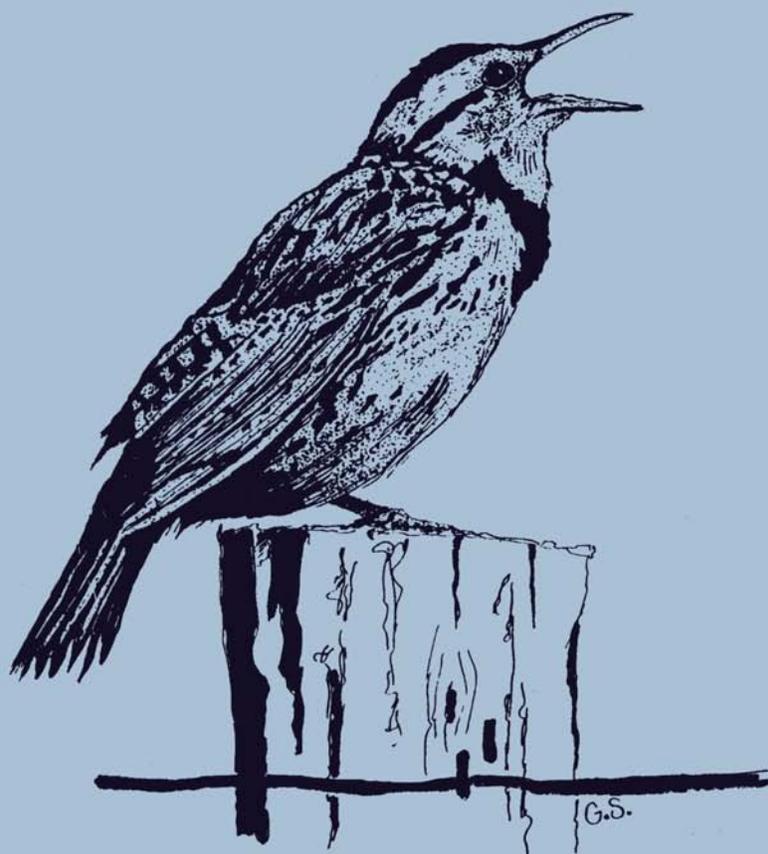


PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



VOLUME 3, No.1

Jan-Mar 1989

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1, JAN - MAR 1989

Franklin C. Haas & Barbara M. Haas
Co-editors

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COVER: Eastern Meadowlark by *Georgette Syster*

(See Page 11)

Page 10: *Jim Lockyer*

from the Editors...

It seems hard to believe that this issue starts our third year of publication! Pennsylvania ornithology has certainly come a long way in the past few years, and more developments are happening right now.

When the **Breeding Bird Atlas** coordinators met in April 1989, they decided the time was right to form a statewide birding organization. Several coordinators volunteered to serve on a board to draw up a charter and by-laws for a **Pennsylvania Ornithological Society**. This move will complete the triumvirate of ornithological "needs" (statewide organization, records committee, and statewide publication) in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania now has the framework in which to monitor the Commonwealth's birdlife and to pursue other projects. We at **Pennsylvania Birds** welcome this new organization and hope to work hand in hand with it in pursuit of furthering Pennsylvania ornithology.

Meanwhile, the **Records Committee** also met for the first time in April and started the wheels rolling on the tremendous task of verifying records and putting together an official state birdlist. See the article by Ed Kwater elsewhere in this issue for an update. We will be reporting regularly on the committee's machinations.

Those of us living in the southern half of the state have certainly noticed the large population changes exhibited by the Carolina Wren over the last decade. Paul Hess' lead article in this issue enlightens us on the reasons why.

With this issue, we also welcome **Pennsylvania Birdlists**, a newsletter compiled by Terry Schiefer (without a computer!) for birders who keep lists. Terry has been doing a wonderful job on this project and its inclusion in **Pennsylvania Birds** will provide him with much larger circulation (and, we hope, more participants). This will be an annual feature hereafter. Look in later issues for more details on what kind of lists to submit.

As an adjunct to **Pennsylvania Birdlists**, Steve Santner extols the pleasures of County listing.

We continue to need articles, artwork, illustrations, photographs, etc.

Think about your favorite birding location and write up a site guide to help other birders who may be visiting the area for the first time.

How about writing up an article on those sticky problems of identification. There certainly are enough out there. As we enter the breeding season (while you are reading this issue) there are certainly clues that you use in finding certain species that others will probably enjoy knowing.

Is your Bird Club or Audubon Society working on establishing a county list of birds? Updating an existing one? Let our readers know so that if they are in the area birding, they will know where to report their sightings. The more Pennsylvania birders communicate with each other the better the entire birding community will be.

Is your Bird Club or Audubon chapter looking for a project? Pennsylvania State Parks are currently putting together management plans that require an inventory of all of the resources in the park. This includes birds. The parks need a list of the birds that occur there and their status. If you would like to help, contact your nearest State Park. A good way to go about it would be to select one or two people to be coordinators and encourage club members to go birding in the park frequently and report their sightings to the coordinators. You can also schedule field trips to the park as part of the project. The project should take at least two years to make up a preliminary list and then it can be updated as new sightings are recorded. Of course many of our parks are birded regularly, but no one person has compiled all of the records. A request made to club members for previous records could provide a preliminary list much faster.

Speaking of sightings, as a followup to

his excellent article on Dickcissels in Volume 2, Number 3, Bob Mulvihill would like to receive reports of any Dickcissel occurrences in 1989, as well as any 1988 records not included in his article.

Send to:

Bob Mulvihill
Powdermill Nature Reserve
Star Route South
Rector, PA 15677

Only a few of the Collector's Item Volume One of **Pennsylvania Birds** remain. Get them while you can. For all you new subscribers, back issues of Volume Two are also available. Check the enclosed subscription blank. Don't miss out on all the exciting articles and illustrations that have filled these pages. We are particularly proud of our covers.

Thanks again to all of the Audubon chapters and Bird Clubs who have promoted us in their newsletters and for their donations to help with the publication costs. ☺

Barb and Frank Haas
Co-editors

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors:

Enclosed please find a check from the Todd Bird Club of Indiana/Armstrong counties. We want you to know that we support the good work you've done with your magazine and appreciate your consistent professionalism. The state of Pennsylvania has long needed a magazine of this caliber and we applaud your efforts.

*Georgette Syster
Todd Bird Club
Chairperson Contributions*

Dear Editors:

I am delighted that you enjoyed my essay on the shrike. It was fun doing, the title you chose was perfect, and perhaps I'll take you up on your invitation to submit another sometime. I was quite pleased to be a part of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. You and your husband are doing a wonderful job with it, and I've enjoyed every issue. The accounts of your Big Year in Pennsylvania made for especially interesting reading. The immensity of the challenge you posed to yourselves, the effort you invested, the excitement you must have shared, and the inevitable frustrations that came your way were all vividly portrayed in the series. Thanks for sharing it all with us.

On the matter of my double renewal, I don't know how that happened, but I'm happy to offer the second check as a donation to be used however you see fit.

*Dick Cleary
Dallastown, PA*

Dear Editors:

Last issue was impressive! Great work.

*Doris McGovern
Upper Darby, PA*

Dear Editors:

I never thought this day would arrive, Hank Hallowell submitting an article to a publisher. I must say I couldn't have done it without my computer (have only worked with one for six months - self taught), which is really what the article is all about.

Reading Barb's excellent article on keeping records made me sit up and take notice. Just before the end of the year I acquired a software package for my Tandy HX named "PLOVER" - hence my literary effort. I am not a writer and never was very good in English class but using a computer reduces the anguish of writing. I guess I have edited and reworked "Keeping Records" (not an original title) at least a dozen times. I would never have attempted it by hand (couldn't read my own writing) or on a typewriter. Hooray for word processing! You may not agree when you read it, however you asked for it - I quote the editorial page from Vol. 2, No. 4, "Actively consider writing it up and sending it to us." Now you know people really do read and react to **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**.

This is not an attempt to rebut Barb's methods but an honest effort to present another system for record keeping. PLOVER is extremely simple to use and if I can use it anyone can. Previously, I used daily checklists and that was as far as it went. Now with the daily checklists entered in the computer all kinds of records are available at the push of a key or two. If computers can be "sold" to the birding populace, record keeping a reporting will reach never imagined heights...

You really are doing a superb job with **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**, keep up the good work!

*Hank Hallowell
Villanova, PA*

Dear Editors:

Enclosed within is my subscription renewal for one of my favorite publications, **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**.

Your extensive coverage of the various counties within the State of PA has helped me immensely in researching subjects for my paintings.

Continued Success and Good Health.

*Michael McNelly
Springfield, PA*

Dear Editors:

...I look forward to reading, and continuously rereading, every issue. I wish I could contribute articles or reports, but I simply am never in the state anymore. I had drafted descriptions of favorite western Pennsylvania hotspots, but will contribute them instead to the forthcoming Birding in Western Pennsylvania, which you may have heard about.

But I should let you know that I will be censusing several mature woodland plots in western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia this summer. Specifically, I am investigating the possible recent decline of tropical and neotropical migrants in these sites. I will let you know about my results if they are interesting.

*Ted Floyd
Princeton, NJ*

*We know of the forthcoming book and look forward to using it on our frequent travels out there as well as having it reviewed for **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. Eds.*

Carolina Wrens at Pittsburgh, 1970-1988: Persistence in a Dangerous Environment

by Paul Hess

The Carolina Wren's recent history at Pittsburgh has been a remarkable environmental drama. Winter conditions are well known to govern wren numbers at the northern end of their range. Populations typically build during mild periods, then collapse in as little as one hard season. Located near the northern limit of substantial wren numbers in western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh has been a good vantage point to watch that striking process in action. Audubon Christmas Bird Count and weather data since 1970 show how accommodating, and then deadly, such a peripheral locality can be.

THE CLIMB

Carolina Wrens had long been at least "fairly common" at Pittsburgh (Todd 1940), but during the early 1970s they flourished as perhaps never before. Setting yearly CBC records, the count more than doubled from 1970 to 1974. (Table 1. All comparisons use birds per party-hour, including feeder hours, to adjust for varied observer effort.)

A sudden 20% decline ended the rise in 1975, with no cause evident in previous winter or nesting conditions. Common birds often show CBC deviations of that extent, which was an insignificant 6% below the previous four-year average. And wrens were still an impressive 83% over 1970.

Behind the boom was a series of unusually mild winters. The wrens, year-round residents but "not hardy" birds (Bent 1948), need winters auspicious to their southern nature and insect food. They had such seasons at Pittsburgh in 1972-75, when January temperatures averaged 31.5 degrees F. compared to normal 26.7, and January snowfall averaged less than half the normal 12.2" (National Weather Service, Greater Pittsburgh Airport).

The growth was part of a broad pattern including a major influx into northwestern Pennsylvania, where they had always been rare. Throughout the eastern states, few species matched the wrens' rise in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys (Robbins, Bystrak and Geissler 1986).

THE CRASH

Suddenly winter became dangerous.

For three straight years, 1976-78, birds faced classic conditions for disaster: extreme cold and long-lasting snow cover. Robbins *et al.* (1986) identified 24 species surely or likely damaged in the eastern and central states. Of all birds in the Appalachians and southwestern Pennsylvania, Carolina Wrens probably were hit hardest (Hall 1977, Leberman and Clench 1978).

Pittsburgh CBCs told the story well:

*1976 -- For the first time in five years, January mean temperature was well below normal and snowfall was well above normal. That combination began the wrens' decline. It also foreshadowed the coming winter's worse trouble, in progress by 1976 count day when temperatures were 3-15 degrees F. with a 20-mph NW wind.

Conditions would deteriorate further, but the wrens already were devastated. They plummeted to one-third the 1975 level. More meaningful than just a one-year fluctuation was the 68% decline from their overall average in mild-winter 1971-75. (This average, which I'll use as a base line, was 82 per 100 party-hours.)

*1977 -- Disaster arrived full-blown. January mean temperature of 11.4 degrees F. was 15 degrees below normal, and twice-normal 26.5" snowfall compounded the trouble. Record-setting cold stretched into February.

Carolina Wrens literally were decimated, plunging 92% from their mild-winter average. Other species fell too: E. Screech-Owls 89%, Golden-crowned Kinglets 86%, and Brown Creepers 69%. But total wren losses were worst by far, from 458 counted three years earlier to 29.

Robbins *et al.* (1986), noting wren devastation across the eastern U.S., found the most severe damage west of the Appalachians. CBCs confirmed this not only at Pittsburgh but far down in Ohio, as shown stunningly in Cincinnati's drop from 600 birds to 6 and Western Hamilton County's from 537 to 1 (one!) in the single year.

Northwestern Pennsylvania's little invasion stalled, with wrens disappearing from CBCs for several years. They never have returned in pre-crash numbers or regularity.

*1978 -- Pittsburgh's few surviving wrens reeled under another blow, 40.2" of January snow, three times normal. It lingered

in January temperatures averaging 4 degrees below normal and a February stretch of 1977-style extreme cold.

Deep, long-lasting snow cover threatens the wrens with starvation because they obtain most of their food on or near the ground (Bent 1948). The result was their lowest point of the past two decades, down nearly half again from disastrous 1977 and only 5% of their mild-winter average. Carolina Wrens had nearly vanished.

THE COMEBACK

After the extraordinary 1970s, Pittsburgh's winters were more usual in 1979-88. January temperatures averaging just 2 degrees below normal and snowfall averaging 1.3" below normal led to a gradual wren revival in two stages:

*1979-83 -- Recovery was steady but the wrens remained scarce. By 1983, five years after the nadir, they were still only 27% of the mild-winter average.

But scarcity wasn't the full story. The 1978-83 growth rate averaged 90% yearly, far outpacing the 1970-74 average increase of 32% a year. Though the wrens remained a dim shadow of their peak presence, their rate of recovery was encouraging.

*1984-88 -- Encouragement was justified. This very unstable period lacked the steady rise of 1979-83 but finally returned the wrens over halfway to their mild-winter status.

In 1984 the level suddenly doubled, then the gain was immediately erased in 1985. This major decline possibly reflected colder 1984 and 1985 winters, though even lower temperature drops in 1981 and 1982 had no such effect. In any case, the wrens quickly rebounded to a 1986-88 average of 48 per 100 party-hours or 59% of the mild-winter base line.

That is better than the other hard-hit species have done. Pittsburgh's 1987 CBC showed kinglets and creepers still at only half and screech-owls only a third of the mild-winter averages.

But a wide CBC sampling indicates considerably less wren recovery at Pittsburgh than in three other regions of the collapse. As a rough index, let's compare wrens per party-hour in 1987 and pre-crash 1975 on some major CBCs:

*In central and eastern Pennsylvania, 1987 levels were three times higher than 1975 at Harrisburg and Wyncote, twice as high at Bethlehem-Easton and West Chester, and 42% more at Upper Bucks County. The wrens regained 83% of their pre-crash status at Glenolden and 68% at Elverson. Among the eight large CBCs I reviewed, only Chambersburg's 47% recovery trailed Pittsburgh's.

*In the mid-Atlantic states, the revival averaged 87% of 1975 on nine large Maryland-D.C.-Virginia CBCs.

*Down the Ohio Valley, Western Hamilton's count was 43% over 1975, Cincinnati's and Portsmouth's were 10% over, and Huntington, W. Va., exploded to six times as high.

Meanwhile, wrens were back to about the 1975 level in the 1988 nesting season across the northern Appalachian Region (Hall 1988). Judging by CBC numbers, Pittsburgh did not share that success. Though at their highest total since 1975, individuals were still 32% below the pre-crash year; by party-hour the gap was 39%.

Against such a broad geographic pattern of stronger comebacks, Pittsburgh's revival looks rather pale.

SOME THOUGHTS

The Carolina Wren seems decidedly ill-equipped for life in the north. After establishing a territory it is exceedingly sedentary, neither migrating from northern parts of its range nor making facultative movements to escape sudden winter trouble. Yet its lack of hardiness and its insect diet leave it much more vulnerable to harsh winters than, for example, the Tufted Titmouse and N. Cardinal, once-southern species that now live in the north all year.

Why does the species persist in trying to settle where it cannot ultimately survive? The answer must be population pressure, a shortage of territory in native localities where the birds are common. Pointing to that view are the wren's prolific two or three broods a year and the wide wandering by immature and unmated birds after the nesting season (Forbush and May 1939, Bent 1948, Leberman 1976). Carolina Wrens may face a simple ecological dilemma: the perpetual need to seek available territory, but dangerous winters where they find it.

Pittsburgh's 1970-88 history doesn't tell us directly whether cold or snow is a greater danger. Wren count was strongly correlated with both January mean temperature and snowfall. The weather factors were so highly correlated themselves, lower temperatures and more snowfall, that no separate roles emerged. In fact they acted

as a single hazard in all three crash years when the cold kept food covered by snow and ice.

But there is other evidence that cold is worse. Stressing cold weather's energy demands on birds, Root (1988) associated passerines' northern winter range limits with their metabolic ability to keep warm through the night. And freezing is not the only hazard. Lack of food is another critical problem for wintering birds generally (Bock and Lepthien 1974) and for the wrens specifically (Bent 1948, Leberman 1976, Bull 1985, Robbins *et al.* 1986). Extreme cold can eliminate insect prey as effectively as snow cover by killing it or driving it into inaccessible places. This may be why insect-eating Golden-crowned Kinglets and Brown Creepers also crashed. They are hardier than the wrens and not ground feeders where snow cover would trouble them.

Temperature is probably also why Pittsburgh has lagged other regions' wren revival and failed to regain its own mild-winter level. Root (1988) found Carolina Wrens listed regularly on CBCs only where the mean January minimum temperature was above 20 degrees F. (note the focus now on minimum). Pittsburgh's normal mean January minimum is about 22 degrees (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration 1974). But it averaged only 17.5 during the 1979-88 rebuilding period and exceeded 20 degrees in only four of those ten years -- hardly conducive to good wren recovery.

Going further, Pittsburgh's entire 1970-88 average of January minimums was only 17.9 degrees. By Root's measure, that is indeed a marginal Carolina Wren environment.

Yet hard-winter doom may not be inevitable for northerly wrens. Often they can find adequate shelter and withstand extreme cold, as long as they locate food (Leberman 1976, Bull 1985, Robbins *et al.* 1986). Birdseed feeders are considered a major factor in the northern success of titmice and cardinals. Not seed but suet, peanut butter, or even bits of raw hamburger can help replace the wrens' insect diet (Bent 1948, Dennis 1977). If more bird lovers offered those, more wrens could survive harsh seasons. Such aid might not be enough in winters like 1976-78, but without it the wrens will continue to find life in the north a deadly gamble.

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----1318 Thorndale Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

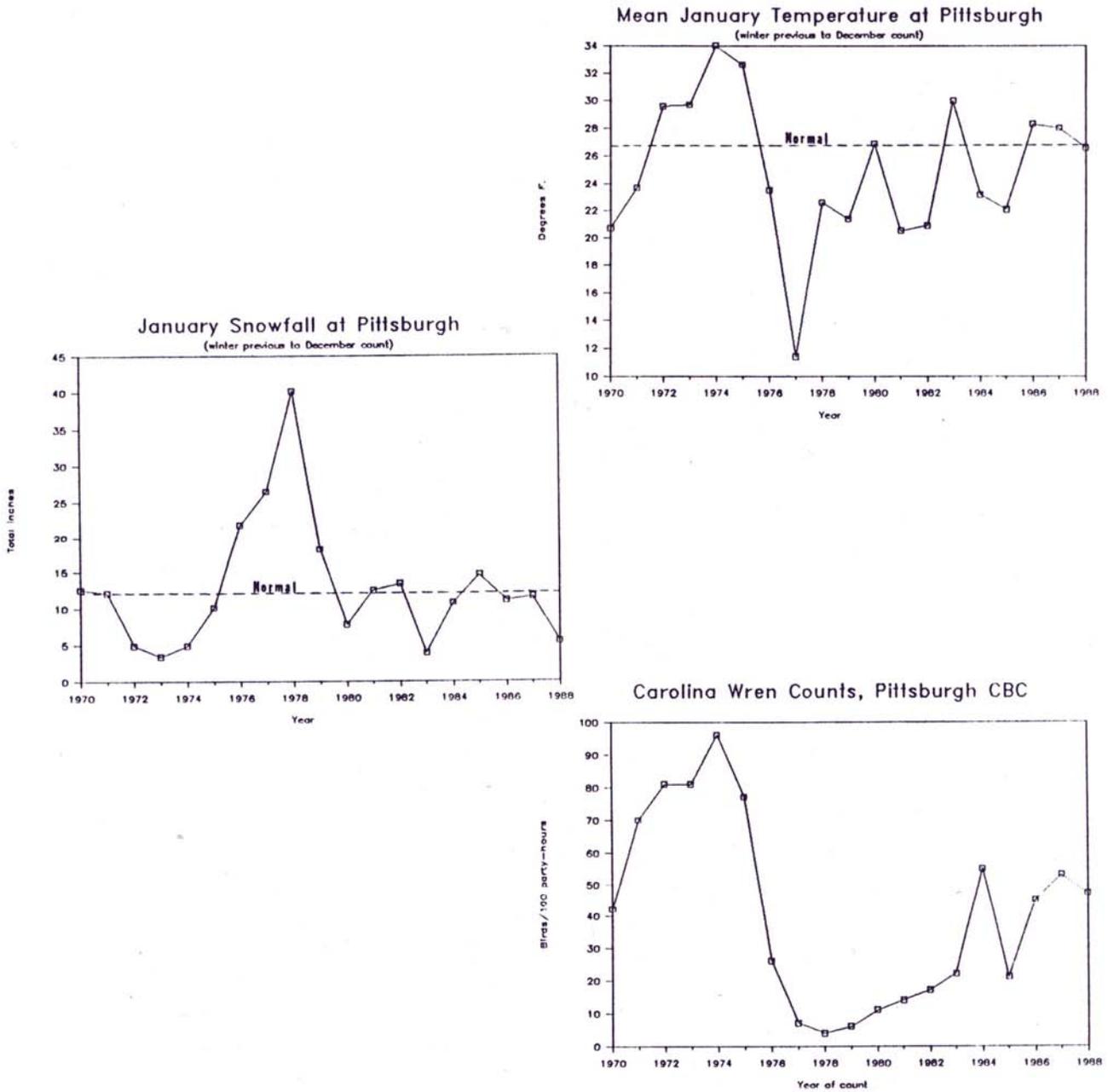


Figure 1. Graphs illustrate how Pittsburgh CBC Carolina Wren counts were associated with each previous January's mean temperature and snowfall since 1970. Three distinct periods are evident.

1. High numbers of wrens in the early 1970s coupled with a series of winters with mild temperatures and low snowfall.
2. The population crash of 1976-78 linked to plunging temperatures and substantial snow.
3. The wrens' gradual climb back to more than half of their pre-crash level during the period of nearly normal winter weather from 1979 to 1988. ("Normal" refers to the National Weather Service long-term averages.)

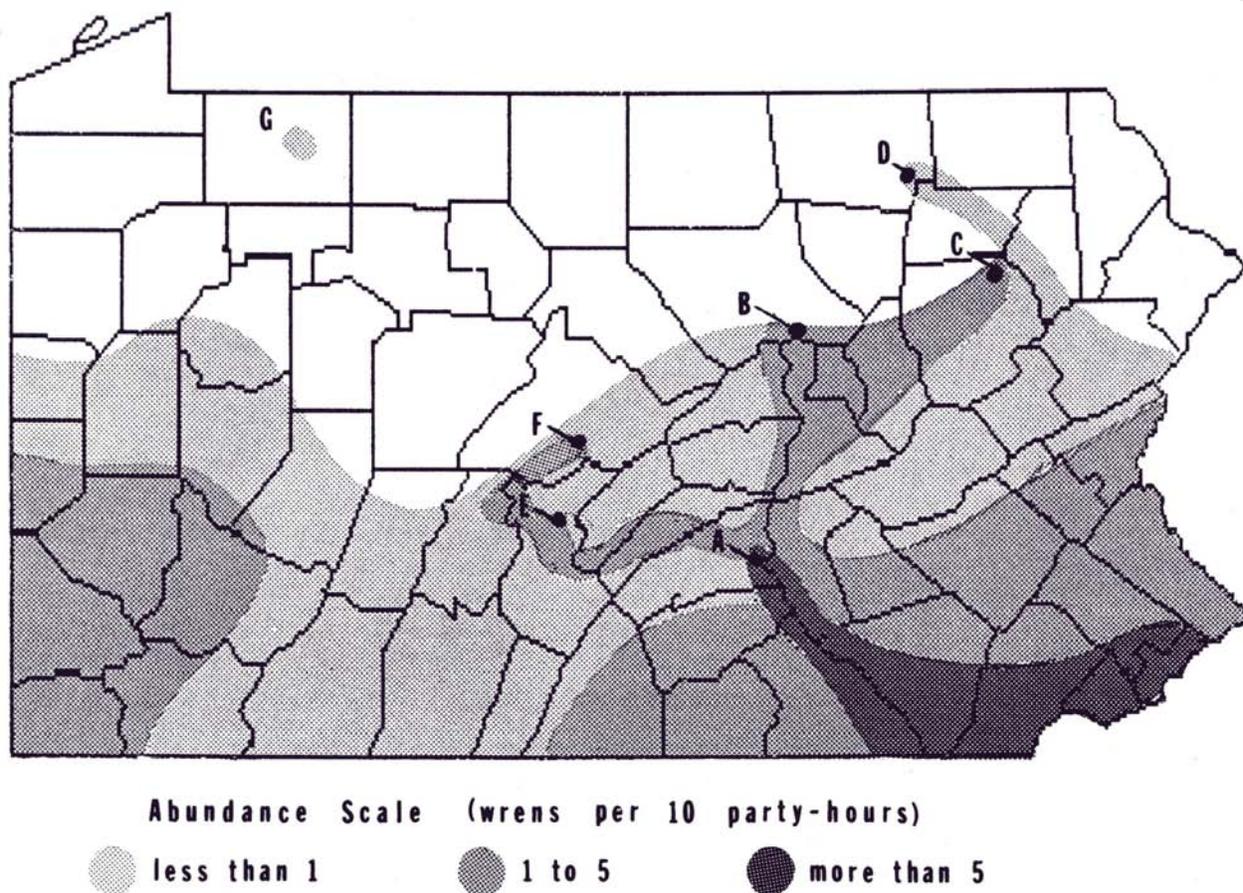


Figure 2. Early winter distribution of the Carolina Wren in Pennsylvania, from 1987 Christmas Bird Count data.

Based on a method described in *American Birds* (Bystrak 1971), this map illustrates the wren's relative abundance. It is only a rough indication because boundaries between areas of abundance rarely are as clear-cut as they must be drawn. The shaded area does not represent a range limit, but only the extent of 1987 CBC records. All of Pennsylvania is within the Carolina Wren's range (A.O.U. 1983) and fall wanderers, a few winterers, and even nesters occur widely in the unshaded region.

Despite those limitations, the map makes two interesting points:

One is the wren's sensitivity to winter climate. Present on 50 of 57 CBCs, it was missing only on counts in the state's coldest northern third. Across the species' eastern and central U.S. range in ten CBC years, Root (1988) found it listed regularly only where the mean minimum January temperature was above 20 degrees F. Not only does the shaded distribution limit follow this normal isotherm remarkably closely, but the mapped patterns of greater abundance also match well with the state's normal higher-temperature isolines (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration 1974).

The second is a link between river valleys and wren abundance, or simply northerly presence as in Warren and Bradford counties. Along the Susquehanna, relatively greater abundance extends up to New Bloomfield (A) and the west branch to Williamsport (B), plus the north branch to Dallas Area (C) and Southeastern Bradford County (D). Another "arm" follows the Juniata River westward from New Bloomfield through the mountains to Huntingdon (E) and up Bald Eagle Creek to State College (F). In the southwest is the upper Ohio Valley, with the Monongahela and Allegheny River systems. A notable western feature is the distant outpost at Warren (G). Possibly the pattern should extend solidly up the Allegheny River to Warren, but the wren has not been present consistently and was missing in 1987 on the only CBC in the long gap, Pleasantville in Venango.

**Table 1. Carolina Wren Christmas Counts
vs. Pittsburgh Winter Weather**

YEAR	WRENS COUNTED ON CBC	WRENS/100 PARTY-HOURS	JANUARY MEAN TEMPERATURE (degrees F.)	JANUARY SNOWFALL (inches)
1970	142	42	20.7	12.6
1971	179	70	23.7	12.1
1972	279	81	29.6	4.9
1973	437	81	29.7	3.4
1974	458	96	34.0	4.9
1975	350	77	32.6	10.1
1976	106	26	23.5	21.8
1977	29	7	11.4	26.5
1978	19	4	22.6	40.2
1979	23	6	21.4	18.2
1980	52	11	26.9	7.8
1981	65	14	20.5	12.5
1982	78	17	20.9	13.4
1983	95	22	30.0	3.9
1984	177	55	23.2	10.8
1985	80	21	22.1	14.6
1986	173	45	28.3	11.1
1987	203	53	28.0	11.6
1988	237	47	26.6	5.5

NOTES:

Christmas Bird Counts, nearly always made in late December, primarily reflect the previous winter's effect on wren numbers. Weather data are thus for January of the same year. Though relevant winter conditions sometimes extend into February, the January conditions are a convenient index.

I use the common method of normalizing counts by party-hours to adjust for yearly variations in observer effort (Raynor 1975), even though wren numbers and effort show no correlation in this case. Feeder hours are included because backyard counters are almost as likely as field birders to list Carolina Wrens, especially in hard winters.

SOURCES:

Bird information - *American Birds*, Vols. 25-42, and Pittsburgh CBC compiler James Valimont for 1988 data not yet published. Weather information -- National Weather Service, Greater Pittsburgh Airport.

P.O.R.C. NEWS

by Ed Kwater

In early April 1989 the membership of the first Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) was announced after an election held by the Ornithological Technical Committee (OTC) of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PBS). The OTC is an Official Advisory Group of the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC). It is the first Advisory Group to have official recognition by the PGC. As the PORC is a subcommittee of the OTC, it also acts in an official advisory capacity to the PGC.

The election was held in accordance with the PORC By-laws published recently in **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** (Volume 2, Number 3). The Committee consists of the following people:

Barbara M. Haas (Secretary)
Franklin C. Haas
Ed Kwater (Chairman)
Robert C. Leberman
Gerald D. McWilliams
Steven J. Santner
Paul Schwalbe

The first PORC meeting was held on 16 April 1989 at the Sieg Conference Center, Lamar, PA. A great deal was accomplished during this initial gathering.

1. PORC By-laws

The By-laws were discussed in detail. Changes were only deemed necessary in Article VI which now reads as follows:

ARTICLE VI. Classification of Records

A. The classification of bird species and observations is based on the following outline where I-S is the highest and V-C is the lowest.

Class I-S: An existing identifiable specimen adequately labelled as to date, place and collector, and available for public inspection.

Class I-P: A diagnostic photograph adequately labeled as to date, place and photographer, a copy of which is deposited with the Committee.

Class I-R: A diagnostic recording or sonogram adequately labelled as to date, place and recorder and available for public inspection.

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

Class III: An accepted sight record documented independently by one observer.

The official state list must meet Class I, II, or II criteria to be listed.

Class IV: A probably correct record but not beyond reasonable doubt, therefore unaccepted.

Class V-A: A record that is not accepted because the identified species represents an escapee or an introduced bird not yet established in Pennsylvania.

Class V-B: A sight record which is not accepted because the supporting evidence is not sufficient enough to allow for judgement.

Class V-C: A sight record that is not accepted because the supporting evidence does not adequately or accurately support the species identification.

B. The Official State List of Pennsylvania will include all species in Class I, II, III above and will be listed according to Class.

The status of all species on the list will be reviewed five years after the establishment of the list and every five years thereafter.

Status Definition

Regular

Species recorded 8, 9, or 10 of the last ten years.

Casual

Species recorded 4, 5, 6, or 7 of the last ten years.

Accidental

Species recorded 3 or fewer of the last ten years.

Extirpated

A previously regularly occurring species that has not been recorded in fifty years.

Extinct

Species which no longer exist.

2. First State Records

A specimen, photograph, or recording is required for the addition of a first state record to Class I, *i.e.*, those species with the highest level of documentation. However, lack of a specimen, photograph, or recording will not automatically result in the rejection of such a record. If an acceptable description is produced the species will be placed in Class II (descriptions by two or more independent observers) or Class III (description by one observer). Determination of the acceptability of written descriptions will be made by the PORC. The importance of written documentation cannot be overemphasized. Descriptions should be as detailed and accurate as possible and should contain only what the observer actually saw and the circumstances surrounding the sighting. If objective judgement is to be made by the Committee these criteria are vitally important. The Committee fully acknowledges that the acceptance or rejection of records can be a sensitive issue.

Acceptance or rejection only indicates the probability that the bird was or was not of the species described, according to an objective evaluation of the written evidence presented to the Committee. This reinforces the need for descriptions to be of a high quality. In the case of rejected records, observers will have an opportunity to resubmit descriptions should further supporting evidence come to light (*e.g.*, a photograph by another observer). This evidence will be reviewed by the Committee in a totally objective manner. All decisions made by the PORC will be published periodically in **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**.

3. Official State List

The main topic of discussion at Lamar was the production of a revised Official Pennsylvania State List. Barb Haas circulated a preliminary annotated list for the Committee to review. The list consisted of 401 species. The occurrence of each species was discussed. The majority of the species on the list already have Class I distinction. Several species (*e.g.*, Gray Jay) were deleted from the list because their occurrence in the state is purely hypothetical, lacking any known supporting evidence. However a number of records, some of them historical, may be placed in Class I, II, or II depending on the details which become available in due

course. **The Committee therefore seeks the assistance of all birders in Pennsylvania in determining the validity of records of the following birds:**

1. Western Grebe
2. Reddish Egret
3. Greater Flamingo
4. Fulvous Whistling Duck
5. Hutchins's Goose
6. Common Teal (Eurasian race of Green-winged Teal)
7. Cinnamon Teal
8. Eurasian Wigeon
9. Barrow's Goldeneye
10. Masked Duck
11. Swainson's Hawk
12. Wilson's Plover
13. Black-necked Stilt
14. Willet (coastal race)
15. Curlew Sandpiper
16. Common Black-headed Gull
17. Black-legged Kittiwake
18. Gull-billed Tern
19. Arctic Tern
20. Black Skimmer
21. Any alcid
22. Common Ground-Dove
23. Say's Phoebe
24. Western Kingbird
25. Boreal Chickadee
26. Northern Wheatear
27. Townsend's Solitaire
28. Bohemian Waxwing
29. Sutton's Warbler
30. Western Tanager
31. Lazuli Bunting
32. Lark Bunting
33. Golden-crowned Sparrow
34. Harris' Sparrow
35. Western Meadowlark
36. Boat-tailed Grackle
37. Hoary Redpoll
38. Eurasian Goldfinch

The Committee is particularly interested in receiving photographs or recordings of these species in Pennsylvania or information concerning the location of specimens of the above species taken in Pennsylvania. A file will be maintained for each species to provide easily accessible documentation of the bird's occurrence in Pennsylvania. Information should be sent to:

Barbara M. Haas, Secretary
PORC
769 East Forge Road
Media, PA 19063-4332

Decisions on the addition of the above species to Class I, II, or III will be made after further supporting evidence has been received. The revised Official State List will

be published in **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** at a future date.

4. Rarities

Another major topic of discussion at Lamar was the establishment of a list of Pennsylvania rarities. Rarities are species which, for the most part, are of either casual or accidental occurrence in the state, as defined in Article V-B of the amended PORC By-laws (see above). At least one written description will be required for records of rarities to be considered by the PORC.

Certain rarities are exempt from this ruling when they occur in specified areas due to their regular occurrence in these localities. For instance, written documentation will be required for the occurrence of Laughing Gulls anywhere except the lower Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers and Presque Isle where the species is recorded annually. The list of rarities will be published in due course. All documentation for future sightings of rarities should be submitted to your county compiler or directly to a PORC member who will then forward the information to the PORC for evaluation.

