flyover **Snow Geese** viewed just east of Pleasant Mount 3/25 (MJ), approximately 100 **Ring-necked Ducks** at LA 3/13 and 13 more at nearby LG 3/27 (RJ), and 10 **Ruddy Ducks** at LG 4/26 (MH).

The first report of breeding **Broad-winged Hawk** was at PSP 5/19 (TK). A lone **Solitary Sandpiper** was observed foraging with 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** along the bank of the Delaware R. near Dillontown 5/11 (RK). Another great find was one alternate plumage adult **Little Gull** photographed with a flock of 50 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at LW 4/22 (MS); this sighting represents *Wayne's* first eBird record of Little Gull.

Empidonax flycatchers arrived throughout May. **Acadian, Willow, and Least Flycatchers** breed in *Wayne* and were seen at multiple locations (m.ob.). There were no reports of Alder Flycatcher although they are regular breeders.

Twenty-three warbler species were tallied, comprised primarily of returning breeders and commonly-seen migrants. One sighting of note was a single **Golden-winged Warbler** near Honesdale 5/18 (TK), a difficult species to locate in *Wayne*.

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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 – Livermore (CR), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Spring Lake (ESL, also known as Derry Lake), Hunters Lane (HL), Keystone State Park (KSP), Latrobe Reservoir (LR, also known as Trout Run Reservoir), Linn Run State Park (LRSP), Loyalhanna Dam (LD), Love Hollow – Andy Mack location north of Ligonier (LH), Mammoth Lake (ML), Pleasant Valley Park – Murrysville (PVP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB), Turners Pond (TP) St. Vincent Lake and Wetlands (SVW).

The attraction of shorebirds to the drained Donegal Lake and a large volume of eBird submissions provided for a robust Spring Migration report. The Pennsylvania Migration Count ("PAMC"), compiled by Dick Byers, was conducted on May 13.

The high of several counts of **Wood Ducks** at WHT-BRR was 8 on 3/19 (KB), and the high for the season was 12 at CR 3/23 (KB). Among several reports of Wood Duck in the Laurel Highlands was a report of 2 at SFB 3/26 (JL), and although a bog seems a bit of an unexpected location, other waterfowl and waders are routinely reported at the location. Twelve **Gadwall** were at TP 3/17 and 10 at WHT-BRR 3/19 (KB). Significant numbers of **American Wigeons** were reported by several observers at WHT-BR in late Feb into Mar, with the high being 100 on 3/19 (KB). The high count of many scattered reports for **American Black Duck** was 12 at CR 3/23 (KB). The high of several scattered reports for **Blue-winged Teal** was 4 at WHT-BRR 4/10 (KB). Sparsely reported for the season, there were 4 **Northern Shovelers** at SVL 3/25 (JL). One **Green-winged Teal** was observed with 23 American Wigeons at WHT-BRR 3/4 (TK, JK). Later in Mar, there were several high-counts days for Green-winged Teal at WHT-BRR, with 10 on 3/8, 18 on 3/12, and 20 on 3/19 (KB).

An eBird Checklist of 3/25 for CR-BRR provided for some of the season's best reports for diving ducks: 3 **Canvasbacks**, 100 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 1 **Lesser Scaup**, 2 **Buffleheads**, 5 **Ruddy Ducks**, and one **Horned Grebe**, among others (SR). At at CLR on 3/23 were 8 Canvasbacks, 8 **Redheads**, 125 Ring-necked Ducks, one Greater Scaup, one **Lesser Scaup**, 5 **Buffleheads**, 3 **Common Mergansers**, and 10 Ruddy Ducks (KB). Redheads at ESL included 4 on 3/19 (TK, JK) and 14 on 3/21, along with 17 Ring-necked Ducks, 34 Lesser Scaup, 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, and 6 Horned Grebes (AM). Two locations

just east of Ligonier provided for high counts of Ring-necked Duck, with 125 at Ice Pond 3/19 and 51 at Latrobe Reservoir 3/27 (AM). **Long-tailed Duck** reports included 4 at LR 3/31 and a photograph of one hen at ML 4/2 (JL). Other reports for Long-tailed Duck were of one 4/6 (AM) and one again 4/12 (AM). Seven Buffleheads were at WHT-BR 4/12 (KB). Of interest as possible breeding was a pair of Bufflehead observed by Tim Vechter as he kayaked the Conemaugh R. near Blairsville 5/20. The only report of the season, one **Common Goldeneye** was at Tubmill Reservoir 3/18 (AM). The high-count of several reports for Red-breasted Merganser was of 9 at LR 3/28 (JL).

