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Cover: **Virginia Rail** (*Rallus limicola*). This individual, photographed 13 May 2006 (*Geoff Malosh*), was one of several found this spring at Madden Run Marsh, *Beaver*.

from the Editor...

from the Editor...

Spring Migration Tables

A reminder that the 2006 Spring Migration Tables for this issue are available on the PSO website <http://www.pabirds.org/>. For those who do not have internet access and wish to have copies of the Tables, please contact the Chief Editor.

Reminder

If you have bird sightings from counties that do not have an official County Compiler, they may be sent directly to the Chief Editor for inclusion. If you are a birder from a county that has no Compiler and you wish to volunteer your services, please contact the Chief Editor. These counties currently do not have an official County Compiler: **Blair, Butler, Cameron, Elk, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Northumberland, Union, Wayne, and Wyoming.**

Nick Pulcinella
Editor-in-Chief

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Anhinga

Church Farm School Pond, Exton, Chester County

Chuck Chalfant

I was out very early (in the dark) May 4, 2006 trying to locate Soras in the wetlands just west of the pond. Nick Pulcinella had reported their presence to me the day before. I'm doing a 2006 Chester County Big Year and Nick and other Chester County birders have been very helpful in sharing good birds with me.

It was very birdy around the small wetland pools, one of those perfect spring mornings when you are able to get out before first light and observe the wetland come to life as the new day breaks. I couldn't get the Sora to respond, but this place was teeming with wildlife this morning. By 8:30, I had covered the area and realized the Sora wasn't going to respond and I headed for the bigger Church Farm Pond.

As I approached, I startled a hen Mallard with three little yellowish fuzz-ball ducklings. She swam toward the middle of the pond with the ducklings following close behind. I probably would have continued on, but one of the ducklings dove under the surface, then another one disappeared with just a little "glup" down it went. The third duckling stayed on the surface close to its mother. In that brief instant, I was trying to think if I had ever remembered dabbling ducks do that. I've been told since that they do on occasion dive for brief moments. They seem so buoyant, you would think they would pop right back up. I didn't see any surface commotion as if a bass or turtle had grabbed them, but the ducklings did not come back up. I watched the hen to see if maybe they were under her wing or on her back in typical grebe fashion, but couldn't find them. Now this REALLY got my attention, as it seemed far too long for a dabbling duckling to stay under.

This delay that made me stay there a few minutes evidently spooked a large dark bird from its perch along the tree lined brushy pond bank. My attention was now diverted by this large dark bird as it flew away, low over the water. My first thoughts were cormorant, but just as quickly, I realized this was not a cormorant flying away from me. This bird started looking like an Anhinga, but I was in Pennsylvania not the Gulf Coast, this couldn't be

happening to me.

Then as luck would have it, the bird flew to a perch in a leafed, deciduous tree on the far side of the pond, maybe 100 yards away. It was evident, even in bad light, that with the beige or tan neck and upper breast, that it was indeed a female or juvenile Anhinga. I decided to get a little closer where the lighting was better just to be "absolutely positive" before getting out the cell phone and calling out the troops. I watched the Anhinga preening from 50 yards away "and me without a camera." I snuck out of there seemingly undetected by the bird.



Plate 1. Overhead view showing long, thin, pointed neck and bill, broad wings and fan-shaped tail. May 4, 2006, Exton, Chester. (Nick Pulcinella).

Now its time to make a phone call and who better than Nick Pulcinella who lives within 3-4 miles of this pond. It was about 8:45 and Nick was still at the house. I think Nick's words were, "we gotta get a photo of this bird, I'll be there in 10-15 minutes." I told him I would sit and described the bird's location at the pond. I was tempted to go to the car and get the scope but if I moved, we probably would not find the bird again. I then called home to tell Elaine about the bird and asked her to post the location to the PABIRDS Listserve. I began to call other birders whose numbers were programmed into my phone.

I was still calling when Nick arrived with scope and cameras in hand. He had already located the bird and taken a few photos from afar and had telephoned the sighting to the PA Rarity Phone Chain. I think he referred to the phone call as, "opening the gates of hell." We remained a good distance from the

bird not wanting to spook it before others got to see it. As I was calling Doris McGovern, the bird flew off its perch and started circling the pond. Luckily, it flew over us a couple of times and Nick was able to get some flight photos that clearly show the silhouette and shape of an Anhinga.

The bird gradually made higher and higher circles as if to get its bearings and eventually drifted off as if to head south, which would have been in the direction of its home, somewhere along the Gulf Coast. Now, Nick lives south of here, just a few miles along the first ridge. He leaves thinking that the Anhinga would make a super yard bird if it flew within site of his home. Now folks, that is a REAL LISTER! I stayed at the pond, but eventually walked slowly back to the parking lot along the edge of a field and kept the bird in sight. It then changed course and left the Exton area and headed north-northwest. Eventually, around 9:50, it drifted out of sight, very high in the sky.

Pretty exciting stuff; what a morning! Elated to luck into such a bird lost so far from home; great that Nick could get there quick enough for photos; but disappointing that no one else got to add this bird to their Pennsylvania lists. That would have been icing on the cake for me. So now my duty is to call back the people I just called and tell them the bad news that the bird had left the pond. The Anhinga was within my sight for only one hour, but it was an hour I will not soon forget.



Plate 2. Another overhead view showing the same features but with a bit more of the buffy-colored throat and neck. May 4, 2006, Exton, Chester. (Nick Pulcinella).

As I approached my car, Barry Blust, the first of the troops to

arrive, pulled into the parking lot missing the bird by 20 minutes. I probably waited another thirty minutes thinking maybe, just maybe that Anhinga thought the pond wasn't all that bad of a place and would swing back in. That didn't happen, it was just a matter of being in the right place at the right time. Without those disappearing ducklings, I probably would not have hesitated long enough to have startled the Anhinga and may never have seen it perched in the shadows.

I wonder what did happen to those two little ducklings.

*5626 Umbletown Road
Gap, PA 17527*

Anhingas have been reported several times in Pennsylvania. There are two definite spikes of occurrence; in spring during mid-April and in fall during mid-September. There is a predominance of reports from the southeast counties. - Ed

There are six accepted records:

Three over Swarthmore, *Delaware*, 4/18/1993
One at White's Mill Rd., *Montgomery*, 5/15/1995
Three over Media, *Delaware*, 5/25/1998
One over Reading, *Berks*, 4/28/2003
Two over Hwk Mt., *Berks/Schuylkill*, 9/28/2003
One over Forest Grove, *Bucks*, 9/19/2005.

Other reports include:

One over Prospect Park, *Delaware*, 4/6/1994
Two over Hibernia Park, *Chester*, 5/6/1995
One over Leesport, *Berks*, 6/1/1996
One at Upper Gwynedd Twp., *Montgomery*, 5/6/1996
One at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia*, 6/14/1993
Two over the Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch, *Delaware*, 4/26/1999
Two at Rose Tree park Hawkwatch, *Delaware*, 9/30/1999
One at Second Mt. Hawkwatch, *Lebanon*, 10/7/1999
One in Philadelphia, *Philadelphia*, 10/2/2000
One near Springton Res., *Delaware*, 8/5/2001
One over Second Mt. Hawkwatch, *Lebanon*, 9/8/2001
One over Second Mt. Hawkwatch, *Lebanon*, 9/18/2002
Three over Second Mt. Hawkwatch, *Lebanon*, 10/21/2002
One over Hawk Mt, *Berks/Schuylkill*, 4/27/2003
One at Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks*, 5/29/2004
One at Williams Twp., *Northampton*, 5/12/2005.

Ed.

Photo quiz # 12 answer

Rick Wiltraut

This bird is obviously large and white with black along the folded wing indicating black flight feathers. This description fits White Pelican but notice that the bird is wading through the water. White Pelicans rest on the water when feeding. Adult White Ibis is all white with black on the wings, but the black is only on the very tips of a few primaries, so at rest the black is very limited at the end of the folded wing. Also, White Ibis is much smaller than the bird pictured here. Adult Snow and Ross's Goose have all black primaries and show a limited amount of black along folded wing when at rest, but are much smaller than the bird pictured here.

This juvenile Wood Stork was photographed at Littlestown, Adams County during the invasion of August, 2001. During this invasion at least 3 birds were found in Pennsylvania, one in Ohio, 3 at Pt. Pelee, Ontario and an amazing 16 around several small ponds in Wayne County, New York! This tame individual fed heavily on crayfish and had a peculiar habit of exiting the water to defecate. Nothing like keeping your food source clean! The birder up close and personal (as you probably recognized) is the late, great Steve Farbotnik.



Two Local Bird Record Collections Transferred

David B. Long

Over the past several years I have been slowly organizing the archival records of the Bucks County Audubon Society (BCAS) in a professional manner. As part of this process two separate, but unrelated to the BCAS, manuscript collections of bird sightings/records have been transferred to more appropriate historical research institutions. This move will allow for better care of and public access to these two collections. Both of these collections were utilized by Ken Kitson when he wrote *Birds of Bucks County*, published in 1998 by the BCAS.

Although neither of the creators of these two collections seem to have been members of any formal birding organization, knowledge of these two collections might prove useful to current and future birders and scientists who are doing research on local bird populations.

The first collection was created by Winfred Bauer, who lived in the Torresdale section of Philadelphia for many years. It consists of 15 boxes of index cards and one box of field note books dating from 1934 to 1996. These materials contain over 50,000 individual bird sightings made in Philadelphia, Bucks County (particularly in the Penn Manor/Penn Warner lakes area), and Florida. This collection was transferred in May 2005 to the Ewell Sale Stewart Library at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

The second collection was created by George MacReynolds (1861–1950), a long-time resident of Doylestown, Bucks County, PA. He was an active birder (before there was such a word) and he wrote a weekly nature column in Doylestown Democrat newspaper during the nineteen-teens and the nineteen-twenties entitled “Sunday Walks.” Professionally, he was the head librarian of the Spruance Library of the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS), also located in Doylestown. The collection consists of 87 field notebooks dating from 1901 to 1945 and 56 bird observation notebooks dating from 1915 to 1944. Also included are two sets of lecture notes and six miscellaneous bird-related notebooks and folders. This collection was transferred in March 2005 to the Spruance Library of the Bucks County Historical Society.

In the local birding world, MacReynolds is best known for his

paper “*A List of the Birds of Bucks County with Annotations*” which was read before the Bucks County Historical Society at the May 1, 1937 Doylestown meeting. (See *Papers Read before the Society and Other Historical Papers*, Vol. 7, pages 479-538) This paper was so well received that the BCHS published it as a small booklet the same year.

The MacReynolds notebooks hold many interesting sightings and a few are listed below to give the reader an idea of its scope and tone:

May 6, 1904 [saw] Blue-wing Warbler on tree in backyard

May 15, 1915 Blue Grosbeak, seen by Miss Avis Buckman

Jan. 17, 1916 [nesting] Starlings seen at Aldie [Mansion, Doylestown]

July 30, 1916 Saw and heard Berwick's Wren [in town]

Dec. 25, 1916 Saw large flock of Redpolls, third time this winter – 50 total for year so far

June 17, 1917 Took trolley to Kintnersville, walked down to the “Narrows,” saw nesting Louisiana Water Thrush, Black and White Warbler, and Duck Hawk [Peregrine Falcon]

March 1, 1918 Saw mortal combat between a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Pigeon Hawk [Merlin]

March 16, 1918 Saw my first Ring-Necked Pheasant – a cock on the Hibbs property

July 21, 1918 About 25 Nighthawks nesting at Stony Garden on Haycock Mountain.

Sept. 15, 1918 Duck Hawk [Peregrine Falcon] again seen at the Narrows

Aug. 7, 1919 Afternoon walk to Turk Dam to find the American Egret, said to have been seen there, but I did not find it. Saw two other Herons – Green and probably young of the Great Blue – but no *Ardea egretta*... Two white Herons were killed by a youth named Kletzing on the North Branch of the Neshaminy a few days ago, and he was fined by Game Warden Warren Fretz upon the supposition that the birds were the Snowy Heron [Egret], but they may have been the young of the Little Blue.

Aug. 6, 1921 Saw Broad-wing Hawk in Beaver Falls ravine, probably

nesting there.

Dec. 29, 1921 Barn Owl shot on Burpee's Fordhook Farm [in Doylestown Township]

Sept. 7, 1924 Green Heron attacked by a Coopers Hawk below Ewer's Mill Bridge, dived into the Neshaminy Creek to escape, also swam like a duck

May 8, 1925 Nest and four eggs of Upland Plover [Upland Sandpiper] found in Robert Horn's truck patch, Doylestown Township

Feb. 14, 1926 Dr. Fowler tells me that Dr. Witmer Stone, of the Academy of Natural Sciences, says that the Robins seen this winter in this section are Canadian Robins and that some banded birds which have been captured were tagged by Canadian ornithologists.

Jan. 14, 1927 Large influx flight of Snowy Owls, 12 killed in Bucks County alone from Nov. 7 – Dec. 2, 1926

Nov. 6, 1929 Bald Eagle, half grown – shot on Jericho Mountain by a young man named Smith

Oct. 4, 1930 Tennessee Warbler – young – found dead on Herman Burgher's lawn – identified by Dr. Stone to whom it was sent

Oct. 6, 1930 Sora Rail on Pine Run; one brought in by [Game Warden] Warren Fretz three weeks before, dead.

Aug. 13, 1932 Mrs. Helen Barnes, Yardley reported Bittern at lake there all summer; probably nested there (likely the Least Bittern)

Nov. 19, 1932 Two Dovekies found by farm hand on Torbert Farm, Newtown Township, [actually Lower Makefield Township]; alive but bewildered and storm buffeted and driven in from the coast by severe storm; afterwards died, presented to Bucks County Fish, Game and Forestry Association. The association had them mounted.

Nov. 27, 1932 [Found] Mockingbird young on south side of woods on Burpee Flower Gardens

3 Beechwood Lane
Yardley, PA 19067

Bonaparte's Gull Migration in Southwestern Pennsylvania – Understanding “The April 10 Effect”

Geoff R. Malosh

Bonaparte's Gulls are considered uncommon to fairly common spring migrants in Pennsylvania away from Lake Erie (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). Along the Ohio River watershed in southwestern Pennsylvania, Bonaparte's Gulls definitely tend toward the “uncommon” end of this spectrum. Their peak migration on these rivers is mainly in the first two weeks of April, but birds are recorded from late March through early May. Historically, a good spring day on the rivers in Allegheny County or Beaver County may have produced as many as a few dozen birds (Kinzey 2001), but more often, only singles or a few pairs can be expected.

This pattern is true during the gulls' entire migration period, except for one notable and apparently regular exception - a single day each spring when the dam bursts and Bonaparte's Gulls flood the Ohio River in Allegheny County and Beaver County by the hundreds, even the thousands. It is a phenomenon that I, as one of the co-discoverers, have dubbed “The April 10 Effect.”

Large-scale migrations of Bonaparte's Gulls along the Ohio were virtually unknown throughout the 20th Century (Paul Hess, pers. comm.). For example, Todd (1940) commented, “Bonaparte's Gull has been noted occasionally along the Ohio River, but only once in large numbers; this was on April 12, 1901, when the river was in flood.”

The April 10 Chronicles

This apparently annual phenomenon was discovered, quite by accident, on April 10, 2004, when Dave Wilton and I happened to notice three large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls pass by Dashields Dam on the Ohio River in western Allegheny County in the first hour after dawn. These flocks contained a total of 53 birds, more than either of us had seen on the Ohio River in 2004 to that point combined. A Big Sit was started, and between the two of us and several other birders, an astounding 1512 Bonaparte's Gulls were observed migrating down the Ohio into Beaver County between dawn and dusk. Not only was this number unprecedented on southwestern Pennsylvania's rivers by two orders of magnitude, it is an impressive tally for almost anywhere in the state. Such a number is usually reserved only for Presque Isle State park in Erie County and the Lower Susquehanna River, and rarely on the larger inland lakes, such as Pymatuning Reservoir (McWilliams & Brauning 2000).

The next day, April 11, as was the case the previous day, April 9, the

Bonaparte's Gull migration on the Ohio reverted to its usual trickle of occasional singles or pairs. All the birds were gone by the end of the month.

As April 2005 approached, western Pennsylvania birders began to wonder aloud amongst themselves – would this astounding event repeat? Indeed it would, and on April 10, exactly one year to the day after the event in 2004. Again I watched the Ohio River that day, but regrettably only during the morning, and tallied 423 Bonaparte's Gulls in four and a half hours. Other observers found a handful more near dusk, bringing the day's count to 430. On April 11, Bonaparte's Gulls were scarce once again (Dave Wilton, pers. comm.).

And so on April 10, 2006, I arrived on the Ohio River at dawn with a sense of anticipation. Bonaparte's Gull migration in 2006 prior to April 10 was typical, with as many as 30 seen in a single day, but no more. Mark Vass and I had watched the river on April 9, and saw a total of zero Bonaparte's Gulls in three hours of monitoring - a perfectly typical day at the river.

The migration started slowly on April 10, but then it happened, suddenly, as in years before. The first group of 38 tightly packed Bonaparte's Gulls winged swiftly past me at 8:15 AM. It was at that moment that I realized that the massive Bonaparte's Gull migration on the Ohio River was going to happen exactly on April 10, *again*.

I covered the river from dawn until dusk in 2006, with two unavoidable 90-minute breaks during the day, and watched a total of 614 Bonaparte's Gulls migrate downriver. There is a good chance that had the river been monitored while I was away, the day's count would

have exceeded 1000. The 2006 event also brought an unusual visitor – Allegheny County's and Beaver County's second Laughing Gull, an adult that did a very fast flyby downriver, but not fast enough to escape a photograph.

On April 11, Scott Kinzey and I checked the Ohio again in the morning. Migration was slow, with only 16 Bonaparte's Gulls in the first three hours after dawn. At midday, Scott reported a few more good flocks moving downriver, bringing the day's total to 74. This was more than I expected, and more flocks probably moved through while the river was unmonitored. Still, it was obvious that the migration was much slower, much closer to normal. A report from Bob Machesney during the afternoon of the 11th described the river as “dead” from 6:00 PM to dusk. The event was over.

A Pattern of Migration

This explosive one-day migration raises more questions than answers, but even the questions are illuminating, and provoke the kind of speculation and wonderment that make the hobby of birding so special. First, however, I will discuss what we do know.