5. Funding

The PORC has not yet established a funding program to cover its operational costs. A grant proposal will shortly be submitted to the Pennsylvania Wildlife Resources Fund. It is anticipated that this funding will support some of the Committee's work. However, in the meantime, any donations will be gratefully accepted. Checks should be made out to "PORC" and sent to:

The Chairman
P.O.R.C.
2396 Highland Avenue
Allison Park, PA 15101

Finally, I would like to thank all the PORC members for making the Committee's first meeting such a success. I am certain that the establishment of the PORC will be viewed as a positive move by the birding community in Pennsylvania. The Committee looks forward to serving the best interests of the birding community in the Commonwealth and to reviewing a regular flow of bird records. ☺

UP FROM THE EGG: THE CONFESSIONS OF A NUTHATCH AVOIDER

Birdwatchers top my honors list.
I aimed to be one, but I missed.

Since I'm both myopic and astigmatic,
My aim turned out to be erratic.

And I, bespectacled and binocular,
Exposed myself to comment jocular.

We don't need too much birdlore, do we,
To tell a flamingo from a towhee;
Yet I cannot, and never will,
Unless the silly birds stand still.

And there's no enlightenment so obscure
As ornithological literature.

Is yon strange creature a common chickadee,
Or a migrant *alouette* from Picardy?

You rush to consult your Nature guide
And inspect the gallery inside,
But a bird in the open never looks
Like its picture in the birdie books-
Or if it once did, it has changed its plumage,
And plunges you back into ignorant
gloomage.

That is why I sit here growing old by inches,
Watching the clock instead of finches,
But I sometimes visualize in my gin
The Audubon that I audubin. ☺

Anon.

KEEPING RECORDS

by
Henry R. Hallowell, Jr.

In her recent article in **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** (Vol. 2, No. 4), Barbara Haas points out that the most important trick of keeping birding records is being able to locate those records on demand. She suggests an excellent method for accomplishing this feat.

A new method has come to my attention within the last few months, the use of a computer. Don't faint, throw up your hands in horror or stop reading, for the modern computer is actually easy to operate. (I am just a novice, forced into the world of computers by my grandchildren. They were getting ahead of me.) Yet, with today's self-teaching programs it is a snap to put one to work for yourself. For those of you who don't own a computer, read on and learn what can be accomplished with one. For those of you who are familiar with computers, I hope this article will be enlightening and useful.

I know of three computer programs currently available for keeping North American birding records. I am using one named **PLOVER**, easy to use and packed full of useful features. In fact you can operate the program without referring to the detailed instruction manual, although it documents many time-saving features.

PLOVER operates from lists of simple, plain-English options (menus) from which you make a choice. All options are executed with a single key stroke. Entries are made on a "file card" which appears on the monitor screen, one card for each sighting. You fill in the blank spaces by typing in the species, date, number, locality, county, state, region, life list codes, observers, and comments. To avoid a lot of retyping, you can keep all pertinent data for your next entry. Editing and making changes is as simple as recalling your entry and correcting it. Extensive error-checking routines are built into the program so that entry errors are reduced as much as possible. A trip list of 70-75 birds can be entered in about thirty minutes.

From your data you can view or print-out sightings by species, number, date, locality, county, state, region, observer, comments or most any combination of these criteria. For example, most of us bird in different counties or areas in a day or over the course of several months. To report sightings to **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** you would merely print-out your quarterly records by county and send it to the compiler

for that county. Your records could be sorted by regions to send to your American Birds compiler.

PLOVER features:

1) Extracts observations for viewing, editing, or printing in any of the "file card" categories or combination of categories.

2) Automatically keeps up-to-date life lists, trip lists, yard lists, etc., as new species are recorded.

3) Prints life lists, checklists, need-to-see lists, daily, monthly or annual lists, etc.

4) Records can be arranged by date, phylogenetic order, the order they were entered, or first observation. The last choice displays records in phylogenetic order, but only includes the first observation (earliest date) for each species.

5) Allows you to up-date the master species list (AOU) to keep up with changes in taxonomy.

The more you work with this program, the more uses you will find for it. Print-outs of March and April sightings for the last two years (it did take some time to enter these) allows me to have them in the field for various comparisons while birding. Are particular species arriving earlier, later, or not at all? The Ruff print-out gives a range of dates within which to look for them.

Never having been much of a record keeper, working with the computer has improved my act, allowed me to keep better records and, best of all, find them on demand.

The three programs of which I am aware are:

1) **PLOVER**, Sandpiper Software, 153 Michele Circle, Novato, CA 94947.

2) **BIRDLIST**, 1264 45th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122

3) **BIRDER**, 632 Mockingbird Lane, Audubon, PA 19403. ●

Villanova, PA

In addition to the computer and program for operation, a printer is a necessity.

There must be many more readers who are using a computer for birding records and the like. We would like to hear from you. What system, program, printer, etc. have you used that is worth the sharing of the information. -eds.



"My Listening Point"

Brush Mountain Notebook

by Marcia Bonta

The late naturalist-writer, Sigurd Olson, once wrote, "Everyone has a listening point somewhere...some place of quiet where the universe can be contemplated with awe." My own special listening point is the Far Field thicket where I can tuck myself in some small corner and watch the wild world around me. During a lovely May day, it seems the best of all possible places to be and I frequently spend hours there.

Trees in the thicket are few. Most of them are small and dragged down by the weight of wild grape vines. Hawthorn and red elderberry compete with a tangle of blackberry canes for space, along with a small grove of black locusts, an occasional red maple and one flowering dogwood tree. Gaunt, dark remnants of dead trees brood over the thicket while moss-covered stumps and long fallen tree trunks slowly rot into the soil. The ground is often spongy with seeping water and the beginnings of an intermittent stream. Altogether the area speaks of an older time before man walked the earth.

One beautiful May morning was especially rewarding. A thick carpet of mayapple leaves shone in the sunlight; the lush, wet grass was studded with purple violets. I settled down in an aromatic bed of gill-over-the-ground, my back against an old, shrunken cherry tree.

All about me, birds sang and called. I listened in wonder to the music of wood thrushes and cardinals, rose-breasted grosbeaks and scarlet tanagers. Not so musical but every bit as wonderful were the harsh cries of great-crested flycatchers, the "chewinks" of rufous-sided towhees, the raucous calls of blue jays, and the wild yelps of red-bellied woodpeckers.

Warblers, though, were the stars of the day and by sitting still I enticed them to land within arm's reach. Some saw me and fled. Others watched me intently for a few seconds, decided I was harmless and continued about their business of singing or hunting for food right in front of my delighted eyes.

American redstarts, both male and female, were particularly bold and often flitted in close to court and sing. Every bush, it seemed, had at least one male serenading a female. Actually, serenade is a charitable word for what most warblers do in the way of singing. By no stretch of the imagination are their songs beautiful. Many are variations on a theme of buzzing, such as, for instance, the "song" of the golden-winged warbler. A

male, with his gray back, golden head and wing patches and black throat was striking to look at, but his song, "bee-bz-bz-bz," was monotonous and unmelodic.

Then a black-throated blue warbler landed silently on a nearby bush and I was able to study him closely as he searched for food and occasionally rendered his wheezy song. He also did battle with a long, fat, beige-colored worm, jerking it about in his bill or seeming to reconsider by continually laying it back down on a log, only to snatch it up, jerk it some more, and finally swallow it whole. A black-and-white warbler crept along low hanging tree branches while the olive-colored, worm-eating warbler with its black-and-white striped head foraged in the dry leaves.

Just when I thought I had seen all the warblers there were to see I spotted two more skulking in the underbrush. Both were species I had never seen before on the mountain. The first was the rather undistinguished male Tennessee warbler with its white eyebrow stripe, gray head, white neck, breast and belly and greenish back. The other was the more striking Kentucky warbler looking somewhat like a common yellowthroat except that it had black sideburns rather than a full mask and a yellow eyebrow line that encircled its eye. Both birds were silent as they foraged only a dozen feet from where I sat.

When at last they flew off, I rose on cramped legs and as I emerged from the thicket, I spotted two male indigo buntings and a male scarlet tanager sitting together on a fallen log. For sheer visual beauty nothing else I saw that day was as breathtaking. I felt as if I had been transported to the tropics where brilliantly-colored birds are the norm rather than the exception.

My experiences that day only reinforced my belief that the thicket is, indeed, my special listening and watching point, where, for a time, I can lose myself in a different world. ☺

Mrs. Bonta is author of the book, "Outbound Journeys in Pennsylvania, A Guide to Natural Places for Individual and Group Outings." It is available from The Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park 16802, cloth \$22.50, paper 12.75, plus \$2.00 S&H. Autographed copies are available from the author at the same price addressed to Box 68, Tyrone, PA 16686. It can also be purchased at local bookstores. -eds.

About the Cover Artist:

Georgette Syster

Georgette was born and raised in a small town in Maine and moved to Pennsylvania eleven years ago. She has a B.S. degree in Elementary Education from the University of Maine at Farmington and taught school off and on for about eight years. Now, married with two sons she currently works at several retail jobs.

Georgette has been an avid birdwatcher for about six years and is quite well known locally for her "day" trips. She writes, "If I have a day off and some money in my pocket, I'll go birding as far as the time and money will allow. My favorite "distant" hot spots are Brigantine/Cape May and Bombay Hook areas. While closer to home, my favorite is Yellow Creek State Park." She credits her artistic ability to her parents, particularly her mother, who is an artist as well as a naturalist.

Georgette is a member and past President of the Todd Bird Club of Indiana County. She has been a field observer and contributor to **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** since it began in 1987 and a field observer for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project for three years. She enjoys leading outings for the Todd Bird Club at Yellow Creek State Park and she and her husband lead "Owl Prowls" for the local club, "Friends of the Park." ☺



3857 Raptors and SO MUCH MORE!

by Marylea Klauder

I am a volunteer at Fort Washington State Park and had often wished that I could identify the raptors that soared over. Occasional trips to Cape May and Hawk Mountain had been exciting, but confusing. So I daydreamed audibly of a Hawk Watch at Militia Hill, and my husband presented me with an owl decoy and a book on hawk identification. It was up to me to try to make that dream come true.

I called a friend who was an experienced birder. "I want to start a hawk watch and will need a volunteer for every day in September and October."

"Great. I'll take Wednesdays," was the unhesitating reply. Thus the raptor count was born.

Next, I called a naturalist-teacher whose name I had often heard. He, too, accepted and recommended a friend. The local Audubon Society supplied three more volunteers. A Nature Center Naturalist was added and also offered to put out a news release.

The first day was 7 September. Ten birders had signed up to cover the original 54 scheduled days from 10:00 to 1:00. Each morning I met an interesting new person. They came with enthusiasm, binoculars, and an assortment of field guides.

The first week was spent getting acquainted, accumulating equipment, and naming the various landmarks in the 180° view from the hill. We added a thermometer, compass, and a radio for weather information. The Park supplied a table and due North was promptly marked on the surface with a strip of duct tape. The Park staff placed my owl on a pole and routed a wooden sign proclaiming "Hawk Watch." I filled a bulletin board with an announcement of the watch, a list of the daily experts, silhouettes of common hawks, and a chart of the daily totals.

The second week brought a big day, 14 September, with 900 Broad-winged Hawks and an adult Bald Eagle soaring in one of the kettles. My eyes filled with tears, an eagle had been only a doubtful possibility. But this one was to be followed by three more during September.

Two newspapers responded to the news release and more people joined the group daily. One of these visitors turned out to be a Talk Radio host, who discussed the new activity on his show the next two Friday nights. Soon three very experienced hawk watchers were added to the schedule.

By October, we averaged ten observers per day, but with the conclusion of the

Broad-winged migration the large numbers of raptors had passed. Slower days meant more time to get to know each other. Wild flowers, passerines, and geology were among the subjects (studied) discussed. I was given a magnificent coral fossil, which we used as a paper weight to hold the daily records against the increasing autumn breezes. At an early morning yard sale, I purchased a 25¢ toy weather vane. One member mounted it on a sturdy wooden base, and others improved its mobility. Everyone was having fun.

A colorful Potato bug rested on the table one day and was closely examined. When it met with an accidental and untimely squishing, it was mourned by all, and the "murderer" unmercifully kidded. The next day someone brought a Pet Rock as a monument and a bouquet of flowers for the deceased.

One day the weather made us uncomfortable, but just when things got bad something wonderful happened. A stretch limo pulled up on the grass and out stepped a beautiful bride and her groom. As show business personalities, they had chosen the privacy of a Justice of the Peace for their vows. Now they wanted their wedding pictures posed against the beauty of the autumn foliage.

The photographer wrapped the bride in his ski jacket and I lent her my lavender boots for the walk across the damp grass. When they returned to the car everyone kissed the bride, and the photographer posed the whole group in a memorable tabloid which ran the fashion gamut from satin to earmuffs.

Another unforgettable day was 23 October, with our first Rough-legged Hawk, a huge migration of 104 Turkey Vultures, and an immature Golden Eagle among the 198 raptors recorded. Now 14 of the 16 regular East Coast raptor species had been seen in just 46 days. A total of 2908 had been identified.

New people were greeted and introduced to the "veterans." Questions were answered about why these birds were being counted and the species that were being seen. One girl arrived on horseback and her mount stood patiently cropping the grass while she helped scan the sky.

Doctors, students, housewives, retired police officers, and many others made up the regular group on the hill. Histories, futures, and dreams were discussed, photographs shown and books loaned. Good friendships had been made and a tremendous amount of

knowledge had been shared.

Shots rang out from the woods one morning and a goose fell from the sky. We reported the incident to the Park Ranger and the police arrested two hunters. Perhaps the moral of this story is never to poach game in full view of fifteen indignant bird watchers.

Our 50th day brought the 3000th bird, a Red-shouldered Hawk. We felt we had reached a milestone and the Birding Hot Line mentioned us as the closest organized hawk watch to Philadelphia.

A picnic on Halloween brought spouses and the Park staff together with the ardent regulars. This was to be the last day of the original schedule, but a November sheet was cheerfully and hopefully filled. We wanted more eagles and we still needed Black Vulture and Northern Goshawk.

We were rained out for the first time on 1 November. The following days brought strong winds and more Red-tails. Blizzards of leaves surrounded and confused us. The Oscar Mayer Hot Dog Mobile drove through the Park, loons passed high above along with the Concord, and Election Day brought the 5th Bald Eagle, which seemed very patriotic.

Hundreds of Herring and Ring-billed gulls passed one stormy day followed by 60 Tundra Swans high and white against the clean blue sky of the next morning. The 3500th identified raptor was another Golden Eagle on 15 November and the first Black Vulture arrived on a cold morning with strong northwest winds.

Amazed counters watched as two Red-tailed Hawks locked talons and plummeted towards the earth. When they separated, one continued to fall only to right itself just in time.

Even Thanksgiving morning was spent on the hill and quite a few people saw our second Rough-legged Hawk. Most of us braved the cold on the last day of November and were treated to coffee, doughnuts, cake, State Park legal non-alcoholic sparkling wine, one more Black Vulture, and another Rough-legged Hawk.

We identified a total of 3857 raptors in 85 days. It never snowed, but three courageous counters stayed on the hill during a sleet storm. With that kind of enthusiasm I'm sure we'll be back next September looking for the Goshawk and SO MUCH MORE. ☺

"FROM THE PAST..."

From time to time we will publish historic articles about birds. These articles were submitted to us by Joe Grom, compiler for Allegheny County.

THE VEERY IN THE NORTH PARK

In and about Sewickley the **Veery** (*Hylocichla fuscescens*) is a migrant, and its song is never heard--or, at least, so rarely heard as to be remarkable. It is, therefore, a rather striking fact that only twenty miles to the north, along the Butler County line, throughout the month of June, the Veery's wild music haunts every glade. It long has been a hope and purpose to discover a nest and to add the Veery to the list of species breeding in Allegheny County, and in the past season of 1930 this was accomplished.

On the morning of May 30--a cold morning, with a late hoarfrost--the writers visited the North County Park, and there on a wooded slope, on the right bank of Deer Creek, they found a pair of Veeries in residence, singing, and meeting intrusion with their abrupt, *yorrick* notes of alarm. A highway winds through the valley, some thirty feet above the stream; and on this visit the men, misled by the birds themselves, spent all their time searching the woods below the road, and without success. Chestnut-sided Warblers, unfailling associates of the Veeries, were singing, and a belated Canada Warbler as well; and a Woodcock when disturbed rose on whistling wings.

On the morning of June 8 Mr. Hegner visited the place again, accompanied this time by Mr. O. C. Reiter and Mr. Francis D. Dooly, of Washington, Pennsylvania; and, after a brief search, Mr. Dooly was so fortunate as to discover the nest in the woods above the road and about forty feet higher on the hillside. The nest ten contained four well-feathered young.

The site was in rather open woods, chiefly of oaks, in a small branch ravine which opens to the Deer Creek valley, and on a slope facing the east. The nest was supported between the slender stem of a wild cherry and a fallen and decaying bough, perhaps an inch in thickness, and, though it touched, it seemed not to rest upon the ground. It was overshadowed by a plant of

sweet-cicely, and by wild-cherry, hawthorn, and hickory trees.

Three days later the young had flown and the nest was found to be empty. It was deeply cup-shaped, and was formed externally of last year's dry oak leaves and strips of bark, and was lined with coiled shreds of bark and dry grass stems.

F. A. Hegner
Bayard H. Christy

THE BOUNTY LAW

During the hunting season recently ended (Nov. 1-Dec. 15, 1930) the Game Commission of Pennsylvania received *as Goshawks*, turned in with claim for bounty, the following:

Goshawks	24
Marsh Hawks	12
Sharp-shinned Hawks	9
Cooper's Hawks	81
Red-tailed Hawks	107
Red-shouldered Hawks	47
Rough-legged Hawks	2
Duck Hawk	1
Sparrow Hawk	1
Short-eared Owls	5
Total	289

Such is the score of birds *turned in*. A great many more, it must be realized, were shot and (recognized not to be Goshawks) left dead in the field. But, passing those unnumbered victims by, this is the practical effect of the bounty law: The killing of each Goshawk involves the killing of ten other birds: it involves the killing of seven other birds of established value to mankind; it threatens with extinction the whole race of the birds of prey--birds that, as a class, are of utmost value; as a class, the most splendid of all feathered creatures. Can a law with such effects be considered a reasonable one? a salutary one? a desirable one?

Forty-five years ago the State Legislature, in response to popular prejudice, enacted a bounty law on birds of prey; but at its very next session, on a showing of fact, the Legislature reversed itself and repealed the law.

In Prussia an 'Ordinance for the Protection of Animals and Plants,' issued

December 16, 1929, provides that 'the paying or receiving of bounties for the killing of predatory birds is forbidden.'

The American Ornithologists' Union, at its meeting on October 20, 1930, at Salem, Massachusetts, adopted this among other resolutions:

'Believing that the birds of prey on the whole constitute a benefit to human interests rather than a menace, and believing that it is biologically unsound to remove from our avifauna its class of birds of prey, we oppose all bounties and organized campaigns of destruction directed against any member of this group.'

... ☺

From the CARDINAL, 1931.

AN UNUSUAL FIELD SPARROW NEST

by Steve Farbotnik

19 January 1989

The weather had been unusually mild for the previous couple of weeks. This morning I was birding a shrubby area on my property in Revere (*Bucks*) when I spotted a nest in a Black-haw viburnum bush. A nest that was not there the day before. As I got nearer, I could see a bird squatting in the nest arranging the material around itself. It was too far away to identify the bird with the naked eye, but as I raised my binoculars, the bird flew into another, nearby brush.

Unfortunately, there were other birds there, too; a couple of Field Sparrows, a Tree Sparrow, and some others that moved off without being identified.

My feeling is that the bird was a Field Sparrow. Examining the nest, I found it to be composed of dried, slender grass stems, though loosely assembled, a cup was already apparent. It was situated on a side branch of a Black-haw about seven feet off the ground, and because the shrub is deciduous, totally visible from all sides and above. I regret, now, that I approached the nest, because during the next two weeks no new material was added and no birds were seen showing any interest in the nest, while the weather continued to be mild.

By 5 February, the material was losing its cupped shape due to the rain, snow and winds as the weather worsened. ☺

TRY YOUR BEST GUESS!!!

by **Barbara M. Haas**

Get your thinking cap on. Unleash your imagination. What do you think will be the next new State bird seen in the Commonwealth? The most recent addition to the list was the Green-tailed Towhee in Bucks County that was seen from December 1987 to April 1988.

Although an Official State List has yet to be determined, there are numerous reference books out there for perusal. They include: *Pennsylvania Birds* by Poole (1964), *Birds of Pennsylvania* by Wood (1979), *A Guide to the Birds of Lancaster County* by Morrin *et al.* (1984), and *Birds of Erie County, Pennsylvania, Including Presque Isle* by Stull, Stull, & McWilliams (1985).

Submit your list of ten (10) species that you feel might be candidates. Think about what has been seen in surrounding states, *i.e.*, Brown Pelican bred in Virginia last year, Ash-throated Flycatcher has been seen in New Jersey on several occasions, Maryland had its fourth record of White-winged Dove in March 1989, and about seven Rock Wrens showed up in the East earlier this year. That's just for starters. How about an Ivory Gull that visited a suet feeder in New York some years back!

We will publish the lists, with a composite list of the most "Expected Big Ten" in the next issue. Please get your list to us **no later** than 15 August 1989.

I'm going off the deep end early and submitting my list to get it started.

Brown Pelican
Burrowing Owl
California Gull
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Ross' Gull
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Three-toed Woodpecker
Violet-green Swallow
One of the Eurasian Stints
Smooth-billed Ani

It is hoped there will be a provisional State List available soon. ☺

Seaside Sparrow
Lancaster County
by
Jerry Book

On 14 May 1988, Tom Garner and I were birding a small island on the Susquehanna River in the area known as the Conejohela Flats. The islands lie between Washington Boro in *Lancaster* and Long Level in *York* Counties. The islands themselves are considered to be in *Lancaster*.

Primary vegetation on the island we were birding is Purple Loosestrife. Much of the vegetation had been laid low and was matted due to high water levels. The island itself is often surrounded by mudflats which are caused by the lower water levels when the Safe Harbor Dam downriver is generating. In a sense, the rising and falling water levels simulate a tidal situation. The usual condition is that the waters rise and fall once, sometimes twice, each day.

On this day, the water was higher than usual, with parts of the island submerged. We had only walked a hundred feet when a sparrow flushed low ahead of us and then dove quickly back into the vegetation. Its short-tailed appearance, dusky color, and manner of flight prompted Tom to say, "I hope that's what I think it is." We pursued the bird carefully as it ran mouse-like through the vegetation. It took several minutes before we were able to pin it down on a small patch of mud between matted vegetation. It was clear at this point that we were looking at Lancaster County's **first** Seaside Sparrow. We continued to follow the bird as it moved through the vegetation. On several occasions it flushed and flew low and for only about thirty feet, using its nose-dive reentry each time. Over the next half hour we had good looks at the bird for at least fifteen minutes. The light was good and the distance about twenty to thirty feet. Tom was using Zeiss 10x40s and I was using Zeiss 8x30s.

A description of the bird is as follows: The sparrow was without wingbars and had pale yellow lores. Its breast and underparts were dingy in color, not white, and had faint streaking that was not well defined. The streaking was slightly darker than the background color. The upperparts, including the tail, were a dark grayish brown that was uniform in color.

In flight the bird always flew low and dove to the ground, not a perch on the vegetation. On the ground, the bird walked or ran rather than hopped.

Both observers are familiar with Seaside Sparrow from numerous trips to New Jersey coastal areas and Delaware bay-side areas.

The Seaside Sparrow was looked for

the following day by two other birders familiar with this species, but could not be relocated.

*164 Warren Way
Lancaster, PA*

Tom Garner also sent equally detailed notes on the sighting. His report also indicated that according to the National Geographic Society's Field Guide, the bird was representative of *Ammodramus maritimus maritimus*.

We neglected to mention the fact last issue that Jerry McWilliams also wrote an excellent write-up on the **Common Black-headed Gull** which had been seen in Erie on 23 December 1988. We have asked for and received his pardon, but space limitations made for the editorial decision to go with the article by the first individual who sighted and identified the bird.

These reports and all others of rarities will be reviewed by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee this year and a list will be forthcoming for all to read.

We cannot stress enough the necessity for good field notes to accompany any unusual sighting. Please get into the habit of writing them up as soon as possible after the event. ☺

Another Unique Rail Specimen from Southwestern Pennsylvania: a Clapper Rail.

by **Robert S. Mulvihill and Robert C. Leberman**

On the morning of 13 September 1988, Marie Guter spotted an unusual bird lying dead on the ground between her apartment building and the bank of Loyalhanna Creek in Latrobe, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Curious about the bird, she described it over the phone to her daughter Kay. When they could come to no decision about the bird's identity, Mrs. Guter salvaged the specimen, which was in fresh condition, and placed it in her freezer for later donation to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. By doing so, she preserved the first western Pennsylvania specimen and provided the only western Pennsylvania record of the Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*). The bird was delivered to the authors by way of Tom Duran who had tentatively, but correctly, identified it to the subspecies *R. l. crepitans* (*fide* K. C. Parkes). The rail, now Carnegie Museum of Natural History study skin #T-12297, was an adult male weighing 204 grams.

This subspecies of the Clapper Rail breeds in salt marshes from Connecticut and

southeastern New York (Long Island) to southern North Carolina; it is casual as far north as Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (A.O.U. 1957). A.O.U. (1983) lists inland vagrants from central Nebraska, central New York, Vermont, West Virginia and central Virginia.

The Clapper Rail being reported on here is the third unusual specimen record of a rail from southwestern Pennsylvania. The first was a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) found dead in the steel lattice-work of a Western Union tower atop Laurel Hill in Westmoreland County (Parkes 1960). This remains the only record of the species for southwestern Pennsylvania.

The second record is the most unusual of the three. On 12 November 1976, Douglas Kibbe salvaged an unidentified rail from the base of a 500 ft. cooling tower at a nuclear power plant near Shippingport, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. The specimen turned out to be the first United States record of a Spotted Rail (*Pardirallus maculatus*), a neotropical species then known to occur no farther north than Veracruz, Mexico (Parkes *et al.* 1978).

Almost certainly, had the Yellow Rail, Spotted Rail, and Clapper Rail been glimpsed alive in Pennsylvania, they would have been misidentified as Sora (*Porzana carolina*), Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*), or King Rail (*Rallus elegans*). The value of physical evidence (including photographs) for both the identification and documentation of rare birds cannot be overstated.

LITERATURE CITED

- A.O.U. 1957. Check-list of North American birds. Lord Baltimore Press, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland.
- 1983. Check-list of North American birds. Allen Press, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.
- Parkes, K. C. 1960. *Yellow Rail, a new bird for Westmoreland County*. Powdermill Nature Reserve Educ. Release No. 24, Carnegie Museum of Nat. Hist., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- , D. P. Kibbe, & E. L. Roth. 1978. First records of the Spotted Rail (*Pardirallus maculatus*) for the United States, Chile, Bolivia and western Mexico. *Am. Birds* 32:295-299. ☺

Trumpeter Swans
in

Warren County

by **Ted Grisez**

On 15 February 1989, Dan Doherty called me and said there were three swans on the Allegheny River at Starbrick, just west of Warren, and that they have yellow wing tags. Ordinarily we assume swans in this area in winter or migration to be Tundra Swans, but I remembered that there had been two Trumpeter Swans marked with similar yellow tags at Dunkirk Harbor, NY, on Lake Erie earlier this winter. They were numbered 86 and 87.

About 2 p.m. that day, I went to see them and found them dozing at the foot of Mead Island. They were on the other side of the river, but tag numbers 82 and 83 could be read with a 20x scope. I returned about 4 p.m. with Doherty and Bill Highhouse and found them feeding in the same location.

The swans' plumage was all white except for light brownish stains on the heads, especially the tops. Their bills, legs, and feet were black. The most noticeable characteristic, except for the lack of any yellow at the bases of the bills, was the flat profile of the heads and bills. The black eyes were set in the black of the base of the bills. The pink edges of the upper and lower mandibles could be seen even with the bills closed, but a look at a flock of Tundra Swans in March showed the same characteristic. They seldom held their necks up with the characteristic crook at the base; usually straight when swimming and curved when feeding. The birds were silent. They were also seen by others, including Mike Bleech, Bill Hill, Jr., Chase Putnam, and Chuck and Marjorie Neel. All agreed they had the characteristics of Trumpeter Swans. Identification was confirmed a week later when we learned that they came from an introduction program in Ontario.

The swans were seen at the same locality 16 and 17 February. Bleech saw them leave on the 17th. They flew high before heading up river, but were back on the 21st. Doherty saw them there and read the third number -- 80. On 24 February, my wife, Nancy, and I found them standing in the shallow edge of the river in front of a house trailer at Dunn's Eddy, two miles south of Irvine. I approached within about 70 feet for photographs and one of them called. It was a deep, nasal honk. On 7 March, I saw two of them on the bank across the river from Dunn's Eddy. The next day the two were in front of the houses at Dunn's Eddy and identified as numbers 80 and 82.

On 12 March they were seen at Starbrick again, but on 13 March Dan and Autumn Doherty found them at Althom, on the right bank ten miles down river from Starbrick and six miles from Dunn's Eddy. A local resident said they arrived on the evening of the 12th. Dohertys said they got within 20 feet of them.

After Bleech put a photograph and brief account of the trumpeters in the *Warren Times-Observer*, Mrs. Darl Crisman told him she had seen them at the Buckaloons Recreation Area at Irvine on 7 January and read one of the numbers to be 28. Was this number 82 read upside down? It is even more interesting to speculate whether the three Tundra Swans Ron Rieder recorded at Irvine on the Warren Christmas Bird Count were the Trumpeter Swans! He didn't approach them in order not to flush them.

The Ontario restoration program began in 1982 by cross-fostering eggs obtained from captive pairs to feral Mute Swans. Only 12 fledged by 1987 from 75 eggs. In January and February, 1988, sixteen Trumpeter Swans were trapped at Comox and Powell Rivers near Vancouver, British Columbia (Lumsden, *n.d.*). This is the source of the Pennsylvania birds, according to Harry Lumsden (*pers. comm.*) of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Maple, Ontario. They had been wing-clipped and placed in a pen with open water. They were released in a marsh at Long Point on the north shore of Lake Erie, where they stayed until December, 1988.

The objectives of the restoration program are:

1. To establish a self-sustaining wild population of Trumpeter Swans in southern Ontario.
2. To remove all feral Mute Swans from southern Ontario to captivity in zoos and parks.
3. To provide additional viewing opportunities to the people of Ontario.
4. To restore an element of diversity to Ontario's wetland communities.

LITERATURE CITED

- Lumsden, H. G. No dates. The trumpeter swan restoration program in Ontario. Three unpublished reports. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Maple. ☺

County Listing

by
Steve Santner

I first started working on county lists in 1979. At that time, I had lived in Pennsylvania seven years and found myself going again and again to the same birding spots. I read an article by Robert Jansson in the American Birding Association magazine, *Birding*, (11:168-170) detailing his county listing in the state of Minnesota and realized this would be an excellent way of finding new locations. If I could find 100 species in all 67 counties then I would feel I had made a good start towards learning the distribution of the birds of Pennsylvania.

I started by obtaining a State map which showed all of the State Game Lands, State Parks, lakes, and State and National Forests. This was sufficient during the first few years when I was covering the counties for the first or second time. Now, however, I am starting to use topographical maps, especially in the northern half of the state. The Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project has taught me the value of these maps in locating potential birding areas.

I record my sightings in two ways. First, I keep a written list for each county. This can be done on a computer or by the use of checklists. Second, for each species I have an outline map of the state with the counties marked off. I use a yellow felt tip pen to shade in each county in which I have seen the species. So far I have seen at least 100 species or more in 38 of the 67 counties. I have over 7200 total records (average of 108/county) with county totals ranging between 61-260. A total of 18 species have been seen in every county and 58 in all 12 months.

The original goal, which was to find new birding locations in the state, has certainly been realized. Hundreds of good spots have been found, ranging from temporary farm ponds and small conifer groves to large areas like Raystown Lake or Pymatuning Reservoir.

I have found several areas which may not be well known to many birders in the state, but which should receive more attention. Since I have visited these places only a few times and do not know them well enough to present a detailed site guide, I will mention two of them only briefly. One is the Prince Gallitzen State Park area in northeastern Cambria County. I have found rails here in cattails around the lake, many woodland species, either in the Park or in the surrounding State Game Lands, many waterfowl in season and grassland sparrows, including Henslow's, in fields nearby. The second spot is Hammond Reservoir in northeastern Tioga County. This is a relatively new reservoir at which I have found shorebirds in late summer, many waterfowl, including White-winged Scoter and Oldsquaw, and on one July 4 weekend several years ago, a singing male Dickcissel. These, and many other birding locations, await the county lister.

We have appealed for more site guides to birding locations around the state and this article demonstrates that your fellow birders will read them with interest. Again, we ask that you send us details of some of your favorite birding locations in order that we can all benefit from your knowledge. ☺

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDLISTS

compiled by
Terry Schiefer

The following pages contain birdlists submitted to Terry Schiefer for inclusion in the newsletter **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDLISTS**. Beginning with this issue, **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** will feature these totals in the first issue each year. If you would like to see your totals included, send your lists to:

Terry Schiefer
107 Newkirk Avenue
Reading, PA 19607

As stated in the article above, "listing", whether county, backyard, state, annual or monthly, is a great way to stimulate interest in birding new areas or familiar areas more thoroughly. It also puts you in the habit of keeping records which is more important than the list.

A year following a name indicates the last year that the individual submitted records. If Birding is listed after the name, it means that the listing was obtained from Birding magazine, rather than from the individual.

Totals for 1989 will be due by 31 March 1990.