In addition to several reports (all of just one bird) for the now-elusive **Ruffed Grouse** in the Laurel Highlands, one was at low elevation at PNR 4/8 (JL). On 2/24, a flock of 30 **Wild Turkeys** was in fields of the name-sake farm on Borland Farm Rd outside of Export (TK). There were 2 **Common Loons** at LR 3/28 (JL) and Common Loon was logged for LR and ESL, both 4/1 (AM). There were a number of reports for both **Pied-billed** and Horned Grebes at expected locations, with a high-count of 10 Horned Grebes at SVL 4/12 (JL). Ten **Double-crested Cormorants** were at BRR-380 on 5/7 (JL).

First report of an **American Bittern** was around the ponds at PNR 4/30 (JL), and it appears that the bird remained in the area, as it was reported on several more days until 5/13. One American Bittern was on found by the Matuza/Pemberton Party at Little Sewickley Creek Wetlands for the PAMC 5/13. Another exiting report for *Westmoreland*, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was heard and seen as it did a flyover in Love Hollow north of Ligonier 5/26 (AM).

Quite often reported in the Ligonier Valley, up to 2 **Black Vultures** were at PNR 4/20-5/2 and one was there 5/13 (JL). Despite the draining of Donegal Lake, many April and May reports of up to 2 **Ospreys** indicates that a long-established breeding pair continues at the location. A migrating Osprey was noted over a Delmont home 3/29 (KB). Among the number of reports for **North Harrier** was a sighting of 2 on Peoples Rd north of Ligonier 3/8 (LS). As to be expected for accipiter species were many reports of **Cooper's Hawk**, just a few for **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, and none for Northern Goshawk. One Sharp-shin flew over the Elliot factory in Jeannette in early evening 3/16 (TK). A report of a Sharp-shin just outside of Blairsville from the running of a BBS 5/30 could be an indication of breeding in the area (MH, RH). A pair of Cooper's Hawks, with a male doing a display flight, was seen at CCCP 4/2 (JK, TK).

There were many reports for the expanding **Bald Eagle**. Of note once again at the Loyalhanna Dam was a concentration of over-wintering Bald Eagles that remained into the early part of the season; 10 were reported there 3/3 (PC). Also worth noting, an adult Bald Eagle was observed near Lady of the Lake B&B 3/5. A nesting pair was reported at an undisclosed private-property location near Ligonier and on 4/3, along with the 2 adults, there was a chick observed on the nest and an imm. bird seen circling the area. Apparently continuing at PNR, up to 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported among the many eBird Checklists provided for this species there. Two Red-shouldered Hawks were at PVP 2/12 (DD). Both a migrant and a breeder, there were many Laurel Highland eBird reports for **Broad-winged Hawk** during the latter part of the season.

The grunting calls of a **Virginia Rail** were heard near the Gristmill at SVW 4/16 (JL). One **Sora** was tallied for the 5/13 PAMC, found at the Little Sewickley Creek Wetlands (DM, JP). Thirty-five **American Coots** were reported at BRR-380 on 3/26 (KB). Only calls were heard for the report of one **Sandhill Crane** at DL 5/13 (JL).

The draining of Donegal Lake brought out the birders, providing for more than the customary time reporting of shorebirds for the spring season. A **Black-bellied Plover** was photographed there 4/30 (AM). There were numerous reports for **Semipalmated Plover** at DL, with a minimum count of at least 16 on 5/19 (JL). One **Dunlin** was at DL 4/28 (JL). The very numerous reports for **Least Sandpiper** at DL began 4/28 and continued to 5/30, with high counts of 38 on 5/16 (ST) and 45 on 5/19 (JL). Also on 5/19 was one **White-rumped Sandpiper** (JL). The high of several reports for **Pectoral Sandpiper** at DL was of 5 on 5/16 (AM), and the high of several reports (all in the second half of May) for **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was of 25 on 5/25 (JL). From late Apr through early May there were many reports for **Spotted Sandpipers** and **Solitary Sandpipers** at DL, and just a few reports for **Greater Yellowlegs**, with the high of 6 on 4/28 (JL). All of a number of reports for **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at DL, with a high of 11 on 4/26 (JL). And again at DL; a **Willet** was reported 4/29 (MJ) and seen later that day (DB). Two Willets flew close at BRR-380 on 5/5 (KB). These reports for Willets were the first for *Westmoreland* since 2 at DL 4/24/72. There were many reports

of **Wilson Snipe** including 2 at Sewickley Creek Wetlands 3/10 (MF) and one at a private wetland in Lowber 3/18 (JP). One snipe was in New Stanton 4/12 (MF) and 3 were at PNR 4/25 (JL). Lured out by mild conditions on 2/20, TK heard at least 2 **American Woodcocks** at dusk on Silvis Rd in Murrysville.