The Bonaparte's Gulls that migrate along the Ohio in western Allegheny County and eastern Beaver County consistently use the section of river between Dashields Dam and the Ambridge-Woodlawn Bridge (see Fig. 1). It is unknown exactly where they enter the river system from the south or east, or for that matter, where they exit the river to the west or north, because these other sections of the river have not been monitored during any of the three known

**Table 1: April 10 Ohio River Migration Counts
Dashields Dam Area
Beaver and Allegheny Counties, PA**

| | Date: | 4/10/04 | 4/10/05 | 4/10/06 |
|------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Hours: | | 12 | 6 | 9 |
| Bonaparte's Gull | | 1512 | 430 | 614 |
| Ring-billed Gull | | 457 | 25 | 187 |
| Laughing Gull | | - | - | 1* |
| Caspian Tern | | 13 | - | 8 |
| Forster's Tern | | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| Bufflehead | | ü | - | 3 |
| Lesser Scaup | | ü | - | - |
| Common Merganser | | - | 3 | - |
| Red-breasted Merganser | | ü | 1 | 7 |
| Osprey | | 1 | - | - |

* Adult, Second record for Allegheny and Beaver, photographed
ü Recorded but not counted

events. Recent observations at Rochester in Beaver County, where the Beaver River flows due south to its mouth on the northernmost bend of the Ohio, suggest that one preferred migration route takes the birds north along the Beaver River (Mark Vass, pers. comm.), but more data are needed.

When Bonaparte's Gulls push through southwestern Pennsylvania in big numbers, they do so mainly in distinct, fast-moving flocks ranging in size from 5 birds to over 100. Singles and pairs also straggle through, but the bulk of the birds are gathered in these larger flocks. As a flock, the birds generally fly in a tight group or in a line, or occasionally in V-formation. They may fly just a few feet above the water or several hundred feet overhead, but always over and along the river. Occasionally some Bonaparte's Gulls associate with loose flocks of Ring-billed Gulls that are also migrating, but these mixed flocks do not usually contain more than 10 Bonaparte's at a time.

The peak of migration seems to be between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM, but on days when the event is happening, it is apparent well before 9:00 AM when a handful of large flocks are seen in the first hour or so after dawn. There are also distinct lulls in movement, and an hour or more may go by with no major flocks. In fact, "The April 10 Effect" is best described as a slow trickle of single and pairs of Bonaparte's Gulls moving through, punctuated throughout the day by 20 to 40 or more medium to large, fast-moving flocks. It is almost as if the "normal" trickle migration is happening as usual, with the large flocks that make up "The Effect" superimposed onto it.

Table 1 is a review of data from three years of observing the Bonaparte's Gull migration on April 10, from 2004 to 2006. It is worth noting that in addition to the impressive Bonaparte's Gull counts, the daily counts of Caspian Tern (especially) and Forster's Tern are also higher than expected when compared to historical reporting trends prior to 2004 (Mike Fialkovich, pers. comm.).

Table 2 shows Bonaparte's Gull daily counts between April 9 and 11 in 2004, 2005, and 2006. The spike in numbers on April 10 each year is readily apparent.

Questions, Answers, and Speculation

The first and most obvious question – why always April 10? Surely the date itself is a coincidence. The exact timing of the big day is more likely dependent on weather than anything else, and indeed, each April 10 from 2004 to 2006 had similar weather. Each day was clear and bright, with plenty of sunshine and gentle or moderate north or west winds following a cold front one or two days before. Low temperatures were in the 30s the night before and high temperatures were moderate in the 50s and 60s. Interestingly, this "correct"

weather pattern was also in effect on April 9, 2006, but zero Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on the river that day between dawn and 10:30 AM, despite good coverage. Instead, once again, the birds tantalizingly waited until April 10.

But while the exact date may be a coincidence, the fact that the event has happened on the same date three years in a row leads me to believe that it probably always happens sometime within a narrow window around April 10, say, April 8-12. Of course this cannot be proven without several more years of data, which hopefully will be forthcoming.

A second question – why was this never noticed before? The most likely answer is simply that nobody was looking, at least not in the right place. It seems to be a singular event that requires the observer to be on the river on a single correct day out of the entire year, and even if one is watching the river on the day of a big push, it is quite possible to see nothing for over an hour and give up.

But this question may be part of a bigger issue, which leads us to yet another question – where exactly do these Bonaparte's Gulls come from? Their source is an important point both on a local and continental level.

First the local question of the river itself – where exactly do these gulls enter the Ohio River system and begin to follow the river? To this question, we have no exact answer, but most likely, the birds enter the river wherever they first encounter it during their overland migration from the Atlantic Coast.

I imagine Bonaparte's Gulls headed over the Appalachian Mountains from the Atlantic Coast in spring are spread out over land fairly evenly at first. On the western side of the mountains in southwestern Pennsylvania, they enter the Ohio River watershed wherever they happen upon it. They may first encounter the Monongahela River along the Washington/Fayette County line, or perhaps in southeastern Allegheny

County. Other birds may miss the Monongahela River entirely, and approach the river system somewhere along the Ohio between Pittsburgh and Dashields Dam. Wherever they find the river, they begin to migrate along it downriver towards Beaver County, which takes them in generally northwest (see Fig. 1). Upon reaching the northernmost bend in the river in Beaver County, they leave the river and head north or northwest over land.

The probable reason why "The April 10 Effect" is so exaggerated near Dashields Dam is because that place is near the end of this funnel for birds that may have been on the river for one mile, or for 25 miles. That is, all the birds on the river pass by Dashields, but not all the birds pass by locations further upriver in Pennsylvania, because the birds may be entering the river system anywhere along its length.

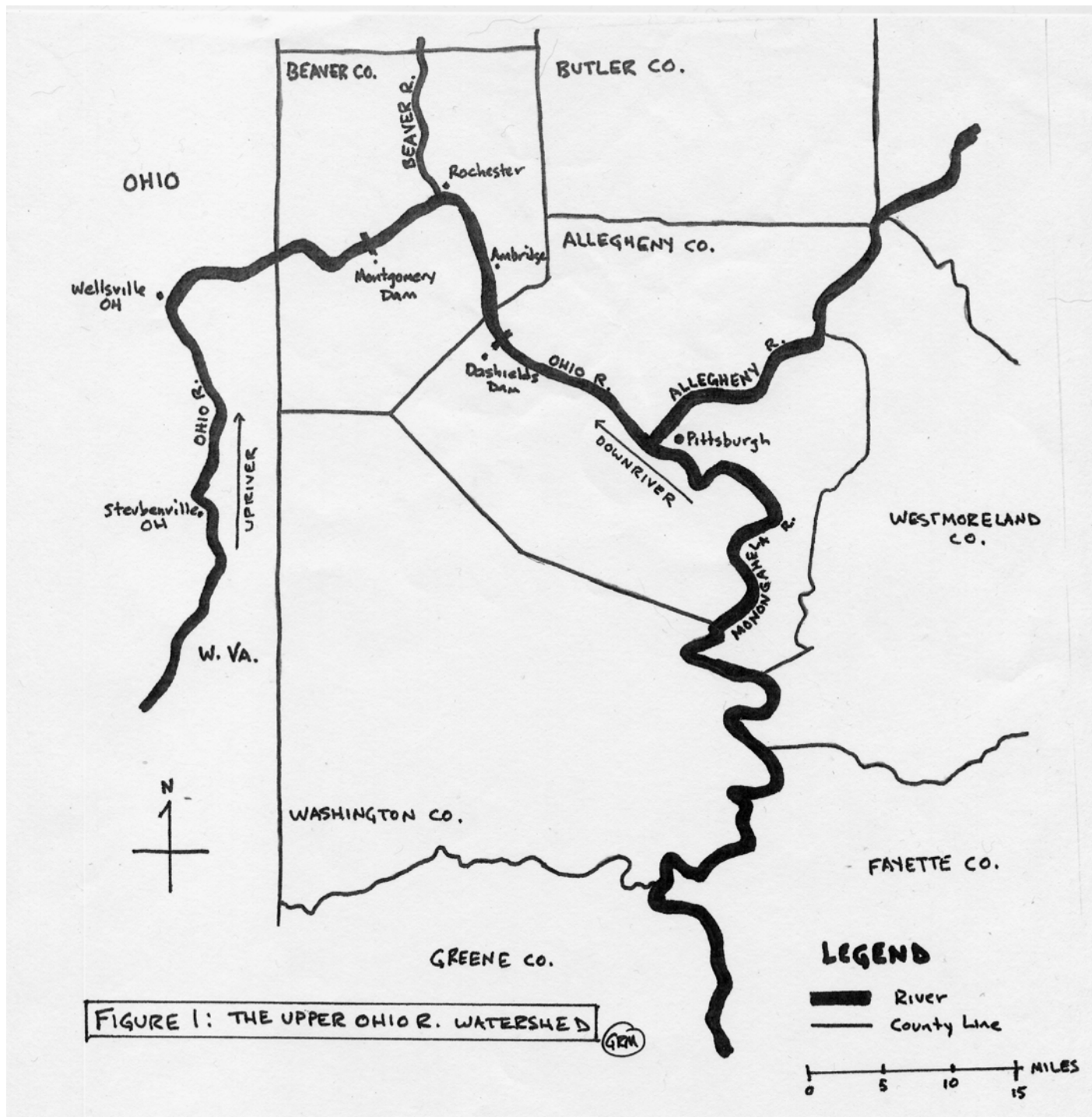
In 2006 it was discovered that this event is also happening in Ohio and West Virginia along those states' northern stretch of the Ohio River. In response to a discussion of this April 10 migration on the PABirds Listserv in 2006, Don Koch of Wellsville, Ohio reported to me in a personal communication that he, too, saw a significant Bonaparte's Gull movement on April 10, 2006, near Wellsville. Wellsville lies on the Ohio River at the northwestern corner of the West Virginia panhandle - the river's northernmost point in Ohio and West Virginia and only about eight miles west of the Pennsylvania border. Don estimated that more than 300 Bonaparte's Gulls moved upriver past Wellsville on the 10th. That is, the birds were moving towards Dashields Dam, as the river flows. This is the opposite direction, river-wise, than the Pennsylvania birds move, but the same compass direction they are all migrating – north or northwest. Don's observations show that "The April 10 Effect" as seen from Dashields Dam is just one a part of a broader one-day migratory push

Table 2: Bonaparte's Gull Daily Counts, Ohio River Dashields Dam Area Beaver and Allegheny Counties, PA

| Date | Hours | # BOGU | Flocks* |
|---------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 4/9/04 | 4 | 23 | 3 |
| 4/10/04 | 12 | 1512 | 64 |
| 4/11/04 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| 4/9/05 | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| 4/10/05 | 6 | 430 | 11 |
| 4/11/05 | ~ 3 [†] | no data [†] | no data [†] |
| 4/9/06 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 4/10/06 | 9 | 614 | 23 |
| 4/11/06 | 6 | 72 | 3 |

* 5 birds or more

† No official count kept, but the river was "empty" (Dave Wilton, pers. comm.)



throughout the region, and that the birds are taking advantage of the Ohio River as a migratory route through southwestern Pennsylvania, northern West Virginia, and western Ohio.

This theory of how the birds enter and exit the river system also goes a long way toward explaining why "The Effect" has not been noticed in southwestern Pennsylvania until recently, because it is only highly visible on the relatively short stretches of river between Dashields Dam and Rochester. Any observer elsewhere upriver in Pennsylvania on the day of the event may note some

movement, but not as many birds as those that pass through the northwestern-most section of the river beginning at Dashields Dam. Not only do observers have to be on the river on the correct day, but may have to be in the correct place, too. If this theory of how and where the birds enter the river is correct, it is not completely surprising that the event was never noticed before 2004.

This question of river entry point could be rather easily answered, if a dozen or so observers were to station themselves at various locations along the

river during the day of the event. A good setup would include (from southeast to northwest - downriver - along the Ohio watershed) the Monongahela River in Washington County and southeastern Allegheny County, downtown Pittsburgh, Coraopolis, Dashields Dam, Rochester, and Montgomery Lock and Dam. This sounds like a worthwhile project for western Pennsylvania birders in the coming years.

Now the continental question - where are these Bonaparte's Gulls *really* coming from? Where do they winter?



Plate 1. Bonaparte's Gulls were not known to undertake large-scale migrations along the Ohio River until recently. Here, a flock of 23 Bonaparte's are shown moving downriver past Dashiields Dam in Allegheny County on April 10, 2006. This flock is a typical representation of the large, fast-moving flocks of these birds that push through southwestern Pennsylvania one day per spring. (Geoff Malosh)

The question is intriguing because the answer to it may suggest whether this migration should be expected to bring a Little Gull or a Black-headed Gull to southwestern Pennsylvania someday, as many birders in western Pennsylvania anticipate.

In the east, Bonaparte's Gulls spend their winters all along the Atlantic Coast from Massachusetts to the Gulf of Mexico, and increasingly on the islands of the northern Caribbean Sea and the Bahamas. Some also winter inland in the southern United States along the Mississippi River and other major rivers and lakes (Olsen and Larsson 2003).

If the Bonaparte's Gulls that migrate along the Ohio originate from the Chesapeake Bay area or farther north, then they may one day drag along a Little Gull or a Black-headed Gull (less likely) with them, because these species winter in those same areas. But if the Ohio River Bonaparte's Gulls originate from farther south, from the Carolinas to Florida or the offshore islands, then the prospects for a Little Gull are pretty much nil. Since three years of observing migration on April 10 has witnessed more than 2500 Bonaparte's Gulls and no Little Gulls, the "southern" Bonaparte's Gull theory seems to be supported, so far. But again, this question is best answered with more years of data.

Even more questions abound, some of which are probably unanswerable. Why do Bonaparte's Gulls apparently move through along the Ohio River in truly big numbers only on one day of the year? How wide is the window during which this migration may be observed? What is so special about April 10, anyway?

Obviously, these questions can only be answered by going to the river on or around April 10 and watching "The April 10 Effect" in action, year after year. There is a big mystery to be solved in

southwestern Pennsylvania, a phenomenon that ranks among the most fascinating that I have witnessed in 20+ years of birding. I know that for myself, as long as I live in the Pittsburgh area, April 10 will now be an annual, personal holiday.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks goes to Paul Hess and Mike Fialkovich, both of whom reviewed initial drafts of this essay and offered many helpful suggestions. Their knowledge, which is the result of years of diligently keeping and researching bird records in southwestern Pennsylvania, was invaluable.



Plate 2. April 10, 2006, also brought an ultra-rare visitor to the Ohio River, this adult Laughing Gull which flew downriver past Dashiields Dam at midday. This is the second record of Laughing Gull for Allegheny County and Beaver County. (Geoff Malosh)

Thanks and recognition are also extended to all those who have also spent time monitoring the Ohio River in early April since 2004, documenting the migration they witness. Principal among these observers are Mike Fialkovich, Joyce Hoffmann, Scott Kinzey, Don Koch, Bob and Diane Machesney, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton, and Dan Yagusic. As with most new frontiers of understanding previously unknown aspects the avian world, this discovery was made by dedicated amateur hobbyists like the aforementioned; without their efforts, phenomena such as that which is the subject of this essay would remain unknown.

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Spring Raptor Migration Summary 2006

Lindsay Zemba

Four watchsites reported counts for spring 2006 (Tables 1 and 2). There was no count conducted this year at Tuscarora Summit. A total of 7240 raptors representing 17 species was reported. The passage rate for all species for the four sites ranged from 3.26 to 8.65 raptors per hour (average 4.51). Count effort (hours of observation) for the four watchsites totaled 1526 hours, ranging from 233 to 508 hours among the sites. Comparing data among watchsites is difficult because of differences in count effort. Allegheny Front and Tussey Mountain counted for a week in February and throughout all of March, whereas Rose Tree Park counted only the second half of March and Hawk Mountain counted on only two days that month. All of the sites counted throughout April, but only Allegheny Front and Hawk Mountain extended counts into May.

Composition of the flight

Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) made up 52% of the overall flight (range 22-60%), and their migration peaked in the second half of April. Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) made up 19% of the overall flight (range 7-27%), and their migration peaked in late March - early April. Broad-winged Hawks were the most common species at all sites except Tussey Mountain, where Red-tailed Hawks were the most common species counted (27% of the overall count).

Turkey Vultures were the third most abundant species overall, making up 14% of the total count (range of 2-17%). Turkey Vultures were seen as early as February, with most individuals passing in March (Table 2). Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*), whose migration peaked in March and April, made up 9% of the overall flight, followed by Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*), whose migration peaked in late April and made up 8% of the overall flight. At all sites, Ospreys were first seen in mid to late March, with the earliest sighting on March 11 at Hawk Mountain. For watchsites that also conduct autumn counts (i.e., all except Tussey Mountain), Ospreys and Northern Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*) are relatively more common in

spring than they are in autumn, whereas Sharp-shinned Hawks are relatively less common in spring.

Only one Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) was reported on 16 April at Hawk Mountain and eleven of fifteen Merlins (*F. columbarius*) were seen in April. Over 69% of the 126 American Kestrels (*F. sparverius*) were counted in April. Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) were the earliest migrants; 5% of all Golden Eagles counted were detected in February, with Tussey Mountain accounting for all of these observations.

Seasonal Highlights

Allegheny Front (Bedford County) – This was Allegheny Front's highest count effort (508 hours). Several counts were below average, including Red-tailed Hawks (279), Golden Eagles (37), Turkey Vultures (240) and Sharp-shinned Hawks (92), and no Peregrines or Rough-legged Hawks were recorded. On the other hand, it was the second-highest spring Broad-winged Hawk flight (636) ever recorded at Allegheny Front, with 78% of birds passing between April 18-21, along with 30 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 29 Osprey, 4 Northern Harriers, and 3 Bald Eagles among others. Strong easterly winds at the end of April produced 76 Osprey from 28 April – 1 May, contributing to a total of 148 Osprey for the spring count.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Berks and Schuylkill Counties) – The peak period of migration during the official count period (1 April – 15 May) was 15 – 24 April, when 46% of the total flight came through, including 85% of the Broad-wing Hawks, 45% of the Sharp-shinned Hawks, one-third of the Ospreys, and more than one quarter of the Northern Harriers. Several species counts were lower than last year's count. They include Ospreys (83 vs. 134), Sharp-shinned Hawks (88 vs. 126), Red-tailed Hawks (82 vs. 209), and American Kestrels (11 vs. 21). Season records (since 1998) were set for Black Vultures (32) and Golden Eagles (3). The spring total was 32% below the five-year recent average, most likely due to clear skies and light winds during the peak period for northbound flights in April.

and remained consistent. The total Broadwing count was 1519, the second highest spring count in eight years (the high count was 3282 in 2002). Three species, Bald Eagles (85), Osprey (158), and Black Vultures (74), have record high counts for the site. Some counts were below average, including Red-tailed Hawk (88; 8-year average is 105), Red-shouldered Hawk (9; 8-year average is 21), and American Kestrel (51; 8-year average is 110). A rare Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) was recorded on 20 April, and a Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) was observed on 26 April.