Franklin C. Haas

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDLISTS

Pennsylvania Lifelists

1	324	Barbara M. Haas
2	323	Franklin C. Haas
3	320	John C. Miller (Birding, 1988)
4	311	Bernard L. Morris (Birding, 1988)
5	310	Gerald McWilliams
6	304	Harry Franzen
6	304	J. Eric Witmer (Birding, 1988)
8	303	Paul W. Schwalbe
9	302	John H. Ginaven
9	302	Phillips B. Street (1987)
9	302	Sam Stull (1985)
12	301	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. (1986)
13	300	Larry Lewis
14	299	Keith C. Richards (Birding, 1982)
15	295	Tom Garner (Birding, 1988)
15	295	Evelyn M. Kopf (Birding, 1988)
17	294	James R. Baxter (1986)
18	292	Glenna P. Schwalbe
18	292	David B. Freeland (Birding, 1988)
18	292	Jan. A. Witmer (1987)
21	291	George Malosh
22	290	John D. Peplinski
22	290	Terence Schiefer
24	287	Al Guarente
24	287	Steve Santner (1987)
26	285	Allan Keith (Birding, 1988)
27	284	James R. Gray (Birding, 1983)
28	282	William J. Murphy (Birding, 1988)
29	280	Allen Schweisberg (Birding, 1988)
29	280	Frank Windfelder (Birding, 1988)
31	279	Margaret Higbee (1987)
32	278	Merrill Wood (1985)
32	278	James J. Baird (Birding, 1981)
34	277	Jerry Book (Birding, 1988)
34	277	Harold Morrin (Birding, 1988)
34	277	Bonnie L. Baird (Birding, 1981)
37	275	Roger Higbee (1987)
38	269	J. Kenneth Gabler (1987)
39	267	Nick Pulcinella (1985)
40	266	Harry Henderson
40	266	George Wertz, Jr. (1986)
42	264	Carl L. Garner (1987)
42	264	Thomas A. Reeves (1987)
44	262	Neal G. Thorpe (1987)
45	258	Skip Conant
46	252	Tom Clauser
46	252	Linda McWilliams
48	251	Mike Kissick (1985)
49	250	Ted Grisez (1987)
49	250	Harris E. Johnson (1986)
51	248	Mark Blauer (1985)
51	248	Bill Fink (1985)
53	246	Steve Feldstein
54	245	Joe Meloney (1986)
55	238	Harold H. Axtell (1985)
55	238	Emery M. Froelich (1985)
57	237	Stan Glowacki (1987)
58	236	Mark Henry (1987)
59	232	Anne Hedgpeth (1986)
60	229	Roy A. Ickes (1987)
61	224	Gary Bayne (1985)
62	222	Christine Bayne (1985)
63	220	David Kyler (1986)
64	216	Richard C. Rosche (1987)
65	214	Ernest Schiefer

66	198	Russ Ruffing
67	197	Matt Wlasniewski
68	192	Bob Milardo (1985)
69	176	Sherri Labar (1985)
70	164	John Salvetti (1986)
71	106	Donna Deibert (1985)

County Lifelists (over 200)

1	299	Erie	Gerald McWilliams
2	291	Erie	Sam Stull (1985)
3	290	Philadelphia	John C. Miller (1985)
4	289	Delaware	John C. Miller (1985)
5	279	Lancaster	J. Eric Witmer (1987)
6	268	Chester	Larry Lewis
7	266	Centre	Merrill Wood (1986)
8	263	Centre	Harry Henderson
9	257	Lancaster	Steve Santner
10	255	Lancaster	Jan A. Witmer (1987)
11	253	Delaware	Barbara Haas
12	251	Lehigh	Bernard Morris(1987)
13	250	Butler	David Freeland(1985)
14	249	Erie	Linda McWilliams
15	246	Franklin	J. Kenneth Gabler1987
15	246	Butler	Gene Wilhelm, Jr.1986
17	244	Centre	Terence Schiefer
18	242	Erie	David Freeland 1985
19	240	Philadelphia	Barbara Haas
19	240	Lancaster	Larry Lewis
19	240	Franklin	Carl L. Garner (1987)
19	240	Allegheny	David Freeland(1985)
23	236	Delaware	Al Guarente
23	236	Erie	George Malosh
23	236	Philadelphia	Harry Franzen
23	236	Philadelphia	Frank Windfelder1986
23	236	Delaware	Nick Pulcinella (1985)
28	236	Lancaster	Barbara Haas
29	234	Clinton	Paul W. Schwalbe
29	234	Dauphin	George Wertz, Jr.1986
31	233	Philadelphia	Al Guarente
32	227	Chester	John H. Ginaven
32	227	Warren	Harris E. Johnson1986
34	225	Delaware	Paul W. Schwalbe
35	224	Erie	Barbara Haas
35	224	Delaware	Thomas Reeves(1987)
37	222	Chester	Barbara Haas
38	221	Delaware	Skip Conant
38	221	Montgomery	Harry Franzen
38	221	Monroe	Phillips B. Street 1987
41	220	Lebanon	Steve Santner
42	219	Erie	Margaret Higbee 1987
43	218	Schuykill	Tom Clauser
43	218	Erie	Roger Higbee (1987)
45	216	Delaware	John H. Ginaven
45	216	Luzerne	Mark Blauer (1985)
47	214	Philadelphia	Skip Conant
47	214	Warren	Ted Grisez (1987)
49	213	Lycoming	Paul W. Schwalbe
50	212	Dauphin	Steve Santner
50	212	Philadelphia	John H. Ginaven
52	211	Montour	Barbara Haas
53	210	Washington	Margaret Higbee 1987
54	209	Indiana	Margaret Higbee 1987
54	209	Washington	Roger Higbee (1987)
56	207	Indiana	Roger Higbee (1987)
57	201	Chester	Al Guarente

57	201	Lancaster	George Wertz, Jr.1986
59	200	Montgomery	Bernard Morris(1987)

County Lifelists (by county)

ADAMS

121	Steve Santner
31	Barbara M. Haas

ALLEGHENY

240	David B. Freeland (1985)
161	George Malosh
89	Barbara Haas
72	Steve Santner

ARMSTRONG

187	Margaret Higbee (1987)
91	Steve Santner

BEAVER

150	George Malosh
77	Steve Santner

BEDFORD

116	Steve Santner
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BERKS

199	Terence Schiefer
192	Larry Lewis
188	Barbara M. Haas
157	Steve Santner
152	Bernard L. Morris (1987)
111	Nick Pulcinella (1985)
72	Al Guarente

BLAIR

133	David Kyler (1986)
103	Steve Santner

BRADFORD

168	Frances E. Biles (1985)
105	Barbara Haas
102	Steve Santner
91	Skip Conant

BUCKS

197	Stan Glowacki (1987)
180	Harry Franzen
111	Steve Santner
110	Bernard L. Morris (1987)
91	Barbara M. Haas
72	Al Guarente

BUTLER

250	David B. Freeland (1985)
246	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. (1986)
166	George Malosh
92	Steve Santner
58	Barbara M. Haas
43	Al Guarente

CAMBRIA

100	Steve Santner
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CAMERON

76	Steve Santner
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CARBON

166 Bernard L. Morris (1987)
 110 Steve Santner
 58 Barbara M. Haas

CENTRE

266 Merrill Wood (1986)

263 Harry Henderson
 244 Terence Schiefer
 174 Paul W. Schwalbe
 162 Russ Ruffing (1987)
 136 Steve Santner
 120 Barbara M. Haas

CHESTER

268 Larry Lewis
 227 John H. Ginaven
 223 Barbara M. Haas
 201 Al Guarente
 147 Nick Pulcinella (1985)
 132 Steve Santner
 111 Terence Schiefer

CLARION

88 Steve Santner

CLEARFIELD

87 Steve Santner
 87 Paul W. Schwalbe

CLINTON

234 Paul W. Schwalbe
 119 Steve Santner
 101 Barbara M. Haas

COLUMBIA

86 Steve Santner

CRAWFORD

189 Margaret Higbee (1987)
 189 Roger Higbee (1987)
 124 George Malosh
 109 Steve Santner
 102 Terence Schiefer
 83 Barbara M. Haas (1986)

CUMBERLAND

177 Steve Santner
 176 George Wertz, Jr. (1986)

DAUPHIN

234 George Wertz, Jr. (1986)
 212 Steve Santner

DELAWARE

289 John C. Miller (1985)
 253 Barbara M. Haas
 236 Al Guarente
 236 Nick Pulcinella (1985)
 225 Paul W. Schwalbe
 224 Thomas A. Reeves (1987)
 221 Skip Conant
 216 John H. Ginaven
 113 Steve Santner

ELK

70 Steve Santner

ERIE

299 Gerald McWilliams
 291 Sam Stull (1985)
 249 Linda McWilliams
 242 David B. Freeland (1985)
 236 George Malosh
 224 Barbara M. Haas
 219 Margaret Higbee (1987)
 218 Roger Higbee (1987)
 197 Terence Schiefer
 158 Steve Santner
 43 Al Guarente

FAYETTE

88 Steve Santner
 73 Roy A. Ickes (1987)

FOREST

84 Steve Santner

FRANKLIN

246 J. Kenneth Gabler (1987)
 240 Carl L. Garner (1987)
 105 Steve Santner
 23 Barbara M. Haas

FULTON

95 Steve Santner

GREENE

91 Roy A. Ickes (1987)
 81 Steve Santner
 77 Barbara M. Haas

HUNTINGDON

198 David Kyler (1986)
 102 Steve Santner
 96 Terence Schiefer

INDIANA

209 Margaret Higbee (1987)
 207 Roger Higbee (1987)
 195 Anne Hedgpeh (1986)
 111 Steve Santner
 35 Barbara M. Haas

JEFFERSON

74 Steve Santner
 61 Margaret Higbee (1987)

JUNIATA

102 Steve Santner

LACKAWANNA

70 Steve Santner

LANCASTER

279 J. Eric Witmer (1987)
 257 Steve Santner
 255 Jan A. Witmer (1987)
 240 Larry Lewis
 236 Barbara M. Haas
 201 George Wertz, Jr. (1986)
 180 Terence Schiefer
 124 Al Guarente
 98 Nick Pulcinella (1985)

LAWRENCE

61 Steve Santner

LEBANON

220 Steve Santner
 152 George Wertz, Jr. (1986)
 70 Barbara M. Haas

LEHIGH

251 Bernard L. Morris (1987)
 93 Barbara M. Haas (1986)
 92 Steve Santner

LUZERNE

216 Mark Blauer (1985)
 103 Steve Santner
 39 Barbara M. Haas

LYCOMING

213 Paul W. Schwalbe
 118 Steve Santner
 65 Barbara M. Haas (1986)

MCKEAN

68 Steve Santner

MERCER

110 Steve Santner

MIFFLIN

98 Steve Santner

MONROE

221 Phillips B. Street (1987)
 89 Steve Santner
 71 Bernard L. Morris (1987)

MONTGOMERY

221 Harry Franzen
 200 Bernard L. Morris (1987)
 134 Steve Santner
 96 Barbara M. Haas
 43 Al Guarente

MONTOUR

211 Barbara M. Haas
 119 Steve Santner

NORTHAMPTON

192 Bernard L. Morris (1987)
 63 Steve Santner

NORTHUMBERLAND

166 Barbara M. Haas
 104 Steve Santner

PERRY

140 Steve Santner

PHILADELPHIA

290 John C. Miller (1985)
 240 Barbara M. Haas
 236 Harry Franzen
 236 Frank Windfelder (1986)
 233 Al Guarente
 214 Skip Conant
 212 John H. Ginaven
 135 Steve Santner
 118 Terence Schiefer

PIKE

100 Barbara M. Haas
 77 Steve Santner

POTTER

101 Paul W. Schwalbe
80 Steve Santner

SCHUYLKILL

218 Tom Clauser
118 Steve Santner
117 Barbara M. Haas
48 Al Guarente

SNYDER

111 Steve Santner
32 Barbara M. Haas

SOMERSET

116 Steve Santner

SULLIVAN

139 Skip Conant
96 Steve Santner
59 Barbara M. Haas
48 Al Guarente

SUSQUEHANNA

98 Steve Santner
89 Barbara Haas

TIOGA

113 Steve Santner
66 Barbara M. Haas

UNION

132 Barbara M. Haas
109 Steve Santner

VENANGO

84 Steve Santner

WARREN

227 Harris E. Johnson (1986)
214 Ted Grisez (1987)
108 Steve Santner

WASHINGTON

210 Margaret Higbee (1987)
209 Roger Higbee (1987)
173 Roy A. Ickes (1987)
161 Russ Ruffing (1987)
141 George Malosh
69 Steve Santner

WAYNE

81 Steve Santner

WESTMORELAND

101 Steve Santner
20 Barbara M. Haas

WYOMING

114 Skip Conant
95 Barbara Haas
81 Steve Santner
61 Al Guarente

YORK

172 Steve Santner
172 George Wertz, Jr. (1986)

PA Annual Lists (by year)**1988**

252 Gerald McWilliams
244 Ed Kwater (Birding)
226 Larry Lewis
217 Linda McWilliams
214 Ronald F. Leberman
210 Skip Conant
201 Tom Clauser
197 John H. Ginaven
189 Al Guarente
142 Matt Wlasniewski
130 Ernest Schiefer

1987

239 Gerald McWilliams
232 Tom Clauser
228 Larry Lewis
228 Steve Santner
221 Ronald F. Leberman
220 Linda McWilliams
210 Skip Conant
199 Margaret Higbee
197 Al Guarente
180 Terence Schiefer
178 Neal G. Thorpe
172 John H. Ginaven
170 Carl L. Garner
165 J. Kenneth Gabler
144 Matt Wlasniewski
138 Mark Henry

1986

288 Barbara M. Haas
288 Franklin C. Haas
247 Terence Schiefer
245 Larry Lewis
244 Steve Santner
240 Gerald Book (Birding)
236 Gerald McWilliams
230 Al Guarente
228 John H. Ginaven
226 Linda McWilliams
221 Margaret Higbee
220 Skip Conant
184 Neal G. Thorpe
183 Carl L. Garner
151 John Salvetti
144 Ernest Schiefer
142 Matt Wlasniewski

1985

268 Terence Schiefer
248 Gerald McWilliams
245 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.
222 George Malosh
217 John H. Ginaven
216 Al Guarente
210 Steve Santner
207 Bill Fink
185 Tom Clauser
183 Neal G. Thorpe
178 Merrill Wood
172 Russ Ruffing
164 George Wertz, Jr.
134 Matt Wlasniewski
133 Carl L. Garner
120 Ernest Schiefer
105 John Salvetti

1984

249 David B. Freeland
246 Gerald McWilliams
245 Terence Schiefer
229 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.
219 Bill Fink
216 Steve Santner
210 George Malosh
207 John H. Ginaven
196 Merrill Wood
176 Carl L. Garner
51 John Salvetti

1983

278 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.
263 Gerald McWilliams
223 Terence Schiefer
221 Steve Santner
217 John H. Ginaven
209 Neal G. Thorpe
151 George Malosh

1982

259 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.
247 Gerald McWilliams
240 Franklin C. Haas
230 Steve Santner
221 John H. Ginaven
192 Terence Schiefer
154 George Malosh

1981

246 Gerald McWilliams
246 David B. Freeland (Birding)
240 Bernard L. Morris
227 Steve Santner
227 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.
222 George Malosh
194 Mark Blauer
191 Terence Schiefer
190 John H. Ginaven

1980

246 Gerald McWilliams
223 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.
220 John H. Ginaven
213 Steve Santner
152 Terence Schiefer

1979

278 Sam Stull
252 Bonnie L. Baird (Birding)
252 James J. Baird (Birding)
250 Gerald McWilliams
246 Barbara M. Haas
245 John H. Ginaven
244 Franklin C. Haas
222 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.

1978

252 John H. Ginaven
241 Bonnie L. Baird (Birding)
241 James J. Baird (Birding)
221 Gerald McWilliams

1977

255 Franklin C. Haas
254 Barbara M. Haas

- 1976**
 247 James G. Stull (Birding)
 171 George Malosh
- 1975**
 183 George Malosh
- 1974**
 238 David B. Freeland (Birding)
 207 George Malosh
- 1973**
 224 Franklin C. Haas
 170 George Malosh
- 1972**
 181 Donald R. Wenkhous (Birding)
- 1971**
 233 David B. Freeland (Birding)
- 1970**
 228 David B. Freeland (Birding)

PA Annual Lists (over 225)

- 1 288 Barbara M. Haas1986
 1 288 Franklin C. Haas1986
 3 278 Sam Stull 1979
 3 278 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1983
 5 268 Terence Schiefer1985
 6 263 Gerald McWilliams 1983
 7 259 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1982
 8 255 Franklin C. Haas1977
 9 254 Barbara M. Haas1977
 10 252 John H. Ginaven1978
 10 252 Bonnie L. Baird1979 (Birding)
 10 252 James J. Baird 1979 (Birding)
 10 252 Gerald McWilliams 1988
 14 250 Gerald McWilliams 1979
 15 249 David B. Freeland 1984
 16 248 Gerald McWilliams 1985
 17 247 James G. Stull 1976 (Birding)
 17 247 Gerald McWilliams 1982
 17 247 Terence Schiefer1986
 20 246 Barbara M. Haas1979
 20 246 Gerald McWilliams 1980
 20 246 Gerald McWilliams 1981
 20 246 David B. Freeland 1981 (Birding)
 20 246 Gerald McWilliams 1984
 25 245 John H. Ginaven1979
 25 245 Terence Schiefer1984
 25 245 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1985
 25 245 Larry Lewis 1986
 29 244 Franklin C. Haas1979
 29 244 Steve Santner1986
 29 244 Ed Kwater 1988 (Birding)
 32 241 Bonnie L. Baird 1978 (Birding)
 32 241 James J. Baird 1978 (Birding)
 34 240 Bernard L. Morris 1981
 34 240 Franklin C. Haas1982
 34 240 Gerald Book 1986 (Birding)
 37 239 Gerald McWilliams 1987
 38 238 David B. Freeland 1974 (Birding)
 39 236 Gerald McWilliams 1986
 40 233 David B. Freeland 1971 (Birding)
 41 232 Tom Clauser 1987
 42 230 Steve Santner1982
 42 230 Al Guarente 1986
 44 229 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1984

- 45 228 David B. Freeland 1970 (Birding)
 45 228 John H. Ginaven1986
 45 228 Larry Lewis 1987
 45 228 Steve Santner1987
 49 227 Steve Santner1981
 49 227 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1981
 51 226 Linda McWilliams1986
 51 226 Larry Lewis 1988

County Annual Lists (by county)

ALLEGHENY

- 96 George Malosh 1982
 93 George Malosh 1974

ARMSTRONG

- 142 Margaret Higbee 1986
 139 Margaret Higbee 1987

BEAVER

- 110 George Malosh 1974
 105 George Malosh 1975

BERKS

- 170 Terence Schiefer 1981
 167 Terence Schiefer 1982
 138 Terence Schiefer 1980
 134 Matt Wlasniewski 1988
 131 Matt Wlasniewski 1987
 129 Terence Schiefer 1983

BRADFORD

- 82 Skip Conant 1988

BUCKS

- 156 Bruce McNaught 1987

BUTLER

- 245 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1983
 229 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1985
 225 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1982
 224 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1981
 218 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1984
 217 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1980
 215 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1979
 101 George Malosh 1974
 97 George Malosh 1981

CENTRE

- 224 Terence Schiefer 1985
 214 Terence Schiefer 1986
 211 Terence Schiefer 1984
 191 Terence Schiefer 1983
 180 Merrill Wood 1986
 109 Terence Schiefer 1982

CHESTER

- 225 Larry Lewis 1988
 221 Larry Lewis 1983
 219 Larry Lewis 1986
 216 Larry Lewis 1984
 215 Larry Lewis 1982
 214 Larry Lewis 1987
 209 Larry Lewis 1985
 194 Larry Lewis 1977
 194 Larry Lewis 1978
 189 Larry Lewis 1975
 189 Larry Lewis 1976
 180 Larry Lewis 1979
 177 Larry Lewis 1980
 142 Larry Lewis 1981

- 140 Larry Lewis 1974

CRAWFORD

- 100 Terence Schiefer 1984
 89 George Malosh 1974
 81 George Malosh 1973
 61 Margaret Higbee 1987

CUMBERLAND

- 106 Steve Santner 1986

DAUPHIN

- 114 Steve Santner 1986

DELAWARE

- 241 John C. Miller 1969
 164 Skip Conant 1987
 155 Skip Conant 1988

ERIE

- 264 Sam Stull 1979
 251 Gerald McWilliams 1983
 251 Gerald McWilliams 1988
 244 Gerald McWilliams 1985
 243 Gerald McWilliams 1979
 243 Gerald McWilliams 1981
 242 Gerald McWilliams 1984
 234 Gerald McWilliams 1980
 234 Gerald McWilliams 1982
 234 Gerald McWilliams 1987
 230 Gerald McWilliams 1986
 221 Linda McWilliams 1986
 219 Linda McWilliams 1987
 218 Gerald McWilliams 1978
 215 Linda McWilliams 1988
 172 Terence Schiefer 1985
 168 George Malosh 1985
 159 George Malosh 1981
 142 George Malosh 1984
 132 Terence Schiefer 1984
 126 Terence Schiefer 1986
 125 George Malosh 1974
 105 Margaret Higbee 1987

FRANKLIN

- 153 J. Kenneth Gabler 1987

GREENE

- 137 Ralph K. Bell 1985
 134 Ralph K. Bell 1986

INDIANA

- 172 Margaret Higbee 1986
 171 Margaret Higbee 1987

LANCASTER

- 202 Steve Santner 1986
 194 Steve Santner 1987
 180 Larry Lewis 1988
 138 Terence Schiefer 1985

LEBANON

- 187 Steve Santner 1987
 152 Steve Santner 1986

LEHIGH

- 200 Bernard L. Morris 1984

PHILADELPHIA

- 225 John C. Miller 1965
 152 Skip Conant 1988

SCHUYLKILL

- 191 Tom Clauser 1987
- 167 Tom Clauser 1988
- 159 Tom Clauser 1985

SULLIVAN

- 114 Skip Conant 1987
- 98 Skip Conant 1988
- 92 Skip Conant 1986

WARREN

- 152 Ted Grisez 1985

WASHINGTON

- 134 Russ Ruffing 1985
- 132 Roy A. Ickes 1984
- 100 George Malosh 1975
- 94 George Malosh 1976
- 87 Margaret Higbee 1987

WYOMING

- 86 Skip Conant 1988
- 81 Skip Conant 1987
- 80 Skip Conant 1986

YORK

- 100 Steve Santner 1986

County Annual Lists (over 200)

- 1 264 Erie Sam Stull 1979
- 2 251 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1983
- 2 251 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1988
- 4 245 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1983
- 5 244 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1985
- 6 243 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1979
- 6 243 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1981
- 8 242 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1984
- 9 241 Delaware John C. Miller 1969
- 10 234 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1980
- 10 234 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1982
- 10 234 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1987
- 13 230 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1986
- 14 229 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1985
- 15 225 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1982
- 15 225 Chester Larry Lewis 1988
- 15 225 Philadelphia John C. Miller 1965
- 18 224 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1981
- 18 224 Centre Terence Schiefer 1985
- 20 221 Chester Larry Lewis 1983
- 20 221 Erie Linda McWilliams 1986
- 22 219 Chester Larry Lewis 1986
- 22 219 Erie Linda McWilliams 1987
- 24 218 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1984
- 24 218 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1978
- 26 217 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1980
- 27 216 Chester Larry Lewis 1984
- 28 215 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1979
- 28 215 Chester Larry Lewis 1982
- 28 215 Erie Linda McWilliams 1988
- 31 214 Centre Terence Schiefer 1986
- 31 214 Chester Larry Lewis 1987
- 33 211 Centre Terence Schiefer 1984
- 34 209 Chester Larry Lewis 1985
- 35 202 Lancaster Steve Santner 1986
- 36 200 Lehigh Bernard Morris 1984 ●

COMING NEXT ISSUE!

**Arctic Terns
Swainson's Warblers
White Pelican?**

New PA Big Day Record

Big Day Reports
(Send us yours by 31 July 89)

Summary of the Season

As far as rarities go, it was the season for waterfowl. Those people sitting at home waiting to see a winter finch were most definitely disappointed. So it was off to the open bodies of water that this mild winter provided, scope in hand, to search for the unusual species. Diligence prevailed.

Ted Grisez (*Warren*) deserves the credit for spreading the word that the tagged swans being observed in *Erie* and *Warren* just might be **Trumpeters**. He had seen some in Dunkirk, NY, and when the word came of yellow-tagged individuals he suggested that they be checked further. Birders from Pittsburgh descended on Presque Isle to discover #81 mixed in with the largest wintering flock of **Tundra Swans** that has been seen there in years. Please read the separate article on the occurrence of Trumpeter Swan in Pennsylvania this quarter.

Not all birders had to suffer under extreme conditions to see waterfowl. Note the wayward **Horned Grebe** found in a pick-up truck in *Huntingdon*. Owing to the mildness of the weather, there were probably few sales of replacement/new longjohns this winter. There were only a few days when wind caused the eyes to tear while staring through the scope. It was the winter season, but more compilers than not remarked on the lack of inclement weather. The birds seemed to recognize this as well.

Although the **Barnacle Goose** in *Crawford* was apparently banded, the one in *Bucks* was not. The jury is still out as to whether or not this species is countable, but at present the evidence is swinging toward counting those birds seen in November, February, and March, especially when in the "company" of the Greenland race of the **Greater White-fronted Goose**. And speaking of Greater White-fronted Geese, they were seen in *Bucks*, *Bedford*, *Berks*, *Chester*, and *Fayette* counties.

Discussions with other birders have brought to our attention the need to check out carefully those small races of the **Canada Goose**. There may be a split coming someday and the Records Committee is interested in photographs of these birds found in Pennsylvania. Birds that might someday qualify were seen in *Berks* and *Bucks* this season. Do you have or do you know someone who may have photographs?

Another species of waterfowl not found every year was a drake **Eurasian Wigeon** in *Berks*. It was cooperative for many but not all who searched for it. Part of the problem was it split its time between Lake Ontelaunee and a small farm pond nearby. Years ago the sighting of the nominate race of the **Green-winged Teal** (*Anas crecca crecca*) would have had listers scurrying to *Bucks*, but it was nonetheless exciting for those who did find it while searching out the Barnacle and White-fronted geese mentioned above.

The Baird's started the New Year off with the fifth record of **Harlequin Duck** for *Erie*. The best count of **Oldsquaw** was 60 in *Blair*. *Westmoreland* had its first spring record of **Surf Scoter**, while *Cumberland* may have had its first ever documented sighting of a **White-winged**

Scoter. One White-winged was quite early in *Carbon* and two were highlighted in *Lycoming*.

Unusual shorebird reports were few, so the **Lesser Golden-Plover** in *Somerset* this early in the year was noteworthy. If there are any photographs of this bird it would be an interesting exercise to rule out the possibility of a Greater Golden-Plover.

Gull watchers had a lot to be excited about this season. First county records were established for **Iceland** (*Berks*) and **Thayer's** (*Lancaster*), while *Erie* set new records for quantity of the latter species. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** continues to make its presence known across the Commonwealth, as reports from the East, Central, and Western regions will attest. More and more counties are recording **Great Black-backed Gull**. This trend has been noticeable throughout the Northeast. As a teaser for the next issue, look for reports of **Common Black-headed Gull** and **Arctic Tern!**

Probably due to the lack of snow cover, there were no significant concentrations of either diurnal or nocturnal raptors noted. In fact, Santner reported that the **Short-eared Owl** roost in *Lebanon* was rarely used. **Bald Eagles** are doing well as a wintering species in many locations, but the fact that they may be breeding in *Lancaster* almost eclipses the fact that **Osprey** have returned as a Pennsylvania breeder only for the past few years. If this pair is successful, it will be the first county nesting record since 1948! Most encouraging was the *Clarion* report of **Short-eared Owls**, where Buckwalter and Fye commented on at least three pairs in areas where they either bred or may have bred last year. Greeley has hopes in *Jefferson* that there may yet be another location for this endangered species. And Barb Dean sent a chronology of events in *Mercer* for this species that will get more attention in the next issue. At least one decent-sized **Long-eared Owl** roost was found in *Berks*.

Many compilers noted that **Belted Kingfishers** took advantage of the open water and were found all quarter in areas that usually have to wait for Spring. The only unusual woodpecker report was of the immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** in *Dauphin* which arrived last quarter and was seen until mid-January. Despite the "warm" winter, there were few records of even semi-hardy species either over-wintering or returning that much earlier. This just reinforces the age-old idea that most healthy individuals go South in Fall and North in Spring. Of course, there are always exceptions, but is the clue "healthy?" Perhaps yea, perhaps nay. This year, for example, we did not have a towhee in our yard during February; somewhat unusual for this southeast corner of the State. There were no reports of lingering warblers, which is somewhat unusual, and equally unexpected was the lack of **E. Phoebe** winter sightings.

The mild winter did support good populations of **Carolina Wren** everywhere, but did not influence numbers of **Cedar Waxwing**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** or **Golden-crowned**

Kinglet, all somewhat scarce to rare this quarter.

The **Mountain Bluebird** that excited birders from areas even outside our State continued in *York* until the middle of March.

Bleak though this quarter may have been for several groups of birds, there is an upbeat end to the summary. **Both** species of shrike were seen...and heard! **Northern** were found in *Carbon* (*singing*), *Center* and *Erie* and the **Loggerhead** in *Delaware*.

Horned Larks, **Snow Buntings**, and **Lapland Longspurs** seemed more difficult to locate without snow cover.

Icterids were well represented by the continued sighting of the **Brewer's Blackbird** flock in *Chester* until at least Valentine's Day and single day sightings of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** in *Chester* and *Lancaster*. The scarcity of winter finches would seem to make it incumbent upon the reader to ferret out the meager records in the following pages.

We will make an appeal to all of you for submitting records either to the compilers or to us. Documentation is needed either in the form of a written description and/or photographs. For example, when winter finches are virtually nonexistent, as they were this year, it would be of significant value to have reports of **Pine Grosbeak** or **Common Redpoll** accompanied by comments indicating at least familiarity with the species. These reports will be used by researchers across the country as well as Pennsylvanians organizing the state data. ☉

Abbreviations Frequently Used in County Reports: ad.:adult, Am.:American, BBS: Breeding Bird Survey, c.:central, CBC:Christmas Bird Count, Cr.:creek, Co.:county, Cos.:counties, *et al.*:and others, e.:eastern, Eur.:European, Eurasian, F:Fahrenheit, *fide*:reported by, Ft.:Fort, imm.:immature, indiv.:individual(s), I.:Island, Is.:Islands, Jct.:Junction, juv.:juvenile, L.:Lake, max.:maximum, min.:minimum, m.ob.:many observers, Mt.:Mountain, Mts.:Mountains, NF.:National Forest, NWR:National Wildlife Refuge, Res.:Reservoir, R.:River, S.F.:State Forest, SGL:State Game Lands, S.P.:State Park, sp.:species, spp.:species plural, ssp.:subspecies, Twp.:Township, w.:western, WMA:Wildlife Management Area, v.o.:various observers, N,S,E,W,:direction of motion, n.,s.,e.,w.:direction of location, >:more than, <:fewer than, ±:approximately, or estimated number, ♂:male, ♀:female, φ:imm. or female, *:specimen, ph.:photographed, ft.:feet, mi.:miles, m.:meters, km:kilometers, date with a + (e.g., May 4+):recorded beyond that date.

COUNTY REPORTS - January through March 1989

ADAMS COUNTY

Eleanor and Art Kennel

Location: Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Pine Dam (LPD).

It was a very mild Jan. and Feb., with not much rainfall or snow. Birds at the feeders were down in number and species.

Many fields hosted **Canada Geese**, numbering 2-50 searching for food. **Wood Duck** started appearing at GNMP along Rock Cr. 3/15. CG reported 11 **Red-breasted Merganser** at LPD. Early Jan. found 700 **Black and Turkey** vultures at their winter roost area in the Devil's Den area of GNMP. **Red-shouldered** and **Red-tailed** hawks were found nesting (*location deleted. -Eds.*) in late March. We received a report of 3 **Am. Kestrel** visiting a **Purple Martin** house near Bonneauville.

An **Am. Woodcock** nest with four eggs was found near Newchester 3/17. People were clearing the site for a new home when it flushed from the nest. They were so interested that they delayed the clearing until it had a chance to incubate the eggs.

E. Phoebe were heard at GNMP 3/8. **Purple Finch**, **Pine Siskin**, and **Evening Grosbeak** went unreported.

OBSERVERS: Carl Garner, Eleanor & Art Kennel, 799 Baltimore St., Gettysburg 17325.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Joe Grom

Locations: North Park (NoP), Pittsburgh (PGH), Round Hill Park (RHP), South Park (SoP).

HERON TO KESTREL. **Great Blue Heron** were reported only from the s.e. part; 1 at McKeesport 1/2 (GK) and MEW counted 3 across the river from their Eliz. Twp home on the Clairton side of the Monongahela.

Mute Swan, usually considered an "escaped" exotic, was behind the W. Penitentiary ("Pen") in PGH on the Ohio R. 3/1 and again 3/15 - indicating a probable continuous presence there (PB). The **Snow Goose** of Dec. at NoP was there sporadically in Jan, *e.g.*, 1/2 (JH *et al.*). GK's lone **Canada Goose** continues, unmolested and unattached, day after day, month after recorded month at Monroeville. The **Wood Duck** seen by VDz on Highland Park Res. 1/18 and 2/18 is thought to have been there all along; PB lists another for NoP 3/8. Among the "up to 50" **Mallard** that loiter in Monroeville, GK discerned 2 **Am. Black Duck** 3/2 and 1 **N. Shoveler** 1/17. From the banks of the Ohio behind the "Pen", PB discovered a **N. Pintail** 1/12. On 3/8 at NoP's Marshall L., JC found 2 **Gadwall** where later (3/23) JH *et al.* identified 2 ♂ and 2 ♀ **Am. Wigeon**. **Canvasback** singletons turned up at the "Pen" 1/12, 18 (PB) and on Marshall L. 3/13 (JC). The latter spot on the same date yielded to JC 3 **Ring-necked Duck**, 6 **Lesser Scaup** (3 ♂, 3 ♀) while a less certain PB lists 7 scaup *sp.* at the "Pen" 3/15. **Common Goldeneye** (8) 1/18, 2/22 (2), 3/1 (6), and **Bufflehead** (4) from 1/12-30, and 6 on 2/22 and 3/1 were viewed by PB back of the "Pen."

Among the numerous **Turkey Vulture** sightings, the earliest was of 5 counted over Sewickley 3/22 (PB). An **Osprey** fished the Allegheny opposite Harrison Twp on the early morning of 4/27 says Pat Bracken. Of 23 accipiter (**Sharp-shinned** or **Cooper's**) sightings, 11 were of birds visiting feeding stations and only one report was of more than 1 individual. WH saw 2 "sharpies" in SoP 1/7. While driving on hospital grounds in the North Hills, JC was startled to observe a **Red-shouldered Hawk** fly heavily out of a gully along the road 1/9. Apparently this is the same bird seen a number of times by others in the same general area. Two **Broad-winged Hawk** reports were made of single birds. On 3/23 JH and her group saw the first reported migrant at NoP. There were 21 scattered reports of **Red-tailed Hawk**. At Jack's Run Hollow (Bellevue in n. PGH) where PB found two birds, the ♀

was already on the nest 3/15 - presumably on eggs. One of the pair (?) was near the nest as early as 1/15! Bob Larimer reports activity at a nest above the Parkway West some 500 yd. from PGH's Ft. Pitt Tunnels during March. Red-tails have nested in the vicinity for many years. Eight **Am. Kestrel** reports round out the diurnal raptors.

PHEASANT TO MOCKINGBIRD. Only WH reports **Ring-necked Pheasant** - in s. *Allegheny* during every month of the period in various places. **Wild Turkey**, 26 on 1/10 at NoP (JH) and 17+ hurrying across the highway about 1 mi n. of NoP 3/24 (RG). The first **Killdeer** (2) were seen by JH near her Shaler Twp home 2/19; Dan Pfoutz counted 8 in extreme n. *Allegheny* (Gibsonia) 3/15. After the half-million gulls on L. Erie all winter, one feels kind of sheepish to report 2 **Ring-billed Gull** at NoP 3/12, but R&JG do just that. PB found in Kilbuck Twp a **Great Horned Owl** 1/29 by checking out a mobbing scene by crows. At 4 a.m. on 4/24, RG was awakened by the hooting of another Great Horned owl inside her window in a well-populated residential Allison Park neighborhood.

The three Jan. **Belted Kingfisher** reports came from SoP 1/10 (WH), O'Hara Twp at mouth of Squaw Run 1/17 (PB), and RHP 1/27 (MEW). There were 45 woodpecker reports. Of these 42% (19) were **N. Flicker** and 31% (14) were **Red-bellied Woodpecker**. The remaining 27% were **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (2), **Downy** (3), **Hairy** (3), and **Pileated** (4). **Tree** (2) and **Barn** (!) swallows first showed up together 3/30 at NoP according to JH.

MEW located a lone **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in RHP 1/23. Only WH cared to report **White-breasted Nuthatch** in SoP, single birds over the period. It was encouraging to receive a number of **Brown Creeper** reports. It's been my experience that these mouse-like birds confine their activities, for the most part, to the upper reaches of the tallest and most dense of the evergreens - at least while wintering with us. As expected, **Carolina Wren** are on the increase and toward the last of the period pairs are reported busy building, or at least looking. The only other wren report was of 2 **Winter Wren** at RHP 1/23 (MEW). Small numbers of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were observed.

The best report of **E. Bluebird** was a spectacular 40 counted by MEW at RHP 1/16! JH *et al.* had their usual **Hermit Thrush** at NoP 1/5, while Betty Mullock (*vide* JH) observed a single at Frick Park (PGH) 3/19. During Jan. at least, the wintering **Am. Robin** population seems to have been concentrated in s. *Allegheny*; the largest flock, 75-100 birds, along Bower Hill Rd., s. PGH, as reported by Rich Scott. By 3/6, anywhere from 4-12 were stripping the fruits from hedgerow shrubbery at the R&JG Allison Park home and neighborhood. One to 2 **N. Mockingbird** spent some two months, 1/13+, "hanging out" at the Carnegie Museum parking lot. These birds enjoyed the almost daily close scrutiny of chief ornithologist Dr. Ken Parkes and wife Ellen (*vide* VDz). Others were found in RHP 1/16, 27 in Eliz. Twp (MEW) and by PB in n. Fayette Twp 3/22.