The only significant report for gulls was a count of 12 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at LR 3/28 (JL). Three **Caspian Terns** were at ML on PAMC day 5/13 (EC/GS). One **Forster's Tern** was seen in flight at BRR-380 on 5/7 (JL). Two juv. **Great Horned Owls** were noted in a nest located on Rt. 119 in Greensburg, just north of Lynch Field (KJ). The first hoots and calls of **Barred Owls** were heard 2/3, then followed by many nightly reports of at least 2 in Apr and May at the KP. One Barred Owl was heard calling during the day on a hike of Wolf Rocks Trail 4/28 (KB) and a number of reports came from Love Hollow 4/9-5/15 (AM). There were several reports for **Common Nighthawk** (but just one or 2 per eBird checklist) at PNR 5/12-23 (m.ob.). One was heard at a home in New Kensington/Arnold 5/19 (SG).

One **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at PVP 5/12 (DD) and 2 were near Laughlontown 4/28 (AM). There were 2 fly-over sightings of **Merlins** during the season - one on Ligonier Street in Latrobe 4/12 (JL) and one at LH 5/10 (AM). An eBird checklist for Pleasant Valley Park in Murrysville gave a detailed description of 2 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** 5/12 (DD). Nine Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were captured at PNR in May. Historically a reliable location for **Alder Flycatcher**, 5 were reported at HL 5/22.

Although there were no field reports, 9 **Philadelphia Vireos** captured at PNR in May. A **White-eyed Vireo** was reported at WHT-BR 5/9 (KB). Reliable at CR, 2 **Warbling Vireos** were there 4/26 (KB). There were many Laurel Highland reports for **Common Raven** during the season. Low elevation sightings included 2 on 4/5 in Delmont (KB). One **Horned Lark** was reported on Baker Rd (near Mammoth Lake Park) 5/1 (JL).

Purple Martins returned to a number of historical nesting sites this season. Two Purple Martins were at Murrysville Municipal Park 4/15 (MJS), later joined by two additional pairs (Sue Miller). Confirmation of Purple Martins returning to the house at the Municipal Authority's building at BRR-380 was documented with a report of 5 there 5/5 (KB). Unexpected at SFB were 2 martins 5/17 (AM). There were 15 **Bank Swallows** at LR 5/6 (JL) and 10 at DL 5/11 (JL). High counts for **Cliff Swallows** were 50 at LR (JL) and 40 at DL 5/11 (JL).

Sometimes not reported, this season saw many scattered observations of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** with multiple reports at SFB, including one on the PAMC 5/13 (TK, JK); one was heard on Clover Leaf Golf Course in Delmont 5/1 (TK). There were a number of scattered reports for **Brown Creeper** including an eBird checklist of 2 at HL 4/16 (JL). Reliable at LRSP, 5 **Winter Wrens** were tallied there for the 5/13 PAMC (TK, JK). Captures were made of single **Marsh Wrens** at PNR 4/28 and 5/17, and one was heard singing in the banding station area 4/29. Of a number of scattered reports for **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, 2 were at CCCP 3/25 (JP), 4 at LR 4/12 (AM), and 4 at SVW 4/12 (JL).

The only field report of the season, one **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at PVP 4/28 was well-described in a eBird checklist (PF). At PNR, 11 Gray-cheeks were banded in May. A **Swainson's Thrush** was at PVP 5/12 (DD). A **Hermit Thrush** was at the Sara Steel parking lot on the Westmoreland Heritage Trail 4/15 (KB) and one was at PVP 4/14 (PF). For the Laurel Highlands, one Hermit Thrush was tallied for the 5/13 PAMC at SFB and a second near-by on Wolf Rocks Trail (TK, JK). An **American Pipit** was at DL 5/2 (AM). Thirty-five **Cedar Waxwings** were at HL 5/22 (JL).