Tussey Mountain (Centre County) – Red-tailed Hawks (626), Broad-winged Hawks (506), Turkey Vultures (381), Golden Eagles (150), and Cooper's Hawks (132) were the most common birds seen at Tussey Mountain this spring. The peak period of migration for Broadwings was 12 – 21 April, with a high of 91 Broad-winged Hawks passing through on 21 April, along with high counts for Sharp-shinned Hawks (14) and Osprey (11) on that day. High counts for Red-tailed Hawks (45) and American Kestrels (7) were on 12 April, while high counts for Black Vultures (11), Turkey Vultures (37), and Cooper's Hawks (13) were in early March. Tussey Mountain also had the highest count of Red-shouldered Hawks (36), 89% of which were counted in March. Peak flights of Golden Eagles occurred in mid-March, with a total of 150 for the season, which is 17 % lower than recent years' average.

Acknowledgments: I thank the compilers who reported their counts for the spring 2006 season, and all of the watchsite participants who helped to document the migration. Keith Bildstein commented on an earlier version of this manuscript. This is Hawk Mountain Sanctuary contribution number 142.

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Table 1. Watchsites reporting for spring 2006.

| Watchsite | County | Hours of observation |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Allegheny Front | Bedford | 508 |
| Hawk Mountain | Berks-Schuylkill | 233 |
| Rose Tree Park | Delaware | 290 |
| Tussey Mountain | Centre | 496 |

Rose Tree Park (Delaware County) – Rose Tree Park started their count on 15 March, and recorded 30 Bald Eagles in March. The first 10 Broad-winged Hawks were counted on 10 April, and from 15 – 28 April Broadwing counts increased

Table 2. Count Results for Spring 2006 in Pennsylvania.

ALLEGHENY FRONT (Bedford)

Angelo Mincone, compiler

| Month | Day | Hours | BLVU | TUVU | OSPR | BAEA | NOHA | SSHA | COHA | NOGO | RSHA | BWHA | RTHA | RLHA | GOEA | AMKE | MERL | PEFA | Unid. | STKI | Total |
|--------------|-----|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|--------|
| February | 7 | 39 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| March | 30 | 207 | 1 | 190 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 18 | 27 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 119 | 0 | 32 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 37 | 0 | 488 |
| April | 29 | 217 | 5 | 47 | 126 | 7 | 14 | 73 | 27 | 1 | 3 | 632 | 153 | 0 | 5 | 14 | 4 | 0 | 84 | 0 | 1195 |
| May | 7 | 45 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Total | 73 | 508 | 7 | 240 | 148 | 14 | 29 | 92 | 56 | 1 | 36 | 636 | 279 | 0 | 37 | 23 | 5 | 0 | 124 | 0 | 1727 |
| Total per hr | | | 0.01 | 0.47 | 0.29 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.18 | 0.11 | 0.00 | 0.07 | 1.25 | 0.55 | 0.00 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.24 | 0.00 | 3.40 |
| % of flight | | | 0.41 | 13.90 | 8.57 | 0.81 | 1.68 | 5.33 | 3.24 | 0.06 | 2.08 | 36.83 | 16.16 | 0.00 | 2.14 | 1.33 | 0.29 | 0.00 | 7.18 | 0.00 | 100.00 |

HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY (Berks & Schuylkill)

Laurie Goodrich, compiler

| Month | Day | Hours | BLVU | TUVU | OSPR | BAEA | NOHA | SSHA | COHA | NOGO | RSHA | BWHA | RTHA | RLHA | GOEA | AMKE | MERL | PEFA | Unid. | STK I | Total |
|--------------|-----|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|
| March | 2 | 12.5 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 29 |
| April | 28 | 147 | 17 | 4 | 58 | 7 | 13 | 75 | 15 | 0 | 10 | 254 | 66 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 84 | 0 | 616 |
| May | 12 | 74 | 3 | 0 | 24 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 114 |
| Total | 42 | 233 | 32 | 8 | 83 | 10 | 18 | 88 | 23 | 0 | 10 | 292 | 82 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 95 | 0 | 759 |
| Total per hr | | | 0.14 | 0.03 | 0.36 | 0.04 | 0.08 | 0.38 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 1.25 | 0.35 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.41 | 0.00 | 3.26 |
| % of flight | | | 4.22 | 1.05 | 10.94 | 1.32 | 2.37 | 11.59 | 3.03 | 0.00 | 1.32 | 38.47 | 10.80 | 0.00 | 0.40 | 1.45 | 0.40 | 0.13 | 12.52 | 0.00 | 100.00 |

ROSE TREE PARK (Delaware)

Jim Lockyer, compiler

| Month | Day | Hours | BLVU | TUVU | OSPR | BAEA | NOHA | SSHA | COHA | NOGO | RSHA | BWHA | RTHA | RLHA | GOEA | AMKE | MERL | PEFA | Unid. | STK I | Total |
|--------------|-----|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|
| March | 17 | 110 | 62 | 102 | 20 | 30 | 9 | 41 | 20 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 335 |
| April | 30 | 179 | 12 | 47 | 138 | 55 | 49 | 172 | 47 | 1 | 4 | 1519 | 57 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 5 | 0 | 17 | 1 | 2166 |
| Total | 47 | 289 | 74 | 149 | 158 | 85 | 58 | 213 | 67 | 1 | 9 | 1519 | 88 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 6 | 0 | 22 | 1 | 2501 |
| Total per hr | | | 0.26 | 0.52 | 0.55 | 0.29 | 0.20 | 0.74 | 0.23 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 5.26 | 0.30 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.18 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 8.65 |
| % of flight | | | 2.96 | 5.96 | 6.32 | 3.40 | 2.32 | 8.52 | 2.68 | 0.04 | 0.36 | 60.74 | 3.52 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.04 | 0.24 | 0.00 | 0.88 | 0.04 | 100.00 |

TUSSEY MOUNTAIN (Centre)

Dan Ombalski, compiler

| Month | Day | Hours | BLVU | TUVU | OSPR | BAEA | NOHA | SSHA | COHA | NOGO | RSHA | BWHA | RTHA | RLHA | GGEA | AMKE | MERL | PEFA | Unid. | STKI | Total |
|--------------|-----|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|--------|
| February | 4 | 36 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 81 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 18 |
| March | 31 | 257 | 49 | 312 | 1 | 6 | 24 | 40 | 53 | 3 | 32 | 0 | 295 | 5 | 138 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 0 | 1026 |
| April | 24 | 203 | 11 | 68 | 59 | 2 | 22 | 76 | 79 | 1 | 4 | 506 | 323 | 0 | 5 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 1209 |
| Total | 59 | 496 | 60 | 381 | 60 | 8 | 46 | 116 | 132 | 4 | 36 | 506 | 626 | 6 | 150 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 81 | 0 | 2253 |
| Total per hr | | | 0.12 | 0.77 | 0.12 | 0.02 | 0.09 | 0.23 | 0.27 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 1.02 | 1.26 | 0.01 | 0.30 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 4.54 |
| % of flight | | | 2.66 | 16.91 | 2.66 | 0.36 | 2.04 | 5.15 | 5.86 | 0.18 | 1.60 | 22.46 | 27.79 | 0.27 | 6.66 | 1.82 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.60 | 0.00 | 100.00 |

TOTAL FOR ALL WATCHSITES

| Month | Day | Hours | BLVU | TUVU | OSPR | BAEA | NOHA | SSHA | COHA | NOGO | RSHA | BWHA | RTHA | RLHA | GGEA | AMKE | MERL | PEFA | Unid. | STKI | Total |
|--------------|-----|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|--------|
| February | 11 | 75 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 01 | 0 | | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 26 |
| March | 80 | 587 | 124 | 608 | 24 | 43 | 48 | 99 | 100 | 3 | 69 | 0 | 451 | 5 | 172 | 37 | 2 | 0 | 93 | 0 | 1878 |
| April | 111 | 746 | 45 | 166 | 381 | 71 | 98 | 396 | 168 | 3 | 21 | 2911 | 599 | 0 | 10 | 87 | 11 | 1 | 217 | 0 | 5185 |
| May | 19 | 119 | 4 | 0 | 44 | 2 | 5 | 14 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 151 |
| Total | 221 | 1526 | 175 | 785 | 437 | 116 | 148 | 510 | 279 | 6 | 99 | 2919 | 1074 | 6 | 190 | 126 | 15 | 1 | 313 | 1 | 7240 |
| Total per hr | | | 0.11 | 0.51 | 0.29 | 0.08 | 0.10 | 0.33 | 0.18 | 0.00 | 0.06 | 1.91 | 0.70 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 0.08 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.21 | 0.00 | 4.51 |
| % of flight | | | 2.42 | 10.84 | 6.04 | 1.60 | 2.04 | 7.04 | 3.85 | 0.08 | 1.37 | 40.32 | 14.83 | 0.08 | 2.62 | 1.74 | 0.21 | 0.01 | 4.32 | 0.01 | 100.00 |

Summary of the Season - March 2006 through May 2006

Mike Fialkovich

Once again spring migration was rather lackluster in terms of large passerine fallouts, good for the birds but not for birders. In spite of that, many unusual species were recorded, some remaining from the winter season and some in greater numbers than expected. This seemed to be the season of hybrids including a few reports beyond the typical hybrid warblers and gulls.

Seeing any **Greater White-fronted Geese** in the western half of the state is a rare event, so a flock of 13 followed a few days later by a flock of 27 in *Bedford* was certainly exciting. On the more typical scale single birds were found in *Bucks* and *Lebanon* where they are rare, but regular. **Ross' Goose** is practically expected and there were reports from four counties. **Cackling Goose** reports were good with a concentration in the southeast. A single **Brant** was found in flight over *Centre*. A few **Trumpeter Swans** were noted with the unfortunate death of the bird that spent many months on the Susquehanna River in *Dauphin*.

We seemed to miss the annual fallout of **Long-tailed Ducks** this spring across the state that usually accompanies heavy spring rains. A few **Eurasian Wigeons** were found across the state including two in *Erie*. Waterfowl hybrids include a **Hooded Merganser x Common Goldeneye** in *Indiana*, and a **Green-winged x Common Teal** in *Bucks*. Observers in *Huntingdon* confirmed **Common Merganser** and **American Black Ducks** breeding; unusual for that county. A **Cinnamon Teal** generated excitement in *Bucks*, but with careful observation, the bird was noted to possess a non-U. S. Fish and Wildlife band and concluded to be an escape.

A **Yellow-billed Loon** was found in *Berks* and a description

was sent to the compiler. Unfortunately, the bird did not remain longer than a day. Two **Anhingas** were reported: a bird in *Chester* fit the typical overshoot spring migration pattern near the Delaware River in the Philadelphia area, but one further inland in *Dauphin* was an unexpected sight.

Rare waders were well represented this spring with unexpected reports from the west: 4 **Snowy Egrets** including one in *Erie* and *Venango*, 5 **Little Blue Herons** including a bird in *Washington*, a **Tricolored Heron** in *Erie*, and three reports of **Cattle Egrets** including a high count of 10 in *Indiana*. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** continue to hang on in the state with birds returning to nests in urban Harrisburg and York. Normally seen in small numbers, flocks of fifteen **Glossy Ibis** in both *Bucks* and *Lancaster* were great numbers for the state.

In recent years the number of **Mississippi Kites** were notable in spring, however this year, they were notable by their absence. Three birds were reported: one in *Bucks* where they have been annual, one in *Wyoming* and one in *Westmoreland*, appropriately found during a PSO field trip. Two **Swallow-tailed Kites** were found, one each in *Delaware* and *Northampton*. Migrant **Golden Eagles** were reported in seven counties including a few away from the hawk watch sites on the high ridges. An exciting and welcomed first confirmed breeding pair of **Merlins** were well documented in *McKean*. With a population in New York, there was hope this species would be found in the northern tier counties during the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Common Moorhens found in *Bucks*, *Centre*, *Indiana*, *Lancaster* and *Montgomery* were noteworthy rarities in those counties. In fact, the bird in

Indiana provided only the 6th county record and the bird in *Montgomery* was the first in a decade! **Sandhill Cranes** continue to increase and were reported from at least thirteen counties. Remember when this species was a rare migrant? Now they are just about expected in migration and have been breeding for over a decade. A seasonal total of fifty-five were tallied migrating over *Presque Isle* in *Erie*. An unexpected and surprising observation was a bird that walked across an exit ramp of I-99 in *Centre* as well as a flock of fifty-three in flight over Penn State.

Unusual spring migrant shorebirds reported included **American Golden Plovers** in *Crawford* and *Lancaster*, **Baird's Sandpipers** in *Crawford* and *Franklin*, and **Stilt Sandpipers** in *Bedford*, *Forest* and *Lancaster*. Rare species included 2 **Black-necked Stilts** near the Conejohela Flats in *Lancaster*, 16 **Willetts** in *Allegheny* (one of the largest flocks ever recorded in the state), **Wilson's Phalaropes** in *Crawford* and *Erie*, two **Red-necked Phalaropes** in *Allegheny* and one in *Lancaster*, **Whimbrel** in *Beaver*, *Erie* and a flock of 16 in *Lancaster*. Eleven **Sanderlings** in *Centre* were unusual. Nice numbers of **Short-billed Dowitchers** were noted in four counties. Sixty-seven were in *Beaver*, 26 in *Bedford*, and 13 in *Somerset*. Fifty in *Berks* were listed as dowitcher sp. A leucistic **Spotted Sandpiper** was present in *Allegheny* in April.

Due to careful study, quality photographs, and the ongoing increasing interest in larids, several unusual hybrid gulls were noted this spring. A bird first thought to be a Mew Gull in *Dauphin* was photographed and carefully studied. Using the internet as a vehicle to solicit identification assistance, the bird was discussed online and determined to be a **Ring-billed**

Gull x Franklin's Gull based on the examination of the photographs. This still left the identification inconclusive without the benefit of genetic testing, but these two species seemed the most likely parents. A bird in *Bucks* first thought to be a Thayer's Gull, (but not appearing quite right) was studied and photographed and believed to be a hybrid **Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull**. Finally, a bird observed in *Erie* was believed to be a **Great Black-backed Gull x Herring Gull**.

Little Gulls continued in good numbers from the winter season, particularly in *Erie* where six remained. More than 4 were found in *Lancaster*, one in *Bucks* and 2 in *Indiana* that provided a first county record and an unusual location for a species mainly found along the Lake Erie shore and the Susquehanna River. A **Black-headed Gull** in *Lancaster* was the first in the state for a few years. A **Laughing Gull** provided the 3rd county record for *Allegheny* and the first for *Beaver*. Two **Franklin's Gulls** were reported in *Cambria*. A **California Gull** was a first for *Bucks*. *Bucks* continues to support large numbers of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** where 350 were counted! White-winged gulls continued in good numbers in *Erie* (including two Thayer's types). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were found away from Lake Erie including the first breeding record for the state in *Delaware*.

The **Snowy Owl** in *Centre* continued to be enjoyed by many this season. A flock of 80-100 **chickadee species** in one hemlock tree in *Bucks* in early April was a surprising sight. See the county report for details on this unusual event. Other rarities reported include a **Sedge Wren** (*Juniata*), **Bicknell's Thrush** (*Bucks*), and a **Varied Thrush** in a backyard in *Centre*. A leucistic **Northern Mockingbird** that was just about all white was in *Beaver* during the season. Many observers noted the small

numbers of **Swainson's Thrushes** this spring.

Prothonotary Warblers were found in nine counties and appear to be doing well along the Susquehanna River. Both **Brewster's** and **Lawrence's Warblers** were reported along with an **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler**.

A **Summer Tanager** in *Dauphin* was an overshoot migrant. The **Lark Sparrow** (*Franklin*) and the **Harris' Sparrow** (*Juniata*) reported the previous season lingered to early April and early May respectively. **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows** were found in three counties. **Black-headed Grosbeaks** were one day visitors in *Northampton* and *Westmoreland*. **Painted Buntings** was reported in *Berks* and *Wyoming*. A single **Dickcissel** was in *Berks*. A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was a great yard bird in *Chester*.

Observers managed to find a few northern finches during the season. **Red Crossbills** were in *Bucks* and *Pike*. **White-winged Crossbills** were in *Clinton* and *Wyoming*. **Pine Siskins** were in several counties including birds food begging in *McKean*, and finally there was only a single **Evening Grosbeak** report from *Forest*.

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Birds of Note - March 2006 through May 2006

This report summarizes unexpected species and species reported in fewer than five counties during the reporting period.

An * denotes species on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) Review List. Details or descriptions that are submitted for species on the PORC Review List will be reviewed by the committee. The term "No Doc" refers to a Review List species for which no supporting documentation was submitted, or we are unaware of such a submission at this time. The PORC Review List can be found at the PSO web site <http://www.pabirds.org>

Birds in *Italics* are uncommon, but occur during this time period in most years.

Birds Underlined occur at least 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

Italics Underlined occur fewer than 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

Greater White-fronted Goose - *Bedford*: 13 at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 3/12, 32 on 3/19 and 27 on 3/26 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: a bird present last season was last reported from the Silver L. Park area 3/23 (Frank Windfelder); *Lebanon*: one at Middlecreek W.M.A. 3/11 (Fred Habbeggar).

Ross' Goose - *Berks*: one at L. Ontelaunee 3/11 (Rudy Keller); *Dauphin*: one along Canal Rd. in South Hanover Twp. 3/4-3/5 (Tom Johnson, Patricia Williams, Richard Williams); *Lancaster*: present at Middle Creek W.M.A. 3/17-3/26 with a peak of 3 on 3/17. Single birds were at Wood's Edge Pond 3/13 (Dan Heathcote) and 3/17 (Tom Amico); *Lebanon*: present from last season and last reported 3/9 at Lebanon Valley Business Park (Randy Miller).

Cackling Goose - *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh L. 3/4 (Joan Silagy), and 2 at L. Ontelaunee 3/4-3/5 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: present since last season and last reported at Pine Run Dam 3/7 (August Mirabella); *Dauphin*: one near Hershey 3/1 (Dale Gearhart, Carl Garner) and another on the Susquehanna R. at West Fairview 3/23 (Patricia Williams, Richard Williams); *Lancaster*: 4 at Middle Creek W.M.A. 3/5 (Randy Miller); *Lebanon*: present since last season and last seen 3/9 at Lebanon Valley Business Park (Randy Miller); *Snyder*: one at Faylor L. 3/20 (Chad Kauffman, Aden Troyer).

Brant - *Centre*: several in flight at Bald Eagle S.P. 4/8 (Molly Heath).