WAXWING TO GOLDFINCH. On 2/17, WH listed just 1 **Cedar Waxwing** at Whitehall. MEW list their first **Chipping Sparrow** in Eliz. Twp 3/31. **Rufous-sided Towhee** first "chewinked" in SoP for WH 3/27. Their first backyard **Fox Sparrow** showed up 3/21 (MEW). WH took time to jot down **Song Sparrow** on the 2nd or 3rd of each month in his reporting area (SoP and Whitehall). A little snow squall 3/6 brought in ±30 **Dark-eyed Junco** to Grom's feeder.

Three almost certainly migrating ♂ **Red-winged Blackbird** shouldered their way in the E&JM feeder just w. of NoP in Wexford early on 2/20. A **Rusty Blackbird** was a nice find in Whitehall 3/22 (WH). With **Common Grackle** first sightings in NoP 2/2 (JH) and in Eliz. Twp 2/28 (MEW), it is not too surprising when JG watched a ♀ apparently engrossed in collecting nesting material on the early date, 3/24. Practicing, perhaps? A ♂ **Brown-headed Cowbird** visited MEW's backyard 1/18.

First **Purple Finch**, a ♂ and a ♀, were reported by JH in Shaler Twp. 3/20, ten days before MEW tallied their first pair. On 1/25 WH estimated ±20 **Am. Goldfinch** wandering around SoP. In early Feb., 2/7, a noisy flock of 16 descended on a feeder in Wexford maintained by E&JM. Other, smaller groups became conspicuous at feeders throughout as the advancing spring molt brightened their plumage.

OBSERVERS: Paul Brown, Jim Clark, Vickie Dziadosz, Joe Grom, 9360 Babcock Blvd., Allison Park 15101 (412-366-9495), Ruth Grom, Walter Hammond, Joyce Hoffmann, Glenn Koppel, Tom & Nellie McGary, Erv & Judy Mueller, Mike & Evaleen Watko.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Locations: Buffalo Creek Valley (BCV), Crooked Creek L. (CCL), Elders Ridge/West Lebanon strips (The Indiana-Armstrong line runs through the strips; some of these birds were in both Cos.), Elderton (ELD), Ford City (FC), Keystone Res. (KR), Kittanning (KTN), Manorville (MNV), Slate Lick (SL), South Bend (SB).

Common Loon was seen at KR 3/16 (MH,MC) and again 3/22 (MH). Several **Great Blue Heron** in the BCV during March (DE) were the only ones reported. Sixteen **Tundra Swan** were tallied at KR 3/22 (MH). **Canada Goose** maxima were 152 at FC 1/22 (FE,SE) and 190 at KR 3/12 (MH,RH). Two **Wood Duck** were found on a small pond at KTN 3/11 (NK,NoK) and 4 at KR 3/16 (MH,MC). Best **Am. Black Duck** count was 20 on 2/11 at MNV (DL), where 50+ **Mallard** were listed 2/14 (DL). Top KR Mallard count was 150 on 3/16 (MH, MC). Eleven **N. Pintail** at KR 3/22 (MH) were a nice find. Five **Am. Wigeon** were listed at KR 3/16,22 (MH,MC). The sole **Canvasback** report was an indiv. at SL 3/1 (DE). Diving duck reports at KR included 5 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/22 (MH), 2 **Lesser Scaup** 3/12 (MH,RH), 5 **Bufflehead** and 12 **Hooded Merganser** 3/22 (MH).

First **Turkey Vulture** was reported over SL 3/5 (DE). **N. Harrier** was observed near SB 2/11-12 (JW,GW) and near WL 2/12 (FE,GW). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** visited feeders near KTN (CD) and FC (FE,SE) sporadically all quarter. A **Cooper's Hawk** at FC was seen 1/4 (JW) and 2/15 (GW). A flock of **Wild Turkey** near ELD contained 19 indiv. (*vide* GS). **Am. Woodcock** was listed only near FC in mid-March (JV).

First **Ring-billed Gull** reports included 20 at CCL 3/12 and 4 at KR that same day (MH,RH). Four **Herring Gull** at MNV were well described 2/16 (DL). An **E. Screech-Owl** was observed watching for prey at a FC bird feeder 1/9 (JV). Up to 5 **Short-eared Owl**, also mentioned in the *Indiana* report, wintered at the ER/WL strips (m.ob.).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** devoured large amounts of peanut butter mix near KTN all quarter (CD). First **N. Flicker** was found near KTN 1/18 (GSS). Top **Horned Lark** count was 45 at ER (ASWP,TBC). The same outing produced 7 **E. Bluebird** near WL and 2 **Cedar Waxwing** near ER. Top **Am. Tree Sparrow** count was a mere 8 near ER 2/12 (FE,GW). **Common Grackle** returned to FC 2/24 (JV). First **Purple Finch** was seen near KTN 3/18, where 1-2 were present till the period's end (CD). A lone **Pine Siskin** traveling with a flock of **Am. Goldfinch** visited a FC feeder 2/4 (GW,JW) but was not seen again. Top **Am. Goldfinch** tally near KTN was 130 on 3/24 (CD).

OBSERVERS: Audubon Society of W. PA (ASWP), Marcy Cunkelman, Caroline Davies, Donna Egbert, Flo & Shelby Emmonds, Nancy & Norman Karp (NoK), Debby Livengood, Grace Sprout (GSS), Georgette Syster, Todd Bird Club (TBC), Joe Valasek, Gloria & John Winger.

BEDFORD COUNTY

Tom Dick

Locations: Bedford (BED), Bedford Valley (BV), Shawnee SP (SSP), Yount (YO).

Weather for the quarter consisted of unusually mild temperatures, above average rain for Feb. and Mar., and little snow. The first week of Mar. produced a hard freeze, closing open water for a week. Despite last summer's drought, the wild food crop was good. The quarter had good variety, but low numbers; this was especially true with waterfowl. Highlights included Jan. **Osprey** and **Tree Swallow**, a Mar. **Palm Warbler**, and other species that preferred lingering over migrating. Unless otherwise noted, all observations by the compiler.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL. The quarter would have been "loonless" had it not been for the timely arrival of 38 **Common Loon** at SSP 3/31 (CV). The first **Pied-billed Grebe** arrived late, 3/21, with 2 at SSP, later increasing to 6 by 3/31 (CV). **Horned Grebe** first arrived at SSP 3/12, where they lingered in small numbers of 2-3 for the remainder of the month. **Great Blue Heron** were scarce with a singleton, rather than the usual 6, reported at YO during Jan. and Feb. (GH), and a high of 3 at SSP 3/21. **Green-backed Heron** singles were reported 3/15 and 3/23 at SSP (CV,JP).

Unless indicated otherwise, all waterfowl counts are at SSP. Thirty **Tundra Swan** 3/12 was the only report. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was discovered 3/11 (JP); the time corresponds with sightings of previous years. **Mallard** reports were widespread as migrants mingled with their domestic relatives producing counts as high as 250 at BED (m.ob.). **Am. Black Duck** first arrived 3/11, with a high of 9 on 3/25. Earliest **Gadwall** were 3/11, with a high of 12 on 3/23 (JP). First arrival of **Green-winged Teal** was 3/21 with 14 (also the quarter's high). **Am. Wigeon** were first reported 2/27 (CV), with a high count of 23 on 3/25. **N. Pintail** were spotty throughout the quarter with a high of 16 on 3/23 (JP). The first **Blue-winged Teal** appeared 3/25 with a high of 9. **Ruddy Duck** appeared 3/18 (CV) with a high of 6 on 3/25 (TF,RM). The earliest **Wood Duck** was 3/11 (MLJ), however reporting was excellent for this species, indicating it to be well-distributed (m.ob.).

Canvasback were first reported at YO 3/4 (GH), with a high of 14 at SSP 3/12. **Redhead** first arrived 3/23 with the high of 4 on 3/25 (TF,RM). **Ring-necked Duck** were first reported from YO 3/5; the high was 286 at SSP 3/23 (TF,RM), but they were also seen on a number of farm ponds (JS,GH). **Lesser Scaup** were well-reported, with an early date 1/19 and a high of 100 at SSP 3/23 (JP). One report listed 29 scaup *sp.* 2/27. **Common Goldeneye** were first observed 3/11, with a high of 5 on 3/21. **Bufflehead** were sporadic with first date 3/11 and high of 27 on 3/25 (TF,RM). On 3/18 (CV) and 3/23, single **Common Merganser** were reported. **Hooded Merganser** were first reported 3/11 with a high of 106 on 3/21. **Red-breasted Merganser** first appeared 3/5 with a high of 124 on 3/31 (CV). **Am. Coot** arrived 3/15 with a high of 2 on 3/25.

RAPTORS TO PLOVERS. Two **Black Vulture** made their appearance at SSP 3/31 (CV). An imm. **Bald Eagle** circled YO 2/10 (GH). A ♂ **N. Harrier** quartered fields at YO 3/21-23 (GH). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were reported monthly at YO (GH), and a single at Belden 2/13 (JTC). **Cooper's Hawk** were reported from Pleasantville 1/8, Belden 1/1 and 2/8 (JTC), and YO 1/7 and 3/29 (GH). The only report of a **Rough-legged Hawk** was a perched "dark phase" near BED 3/20 (CV). As mentioned in the last report, an **Osprey** lingered the first week of Jan. along the Juniata R. (EF). **Osprey** returned the last week of Mar., leaving Feb. as the only month without a sighting. **Am. Kestrel** are doing well throughout the county (GH,DH,SD,CV).

Killdeer were first reported from BED 3/14 (MLJ). **Am. Woodcock**, in small numbers, were back by the first week of Mar. (SS) with a report of 3 on location in BV 3/12 (JS). **Ring-billed Gull** were present all quarter, with a high count of 110 at SSP 3/12 (SD).

GROUSE TO KINGLETS. A good wild food crop sustained a healthy **Ruffed Grouse** population; they were reported widely. Mild weather allowed **Ring-necked Pheasant** to over-winter, with a high of 25 counted at Dunning's Cr. **Wild Turkey** were reported from m.ob. Communications with Wildlife Conservation Officers suggest the flocks went through the winter unscathed. A high count of 90 **Mourning Dove** were reported from a feeder in Belden 3/8 (JTC). **Barred Owl** were reported from YO 1/1 and 2/12 (GH). An **E. Screech-Owl**, living in a Wood Duck box, was found in Dutch Corner (CRM).

Janet Shaffer, a local BV bander, keeps track of **Screech Owl** road kills and reports the following: from 12/27 to 3/17, within a 20 mi radius, 9 owls were killed. Five were "gray" and 4 were "red" phase. Of these 9, 5 were killed in Jan., 2 in Feb., and 1 in Mar. I counsel all County editors to encourage this type of reporting. Car trauma is a common Screech Owl malady for rehabilitators. Also, it's wise to point out that "rehabers" can be a good source of information on rarely seen owls and hawks.

Open water kept **Belted Kingfisher** along streams throughout the quarter (m.ob.). **N. Flicker** were well-reported, with a high of 8 at YO 2/10 (GH). The only reported **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at Pavia 2/17 (GH). **E. Phoebe** first return was 3/17 at YO (GH); by 3/25 they were widespread. **Horned Lark** were common winter visitants, with a high of 150 on 1/8 near New Enterprise. An unusual date for **Tree Swallow** was 1/5 at BV (JS)(no details, -eds), however, a more typical date was 3/23 at SSP (JP).

Most reports suggested feeder stations were under-utilized. **Brown Creeper** were reported on 5 occasions from YO (GH). **Carolina Wren** reports came monthly, with a high of 4 at YO 3/23 (GH). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** reports were spotty, with 2 seen 2/19 at YO (GH).

THRUSHES TO FINCHES. **E. Bluebird** over-wintered in good numbers and were included in all reports. **Am. Robin** began migrating in

earnest when 1200 were counted at SSP 3/21. **N. Mockingbird** were reported from YO,BV,BED and New Enterprise (v.o.). **Cedar Waxwing** were spotty and in small flocks, with a high 40 at Tussey Mt. 1/14. The only report of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** came from YO 3/19-20 (GH). **Pine Warbler** were seen in YO 3/19-20 (GH) and SSP 3/23 (JP). An early "yellow race" **Palm Warbler** was seen at YO 3/29 (GH). In general, **N. Cardinal** over-wintered well, while the first **Rufous-sided Towhee** report was not until 3/19 at YO (GH).

Was this the year of the **Song Sparrow**? I can't remember a year of such abundance. **Am. Tree Sparrow** high count was 20 at a feeder in Dutch Corner, but this contrasts with most reports which had few. **Field Sparrow** earliest and highest number was 3 at YO 2/19 (GH). **Dark-eyed Junco** was the most abundant roadside species. **White-throated Sparrow** were either absent from reports or reported in below average numbers. The only report of **White-crowned Sparrow** was a singleton at BV 2/4 (JS). **Fox Sparrow** first appeared 3/12 at both YO (GH) and Belden (JTC) with later reports from Everett 3/25 (MLJ) and Dutch Corner 3/26 (CRM). The only **Swamp Sparrow** report was from YO 2/28. **Snow Bunting** almost missed the quarter when a flock of 14 was spotted at Springhope 3/31 (GH).

Wintering **Red-winged Blackbird**, in small flocks, could be found all quarter, with the high 25 at Dunnings Cr. 1/8. By 3/3, they moved into the valley producing a high feeder count of 100+ at Belden. **Rusty Blackbird** were reported each month from YO with a high of 40 on 3/20 (GH). **Brown-headed Cowbird**, in small numbers, lingered all quarter. **Purple Finch** reports were typical, mostly migrants at the end of Mar., always few in number and spotty. **Am. Goldfinch** were abundant on both feeder reports and in fallow fields.

OBSERVERS: Mary Caldwell, Jack & Terry Carnila, Sally & Thomas Dick, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15904 (814-266-7912), Eugene Foor, Tim Fox, Gordon Hassel, Donna Hausel, Mike & Laura Jackson, Clyde & Rosie McGinnett, Jeff Payne, Robert Ringler, Steve Schweitzer, Janet Shaffer, Charles Voytko.

BERKS COUNTY

Rudy Keller

Locations: Big Spring Farm, Robesonia (BSF); L. Ontelaunee (LO).

The dry, mild winter produced only one significant storm, which dropped six inches of snow 3/6-7. The scarcity of northern birds continued, but the unusual amount of open water attracted waterfowl, which provided the most interesting birding of the season.

The star of the show was a handsome ♂ **Eurasian Wigeon**. This hotline bird was found at LO 1/22 (MS,MW), and was seen on at least nine subsequent dates until 4/2 at LO or with a flock of 46 **Am. Wigeon** at a farm pond near Centerport. There were three reports of **Greater White-fronted Goose**, 1 at LO 2/19 (EW), 1 at a farm pond near Oley 3/11 (RK), and 1 at LO 3/22 (MS). All were orange-billed birds (Greenland race). A well-described first-winter **Iceland Gull**, probably a 1st *Berks* record, was seen at LO 2/19 (MS).

LOONS TO DUCKS. Two **Common Loon** were seen in Penn Twp 1/31 (HJS). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Grace Mine pond 1/25 (MW), and the first reported spring migrant was near Huff's Church 3/26 (RK). Ten **Great Blue Heron** were at LO in mid-Jan. (MW), decreasing to 5 a month later. Two **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at BSF 3/30 (IW) were the first reported this year.

Compared to the thousands of **Tundra Swan** that pass through neighboring *Lancaster* and *Lebanon* Cos., few pass through *Berks*. The largest flock reported was 30 birds at LO 3/16 (MW), and 7 others were in the Oley Valley 3/25 (RK). A **Mute Swan** was at LO 1/8 (MS). There were three reports of "blue" **Snow Geese**, all single birds: at LO 2/11-12 and 3/26 (GLF,MS), and near Oley 2/25 (RK). Twelve "white" **Snows** were near Oley 2/25, and 20 were there 3/25+ (RK). A total of 34 neck-banded **Canada Geese** was seen in the Oley Valley during the quarter, representing birds banded in *every coastal state from NY to NC* (RK). A bird of one of the small races of Canada Goose was in Bern Twp 2/22 (HJS), and 1 at Peter's Cr. near LO 3/12 (MS). *Please note that it is important that observers try to get photographs of these small races of Canada Goose. -Eds.*

The first **Wood Duck** reported were 8 at LO 3/13 (RK), followed by reports of smaller numbers from other areas through the end of March. A **Green-winged Teal** at Grace Mine 1/25 (MW) was the only wintering indiv. reported. A few **N. Pintail** winter, and they're also one of the first puddle ducks to return when water opens. Two were at LO 1/29, 12 on 2/25, and 24 on 3/12 (RK). Five **N. Shoveler**, 1 of the least common puddle

ducks at LO, were there 3/19 (MW). **Gadwall** normally winter at Moselem Springs, where the water never freezes. EB counted 35 there 1/7, and 60 were seen 2/8 (RK), but the high count for the species was 110 at LO 1/22 (MS). There were three reports of **Canvasback** at LO: 3 on 2/19 (EW), 2 on 2/25 (MW,RK), and 5 on 3/12 (RK,MS). Two **Ring-necked Ducks** were at LO 1/22 (MW), and the high count was 18 from 3/12-19 (RK,MW). Two **Greater Scaup** were seen in Tulpehocken Twp 3/19 (HJS), and 1 near Huff's Church 3/26 (RK). Of the more common **Lesser Scaup**, 1 was at Grace Mine 1/25 (MW), and the high count was 4 at LO 3/12 (RK). Two **Common Goldeneye** were at LO 2/18 (RK). A **Bufflehead** wintered at BSF and 3 were at LO 2/12 (MW). **Hooded Merganser** increased from 3 at LO 1/22 (MW) to 10 on 2/18-19 (RK,EW). **Common Merganser** has increased at LO in recent years, and at times this winter was the most abundant duck on the lake. MS counted 524 on 2/26, and his high count was 830 on 3/25. A few **Red-breasted Mergansers** were scoped out of the multitudes of Commons, with single birds seen 2/19, 2/25 and 3/5, two on 3/13, and a high of 4 on 3/23. A single **Ruddy Duck** was at LO 1/22 (MW), and a high of 14 on 3/26 (MS).

VULTURES TO OWLS. Two **Black Vulture** were in Pike Twp. 1/15 (RK), 2 had returned to Eckville by 2/1 (LG), and 12 were near Flying Hills 3/30 (EB). There were 20 **Turkey Vulture** roosting in a quarry near Oley 2/5 (RK). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was at LO 1/25 (RK,MW). A total of 6 **N. Harrier** was seen in n. and w. *Berks* in the latter half of Jan. (KG,HJS). The only report of **Cooper's Hawk** was 1 at BSF 2/12 (EB). A **N. Goshawk** was seen flying over Lancaster Ave. in Reading 1/10 (SS,MSI), and 1 was seen in Bern Twp 3/27 (HJS). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was migrating through Pike Twp 3/27 (RK).

A feeder for **Red-tailed Hawk** was discovered near Centerport, where a poultry farm dumps the by-products of butchering on surrounding fields. In Feb., 25-30 Red-tails could be seen there, many of them on the ground squabbling among the crows and sometimes playing tug-of-war with chicken parts (RK,JK,HJS). **Rough-legged Hawk** were seen in farmland at several places, with a high count of 7 in Marion Twp 1/16 (HJS). The latest bird reported was at Blue Marsh L. 3/3 (EB). A **Golden Eagle** was seen in Albany Twp 2/8-9 (*vide* LG).

An **Am. Coot** wintered at BSF and up to 4 were at LO in Jan. The 18 **Common Snipe** in Marion Twp 2/12 were wintering at a traditional location, while 11 seen in the Oley Valley 3/25 were spring migrants (EB,RK). Single **Great Black-backed Gull** were at LO in Feb., 2 were at Angelica Lake 3/24, and a high of 4 was at LO 3/12 (MS). A roost of **Long-eared Owl** in Penn Twp contained 11-13 birds from 1/15 to 3/19 (HJS).

WOODPECKERS TO FINCHES. In Pike Twp on 3/24, a cold, rainy day, a **Hairy Woodpecker** was observed for five minutes on the ground reaching deep into a deer bone picking out the marrow (RK). A flock of 100 **Horned Lark** was seen near Lyons and the same number was seen in Marion Twp 1/8, the day after a snowstorm (HJS, MW). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in Hamburg 1/7 (KG) was the only one reported. The mild winter was easy on **E. Bluebird**, which were reported in flocks of 3-15 birds. The first migrant warbler was a **Pine Warbler** 3/19 near Birdsboro (NCS), and another was in Bern Twp 3/29 (HJS).

Am. Tree Sparrow were scarce this year. The largest flocks reported were 30 birds near Niantic 1/29 (GLF), and 10 in Bern Twp 2/16-20 (HJS). A **Field Sparrow** at LO 3/5 was considered an early migrant (MS). A **Savannah Sparrow**, rarely reported in winter, was near Niantic 1/29 (GLF). A **Fox Sparrow** wintered near Plowville (HL), and the first migrant was reported 3/14 (EB). Two good-sized flocks of **White-crowned Sparrow** were found, one of 20 birds near Niantic 1/29 (GLF), and another of 20 near Centerport 2/4-5 (HJS). One **Lapland Longspur** and 1 **Snow Bunting** were found in a Horned Lark flock near Lyons 3/8 (MW). The only **Purple Finch** reported were 1 bird at LO 1/22 (MW), and 5 in Bern Twp. 3/29 (HJS).

OBSERVERS: Ed Barrell, Gary L. Freed, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Rudy Keller, RD 4, Box 235, Boyertown PA 19512, Joanne Kintner, Harold Lebo, Scott Schreiber, Harold & Joan Silagy, Mike Slater, Norman & Cyrell Smith, Matt Spence, Ira Weigley, Eric Witmer, Matt Wlasniewski.

BLAIR COUNTY

David Kyler

Locations: Brush Mt. (BMT), Canoe Creek SP (CCSP), L. Altoona (LA), Sinking Valley (SV).

This quarter proved to be a mild and dry one. Below average amounts of precipitation fell, while average temperatures were above normal. No unusual species appeared and observations were by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

Nine **Common Loon** and 1 **Red-throated Loon**, in winter plumage, were reported at CCSP 3/16 (TW,RW). Thirty-six **Horned Grebe**, 260 **Tundra Swan**, and 10 **N. Pintail** were found on LA 3/15, 3/26, and 3/12 respectively. Other waterfowl reported from LA include 1 **White-winged Scoter** 3/29, 60 **Oldsquaw** 3/29, and **Lesser Scaup** 3/16 (BK). Early arriving **Ruddy Duck** were on CCSP 3/30 as well as all 3 merganser species, in good numbers, on the same date. Also reported all quarter was a group of 8-10 **Great Blue Heron** at CCSP. **Bonaparte's Gull** arrived at CCSP 3/28, with a feeding flock count of 60+ (TW,RW).

Raptors included **N. Harrier** 1/28 (MB) and 2/17 (BK), both reports from SV. An ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen at CCSP 3/14 and was reported locally for the next ten days (TW,RW). Two **Common Snipe** were in a SV wetland 3/9, while on the higher BMT **Ruffed Grouse** were drumming 3/25 (MB). A single **Barred Owl** was observed on BMT 1/7 (MB).

Over-wintering **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** continue to use BMT, as they have in years past, with sightings made all quarter (MB). Sinking Valley remains the hotspot for over-wintering **Horned Lark**, with good numbers reported all three months. Sparrows reported included **Chipping** on BM 3/30, **Tree** at Mill Run 2/2, and **Fox** at BM 3/19. Bonta reports that this was the poorest feeding year in the past 17 seasons at Brush Mt.

OBSERVERS: Marcia Bonta, Bill King, **David Kyler, RD 4, Box 159A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030)**, Russ Wade, Terry Wentz.

BRADFORD COUNTY

Bill Reid

This past winter was the most open winter in many years. Snowfall for the entire winter was only slightly over 7" - a record low at the Avoca Weather Station. Precipitation during the quarter was only about half the normal amount.

Many persons throughout the 4-county area reported a scarcity of birds at feeders. I did not have a single bird at my feeder until 3/27 when 2 **Blue Jay** appeared. The Susquehanna R. was open almost all winter, and more ducks wintered than usual. Reversing a pattern in recent years, **Am. Black Duck** generally outnumbered **Mallard**.

A heavy night flight of **Canada Geese** was noted in all 4 Cos. on 3/11, when flocks were heard flying over the entire area in a constant stream. M. Norris reports that several **Evening Grosbeak** (!) overwintered near his home at New Albany. He did say that they were not as common as usual. No other northern finches were reported.

A small flock of **Snow Bunting** was seen e. of Sayre about 2/1 (EC). A single **Evening Grosbeak** was at Spring Hill 1/28 (EB); MN reports that several **Evening Grosbeak** (!) overwintered near his home at New Albany. He did say that they were not as common as usual.

OBSERVERS: Elizabeth Beebe, Earl Cowden, Mike Norris **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**.

BUCKS COUNTY

Bruce McNaught

Locations: Delaware R., L. Galena in Peace Valley Park (PVP), L. Luxembourg in Core Creek Park (CCP).

LOONS TO WATERFOWL. An early **Common Loon** was seen on the river 2/15 in Upper Black Eddy (RH) and only 1 at PVP at the end of Mar. **Pied-billed Grebe**, usually seen in Mar. on the larger reservoirs, were not seen all quarter. Six imm. **Great Cormorant** were reported 3/10 sitting on a large buoy in the river near the *Bucks/ Philadelphia* line (EF). A flock of 6 **Tundra Swan** arrived 3/15 and stayed until early Apr., two

weeks later than usual (KK). One of the best records for the period was a **Barnacle Goose** mixed in with thousands of **Canada Geese** at PVP 2/4-19, when many of the other geese left for the season. During the same period, a **Greater White-fronted Goose** was also found. It appeared again briefly the week of 3/12 (FM). A "blue" **Snow Goose** was at PVP 2/26 and another at CCP 2/5 (BAM). An Eurasian race of the **Green-winged Teal** (*Anas crecca crecca*) remained at PVP 1/11 to 2/14. This former full species has been seen there in previous years.



Greater White-fronted Goose, Peace Valley Park, 2/7/89, Photo by F. Haas.

Good numbers of other waterfowl were also seen. A pair of **Gadwall** were at PVP 3/9-11 and another pair at Nockamixon SP 3/18. Large numbers of **Ring-necked Duck** and **Ruddy Duck** were at PVP all quarter (KK), while 12 **Common Goldeneye** were on the river at Center Bridge 2/15 (BAM).

HAWKS TO OWLS. The first **Osprey** was seen at PVP 3/29, about the usual time (KK). An ad. **Bald Eagle** perched in trees on the river near Point Pleasant 2/26-27 (SY). At PVP a **N. Goshawk** was reported 3/19 and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** 2/8.

Am. Woodcock arrived a little later than usual, about the first week of Mar., rather than the third week of Feb. Several **Long-eared Owl** and 1 **N. Saw-whet Owl** were seen periodically in cedars at PVP all quarter. The Saw-whet became quite a celebrity, sitting in a cedar over a park bench, posing for pictures for many local birders (FM). It was last seen 3/2.

PHOEBE TO SISKIN. The first **E. Phoebe** was reported 2/15 in Upper Bucks along the Delaware Canal (RH). Only 1 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported and this indiv. remained at a feeding station in Carversville throughout the month of March (NH).

A **Winter Wren** was reported at PVP 1/18 (FM). The **Carolina Wren** is doing well, seen and/or heard almost everywhere. **E. Bluebird** were exploring boxes as early as mid-Feb. **Am. Robin** and **Cedar Waxwing** were somewhat fewer than usual during Jan. and Feb. However, a flock of 120 robins remained near the holly orchard at the Honey Hollow Environ. Educ. Center most of the winter (BAM).

An unusual early sighting of **Fox Sparrow** was at PVP 1/21 with reports from many feeding stations during Mar. **Rusty Blackbird** seen at PVP 3/14-21 (KK). No report of **Purple Finch**, **Pine Siskin**, or **Evening Grosbeak** during the entire quarter.

OBSERVERS: Ed Fingerhood, Ray Hendrick, Nancy Holmquist, Ken Kitson, **Bruce A. McNaught, RD 1, Box 263A, New Hope 18938 (215-297-5880)**, Fred Mears, Sharon Yarmark.

CARBON COUNTY

Bernie Morris

Locations: Beltzville SP (BSP), Wild Creek Res. (WCR).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at BSP 1/5 (RW). A few **Tundra Swan** and at least 120 **Snow Geese** were seen flying over Mauch Chunk L. 3/26 (PC,JW). The mild winter weather permitted many bodies of water that normally freeze solid to stay open. This attracted many waterfowl to stay in Jan. and Feb. when they are usually gone. **Common Goldeneye**, **Common** and **Hooded** mergansers, and a **Ring-necked Duck** were at BSP 1/14 (PZ). Ten Hooded Merganser were there 2/20 (RW). A very early

♂ **White-winged Scoter** was at WCR 3/12 (RW). On 3/18, 80 **Ring-necks**, 2 **N. Pintail**, 20+ scaup sp., 25 **Common Merganser**, and 8 **Wood Duck** were also at this spot (RW). On 3/26 about 10 **Greater Scaup** and all three species of merganser were at WCR (BLM).

Two **N. Harrier** and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** were seen near BSP 3/4, and an ad. **Bald Eagle** was at WCR 3/12 (RW). Two other **Bald Eagle** were seen at Mauch Chunk L. 3/26 (JW). A **N. Goshawk** spent the season near Leighton (BR). A group of at least 75 **Killdeer** were seen on a wet lawn near Jim Thorpe 3/24 (PC). Many **E. Bluebird** were found near Leighton (DK, BR) and BSP (JH). A large flock of **Am. Robin** was present at BSP most of the season, over 100 were seen there in mid-Jan (PZ, JH).

A **singing N. Shrike** was found at the boat launch area of BSP 2/18 (RZ). The bird was relocated the next day, but could not be found again although it was looked for by many birders. Another one was seen there 3/22 (RW). BSP seems to be a favorite spot for this rare winter visitor. The first **E. Phoebe** was at BSP 3/18, along with 2 **E. Meadowlark** (RW). A **singing Am. Tree Sparrow** was also at this location 3/22 (RW).

OBSERVERS: Phillip Campbell, Jason Horn, Dan Kunkle, **Bernard L. Morris**, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Barry Reed, Rick Wiltraut, Judy Wink, Gordon Yoder, Richard ZainEldeen, Peter Zakrewski.

CENTRE COUNTY

John and Becky Peplinski

Locations: Bald Eagle SP (BESP), Colyer L. (CL).

January's average temperature of 33.6° was 6.6° above normal. Above normal temperatures continued into Feb. and Mar. with average temperatures of 29.5° (+1.4°) and 39.3° (+2.8°) respectively. Precipitation for the period was 8.03", just 0.6" below normal. Snowfall was much below normal, with little snow cover for most of the quarter.

A single **Pied-billed Grebe** found on Spring Cr. at Houserville 12/26 (MW) was present through 2/1 (ES). **Horned Grebe** were reported from CL, when 2 were present 3/26 and 5 on 3/31 (KJ, JJ). Forty-two **Tundra Swan** stopped at Toftrees Pond 3/4 (JP, BP), and 50+ were at CL 3/12 (KJ, JJ). Other waterfowl reports include **Blue-winged Teal** at BESP 3/22 (MW), 2 **Am. Wigeon** at CL 3/12 (KJ, JJ) and 8 **Ring-necked Duck** at CL 3/13 (KJ, JJ). All three merganser species were at BESP 3/7 (PS, GS).

One **Black Vulture** was seen 3/18 flying with a **Turkey Vulture** near Fairbrook (JP, BP). Although this species breeds just to the south in *Huntingdon*, it is rarely observed in *Centre*. **Bald Eagle** are rare during the winter in our area, so the 1 ad. at BESP 1/1 (AF, RF, JP, BP) and the 2 ad. there 1/16 (MW) were noteworthy. Two **Bald Eagle** 3/4 (DB, BB) and an ad. 3/7 (PS, GS) were also present at BESP. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at BESP 1/1 (PS, GS). The last report of **Rough-legged Hawk** was the 1 seen near Fairbrook 3/25 (JP).

A single **Barred Owl** was recorded on the BESP Christmas Count 1/1 (RH), and 2 were seen and heard at CL 3/12 (m.ob.). **Fish Crow** returned to State College on schedule, 2/20, when 2 were seen and heard on the Penn State Campus (JP). Another **N. Shrike** report, probably the same indiv. reported last quarter, was observed at the boat marina at BESP 1/16 (MW), was rediscovered nearby 2/21, 25 (JP, BP), and was apparently present through the end of the quarter.

An early **Pine Warbler** flew into the side of a birder's house in Houserville 3/19, stunning itself long enough to permit an up-close examination (DBe). The dead **Lapland Longspur** (fresh roadkill) found 2/12 near Tusseyville (DB) was the only record for the period. The first **Common Grackle** appeared in the State College Area 2/26. **Red-winged Blackbird** were first noted near Houserville 2/19 (ES) and near Fairbrook 2/20 (JP).

No **Pine Grosbeak**, crossbill, or **Pine Siskin** was reported for the period. In addition, for the first winter since 1956-57, **Evening Grosbeak** were not reported in Centre County!

OBSERVERS: Dave Bell, Dorothy & Blanche Bordner, Alice & Roana Fuller, Randy Harrison, Katherine & Jennings Jones, **John & Becky Peplinski** 4 Beaver Branch Road, Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace, 16865 (814-238-6541), Paul & Glenna Schwalbe, Edgar Spalding, Merrill Wood.

CHESTER COUNTY

Jerry Pasquarella

Locations: Honey Brook (HB), Kurtz's Fish Farm (KFF), Marsh Creek SP (MCSP), Struble L. (SL).

Very few reports were received for this quarter. The winter was a mild one, with average to less-than-average rainfall. Still water was frozen for only a short time.

Common Loon was first observed at MCSP 3/30, with 2 indiv. present. **Twelve Horned Grebe** were there 3/28 and 2 were at SL 3/29. On 3/19 three **Pied-billed Grebe** were at MCSP and 2 were at SL 3/31. A single **Great Blue Heron** remained at SL all quarter. The first **Tundra Swan** were at SL 1/25, with 2 observed. Groups of 2-4 were seen at SL and MCSP 3/14-22. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** of the Greenland race was first seen at SL 2/3 and seen sporadically until at least 2/19. A flock of 16 **Snow Goose** (all "white") were at the Church Farm School property 1/21. Other reports of Snow Geese were of 1 "blue" at SL 3/12, 80 at SL 3/18, and 44 near SL 3/19. I had a rather awe-inspiring sight of 75-80 indiv. flying over my home on 3/18 at night. They were at first hard to locate, but when I finally did, their path led them directly across the half-waned moon. (Oh, if we could only put in a photograph that which we see in our binoculars...).

The first **Wood Duck** report was of a pair near Mortonville 3/7 and another at SL 3/11. A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** were on a pond near SL 3/29-30, while 2 pair of **N. Shoveler** were at KFF 3/30. Two **Am. Wigeon** were at MCSP 1/30. Two pair of **Canvasback** were at MCSP 3/9-15 and a **Redhead** there 3/15. Thirty-nine **Ring-necked Duck** were at MCSP 3/9, with 8 still there 3/15. **Oldsquaw** reports were of 1 at MCSP 3/10, 1 at SL 3/29 and 2 at MCSP the same day. One or 2 **Common Goldeneye** were regular at MCSP 1/5+. A ♂ **Hooded Merganser** was at MCSP 3/15. At least 6, and as many as 15, **Ruddy Duck** were at MCSP all quarter.

Bald Eagle reports included an ad. fly-over in Honeybrook Twp. 3/15 and 2 ad. flying over W. Pikeland Twp 3/25. Two **N. Harrier** were observed at SL 3/21 and 1 near Mortonville 3/22. An **Am. Woodcock** was heard at MCSP 3/15 and at least 4 were displaying at dusk near my home 3/11-24. A single **Bonaparte's Gull** was at Octoraro Res. 1/5 and another at SL 3/29. Two **Great Black-backed Gull** were at SL 2/5. I noted **Ring-billed Gull** every day from 1/5 to 3/12!