No field reports, but one **Worm-eating Warbler** was captured at PNR 4/28. One **Northern Waterthrush** on 4/26 (KB) and 2 on 4/30 (JK/TK) were observed in the reliable vernal pool section at CR, and one was at HL on the Blair Bothers RR Grade Trail 5/10 (RN). One **Louisiana Waterthrush** was reported at CR-WHT 4/17 (KB) and they were plentiful along Linn Run for the 5/13 PAMC, with 6 in LRSP that day (TK, JK). Hunter's Lane remains a reliable location for **Golden-winged Warbler**, with 2 reported there 5/22 (JL) - other notable warbler species reported on that eBird checklist were 7 **Blue-winged Warblers** and one **Brewster's Warbler**. The high-count of **Tennessee Warblers** for several May reports at LH was 3 on 5/14 (AM). The only field report for **Nashville Warbler** was one at HL 5/13 (RN).

One **Mourning Warbler** was at PVP 5/1 along with 5 **Blue-winged Warblers**, 6 **Kentucky Warblers**, 12 **Hooded Warblers**, and 4 **Bay-breasted Warblers** (DD). There was one **Cape May Warbler** at DL 5/16 (ST) and one at SFB 5/18 (AC). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were tallied for

the 5/13 PAMC at LRSP (JK, TK). Two Bay-breasted Warblers were at LH 5/14 (AM). The several field reports for **Blackpoll Warblers**, all in the Laurel Highlands, included 2 at both LH and DL, both on 5/26 (AM). Field reports for **Palm Warbler** were of one at Jacobs Creek Wetlands 5/14 (MA) and one at SFB 5/15 (JL). There were many Laurel Highlands reports for **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. At lower elevations, 2 Yellow-rumps were at WHT-BR 4/27 (KB).

At CCCP, a reliable location, the earliest of many reports of **Yellow-throated Warbler** was for 3 on 4/5 (KSJ). The only report of **Prairie Warblers** was of 2 at the St. Clair Christmas Tree Plantation located on Rt. 711 just south of New Florence (JL). **Canada Warblers** continue to be reliable as they return to their breeding territories in LRSP and at SFB. For the 5/13 PAMC, 10 were tallied in LRSP and 3 at SFB (TK, JK). Twelve **Wilson's Warblers** were captured in May at PNR, but there were just 2 field reports - one at LH 5/5 (AM) and one at DL 5/16 (JL). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was photographed at LH 5/19 (AM).

Providing the only report, 5 **Henlow's Sparrows** were tallied by the Byers/Cochran/Shalek party for the 5/13 PAMC at the Sarver property near Laurelville. One **Fox Sparrow** visited the feeders at the KP 2/3 (JK), and then one or 2 visited almost daily beginning 3/14 through 4/4. During cold and snowy conditions, 3 **Fox Sparrows** and 6 **White-crowned Sparrows** visited the feeders at a home near Scottdale 3/15 (GS). Six **Lincoln's Sparrows** were captured at PNR in May, and there was a field report for one at HL 5/22 (JL).

Two **Dickcissels** were discovered during a BBS near Blairsville 5/30 (MH, RH). For the 5/13 PAMC, 3 **Bobolinks** were tallied in the fields on Rt. 381 near PNR (TK, JK). Fourteen **Rusty Blackbirds** were included in an eBird checklist of field-birding at PNR 4/17 (JL). One female **Purple Finch** visited the feeders at the KP 2/3 (JK), and one or more Purple Finches continued to visit almost daily through 4/20, with a high of 8 (4 females and 4 males) 4/14 (JK); the highest of a number of reports at LH was of 4 on 4/11(AM).

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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), Lake Winola (LW), Lazybrook Park (LP), Little Rocky Glen (LG), Mary Robbin's Pond (MRP), Mulligan's Pond (MP), Oxbow Lake (OL), Russell Hill (RH), Scottsville Road (SR), Sharpe's Lake (SL), Sordoni's Farm (SF), State Gamelands 57 (SGL).

As I always do, in the spring report I focus on those species that do not breed in *Wyoming*, but rather are winter transients or that pass through the county on their return trips to their breeding grounds.

The 2017 Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count (PAMC), held 5/13, produced records of 97 species, the second lowest in the history of the count (since 1994); the previous five-year average is 107. I attribute that performance to the weather, as we birded much of the day in rain, sometimes heavy. Even with the bad weather, however, we managed to record a few rare or uncommon species.

I want to mention that compiling the PAMC was a bit more difficult this year, since the effort was centered in eBird. I think that's a great idea. However, a number of *Wyoming* birders who are regular PAMC participants are not yet regular users of eBird; and many others, who have not been PAMC regulars (and many of whom I don't know at all), reported a lot of data in eBird. So, for me to compile the data in a way that is useful in making historical comparisons, requires that I not only collect and input the paper checklists of my non-eBird regulars, but also review all the checklists provided into eBird. I have to develop a process to do all that in an effective fashion.