Trumpeter Swan* - *Crawford*: single birds at Conneaut Marsh in Geneva 3/19 (Ronald Leberman), and at the Pymatuning Game Management Area 3/25 (Bob VanNewkirk); *Dauphin*: a bird first reported at West Fairview 8/11/05 was found dead the last week of March (Ramsay Koury, Cameron Rutt); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek S.P. 4/25 (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Dennis Lauffer, Kevin Redvay, Ed Richards); *Lancaster*: 3 on 4/2 and 7 on 4/13 at the Conejohela Flats (Bob Schutsky); *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake S.P. 3/3 (Larry Usselman) and last reported at Mount Pleasant Road 4/15 (John Fedak).

Eurasian Wigeon - *Chester*: a male was present at Coatesville Reservoir 3/17-4/7 (Chuck Chalfant, Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella); *Erie*: a first year male 3/9 and an adult male 3/10, both at Presque Isle S.P. (Jerry McWilliams); *Indiana*: a male found last season continued through 3/9 (Lee Carnahan); *Lancaster*: one 3/27 (Tom Johnson) and 4/2 (Bob Schutsky) at the Conejohela Flats.

Green-winged x Common Teal - *Bucks*: one at Core Creek Park 4/8 (Devich Farbotnik).

Black Scoter - *Centre*: one or 2 at Bald Eagle S.P. 3/13 (Jeff Michaels).

Red-throated Loon - *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon S.P. 4/9 (Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: 2 at Struble L. 4/7 (Nick Pulcinella), one at Chambers L. 4/24 (Rick Robinson, Chuck Chalfant), and one at Hibernia County Park 4/25 (Jeff Loomis); *Dauphin*: one on the Susquehanna R. at Marysville 4/28 (Cameron Rutt); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek S.P. 4/25 (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Kevin Redvay, Ed Richards); *Lancaster*: present 5/13 (Spring Migrant Table); *Wyoming*: one at L. Carey 3/25 (Bill Reid).

Yellow-billed Loon* - *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh L. 4/5-6 (Joan

Silagy). (No Doc).

Red-necked Grebe - *Beaver*: one at Ambridge Reservoir 3/14 (Geoff Malosh); *Berks*: 2 at L. Ontelaunee 3/26 (Matt Spence); *Bucks*: one present since January at The Penn-Warner Tract was observed 3/15 (Cameron Rutt) and 4/8 (Devich Farbotnik), one at Core Creek Park 3/21 (Henry D'Allesandro); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 4/18 (Jerry McWilliams); *Indiana*: one 4/22 (Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles) which remained through 4/25 (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Kevin Redvay, Ed Richards) at Yellow Creek S.P.; *Lancaster*: present 3/11-4/21 (Spring Tables), *Westmoreland*: one at Beaver Run Reservoir 4/23 (Ken Byerly).

Eared Grebe - *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview on the Susquehanna R. 3/18 (Chad Kauffman, Toby Petersheim, et al.). A bird reported from the Susquehanna R. at Marysville 3/23-3/31 may have been the same individual (Cameron Rutt). Another report at Marysville the following week may have been the same bird progressing into alternate plumage (Cameron Rutt); *Fayette*: one at Jacob's Creek County Park 4/1 (Len Hess, Linda Hess); *Lebanon*: one at Memorial L. S.P. up to 3/20 (Gerry Boltz), and a late report of a bird at Middle Creek W.M.A. that was shot 11/25/04 at Risser's Pond. The specimen was given to the Game Commission (Randy Miller); *York*: one at Codorus S.P. 3/12 (Jack & Lil Downs).

Great Cormorant* - *Bucks*: at least 2 at Bristol 5/20 (Devich Farbotnik); *Delaware*: one along Darby Creek 4/10 (Al Guarente); *Northampton*: one at Martins Creek quarry 3/9 (observer not specified); *Philadelphia*: present during the season along the Delaware R.

Anhinga* - *Chester*: one seen briefly at Church Farm School 5/4 (Chuck Chalfant, Nick Pulcinella); *Dauphin*: one seen from the Market St. Bridge in Harrisburg flying downriver 5/6 (Dick Colyer). (No Doc).

Snowy Egret - *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 4/25 (Ramsay Koury); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 5/29 (Jerry McWilliams); *Venango*: one at Franklin 5/6 (Gary Edwards, Russ States, Jerry Stanley, Kathie Goodblood, Dennis Beaver); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia 5/26 (Ken Januski).

Little Blue Heron - *Berks*: one in Tilden Twp. 5/12-18 (Tom Clauser, m.ob.); *Bucks*: one at Bradford Dam 5/5 (Lesley Weissman-Cook, August Mirabella); *Lancaster*: one near Milton Grove 6/13 (Tom Johnson); *Philadelphia*: one at Tinicum 5/13 (Gregg Gorton); *Washington*: one at Canonsburg L. 5/1-5/6 (Mark Vass, m.ob.); *York*: one on the York shore of the Susquehanna R. at Accomac 5/4 (Jack & Lil Downs).

Tricolored Heron* - one at Presque Isle S.P. 5/29 (Jerry McWilliams).

Cattle Egret* - *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/13-4/18 (Howard Eskin); *Indiana*: 10 near the Conemaugh Dam 4/24 (Mike Fowles) (No Doc); a 4th county record; *Lancaster*: 2 at the Conejohela Flats 6/6 (Deuane Hoffman, Bob Schutsky) (No Doc); *Lehigh*: one near Trexlertown 5/16 (Jon Levin) (No Doc).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron* - *Bucks*: one at Perkasio 5/3 (Mary-Beth Pizza); *Dauphin*: 4 at a nest site in Harrisburg 4/13 (Tom Johnson); *Lancaster*: one at Safe Harbor Park 4/15 (Fred Zimmerman); *York*: one at

Kiwanis Lake in York City 4/2 (Ann Pettigrew).

Glossy Ibis* - *Bucks*: a flock of 15 flew by the Penn-Warner Tract 4/8 (Devich Farbotnik) (No Doc), 3 near Mudd Island 4/24 (Corey Holden) (No Doc); *Lancaster*: an unprecedented county high of 15 at Middle Creek W.M.A. 3/11 (Rick Wiltraut) (No Doc).

Swallow-tailed Kite* - *Delaware*: one at the Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch 4/20 (Janet Crawford, Bill Roache). (No Doc); *Northampton*: one immature in Williams Twp. 4/24 (Arlene Koch) (No Doc).

Mississippi Kite* - *Bucks*: one flying over Plumstead Twp. 5/21 (Babe Webster). (No Doc); *Westmoreland*: one at Keystone S.P. during a PSO field trip 5/20 (Frank Haas, Barb Haas, et al.) (No Doc); *Wyoming*: one in flight over South Eaton 5/2 (Bill Reid).

American Golden Plover - *Crawford*: single birds at the Pymatuning Game Management Area 4/20 (Mark Vass) and 5/2 (Ronald Leberman); *Lebanon*: one at Mount Pleasant Rd. 4/16 (Tom Johnson) - 4/26 (Randy Miller, Kate Miller); first April record.

Black-necked Stilt* - *Lancaster*: 2 at the Conejohela Flats 5/27 were photographed (Tom Raub).

Willet - *Allegheny*: a flock of 16 along the Allegheny R. in Fox Chapel 5/5 (Dan Yagusic).

Upland Sandpiper - *Clarion*: 3 at Mt. Airy 4/30 (Walter Fye); *Crawford*: one 4/20 (Mark Vass) and four 5/6 (m.ob.) at the Pymatuning Game Management Area; *Somerset*: present in the Berlin Area 4/24 (Jeff Payne); *Westmoreland*: one at the Laurelville Strips 5/20 (PSO Field Trip participants).

Whimbrel* - *Beaver*: one at Little Blue L. 5/21 (Mark Vass, ph. Geoff Malosh); *Erie*: 3 at Presque Isle S.P. 5/22 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: 16 at the Conejohela Flats 5/22 (Deuane Hoffman). (No Doc); *Somerset*: one near Berlin 5/21 provided a first county record (Jeff Payne). (No Doc).

Sanderling - *Centre*: 11 at Bald Eagle S.P. 5/13 (Bob Snyder); *Lancaster*: present at the Conejohela Flats 5/13 & 5/22 (observer not specified).

Baird's Sandpiper - *Crawford*: one at the Linesville Fish Hatchery 5/24-5/25 (Anthony Bledsoe), and one at the Pymatuning Game Management Area 5/29 (Ronald Leberman); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 5/16-5/20 (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart).

Stilt Sandpiper - *Bedford*: 3 at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 5/26 (Tom Dick); *Forest*: one at Buzzard Swamp 5/12 (Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 5/20 (Eric Witmer).

Wilson's Phalarope - *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Game Management Area 5/6-5/7 (Becky Smith, et al.); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 5/26 (Jerry McWilliams, Ben Coulter).

Red-necked Phalarope - *Allegheny*: 2 at Imperial 5/19-22 (Mark Vass); *Lancaster*: one 5/25 at the Conejohela Flats (Deuane Hoffman).

Laughing Gull - *Allegheny*: one at Dashields Dam 4/10 (Geoff Malosh), 3rd county record; *Beaver*: the same bird found in Allegheny continued along the Ohio R. into *Beaver* 4/10 (Geoff Malosh), 2nd county record; *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon S.P. 3/18 (Thomas Ford-Hutchinson, Bill Etter), one at Bradford Dam 3/21 (Gail Johnson); *Delaware*: regularly seen along the Delaware R. 4/25-5/8 (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one 4/21 (Bob Schutsky, Deuane Hoffman) and 6/6 (Deuane Hoffman) at the Conejohela Flats; *Philadelphia*: dozens seen moving up the Delaware R. at Fort Mifflin 4/25-6, 5/1, 5/4, and 5/8 (John Miller).

Franklin's Gull* - *Cambria*: one thought to be this species was reported at Prince Gallitzin S.P. 6/24 (Judy Johns, Rory Bower). (No Doc), one reported a week prior at the same location (P.J. Faletok) (No Doc).

Little Gull* - *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/8 (Devich Farbotnik) provided a 3rd county record (No Doc); *Dauphin*: one 4/22 near Dauphin (Cameron Rutt); *Erie*: up to 6 at Presque Isle S.P. 3/6-4/8 (Jerry McWilliams, et al.); *Indiana*: 2 at Yellow Creek S.P. 4/18 provided a first county record (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Dennis Lauffer, Scott Speedy). (No Doc); *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna R. at Marietta 3/19 (Tom Johnson), several

adults observed from the parking lot of the Accomac Inn 4/1 (Jonathan Heller, Eric Witmer, m.ob.), a first year bird at the "rocks" along the Susquehanna R. 5/13 and two first year birds up to 5/25 at the Conejohela Flats (Eric Witmer).

Black-headed Gull* - *Lancaster*: one in alternate plumage seen from the parking lot of the Accomac Inn 4/1 (Jonathan Heller, Eric Witmer, m.ob.).

Ring-billed x Franklin's Gull - *Dauphin*: a bird studied and photographed at West Fairview on the Susquehanna R. 3/22 was thought to be a possible Mew Gull (Tom Johnson). As a result of internet discussions of the photographs and detailed descriptions it was thought the bird was most likely (but not definitively) a hybrid between Ring-billed and Franklin's Gulls.

California Gull* - *Bucks*: one in alternate plumage at Nockamixon S.P. 3/23 (George Franchois) and seen through 3/25 (m.ob.). This was the first well documented county record.

Thayer's Gull* - *Erie*: one first winter 4/10 and 4/13 (Jerry McWilliams, Randy Stringer), one adult 4/17 (Ben Coulter, Jerry McWilliams).

Iceland Gull - *Bucks*: several at Nockamixon S.P. from March into April with a peak of 5 on 3/22 (Bill Etter), the last recorded was at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/30 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: a total of 7 present in the surrounding waters of Presque Isle S.P. 3/23-4/22 (Jerry McWilliams); *Dauphin*: one along the Susquehanna R. at Marysville 3/10 (Deuane Hoffman).

Lesser Black-backed Gull - *Berks*: 2 last reported at L. Ontelaunee 3/5 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: 350 at Nockamixon S.P. 3/16 (Bill Etter), a new local single site high count. Small numbers lingered at Peace Valley Park (August Mirabella) and Nockamixon S.P. (Bill Etter) through May; *Erie*: up to 10 from 3/21 - 5/26 in the surrounding waters of Presque Isle S.P. (m.ob.); *Montgomery*: 6 at Green Lane Reservoir 3/19 (George Franchois); *Northampton*: 2 at Martins Creek quarry 5/13 (Michael Schall).

Glaucous Gull - *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/20 was a late record (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: at least 10 in the surrounding waters of Presque Isle S.P. 3/1-4/29 (Jerry McWilliams), one late bird 5/22 (Ben Coulter).

Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull - *Bucks*: A bird believed to be a hybrid was studied and photographed at Nockamixon S.P. 3/25- 4/1 (August Mirabella, ph. Alan Brady, Bill Etter).

Great Black-backed Gull x Herring Gull - *Erie*: a bird at Presque Isle S.P. 4/3 (Jerry McWilliams) and 4/10 (Ben Coulter) was carefully described and believed to be a hybrid.

Eurasian Collared Dove* - *Berks*: one heard calling near Eckville 4/16 (David Barber), *Chester*: one 3/28 (Chuck Chalfant), two 4/27 (Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella) and one 4/27 (Chuck Chalfant, Pamela Fisher) in Coatsville; *Lancaster*: one at Peach Bottom Village 3/14 (Bob Schutsky). (No Doc).

Barn Owl - *Huntingdon*: one 5/6 (Doug Steigerwalt), and 5/30 (David Kyler) at a nest site in the Shaver's Creek Valley; *Lebanon*: one hunting around Lebanon Valley Business Park 3/10 (Randy Miller), birds were found in two other locations, one location with young 5/29 (John Fedak).

Snowy Owl - *Centre*: present since January at the Bellefonte I-99/220 Interchange (David Facey, Jen Lee, Jeff Michaels, Larry Ramsey, Leslie Demmert, Matt Rockmore, Molly Heath, Roana Fuller, Bob Fowles) and was last seen 3/20 (Roana Fuller, Bob Snyder, Sandy Welch, Bob Keener, Jen Lee).

Long-eared Owl - *Bucks*: one or 2 at Peace Valley Park last reported 3/9 (August Mirabella); *Chester*: 2 last reported at Struble L. 4/15 (Jim Russell, West Chester Bird Club); *Crawford*: one heard in Geneva at the Conneaut Marsh 5/28 (Rick Mellon); *Erie*: one 3/30 (Jerry McWilliams) and one 5/5 (Joao Taveres) at Presque Isle S.P.; *Lebanon*: one at SGL 211 on 3/25 (Tom Powers); *Westmoreland*: one near Rector 5/17 (Mike Lanzzone's PA Breeding Bird Atlas point count team).

Short-eared Owl - *Allegheny*: 5 at Imperial 3/7 and 2 there 3/23 (Dan Yagusic); *Bucks*: at least 2 wintered in Bedminster Twp. and were last reported 3/4 (Chuck Crunkleton); *Erie*: 3 at Presque Isle S.P. 4/10 (Jerry McWilliams); *Juniata*: one in Oakland Mills 5/5 (Deuane Hoffman, Aden Troyer, Stevie Troyer, et al.); *Lebanon*: 9 at Middle Creek W.M.A. 3/6 and last reported 3/14 (Tom Johnson).

Northern Saw-whet Owl - *Beaver*: one heard 3/19 at SGL 285 (Geoff Malosh); *Berks*: one heard 4/9 at SGL 110 (Kerry Grim); *Clarion*: one calling at Strattanville 3/16 (Ron Montgomery); *Delaware*: one found injured in Newtown Square and taken to a rehabilitator 4/1 (Doris McGovern); *Erie*: one 3/31 (Jerry McWilliams) and one or two 4/15-19 (Dave Darney, Jerry McWilliams) at Presque Isle S.P.; *Forest*: one near Tionesta 3/7 (observer not listed); *Lebanon*: 2 at State Game Lands 211, Stony Valley 3/25 (Tom Powers); *McKean*: 12 found 5/12-13 while running a Toot Route (John Fedak); *Philadelphia*: the last of four at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia 3/19 (Ned Connolly).

Northern Shrike - *Clarion*: present up to 4/4 near Leatherwood (Carole Willenpart); *Venango*: present at Clintonville up to 3/8.

Sedge Wren* - *Juniata*: one 5/5-5/6 in Oakland Mills (Tom Johnson, et al.).

Bicknell's Thrush* - *Bucks*: a probable bird based on plumage was near SGL 157 on 5/21 (August Mirabella, Judy Mirabella). (No Doc). One carefully studied in Tinicum Twp. 5/28 also responded aggressively to a tape playback (Devich Farbotnik). (No Doc).

Varied Thrush* - *Centre*: one visited a backyard in Boalsburg 3/27-4/30 (Alan and Fran MacEachren, et al.).

Brewster's Warbler - *Centre*: one at the Scotia Barrens in May (exact date and observer not specified); *Dauphin*: one in Stony Creek Valley 4/26 through May (m.ob.); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 5/23 (Ramsay Koury, Jerry McWilliams); *Westmoreland*: single birds were banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve 5/2 and 5/5 (Adrienne Leppold).

Lawrence's Warbler: *Clarion*: one found 5/13 during the PA Migration Count (Carole Willenpart); *Indiana*: one near Jacksonville 5/25 (Margaret Higbee); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek W.M.A. 5/7-5/14 (Fred Habegger, Jonathan Heller, Eric Witmer); *Monroe*: one along the Bushkill Creek in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area 5/9 (Darryl Speicher).

Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler* - *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 3/26 (Chuck Gehringer). (No Doc).

Orange-crowned Warbler - *Berks*: one on the Kittatinny Ridge at Northkill Gap 5/21 (Kerry Grim); *Erie*: a total of 5 reported 5/21-5/27 (Ron Leberman, Randy Stringer, Ramsay Koury); *Mercer*: one at Nicklin Lane 5/4 (Troyer Family).

Connecticut Warbler - *Beaver*: one singing at Ambridge Reservoir 5/24 (Geoff Malosh); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 5/21 (Geoff Malosh), and another was heard singing and briefly seen 5/27 (Randy Stringer, et al.).

Summer Tanager* - *Dauphin*: one at Keller Field near Hummelstown 5/4 (Tom Johnson). (No Doc).

Clay-colored Sparrow - *Centre*: one singing in a regenerating clear-cut next to the Mid State Airport 5/19 and 5/27 (Nick Bolgiano); *Clarion*: first reported 5/7; *Erie*: one 5/18 (Rick Wiltraut) and another 5/23 (Dave Wilton, et al.) at Presque Isle S.P.; *Indiana*: one singing near Brush Valley 5/11 (Margaret Higbee), a 3rd county record; *Juniata*: one in Oakland Mills 5/22 (Stevie Troyer).