Two **Short-eared Owl** were at SL 2/14 until at least 2/20. The 2 **Red-headed Woodpecker** on Pleasant View Rd. were seen all quarter. The first **E. Phoebe** was near HB 3/26. **Horned Lark** were rather scarce in the fields around HB. The first **Tree Swallow** report was of 12 at SL 3/16, a somewhat early date.

If anyone observes any **E. Bluebirds with colored bands** near Marsh Creek State Park, or anywhere nearby, please note where you observed it (location), the color of the band, which leg it was on, and on which leg the aluminum USF&WS band is on and send the information to me. Thank you.



Brewer's Blackbird, Westtown, 1/21/89, Photo by F. Haas.

The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reported were 2 that were "resident" in a yard off Swedesford Rd. near Exton throughout the period. A single **Water Pipit** was observed in Honeybrook Twp 3/8. **Cedar Waxwing** were noted as nearly nonexistent. **Am. Tree Sparrow** proved rather difficult to find. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was reported at a feeder in Pocopson Twp 3/7; it was only there that one day. The last report of the **Brewer's Blackbird** flock that was in Westtown Twp was 2/14. Except for a few **Purple Finch** at feeders, no other "winter finches" were reported.

OBSERVERS: Barry Blust, Barb & Frank Haas, Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Lane, Coatesville 19320 (215-486-6440), Grier Saunders, Neal Thorpe.

CLARION COUNTY

Margaret Buckwalter

Locations: Clarion Area (CA), Cook Forest SP (CFSP), Curltsville (CVL), Shippenville Area (SVA), Mt. Zion (MZ).

A flock of ± 50 **Tundra Swan** flew over SGL 72 near SVA and CA 3/3. Many flocks of swans flew over between 3:30 and 5:30 a.m. 3/12. Five scaup *sp.* were observed at CFSP (Clarion R.) 3/12. A pair of **Hooded Merganser** were also on the river 3/22-23. **Common Merganser** were on the river 3/5+, with 9 being the high count.

N. Harrier, up to 4, were at CVL and MZ all quarter. An imm. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** visited a SVA feeder 1/21, 2/3,6, and 3/12. A **Cooper's Hawk** near Elk City was the only one observed. An **Am. Kestrel** was hunting the strip mine at CVL 3/25. Several **Belted Kingfisher** hunted over the mostly open Clarion R. all quarter.

The **Short-eared Owls**, which *bred* last year (see PB 2:55-56), were still present this winter, with up to two pairs at MZ (WF) and 1 pair at CVL on the reclaimed strip mines. They were usually interactive individuals - flying and hunting together in pairs. Often they were observed reacting to the presence of the harriers and vice versa. The harriers, active earlier in the day, have been seen to swoop down on the owls when they emerged near sunset.

A **Carolina Wren** hung out at a SVA feeder all winter. **Horned Lark** were at MZ 2/10,23. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were present at CFSP 2/23. The first **Red-winged Blackbird** appeared at MZ 2/23; an early **E. Meadowlark** at CVL 2/16. A single **Pine Siskin** visited a SVA feeder 3/23 along with a flock of **Am. Goldfinch** that had been coming regularly.

OBSERVERS: Margaret Buckwalter, RD 2, Box 26, Shippenville 16254, Walter Fye.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY

Edgar Spalding

Birders in the Dubois area held the Wapiti CBC on 1/2 this year, and highlights are included in this report. A **Common Loon** was seen 3/31 (MA), as was a **Pied-billed Grebe** 3/28 (JS). A **Great Blue Heron** made the count 1/2 (TC), as did 17 **Canada Geese** (MA). The first report of **Wood Duck** was 3/28 (MA). **Green-winged Teal**, **Blue-winged Teal** and **Am. Wigeon** were all noted 3/28 as well (JS). The first **Ring-necked Duck** was seen 3/27 (MA). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen 3/31 (MA).

A **N. Harrier** was seen 1/2 (JS), as were 3 **Am. Kestrel**. Six **Wild Turkey** were seen 1/2 (JS). Marianne Atkinson witnessed a **Cooper's Hawk** do the whole world a favor by nabbing a Starling 3/13. The first reports of **Killdeer** were 2/21 (JS) and 3/8 (MA). The Wapiti CBC recorded 1 **E. Screech-Owl** (JS), 2 **Great Horned Owl** (MA, J&DS), 4 **Barred Owl** (ESc,JK,JS) and 1 **N. Saw-whet Owl** (JS).

The 2 **Belted Kingfisher** seen 1/2 were reported throughout the quarter (MA). The **N. Flicker** seen 1/2 (JS) may not have stayed the winter as the next reports were 3/28 (JS) and 3/29 (MA). Four **Pileated Woodpecker** were reported 1/2 (TC,A&EL,MM) and 1 on 3/8 (JS). **E. Phoebe** was first reported 3/27 (JS). Two **Carolina Wren** (MM) and 1 **Winter Wren** (DS) were seen on the CBC.

E. Bluebird were reported sporadically throughout the quarter. Only 1 **Am. Robin** was seen on the CBC, with regular sightings beginning

3/3 (MA). Marianne Atkinson saw a partial albino robin 3/18. It had a nearly all white head, with white spots over its body. The only 2 reports of **N. Mockingbird** were 2/6 and 3/28 (MA). **Cedar Waxwing** were seen 3/14 and 3/16 (MA). **Am. Tree Sparrow** was reported all quarter, with the last 3/28 (MA). The first **Chipping Sparrow** was seen 3/18 (MA), and a **Field Sparrow** just made this report on 3/31 (JS). A **Swamp Sparrow** 3/18 (MA) was early.

The earliest **Red-winged Blackbird** was seen 2/21 (JS). **E. Meadowlark** was first seen 3/22 (JS). **Common Grackle** showed up in early March, and were busy with nest building by 3/25 (MA). **Brown-headed Cowbird** returned to the area 3/12 (MA). There was no report of either **Pine Siskin** or **Evening Grosbeak**.

OBSERVERS: Marianne Atkinson, Tom Caruso, Asbury & Esther Lee, III, Marjorie Myers, Eve Scholl, Denny Shaffner, Jocelynn & Dan Smrekar, Edgar Spalding, 115 Old Houserville Road, State College 16801.

CLINTON COUNTY

Paul and Glenna Schwalbe

The winter was quite mild. During this period the mean low, mean high, and total precipitation respectively were: January 21°, 41°, 2.6"; February 21°, 39°, 5.37"; March 28°, 51°, 5.95".

Our flock of about 15 **Tundra Swan** remained on the river near McElhattan all quarter. This is the *first* time to our knowledge there has been a flock of wintering swan in this area. A major cold air mass moved south through PA on 2/1-2. On the morning of 2/2, a flight of ± 40 **Ring-billed Gull** were on the river. The question is... were they going north or south?

On 2/22, the first spring movement of waterfowl was detected in Lock Haven, involving about ± 300 indiv. Most were **Mallard** and **Am. Black Duck**, but the group included 14 **Tundra Swan**, 10 **Canada Geese**, 8 **N. Pintail**, and 2 **Am. Wigeon**.

The night of 3/28-29 produced a rain storm and the following species were on the river in Lock Haven 3/29. Five **Pied-billed Grebe**, 44 **Horned Grebe**, 1 **Gadwall**, 11 **Am. Wigeon**, 1 **Redhead**, 8 **Ring-necked Duck**, 6 **Lesser Scaup**, 22 **Oldsquaw**, 6 **Common Goldeneye**, 4 **Bufflehead**, 7 **Red-breasted Merganser**, and 1 **Bonaparte's Gull**.

OBSERVERS: Paul and Glenna Schwalbe, 546 Wilson St., Jersey Shore 17740 (717-398-4514).

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Doug Gross

Locations: Briar Creek Lake (BCL), Rohrsburg (Rbrg).

It was a dry, brown winter that frustrated birders and skiers alike. Not only were many traditional winter species rare or absent, but so were semihardy species that we expect to thrive in such circumstances. General statements were based on observations shared by NBBC members: unless otherwise noted, specific observations by compiler.

WATER BIRDS. **Great Blue Heron** were fairly common along the Susquehanna R. all winter. All species of waterfowl, except **Canada Goose**, were less common than in most winters. Over 70 **Canada Geese** wintered in the Berwick area along the *Luzerne* boundary; many were paired up in late Feb. and are probably local residents. **Wood Duck** were seen as early as 3/26 near Jonestown (SK). **A. Wigeon**, **Ring-necked Duck** (24), and **N. Shoveler** (2) were seen at BCL 3/18 (KH). **Ring-billed Gull** were conspicuously common in *Columbia* farmland in early Mar., and inaugurated the new *Columbia* Mall parking lot with the usual "seagull souvenirs." **Belted Kingfisher** made the best of the open water and were fairly common all winter.

RAPTORS. A **Bald Eagle** was seen circling over the Berwick - Nescopeck bridge 2/17 (KH), but none over-wintered in the area. **Red-tailed Hawk** were particularly common this winter and **Am. Kestrel** have rebounded very well from low populations of the recent past. **Rough-legged Hawk** were scarce; 1 observed at Rbrg 3/25. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were again frequently seen this winter. Four **N. Harrier** (2 pairs?) stayed the winter in large fields near Rbrg, feeding on a plentiful vole population. **Great Horned Owl** were commonly observed throughout the county. **Short-eared Owl** were observed near Rbrg 2/11+. As many as 4 **Short-ears** hunted here in open fields through the rest of the quarter; **Short-ears** are rare winter visitors in *Columbia*.

UPLAND GAMEBIRDS. **Ring-necked Pheasant** were definitely on

the rebound near Rbrg, but still uncommon elsewhere. **Wild Turkey** are still doing well in the area with many flocks reported. **Mourning Dove** seemed more common than ever; some gathering nesting material at Rbrg 3/18.

WOODPECKERS AND SONGBIRDS. Several observers commented on the increase of wintering **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, not only in lowlands and towns (D&HM), but also in uplands (DG). Surprisingly few **N. Flicker** over-wintered. **E. Phoebe** were first sighted at Rbrg 3/18. **Tree Swallow** were first reported from Jonestown 3/28 (SK). Fewer than usual **Blue Jay** wintered in the Rbrg area. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were uncommon all winter. **Horned Lark** were surprisingly rare, but SK found 6 near Jonestown 3/27. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were nearly absent this winter. A single **Gray Catbird** was seen feeding on suet in the backyard of DH in Espy, beginning 3/7, and intermittently through the month. It apparently over-wintered in the shrubby, overgrown "Espy Bog" nearby. **Carolina Wren** and **Eastern Bluebird** continued to increase, compared to prior winters, but **Am. Robin** were only reported from Rbrg 2/19, before the spring migration began. **Cedar Waxwing** were uncommon and irregular. **Dark-eyed Junco** were less common than usual, but were about the only bird which reminded us that it was winter. **White-throated** and **Am. Tree Sparrows** were curiously uncommon this winter, although a few **Trees** banded in prior years faithfully returned to DG's feeder/banding station. **E. Meadowlark** returned to Rbrg 3/15. **House Finch** seemed omnipresent; **Purple**, rare. **Evening Grosbeak** were not reported by anyone; it is the *first* winter in the adult life of the compiler that he did not observe this species. **Red-winged Blackbird** flocks were uncommonly earlier and larger in February.

OBSERVERS: Nancy Dennis, John Fridman, John & Sue Graves, Douglas A. Gross, c/o Ecology III, Inc., RD 1, Berwick, PA 18603, Doyle Harris, Karen Hiller, Scott Killam, Diana and Hugh McFadden, Robert G. Sagar, the North Branch Bird Club.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Ronald F. Leberman

Locations: *Conneaut Marsh (CM), Erie NWR (ENWR), Meadville (MDV), Pymatuning SP [including the Causeway, Ford I., Linesville Fish Hatchery, Goose Management Area, Spillway (PSP)], Saegertown, Tamarack L. (TL), Woodcock L. (WL).*

All sightings by RFL and/or MNL unless otherwise noted. All waterfowl records were from PSP areas unless otherwise indicated.

A **Great Blue Heron** was along French Cr. near Meadville 1/7. One **Greater White-fronted Goose** (pink-bill race) was found 1/21 (LW,HB,SM). **Snow Goose** reports include 1 "white" 1/7-22 (m.ob.) and 5 "blue" 1/21 (LW,HB,SM) with 2 there 1/22 (SF). A **Barnacle Goose** (escapee?) was at the GMA 1/14-29 (BD,RFL); it seemed very alert and active while feeding in with a group of **Canada Geese**. It was apparently banded, but I did not see the band while it was feeding in high grassy stubble.

A **Wood Duck** wintered in Cambridge Springs (JJS). One **N. Pintail** was at CM 2/17. Two **Gadwall** were seen 1/1 and 10 on 2/11. High was 18 **Canvasback** 2/11, while only 2 **Redhead** were seen 2/18. **Lesser Scaup** counts were 2 on 2/11 and 6 near FI 2/18. Some 300 **Common Goldeneye** were seen 2/11. A **Common Merganser** was noted 1/19, while 5 **Red-breasted Merganser** were found 2/18. One **Ruddy Duck** was at CM 1/1.

The **Sandhill Crane** reported last issue was again seen 3/24 (JBB). A **Golden Eagle** was at PSP between LFH and FI 2/11. I was able to study it in a 30x scope for a good ten minutes on the ice near an imm. **Bald Eagle** for good comparison and also at close range in the air. A **N. Goshawk** was e. of Cambridge Springs 1/15. Four **Rough-legged Hawk** remained in the GMA through the period, although more scattered than most years, perhaps due to the lack of snow cover. Despite the paucity (3) of **Ring-billed Gull** on the CBC 12/18, some 500 were noted at PSP 1/1 and 100 near FI 2/18. Also found were 4 **Herring Gull** at PSP 1/1. A **Barred Owl** was heard at Saeger Hill 1/10.

One **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was at CM 1/29. A **Brown Creeper** remained at our feeder to 1/24 and 1 **Carolina Wren** was visiting until 1/21. **Am. Robin** were observed through Feb. in very small groups, often just singles. One **N. Mockingbird** was at a feeder near Wayland 1/10 (MS).

A few **Red-winged Blackbird** were found at area feeders all winter. The start of migration was noted 2/1 at CM, including some **Common Grackle**. Except for 6 **Pine Siskin** at Saegertown 1/12 (RV), no other

northern finches were reported.

OBSERVERS: Jim & Bonnie Baird, Harriet Bauer, Barb Dean, Sara Flaugh, Ron Harrell, Jeff Holbrook, Mary N. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, RD #1, Saeger Hill, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071), Shirley McCarl, Margaret Smith, Russ States, Jean & Jim Stull, Ralph Vogan, Loraine Weiland.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Locations: *Big Springs (BGS), Boiling Springs L. (BSL), Greens Spring Area (GSA), Huntsdale Fish Hatchery (HFH), Kuhn L. (KL), Mud Level Rd. (MLR), Opossum L. (OL), Pine Grove Furnace SP (PGF), Ralston Purina Pond (RPP), West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL).*

With the relatively mild winter, open water was easily found, but unfortunately northern finches were not. An average March led to a fairly average migration.

For the season, loons were down, but 15 **Common Loon** were at KL 3/31 and an impressive 27 at OL (DHe). Two **Pied-billed Grebe** at OL 3/18 marked the first for the season. Also at OL, but 3/30, were a high count of 9 **Horned Grebe** (DHe). Five **Black-crowned Night-Heron** returned to HFH 3/18 (DHe). Peak numbers of **Tundra Swan** also came from w. *Cumberland*, with 160 at OL (DHe). And from 3/21-30 a **Mute Swan** was at KL (DHe). **Wood Duck** seemed to arrive back in excellent numbers all over, with a high of 12 at GSA (DHe).

Waterfowl migration was good. A list with high counts for each species included:

Species	No.	Where	When
G-w Teal	9	WFBL	3/28 (DH)
N. Pintail	17	WFBL	3/20 (DH)
B-w Teal	6	HFH	3/25 (DHe)
N. Shoveler	3	KL	3/28 (DHe)
Am. Wigeon	23	BSL	3/7 (DH)
Canvasback	3	OL	3/5 (DHe)
Redhead	8	RPP	2/25 (DH)
R-n Duck	15	KL	3/19 (DHe)
Gr. Scaup	20	RS	3/19 (DHe)
Ls. Scaup	35	WFBL	3/12 (DH)
Oldsquaw	1	OL	3/26 (DHe)
*W-w Scoter	6	KL	3/31 (DHe)
C. Goldeneye	17	WFBL	3/5 (DH)
Bufflehead	69	WFBL	2/23 (DH)
H. Merganser	11	WFBL	3/21 (DH)
C. Merganser	48	KL	3/5 (DHe)
R-b Merganser	13	WFBL	3/17 (DH)

The **White-winged Scoter** may be our *1st documented* record. Also the first **Am. Coot** came from OL 3/29 (JS). The only **Rough-legged Hawk** came from MLR 2/6 (DHe).

Notable shorebird reports include an early **Greater Yellowlegs** at OL 3/19 (DHe) and a boon weekend for **Am. Woodcock** 3/25-26, when the temperatures shot up to the 70s. Several places had displaying birds including SGL #169, SGL #230, and PGF.

The first **E. Phoebe** was at BGS 3/18 (DHe). **Horned Lark** did well at MLR, with a high of 200 on 3/7 and 3/24 (DHe). **Tree Swallow** were back at WFBL 3/20 (DH). **Common Raven** are seemingly on the increase in the South Mt. area, with pairs of birds seen at several locations. A high of 7 was seen frolicking 2/21 (DH). Eight **Water Pipit** were seen at ML 3/26 (DHe). Holdover **Yellow-rumped Warbler** stayed at BGS in good numbers, with 15 on 1/2 (DHe).

Migrant and winter sparrows and finches did well with the following reported: **Swamp Sparrow** at SGL #169 3/12 (DHe); **Rufous-sided Towhee** at GSA 1/9 (HH); a high of 10 **White-crowned Sparrow** at KL 1/8 (DHe); 1 **Lapland Longspur** at MLR 3/9-10 (DHe); 1 **Snow Bunting** at ML 1/4-6 (DHe); ±5 **Purple Finch** at BGS and OL 3/18-25 (DHe,JS); 3 **Fox Sparrow** at OL 3/15-23 (JS).

The first **Red-winged Blackbird** were back at KL 2/18 (DHe) and 20 **Rusty Blackbird** were at WFBL 3/27 (DH).

OBSERVERS: Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475), Don Henise, Dr. Herbert Hayes, Judy Stine.

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Steve Santner

Locations: Stony Creek Valley (SCV), Susquehanna R. (SR), West Fairview (WF), Wildwood L. Nature Center (WLNC).

After a very cold Dec., the remainder of the winter was mild with very little snow. As a result, the Susquehanna R. remained at least partly open throughout the winter. Waterfowl were much more numerous than usual. Most species wintering here from farther north, however, were less common than normally. "Winter finches" in particular were almost absent. There were no rarities.

The first **Great Egret** of the season was 1 at WLNC 3/6 (EC), a somewhat early date. Due to the open water on the SR, **Tundra Swan** were present all winter (EC). Three **Snow Geese** were at WF 2/1-15 (KH). **Canada Geese** and **Tundra Swan** moved out almost all at once during the warm front of 3/14-15. A total of 900 Canada Geese was seen passing overhead within a 15-minute period in Harrisburg (JC). An **Am. Wigeon** was at WF 1/29 (SS) and **Ring-necked Duck** were there throughout Jan. (KH). Up to 35 scaup were also at WF throughout Feb. and March (m.ob.). Most were **Lesser**, but 3 **Greater** were found 2/26 (SS). Two **Oldsquaw** were seen here 2/25 (KH) and 2 **Hooded Merganser** 1/29 (SS).

Unlike previous years and contrary to the overall trend of this species, no **Black Vulture** was seen at the w. end of SCV through the end of the period (BH). A **N. Goshawk** was at its nest site at (*location deleted*) 3/25 (SS). **Am. Woodcock** are not uncommon in the SCV area and can be found s. to the n. suburbs of Harrisburg, but 1 found 3/28 almost in the city was unusual (EC).

Early landbird migration was generally about average, with few reports of unusual species. However, the imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** present from Nov. through 1/20 at a feeder in w. SCV was exceptional (BH). This bird, as well as some of the **Red-bellied Woodpecker** at this location, seem to prefer sunflower seeds to suet. **E. Phoebe** was somewhat late returning; the first was 3/18 in SV (BH). **Tree Swallow** are commonly found moving up the river in mid-March, but the 1 investigating a nest box in Stony Valley several miles away 3/18 was early (BH). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was nearly absent this winter; the only report was of 1 that spent the winter at a feeder in Hershey (DS). The only **Water Pipit** report was of 100+ seen near Halifax 3/26 (BH). No **Purple Finch** was found and even **Am. Goldfinch** numbers were down, with only a few wintering in Stony Valley (BH).

OBSERVERS: Ed Chubb, Joe Church, Kermit Henning, Barb Huffman, Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857), Dave Schwenk.

Our thanks go to Joe Church, who compiled the excellent Dauphin County accounts for two years. Steve Santner has graciously accepted the responsibility in addition to Lebanon County. Please note the change and send your reports to Steve.

DELAWARE COUNTY

Al Guarente

Locations: Crum Cr. Res. (CCR), Ridley Creek SP (RCSP), Springton Res. (SR), Tinicum National Environmental Center (TNEC), Tyler Arboretum (TA).

In general it was a very calm and warm winter season, with temperatures usually 3-4° above normal. One minor snowstorm and very little rainfall left the Delco area to contemplate enforcing water restrictions due to anticipated drought conditions. Either because of the warm weather or for some unknown reasons, winter finches did not materialize at all this season.

The biggest worry expressed by the majority of birders is the mass destruction of thousands of acres of habitat for the construction of the Blue Route (the cross-county expressway). We can only wait to see what the end result will be, but I think everyone has a good guess as to the result it will have on the local bird world.

LOONS TO DUCKS. At Gov. Printz Park on the Delaware R., 1 **Common Loon** was seen 1/8 (AG). One lone **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at Glen Providence Park 3/27 (CS). Three **Cattle Egret** were observed along Darby Cr. near Tinicum 3/30 (JCM). Five **Tundra Swan** were on SR 3/18 (AG). Migrating through Media were two flocks of **Snow Geese** (JL); 1 flock had 60 birds, the other was ±75, which was led by a "blue" phase.

Two **Wood Duck** at CCR 2/19 apparently were seen on and off again all winter. Also 2 **Woodies** were at RCSP 3/10 (NP). There were 27 **Ring-necked Duck** present on Tinicum I. 3/27 (BS); 1 **Ring-necked Duck** and 2 **Hooded Merganser** were found resting on SR 3/5 (SC, RM) and 2 **Hooded Merganser** were at Tinicum I. 3/19 (BS). At least 12 **Com. Meganser** spent the month of Mar. on SR (BH). At least 50 **Ruddy Duck** were at the Essington Ponds throughout the period. Apparently these birds never rebounded from the oil spill of years gone by or else they have found a different wintering ground.

VULTURES TO OWLS. One **Black Vulture** at RCSP 3/9 was the only report (NP). An imm. **Bald Eagle** was found cruising over the town of Swarthmore in late Jan. and seen again the next day in Media (HMc). At the Phila. Airport the usual 3-4 **N. Harrier** were present all quarter. A **Cooper's Hawk** was spotted in Lima 2/10 (WC). Two **N. Goshawk** were observed in Swarthmore (HMc). One ad. was observed for 20 minutes as it sat in a tree on the Swarthmore College campus 1/29. It was probably the same ad. seen at the Springhaven Country Club on several occasion with pigeons it had captured. Another **Goshawk**, an imm., was found in late Feb. in the same area. A pair of **Peregrine Falcon** were in courtship flight around the Commodore Barry Bridge (EF).

Five **Greater Yellowlegs** were feeding along Darby Cr. 3/30 (JCM). On 3/19 there were 4 **Common Snipe** in Lester (BS) and an impressive 75+ snipe were along Darby Cr. 3/29 (JCM). **Great Horned Owl** seem to be doing well even with all the construction and destruction going on in the county. No **N. Saw-whet**, **Long-eared**, or **Short-eared** owl was reported.

SAPSUCKER TO SHRIKE. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were reported coming to different feeder locations all over the county. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was seen in Elwyn 2/21 (CS). The first report of **E. Phoebe** was at RCSP 3/9 (NP); by 3/15 everyone was reporting them. Only 1 solitary **Black-capped Chickadee** was at TA all winter (AH); it was tagged and banded for a chickadee research project. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** remained scarce, with 1 coming to a feeder (HMc) and 1 in Elwyn (CS) 2/16. **Brown Creeper** and **White-breasted Nuthatch** were in normal numbers.

During the week of 1/9, a flock of 2000+ **Am. Robin** were on the Swarthmore College campus each evening and flew out at dusk (HMc); the actual roost site was never discovered. Along Crum Cr. the first **Gray Catbird** was seen 3/2 (HMc). Another was at the airport 3/5. An excellent bird for area, and one that has been missing for many years, was a **Loggerhead Shrike** heard singing at RCSP 3/27 (BH). An early migrant, this bird didn't make any lodging arrangement to spend the night because it was searched for the next few days and never found.

WARBLER TO SISKIN. A ♂ **Pine Warbler** was seen at TA 2/19 (SC). We were all hoping to have a **Dickcissel** or two come to a feeding station this winter after the summer invasion in the c. and w. part of PA, but no such luck fell upon our area. Many reports commented on the lack of **White-throated Sparrow** and **Dark-eyed Junco** in the area. Two **Fox Sparrow** 3/20 (GL).

On 1/30 I received a call about a **Snow Bunting** coming to a feeder in Aston. Since they are not usually present at feeders, I thought I would check it out. When I finally saw the bird that the man said was the **Snow Bunting**, it turned out to be a partially albino **White-throated Sparrow**. However, all the white was in the right places and it did look very much like a bunting, but it had the characteristic yellow lores of the white-throat.

A small flock of **White-crowned Sparrow** were mixed in with **Am. Tree** and **Song** sparrows at the airport 1/8 (AG). One ♀ **White-crowned Sparrow** was at TA 3/27 (JG), which is a good find for Tyler. On 1/13 there actually were some **Snow Bunting** at the airport (AG, JL). We counted a total of 148 as they flew up and landed on a wire very obligingly. A fly-by **E. Meadowlark** in Lester 3/19 (BS) was nice to see in that areas as they are hard to find any more. And, finally, there was one report of 1 **Pine Siskin** coming to a feeder in Swarthmore.

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, Walt Cressler, Ed Fingerhood, John Ginaven, Al Guarente, 421 Old Middletown Rd., Media 19063 (215-566-8266), Barb Haas, Allison Hoppman, George Link, Jim Lockyer, Rob McGraw, Helen McWilliams, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Charles Smith, Bill Stocku.

ELK COUNTY

Leif Anderson

Locations: Allegheny Nat. Forest (ANF), East Branch L. (EBL).

A rather early (late?) **Great Blue Heron** was observed at EBL. Waterfowl trends were interesting, but alarming. **Common Merganser** started appearing along the Clarion R. by mid-Feb (DW). This is earlier than normal. PGC personnel noted a lack of waterfowl on their ponds, 5-10 **Canada Geese** and a few **Mallard**. Normally flocks of up to 100 geese might be present at this time of year. Wolfe observed a **Blue-winged Teal** at Owls Nest 3/27, and 2 **Mallard** and 2 **Wood Duck** at Coal Run marsh (ANF). No other waterfowl reports. It appears that last year's absence of waterfowl continues (drought related?).

A **N. Harrier** was in the ANF 1/25 (KC). **E. Bluebird** were active at Crown Run of the ANF by mid-March (DW). About 100 **Cedar Waxwing** were observed in Benzinger Twp *flying down eating snow* 1/24-25 (LC). Two **Fox Sparrow** seen 3/20 and 1 **White-crowned Sparrow** all winter were observed in Benzinger Twp (LC). Wolfe noted the following trends: more **Golden-crowned Kinglet** than usual, **House Finch** were late returning, and no **Evening Grosbeak**.

OBSERVER: Keith & Linda Christenson, David Wolfe.

Leif Anderson has moved to the Idaho/South Dakota District after serving as compiler since PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS began in 1987. We thank him for all his reports as well as his many contributions to the PBBAP. We will need a new compiler for these (Elk & McKean) large and rather sparsely populated counties. -Eds.

ERIE COUNTY

Jerry McWilliams

The thousands of gulls reported in the last quarter remained in Presque Isle Bay until early Feb., when the numbers diminished to 40,000 birds. By late Feb., only about 1,500 gulls remained with numbers building to about 3,000 until 3/30 when 20,000 suddenly appeared on Gull Point. **Bonaparte's Gull** were occasionally seen throughout the period. This species doesn't normally winter in *Erie*. Waterfowl numbers were clearly up from last year's meager estimate of 5,000 birds, with ±25,000 birds present in Presque Isle Bay in mid-March this year. Some species of waterfowl were seen in impressive numbers; **Green-winged Teal**, **N. Shoveler**, **Am. Wigeon** (400-500 tabulated on one morning's outing on PI), **Ring-necked Duck**, and **Hooded Merganser**.

All sightings were from Presque Isle SP unless noted otherwise. Underlined species indicate an absence of two or more years between sightings; underlined italicized species indicates it has been recorded less than five times for *Erie*.

A **Red-necked Grebe** was seen 3/3 (JM) and 3/5 (EK). As in the last few winters, an unusually large number of **Great Blue Heron** wintered, with as many as 60 birds seen together in Jan. (DS). The **Great Egret** found 3/22 (SS) was a record *early* date; the previous record was 4/1/78. It was also seen 3/23-24 (LM,EK).

Where in North America can one observe 3 species of swan feeding together? In Pennsylvania at Presque Isle SP, at least in the winter of 1988-89. They may not be legitimate "ticks" on your life list though. When **Mute Swan** appear their origin is always suspect, but when a **Trumpeter Swan** is found it is not likely to be a natural occurrence, especially when the bird is sporting yellow wing tags. The Trumpeter Swan #81 was 1 of several birds released from the Great Lakes reintroduction program. The swan remained until 3/11.

It is also noteworthy that 300 **Tundra Swan** wintered in Presque Isle Bay, which may be attributed to extensive open water and lower lake levels providing more areas for bottom feeding.

One or 2 **Mute Swan** were present 1/2+ (RK *et al.*). A single **Snow "blue" Goose** was seen 3/4 (JH) and up to 2 "blue" were at Siegel Marsh 3/16-22 (JM). At least 4 **Wood Duck** wintered in different areas; Erie Public Dock and Union City (JM) and Mill Village (JGS,JHS). A ♀ **Harlequin Duck** 1/1 was an exceptional find (JBB); this is a *5th Erie*

record. Two **Black Scoter** were seen 2/22 (JGS,JHS). The **Surf Scoter** seen 3/12-13 (EK,JM) was the *1st* March record, at least in modern times. A **White-winged Scoter** was found 1/1 and 1/15 (JBB), and up to 28 were seen 3/3-10 (JM); the latter represents an extremely high number for this early date. Another was found 3/24 (EK).

The sub-adult **Bald Eagle** with a wing tag that was discovered last reporting period wintered in the Erie area until at least 2/13 (m.ob.). A Bald Eagle observed 3/15 may have been the same bird (SD). Two **N. Goshawk** were seen w. of Erie 3/11 (EK,JM). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen w. of Erie 3/13 (JM). A **Merlin** that was discovered 12/31/88 at the Erie Public Dock (EPD) by JBB, remained there until 2/11 for the *1st* winter record in recent history (SS,JM).

An ad. **Sandhill Crane** with an injured leg was found 1/24 at PI, a *1st* winter record (JJ,FRL,BJT). The **Greater Yellowlegs** found 3/5 matches the earliest previous record set in 1977.

The large flocks of gulls reported last quarter remained here until early Feb. when the abundant food supply (Gizzard Shad) declined. As can be expected with large numbers of gulls, several rare species were found. A word of advice to birders looking through large numbers of birds such as gulls over an extended period of days or weeks. When a rare bird has been discovered, pay particular attention to feather detail and bare parts. There are many occasions when a rare bird is located on one day and relocated again on another day. Automatically one presumes that it is the same individual seen on subsequent days, but they may in fact be two different birds. For example, 2 of the third winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** listed below appeared to be identical and were only seen a few days apart. Therefore, one might assume the two sightings to be of the same bird. However, upon closer examination, the birds were identified as 2 different individuals. The only plumage difference was that the first bird showed a small mirror in one of the outer primaries on each wing and the second bird had all dark primaries. There was also a difference in the amount of black on the bill of each bird.

Up to 7 **Little Gull** (1 first-, 1 second-winter, 5 ad.) were seen to 1/21 (JBB,JM). Three **Thayer's Gull**; 1 first winter 1/1 (EK); 1 third winter 1/2 and 1/7 (JM), a *1st* record for this age in PA; 1 first winter 1/21 (EK). Seven **Iceland Gull** (2 first, 2 second winter, 3 ad. with varying amounts of gray in wing tips) to 2/20 (JM,EK). Six **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (1 second, 3 third winter and 2 ad., 1 of which may have been of the *intermedius* race to 1/29) (DS,EK,JM). From 10-15 **Glaucous Gull** (mostly first and second winter and ad.) to the end of the quarter (EK,JM). One **Glaucous X Herring Gull** 1/1 (EK).

A **Long-eared Owl** was seen 3/19+ (DD). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen 3/27 (JM). One of the most outstanding events of the period, aside from the gull invasion, was the number of **N. Saw-whet Owl**. Usually 1-2 birds are found, but they can rarely be located the next day. This year 6 could be located in a single day and could be found in one of their 2 or 3 roosts daily from 1/23+ (JH,DD,JM,EK).

A ♂ **Purple Martin** was seen while watching a hawk flight w. of Erie 3/25, which was 9 days earlier than our previous record. A **N. Shrike** was seen to 2/24 (RK,JM).

OBSERVERS: Jim & Bonnie Baird, Dave Darney, Steve Dillon, Jamie Hill, Joyce Hoffman, Jean Joyce, Ramsay Koury, Ed Kwater, Frank & Ruth Latt, Linda & Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W. 12th St., Erie 16505 (814-833-3169), Don Snyder, Jean Stull (JHS), Jim Stull (JGS), Sam Stull, Bob & Jean Tracy.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Cindy Cook

Most reports came in from the various bodies of water in the county and therefore listed in that manner. Unless noted all sightings are from the Normalville area and by the compiler.

Deer L. (DK): 3 **Common Loon** 3/31; 3 **Pied-billed Grebe** 3/31; 5-12 **Canada Geese** 3/29-31; 1 pr. **Wood Duck** 3/29; 1 **Canvasback** 3/21,25; 5 **Oldsquaw** 3/29; 1 pr. **White-winged Scoter** 3/29; 3-4 **Bufflehead** 3/29-31; 41 **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/29; 2 **Am. Kestrel** 3/31; 7 **N. Flicker** 3/29; 90+ **Tree Swallow** 3/29.

Greenlick Dam: 2 **Horned Grebe** 3/21 (WC); 3 **N. Pintail** 3/12 (MEW); 20 **Am. Wigeon** 3/21 (WC); 8-9 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/12-16 (CC);

5 **Ring-billed Gull** 3/21 (WC).

Indian L.: 1 **Green-winged Teal** and 5 **Tree Swallow** 3/16 (MEW).
Mill Run Res.: 18 **Canada Geese** 3/25 (CC); 4 **Am. Black Duck** 2/1 (MEW); 8 **Am. Wigeon** 3/25 (CC); 12 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/25; 9 **Hooded Merganser** 2/1 (MEW) and 4 on 3/20 (CC); 5 **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/25; 1 **Ring-billed Gull** 3/25 (CC).

Some 60+ **Turkey Vulture** were seen at Ohiopyle 3/20. A **Ruffed Grouse** was noted 3/19. **E. Phoebe** returned 3/19. A pr. of **E. Bluebird** were seen 3/30; they began to investigate one of four new nest boxes within 10 minutes of erecting. They remain in the area, but no nest building has begun as of this date.