Correspondingly, this significant rise in the number of folks submitting *Wyoming* checklists to eBird greatly increases the amount of data about species presence and seasonal movements. I'm working on how to efficiently incorporate that data into my historical summaries as well as how to add context to reported activity.

The only report of **Snow Goose** was of 222 at BF 3/31 (JD). The only **Tundra Swan** was a single bird at LW 4/20 (RS). **Ring-necked Duck** was reported a number of times, and, as usual, in small numbers: 2 at SF 4/1 (JD); 4 at SL 4/6 (JD); 4 at OL 4/11 (JD), and one at OX 4/13 (CC). As with Ring-necks, **Bufflehead** is a regular migration transient, with following reports: 4 at LC 4/10 (MC), 5 at OL 4/11 (JD), and 5 at OL 4/13 (CC, MC). A pair of **Red-breasted Mergansers**, in breeding plumage, was at LC 3/30 (MC). **Rudy Ducks** at LC included one 4/21 (MC) and 4 on 4/29 (JD).

Common Loons were limited to singles on many dates at LC 3/30-5/13 (MC, JD, CC, JS), very possibly the same bird each time. There were only 2 reports of **Pied-billed Grebe** - a single at LC 4/13 (JS) and a calling bird at DC 5/13 (JD). Pied-billed Grebe is a possible breeder here, so perhaps the calling bird offers hope that we can raise its breeding status from "possible" to "probable" or even "confirmed" with additional observations at DC. As usual, a few **Horned Grebe** stopped during migration - 2 were at LC 4/14 (MC) and 5 at the same location 4/21 (MC). **Double-crested Cormorant**, another species normally seen only in migration, was reported just 3 times: 2 at OL 4/11 (JD), 3 at OL 4/13 (MC), and one at LC 4/29 (JD). Providing a rare spring record was the **Great Egret** at DC 4/15 (MG). By my records, the last year in which we had a spring report was 2003; we usually find only in late summer, after dispersal from nesting.

Another species with no recent evidence of breeding in *Wyoming* is **Osprey**. Migrants included one at OL 4/11 (JD), 2 at OL 4/20 (MC), one at LW 4/21 (RS), and one at OL 5/13 (MC). For the second year in a row, **Sandhill Crane** was recorded at SL, when 2 adults and 2 colts were captured on a game camera 5/29 (RG). Sandhills are reported frequently at SL, and this is further evidence of likely breeding there. A **Solitary Sandpiper** at DC 5/13 (JD) represented an uncommon PAMC record.

The only report of **Horned Lark** was of 2 birds at BF 4/11 (JD) and the only report of **Snow Bunting** was of a "small flock" along Wilson Rd. 3/10(JB). For both of these open-country field species, we usually have more reports, including some large flocks.

A rare record for the 2017 PAMC was that of a **Nashville Warbler** near LW 5/13 (MC), the first for the PAMC since 2010. Although *Wyoming* is within the breeding range for this species, no breeding evidence was recorded for the 2nd BBA. However, recent records indicate Nashvilles to be probable breeders in the *Wyoming* portion of SGL 57. The top highlight of the period was the **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Fox Hollow 5/13 (DEK). To the best of my knowledge, this was a first for the PAMC and the first record in *Wyoming* since 2010.

Fox Sparrow was recorded at a LC bird feeder 3/30 (MC) and observed over a period of weeks there before leaving the area. **White-crowned Sparrow**, another winter transient, was reported at several locations during first two weeks of May, before departing for its breeding grounds: a single in BM 5/1 (SG), 2 at LC 5/2 (MC), a single in Vernon 5/4 (DPB), and one at Russell Hill 5/11 (JRL).

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York County

Locations: Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Fairview Township (FAIR), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP).

The 202 species reported for the period falls one short of the prior high in 2015. eBird reporting activity was very high with the period 4/23–5/30 finding many dedicated birders documenting the peak shorebird and passerine migration. The 5/13 PAMC, coordinated/compiled by Ann Pettigrew and Randy Phillips, netted 122 species.

Snow Goose migration continues to show a strong Susquehanna R. demarcation as there were only 2 reports of isolated birds in York during March. Depending on one's perspective, no reports of the typically present Mute Swan could be considered either a "miss" or a "plus". Eight locales held migrating **Tundra Swan** with high counts of 350 at GPSP 3/13 (CB) and 300 at CSP 3/21 (PM).