Lark Sparrow* - *Franklin*: the bird present from the winter season at Chambersburg was last reported 4/4 (Joan Bowen).

Harris' Sparrow* - *Juniata*: a bird found in November 2005 continued at a feeding station in Oakland Mills to 5/8 (Aden Troyer, David Troyer, et al.).

Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow* - *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 5/4 (Jerry McWilliams); *Indiana*: one near Shelocta 4/26 (Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee); *McKean*:

one visited a feeder in Bradford 5/3 (Lisa Fedak). (No Doc)

Lapland Longspur - *Cambria*: present up to 3/14 (Spring Table); *Dauphin*: 3 on the M.S. Hershey Farms 3/26 (Sharon Rannels, Steve Rannels).

Black-headed Grosbeak* - *Northampton*: a male visited a feeder in Williams Twp. 5/13 (Arlene Koch) furnishing a 2nd county record; *Westmoreland*: one briefly visited a feeder at Powdermill Nature Reserve 5/3 (Mike Lanzzone, Trish Miller). (No Doc).

Blue Grosbeak* - *Bucks*: present 5/7 (Spring Table); *Chester*: 2 at White Clay Creek Preserve 5/21 (Chuck Chalfant); *Dauphin*: one visited a feeder in Stony Creek Valley 5/31 and remained into June (Barb Huffman); *Erie*: one immature male at Presque Isle S.P. 5/18 (Rick Wiltraut); *Indiana*: 2 on the PA Migration Count 5/13 (Bill Betts, David Coates) providing a 2nd county record; *Lancaster*: one at Peach Bottom Village 5/11 (Bob Schutsky); *Northampton*: a pair seen mating in Williams Twp. 5/28 (Arlene Koch); *Philadelphia*: one singing at Spring Lane 5/25 (Chuck Hetzel); *York*: one at Spring Valley County Park 5/3 (John & Jean Prescott).

Painted Bunting* - *Berks*: an imm. male visited a feeder in Muhlenberg Twp. 4/21-4/26 (Carolyne Drasher, m.ob.) and was photographed providing a 4th county record; *Wyoming*: a male near West Nicholson 5/13 (Bill Reid).

Dickcissel - *Berks*: one near the Pleasantville covered bridge 5/19 (Catherine Elwell).

Yellow-headed Blackbird* - *Chester*: a male in a backyard in West Chester 3/5 was photographed (Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella).

Bullock's Oriole* - a bird present since 1/1 in Bethlehem was last reported 4/7 (m. ob.).

Red Crossbill - *Bucks*: 3 at SGL 157 on 5/13 (Devich Farbotnik); *Pike*: 3 flying over and heard calling at the Pocono Environmental Education Center (Ethan Huner, Shannon Queen). Approximately a week later a male was found dead at the environmental center (Mike Brubaker, Jeremy Phillips, Ethan Huner).

White-winged Crossbill - *Clinton*: a female visited a feeder in Lock Haven 3/23 to at least 4/8 (Jeff Schaffer); *Wyoming*: 2 in Lemon Twp. 3/28 (Bill Reid).

Evening Grosbeak - *Forest*: one visited a feeder near Marienville 5/3 (Brenda Weyant, John Weyant).

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*). These six birds were present at Dashield's Dam, Allegheny, 14 April 2006 (Geoff Malosh).



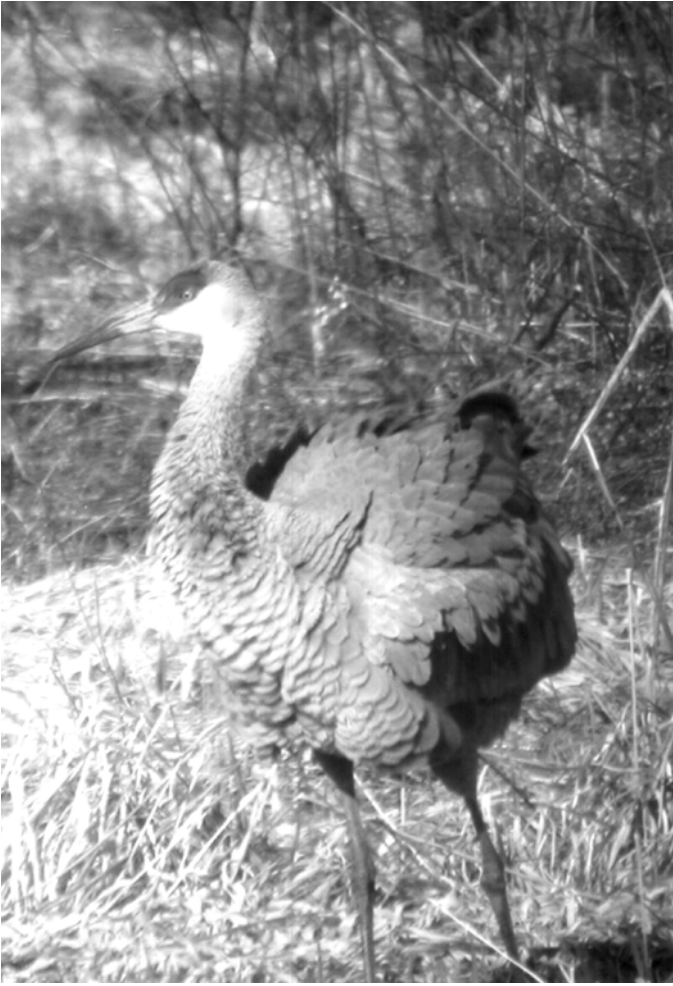
Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). This adult was photographed 13 May 2006 in Hamburg, Berks (Matt Wlasniewski). It remained at this location until 16 May.



Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). Present at the Penn-Warner Tract 13-18 April 2006. (Howard Eskin).



Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). This adult was photographed in Perkasio, Bucks, 3 May 2006 (Mary-Beth Pizza).



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). Two were present in New Berlin, Somerset, 10-28 April 2006. This individual was photographed 18 April (Jeff Payne).



Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*). This pair was present on the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster 27 May 2006 (Tom Raub).



Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). This flock of 16 were in Fox Chapel, Allegheny, 5 May 2006. (Brian Shema).



Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). This bird was present at Little Blue Lake, Beaver, for about three hours on 21 May 2006 (Geoff Malosh), for a first county record.



Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*). Imperial Grasslands, Allegheny, 21 May 2006. (Geoff Malosh).



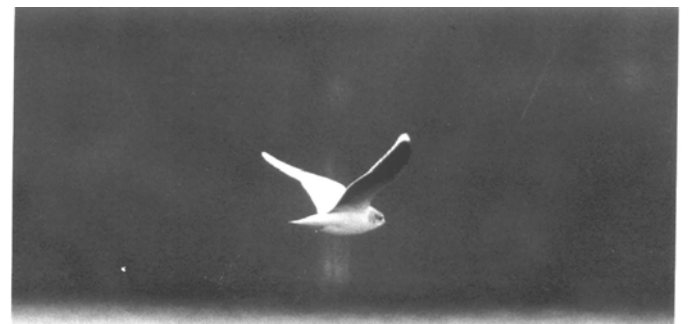
Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). This female was photographed 19 May 2006 (Geoff Malosh) at the Imperial Grasslands, *Allegheny*, where it remained, with a male, until 22 May.



Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). These two first-year birds were present on the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, 28 May 2006. (Eric Witmer).



Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). This winter adult was photographed at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 30 March 2006. (Jerry McWilliams). The bird's small size, black underwings with a white trailing edge, dusky cap and dark spot behind the eye help to distinguish this species from similar hooded gulls.



Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). This winter adult was at the Penn-Warner Tract, *Bucks*, 8 April 2006 (Gerry Dewaghe), for a third county record.



California Gull (*Larus californicus*). This adult was present at Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks*, 23-25 March 2006. In this photo taken 25 March (Gerry Dewaghe), the bird is in direct comparison with a Lesser Black-backed Gull, notice the lighter gray mantle and dark eye.



Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). An immature in Turbotville, *Northumberland*, 6 May 2006. (Wayne Laubscher).



Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*). An immature at Presque Isle S.P., Erie, 21 May 2006. (Geoff Malosh).



Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). This copulating pair were found in Media, Delaware, May 2006. (Rich Christine).



Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). This bird was present in Boalsburg, Centre, 27 March - 30 April 2006. It was photographed here 26 April (Wayne Laubscher).



White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). This partially leucistic bird was in Williamsport, Lycoming, 23 April 2006. (Len Sherlinski).



"Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*). (Jerry McWilliams).



Panted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). An immature male was present in Muhlenberg Twp., Berks 21-26 April 2006. (Carolyn Drasher).

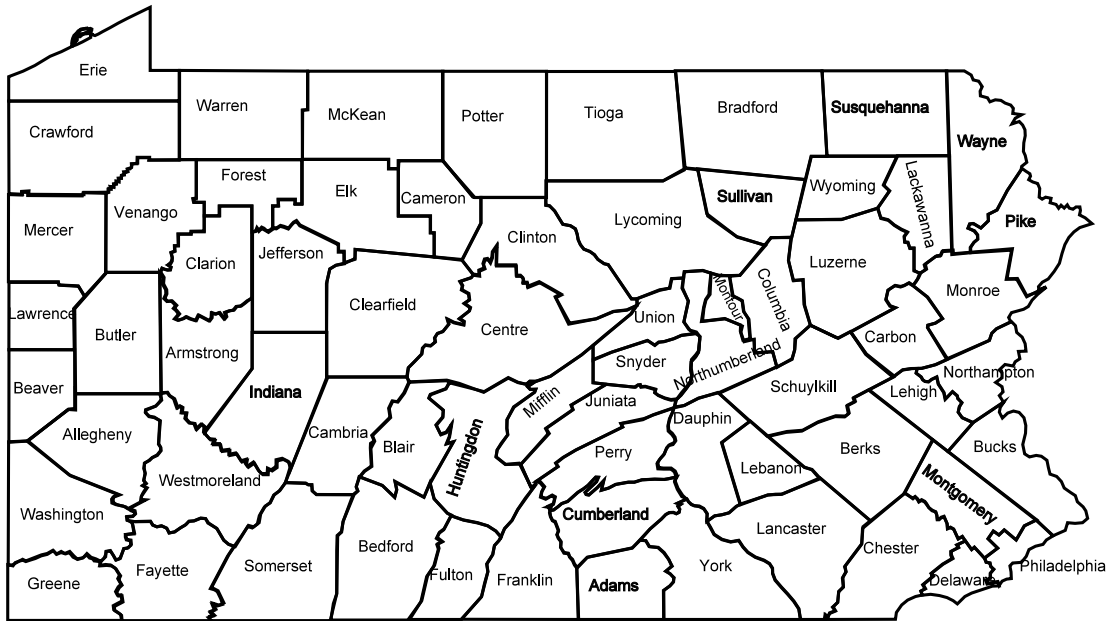


Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). This male visited a backyard feeding station in West Chester, Chester, 5 March 2006. (Nick Pulcinella).



White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). This female was present at a feeder in Lock Haven, Clinton, 23 March-6 April 2006 and photographed here 5 April (Jeff Schaffer).

Local Notes - March 2006 through May 2006



ABBREVIATIONS

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B.B.S. | Breeding Bird Survey | max | maximum | Rte. | Route |
| C.A. | Conservation Area | min | minimum | S.F. | State Forest |
| C.B.C. | Christmas Bird Count | | obs | SGL | State Game Land |
| C.P. | County Park | Mt. (Mts) | Mount/Mountain/Mountains | S.P. | State Park |
| Cr. | Creek | N.A. | Nature Area or Natural | S.T.P. | Sewage Treatment Plant |
| et al | and others | Area | | subad (subads.) | subadult(s) |
| Ft. | Fort | N.F. | National Forest | Twp. | Township |
| G.C. | Golf Course | N.M. | National Monument | vr. | voice recording |
| G.P. | Game Preserve | N.P. | National Park | vt. | videotape |
| Hwy. | Highway | N.W.R. | National Wildlife Refuge | W.A. | Wildlife Area |
| imm (imms.) | immature(s) | ph. | Photographed | W.M.A. | Wildlife Management Area |
| Jct. | Junction | Pt. | Point | | |
| juv (juvs.) | juv enal [plum age] ; | R. | River | | |
| juvenile(s) | | R.A. | Recreational Area | | |
| L. | Lake | R.B.A. | Rare Bird Alert | | |
| | | Res. | Reservoir | | |

Adams County

Locations: Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Michaux State Forest (MICH), Mountain Road (MTN), State Game Land 249 (SGL).

There were 119 species reported during the period, including 21 species of warblers. The twelve Pennsylvania Migration Count participants found 86 species, including just 14 warbler species.

Two **Tundra Swans** were seen flying over MTN 3/11 (RDS), 3 were seen 3/29 on a pond on Crum Rd. (JH), and another (probably injured) was seen at a pond on Cunningham Rd. at the very late date of 5/28 (NL). An **American Bittern** was found 4/14 at a private restored wetland near Fairfield (RR). This wetland has been a regular Bittern "pit stop" since it was completed.

There were four reports of single migrating **Osprey** from 3/25-5/10 (CA, PJR, RDS). An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen flying 4/19 near Bonneauville (BMy). Single **Northern Harriers** were seen 4/6 and 4/9 at MTN (RDS), then 4/25 at SGL (PJR). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was found 5/17 in MICH (RDS).

On 4/28 there were 2 **Sora** calling at SGL (PJR), one of which came to within a few feet but could still not be seen through the cattails. They remained through the end of the period. The most unusual sighting of the season was the 4 **Sandhill Cranes** that were seen 5/5 as they circled four to six times over a soccer field on Sells Station Rd. before flying off to the east. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** seen 5/24 (MOB) at a Fairfield farm pond is a good record for a county that has very few places for shorebirds to stop.

The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at MTN 4/12 (RDS) was the only one reported. There were some good vireo sightings: a **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found on the 5/13 PAMC, two **Blue-headed Vireos**

were seen 4/24 at LPRR (JW), and a **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen 5/21 at SGL (MW). There were only two **Brown Creeper** reports -- two at Friends Creek 3/22 (JH) and one 3/29 at MTN (RDS). A **Cape May Warbler** was found at SGL 5/13 (PJR). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found at SGL 4/16 (PJR) and was there through the end of the period. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was discovered at SGL 4/24 (MW) at some appropriate nesting habitat, but it stayed only a few days. There was only one report of **Purple Finch** -- two at MTN 4/14 (RDS).

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Allegheny County

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

Highlights this season were a surprising number of rarities including **Laughing Gull, Sandhill Crane, Willet, Red-necked Phalarope, American Bittern, Black Vulture** and notable numbers of **Common Loons, Bonaparte's Gulls and Great Egrets**.

Several **Canada Geese** at Riverfront Park on the South Side of Pittsburgh 3/18 were noted to have leg bands (MF). Three band numbers were sent into the Bird Banding Lab and the report indicated one bird was a male banded 21 June 2004 in Wexford, PA (*Allegheny*) and was hatched in 2003 or earlier. Another male was banded 28 June 2005 as a gosling in Irondale, OH near East Liverpool. The third bird was a female banded 23 June 2005 as a gosling in Indiana, PA (USGS

Banding Report). Four **Gadwall** were in Jefferson Hills 4/6 (RS) and 6 were on the Allegheny R. at Blawnox 4/8 (DY). Six **Blue-winged Teal** were found at IMP 3/29 (MV) and 5 were at Etna 4/20 (DY). A **Northern Shoveler** was on a pond on Moody Road in Findlay Twp. 3/12 (MV), and 3 were at Blawnox 3/25 (DY). A **Northern Pintail** and 14 **Green-winged Teal** were at IMP 3/12 (MV). Two **Redhead** were in Findlay Twp. 3/4-3/25 (DY, MV), one was at Wood's Run on the Ohio R. 3/18, and McKees Rocks 4/3 (MV). Three **Greater Scaup** were on the Ohio R. at Coraopolis 3/12 (MV); 18 **Lesser Scaup** were at Cheswick 3/13-3/14 (DY). Good counts of **Common Mergansers** include 21 at Harrison Twp. 3/3 and 10 on 3/30 (DY). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were in the area through April with nice counts of 10 on the Allegheny R. at Ohara Twp. 3/24 (PB) and 20 at Fox Chapel 3/23-3/25 (DY). Two **Ruddy Duck** were on the Ohio R. at Emsworth 3/12 (MV). Six **Surf Scoters** settled on the Ohio R. at DASH 4/14 (MV). Other species reported included **Wood Duck**, **American Wigeon**, **American Black Duck**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Goldeneye**, and **Hooded Merganser**.

A raft of 13 **Common Loons** were on the Ohio R. at Coraopolis 4/8 (SK), which may be a record high count for the county. **Horned Grebes** were found singly or in pairs through early Apr at many locations.

Great Egret reports were very good this season. One was at a small wetland along the Allegheny R. in Fox Chapel 3/30 (DY) where it remained until 4/3. This bird may have been present since the first week of Mar according to local residents (*vide* BSh). Two were at Leetsdale 3/31 (BS) and 4 flew past DASH 4/8 (MV). One was along the Allegheny R. in Blawnox 5/17 (DY) and 4 were at North Park 5/27 (SM). There were two **American Bittern** reports this spring: one at IMP 4/17 (GM) and one at Harrison Hills Park 4/24 (PH).

Extremely rare in the county, a **Sandhill Crane** was found resting at a small pond at IMP 4/6 (MV) where it remained into the morning of 4/7 (GM, DW). Searches later in the day failed to produce the bird. Thunderstorms may have forced it down, but the weather cleared the afternoon of 4/7 which probably provided an opportunity for the bird to move on.

A **Black Vulture** was found during the migration count 5/13 at SGL 203 in Marshall Twp. (OM). A **Bald Eagle** was seen in Harrison Twp. 3/3 (DY). Both color phases of **Rough-legged Hawks** continued at IMP during the period with the last bird seen 3/16 (MV).