First **Chipping Sparrow** was seen 3/30 and the 2 **Fox Sparrow** 3/19 were also the first seen. The first **Purple Finch** was noted 3/17, but 7 were found 3/30.

OBSERVERS: **Cindy Cook, RD 1, Box 259A, Normalville 15469 (412-455-7356)**, Wesley Cook, Dave Krueger, Mike & Evaleen Watko.

FOREST COUNTY

April D. Walters

We welcome April Walters as the new compiler for *Forest County*. She looks forward to receiving your sighting reports.

Locations: Allegheny R. n. of Tionesta (ARNT), Church Hill (CH), Hickory Cr. at upper Endeavor (HCUE).

Our winter was very mild, with not as much snow as in previous years, resulting in no one seeing an **Evening Grosbeak**, although 1 **Pine Siskin** was observed on Church Hill. Feeders had fewer birds with the exception of **Purple Finch**, which seemed to be increased in numbers.

Four **Common Loon** were at Beaver Meadows 3/30 (PN). A large flock of **Canada Geese** was noted flying S after dark at CH 2/8 (RW,AW), while 93 were counted going N at ARNT 3/3 (RW,AW). Three **N. Shoveler** were at ARNT 3/18 (CRM).

A **Bald Eagle** was at ARNT all Jan. (CRM). Another area that bears watching for eagles is 1 mi w. of Kellettsville, where 2 imm. were seen 1/27 (DAD). A **Cooper's Hawk** caught a **Blue Jay** at CH 1/13 (AW). One **Belted Kingfisher** remained all winter on Hickory Cr. (GW).

The first 4 **E. Bluebird** arrived at County Home 3/6 (RW). There were 38 **Am. Robin** at a residence on Rt. 127 near W. Hickory 2/14 (WC). Three **Water Pipit** were at Tionesta 3/19 (AW,RW,GW). A **Rufous-sided Towhee** was at B. Hunter's feeder at HCUE 2/15 (RW,AW).

OBSERVERS: Wes Catlin, Dan & Autumn Doherty, C. R. Mann, Penny Newman, Gary, Richard, and **April Walters, Box 127, Endeavor 16322 (814-463-9306)**.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Carl Garner

Locations: Fayetteville (FYV), Mercersburg (MCB).

A flock of 55 **Canada Geese** was noted flying N at FYV 2/26 (CG). One **Black Vulture** was seen at Ft. Loudon 2/12 (CB). A light phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen in MCB area 2/22 (CB).

A flock of 19 **Wild Turkey** were feeding in a corn stubble field in the MCB area 3/26 (CB). Two **Am. Woodcock** were observed in courtship flight in FYV 3/15 (JB). Singles were seen in the same area 3/6 and 3/23; they may nest in the area and will be checked throughout the coming quarter.

N. Harrier and **Rough-legged Hawk** were found in the MCB area during the quarter. But, more interestingly, **Short-eared Owl** observations were 1 on 1/7, 3 on 1/9, 5 on 3/8 (CB) and 3 seen 3/12 (CG); the max. seen by other observers was 9.

An early **Purple Martin** was in FYV 3/20 (CG). One **Lapland Longspur** was found in with **Horned Lark** in a corn stubble field 1/8 (CB).

OBSERVERS: Joan Bowen, Charles Brightbill, **Carl L. Garner, P.O. Box 110, Fayetteville 17222-0110 (717-352-8151)**.

FULTON COUNTY

Carl Garner

All data are from the spring hawk watch at Tuscarora Summit. We counted 420 raptors in March (3/11-27). A complete summary of the Spring count will be submitted for the next issue. Our "best" winds are from the SE and these winds were in effect on 3/13, 17, and 27. The total on the 13th was 114 indiv. (104 **Red-tails**) and on 3/17 we tallied 71 indiv. (60 **Red-tails**), but on 3/27 we had 97 indiv. and 8 species, including 2 **N. Goshawk** and 1 imm. **Bald Eagle**. The first **Bald Eagle** of the season was seen 3/15 (also an imm.).

3/11 21 Red-tailed Hawk
3/13 114 birds (104 Red-tailed Hawk)
3/15 1 Bald Eagle (imm.)
3/17 71 birds (60 Red-tailed Hawk, 1 Golden Eagle (DP))
3/27 1 Bald Eagle (imm.)
5 N. Harrier
12 Sharp-shinned Hawk
3 Cooper's Hawk
2 N. Goshawk
1 Red-shouldered Hawk
66 Red-tailed Hawk
4 Am. Kestrel
3 Unidentified
97 Total

OBSERVERS: Genivieve Beck, Charles Brightbill, Ken Gabler, Carl Garner, Mary Jane High, Delores Purnell, Herb Taylor.

GREENE COUNTY

Ralph Bell

A rather mild period with no extended cold waves and the deepest snowfall was 3" on 3 Jan. In fact, March seemed like April with temperatures in the 70s on several days and it reached 84° on 3/28. We had a severe ice storm on 3/6 which left many people in the county without electricity for at least 6 days. With the lack of snow, species such as the **Carolina Wren** should have wintered very well. And good rains the last of March should have helped the underground water table that was hurt by the 1988 drought.

Seven **Canada Geese** arrived at ET's farm pond w. of Mather 2/19, where a pair nested successfully in 1988.

The first **Killdeer** was noted 2/21, but this species seems to be fewer in number this spring than usual. The first **E. Phoebe** was noted 3/15, the first **Purple Martin** arrived 3/29, and the first **Tree Swallow** was checking a box in our yard the next day.

Several **Am. Crow** appeared to be migrating NE on the morning of 2/20. *Seven crows banded here have later been recovered in Quebec, Canada.* Because of the mild weather, **Carolina Wren** had a new nest almost completed by 2/17 (but no eggs were laid in that nest).

The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** was noted singing 3/28. **Red-winged Blackbird** were about a week later than expected this spring as the first 1 was not recorded until 3/3 and the first **E. Meadowlark** was seen two days later. Good numbers of **E. Meadowlarks** returned this spring.

OBSERVERS: **Ralph Bell, RD 1, Box 229, Clarksville 15322 (412-883-4505)**, Ed Thistlethwaite.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Dave Kyler

Locations: L. Raystown (LR), Entriken Overlook (EO).

The normal expected weather patterns occurred all quarter, however rain/snow fall was well below average. No unusual species appeared and all reports and observations are from the compiler unless otherwise noted.

Other less interesting waterfowl include 2 **Am. Black Duck** at Mapleton 1/18, 3 **Wood Duck** near Mt. Union 3/21, 1 **Canvasback** at L. Raystown 3/16, and 127 **Common Merganser** at the EO.

Raptor sightings include both **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's** hawks above

A wayward **Horned Grebe** made its appearance in Alexandria 1/3 much to the amazement of M. Lane. It seems that while he was talking to a friend near the Alexandria Post Office, the grebe crash-landed into the bed of a near by pick-up truck. After a check-up at the local clinic and meal of vitamin enriched minnows the dazed grebe was released on a body of water, where it immediately took flight.

same perch at EO 2/12. Both took flight and after five minutes returned to the original snag. Both vulture *sp.* were present all quarter. The highest number of **Turkey Vulture** was 4 on 1/20 over Huntingdon, but 10 **Black Vulture** made their appearance there 1/30.

Fish Crow were heard and seen at Mt. Union 3/21 and a flock of 260 **Am. Crow** was observed over McConnellstown 2/17. **Common Raven** were present all quarter above Mapleton. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Purple Finch** were both present at Shaver's Cr. Environ. Ctr. 2/12. Sparrow reports were limited to 6 **Swamp Sparrow** at LR, Brumbaugh Access, 2/2 and **Fox Sparrow** at Cornpropt Mills 3/20 (EB). It is interesting to note that the first appearance of Fox Sparrow occurred across a *four-county* latitude band on the same date. Two small flocks of **Evening Grosbeak** were reported at Alexandria 1/18 and 2/23 (SL).

OBSERVERS: Ellen Benner, **David Kyler, RD 4, Box 159-A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030)**, Melvin Lane, Steve Lane.

INDIANA COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Locations: Alverda (AVD), Brush Valley (BV), Clarksburg (CKG), Elders Ridge/West Lebanon Strips (ER), Indiana (IND), Margus L. (ML), Pine Flats (PF), Shelocta (SHL), Strongstown (STR), Yellow Cr. SP (YCSP). (The Indiana-Armstrong line runs through the strips. Some birds were seen in each Co.)

The period was relatively mild with the majority of daytime temperatures above freezing. Little snow occurred, but precipitation levels were higher than average. YC lake, although frozen at times, repeatedly thawed allowing waterfowl to over-winter. Highlights of the season include the location of a new wintering ground for **Short-eared Owl** near Gipsy. Because of open water early in the season, waterfowl at YCSP were more abundant than normal.

All waterfowl sightings are from YCSP unless otherwise noted. Two **Common Loon** arrived 3/29 (GL). First **Pied-billed Grebe** were listed 3/18 (TBC). Single **Horned Grebe** was spotted 1/16 (GL,GS), and 2-5 were spotted the remainder of the period, with top count of 13 on 3/25 (ASWP). **Great Blue Heron** was tough to find with only 2 reported before mid-March; 1 near CSD 1/19 (SC) and 1 in IND 2/18 (CL,GL).

Top **Tundra Swan** tally was 202 on 3/13 (GL). **Canada Goose** was present after mid-Jan., with top count 289 on 3/13 (GL). Best **Wood Duck** tally was 13 on 3/16 (GL,GS) and again 3/23 (MC,MH). Single **Green-winged Teal** was found 2/22 (GL) and again 3/11 (MH,RH *et al.*). After 3/18, 2-7 were consistently reported. Two **Am. Black Duck** lingering with a flock of 35 **Mallard** at ER were seen on a TBC outing 1/15. Mallard maxima were 92 at ER 2/26 (FE,GW) and 64 at YCSP 3/22 (GL). A single **N. Pintail** wintered at ML (MH,RH, GL,GS), but 23 at YCSP was a nice count 3/13 (GL). Best **Blue-winged Teal** count was 15 on 3/16 (GL,GS). A single ♂ **N. Shoveler** was found 3/22 (GL) and remained for all to admire on the 3/25 ASWP outing; 5 pairs were present 3/30 (GL). Four **Gadwall** were listed 3/17-23 (MC,MH). Up to 6 **Am. Wigeon**, first reported 2/10 (GL), moved back and forth between YCSP and ML until mid-Mar. depending on ice conditions at YCSP. A low count of 12 on 3/17 was best (MC,MH). Four **Canvasback** appeared 2/23 (GL,GS) and were last reported 3/23 (MH,MC). Top **Redhead** count was 9 on 2/16 (GL,AB). First **Ring-necked Duck** was listed 1/15 (GS); 291 was a good count 3/16 (GL,GS). After the arrival of 3 on 2/23 (GL,GS), **Greater Scaup** were found in higher concentrations than normal with top count 30 on 3/17 (MH,MC). Best **Lesser Scaup** tally was 127 on 3/22 (GL). Two **Oldsquaw** 3/22 were a nice find (GL), but even better on 3/29 were 54 at YCSP (GL) and another 8 at Nolo (GL). One to 2 **Common Goldeneye** were found 3/3+ (MH,MC,GL). Top **Bufflehead** count was 15 on 3/18 (TBC) and again 3/23

(MH,MC). **Hooded Merganser** numbers peaked at 21 on 3/23 (MH,MC). Two ♂ **Common Merganser** were well-observed 3/11 (MH,RH *et al.*) and relocated 3/16 (GS,GL). First **Red-breasted Merganser** was found 1/16 (GS,GL), but by the end of the period 30 were counted (GL). Noteworthy was the absence of **Ruddy Duck**, reported on only two dates; 1 on 3/8 (GL) and 2 on 3/31 (GL).

Six **Turkey Vulture** were reported at Nolo 3/13 (GL). **N. Harrier** were found at YCSP 1/24 (GL,AB) and at Nolo 1/25+ (GL). The Nolo harrier, a ♀ which appeared to have an injured leg, was seen 3/14 (GL); a ♂ was found at the same location 3/18, 22 (GL). **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, feasting on a wide variety of species, were listed at YCSP, Nolo, Clymer, SHL (v.o.). **Cooper's Hawk** was found at Nolo, BV, YCSP, and IND all quarter (v.o.). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** near SHL 1/1,20 was the lone report (MH). **Rough-legged Hawk** at YCSP 3/16 (GL,GS) was a nice find. **Am. Kestrel** appeared to fare well all quarter with top count of 5 at YCSP 3/16 (GL,GS).

Wild Turkey was reported from 5 locations, with best count of 6 near IND 2/11 (TB). First **Am. Coot** arrived at YCSP 3/13 (GL); but by 3/29, 28 were tallied. **Killdeer** made its first appearance at YCSP 2/23 (GL,GS). A **Greater Yellowlegs** at the same location 3/29 (GL) was the lone report. One to 2 **Common Snipe** were found in the park 3/18 (TBC) and again 3/25 (ASWP). **Am. Woodcock** was not reported until 3/15 (MC) at CKG, but other reports came shortly thereafter from AVD (DB), SHL (MH), and Nolo (DS).

Forty-nine **Bonaparte's Gull**, first observed 3/27 (MH,RGH,GL), were still present 3/21 (GL). **Ring-billed Gull** were reported at YCSP all quarter because of open water, with top count 67 on 3/1 (GL).

E. Screech-Owl using a nest box near SHL for roosting was last spotted 1/27 (MH,RH). The only other report was singleton at Nolo 3/26 (DS,GS). **Barred Owl** was found at STR 1/5 (AB), near CKG 1/24 (MC), and at Nolo 3/16 (DS). Up to 5 **Short-eared Owl** wintered at the ER/WL strips (MH,RH *et al.*); 2 near Gipsy 1/22 (MH,RH) were unexpected but were easily relocated 2/5 (TBC).

Belted Kingfisher, noteworthy for its absence since mid-Dec., was found near Heilwood 2/11 (AB). Single **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found at Nolo 2/9,10 and 3/7 (AB,DB *et al.*); at YCSP 2/13 (GL); and at PF 3/30 (EH). Few **N. Flicker** were reported, the first near SHL 1/23 (MH). **Pileated Woodpecker** was found at 6 locations (v.o.). First **E. Phoebe** at YCSP was spotted 3/17 (MC,MH). Eight **Horned Lark** at Gipsy 2/5 (TBC) was the best count. **Tree Swallow** at YCSP 3/18 numbered 8 (TBC).

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatch** wintered near SHL (MH,RH), the lone report. **Brown Creeper** feasted on peanut butter mix near SHL all quarter (MH,RH) and were frequently found at YCSP (GL,GS). The only **Winter Wren** reported was 1 at Nolo 3/26-27 (GS). Fewer than average **Golden-crowned Kinglet** sightings were listed. Small flocks of **E. Bluebird** were observed near RM during Jan. (KB); first nest-building efforts at YCSP occurred 3/4 (GS). One wintering flock of **Am. Robin** contained an albinistic indiv. near Nolo 1/39 (GL). Two **Water Pipit** at YCSP were seen 3/22-27 (GL,CL,CaL). Top **Cedar Waxwing** count was 59 at YCSP 1/16 (GS,GL).

A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** found near SHL 1/17,24 (MH) was the lone report. First **Rufous-sided Towhee** arrived at SHL 3/19 (MH), while first **Field Sparrow** was listed near CKG 3/3 (MC). **Fox Sparrow** was found at YCSP after 3/1 (v.o.). **Swamp Sparrow** was sighted only at YCSP (MH,RH *et al.*). **Red-winged Blackbird** was first spotted at Nolo 2/19 (GL,CL). **E. Meadowlark** was present near Blairsville 2/21 (MC); 11 were a nice count at YCSP 3/16 (GL,GS). Three **Rusty Blackbird** arrived at YCSP 3/27 (MH,RGH). The first **Brown-headed Cowbird** of the season near SHL 1/4 (MH) was eaten by the resident Sharpie shortly after arrival at a feeder. **Purple Finch** was reported only from YCSP (AB,GS,GL) and near SHL (MH,RH) during the first two months of the period; by the end of March flocks of up to 10 indiv. were found in various parts of the county.

OBSERVERS: Audubon Society of W. Pa. (ASWP), Alice & Beatty, Kathy Bennett, Tom Betts, Suzanne Conner, Marcy Cunkleman, Flo Emmonds, Etta Heinlen, **Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)**, Robbie Higbee (RGH), Carroll Labarthe (CaL), Clayton & Gloria Lamer, Dan & Georgette Syster, Todd Bird Club (TBC), Gloria Winger.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Diane Greeley

Locations: Brookville (BVL), Corsica (CO), Summerville (SVL).

The weather was generally mild all quarter. Most sightings were in my yard and farm at Content.

Canada Geese were seen at Howe 2/3 (PG) and **Mallard** were noted migrating near SVL 3/13.

Turkey Vulture were first seen 3/18. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was spotted 3/14,25. A **Cooper's Hawk** visited our feeders 1/7 and 3/15, when on the latter date it spent nearly the whole day! Our first **Broad-winged Hawk** was noted 3/13. **Red-tailed Hawk**, here all winter, have been more obvious since 2/23. **Am. Kestrel** also spent the winter. A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen 2/28.

The first **Killdeer** was here 3/14. On 3/25 I heard some more migrating and calling at midnight. On 3/14 at 11 p.m., I knew spring was truly here as I heard an **Am. Woodcock** with his now familiar "peent." **Ring-billed** and **Herring** gulls were seen in BVL 2/3-4 and were sitting on bridge abutments near Red Bank Cr.

An **E. Screech-Owl** was heard by my grandson, Justin, in our backyard 3/26. I went and listened, and it really was! He is just 4½ years old!

Barred Owl were heard every evening 3/23+. A **Short-eared Owl** was spotted in the field near our house 1/13. This is the 1st county record. It was still seen 3/31 and is calling and hunting as late as 10 a.m. in the surrounding fields. It seems quite tame and comes within 20 ft of our windows! We are disappointed though, because as yet we have not seen a mate. However, there is still time and we are still watching.

A rather tame **N. Flicker**, seen 1/1+, takes millet at the feeder. If I deliberately open the front door, he will fly away, but if already outside and he sees me before I see him, he will follow me all over the yard. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was seen 1/13. The first **E. Phoebe** was seen 3/27. A flock of ±500 **Am. Crow** was seen s. of CO 3/1 and **Common Raven** were in our area 2/23.

The **Brown Creeper** seen 1/11 was the first for our yard. I took it as an omen that I should try this compiling. An **E. Bluebird** was investigating nest boxes 3/11. Most unusual is that no **Cedar Waxwing** has been seen yet.

The first **Rufous-sided Towhee** was 3/28 and a **Field Sparrow** was a welcome sound upon waking 3/29. **Song Sparrow** returned 3/11. As of 3/31, **Dark-eyed Junco** and **Am. Tree Sparrow** show no signs of leaving, but they will. **Red-winged Blackbird** returned 3/14, **E. Meadowlark** 3/15, and **Common Grackle** 3/4. **Brown-headed Cowbird** are trying to get in the act 3/27. I have a nesting **Am. Robin** about 10 ft from the front door and there have been squabbles all day. **Purple Finch** seem more abundant this year; they have been at the feeders almost daily. Hope they stay. **House Sparrow** were nesting 3/15.

OBSERVERS: Diane L. Greeley, RD 1, Box 55, Corsica 15829 (814-856-2000), Justin Greeley, Phyllis Greeley.

JUNIATA COUNTY

Linda Whitesel

Locations: Hammer Hollow (HH), Juniata R. (JR), Mifflintown Access (MA), Muskrat Springs Access Area (MSA).

Jan. brought unseasonable warmth with little precipitation, mostly freezing rains. Ponds thawed in late Jan. and alternately froze and thawed through Feb. The river was open throughout the season. Feb. and Mar. temperatures were about average. Rains came by quarter's end.

The most pleasant sightings of the quarter were 1 **Horned Grebe** at MSA 3/23 and 6 **Great Blue Heron** also there 1/29. **Canada Geese** pairs were sighted in more locations this March; our resident population continues to expand. Waterfowl sightings on the JR between MSA and Van Dyke produced good numbers this year. Two **Wood Duck**, perhaps responding to the warm weather, were seen 2/28 (DW). Regular winter waterfowl included 7 **Am. Wigeon** 3/26, 105 **Common Goldeneye** 2/19, and 526 **Common Merganser** 2/19. Over 700 birds were observed settling in for the night 2/19. **Am. Black Duck** were also present on that stretch this quarter, but their numbers were down this year, perhaps due to the drought conditions of the past summer (DW).

Red-tailed and **Rough-legged** hawks and **Am. Kestrel** were plentiful this quarter, but **Ruffed Grouse** count was down.

Probably in response to warm weather, 1 **E. Phoebe** was present at MA 1/8. **Common Raven** were seen twice in valley areas near Mexico, 1/18 and 3/6 (DW).

Throughout the quarter **Brown Creeper** were consistently seen in groups of 2 or 3 along the JR or in HH. From mid-Mar. through mid-Apr. they were often accompanied by **Golden-crowned Kinglet**.

N. Cardinal were reported in good numbers at feeders; high count was 12 (BM). Three **Purple Finch** stopped during migration at HH 3/27. **Common Redpoll** were reported by BM at her feeder during early Feb. These two scarce species were welcomed. Species expected, but not reported, included **Pine Siskin** and **Evening Grosbeak**.

OBSERVERS: Berniece Miller, Dusty Weidner, Linda Whitesel, RD 3, Box 820, Mifflintown 17059-9770 (717-436-8048).

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Gerald Klebauskas

Locations: Covey's Swamp (CS), Dalton Area (DA), Factoryville Area (FA), Lackawanna SP (LSP), L. Scranton (LS), Nay Aug Park (NAP), South Scranton (SS).

The lack of snow cover and mild weather did not concentrate birds at feeders or in the wild. Especially missing were **White-throated Sparrow**, a usually common winter bird.

A **Great Blue Heron** was in FA 3/19. Five **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were at SS 1/2. **Canada Geese** were seen at FA 2/25 and at LS 3/12. Four **Wood Duck** were seen 3/19-26 in FA. A small flock of **Mallard** were in Blakely 2/25 and 1 at FA 2/25. Two **Am. Wigeon** were in FA 3/19-26. A **Canvasback** and 6 **Common Merganser** were at LS 3/26. **Red-tailed Hawk** and **Am. Kestrel** were the only raptor sightings. Gallinaceous sightings included **Ring-necked Pheasant** 3/27 in DA, 1 **Wild Turkey** at Marywood College, and **Ruffed Grouse** 1/28 in DA. An **Am. Woodcock** was there 3/22.

E. Phoebe were first seen at DA 3/18 and at FA 3/27. While **Blue Jay** did not seem as common, both **Am.** and **Fish** crows were. A **Brown Creeper** was in DA 2/10. A **Winter Wren** was in CS 3/17. Ten **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were at CS 3/31 and 1 in DA 3/28. Earliest return of **Am. Robin** was 3/14, while an **E. Bluebird** was in FA 1/2. About 250 **Cedar Waxwing** were feeding on staghorn sumac at LSP 3/20. A **Fox Sparrow** was in DA 3/20. **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Common Grackle** returned in mid-Mar. A **Brown-headed Cowbird** was in DA 3/9. **Purple Finch** were noted only in DA 1/4 and 3/12 in Blakely. **Am. Goldfinch** were seen in mid-Feb. Not one **Evening Grosbeak** was reported.

OBSERVERS: Derry & Nancy Bird, Rosann Bongey, Mike Friedlin, Gerald Klebauskas, RD 2, Box 2321, Factoryville 18419 (717-344-4690), George Mozurkewich, Jane Shulenberger, Sue & Tinka Zenke.

LANCASTER COUNTY

Eric Witmer

Locations: Middle Creek WMA (MC), Muddy Run (MR), Safe Harbor Dam (SHD), Susquehanna R. including the Conejohela Flats (SRCF).

The period was not as exciting as previous winters due to no major freeze-outs, a non-winter finch flight year, and fewer field birds. Highlights of the season were the **first attempted nesting of Bald Eagle** in the county since 1954. The last successful nesting was at Mt. Johnson I. in 1948! *Lancaster's first Thayer's Gull* was found at Safe Harbor Dam. The bird was seen well and photographed and is believed to be the first PA record away from *Erie*. The Lancaster CBC was held 1/2.

Six **Horned Grebe** were at SRCF 3/21 (JB). The first reported **Great Egret** was at Washington Boro 3/19 (SS) and an injured **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was below Columbia 1/2 (HM *et al.*). Good numbers of **Tundra Swan** were at MC by the end of Jan. continuing to peak numbers of 5000+ 3/19-25, with a few birds through the end of the period (SS *et al.*). **Tundra Swan** could be found at Wash. Boro, but this area is not frequented as long or as by as many birds as in the past. Counted at MR 2/17 were 103 **Snow Geese** (100 "blue") (RMS). The following sightings were at MC: 1 **Wood Duck** 2/25 (TG), 500 **N. Pintail** 3/19, 1 **N. Shoveler** 2/12 (SS), 50 **Gadwall** 1/1 (EW), 2 **Canvasback** 2/12 (SS), 1 **Redhead** 2/12 (SS). One **Oldsquaw** was at MR from end-Feb. to 3/26 (RMS *et al.*).

Most encouraging was the pair of **Bald Eagle** observed carrying sticks below MR's Fisherman's Park (MRFP) 1/26 (RMS). A nest was found 2/26 on Henney I. The pair was thought to be incubating 3/16.

Osprey returned to the lower Susquehanna 3/18 (RMS). Two **Bald Eagle** were below Falmouth 2/9 (JG). Three **Red-shouldered Hawk** were on the CBC, a high since 1954. **Rough-legged Hawk** numbers were down in traditional areas. An imm. **Golden Eagle** was below Holtwood Dam 1/13 (JB). Ten to 12 **Wild Turkey** were at MR all quarter (RMS).

All-time high numbers of 17,000 **Ring-billed Gull** and 14,000 **Herring Gull** were on the CBC. The county's first **Thayer's Gull** was found below SHD 12/31 (TG). It was later relocated and photographed 1/7 (TG,EW,RM) and last seen 1/9 (JB). Also below SHD were 1-2 **Iceland Gull** 12/27-1/4 (m.ob.), 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 1/2-14, and a **Glaucous Gull** 1/2 (JB). An **Glaucous** was at MRFP 1/3 (RMS). No major freezes occurred and by the end of Jan. gull concentrations on the river dwindled.

Fewer **Long-eared Owl** were reported at MC and were less reliable in traditional roost sites. Three to 4 **Short-eared Owl** were regular at MC along the driving route at dusk in Feb. (m.ob.). A **Common Raven** was seen at Durlach 3/16 (JB).

Eight **Rufous-sided Towhee** were in the Cornwall Fire Tower/SGL 156 area 1/1 (SS). Four **Savannah Sparrow** were in Manor Twp 1/2 (SS) and an early **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at MC 3/26 (TK,NC). Sixty **White-crowned Sparrow** were found on the CBC, a high since 1970. "Field birds" were scarce throughout the period. Two **Water Pipit**, 2 **Lapland Longspur**, 8 **Snow Bunting**, along with **Horned Lark** in Warwick Twp 1/8 (RM). A report was received of 2 ♂, 2 ♀ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Willow Street 3/8. They were seen by TT and his whole neighborhood (*vide* RMS)! Eight **Rusty Blackbird** were at Alcoa Marsh 1/2 (FH,RM).

OBSERVERS: Jerry Book, Nancy Clupper, Tom Garner, Jay George, Fred Habegger, Tom Kurtz, Randy Miller, Harold Morrin, Steve Santner, Robert M. Schutsky, Tom Taggart, Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave., Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138).

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Barb Dean

Locations: Bessemer Area (BSA), Cascade Park (CCP), Covert's Crossing (CC), Ellwood City Area (ECA), Harlansburg Area (HBA), McConnell's Mill Sp (MMSP), New Castle Area (NCA), Plain Grove Area (PGA).

Jan. was one of the warmest on record. We experienced precipitation of less than 2" and no appreciable layer of snow cover. Portions of our ponds and rivers remained open all month, therefore Great Blue Heron, Canada Geese, Mallard, Belted Kingfisher, Horned Lark, and even N. Flicker were recorded in higher numbers. In fact, one PGA birder reported that a **Rufous-sided Towhee** was frequently seen all quarter. Feb. was also dry and though we had a record high of 60° on the 1st, most of the month remained below freezing. The first week of March was mild, with temperatures of 50-60° and we were astonished to find a **Gray Catbird** 3/4, which was at least six weeks early. Fortunately we had over 2" of rain and snow the last three days of March, which left us with above normal precipitation for the month.

HERONS TO DUCKS. A few **Great Blue Heron** were seen all quarter on open areas of the Neshannock Cr. and many were present at various locations 2/26+. Two **Tundra Swan** were at downtown NCA Neshannock Cr. 3/10 and 1 at the Rt. 956 pond 3/12 (NR,GD). **Canada Geese** were common all quarter; 500+ were on an open section of vosler L. 1/21 and some were on nests before the end of March. Good numbers of **Wood Duck** appeared on time; a flock of 16 migrants was at the Rt. 18 swamp 3/16. On 3/5, 2 pair of **Wood Duck** were on Neshannock Cr. in downtown NCA and 5 were in PGA. Other scattered individuals were noted in areas where they are known to breed. One ♂ **Green-winged Teal** was on the creek in NCA 3/16 and a male was in a Perry Twp pond 3/5 (BW,BD). Three **Am. Black Duck** were at Swamp Rd. 1/29 and a pair in PGA the last two weeks of March. Sixty-five **Mallard** were early in the NCA 1/14 on open areas of Neshannock Cr. and 150+ were at a spring-fed

farm pond in NCA, as were 50+ at Swamp Rd. 1/29. There was only one report of a single ♂ **N. Pintail** in the ECA 3/5-10 (BW). Two **Am. Wigeon** were on Elder's Pond NCA 1/29 and 3 in PGA 3/18. A pair of **N. Shoveler** were on a pond near NCA 3/10.

Six **Ring-necked Duck** appeared at Vosler L. 3/11 and peaked at 600+ on 3/18-19. A single **Bufflehead** and a pair of **Hooded Merganser** were at Vosler L. 3/18-19. A single **Greater Scaup** was on Elder's Pond 3/19.

VULTURES TO GULLS. A **Turkey Vulture** was not seen in NCA until 3/30, which is late. **N. Harrier** was not reported. **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's** hawks were active at feeding stations in Jan. in ECA and NCA and there were more sightings of Cooper's this year than in the past 3 years (BW,BD). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported from ECA 1/23 (BW). **Red-tailed Hawk** were nesting 3/19. No **Rough-legged Hawk** reported. **Am. Kestrel** was common in PGA and in Amish areas, as usual, and several birders commented that their numbers were dramatically up in their areas. However, kestrel numbers were down in the BSA compared to the past few years.

More **Ring-necked Pheasant** have been recorded this period than in the past 5 years. They are being seen in NCA, PGA, and ECA and we noticed several road kills near NCA. Walczak found 4 **Ruffed Grouse** near Wampum 2/5. One **Wild Turkey** was recorded in Ellwood 2/23 (BW).

Killdeer were found on time near the Covered Bridge 2/26 and by 3/4 many were in the PGA. From 1-5 **Common Snipe** were regularly seen at an Amish farm pond in Jan. and Feb. There was not a single report of **Am. Woodcock** this quarter. Our only gull report was of 2 **Herring Gull** at Elder's Pond the last half of March.

OWLS TO WAXWINGS. **E. Screech-Owl** was heard calling at CCP in late March and 1 was seen near the Neshannock Cr. NCA (MD). A **Barred Owl** was recorded at Camp Agawam 3/8. **Short-eared Owl** could not be found in PGA this quarter.

From 1-5 **N. Flicker** could be found on many outings the entire period, especially in NCA, HBA, and PGA. **Pileated Woodpecker** was elusive until mid-Feb. and then many were reported especially in NCA and Amish areas (HB,MD *et al.*). **Downy, Hairy, and Red-bellied** woodpeckers were frequently seen all period and drumming was often heard 3/16. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** could not be found anywhere.

E. Phoebe returned to PGA 3/20 and were widespread by the 23rd. Small flocks of **Horned Lark** were common all quarter, but 500+ were in the Covered Bridge area and 300+ appeared in the PGA 2/26 and a **Snow Bunting** was in with larks in PGA 2/5 (BW,DW *et al.*). **Tree Swallow** arrived slightly late, 3/31. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** could not be found, but **Brown Creeper** were reported more this winter than in the past 5 years; 2 at CC 3/4, 1 at NCA 1/29, 1 near the Covered Bridge 2/12, and several at CCP 3/4. The **Carolina Wren** continues to do well and was at CCP, at Mt. Jackson, and in Scott Twp. A **Gray Catbird** was very early, 3/4, in Wayne Twp (ph. BD,GD).

The **Am. Robin** was highly visible in city as well as country all period and even greater numbers poured into the county the 3rd week of Feb. **E. Bluebird** could be found anytime in proper habitat and they are evenly distributed throughout this county and were building nests by mid-March (BW,BD). Each winter for the past 3 years, a **Hermit Thrush** could be found at the German Club NCA and 1 was there 2/12 (GD). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** have been easy to find the last few winters, but this year we could not find a *single* one. Ditto for **Cedar Waxwing**.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** could not be found this winter. **Red-winged Blackbird** arrived at E. New Castle 2/27 and PGA 3/3. Three **E. Meadowlark** were singing in PGA 3/11; they were common and widespread within a week. **Dark-eyed Junco** were more abundant this year than in the past 5 years. One **Rufous-sided Towhee** spent the winter at the Rodgers' feeder in PGA. One male was found in NCA 2/12 and by 2/23 they were found in Ellwood and PGA. Small numbers, 8+, of **Am. Tree Sparrow** were common all period; only 2 large flocks, 40+ in BA and 50+ at Rose Point, were found. Several dozen **Field Sparrow** were recorded wintering in NCA and PGA. **White-crowned Sparrow** were seen more frequently than in the past 5 years; 3 ad. at Rose Point 1/22, 4 ad. NCA 1/29, 1 ad., 4 imm. at Camp Agawam 2/5, and 1 imm. in Scott Twp. 3/4. **White-throated Sparrow** were very scarce again this winter, with only 1-3 birds found at various locations. **Chipping Sparrow** could not be found. A few **Swamp Sparrow** were recorded at a Bessemer wetland in late March and 2 **Fox Sparrow** were in PGA 3/19.

Several hundred **Common Grackle** flew over NCA in mid-Feb (MD). Four **Purple Finch** arrived at a PGA feeder from 3/19+ and 2 ♂ were at our NCA feeder 3/24+ (WR,BD). **Pine Siskin** and **Evening Grosbeak** were definitely somewhere else!

OBSERVERS: Harriett Bauer, George, Mary, & **Barbara Dean, 321 E. Meyer Ave., New Castle 16105 (412-658-3393)**, Nancy & Bill Rodgers, Bob & Dorothy Walczak.

LEBANON COUNTY

Steve Santner

Locations: Memorial Lake (ML), Stony Creek Valley (SCV).

The winter turned mild after the hard freeze of Dec. There was very little snow and Memorial L. was occasionally partly open during Feb. Birdwise, Jan. and Feb. were two of the dullest months on record. March was considerably better, with good numbers of waterfowl being reported. There were no "winter finches" recorded and very few individuals of the normal wintering species after the New Year. The top bird of the season was the **Peregrine Falcon** found in Lebanon.

Both grebes were reported in March at ML, the **Horned** on the early date (for ML) 3/12 (SS), while 2 **Pied-billed** were seen 3/19 (PM,VM). About 25 **Tundra Swan** were at ML 3/19 (SS). A few swans remained in the *Lebanon* portion of Middle Cr. WMA through the end of the period. In addition to good numbers of the common species of waterfowl, 8 **Gadwall** were seen 3/5 (SS) and 2 **Hooded Merganser** were found at ML 3/19 (PM,VM).