A **Wood Duck– Bald Eagle** interaction witnessed at GPSP 5/13 (DN) had the mother hen using Killdeer-like tactics on the water. She was successful in keeping both her brood and herself safe. The sole report of **American Black Duck** was 5 birds at GPSP 3/23 (RK). **Northern Shoveler** and **Northern Pintail** were also limited to single reports, 7 shovelers at CSP 3/28 (PM) and 2 pintails at Spring Grove 3/4 (CB).

Although nine locales produced **Ring-necked Duck** sightings, the small (<10 acres) Kessler Pond along Rt 116 in Spring Grove seems to be a favored wintering and migration stop. Reports from 3/1–4/5 (m.ob.) were paced by a count of 252 on 3/20 (JF). Both **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup** were found 3/2–4/5 (m.ob.) at CSP, GPSP, and Spring Grove with a Lesser also being found at York Haven. A pair of **Surf Scoters** was a rewarding sight at LAR 4/29 (DC, CB). Duos of **Common Goldeneye** were at Cly 3/21 (GI) and GPSP 3/27 (GI). Largest raft of **Ruddy Duck** was 40+ birds at CSP 4/29 (DC).

Double digit counts of **Pied-billed Grebe** are a bit uncommon for the county so counts of 10 at GPSP 3/29 (DNN) and 15 at CSP 3/31 (JSD) were noteworthy. Always a good find, an **American Bittern** was in a retention pond along Westminster Rd 4/27 (PJR). **Great Egret** high count at the Kiwanis Lake rookery was 20 birds 4/7 (DNN). Approximately six miles south of the rookery, LR appeared to be a favored feeding locale with a high count of 11 birds 5/19 (CB). Good spring sightings of single **Snowy Egrets** came from LR 5/14 (KC) and 5/30 (DC). High count for **Black-crowned Night Heron** at the Kiwanis Lake rookery was 38 birds 4/7 (DNN) and 4/18 (AC).

The four **Ring-necked Pheasant** reports (CB, DC, JF, BM) were all of single birds. The 22 reports of **Wild Turkey** were paced by a count of 18 count along Druckard Valley Rd 3/4 (DK). After last year's nesting failure, CSP's celebrity Bald Eagles returned to have a successful nesting year, bringing relief to their legions of viewers thru a PGC livestream. Four of the 5 **Northern Harrier** reports came from their peak migration period 3/19-22 (DC, CF, RK, PM). The county's top grassland habitat, HTP, held up to 2 harriers 4/1–5/7 (DF, DW). An approaching thunderstorm pushed a kettle of 50+ **Broad-winged Hawks** over RRCP 4/21 (AW). Marsh Run remains pretty reliable for **Virginia Rail** with a single noted 4/29 (DC).

Shorebirding was reasonable with a drawdown at LR creating good amounts of mudflat acreage. Uncommon for the county, a **Black-bellied Plover** was found and photographed at CSP 5/9 (DP). **Semipalmated Plover** was at LR 5/4-31 (m.ob.) with a high count of 20 on 5/19 (CB). A dozen **Willetts** at CSP 4/29 (DC, CB) represents a great count for York. Up to 12 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at LR 4/28–5/30 (m.ob.) **White-rumped Sandpiper** reports at LR spanned 5/17-30 (m.ob.) with a high of 6 birds 5/29 (CB). Single **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at CSP 5/13 (CB) and LR 5/4-25 (CB, DC, KC, MC). Up to 3 **Dunlins** were at LR 5/5-25 (CB, DC, AP, DW). Infrequently reported, a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at LR 5/25-27 (CB, DC, DN). **Wilson's Snipe** reports came from four sites 3/10–5/21 (CB, DC, DF, DWi) with a high of 5 at HTP 4/1 (DF). Four reports of **American Woodcock** 3/2-24 (TC, DC, JDe, WK) were paced by a trio at GPSP 3/24 (WK).

A breeding plumaged **Laughing Gull** at CSP 4/29 represents a very rare "away from the river" sighting for York (DC). Five locales reporting **Bonaparte's Gull** in good numbers resulted in a very good showing for the season. Higher counts were 50 at LW 4/4 (CK), 30+ at CSP 3/31 (DC), and 25 at Lock 12 on 3/26 (DT). A likely new early date for **Caspian Tern** was established by a pair at LR 3/30 (DC); an additional bird showed up the next day (CB, DC). Birders enjoyed an extended migration period of Caspians with reports from LR 3/30–4/29 (m.ob.) and CSP 4/9–5/5 (CB, DF, DN, TN) and single/two day reports from GPSP 4/26 (DN) and LW 4/26-27 (CK, DW). High Caspian count was 8 at GPSP. A pair of **Forster's Tern** at CSP 4/29 provided the only report (CB, DC, TN).