Incredible was a flock of 16 **Willet** (western race, *inornatus*) that spent the day along the banks of the Allegheny R. in Fox Chapel 5/5 (DY), allowing many birders the opportunity to see them before they were observed flying off at dusk (DW). They were not present the following morning (MF). This was the second county record, exactly two years to the day following the first record. In addition, this was one of the largest flocks ever recorded in the state. A male and female **Red-necked Phalarope** settled on a pond at IMP 5/19 (MV), and one remained until 5/22 (GM) providing the third and fourth county record. There are a two fall records, but a spring record (and birds in full alternate plumage) is highly unusual. A **Black-bellied Plover** was a nice surprise at Fox Chapel 5/20 (DY). A high count of 8 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at IMP 5/21 (GM). A leucistic **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen in Jefferson Borough 4/23-5/24 (RS). A great count of 32 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at IMP 5/26, the largest number ever recorded there (MV). Max count of **Least Sandpiper** was 10 on 5/13 (MV). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found at IMP 5/21 and one remained 5/26 (MV). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was found at the wetland along the Allegheny R. at Fox Chapel 5/20 (BSh) and was the only report. A **Dunlin** was unexpected at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. 5/13 (JS, SS) and 13 were at IMP 5/21 with one remaining 5/22 (GM). Uncommon in spring were 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/17 (MV) and 6 on 5/22 at IMP (GM). High counts of **Wilson's Snipe** include 19 on 3/25 and 26 on 3/29 at IMP (MV).

Ring-billed Gull numbers increased in early Mar as they began to move through the area; 130 were on the Allegheny R. at Harrison Twp. 3/3 (DY) and 200 were at DASH 3/4 (DY). A few **Bonaparte's Gulls** were found in late Mar, but the height of migration of this species occurred 4/10 for the third consecutive year when a total of 614 were tallied at DASH (GM). Also passing by that day was the astounding second county record of **Laughing Gull** (GM).

The first migrant **Forster's Tern** passed by Leetsdale on the Ohio R. 3/31 (GM) which was a bit early. Small numbers continued into Apr with 5 at the Highland Park Bridge on the Allegheny R. 4/24 (DY), the maximum for that month. High counts in May include 7 at Fox Chapel 5/3 (DY) and 10 at Blawnox 5/21 (MF), both along the Allegheny R. A **Common Tern** at DASH 5/11 was the only report (DW). Eight **Caspian Terns** were tallied as birds flew past DASH 4/10 (GM); 2 were found 4/11 (SK) and 4/14 (GM, MV), and 8 were together in one flock 4/15 (MF).

Short-eared Owls continued into the spring season at IMP with 5 seen 3/7 and 2 on 3/23 (DY). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited a yard in Squirrel Hill 5/1 (KW, *vide* JS). **Common Raven** sightings continued in the area. The bird in the vicinity of the McKees Rocks boat dock and Brunot's Island was reported regularly into early Apr. Two were seen just downriver at Neville Island 3/26 (MV) and interestingly, a

pair was seen around the slag piles at Century III Mall in Pleasant Hills in Feb and Mar (RS). A **Fish Crow** was observed mobbing a **Broad-winged Hawk** at Natrona Heights 4/23 (PH) and a bird was seen and heard in Penn Hills in early Apr (TS, JSc). As of this writing, the birds observed the past two years in North Braddock have not been found.

A few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued at feeders from the previous reporting period to early Apr. One visited a feeder in Natrona Heights for single day 3/27 (PH). Migrants were seen through May. A **Purple Martin** was found at DASH 5/20 (MV) and 2 were at North Park 5/28 (BSh). The first **Tree Swallow** was reported 3/14 at Etna (DY). Rather early was a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at Snowden Wetlands in South Park Twp. 3/31 (SSn). **Bank Swallows** were reported at various locations with the best counts of 8 at Leetsdale 5/16 and 9 at IMP 5/21 (GM). A **Cliff Swallow** was at DASH 5/8 (MV), Leetsdale 5/16 (GM), and 2 were at IMP 5/21 (GM).

A total of 34 species of warblers were reported this spring. A **Prothonotary Warbler** put on an unbelievable performance at a home in Fox Chapel 4/3-5/11 (BSh). The bird perched, sang and captured insects from shepherd's hooks and even the deck railing of the home, allowing close observations. This is second consecutive spring record for this rare migrant. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was found at Beechwood Farms 4/26 (BSh) and one was found 5/26 at East Liberty (DY). This species is no longer reported annually. Up to three **Cape May Warblers** were at a backyard in Moon Township 5/18-5/19 (GM). Five **Pine Warblers** at Beechwood Farms 3/29 (BSh) were rather early. Uncommon here, **Palm Warblers** were well reported with single birds at Beechwood Farms, Etna, East Liberty, Harrison Hills Park, Pine Twp. and Frick Park. A **Worm-eating Warbler** made an annual appearance at Frick Park 4/30 (JS, SS, JT), but unfortunately was not seen after that. One was at Harrison Hills Park 5/10 (JV, PH). A **Northern Waterthrush** at North Park 4/22 was a bit early (MF). A **Mourning Warbler** was reported in Squirrel Hill 5/20 (MH), 2 were at Frick Park 5/2 (JS, SS, EM), and one was at East Liberty 5/23 (DY). There seemed to be a fallout of sorts of **Wilson's Warbler** 5/18 when they were reported at Beechwood Farms, Moon Township, Sewickley, and East Liberty. **Canada Warblers** were reported at Sewickley 5/9 (GM), Frick Park 5/18 (JS, SS) and East Liberty 5/25 (DY).

The first migrant **Fox Sparrow** was noted at a feeder in Franklin Park 3/21, a bit early for here (OM). An **Eastern Meadowlark** found along the Allegheny R. at Fox Chapel 3/25 away from appropriate habitat was certainly a surprise (DY). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were found with **Red-winged Blackbirds** at IMP 3/7 (DY).

A **Purple Finch** visited a feeder in Pine Twp. 3/18 and 3/31 (PL, SL) and one came to a feeder in Natrona Heights 4/28 (PH). Two **Pine Siskins** visited a feeder in Natrona Heights 3/18 (PH).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Elderton (EDT), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Rosston (RT), Rural Valley (RV), Worthington (WT), Yatesboro (YB).

Canada Goose maxima included 454 at KR 3/5 (MH, RH) and 75 at Keystone Power Plant the same day (MH, RH). A **Mute Swan** continued at RT through 3/23 (MF); one was sighted at CC 5/13 (JV, JVa). A lack of **Tundra Swan** reports is probably related to the lack of observers in the field rather than a poor migration; 2 were at KR 3/5 (MH, RH) and 3/25 (LC), the only ones noted this season.

Two **Wood Ducks** at KR 3/5 (MH, RH) were first; 2 were near WT 3/21 (CG). **American Wigeon** reports at KR included 5 on 3/5 (MH, RH) and 3 on 3/11 (MH, RH). KR hosted 4 **American Black Ducks** and 37 **Mallards** 3/5 (MH, RH); this was the spring's highest Mallard count. A **Blue-winged Teal** stopped at KR 3/11 (MH, RH). Fifteen **Northern Shovelers** visited KR 4/7 (MH). **Green-winged Teal** included 7 on 3/5 (MH, RH), 3 on 3/8 (ER, BS), and 5 on 3/11 (MH, RH). Two **Canvasbacks** and 6 **Redheads** rested on KR 3/5 (MH, RH). **Ring-necked Duck** tallies at KR included 151 on 3/5 (MH, RH), 300 on 3/8 (ER, BS), and 351 on 3/10 (LC); 10 on 4/7 (MH) were last. A **Greater Scaup** at KR 3/5 (MH, RH) was the lone report. **Lesser Scaup** counts at KR were 6 on 3/5 (MH, RH), 54 on 3/11 (MH, RH), and 18 on 4/7 (MH). One of the season's waterfowl highlights included 42 **Long-tailed Ducks** at Manorville 3/27 (JV, JVa). KR harbored 9 **Buffleheads** 3/5 (MH, RH) while 2 visited a farm pond near WT 3/14 (CG) and 2 landed at RT 3/21 (JV, JVa). Last reported was one at KR 4/22 (LC). Three

Common Goldeneyes stopped at KR 3/5 (MH, RH). **Hooded Merganser** maxima at KR included 13 on 3/5 (MH, RH) and 14 on 3/21 (MF); 2 lingered on a WT pond 3/12 (CG). Best counts of **Common Mergansers** included 16 at KR 3/5 (MH, RH), 33 at CC 3/13 (JV, JVa), and 31 at CC 3/23 (MF). First **Red-breasted Mergansers** arrived at KR 3/5 (MH, RH); numbers continued to build with counts of 60 on 3/23 (MF) and 76 on 3/25 (LC); 4/22 was the last date with 54 individuals (LC).

Only 2 **Ruffed Grouse** reports were received. **Wild Turkeys** were mentioned at 4 locations with largest flocks including 17 at Campbell Hollow 3/7 (JV, JVa) and 21 in Rural Valley 3/21-4/5 (LU). A **Northern Bobwhite** visited Yatesboro 4/14 (ED).

First **Common Loon** arrived at KR 3/23 (MF); 13 was KR's high count 4/7 (MH) while the last report of 2 occurred 4/22 (LC). KR harbored 5 **Pied-billed Grebes** 3/5 (MH, RH) and 4/7 (MH); one was at RT 3/23 (MF). **Horned Grebes** moved through between 3/5 (MH, RH) and 4/7 (MH) with counts of 2-10 on 7 dates (v.o.).

Twelve **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared at KR 4/11 (MH, RH); the only other report involved one 5/22 (MH). An **American Bittern** at CC 5/13 (JV, JVa) was an unexpected find for the PAMC. Top **Great Blue Heron** count was 5 at Rural Valley 4/22 (LU). First **Green Heron** was listed near EDT 4/15 (MH, RH).

Turkey Vulture returned to the WT area 3/15 (CG). **Osprey** sightings included one near WT 4/28 (CG), one w. of Smicksburg 4/30 (MH, RH), and one at KR 5/22 (MH). **Bald Eagle** sightings included 2 imm at CC 3/13 (JV, JVa), a subadult at CC 3/23 (MF), and an imm at KR 3/23 (MF). A **Northern Harrier** near WT 3/22 (CG) was the lone report. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was listed only at CC 3/3 (JV, JVa), at Yatesboro 3/9,31 and 5/27 (ED); at KR 4/22 (LC); and near Sagamore 4/30 (MH, RH). **Broad-winged Hawk** returned to KR 4/21 (MH).

Four **American Coots** at KR 3/11 (MH, RH) were first; 19 was the high tally 4/5 (LC); last seen were 2 on 5/31 (MH). First **Killdeer** was listed near EDT 3/11 (MH, RH). Single **Solitary Sandpipers** were found 4/30 (MH, RH) w. of Smicksburg and 5/6 (MH, RH) on a farm pond n. of Shelocta. Three **Spotted Sandpipers** were at KR 5/22 (MH). Woodcock runs yielded 5 **American Woodcocks** near Eddyville, one at KR 4/9 and 2 near New Salem 4/11 (MH, RH).

Bonaparte's Gulls, found only at KR, included 66 on 3/31 (MH) and 57 on 4/7 (MH). **Ring-billed Gull** maxima included 10 at Kittanning 3/2 (CG), 17 at CC 3/8 (JV, JVa), and 57 at KR 4/21 (MH). Two **Herring Gulls** visited CC 3/23 (MF). KR yielded 8 **Forster's Terns** 5/22 (MH).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard calling near Dayton 4/15 (MH, RH). First **Chimney Swifts** were found 4/15 (LU) near RV. Two **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** returned to Yatesboro 5/2 (PB).

First **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was heard at KR 5/22 (MH) while first **Willow** and **Least Flycatchers** were near EDT 5/19 (RH). The earliest **Eastern Phoebe** occurred 3/11 (MH, RH) at KR. **Great Crested Flycatchers** were listed 5/19 (RH) near EDT and 5/21 (MH) at KR. First **Eastern Kingbird** was spotted 5/6 (MH, RH) near KR. A **White-eyed Vireo** at KR 5/22 (MH) was the lone report. Earliest **Blue-headed Vireos** were found near KR 4/21 (MH) and near Barnards 4/30 (MH, RH). **Yellow-throated Vireo** reports included individuals near EDT 5/19 (RH) and at KR 5/22 & 31 (MH). Six **Red-eyed Vireos** were first found 5/13 at CC (JV, JVa). The **Common Ravens** nested again this year at Keystone Power Plant and were observed on the nest 3/5 (MH, RH). At least 6 **Purple Martins** were perched on the boxes at the colony near EDT 4/21 (MH). Arrival dates included 4/5 for **Tree Swallow** at RT (JV, JVa), 4/21 for **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at KR (MH), 5/22 for **Bank Swallow** at KR (MH), and 4/15 for **Barn Swallow** near EDT (MH, RH).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** remained at KR 5/22 (MH). **House Wren** returned to RV 4/22 (LU). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** near Barnards was first 4/17 (MH, CJ). Two **Hermit Thrushes** stopped at KR 4/22 (LC). First reported **Wood Thrushes** were one near KR (SP) and 9 at CC (JV, JVa) 5/13. Three **Brown Thrashers** sighted 4/21 (MH) near KR were first.

First dates included 5/22 (MH) for **Blue-winged Warbler** near KR, 5/31 (MH) for **Golden-winged Warbler** near KR, 4/30 (MH) for **Yellow Warbler** near Atwood, 5/22 (MH) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at KR, and 4/21 (MH) for **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and **Black-throated Green Warbler** at KR. A **Pine Warbler** was singing in good habitat near KR 5/22 (MH). First **Prairie Warbler** was noted 4/21 near KR (MH). An extremely early **Common Yellowthroat** appeared at Rural Valley 4/5 (LU) and was seen regularly through 4/19 (LU). Two **Hooded Warblers** were at KR 5/22 (MH).

Scarlet Tanager reports included 2 near KR (SP) and 5 at CC (JV, JVa) 5/13. Two **Eastern Towhees** arrived at RV 4/5 (LU). **American Tree Sparrows** lingered until 4/26 (ED) at Yatesboro while **Chipping Sparrows** had already returned to RV 3/27 (LU). First **Field Sparrows** were 2 at KR 3/31 (MH). Fields near EDT produced the first **Savannah Sparrows** 4/21 (MH). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** near KR 5/31 (MH) was the lone report. **Fox Sparrow** sightings included singles at YB 3/15 (ED) and at RV 3/31-4/12 (LU). A **White-throated Sparrow** lingered at YB 4/26 (ED). A **White-crowned Sparrow** at Buffalo Creek 3/16 (CG) was very early. Two **Dark-eyed Juncos** at KR 5/22 (MH) were unusually late.

Four **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were observed near KR 5/13 (SP); 3 were at CC the same day (JV, JVa). A **Bobolink** near EDT 5/6 (MH, RH) was first. **Red-winged Blackbirds** returned to Campbell Hollow 3/7 (JV, JVa). First **Eastern Meadowlarks** surfaced near EDT 4/21 (MH). A **Rusty Blackbird** near Dayton 4/1 (MH, RH) was the lone report. **Common Grackles** had already returned to YB last month (PB), but arrival occurred 3/5 (JV, JVa) at Ford City. Two **Brown-headed Cowbirds** at RV 4/5 (LU) were first. Three **Orchard Orioles** at CC 5/13 (JV, JVa) were the only ones noted. First **Baltimore Orioles** were 4 near KR (SP), 2 at CC (JV, JVa), and one at Rolling Hills (SL), all 5/13.

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Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Independence Marsh (IND), Little Blue Lake (LBL), Montgomery Lock and Dam (MLD), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

Tundra Swans were well reported this season 3/12-3/24, with a high count of 30 at LBL 3/17 (MV). A nice pair remained at IND for at least four days 3/21-3/24 (JY, MV, GM). The 2 unbanded **Trumpeter Swans** in n. *Beaver* and s. *Lawrence* remained in the area, and were noted on the *Beaver* side of the county line for most of the second half of May (m. obs.). On 5/27 they were found to be calling back and forth to each other at Big Beaver Wetlands (MV).

Ducks of all expected varieties were well reported in Mar and Apr. **Gadwall** were present in small numbers 3/2 - 4/11, including a nice count of 6 on 3/17 at AR (MV) and again on 4/8 at AR (BS). **American Wigeon** numbers peaked with a group of 11 that remained at IND 3/5-3/17 (MV, GM). A **Blue-winged Teal** at IND 3/17 was perhaps a shade early (MV); more timely were 4 that remained there 3/29-4/15. **Northern Shovelers** were noted on four occasions this season beginning 3/31 (BS) and ending with a late pair at LBL 5/12 (MV, DW). **Northern Pintail**, traditionally one of the more difficult waterfowl species to track down in *Beaver*, were reported three times 3/4-3/29 at AR and IND (MV, GM, BS). **Green-winged Teal** were oft reported from several usual locations throughout Mar and Apr. The lone report of **Canvasback** was of a drake at AR 3/24 (GM), but **Redheads**, on the other hand, had one of the best showings on memory beginning with an excellent count of 20 on the *Beaver R.* 3/4 (MV); also, a female **Redhead** at Big Beaver Wetlands 5/27 was extremely late (MV).

Approximately 100 **Ring-necked Ducks** spent a few weeks loafing on AR in early Mar, and were present during a large fallout of waterfowl there 3/12, which included 92 **Lesser Scaup** and 2 **Greater Scaup** (GM). Another good count of 90 **Lesser Scaup** was reported there 3/24 (MV). Very nice were 6 **Surf Scoters** (2 males, 4 females) on the Ohio R. 4/14 (MV). These birds were first found across the county line in *Allegheny* where they were photographed nicely by GM; eventually they flew and drifted downriver into *Beaver* to be counted in that county as well. It was an outstanding season for **Long-tailed Duck**, with no less than 6, possibly 7 birds reported: one at AR 3/3, one at IND 3/24 followed quickly by 2 at AR the same day (the IND bird could have been one of the two at AR), 2 at Rochester also on 3/24, and one at Rochester 4/8 (all MV). These reports follow two reports from the winter 05-06 season for a bird that is otherwise considered rare in *Beaver*. **Bufflehead** were common during migration, as were **Hooded Mergansers**. **Common Mergansers** pushed through in a brief window 3/18-4/1, while **Red-breasted Mergansers** were much more frequently reported throughout the season, including good counts of 25 on 3/25 on the *Beaver R.* (MV) and 18 at AR 4/2 (GM). The best count of **Ruddy Duck** was 20 at Rochester 4/16 (MV).

Single and pairs of **Common Loons** were reported throughout the period, including a late adult at AR 5/16 (GM). A very impressive fallout of 29 **Horned Grebes** were at Rochester 3/28 (MV), but the top honors for the season among grebes go to a **Red-necked Grebe** that remained for but a few hours at AR 3/14 (GM).

An **American Bittern** at IND 4/2 was a very exciting and startling find (literally) for GM. The first **Great Egret** was noted in New Sewickley Twp. 3/13 (JM), while the last was a late bird seen flying over SGL 285 on 5/28 (GM). Two **Great Egrets** spent four days at IND 4/1-4 (MV, BS) and were photographed, while a group of 4 that flew into *Beaver* along the Ohio R. provided the high count (MV, GM, DW).