North of Lickdale, in the n. part of *Lebanon*, 5 **Black Vulture** were found 3/23 (PM). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were evidently migrating in mid-March, as 3 were found 3/17 at Lickdale (PM). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was widely reported; 1 wintered in the ML/Indiantown Gap area (EB), while migrants (or possible nesting birds) were seen 3/17 at Lickdale (PM) and 3/25 at Green Point (SS). Several different **Rough-legged Hawk** were seen near Iona during Jan. (EB). A **Peregrine Falcon** was found in the city of Lebanon 3/14 (PM). Several recent reports from within the city suggest that this species may soon attempt to nest.

Am. Woodcock are fairly common in the ML/Indiantown Gap area in the n. part and in the Furnace Hills section in the s. end of the county. This year's report from Lawn may represent a range extension (AW,BW,SW), while the report from Stoevers Dam Park in the city of Lebanon 3/17 (FH) probably does not. An attempt to relocate this bird on a later date failed.

Probably due to the lack of snow, **Short-eared Owl** was difficult to find this quarter at their usual roost sites. Only 1 bird was found at the ELCO high school site this year and only on 2/12. The total lack of pellets under the roost trees suggest that this area was rarely used this winter.

While most landbird migration was on schedule, **E. Phoebe** returned a little later than usual. The earliest dates were 3/17 at Lickdale (PM) and 3/19 at ML (SS). **Am. Robin** numbers were down this winter; the only report being 2 found 1/29 at ML (DZ). The first **Brown Thrasher** was a singing bird at Colebrook 3/27 (SS). **Rusty Blackbird** like the wet patches in the Mt. Gretna/Colebrook area. This year they were in higher numbers than usual; 125 on 3/19 was the peak (SS), while 2 others were found the same day at Lickdale (PM,VM).

OBSERVERS: Ellis Blauch, Fritz Heilman, Pat McElhenny, Val McElhenny, **Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857)**, Ann, Bill & Scott Welsh, Del Zimmerman.

LEHIGH COUNTY

Bernie Morris

This season was a rather dull one for birding, with very few interesting land birds and practically NO "winter finches."

LOONS TO OWLS. A group of 7 **Great Blue Heron** were seen flying in formation over Camp Olympic 2/4 (JH), and 5 others were there 1/28 (RW). Ten **Tundra Swan** were at Leaser L. 2/22 (RW). Between 15-20 **Ring-necked Duck** were at the Fogelsville Quarry 3/26 (RW). A **N. Pintail** was also there 1/28 (RW), and 3 others 1/16 (JH). A pair of **Common Goldeneye**, several **Common** and **Hooded** mergansers were at Leaser L. 3/26 (BLM,PE), and all three species of mergansers were seen together there 3/14 (SR).

Several **Turkey Vulture** were seen near Allentown in Jan. (PZ,RW). A **Bald Eagle** was seen 2/23 near Fogelsville (LG). An albino **Red-tailed Hawk** wintered n. of Macungie (GLF). The warm weather of late Mar. produced a hawk flight of 3

Cooper's, a **Merlin**, several **Osprey**, and **Broad-wings** in Emmaus 3/27 (JH).

Unusually large numbers of **Ring-billed Gull** remained at L. Muhlenberg all winter, up to 200 in mid-Feb. (BLM,FB) and about 300 on 3/12 (RW). **Great Black-backed Gull**, not usually seen at all in our region, put on a good show. One was seen along the Lehigh R. near Walnutport 2/7 (RG,JG), and 2 were seen in Allentown 1/3 (BLM), 1 of which stayed in the area until at least 2/11 (PZ). Two **Am. Woodcock** were heard calling near LCCC 3/13 (RW). Two others were heard near Sheresville in late March (PE), and near Walnutport 3/14 (SR). A **Common Barn-Owl** was seen in Whitehall 3/26 (RW).

PASSERINES. Good numbers of **Horned Lark** were seen in the usual spots, especially after the first snow of the season 1/7. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were extremely rare, but 1 wintered at a feeder near New Tripoli (RM). A very early **House Wren** was seen near Neffs 3/13 (DS). The usual number of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were found this season. A **Fox Sparrow** was at a feeder in Whitehall 1/19 (RW). Absolutely no **Evening Grosbeak** found anywhere in the area.

OBSERVERS: Fritz Brock, Pauline England, Gary L. Freed, John Galm, Richard Gemmel, Laurie Goodrich, Jason Horn, Ron MacAulay, **Bernard L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134)**, Sally Roth, Dick Saul, Rick Wiltraut, Peter Zakrewski.

LUZERNE COUNTY

Bill Reid

Locations: Harveys L. (HL), North Branch Susquehanna River (NBSR), Susquehanna Riverlands (SR), Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES), Wapwallopen (Wap), Wyoming (WY).

Please see the *Bradford* report for introductory comments.

A single **Common Loon** was swimming on the NBSR at SR 1/11 (DG). At HL, 2 **Horned Grebe** were seen 1/7 and 10 on 3/31 (WR). Eight **Tundra Swans** were at E. Berwick 3/13 (DG) and 14 were at HL 3/26 (EJ). Two **Snow Geese** were in E. Berwick 3/8-13 (DG). Flocks totalling 7000 **Canada Geese** were seen flying over near HL 3/17 (BN *et al.*). Over 350+ ducks and geese were counted between WY and Forty Fort 1/27 (WR). The count included: 54 **Canada Geese**, 176 **Am. Black Duck**, 81 **Mallard**, 1 **Gadwall**, 14 **Common Goldeneye**, 1 **Hooded Merganser**, and 27 **Common Merganser**. Wintering birds at HL included: single **Canvasback** 1/7-2/17, **Redhead** 1/27-2/17, and **Ring-necked Duck** 1/2-3/31; 2 **Lesser Scaup** 1/7-3/31, and 70 **Am. Coot**. Other ducks reported include: 20 **Wood Duck**, 3 **Green-winged Teal**, and 4 **Am. Wigeon** at WY 3/20; **N. Pintail**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Am. Wigeon** and **Canvasback** at Wilkes-Barre 3/16 (FP); 1 **Greater Scaup** at HL 2/3; 15 **Hooded Merganser** in w. Pittston 2/19 (PS); and all 3 mergansers at HL 3/27 (WR). Although generally less common than usual, there were 63 **Black Duck** near Wap 1/5 (DG). A ♂ **Redhead** was on NBSR near Wap 1/11 (DG).

Turkey Vulture (4) returned to Shickshinny 2/24 (TS). A **Merlin** visited a birdfeeder near Hobbie (the village, not the falcon) starting 3/22; this is apparently a return visit (AP). At least 2 **Killdeer** over-wintered at SSES (DG). Numerous flocks of **Ring-billed Gull** were reported in March; the only **Herring Gull** report was at HL 2/1 (WR). Thirty **Horned Lark** were noted at WY 2/3 (JS).

First **Tree Swallow** appeared at SR 3/27 (DG). Two **Fish Crow** reached SR 2/21, preceding the main **Fish Crow** arrival (DG); many **Am. Crow** over-wintered in what seemed to be resident family groups. Winter **Black-capped Chickadee** and **Tufted Titmouse** populations collapsed to recent lows in two forested winter bird population plots near SSES (DG). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** wintered at Dallas (CH). **Carolina Wren** continued to do very well in SR and near Wap along NBSR (DG). First **Winter Wren** of spring was in SR 3/27 (DG). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** also experienced low winter populations in plots.

Ten **E. Bluebird** were seen at the SR 1/28 (JJ). An early **Am. Robin** was at Kirby Park 2/7 (MS). A **Water Pipit** was seen feeding on an ice floe 200' from shore at HL 3/21 (WR) and 75 were at WY 3/25 (JS). **Fox Sparrow** were reported at Mt. Zion 3/18 (BT) and HL 3/26 (EJ), while 2 were singing in SR 3/27 (DG). **Evening Grosbeak** were conspicuously absent, but 2 **Pine Grosbeak** flew over SSES 2/24 (DG).

OBSERVERS: John Fridman, Doug Gross, Clyde Houseknecht, John Jakoby, Edwin Johnson, Basil Nichols, Frank Pacolitch, Autumn Pfeiffer, **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**, Jim Shoemaker, Pete Sidari, Terry Soya, Bruce Troy.

LYCOMING COUNTY

Wesley Egli

We welcome Wesley Egli as the new compiler for Lycoming County. He looks forward to receiving your sightings.

Locations: Farragut (FGT), Huntersville (HNT), Loyalsock Cr. (LC), Montoursville (MTV), Muncy Area (MA), Picture Rocks Area (PRA), Pine Cr. Valley (PCV), Rose Valley L. (RVL), Susquehanna R. (SR), Upper Fairfield Twp (UFT).

Several **Horned Grebe** were observed on RVL 3/18 (WE), with ± 150 seen at the same location 3/29 (SS). **Pied-billed Grebe** were seen on RVL 3/18-30 (WE,SS); 1 on LC 1/14 (SS). Several **Great Blue Heron** were seen throughout the quarter in the MA near SR (WE). Resting on RVL 3/18 were 87 **Tundra Swan** (WE,SS). Thirteen **Snow Geese** were spotted in a field in MA 3/30 (CB). Migrating **Canada Geese** were seen in good numbers by 3/15 (m.ob.). On RVL ± 70 **Ring-necked Duck** and ± 70 **Lesser Scaup** 3/17-18 (WE,SS). Two σ **White-winged Scoter** were on RVL 3/30-31 (SS). **Oldsquaw**, **Bufflehead**, and all 3 species of merganser were on RVL 3/17-31 (WE,SS).

Turkey Vulture returned 3/1 near FGT (ETR). A pair of ad. **Bald Eagle** was observed throughout the quarter in PCV (BD,JAS). **N. Harrier** were seen all quarter in UFT (WE,ETR). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were reported common in MTV all quarter (SS). A **Cooper's Hawk** was in Jersey Shore 1/16 (PGS). One **N. Goshawk** was spotted in UFT 3/22 (ETR) and an imm. in Jersey Shore 1/14 (PGS). The only report of **Rough-legged Hawk** was in UFT (WE,ETR). **Am. Kestrel** were numerous in the MA (WE). Eight **Wild Turkey** hens were spotted in UFT 3/28 (ETR). **Killdeer** were first observed 3/15 in MA (WE). **Am. Woodcock** were spotted 3/25 near LC (SS). A **Dunlin** in transitional plumage was at RVL 3/30-31 (SS). Six **Bonaparte's Gull** were at RVL 3/30 (SS). **Ring-billed** and **Herring** gulls observed 3/5 in MA and RVL, and on the river from then on (WE,ETR,SS).

Belted Kingfisher were found where water remained open in PRA and RVL (WE). A resident **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was found in a new location; this species continues to expand. One f **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** appeared several times at my PR feeder (WE); 1 was seen in UFT 3/28 (ETR). Only reported sighting of **Pileated Woodpecker** was in MA 3/3 (WE).

E. Phoebe were seen 3/25 at LC (SS) and 3/27 in MA (WE). **Tree Swallow** were first seen at LC 3/25, then a tremendous count of ± 2000 was made 3/30 at the same location (SS). **Fish Crow** sightings were up during Mar. in MA near SR (WE). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** in PRA and **E. Bluebird** in UFT (ETR) and MA (WE) noted all quarter. An early **Worm-eating Warbler** was seen in Huntersville 3/30 (CB).

A **Fox Sparrow** was seen in UFT 3/21 (JW) and 1 at LC 3/25 (SS). **Brown-headed Cowbird** first seen 3/10 in PRA (WE). A single **Pine Grosbeak** appeared at a feeder in UFT 3/21 (JW)(no details, -eds.). **Purple Finch** were observed in UFT 3/10 (ETR) and in PRA 3/29 (WE).

OBSERVERS: Chris Barlow, Brad Deacon, **Wesley Egli, 123 N. Main, PO Box 381, Picture Rocks 17762 (717-584-2222)**, Ed & Tink Reish, Stanley Stahl, James & Alice Stanley, Jill Ward.

MC KEAN COUNTY

Leif Anderson

Locations: Allegheny Nat. Forest (ANF).

Weather was more like March than winter. Snow fall was much lower than normal, with many portions of the quarter having bare ground. There were no extremely low temperatures, but it did stay in the 20-30° range longer than normal. The Allegheny Res. wasn't ice-free until 3/25, about 1-2 weeks later than normal. Observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

March 11-12 was the peak of **Canada Goose** migration, with 10 flocks seen and up to 141 birds in a flock (BP,LS,LA). A very large flock of 48 **Turkey Vulture** was observed kettling up over the ANF in the evening. The first **Killdeer** was 2/27 in Bradford (RL). An **E. Phoebe** started building a nest outside my office window 3/31. Nice to be able to watch their activity and to listen to them through the day. A fledgling **Common Raven** was noted 3/25.

First **Tufted Titmouse** was 2/26 at a Kane feeder (EF), followed by several

reports after 3/10. By mid-March, **Winter Wren** were vocal, with 4 heard 3/25. First **Am. Robin** was in Kane 2/24, followed by 5 **Common Grackle** on the ANF 2/27. **Evening Grosbeak** continued to be almost nonexistent, with none reported at feeders. Finally, 8 were seen in the woods 3/31, the first since early Dec.

I was walking through a mixed Hemlock/Beech stand, cruising the timber and listening to the spring chatter of chickadees, juncos, and woodpeckers, when I heard a young raven squawk. CLOSE. Soon an adult raven was giving an alarm call. Shortly thereafter a chorus of 8-10 Blue Jays joined in, then 3 crows, and a Red-tailed Hawk. Then more woodpeckers, and the second adult raven joined in. In the space of 3 minutes, the woods went from a rather quiet spring morning to a very noisy, upset place. Needless to say I left the area rather than pinpoint the nest location. That can be done in a month or so. As far as I could tell, I was the only intruder in the area and the birds were reacting to me and to each other. It was interesting to see birds that antagonize each other (woodpeckers-crows, jays-raven, everything-hawk) all reacting towards a common enemy. (Interesting, but not fun.)

OBSERVERS: **Leif Anderson, 48 Birch St., Kane, 16735 (work, 814-362-4613)**, Ethel Fogel, Robert Luke, Bill Peterson, Lois Skinner.

Leif Anderson has moved to the Tennessee/Alabama District after serving as compiler since PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS began. We thank him for all his reports as well as his many contributions to the PBBAP. We will need a compiler for these (Elk and McKean) large and rather sparsely populated counties. -Eds.

MERCER COUNTY

Marty McKay

Locations: Hermitage Area (HA), Sagullas Ponds (SP), Shenango R. Res. (SRR) and Propagation Area (SPA).

A plea, please, for observers. All reported sightings will be appreciated.

The **Great Blue Heron** began arriving at the Brucker Sanctuary early this year, 2/15. While 75 **Tundra Swan** were resting on the ice at SRR 3/12, 20 **Lesser Scaup** were swimming nearby. **Wood Duck** arrived in the area 3/16 and 8 **N. Pintail** were at SPA 3/12. The 300 **Ring-necked Duck** on Willow L. 3/18 were a nice find. In Pency Swamp on 3/26 2 **Green-winged Teal**, a few **Am. Wigeon**, and 1 **Gadwall** were seen. Three f **Hooded Merganser** were on a pond at HA during the snowstorm 3/31 and 150+ **Red-breasted Merganser** were on SRR 3/17.

A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** returned 2/28 (*location deleted. -Eds.*) and immediately investigated an old squirrel's nest and displayed. They had not settled on their choice of a nesting site by the end of the quarter. The Amish area remains a good location for **Am. Kestrel**. The winter **Sichuan Pheasant** count indicates that the stocking program is successful. An **Am. Coot** was at SRR 3/23. The first **Killdeer** of the year was noted 3/11 near SPA. **Am. Woodcock** have been scarce the past few years, but 1 was observed at HA 3/29.

Some 300+ **Ring-billed Gull** wintered at SRR. The resident pair of **Great Horned Owl** were observed mating at dusk 1/1 and again 1/15 on approximately the same oak branch at HA.

E. Phoebe returned 3/18 at several locations. A **Carolina Wren** was spotted at HA 3/14. Many **Horned Lark** were n. of Fayette. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, absent all winter, began moving through 3/27. The **E. Bluebird** is doing well; 1 was seen carrying nesting material to a box at HA 3/28. There are also many in the Amish areas. The first flock (30 birds) of migrating **Am. Robin** was noted 2/19. Arrival date for **Rufous-sided Towhee** was 3/27. **Field Sparrow** appeared 3/29. No **White-throated Sparrow** was reported the entire quarter. Two **E. Meadowlark** and 5 **Rusty Blackbird** were at SPA 3/12. **House Finch** abound. Interestingly, 3 were pecking at a salt lick at HA 1/25. No **Pine Siskin** or **Evening Grosbeak** appeared all quarter.

OBSERVERS: Bill Sarver, **Marty McKay, 2320 Valley View Road, Sharpsville 16150 (412-962-7476)**.

MIFFLIN COUNTY

Margaret Kenepp

Locations: Belleville area (BVA), Mattawana area (MTA), McClure area (MCA), Juniata R.

All sightings are by compiler unless otherwise noted. Weather conditions varied from cold to very cold with less snow than usual, but with some icy conditions at times. During an early morning snowstorm in March, a severe thunderstorm erupted.

Jan. Several feeders were visited by a Sharp-shinned Hawk (AY,MK). A lone N. Mockingbird was searching for food 1/30 (MK), while earlier this month a Chipping Sparrow was visiting a feeder (AK).

Feb. brought the regular birds to the feeders. Considered somewhat abundant were: Downy and Red-bellied woodpeckers, Tufted Titmouse, N. Cardinal, and House Finch. Our Carolina Wren pair continued to use the peat moss bag in the garage for roosting; other regulars are Mourning Dove, Hairy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, and Dark-eyed Junco. A flock of Horned Lark was observed on a newly manured field 2/15. One Am. Robin chirped from the linden tree 2/16, then disappeared. Several Red-tailed Hawk and 4 Am. Kestrel were seen all season.

Mar. had the typical progression of species, presented chronologically. On 3/4 Tundra Swan and Canada Geese rested on the river near MTA (MK,AK). A determined E. Phoebe sat on our TV wire 3/5 and, apparently as in previous years, was just a migrant since none was heard again until 3/20. Large numbers of ducks were seen on the river above Ryde and 31 Ring-necked Duck and several Common Merganser were counted (MK,AK). Two Common Redpoll appeared at a feeder during a snowstorm at MTA 3/7 (AY) and two days later 1 was seen in our linden tree, only about 1 mi as the crow flies from the previous two. Killdeer voices filled the evening air with their cheery spring calls 3/8. By 3/10 large flocks of Am. Robin descended and scurried everywhere, frisky and sassy followed in short order by Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle proclaiming spring.

On 3/14, a damp, dreary and dismal day, about 3:15 p.m., our neighbor's daughter and I watched many birds flitting all over our persimmon tree. Close examination revealed them to be Cedar Waxwing eating the fruit. We counted ±80 at the time, but early the next morning I observed 120+ waxwings and several robins again eating heartily of the fruit. Some were literally upside down and in odd position to glean the fruit. It was entertaining to also watch them fly hurriedly down to a water puddle near by and drink and then fly back into the tree. Needless to say, they stripped the tree clean. They apparently moved on, as we have not seen a waxwing since.

Common Raven are routinely heard. A pair of Pileated Woodpecker visited local feeders and it is suspected they are may nest nearby (CW). E. Bluebird flocks were observed all quarter in usual numbers. Chipping Sparrow returned 3/17 and Red-bellied Woodpecker were observed 3/20 entering the nest site they have used for at least 5 years. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a Fox Sparrow were seen 3/22 (AK). Black-capped Chickadee were investigating nest sites by 3/29. On that date 3 Horned Grebe and 1 Am. Wigeon were on a farm pond in BVA 3/29 (AK). Tree Swallow were circling overhead 3/28. We have observed 2 Brown Creeper since early winter on the trees near the feeders; they have never been seen to eat at any feeder. (Does any reader know of an instance when creepers have been seen actually eating food provided at a feeder?)

Unaccountably, Great Blue Heron is still absent from regular feeding on our stream. Wild Turkey numbers are usual in the area and still feeding with deer near the mountains area. The 100+ Turkey Vulture and several Black Vulture which have roosted on Dunmires Ridge near McVeytown returned this season, but only stayed for a short time. It seems they are perhaps the same group now roosting in the same valley, but further E in Spring Run Church -several miles to the E of the regular stop over.

OBSERVERS: Amanda & Annie Kauffman, Margaret Kenepp, Box 343, RD 2, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252), Carolyn Wray.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Neal G. Thorpe

Locations: Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Fort Washington State Park (FWSP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge National Historic Park (VFNP).

The quarter was notable for its lack of precipitation: two snowfalls and little rain. Two unusually warm spells in mid-Jan. and early March had birds singing and made for temperatures above average.

There was no rarity this quarter, although both scaup turned up in unprecedented numbers on both the GLR and the Schuylkill R. Mixed rafts of mostly Lesser Scaup were at both GLR and nearby UPVP; the first 6 were at UPVP 2/25, and by mid-March a total of 51 were counted at both places (GLF). Thirteen Greater and 2 Lesser were on the river at VFNP during the same period; the first Lesser since '85 (RG). GLR was also visited by 1 Redhead 3/3-4 and 3 Red-breasted Merganser 3/22 (GLF).

The Hatboro Merlin reported last quarter did not stay till March this year; it was last seen 1/28 (JH). Wild Turkey are being seen regularly at GLR, with 5 seen 3/4 (GLF), and a ♀ was spotted in the UCV 3/12 (W&NM). Three sightings of Great Black-backed Gull at VFNP were unusual: either 1 or 2 ad. and a 3rd-winter bird between 2/25 and 3/10 (RG).

A Common Barn-Owl was at GLR 3/22, and in view of the total lack of winter finches almost everywhere, perhaps the lone Purple Finch seen at GLR 3/2 should be considered a rarity (GLF).

A max. 10 Tundra Swan at GLR in March was low when compared to 75 last year (GLF), as was only 1 Snow Goose at VFNP (RG) and none reported at GLR. The 1100 Canada Geese at VFNP were fewer than the annual winter logjam there upstream from the Betzwood Bridge, but 52 Am. Black Duck and 99 Ring-necked Duck were good numbers. Bufflehead numbers have been increasing yearly, also reaching about 100 this year. The area also had its first Green-winged Teal since '85, its first N. Pintail since '83, and the Canvasback that appeared there in December lingered into the new quarter. (RG). Common Merganser seemed scarce everywhere the first weeks of Jan., but began to appear in late Jan. and had reached a count of 160 at GLR in Feb. (GLF).

The spring hawk migration at FWSP held up the good numbers seen during the fall hawk watch there on Militia Hill. In 2 hours, 6 Am. Kestrel, 4 Red-tailed, 1 Osprey, 1 Sharp-shinned, 1 Cooper's, and 1 Merlin were seen, as well as hundreds of Ring-billed Gull on the move (W&NM).

Cedar Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch and Pine Siskin were notably absent everywhere all quarter, and even Am. Goldfinch seemed in short supply. RG noted that "robins, creepers, golden-crowned kinglets, great blue herons--a lot of the birds that are not common, but that you can usually find in winter--disappeared the end-Dec./early-Jan., and were not seen again until end-Feb. or the middle of March." But by the end of March all observers were noting spring movement. Two very early Greater Yellowlegs were at GLR 3/20-25 and a record early Louisiana Waterthrush was in the UCV 3/21 (GLF). The UCV is clearly an outstanding flyway for migrants, and last year W&NM atlased the area and counted 91 possible breeders. On 3/26 the Murphys visited there and noted: "Brown Creeper in song, several of them at different locations, grouse drumming and a good number of Pine Warbler back in the area. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker moving through." A good upbeat ending to the quarter.

Two E. Meadowlark were at GLR 3/22; they've been scarce there in past years. Three Rusty Blackbird were at GLR 3/22.

OBSERVERS: Gary L. Freed, Ron Grubb, Jeffrey Herbst, William & Naomi Murphy, Neal Thorpe, Box Q, Mont Clare 19453.

MONTOUR COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

It was an exceptional season for waterfowl numbers on the open water at the PP&L ash basin. Two Snow Geese (1 of each phase) remained there throughout the period. Other waterfowl with them included 6 Tundra Swan 3/11, a Mute Swan, Canada Geese (±500-800 at various times), Mallard (possibly 2000 on 1/19), Am.

Black Duck (±900 on 1/19), and **N. Pintail** (6 on 1/18; 36 on 3/11) (AS,SS, DU). Many of these birds spilled over onto L. Chillisquaqua when those waters thawed in March. There, on 3/25, were 8 **Pintail**, 80 **Ring-necked Duck**, 10 **Greater Scaup**, 30 **Bufflehead**, and 45 **Common Merganser** (AS).

An estimated 6-8 **Short-eared Owl** were observed at dusk 3/19 in fields adjacent to the PP&L ash basin (J&EP).

An estimated 1000 **Horned Lark**, 3 **Snow Bunting**, and at least 5 **Lapland Longspur** were present at Buttonwood Springs Farm 1/13. Larks and longspurs were still there 1/31 and 3/3 (SS).

OBSERVERS: John & Evelyn Petery, **Allen Schweinsberg**, **1200 Zeigler Road**, **Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432)**, Stan Stahl, Dave Unger.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS. Four **Tundra Swan** were seen flying over with **Canada Geese** near Pt. Phillips 3/19 (DD), and that same day Boyce saw 3 **N. Pintail**, 2 **Green-winged Teal**, 6 **Lesser Scaup**, and 5 **Ring-necked Duck** at Minsi L.

Koch noted 3 **Black Vulture** all quarter near her Williams Twp home and another was seen near Mt. Bethel 3/20 (SB). Early **Turkey Vulture** were seen at Pennsville 1/17 and along Rt. 33 1/19 (SB). A **N. Goshawk** was observed near Pt. Phillips 3/17 (DD) and there were scattered sightings of **Cooper's Hawk** throughout the period. Boyce continued his detailed survey of wintering raptors, banding over 70 **Am. Kestrel**, 14 **Red-tails**, 2 **N. Harrier**, and 1 **Cooper's Hawk**. On 1/5, he saw 3 harriers near Danielsville. Two other harriers were seen near Pt. Phillips 3/17 (DD). An albino Red-tail was noted along Rt. 33 near Belfast all winter (KS). An ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen near Bath 3/11 and another ad. was observed in a spectacular courtship flight (location deleted. -Eds.) (SB,RW). There are few sights in nature that can match a hawk plummeting through the sky with closed wings. Although **Rough-legged Hawk** numbers were down this winter, Boyce had a "light" phase wintering near Easton and observed a "dark" phase at Rts. 22 & 33 on 1/4. Another Rough-leg was seen being mobbed by Red-winged Blackbirds near Pt. Phillips 3/18 (DD). Five **E. Screech-Owl** were counted along Blue Mt. 1/9 and a **Common Barn-Owl** was noted at Bath 3/17 (SB).

SHOREBIRDS TO FINCHES. **Am. Woodcock** were found to be common at Minsi L. 3/20 (SB) and 7 **Common Snipe** were flushed from a wet field near Bath 3/31 (RW). A **Great Black-backed Gull** was unusual on the Lehigh R. at Allentown 1/10 (BLM,PZ). Some 250 **Horned Lark** were seen near Bath 3/25 and a flock of 150 **Water Pipit** were observed at Arrowhead Rd. 3/31 (RW). A **Red-winged Blackbird** was observed at Bath 1/3 (SB) and 3 **Rusty Blackbird** were at Pt. Phillips 3/18 (DD). A **Fox Sparrow** was noted at Pt. Phillips 3/12 (SB). There were no reports of northern finches.

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, Arlene Koch, Bernie Morris, Kathy Sieminski, **Rick Wiltraut**, **54 Pershing Blvd**, **Whitehall 18052 (215-435-8632)**, Pete Zakrewski.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Dave Unger

Locations: Ralpho Twp. (RaT), Riverside (RS), Rush Twp. (RT), N. Branch Susquehanna R. at Riverside (SR).

Due to the relatively mild winter both **Mallard** and **Common Merganser** were common on the SR whenever it was fairly ice-free. A high count of 33 **Common Merganser** were seen 1/29. Late in the quarter 3 **Hooded Merganser** were seen on the SR. No other waterfowl report was received.

Killdeer returned to their normal nesting area in RS 3/17. This winter was the one for gulls on the SR. **Ring-billed** and **Herring** gulls were both fairly common whenever it was ice-free. **Herring Gull** were seen during Jan. and Feb., with a high count of 30 on 1/29. Also on 1/29 a 1st winter **Great Black-backed Gull** was observed. **Ring-billed Gull** were seen throughout the quarter with a high of 100+ on 3/15; they were even seen 6 mi from the SR in RT.

Wild Turkey continued their comeback, with 5 being seen in a new location in RT 3/15. **Ruffed Grouse** also remain common in suitable habitat in RT and they started drumming around 3/5. No sighting of **Ring-necked Pheasant** was reported, although **Mourning Dove** were abundant in RS and RaT.

Turkey Vulture started moving through RT and RS 3/21, with a high of 9 on 3/29. **N. Harrier** reappeared in RT 2/22 and were seen occasionally thereafter. No **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen.

Downy, **Hairy** and **Red-bellied** woodpeckers were common all quarter in RT, with a marked increase in the Downy population. A pair of **Pileated Woodpecker** included our woodlot in their territory during Mar. **E. Phoebe** returned to RT 3/18. **Horned Lark** were sighted along rural roads in RT after our winter's major 5.5" snowfall 3/6. **Blue Jay** were unusually absent from RT, but were seen frequently in RaT and RS. **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Whitebreasted Nuthatch** and **Brown Creeper** were common and **Tufted Titmice** seemed more abundant than ever before.

A **Carolina Wren** made an appearance in RT 3/3 near our home (1000 ft elevation); it was our first winter record and remained approx. two weeks. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were absent in the beginning of the quarter but became more common early in Mar. **E. Bluebird** remained very common in RT. **Am. Robin** were seen infrequently in Jan. and Feb. and the first major migration was seen 3/16 in RS and RT.

Two **Pine Warbler** were observed singing in RT 3/31. A **Rusty Blackbird** was seen 3/31 in RaT among a flock of **Common Grackle**. The first arrival date for both **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Common Grackle** was 3/5 in RS and RT. **Am. Tree Sparrow** were virtually non-existent the entire quarter as were **Field Sparrow**. **White-throated Sparrow** remained hard to find also, but 3 **Fox Sparrow** were in RT 3/24. **Song Sparrow** were common and **Dark-eyed Junco** were our most numerous winter specie. **N. Cardinal** and **House Finch** were common, **Purple Finch** reappeared in RT 3/31. **Evening Grosbeak**, **Pine Siskin** and **Common Redpoll** all were unreported.

OBSERVERS: Christine Smull, Linda and **David Unger**, **RD 6 Box 246**, **Danville 17821 (717-672-3254)**.

PERRY COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

A **Bald Eagle** hung out from Liverpool to Duncannon on the Susquehanna R. This bird may have been one released by the PGC on Haldeman I. **N. Goshawk** numbers are good in the w. section, as several were glimpsed at various location in the Tuscarora SF.

E. Screech-Owl numbers in the New Bloomfield area were very good, with a one hour owling trip yielding 11 birds (DH,RK).

A weedy field near Ellitsburg held good numbers of wintering sparrows, including on 1/26, 9 **White-crowned**, 3 **Swamp**, 6 **Field**, plus hundreds of **Dark-eyed Junco** (it seemed a better than average year for them), and 1 **Rufous-sided Towhee**. In a field near Landisburg, 12 **Snow Bunting** and 250 **Horned Lark** were spotted. Near this same spot 15 **Water Pipit** were seen 3/22.

OBSERVERS: **Deuane Hoffman**, **3406 Montour St.**, **Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475)**, Ramsay Koury.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Edward Fingerhood

Locations: Andorra Nature Center (ANC), Bartram's Gardens (BG), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Ft. Mifflin (FM), Morris Arboretum (MA), Pennypack Park (PP), Schuylkill Center for Environ. Educ. (SCEE), Tinicum Nat. Environ. Center (TNEC).

Except for brief snow and a freeze-up in early January, and snow squalls during the 3rd week in March, the winter was milder and drier than in most years. The highlight of the season, once again, was the Mid-Winter Bird Census (MWBC) compiled and coordinated by Keith Russell. Some noteworthy finds follow (a full list is available from Keith at 71 W. Washington Lane, Phila., PA 19119). The census was held 1/7 in 28-34° overcast weather with 3-5" of fresh snow cover. Forty participants found 87 species, among which the carefully described **Spotted Sandpiper** found along the Schuylkill R., was undoubtedly the most unusual find (JG,MD). A **Merlin** (DC), **Orange-crowned Warbler** (BR,ML), and a **N. Goshawk** (FW) at the NE Phila. airport also highlighted the event.

GREBES TO GULLS. Two **Pied-billed Grebe** were on the MWBC and another 3 at TNEC 3/17 (JCM). **Great Cormorant** continue at the foot of Pennypack Ave. on the Delaware R.; 8 were found on the MWBC and again 3/7,19. The number dropped to 3 on 3/20,26 (FW,EF). While most of these birds are in sub-adult plumage,

FW reports that 1 on 3/20 was an ad. in alternate plumage. The earliest report for **Double-crested Cormorant** was 3/20 on the Schuylkill R. (EF). JCM reports a "good" **Am. Bittern** migration in Mar. The earliest date for **Great Egret** was 3/17 (JCM) and for **Cattle Egret**, 2, at TNEC 3/28 (Serena Rimker).

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was observed with a Canada on the W. River Drive 3/31 (MD). One **N. Pintail** and 2 **N. Shoveler** were on the MWBC. **Canvasback** at the fish pond off Pennypack Ave. rose from 171 to 250 from 1/7-11 (FW) and peaked at 265 at TNEC 3/17 (JCM). Miller comments that in general this was a "good duck year," which is reassuring after the dire predictions in the wake of last year's drought. Among the "Cans," 2 **Redhead** were found at TNEC 3/4 (TR) and 3 on 3/17 (JCM). **Ring-necked Duck**, found on the MWBC, were also at TNEC 3/4 (TR). An unusual fallout of **Greater Scaup** on the City Line Res. 3/4 (MD) contrasted with the more common **Lesser Scaup** found at TNEC 3/4 (TR). **Common Merganser** were at TNEC 1/2 (MD) and 160 on 3/17 (JCM). The 350 **Ruddy Duck** at TNEC 3/17 (JCM) made an impressive showing.

N. Harrier were at their breeding location, Phila. airport, all quarter and a "suspected migrant" went by the SCEE. An ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at TNEC 3/1 (SC) and 3/11 (MD). The high **Red-tailed Hawk** count was 6 at the NE Phila. airport 3/10 (EF). The 1 **Rough-legged Hawk** reported was found on the MWBC. **Am. Kestrel** reports from a variety of locations seem to indicate this falcon is doing well (*at least in winter.*-Eds.). An ad. pair of **Peregrine Falcon** at FM 1/2 (JCM) could be the same pair seen not far away at the Girard Pt. Bridge 3/20 (EF). A single Peregrine in the Manyunk section was found by Harry Franzen 3/15.

Five **Ring-necked Pheasant** were seen 3/20 during a snow squall and 2 ♂ were counter-calling at BG 3/17 (EF). **Greater Yellowlegs** built to 55 at TNEC 3/29 (JCM). On that same day, Miller found 200+ **Common Snipe** there, (which contrasts with only 1 found on the 1/7 MWBC). **Am. Woodcock** were displaying at TNEC 3/12 (SC). At BG, a single woodcock was heard "peenting" 3/17 (EF). This appears to be the *first* published record of this shorebird at this site since 1822, when Wm. Bartram recorded 1 on 3/6. A lingering bird, found in NW Phila., was counted on the MWBC. That same census found in SW Phila. an **Iceland Gull** (*Kumlein's*) 1/7, which was perhaps the same bird recorded by JCM at FM 1/12.