Up to 2 **Black-billed Cuckoos** were at RRCP 4/29–5/23 (m.ob.). Likely reflecting a reduced tent caterpillar population this year, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports were down somewhat vs. last year. RRCP had

reports of up to 3 birds 4/28–5/23 (m.ob.) while BI held up to 2 birds 4/30–5/22 (RK, DN). Trios of **Barred Owl** were heard at GPSP 3/24 (DN) and Camp Tuckahoe 5/17 (DC). HTP, the reliable overwintering spot for **Short-eared Owl**, held one until 3/4 (JD). Five **Common Nighthawks** were over Goldsboro 5/10 (BS) and 4 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at Camp Tuckahoe 5/17 (DC). The chimney at the York YMCA continues to provide a **Chimney Swift** roost with an estimate of 3000 birds leaving the chimney starting at 0545 hours 5/12 (CB).

After an unusual winter where there was essentially no evidence of overwintering, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** returned in good numbers. Reports came from 10 locations (m.ob.) but an element of mystery continued with no reports from GPSP, typically one of the two (HTP being the other) most reliable spots for Red-heads. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** migration was well reported; one at RRCP 5/9 (DW) was running a bit late. Single **Merlins** were at LAR 3/22 (CB, DW) and LR 5/4 (DN). **Peregrine Falcons** were seen 3/21–4/29 (DC, DNN, DW) at BI and York Haven, with both areas being previously documented nesting sites.

The Lock 12-15 areas usually produce the high count for **Acadian Flycatcher** but this year the honor went to GPSP with 7 birds 5/18 (DN). **Willow Flycatcher** was normal with 7 reports. **Least Flycatcher** reporting was elevated with singles at GPSP 5/10 (DN), CSP 5/13 (CB), and RRCP 5/16-20 (CB, DC, DHa, AW). All expected vireo species enjoyed good reporting. A highlight was provided by **Blue-headed Vireo** numbers with nice counts of 4 birds at GPSP and 5 at RRCP, both 4/23 (RK, AM, AW). With one observer noting "they seemed to be everywhere in March" and 8 reports in May, **Common Raven** continues to earn its name. **Horned Lark** was reported from five locales 3/12–5/13 (m. ob.) with a high of 14 from Valley Acre Rd 3/15 (DK). The only appreciable **Purple Martin** count was of 16 along Ridge Rd 5/24 (CB). A sighting of 4 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at GPSP 4/23 was on the early side (RK). A **Bank Swallow** was at Saginaw 5/14 (DW) and up to 6 at LR 5/10-25 (CB, DC, DN, AW).

Red-breasted Nuthatch, **Brown Creeper**, and **Carolina Wren** reports continued strong following a solid winter. Winter Wren was an unusual "miss". The high **Golden-crowned Kinglet** report of 7 birds at LW 3/9–4/4 (CK). In addition to the afore-mentioned Blue-headed Vireo, that same date, 4/23, produced nice counts of 10 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** at RRCP and 17 at GPSP. Seven sites reported **Veery** and 4 **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, a stronger showing than normal. Gray-cheeks were at GPSP 5/15 (DN), Lock 12 on 5/20, RRCP 5/21 (AW), and along the Rail Trail 5/24 (PM). **Swainson's, Hermit**, and **Wood Thrush** were reported at normal levels. A **Gray Catbird** at LW 4/4 may have been an early arrival (CK) but this site has held overwintering catbirds in the past. Four reports of **American Pipit** singles spanned 3/10-22 (CB, DC, TC, DW, DWi).

As noted in the introductory paragraph, the level of eBirding and other reporting venues combined to produce a very good record of warbler migration through the county, especially at RRCP. With 34 species reported, there were no misses of any reasonably expected species. A well described male **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Glen Rock 5/1 (AS) and a **Tennessee Warbler** was at RRCP in early May (DC). Up to 5 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were at RRCP 4/28–5/23 (m.ob.). **Cape May Warbler** singles were at GPSP 5/12 (AW) and RRCP 4/30–5/14 (JF, DHa, AW). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was a bit early at LR 4/23 (DA). GPSP and RRCP were, at times, swarming with **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. GPSP produced counts of 20-60 during 4/8–5/9 (m.ob.) and RRCP had counts of 35–130 birds 4/23–5/16 (m. ob.). Nice counts of up to 4 **Blackburnian Warblers**, 5 **Bay-breasted Warblers**, and 12 **Blackpoll Warblers** came from RRCP 4/23–5/24 (m.ob.).