An **Osprey** was first seen at the nest site on the Ohio R. at Industry 3/31, and a second nest site was discovered 4/1, six or seven miles downriver in Midland (SG). These sites will be closely monitored over the next years for the BBA. Three **Bald Eagles** were reported on migration 3/29-4/7 (BS, MV, SG), and a late (or wandering) second year bird was noted at LBL 5/27 (MV, DW). *Beaver* birders eagerly anticipate the first county nesting attempt of this species in this century, which seems inevitable. Three **Red-shouldered Hawk** nesting sites were reported, including one in a suburban backyard in the city of *Beaver*

(SG), a nest whose occupants provided onlookers with quite a spectacle of sound and fury in late Apr and May. The only report of **Peregrine Falcon** was one on the Ohio R. 5/18 (MV).

Virginia Rails were reported from only two locations: Darlington Twp 4/23 (MV), the large Madden Run Marsh in Darlington Twp., where they were present in excellent numbers, with a peak of 6 on 5/12 (MV, DW), and at least 4 were still present 5/28 (GM), well within BBA safe dates. An update on their status will be made in the summer report. The only report of **Sora** was one at Madden Run 5/13 (GM, DW). A **Common Moorhen** was found at Madden Run 4/30 (MV), and another was found hanging out with local Canada Geese and Mallards on the bank of the Beaver R. at New Brighton 5/12 (MV, DW), where it remained for at least four days and was photographed.

All shorebird reports that follow are from LBL. Two **Black-bellied Plovers** were present on the evening of 5/21 (MV), and another was present 5/23-5/26 (MV, GM). **Semipalmated Plover** numbers peaked at 23 on 5/23 (MV), and stragglers were noted until 6/9. The bird of the season was a **Whimbrel** that put down for the last three hours of light 5/21 (MV, ph. GM), which is undoubtedly the first record of this species for *Beaver*. This bird was very punctual, arriving at the beginning of the narrow one-week window in late May during which this species reliably moves through Pennsylvania each spring. It was last seen just before last light, when it took flight to the north and disappeared. Three **Ruddy Turnstones**, quite rare in w. PA away from Lake Erie, were found 5/14 (GM), and another was present 5/26 (MV). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** moved through in excellent numbers, with a high count of 46 on 5/26 (GM), and another nice count of 28 late birds was made 6/9 (MV). **White-rumped Sandpipers**, rare but regular in spring, were also present in good numbers: 4 on 5/23 (MV), 4 on 5/26 (MV), and 7 on 5/27 (GM). Very likely some or all of the original 4 found 5/23 were among the 7 present 5/27. A superb count of 51 **Dunlin** was present with the Whimbrel 5/21 (MV). Reports of this species persisted until 6/9. Even more impressive were 67 **Short-billed Dowitchers** that came and went in a few seconds 5/18 (MV, DW), but the only other report of this species was of 3 on 5/19 (GM). Other shorebirds reported include: **Killdeer**, **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary**, **Spotted**, **Least**, and **Pectoral Sandpipers**, and **Wilson's Snipe**, bringing LBL's seasonal total to 16 species.

For the third straight year, the date of April 10 brought an astounding migration of **Bonaparte's Gulls** to the Ohio R. in w. *Allegheny* and se. *Beaver*. That day GM conducted a river watch at the county line spanning nine hours between dawn and dusk, noting a total of 614 Bonaparte's Gulls moving downriver (northwest) into *Beaver*. This follows reports of 1512 Bonaparte's on 4/10/04 and 430 on 4/10/05. Prior to 2004, large-scale one-day movements of Bonaparte's Gulls were an unknown phenomenon in sw. PA, but the evidence of the last three years seems to indicate that it is an annual event occurring during a very narrow window in the second week of April. The **Bonaparte's Gulls** were not the only significant event 4/10; on the same river watch that day GM also noted *Beaver's* second **Laughing Gull**, and adult that he photographed while it was in *Allegheny* before it crossed into *Beaver*. Also 4/10, 187 **Ring-billed Gulls** and 8 **Caspian Terns** were counted.

Apart from the events 4/10, larid reports were still good. **Ring-billed Gulls** were found lingering on the Beaver R. 5/26 (MV), and **Caspian Terns** were noted on two other dates with the last being 2 at Rochester 4/15 (MV). A **Common Tern** was a good find at MLD 5/14 (GM), but this was thoroughly outdone by counts of 11 **Common Terns** on the Ohio R. 5/21 (MV) and 9 at LBL 5/22 (MV, GM). A **Forster's Tern** seen passing into *Beaver* along the Ohio R. 3/31 was about a week early. Reports of this species continued until 5/18.

Black-billed Cuckoos were hard to come by on migration this year, with only two reports: 5/10 at SGL 189 and 5/11 at RCSP (GM), but **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were more common and several were found on territories by the end of the season. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was a very exciting find at SGL 285 on 3/19 (GM). Subsequent searches for this bird over the next two weeks failed to turn it up, so it was simply a migrant, despite the fact that it was found in good habitat. **Whip-poor-wills** residing on SGL 285 were first discovered 5/24 (GM), where they have been found to oblige birders with close approaches and abundant song – a welcome find for *Beaver* where Whips are decidedly uncommon. There were only two reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: one at SGL 285 on 3/11 (GM) and one at RCSP 4/15 (KSJ).

One **Alder Flycatcher** was found at SGL 285 on 5/27 (MV, DW), and 3 were there the next day (GM). Alder Flycatchers are uncommon in migration in *Beaver* and probably a rare breeder; SGL 285 seems to be a good potential location for them in summer. **Willow Flycatchers**, on the other hand, are ubiquitous in open country in *Beaver* and were first reported 5/10 (GM). Incredibly, there were only two reports of **Least Flycatcher** 5/10 and 5/11 (GM). **Great Crested Flycatchers** appeared in much more sudden and dramatic numbers beginning 5/8, and a one-day count made across the s. portion of the county 5/27 totaled 18 birds (GM). **Eastern Kingbirds** reappeared 4/22 (GM).

Blue-headed Vireos were seen across the county 4/14-4/23, but not later (GM). A count of 4 **Yellow-throated Vireos** were at RCSP 4/22

(GM), providing the first of the season, at a time when any count of more than one or two is good. The only report of **Philadelphia Vireo** was of two singing in RCSP 5/16 (GM). A few **Purple Martins** were found passing through a known nesting location in May, but they did not remain (DF). The only other report was one male near LBL 5/27 (GM). Two or three **Bank Swallows** hung around AR for about 10 days in mid-May, but eventually departed (MV, GM). There was a nice count of 15 **Bank Swallows** at Rochester 5/14 (ER), and 2 others were noted at LBL at the late date of 5/27 (GM), but as yet the only known nesting location of Bank Swallow in *Beaver* remains the colony near MLD. One or two **Cliff Swallows** also attended AR 5/12-5/18 where they could be closely studied and photographed (MV, DW, GM), but these too disappeared by the end of the season.

The impressive numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** reported last quarter at SGL 285 dwindled quickly, with the last report in county being of 2 on 4/23 at SGL 285 (GM). **Brown Creeper** reports were few, with the last from RCSP 4/9 (GM). The only report of **Winter Wren** was of one at SGL 189 on 4/21 (GM). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** persisted until 4/23, while **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** first appeared (explosively) at RCSP 4/14 (GM), but were gone by 4/26 with no reports after that date.

Catharus thrushes were scarcely reported. **Veery** were found in RCSP 5/11 and 5/13 (GM), and the only report of **Swainson's Thrush** was of one at RCSP 5/8 (GM). A **Hermit Thrush** at SGL 285 on 3/19 was a bit early (GM), and incredibly, this was the only report. On the bright side, **Wood Thrushes**, which returned right on time 4/22, were found to be plentiful in appropriate habitat by the end of migration (GM). A very interesting-looking leucistic **Northern Mockingbird** was located near IND 4/1 (BS, ph. GM). The last report of this bird was on 5/9, but likely it will remain in the area through the summer.

It was a superior spring warbler migration in *Beaver* in terms of species diversity, and on the morning of 5/11, GM witnessed a warbler fallout of 23 species and nearly 100 individuals at RCSP and nearby. In all, 34 species of warbler were recorded this spring; the only two of the 36 regularly occurring species that were not found were Golden-winged and Orange-crowned. The following are the highlights of the season: eleven **Tennessee Warblers** were part of the fallout at RCSP 5/11, along with 4-5 **Nashville Warblers** (GM). **Northern Parula** returned to the Wildflower Reserve at RCSP 4/21 and singles were seen throughout the county through at least 5/18 (GM). A **Cape May Warbler** at RCSP 5/11 was a nice find and the only report of the season (GM). **Pine Warblers** were reported beginning 4/9 at RCSP (GM), with a few more reports persisting until 4/23 (GM, BS). **Prairie Warblers** returned to SGL 285 in excellent numbers beginning 4/23 (GM), where a very nice population remained into the summer. **Bay-breasted Warblers** were noted a few times at RCSP and SGL 189 through 5/25 (GM). **Cerulean Warbler** made a slightly early return to RCSP 4/22 (GM). Numbers of this species throughout the county seemed very good heading into the summer. A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was a superb find at Brush Creek Park 4/28 (JM), but unfortunately the bird could not be relocated the next day. Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were found, both at RCSP, 4/26 and 5/11 (GM). Likewise, two **Northern Waterthrushes** were located, one at Brady's Run Park 4/21 (JM) and one at AR 4/22 (GM). Simply outstanding was a **Connecticut Warbler** singing at AR 5/24 (GM), providing a very rare spring record for the county. Two **Mourning Warblers** were found singing in RCSP 5/12 (MV, DW), also very rare for *Beaver*. Only one **Wilson's Warbler** was found, at LBL 5/19 (GM), and only one **Canada Warbler**, which was at RCSP 5/13 (GM, DW).

At least 100 **American Tree Sparrows** were on SGL 285 on 3/11, but numbers dwindled very quickly thereafter (GM). **Vesper Sparrow** returned to SGL 285 on 4/14, but remained rather difficult to find during the ensuing weeks (GM). On the other hand, both **Grasshopper** and **Henslow's Sparrows** seem to be thriving on SGL 285's grasslands, and another solid population of **Henslow's Sparrows** was discovered near LBL 5/27 (GM). It will be interesting to see the final BBA results for these populations this summer. The only **Fox Sparrow** reported was at SGL 285 on 3/11 (GM). Two **White-throated Sparrows** at RCSP 5/8 seemed a little late (GM). **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported rather frequently until 5/7.

Bobolinks were found in five separate locations throughout the w. half of *Beaver* in May, which was encouraging, but at least two of the locations look to be subject to premature mowing, so their fate remains to be seen (GM). **Rusty Blackbirds** had a very good spring, first appearing in Independence Twp. 3/10 (MV). The most interesting **Rusty Blackbird** report was of 47 at RCSP 4/14 (GM), in a section of the park where it is usually hard to find even one or two! **Purple Finches** were reported in a small window 4/11- 4/22 (GM, BS, JM, MV) – it will be interesting to see what the BBA turns up for this species. Three **Pine Siskins** visited a feeder in Daugherty Twp. at the fairly late date of 5/1, providing the only report during migration (BK *vide* MV).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh**, 450 Amherst Ave., Moon Twp. PA, 15108, (412) 269-1413, pomarine@earthlink.net; Mike Fialkovich; Scott Gregg; Bruce Keister; Scott Kinzey; Joel Mason; Christy Nickerson; Ed Richards; Becky Smith; Kate St. John; Mark Vass; Dave Wilton; John Yuhaniak.

Bedford County

Locations: Dunnings Creek Wetlands and White-tail Wetlands (DC), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PMC).

Weather for the period consisted of a wet spring with heaviest rain falling in May. Waterfowl and shorebirds were in short supply due to abundant surface water resulting in more choices for waterfowl stopovers and more fly-over for shorebirds. Unusual events were limited to lingering waterfowl and potential nesters. Most of the observations were by the compiler.

The most noteworthy species for this period was the number of **Greater White-Fronted Geese** at DC. Thirteen were present 3/12 with the number escalating to 32 on 3/19. They lingered until 3/26 when 27 were present. On 3/23 an estimated 15,000 **Snow Geese** passed over the county. A very late blue phase **Snow Goose** arrived 5/22 and lingered till 5/28. The following highs for waterfowl were recorded for DC unless otherwise noted: 1000 **Canada Geese** 3/4, 450 **Tundra Swans** 3/12, 115 **Wood Duck** 3/26. Two **Gadwall** 3/23 and 11 **American Wigeon** 3/4 were the lowest counts ever for *Bedford*. Seven **American Black Duck** 3/27, 7 **Northern Shoveler** 4/3, 176 **Mallard** 3/19, and the depressingly low count of 2 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/16. Other waterfowl include 20 **Northern Pintail** 3/17, 19 **Green-wing Teal** 3/17 (a pair now appears to be nesting), 2 **Canvasback** 3/4, 3 **Redhead** 3/4, 94 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/4, and 11 **Bufflehead** 4/16. At SSP 2 **Common Goldeneye** 4/3, 36 **Hooded Merganser** 3/21, 22 **Common Merganser** 3/21 and 82 **Red-Breasted Merganser** were seen. At DC 3 late **Ruddy Duck** arrived 5/23 and departed 6/4.

Ringed-necked Pheasant, **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** are abundant at DC and are now joined by the **Northern Bobwhite**. On 5/7 Connie Hunt noticed a singing bobwhite calling from a fence, since then several females have been seen. **Northern Bobwhite** were once common at DC, now that habitat has improved we're hoping to see successful reproduction. At SSP, 4 **Red-throated Loons** and 58 **Common Loons** were seen 4/8. Nine **Pied-billed Grebes** and 6 **Horned Grebes** were seen 3/22, and 56 **Double-crested Cormorants** were there 4/8. Two **American Bitterns** and 2 **Least Bitterns** were seen at DC 5/13. As of this writing a pair of **Least Bitterns** now appear to be nesting. Six **Great Egrets** were observed 4/16 and to our surprise one was banded.

The AFHW had a reasonable Spring count and despite inclement weather they managed 507.75 hours of observation. The results are as follows: **Black Vulture** 7, **Turkey Vulture** 240, **Osprey** 148, **Bald Eagle** 14, **Northern Harrier** 29, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 92, **Cooper's Hawk** 56, **Northern Goshawk** 1, **Red-shouldered Hawk** 36, **Broad-winged Hawk** 636, **Red-tailed Hawk** 279, **Golden Eagle** 37, **American Kestrel** 23, **Merlin** 5 and unidentified raptors 125, for a total of 1728. The **Golden Eagle** count was low despite the fact that their migration lasted from Feb to Apr 30. The count also missed, for the first time **Peregrine Falcons** and **Rough-legged Hawks**. On 4/16 while counters were at the front counting migrating eagles a hungry **Golden Eagle** was chasing geese at DCW. This is not the first time we've been able to watch Golden Eagles hunting off their migratory corridor.

At DC the first **Virginia Rails** and **Soras** were spotted 4/28. Eighteen **American Coot** were counted at DC 4/26. Catching the shorebird migration was difficult since the rain quickly flooded draw downs. A good example was the day before the PSO's field trip to DC we drew down 12 inches of water instead of the usual 3 inches. Mudflats were just beginning to become exposed before darkness set in, but the next morning the birds had somehow found the flats during the night or during the early daylight hours since 80 birds were feeding and waiting to be seen. The following are high counts for shorebirds at DC: 16 **Black-bellied Plover** 5/22, 20 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/25, 7 **Killdeer** 5/27, 8 **Greater Yellowlegs** 5/27, 16 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/21, 7 **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/28, 8 **Spotted Sandpiper** 5/21, 22 **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/25, 22 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/23, 45 **Least Sandpiper** 5/22, 7 **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/22, 13 **Pectoral Sandpiper** 5/27, 7 **Dunlin** 5/26, 3 **Stilt Sandpiper** 5/26, 26 **Short-billed Dowitcher** 5/21, 13 **Wilson's Snipe** 4/16 (Wilson's Snipe safe date for Breeding is 5/15, yet we found a dead snipe chick that appeared to be a week old 5/12), and finally 4 **American Woodcock** 4/2.

A **Barn Owl** was found nesting on a sagging conveyer belt in a small silo at DC 5/27. After I mentioned this to Margaret Higbee she and the Todd Bird Club made a generous donation of an owl box to lure them into safer housing.

Willow Flycatchers and **Least Flycatchers** are common throughout the county. **Alder Flycatcher** occasionally nests at DC, but is most often a migrant at this low elevation site. While the slightly later date for the PMC caught most of the flycatchers, it also may have missed some of the warblers since our PMC only found 18 warblers. The bright spot is the consistent increase in **Golden-winged Warbler** locations within the county.

Once I stated that the ratio between **Baltimore Orioles** and **Orchard Oriole** was 10:1. Now I think in *Bedford*, at least, it is 5:1 since

the **Orchard Orioles** are more secretive, less vocal, thus harder to find, and migrate sooner after nesting.

Rain delayed haymaking and probably saved a few **Boblinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** this spring. Sparrows such as grasshopper, savannah, and vesper were found in reasonable numbers and several new **Henslow Sparrow** sites were found.

Observers: **Tom Dick**, 123 **Hummer Lane**, **Cairnbrook, PA. 15924 (814) 754-5727**, **Thomasd102@aol.com**, **wetmeadow@aol.com**, Dick Byers, Sally Dick, Gene and Nancy Flament, Kevin Georg, Eric Hall, Connie Hunt, Merle and Karen Jackson, Rosemary McGlynn, Che and Marian Mincone, Bob Steward.

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), French Creek State Park (FCSP), Green Hills Lake (GHL), Glen Morgan Lake (GML), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Land #110 on Kittatinny Ridge (SGL).

Snow Goose migration peaked 3/11, when 50,000 (123 Blue) were at LO (RK). A red collared bird (B5V) in the flock was a male Lesser Snow Goose hatched ca. 2001 and banded 8/13/02 at Hantzsch River, Nunavut, according to the Canadian Wildlife Service in Winnipeg, Manitoba. According to collar codes, the vast majority of Snow Geese passing through PA are Greater Snow Geese. An ad. white **Ross' Goose** was also at LO 3/11 (RK). A **Cackling Goose** was at BML 3/4 (JS), and 2 **Cackling Geese** of the Richardson's type were among Snows at LO 3/4-5 (RK).

Birders reported 22 duck spp., mostly the regulars. The uncommon **Northern Shoveler** was reported only at a pond on Lowland Rd., Tilden Twp. 3/18 (TC). Up to 8 **Redheads** were at the Blue Mt. Academy pond 3/7-3/18 (TC, m.obs.). The only sea ducks reported were a flyover **Long-tailed Duck** at SGL 4/1 (KG) and a **Surf Scoter** at LO 4/8 (KL). A female **Hooded Merganser** with 4 downy ducklings was on the upper Birdsboro Res. 4/19 (JH), and another female with 7 downy young was on GHL 5/12 (KL). This sp. is a recent breeder in *Berks*. Three **Ruddy Ducks** were at GML, where they have previously nested, 5/13 (KL).