OWLS TO FINCHES. The CW **E. Screech-Owl** was found regularly 1/24+ (SL,EB). Brendel once saw the bird sitting out in the rain. Windfelder writes about **Great Horned Owl** in PP, "I cannot emphasize enough how common [it is]...they occur at 1 mi intervals." It was a good season for **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**; 7 were found on the MWBC and 1 seen drumming at the ANC 3/25 (MD). A **Hairy Woodpecker** at ANC 1/28 (MD) opened the period's reports, while SC's report of 1 at TNEC, rare for the refuge, was a good find 3/12. **Pileated Woodpecker** reports were encouraging. Lawrence had one to open the year at CW, while FW reported a "new pair" at a new location in PP 1/20 and a different pair from the Bell's Mill Rd./Wis-sahickon Cr. area found 1/21 (BNM).

E. Phoebe first appeared 3/26 in CW (MD), but a lingerer was found at SCEE 1/7 (m.ob.). Two **Horned Lark**, a species no longer easily found in Phila., were located on the MWBC. **Tree Swallow** were in by at least 3/17, when JCM found 20 at TNEC. Six **Black-capped Chickadee** were on the MWBC and 1 at TNEC 3/1 among a group of Carolinas (SC). Both FW for PP and SL for CW reported no **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, but 2 were found on the MWBC, 1 each in the NE and SW. **Brown Creeper**, for the second consecutive year, appear to be doing well; at least 7 separate reports from 2/10+ were received. A rare winter **House Wren** appeared at FM 1/12 (JCM). **Winter Wren** reports were good: 7 found on the MWBC, 6 of which were in NW Phila; other reports came from TNEC 1/14 (AG, JL), CW area 2/8 (SL) and 3/19 (MD). Miller considered the kinglet season for both species "good." A rare winter **Ruby-crowned** turned up on the MWBC in SW Phila., and **Golden-crowned** flocks were in CW 3/26-28 (MD,SL).

Hermit Thrush was reported at ANC 3/25 (MD) and CW 3/29 (EB). Interestingly, Lawrence reports that **Am. Robin**, usually common in winter in CW, "virtually disappeared" except for 1/13-14. Two **Gray Catbird** were found near CW on the MWBC (MD). Only 6 **Cedar Waxwing** were in CW 1/1 (SL), who reports *none since*, but 20 were seen on the MWBC in the NE and NW. **Orange-crowned Warbler** is considered an occasional winter visitor. Could the 1 at FM 1/12 (JCM) be the same bird found 1/7 in the same area on the MWBC?

Two **Rufous-sided Towhee**, the only reports, were found in separate locations on the MWBC. All observers agreed that sparrows were "down." Miller adds, "way

down." This includes **Tree, White-throated** (max. 6 in CW 2/6) and **Dark-eyed Junco**. Brendel found 2 juncos involved in aggressive interaction in W. Mt. Airy 2/2, when they engaged in bill-snapping and tumbling. They began singing 3/25 at ANC and in CW 3/26 (MD). The MWBC came up with 6 **White-crowned Sparrow** in SW Phila.

Two **Rusty Blackbird** appeared in NE Phila. 1/7 along with a lingering **Common Grackle** along the Schuylkill R. Several were at a W. Mt. Airy feeder 2/8 (EB) and general arrival was 3/4 (SL). The MWBC produced 1 **Purple Finch** in W. Phila. and 6 one day later in CW "at the end of a snowstorm" (SL).

All observers agreed that there was, with few exceptions, an almost total lack of winter finches. Miller suggested that whatever was responsible for the lack of finches may have also caused the declining numbers of sparrows. Perhaps the mild winter.

OBSERVERS: Erica Brendel, Skip Conant, Dave Cutler, Michael Darcy, Michael Drake, **Edward Fingerhood, 541 W. Sedgwick St., Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818)**, Al Guarente, John Guarnaccia, Steve Lawrence, Jim Lockyer, Mike Logan, John C. Miller, Bill & Naomi Murphy, Tom Reeves, Bob Ridgeley, Frank Windfelder.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Daniel Knarr

Locations: Calvary Cemetery Area (CCA), Deer L. Pond (DLP), New Ringgold Area (NRA), Port Clinton (PC), Pottsville (PVL), Tumbling Run Dam (TRD), West Pottsville (WP).

Unless otherwise noted, all sightings by compiler.

Two pair of **N. Shoveler** were at DLP 3/31. A pair of **Wood Duck** were in WP 3/22 (TC). A pair of **Hooded Merganser** was at TRD 3/20 (TC). One ♂ **Oldsquaw** was at TRD 3/28 (TC).

Several **Turkey Vulture** were in PC 1/21. Up to 3 **Black Vulture** were seen at least five times 2/12+ in PC. **Red-shouldered Hawk** were seen throughout the quarter in NRA and a pair was observed 2/27+. **Am. Woodcock** returned to their traditional breeding areas 3/8 (TC) and were observed in courtship display till the end of the quarter.

E. Phoebe, 2, were at NRA 3/18 (DK) and TRD 3/20 (TC). Numerous **Brown Creeper** reports were received from WP and TRD (TC). The first **Winter Wren** was seen in WP 3/8 (EB) through at least 3/29 (EB,TC). A **Carolina Wren** was in PVL 3/27 (TC). A pair of **E. Bluebird** were seen in NRA 1/1+. Many **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were at TRD 3/20 (TC). Four **Purple Finch** were noted in PVL 3/30 (TC). A high of 10 **Fox Sparrow** were in WP 3/15 (EB) and 5 were there 3/22 (TC).

OBSERVERS: Ed Braehler, Tom Clauser, **Daniel Knarr, RD 1, Box 23d, New Ringgold 17960 (717-386-4780)**.

SNYDER COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

Waterfowl on Faylor L. 3/12 included 3 **Tundra Swan**, 80 **Canada Geese**, 20 **N. Pintail**, 20 **Mallard**, 2 **Am. Wigeon**, a **Lesser Scaup**, and 3 **Hooded Merganser**. In fields nearby were 3 **Rough-legged Hawk**, 4 **Red-tailed Hawk**, and 2 **N. Harrier** (AS).

Several **Am. Woodcock** were on display along Zerbe Road 3/29 (AS,JS).

A **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco**, seen through 3/28, was reported by experienced observers (R&PW).

OBSERVERS: **Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Road, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432)**, Joe Southerton, Richard & Pat Williams.

SOMERSET COUNTY

Ruth and Glenn Sager

Locations: Addison Twp. (AT), Beaver Dam Cr. (BDC), Black Twp. (BT), Brotherton (Btm), Casselman R. (CR), Confluence (Cf), Cranberry Glade L. (CGL), Davidsville (Dv), High Point L. (HPL), Hooversville (HV), Indian L. (IL), Jennerstown (JT), Kimmelton (Kr), L. Somerset (LS), L. Stonycreek (LSc), Lambertsville (Lv), Markleton (MT), Quemahoning Dam (QD), Roxbury (Rb), Shanksville (Sv), Somerset (S), Stoughton L. (SL), Thomas Mills (TM), Ursina, Wilson Cr. (WC), Youghiogheny R. L. (YRL), Youghiogheny R (YR).

Jan. was warmer than usual and snowfall at a minimum, with little measurable snow after 1/6. Feb. began with record-high temperatures and then settled into normal temps and was wetter than usual, with most precipitation in the form of rain. Mar. was wetter and warmer than normal.

Waterfowl, particularly, were affected by our open winter because the larger bodies of water had open spots most of the time when they normally would have been completely frozen. During brief periods of several days when they froze over, waterfowl shifted to moving water on rivers and even to mine drainage areas and sewage lagoons. As a result, Jan. and early Feb. had more than the normal number of species, evidenced by the following waterfowl report. A **Great Egret** was a LS 3/18-25 and a **Lesser Golden-Plover** in wetlands near Roxbury 3/17-22.

Species	High Count	Observed	Locations
Com. Loon	2 HPL 3/30-31	1/9+	HPL, QD
P-b Grebe	1 or 2	3/16-30	HPL, LS, QD
H. Grebe	8 HPL 3/30	3/3-30	HPL, IL, LS, QD
G. B. Heron	5 LS 3/21	1/26-3/30	CGL, HPL, LS, S, QD
Tundra Swan	100 QD 3/13	1/23-3/13	IL, LS, QD
Canada Goose	130 LSc	1/9-3/23	various locations
Wood Duck	13 LS 3/14	3/12+	various locations
G-w Teal	16 LS 3/25	2/11+	various locations
Black Duck	24 CGL 3/12	1/6-3/21	various locations
Mallard	400 JT 2/11	1/1+	various locations
N. Pintail	10 LS 3/6	2/2-3/25	CGL, IL, LS, LSc, QD
B-w Teal	8 LS 3/25	3/17+	BDC, BT, LS
N. Shoveler	7 LS 3/18	3/18-25	LS
Gadwall	4 LS 3/19-25	3/11-25	CGL, LS
Am. Wigeon	100 LS 3/25	2/18-3/30	CGL, HPL, LS, LSc
Canvasback	5 QD 3/3	3/3-14	IL, LS, QD
Redhead	18 QD 3/3	1/15-3/12	LS, QD
R-n Duck	300 QD 3/18	2/23-3/30	CGL, HPL, IL, LS, QD
L. Scaup	58 HPL 3/30	2/4+	various locations
Oldsquaw	8 HPL 3/29		HPL
W-w Scoter	2 HPL 3/29		HPL
C. Goldeneye	2 QD 2/14*	1/13-3/23	IL, LS, QD
Bufflehead	8 HPL 3/22	1/20-3/30	HPL, QD
H. Merganser	20 HPL 3/30	1/13-3/30	various locations
C. Merganser	4 HPL 3/22	3/12-3/22	IL, HPL
R-b Merganser	32 HPL 3/30	3/6-3/30	HPL, IL, LS, LSc, QD
Ruddy Duck	5 LS 3/25	3/19-25	LS

* also 2 at IL 3/23

The first **Turkey Vulture** was at DV 3/16. Hawk reports included single **N. Harrier** 1/26 at KT, 3/8 at LS, and 3/12 at IL; a single **Rough-legged** 1/29 at LSc and 1 **Am. Kestrel** 1/12 at QD, numerous **Sharp-shins** and **Red-tails**, but few wintering **Cooper's**. There were only a few **Ring-necked Pheasant** and **Ruffed Grouse** reports, but **Wild Turkey** were in good numbers everywhere, with 42 on SGL 50 on 2/8. "Unbelievable" describes the **Am. Coot** report, a lone bird at QD from 1/13-15. Wetlands near Roxbury had 27 **Killdeer** and 5 **Common Snipe** 3/17. LS contributed the first Killdeer 3/3 and single **Greater Yellowlegs** 3/16-27. **Am. Woodcock** were first heard at HPL 3/11 and several until end-March at LS, Rb, and QD.

Ring-billed Gull were at Berlin 2/13 and throughout Mar. at LS and QD in small flocks of up to 60; **Herring Gull** at LS 3/15, 7 **Bonaparte's** at HPL 3/30, and a number of unidentified gulls at various locations. **Mourning Dove** continued the winter's poor showing, with small flocks gathering in Jan. and Feb., the largest during Jan. An **E. Screech-Owl** was at LV 1/23 and 1 at QD 3/23; 2 **Barred Owl** at TM 2/21-27; and 2 **Short-eared Owl** near Windber 2/24-27. **Belted Kingfisher** were at SV 2/1 and in numerous locations to end of quarter. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** overwintered at SL for the first time and other scattered reports were received. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were at MT 2/9 and YRL 2/12.

The first **E. Phoebe** was at LS 3/15. Flocks of up to 50 **Horned Lark** all quarter were at LSc, AT, NC, SV and RB, especially after snowstorms. Five **Tree Swallow** 3/26 at CGL preceded a number of sightings 3/27. **Am. Crow** continued the winter's low numbers in Jan., but flocks built up in Feb. and Mar. and seemed to be in normal numbers and building nests the third week of Mar. **Common Raven** were at HV 1/6, SV 1/15 and QD 2/16.

The "pee-pee-purr-dee" song of a **Tufted Titmouse** was visible to GRS 2/9 when the temp was 6°F and each note of the song was a puff of frosted breath exhaled by the bird. More than the usual number of **Brown Creeper** and **Carolina Wren** reports were received. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** appeared irregularly from 2/27+.

Considering the mild winter, **E. Bluebird** were few, with a max. of 4 at HPL 3/22. A **Hermit Thrush** was at QD 1/10. Flocks of up to 15 **Am. Robin** were in many locations until 3/1, when flocks of several hundred were reported regularly. The **N. Mockingbird** fared well and several remained a single locations all quarter. The only **Cedar Waxwing** report was of 6-31 at QD 3/12-24.

A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at HV 1/4. The earliest **Rufous-sided Towhee** was 1 at MT 3/20. Wintering **Tree, Song,** and **White-throated** sparrows continued the winter's very low average. **Field Sparrow** returned early Mar., but in very low numbers. A single **Vesper Sparrow** was at MD 3/30 and a **Savannah** at Rb 3/18. Up to 4 **Fox Sparrow** at SV from 3/18+ and 2 at HV were the only reports. A few **Red-winged Blackbird** visited feeders in Jan., but by 3/4 flocks of several hundred migrants each were moving through. Earliest **E. Meadowlark** were the 6 at NC 2/22. A roost of 100 **Rusty Blackbird** at JT and 10 at CGL at end of quarter were the only reports. Flocks of several hundred **Common Grackle** arrived early Mar. and nest-building was noted 3/24 in BT. Three **Brown-headed Cowbird** 1/4 at MT was the only report until mid-Mar. when flocks of up to 100 were seen. **Purple Finch** were very scarce, with 1-5 irregularly during quarter at HV, MT, & SV. **House Finch** were also in very low numbers, but flocks began to build up at feeders in mid-March. Single **Pine Siskin** were at DV 2/7-8 and HV 2/9. **Am. Goldfinch** were the only regular finch visitors to feeders, but 27 at HV 1/9 was the highest count.

Addendum: A **Red-throated Loon** was at LS 11/13-15/88.

OBSERVERS: Sally & Tom Dick, Wanetta Escherich, Margaret Haines, Dan Jenkins, Robert Leberman, Alberta Long, Anthony J. Marich, Jr., Richard Mock, Robert Mulvihill, Jeff & Retta Payne, Dean Ross, Glenn and Ruth Sager, RD 1, Box 176-B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242), Tom Shervinskie, Sam Tatomir, Michael & Evaleen Watko.

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Doug Gross

Location: World's End State Park (WESP).

An abnormal "snowless" winter kept many skiing birders away from this county this quarter. Relatively poor coverage resulted.

Red-tailed Hawk were more common than in previous winters, even in the wooded WESP (MN). **Blue Jay** seemed scarce in the mountains. **Common Raven** were persistent in the Nordmont area (DG), but not common in the WESP area (MN). **Evening Grosbeak** were observed in WESP throughout the winter, but in less than average numbers. **Dark-eyed Junco** and other winter sparrows seemed plentiful.

OBSERVERS: Douglas A. Gross, R.D.1, Box 147, Orangeville, PA 17859, Mike Norris.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

Bill Reid

Please see the *Bradford* report for introductory comments about the 4-county area. There was no special report for *Susquehanna*.

TIOGA COUNTY

Martha Copp

Locations: Beechwood L. (BL), Marsh Creek (MC), Nessmuk L. (NL), Sabinsville (SBV).

Three **Great Blue Heron** were at MC 1/18 and 1 there 3/17 (BR,MB). Ten **Tundra Swan** were flying NW by SBV 1/5 (HR), migrating in greater numbers 3/16-25 at BL, MC, and SBV with 200 seen on the earlier date at BL (MC,MB,HR). Waterfowl were observed 3/17-25 including **Canada Geese** (MB,HR), 15 **Wood Duck** at BL (MB,HR), 13 **Am. Black Duck** at BL 3/25, 30-40 **Mallard**, **N. Pintail** (HR), ±12 **Am. Wigeon** (BR), 20-35 **Ring-necked Duck** (BR,HR), a flock of scaup *sp.* at NL (MC), a pair **Hooded Merganser** at MC (MC,BR), and a pair of **Common Merganser** at BL (HR).

First **Turkey Vulture** was at Knoxville 3/23 (HR). Interesting was a **Bald Eagle** and a **Red Fox** in competition for food near Austinburg (HR). A **N. Harrier** was

seen 2½ mi w. of SBV 3/15 (HR). **Red-tailed Hawk** sightings were at Jemison Church 1/17 (HR) and at Willard 1/23 (MC). Five **Rough-legged Hawk** were counted between Wellsboro and Mansfield 2/13 (MC). **Am. Kestrel** were seen 1/8-9 at SBV (HR) and on Rt. 6 (MC), while a possible **Peregrine Falcon** was reported at the Mansfield Sportsmens Club 2/13.

Four ♀ **Ring-necked Pheasant** were found in the Round Top area 3/22 (MC), and 6-13 **Wild Turkey** were reported from various areas 1/9 (MC,LC). First **Killdeer** was seen 3/17 (MC). A **Ring-billed Gull** was found ¼ mi s. of SBV 1/20 and 2 were seen 2½ mi w. of SBV 3/15 (HR). **Great Horned Owl** were calling 1/17 (HR).

A **Belted Kingfisher** was on Pine Cr. 3/12 (MC) and **E. Phoebe** returned to Asaph 3/28 (BR). Two **Horned Lark** were seen at Shumway Hill 2/8 (MC). **Common Raven** were at SBV 3/9 (HR). **E. Bluebird** were found at Maple Hill, Swede Hill, and Shumway Hill 3/17 (MC). An **Am. Robin** was building a nest at Westfield 3/29 (HR).

One **Am. Tree Sparrow** was at a feeder in Willard 1/23 (MC), while 6 **Fox Sparrow** were noted at Lawrenceville 3/20 (JS,MC). **Song Sparrow** returned 3/17 (MC). **Red-winged Blackbird** returned to a feeder at Willard 2/8, while 3 **E. Meadowlark** were noted there 2/8 (MC). One **Common Grackle** was at SBV 2/1 (HR) and **Brown-headed Cowbird** returned to a Willard feeder 2/5 (MC). The 3-14 **Evening Grosbeak** at a feeder in SBV 2/23-24, apparently migrating, were the only report this quarter (HR).

OBSERVERS: Mary Burnier, Link Copp, **Martha Copp, R.D. 3, Box 197, Wellsboro, 16901 (717-724-7751)**, Bob Ross, Howard Rushmore, Joanne Stickler.

UNION COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

Roughly 40-50 **Turkey Vulture** were seen daily in mid and late March at the edge of the forest at Laurelton. A flock of **Wild Turkey**, containing at least 33 birds, was seen regularly in March just n. of Kelly Crossroads (DF). On 1/13, WM noted a **N. "Baltimore" Oriole** taking suet at his Lewisburg feeder.

OBSERVERS: David Fletcher, Wayne Manning, **Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Road, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432)**.

VENANGO COUNTY

Gary Edwards and Russ States

Locations: Allegheny R. (AR), Hovis Park (HP), Kahle L. (KL), Oil Creek SP (OCSP), Shaffer Park (SP), Two-Mile Run L. (TMRL).

The quarter was highlighted by the presence of up to 6 **Short-eared Owl** at a reclaimed strip mine in the southern portion of the county 2/10+. Several uncommon waterfowl were also reported, including **Canvasback** at KL and HP 3/18, **Gadwall** at HP 3/19, **Redhead** at KL 3/19, and **N. Shoveler** at SP 3/18. The period ended without a report of **Evening Grosbeak**, **Pine Siskin**, or **Common Redpoll**. A total of 46 species was seen during January, 47 in February, and 67 in March. The yearly total stands at 82 species.

Horned Grebe and **Pied-billed Grebe** were first observed 3/19. **Great Blue Heron** were present each month and a **Great Egret** was at HP 3/31. A single **Tundra Swan** was on the AR 1/21 and a flock of 200+ was at TMRL 3/12. **Canada Goose**, **Common Goldeneye**, and **Common Merganser** were common on the AR all quarter. The remaining waterfowl appeared in average numbers with the exception of **Ruddy Duck**, which was not observed.

Turkey Vulture returned 3/19. **N. Harrier** and **Rough-legged Hawk** were on the same strip mine as the **Short-eared Owl** and at KL. An early **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen 1/2 and **Bald Eagle** were reported along the AR on several occasions beginning 3/6 (VH).

An **Am. Woodcock** was at OCSP 3/21 (NK). **Ring-billed Gull** began appearing on the AR 2/27. **Common Snipe** were at SP 3/19 and at HP 3/24.

Red-bellied Woodpecker were reported in Jan. and Feb., and several **N. Flicker** remained at least through 1/19. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were seen 1/14 and 2/19. **Carolina Wren** were seen 1/14 and 3/2 (NK).

OBSERVERS: **Gary Edwards, 450 Stevens Dr., Apt. 304, Pittsburgh 15237 (412-931-4379)**, Virginia Hansen, Nick Kerlin, **Russ States, 24 E. 5th St., Oil City 16301 (814-676-6320)**.

WARREN COUNTY

Ted Grisez

Locations: Allegheny Res. (AR), Kinzua Dam (KD).

Four **Horned Grebe** were on the AR 3/19 (DW,BW). Four **Tundra Swan** were near Irvine 1/23 (BW). Flocks of **Tundra Swan** were flying over Warren the night of 3/11-12 (KC) and a riverside resident counted 42 at Starbrick 3/12.

2/15 Doherty reported seeing 3 swans at Starbrick that had yellow wing tags. Remembering the 2 **Trumpeter Swans** at Dunkirk, NY, earlier this winter with similar tags, Grisez went to look at them and alerted others. These swans came from an introduction program in s. Ontario. They had been captured near Vancouver, British Columbia, and released at Long Point on Lake Erie. Riverside residents say they have been there since Dec., when 3 **Tundra Swans** had been counted *there* on the CBC! They remained at least through 3/13 when they were seen at Althom, about 10 mi downriver from Starbrick (DD,AD).

Twenty **Canada Geese** were on the AR 1/23 (DD,BH). About 35 **Am. Black Duck** were between Tidioute and Irvine 1/9 and 2 at Irvine 1/23. A **Redhead** was at Wrightsville 3/22, along with several **Ring-necked Duck** and **Hooded Merganser**; 18 **Hooded Merganser** were at Dunn's Eddy 3/21 (TG). A flock of 52 **Common Merganser** were at Starbrick 1/13 (TG,DD,BH).

Bald Eagle ranged the AR from KD to Tidioute all quarter. Highs were 3 ad. and 2 imm. between Warren and KD 2/4 (RL,TG). Two ad. were s. of Tidioute 2/19 (DD,DW,BH). A **N. Harrier** was at Akeley 1/23 and at Lander 2/19; the latter location produced 1 on 3/4 (DW) and 3 on 3/18 (DW,BH). **Cooper's Hawk** was seen intermittently all quarter (DD,BH,RL,TG). **Rough-legged Hawk** reports were of 1 at Lander 2/25 and 3/4 (DW,BW).

A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was at Irvine 3/1 (BW). Two **Common Raven** were n. of Tidioute 1/9 (BH,DD). Several **Carolina Wren** reports were received from the Warren area in Feb. and Mar., including some feeders with 2 individuals.

An estimated 30-40 **Am. Tree Sparrow** were at Irvine 1/23 and 12 at Akeley 1/28 (BH,DD), while 30-40 were near Lander 3/18 (DW,BH). A **Fox Sparrow** visited a Saybrook feeder 3/20 (CN). The **Rusty Blackbird** visiting a feeder near Warren since Dec. was last seen 1/7 (DW). The first **Purple Finch** report was of 3 in Saybrook 3/13 (CN) and 6 **Pine Siskin** were near Warren 1/3 (DD,AD).

OBSERVERS: Mike Bleech, Keith Confer, Dan & Autumn Doherty, **Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr., Warren 16365 (814-723-9464)**, Bill Highhouse, Rick Lyle, Chuck & Marjorie Neel, Don & Brenda Watts, Bob Winter.

Warren Co. addendum

Wm. Highhouse wrote us that the following should be added to the historical Warren Co. **Golden Eagle** records to complete what was reported last issue. Harris Johnson saw 3 over Warren area in the 1950's and Russ Hill told him of seeing 1 in the area 10-15 years ago. These records were reported to *Audubon Field Notes* and/or *American Birds*.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Robert Leberman & Robert Mulvihill

Locations: Donegal Lake (DL), Latrobe Reservoir (LR), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR).

The winter season was unusually mild, both with regard to temperature and precipitation; open water could be found at the inlets of local lakes throughout much of the season, and streams only froze over on a couple of occasions. Birds apparently stayed away from feeders in droves, and most observers got the impression of a particularly dull first two months of the quarter. While the regularly wintering species may simply have been spread farther and wider than usual, "northern finches" were altogether absent. Despite mild conditions, there were no records in the county of less

hardy, irregularly-wintering species such as the **Rufous-sided Towhee**, **Chipping Sparrow**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** or **Hermit Thrush**. March was also fairly mild, and most early spring migrants returned on more or less typical dates. The following observations are by both compilers unless otherwise indicated.

LOONS TO DUCKS. **Common Loon** were first seen at DL 3/30 (1 bird; CRS, LB, VC); 9 were there the next day (RCL). First **Pied-billed Grebe** was at LR 3/27 (RCL). There were 12 **Horned Grebe** at DL 3/30 (CRS, LB, VC). A migration of **Great Blue Heron** was apparent before the end of the quarter; perhaps more than the usual number was observed during the last two weeks of March (m.ob.); unseasonably mild weather had enabled a few to remain in the region during Jan. and Feb. The **Tundra Swan** flight must have been, non-stop, quiet and/or high-altitude over *Westmoreland*; it is unusual for none to be recorded during this quarter. In general, the diversity of ducks was good during Feb. and March, but numbers of most species were low. **Wood Duck** returned to PNR 3/12. First of a few **Green-winged Teal** reports was of 3 birds at DL 3/16 (MEW). Up to 45 **Am. Black Duck** were present at LR all quarter (RCL, MEW). First **N. Pintail** was at DL 2/13 (RCL), and scattered indiv. and small flocks were seen on many lakes and ponds in the region to the end of the quarter. Unprecedented for the county was a *wintering* pintail at DL 1/19 (RCL). First **Gadwall** were recorded 2/19 at DL (MEW); first **Am. Wigeon** 3/9 at LR (MEW); the only **Canvasback** 3/9 at LR (MEW); first **Redhead** (4) 3/10 at DL (RSM); first **Ring-necked Duck** (8) 2/17 at DL (RCL), with many more seen on local lakes to the end of the quarter. There were more than the usual number of **Greater Scaup** records this early spring, with a max. of 6 birds at DL 3/10 (RSM). **Lesser Scaup** were frequent in small flocks after the first seen 3/2 at LR (RCL); the largest flock was 22 birds at DL 3/12 (MEW). Best waterfowl records of the period came from Twin Lakes: on 3/31 one ♀ **Oldsquaw** and 5 **Surf Scoter** (including 2 ♂) were seen at close range (VC). The latter is the first *spring* record for this county and one of just a few spring records for s.w. PA. There were 2 **Common Goldeneye** at DL 2/17 (RCL) and 1 at Mammoth L. 3/10 (VC). One **Bufflehead** was at DL 3/12 (MEW), but there were no other records of this usually numerous species. First **Hooded Merganser** was 2/17 at DL (RCL). There was a good flight of **Red-breasted Merganser** after the first seen 3/12 at Acme L. (MEW); a max. of 37 was seen 3/31 at DL (RCL). First **Ruddy Duck** report was of 4 at DL 3/17 (RCL); a few were still there 3/30 (VC).

VULTURES TO OWLS: Whether record early migrants or locally-wintering birds, 2 **Turkey Vulture** seen 2/1 were very unusual (JW); the next sighting was not until 3/16 (a typical migration date) at PNR. First **Osprey** was seen at PNR 3/31. There was a **N. Harrier** at Mammoth Park 3/9 (MEW). **Red-shouldered Hawk** returned to their breeding territories at PNR 3/8. A few **Rough-legged Hawk** were noted all quarter, especially in fields a few miles s. of Ligonier; last seen was a dark phase bird 3/12 (HMS, RSM). First **Am. Coot** was at DL 3/16 (MEW). First **Greater Yellowlegs** was at DL 3/27 (RCL). **Am. Woodcock** returned to PNR 3/4; as many as 10 ♂ were displaying there a few days later. First **Bonaparte's Gull** were 2 at DL 3/30 (RCL); there were 8 there the next day (CRS). **Ring-billed Gull** were seen as early as 2/2 near Ligonier (RCL); a max. of 22 was at DL 3/13 (RCL). One **Herring Gull** was at DL 3/31 (RCL); this is an uncommon spring migrant.

One or 2 **N. Saw-whet Owl** were heard near Linn Run SP (elevation 1700 ft) most nights after 3/17 (CN, BS); although this is the typical migration period of this species, it does not usually vocalize or linger during migration. In fact, the bird(s) have continued at this site through most of April, but as of this writing no evidence of breeding has been obtained.

FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS: **E. Phoebe** returned to PNR 3/17. A flock of 20 **Horned Lark** was seen just s. of Ligonier 1/1 (RSM). A **Tree Swallow** was spotted just w. of PNR 3/27 (RCL); they were seen at a number of other places before the end of the quarter. An early **Barn Swallow** was at DL 3/30 (CRS). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were noticeably more common (compared to their winter numbers) during the last week of March when their migration apparently got underway. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was reported from Guffey Hollow near Irwin 3/30 (PW); at this locality **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** had returned on the early date of 3/22 (PW). More than the usual number of **E. Bluebird** were reported during the first half of the quarter; as many as a dozen were seen at DL 1/19 (RCL). Still a noteworthy bird in this county

at any season, a **N. Mockingbird** was seen at Ligonier 3/27 (LB). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at PNR 3/8 was much earlier than usual for a migrant, but none was known to have wintered anywhere nearby. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** at PNR 3/30 was the *earliest* spring record ever there (RSM).

TOWHEE TO FINCHES. Despite the mild winter weather, no **Rufous-sided Towhee** was reported during Jan. or Feb.; first migrants were observed just n. of Ligonier 3/18 (BS) and at PNR 3/21. **Am. Tree Sparrow** were very scarce during the quarter; none was reported after 3/21. **Chipping Sparrow** returned to PNR 3/29; first **Field Sparrow** was banded there 3/10. Neither **Savannah** nor **Vesper** sparrow had been seen by the end of the quarter. First **Fox Sparrow** was banded at PNR 3/7, and numbers of this species were above average through the end of the quarter. First **Swamp Sparrow** was seen at DL 3/30 (VC); 1 was present at PNR 3/31, where none was known to have wintered. Most unusual was the apparent absence of **White-throated Sparrow** at PNR. **Red-winged Blackbird** were first seen at PNR 2/28; **Rusty Blackbird** returned to DL 3/2 (RCL). First **E. Meadowlark** was reported 3/7 just s.w. of PNR (JW). **Purple Finch** went largely unrecorded during the winter season; first migrants were banded at PNR 3/29. **House Finch**, on the other hand, were present in record numbers at PNR throughout the period; 168 had been banded by the end of March. **Common Redpoll**, **Pine Siskin** and **Evening Grosbeak** went unreported.

OBSERVERS: Larry Barth, Virginia Cronenberger, **Robert C. Leberman** and **Robert S. Mulvihill**, **Powdermill Nature Reserve**, **Star Route South**, **Rector 15677 (412-593-7521)**, Chuck Norton, Helen M. Schmidt, Bob Shaw, Cliff & Randy Stringer, Mike & Evaleen Watko, Peggy Wisner.

WYOMING COUNTY

Bill Reid

Please see the *Bradford* report for introductory comments.

Ducks reported on the Susquehanna R. at S. Eaton included: 1 **N. Pintail** 1/15, 1 **Gadwall** 2/19, and 5 **Hooded Merganser** 3/13 (WR). Light and dark phase **Rough-legged Hawk** were at Sordoni's 1/2-7 (JS *et al.*). A **N. Harrier** was seen n. of Meshoppen 1/14 (WR). A **Common Snipe** was present at Sordoni's in mid-Jan. (RB). One **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was seen regularly at a feeder in Tunkhannock (RD). A very early **E. Phoebe** was at Sordoni's 3/17 (BN *et al.*). A **Tree Swallow** was noted at Tunkhannock 3/25 and 2 **Water Pipit** at Sordoni's 3/17 (WR).

OBSERVERS: Rosann Bongey, Robert Daniels, Basil Nichols, **William Reid**, **73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**.

YORK COUNTY

Al Spiese

Locations: Brunners I. (BI), Codorus SP (CSP), Gifford Pinchot SP (GPSP), Gut Rd. (GR), L. Redman (LR), Long Arm Dam (LAD), Susquehanna R. (SR), Washington Boro (WB).

Although there was no accumulated snow, the weather was cold enough to keep most of the smaller lakes completely frozen for most of the quarter. All large lakes and the river had some open water maintained in a large part by the waterfowl. Early warm weather in March seemed to forecast an early Spring, but for the most part it didn't affect the early migration.

Three events worth special note were: a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** nesting at CSP, the **Mountain Bluebird** still being seen until 3/19, and a **Pine Warbler** feeding in trees along GR. in Feb.

The 2 **Common Loon** at LAD 1/2 marked the second consecutive year this species has been noted wintering on inland lakes; highs were 13 at CSP 3/29 (RR) and 27 at LAD 3/31 (DaH, KL), two lakes in close proximity. Two **Pied-billed Grebe** were at CSP 1/7 to 2/17 (RR, KL) and 1 on SR 3/4 (AS). A **Horned Grebe** was at CSP until 2/17. A **Snow Goose** was at CSP 1/15 (CG), max. 22 at CSP 3/19, sometimes feeding in fields with more "white than blue" (v.o.). The 44 **Green-winged Teal** at CSP was a new high count (KL, RR). The 44 **N. Pintail** counted at different lakes was <50% of last year. Max. count of **Lesser Scaup** was 37 at CSP 2/19, but continued on our lakes in good numbers until 3/4 (v.o.). The only **Oldsquaw** report was of 8 which showed up at CSP 3/29 (RR). The 7 **Bufflehead** for Mar. was low. Best **Common Merganser** count was 136 at GPSP 3/13, an ideal time to look for them (AS); the best time for

Red-breasted Merganser is March, when we had 20 ♂ at LAD 3/12 (KL,RR).

Sixteen **Black Vulture** were at CSP 3/19 (RR). The **Osprey** at BI 3/16 was a new early record (AS). A ♀ **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen on nest 3/24 (RR,LR). The **Am. Woodcock** at CSP 2/19 was early (KL). The ad. **Great Black-backed Gull** on the ice at LR 1/28 was the first record away from the river (AS). One **Short-eared Owl** was observed 3/19-24 (DH,BDG *et al.*). No **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found since Dec.

A max. 30 **Horned Lark** were found only along Hoff Rd. near CSP 1/6 to 2/3 (RR,AS). Two **Barn Swallow** were at CSP 3/31 (CG). The 5 **Brown Creeper** seen feeding together at York Haven 2/4 were just some of the many reports (AS). The March migration of **Winter Wren** along the SR was the best in years.

The ♀ **Mountain Bluebird** found last quarter was last seen at LAD 3/19 (DH,BDG). Numbers of wintering **Am. Robin** were very low, but were migrating in good numbers in mid-Mar. (JD). Some ±100 **Water Pipit** were seen in Mar. along Smith Station Rd. near CSP (DaH). One **Pine Warbler** was seen 2/28 creeping along branches of a deciduous tree (AS). All winter records of **Am. Tree Sparrow** were from the s.w. portion of York; 12 at CSP 2/19 was high (JoP,JeP). A **Chipping Sparrow** was at CSP 3/22 (RR,KL). Only report of **Snow Bunting** were near Dover. Some reports of **House Finch** were good, others bad. It seems they may have just shifted to more rural locations since the natural food crop was excellent. One **Common Redpoll** was at a Haines Acres feeder 3/9 (JD). *No Evening Grosbeak has been seen since 7 May 1988.*

OBSERVERS: Bill Del Grande, Jerry Dyer (JD), Carl Garner, Dan Heathcote (DaH), Dick Humbert, Karen Lippy, John & Jean Prescott, Larry Rohrbaugh, Russell Ryan, Al Spiese, 4086 Old Orchard Rd., York 17402 (717-755-8309).