Yellow-throated Warbler reporting was limited to a single at Ski Roundtop 4/21 and again 5/13 (both CH) and up to 2 at Lock 12 on 5/6-20 (DHa, AW). **Pine Warbler** flocks of 5 and 12 birds produced a remarkable count of 17 at GPSP 4/7 (DNN). Lock 12 held up to 2 **Cerulean Warblers** 5/4-21 (TA, JHi, et al). **Prothonotary Warbler** reports came from Indian Steps 5/7 (AW), Gut Rd 5/14 (AW), York Haven 5/16-23 (DN), and BI 5/1-29 (CB, DC, DHu, DNN). The visit to BI 5/29 indicated multiple nest box occupancy with one holding an adult and 5 young (DHu, DNN). A very cooperative **Kentucky Warbler** provided great views at RRCP 5/10 (PK, RP, AW). Lock 12 produced sightings of single birds 5/6-20 (CB, DHa, AW, DW). Not just one, but 2 reports of **Mourning Warbler** were clearly a highlight. One was at RRCP 5/14-15 (AW, DW) and another at CSP 5/21 (AW). Up to 2 **Wilson's Warblers** were at RRCP 5/14-16 (m.ob.) and **Canada Warbler** reports came from five locales 5/5-27 (m.ob.). **Yellow-breasted Chat** reporting continues on

a positive trend with five locales (Apollo County Park, Lock 12, LR, Spring Valley County Park, and RRCP) providing sightings 5/2-27 (m.ob.).

The earliest **Chipping Sparrow** was at FAIR 3/25 (DN). **Savannah Sparrow** reports came from LAR 3/17-5/13 (CB, PK, HM) and HTP 4/28-5/31 (m.ob.) with high counts of 11+ birds at each site. A single **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at GPSP 4/27 (EB) and the reliable HTP held birds beginning 4/29 (m.ob.) and into the summer period. High count was 8 birds 5/2 (DN). Twenty **Fox Sparrow** reports from 3/10-4/8 (m.ob.) likely represent an all time high and a count of 9 birds at FAIR 3/14 (NZ) was "none too shabby". Six locales provided **Swamp Sparrow** reports but no sighting exceeded 2 birds. The warm April appeared to push **Dark-eyed Junco** north earlier than normal - last sighting was 4/30.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak had another good spring with 20 reports. Counts of 6 came from Monaghan Twp. 4/23 (JD) and FAIR 5/14 (DN). **Blue Grosbeaks** were at RRCP 5/12-14 (DC, AW), BI 5/22 (RK), and HTP 5/31 (JF). HTP was the sole site reporting **Bobolink** 4/30-5/13 (CB, DC, DF, AP). The high count of 40 birds had to be a rewarding sight 4/30 (DF). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found at Highpoint Scenic Vista and Recreation Area, HTP, and LAR; HTP produced 11 on 4/1 and 4/30 (both DF), and 5/6 (CB). The total of 4 **Rusty Blackbird** reports from four sites was better than normal. A single was in Shrewsbury Twp. 3/10 and 3/16 (both JF), a pair in Carroll Twp. 3/14 (JSr), 15+ at BI 3/29 (DC), and a pair at Wrightsville 4/1 (DHa, JHe). Eighteen reports of **Purple Finch** spanned 3/10-5/13 (m.ob.) with nice counts of 9 coming from Niles Rd 4/18 (CM) and 11 at FAIR 4/22 (DN). Pine Siskin was not found.

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The following counties have no compiler- contact the editor if interested:
Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Potter, Tioga.
*Reports were not received from **Fulton and McKean.***

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 PART 2



*Cerulean Warbler, Conemaugh Dam, Indiana County, 26 April
(Anthony Bruno)*



Cape May Warbler, Big Valley, Mifflin County, 9 May (Rob Dickerson)



Prairie Warbler, Clarksburg, Indiana County, 19 April (Anthony Bruno)



Magnolia Warbler, Big Valley, Mifflin County, 28 May (Rob Dickerson)



*Worm-eating Warbler, Redbank Valley Trail, Clarion County, 30 April
(Anthony Bruno)*



Yellow-breasted Chat, Hillman SP, Washington County, 20 May (Linda Widdop)