A **Yellow-billed Loon** in breeding plumage was reported at BML 4/5-4/6 (JS). When first discovered, the bird was well within binocular range and the first thing noticed by the observer was the distinctly yellow bill, which appeared to be slightly upturned. Though bills of nearby Common Loons sometimes looked lighter or yellowish after they emerged from a dive, the bill of this bird always looked yellow. Later viewing through Swarovski 8 x 44 binoculars and a scope, plus consultation of field guides, confirmed the original impression. The bird also appeared larger than the 10 Common Loons present. It was not seen after the morning of 4/6.

The largest **Common Loon** count was of 32 birds at LO 4/7 (MW). Twelve **Pied-billed Grebes** were at their GML nesting location 5/13 (KL). There were 2 **Red-necked Grebes** at LO 3/26 (MSP). Four evening visits to GML in a canoe found the speciality marsh birds of that place. One to 4 **Least Bitterns** were heard 5/5-5/27. On 5/5, 2 **Virginia Rails** and 2 **Sora** were heard, and a single **Sora** called 5/12 (KL). A **Common Moorhen** was at a farm pond on Wessner Rd. near Topton 4/30 (BW). There were 12 active nests at the **Great Blue Heron** colony in suburban Spring Twp. 5/3 (JS). At another colony near Lenhartsville, 22 birds were present, some refurbishing nests, 3/26 (KG). The **Black-crowned Night-Heron** colony in residential West Lawn was active, and neighbors' complaints were rolling in. A **Little Blue Heron** was at the pond on Lowland Rd., Tilden Twp. 5/12-5/18 (TC, m.obs.).

An adult **Mississippi Kite** was hunting along Rt. 422 near Reading's Berkshire Mall 5/5 (RK). Nesting or territorial **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found at GHL, off Bloody Spring Rd. in northern *Berks* and at FCSP (KL, KG, RK). An imm. **Peregrine Falcon** was in the Oley Valley 3/4 (RK), and another Peregrine was chasing a Rock Pigeon in Reading 4/14 (DW).

Birders reported 14 shorebird spp., including a **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/20 (MW) at the farm pond on Old Rt. 22 east of Shartlesville. A flock of 50 **dowitcher sp.** flew over Nolde Forest in 'V' formation 5/31 (DW). The last reported **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were 2 ad. at LO 3/5 (RK). A **Eurasian Collared Dove** was heard calling near Eckville 4/16 (DB) by an observer familiar with the sp. from living in FL. There is a previous feeder record from this location.

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard at SGL 4/9 (KG). Single **Barred Owls** (true status unknown in *Berks*) called in District Twp. 5/9 (RK) and at GHL 5/25 (KL). **Great Horned Owls** had young in a Great Blue Heron nest in Spring Twp. 4/7 (JS). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at SGL 5/14 and an **Alder Flycatcher** was there 5/28 (KG). A **Horned Lark** with a begging juv. was in the Oley Valley 5/13 (RK). Last fall's two irruptive spp., **Black-capped Chickadee** and **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, gradually disappeared in Mar and Apr. A flock of about 18 **Black-capped Chickadees** was moving through cedar thickets at BML 3/11 (RK, JS), and a flock of 30 was migrating along the Kittatinny Ridge 4/1 (KG). The last reported migrant **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was

at Hay Creek 5/13 (RK). A territorial **Brown Creeper**, a localized, elusive breeder in *Berks*, was singing near Scott's Run L., FCSP 5/29 (RK). A **Marsh Wren** was in the phragmites beds at GML 5/13 (KL). There were 6 reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, starting with a very early male singing at GHL 4/30 (KL). Five nocturnal flight calls were heard in District Twp. on each of 5/25 & 5/29 (RK). The last bird was seen near Leesport 6/4 (DK). The high count of nocturnal flight calls of **Swainson's Thrush** was 18 in District Twp 5/29 (RK). The only reported **American Pipits** were 50 in Oley 4/2 (PO).

With 33 spp. and 2 hybrids reported, warbler migration was interesting for its variety, but numbers of non-breeders again seemed low. A **Golden-winged Warbler**, now seldom seen in *Berks*, seemed to be territorial in a clearcut at SGL 5/13-5/21, but moved on (KG). A **Lawrence's Warbler** singing a lower, buzzier version of the Blue-winged Warbler song was at Penn-Bern Rd., BML 5/4 (MW, JS). Another 'winged warbler' hybrid of more confusing plumage was in a powerline cut in District Twp. 5/14, 5/15 (CRE, SS). A singing male **Orange-crowned Warbler** atop the Kittatinny Ridge at Northkill Gap 5/21 (KG) provided the first spring record since 1990. A **Prairie Warbler** at Daniel Boone Homestead 4/14 (RC) is the earliest on record. Two **Prothonotary Warblers** reappeared 4/24 (CRE, SS) along the Maiden Creek above LO, where they were seen through Jun, 2005. At least one remained 5/1 (SS).

An imm. male **Painted Bunting** (photographed), the 4th county record, was at a feeder in Muhlenberg Twp. 4/21-26 (CD, m.obs.). A **Dickcissel** sang near a grass hayfield near the Pleasantville covered bridge 5/19 (CRE), but the hay was soon cut and the bird disappeared. **Purple Finches** inundated a few lucky birders' feeders on their return migration in late Apr. The only reported **Pine Siskins** were one at GHL 4/2 and 2 there 4/16 (KL).

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512, (610) 845-7310, rkeller@temple.edu**, David Barber, Joe Beatrice, Rick Carpenter, Tom Clauser, Carolyn Drasher, Catherine R. Elwell, Kerry Grim, Jack Holcomb, Dean Kendall, Ken Lebo, Scott Lincoln, Patrick O'Donnell, Sue Schmoyer, Joan Silagy, Lee Simpson, Mike Slater, Matt Spence (MSP), Mike Tanis, Drew Weber, Bruce Williams, Nancy Wisser, Matt Wlasniewski.

Blair County

No Report. No Compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: Bradford County (BCO), PA Migration Count (PAMC), Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre (RPH), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach's farm near New Era (TNE), Wildwood, Athens Twp.(WWD), Wyalusing Creek (WCR), Wyalusing (WYA).

Twelve **Tundra Swans** were flying north in a small flock of **Canada Geese** 3/9 over TNE (TG). More ducks than usual were reported this spring: a pair of **American Wigeons** were at WWD 3/24 (RS); **Blue Winged Teal** (2) were seen 4/10 at WWD (RS) and 5/13 at Sayre (RM); a **Northern Shoveler** was at WWD 4/11 (RS); 5 **Green-winged Teal** were at WWD 3/10 (RS), 14 at Athens 3/30 (RS) and a pair on a pond at TNE (first ever) 4/13 (TG). Among a number of **Hooded Merganser** sightings were 9 pair (and 2 imm) at a relatively new beaver pond at TNE, the males making their "snoring" courtship calls and neck-ducking displays 3/23 (and in evenings following) (TG).

Two **Common Loons** were at the RPH pond 3/27 (BB), and one at Sayre 5/13 (CC, JC). The only **Horned Grebe** observed this spring was at WWD 3/14 (RS). An **American Bittern** was at East Smithfield 4/10- 4/11 (RG), and at WWD 5/5 (RS). There were 3 (seldom seen) **Green Herons** on the PAMC: one along the SUR (DB, MB), one in Sayre (BB, LB), one at WWD (RS).

Unreported previously in the county, there were 6 **Black Vultures** near the SUR at Sugar Run 4/4, some of whom were "dancing" (DB, MBu). There were a number of **Osprey** sightings: 4/1 on a pond at TNE (TG), 5/4 on the WCR (DB, MBu), 5/5 at WWD (RS), 5/13 at Sayre (CC,JC). **Bald Eagles** continue to nest in BCO, and are regularly observed in the SUR vicinity at the following locations: 3/10 at WWD (RS), 3/10 at Tioga Point (RS), 3/27 along the WCR (DB,MBu), 6/22 at Rummerfield (TD). Only one **Northern Harrier** sighting was reported this spring, near Oak Hill 5/13 (CM, GM). Also, the only report of a **Northern Goshawk** was a bird heard calling 3/29 near Moxie (TG). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was singing its courtship song 4/5, a pair was in courtship flight and song 4/21, and 4/15 a juv **Red-shouldered Hawk** and **Broad-winged Hawk** were interacting, 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** and a **Broad-winged Hawk** were interacting territorially 4/21, and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** and **Broad-winged Hawk** were flying together 4/23, all at TNE (TG). The lone **Golden Eagle** seen was an adult at Spring Hill 4/22 (BR). A **Peregrine Falcon** was chasing pigeons at the RBH 3/15 (DR).

Absent for many years, a **Northern Bobwhite** was observed 4/14 at Sugar Run (DB, MBu). **Sandhill Cranes** (seen occasionally for the past three years) are now seen consistently near Oak Hill and were

observed on the following dates: 5/13, 3 on 5/16, and 5 on 5/29 (CM, GM), with a few sightings near Overton including 2 on 5/27 (SW), although no evidence of successful breeding in either location was observed this year.

A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at WWD 4/27 and 5/1 (RS). Forty **Bonaparte's Gulls** graced the SUR 3/9 (FI).

As to be expected from the great quantity of tent caterpillars around the area this spring, there were many observations of **Black-billed Cuckoos**: 5/15, 5/18, 5/19, and 5/21 at TNE, 5/16 at WCR and SUR at the Wyalusing river bridge (TG), and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**: 5/16 two countersinging at WCR at Wyalusing, 5/18 two countersinging at TNE, 5/30 one at Kellogg Mtn. (TG). Although **Whip-Poor-Will**s have seemingly disappeared from the county for the past few years, one was reported singing in Sayre on 5/13 (JC).

Two **Acadian Flycatchers** were seen and heard softly calling at TNE 5/19 (TG). **Fish Crows** have been present in Athens for at least the past few years: on 3/23 at the Athens High School (RS), and in Athens near the Chemung River on 4/11 (TG). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were seen at WWD 4/27 (RS) and 3 at various locations 5/13 on the PAMC. There were **Bank Swallows** 4/4 at the Wyalusing High School (HS,JS), and 11 at various locations on the PAMC 5/13. Thirty **Cliff Swallows** (and 50 nests) were found at the Sayre SUR bridge 3/6 (RS).

Red-breasted Nuthatches continued to be observed more frequently than usual: at feeders 3/15-3/23 at Sugar Run (DB,MBu), 2/14-3/28 in the Litchfield area (DR), for some time up until 3/28 near Oak Hill (CM,GM), in the woods at TNE 4/1 (TG), and 2 on 5/13 on the PAMC. A **Northern Mockingbird** appeared near my house at TNE for the first time 4/23 (TG).

There were a higher than normal number of warbler species reported this spring. On 5/16 there was a **Tennessee Warbler** near WYA (TG), a **Nashville Warbler** 5/13 in the Sayre area (MB, DP, SP), a **Northern Parula** 5/14 at TNE (TG), **Magnolia Warblers** 5/13 at Schrader Creek (TG), singing near Mud Pond, and at Barclay Mtn. 5/17 (TG), a very unusual **Yellow-throated Warbler** 5/13 in the Sayre vicinity (CaH, ChH, BM, MZ), a **Palm Warbler** at WWD 5/1 (RS), a **Blackpoll Warbler** at Cumisky Pond 5/30 (BR), a number of **Louisiana Waterthrushes** included 6 singing on Kellogg Mt. 4/12 (TG), one singing on the outlet creek from East Holcombe Pond, which flows from the north side of Barclay Mt. 5/1 (TG), and one at the Woodside area 5/13 (BF). Two **Canada Warblers** were countersinging on Barclay Mt. 7/17 (TG), one was at TNE 5/13 (TG), and one was in WYA Twp. 5/30 (BR).

A lone **Vesper Sparrow** was reported at Athens 3/31 (RS). There were 6 **Rusty Blackbirds** at Wildwood 4/16 (RS), and to top things off, an **Orchard Oriole** was in WYA Twp. 5/30 (BR).

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Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Churchville Reservoir Park (CVP), Core Creek Park (CCP), Delaware River (Del. R.), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), Rushland (RSH), State Game Lands #157 (SGL157). Historical references are from "Birds of Bucks Co." by Ken Kitson 1998 and subsequent updates recorded in this Journal. Weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, NJ (NOAA). Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) data compiled by Diane Allison.

All three months averaged above normal in temperature, from 2°F above for both March and April and 1°F for May. March was very dry with only about an inch of rain. April was average, but May was well below average. The warm weather, continuing from winter, resulted in a lack of ice on lakes, so the usual waterfowl buildups waiting for the ice to retreat never happened. However, gulls staged in large numbers at NSP, with approx. 5000 in early to mid-March, putting on quite a show at close range on the marina docks (BE). In general, Neotropical migrants were low compared to long-term historical numbers, and some local summer resident territories appeared to have vacancies. The PAMC 5/13 had 75 participants who reported 151 species, but migrants were not in abundance. Species setting spring new late departure dates outnumbered those with new early arrival dates by eight to six. A total of 231 species were reported in the three month period, not including escapes and exotics.

The only **Greater White-fronted Goose** lingering into Mar was last reported from the Silver Lake Park area 3/23 (FW), which was a new spring late departure date. As usual, a few **Snow Geese** appeared

after they should be gone with one at Morrisville 5/10 BK and another at PWT 5/13 (DFa). The last **Cackling Goose** reported was at Pine Run Dam 3/7 (AM). There were five reports of **Tundra Swan**, including locally good counts of 15 at CCP 3/3-3/4 (GD), 13 at CVP 3/5 (BK), and 6 at PVP 3/14-3/15 (RFe, AM). A male **Cinnamon Teal** was found 5/31 and remained at BRD (AM, LW). It got the adrenalin going, but the codes on the leg bands proved it to be an escape. A high count of 55 **Green-winged Teal** at BRD 3/21 (AM,GJ) again indicates the good habitat there for this species. One 5/26 at CVP (BK) was a new spring late date, although very rare summer reports exist. A **Green-winged x Common Teal** hybrid was at CCP 4/8 (DFa). The only **Canvasbacks** reported were 5 at PWT 3/12 (DFa). Scarce here, only four reports of **Redhead** were received totaling 9 individuals. A peak of 5 was at PWT 3/12 (DFa). The last report 4/30 at PWT set a new late spring date (DFa). The peak count of 218 **Ring-necked Ducks** at State Game Lands #56 on 3/11 was about the same as last year, but no large quantities were reported elsewhere (AM,JMi). Three **Surf Scoters** at PVP 4/8 (KR), a new spring early arrival date, and one at CVP 4/23 (VD) were the only reports. A **White-winged Scoter** kept gull watchers entertained at NSP 3/26 (BE). **Long-tailed Duck** was recorded at NSP with 3 on 3/25 (BE), one on 4/5 (BE), and one at PVP 4/8 (KR). A female **Bufflehead** 5/25 at PVP (DFa) established a new spring late record, only to be replaced by a male 6/2 at NSP (DFa). **Common Merganser** peaked at CCP 3/6 with 400 (GD), at PVP 3/7 with 1700 (AM), and at NSP 3/13 with 1500 (BE). A count of 9 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 5/7 at PWT seemed unusually high for that date, and one was still there 5/20 (DFa). The highest count for **Ruddy Duck** was 101 at Falls Twp. Park 3/15 (CR, AM). A drumming **Ruffed Grouse** 5/26 at SGL157 (BL) was a welcomed first hand report of a species not reported in several years. A **Northern Bobwhite**, probably a released bird, was at a Solebury Twp. feeder 4/13 (GG).

A **Red-throated Loon** at NSP 4/9 (BE,DFa) was the only report. The first **Common Loon** at NSP 3/22 (BE) set a new spring early arrival date. They lingered through the period at the PWT (DFa). The peak count was 45 on 4/22 at NSP (BE). Four **Pied-billed Grebes** were in suitable breeding habitat at US Steel, Falls Twp. in late May (ABi,NB,DFa). A **Red-necked Grebe**, first reported in Jan at PWT, was seen there again 3/15 (CR) and 4/8 (DFa). Another was at CCP 3/21 (HD). At least 2 **Great Cormorants** were lingering at Bristol 5/20 (Dfa).

American Bittern was first reported at QTS 4/1 (BE,DFa) and became regular there through May, with a peak of 6 on 4/18 (BE, DFa). A **Least Bittern** was in suitable nesting habitat at US Steel 5/27 (DFa). After seeing what appeared to be an old heron nest during the winter on Prahls Island on the Del. R., an active **Great Blue Heron** nest was confirmed there 4/20 (JMi,AM). The PWT colony had 8 nests (DFa). The QTS colony decreased to 25-29 nests (AM,DFa,BE). The NSP colony moved to adjacent private property where 11 nests were counted, and one remains in the park (BE). The placement of a Disc Golf course directly under the NSP colony was most likely the reason for the move. The Richland Twp. colony had at least 35 nests (BE). The E. Rockhill colony was not reported. Spring **Great Egret** reports are usually sparse, so nine reports totaling approximately 14 individuals were of interest (m. ob.). Two that lingered at PVP 5/16-5/29, with a third on 5/27 were unusual for staying so long in spring (AM). An adult **Little Blue Heron** at BRD 5/5 was a rare spring find (LW,AM). A **Cattle Egret**, another rare local report, was photographed at PWT 4/13-4/18 (HE). Three **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Bristol 4/2 (DFi) were the first reported. Seven at CVP 4/11 (DM) was a high count. An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at Perkasi 5/3 (MP). This species is now being reported annually after being considered accidental. A flock of 15 **Glossy Ibis** flew by PWT 4/8 (DFa). Three more were reported south of there near Mudd Island 4/24 (CH). Recent reports from the southern Del. R. area indicate this species is probably annual there.

Rare, but now almost expected annually, a **Mississippi Kite** was over Plumstead Twp. 5/21 (BW). **Bald Eagle**, already in high numbers at the end of the winter season, increased to a peak of 18 seen at once at PVP 3/7 (AM). Daily reports through 3/9 were in the teens, with diminishing numbers after a warm front 3/10 (m.ob.). The last large count was 7 on 3/22 (KM,LM). Not surprising, the ratio of young to mature birds was at least 3:1. NSP had a peak of 7 on 3/4 (BE). Hatching at our only known nest at CCP occurred on about 4/3 (GD). A nice two-hour count of 392 **Broad-winged Hawks** was made at PVP 4/15 (CR). Late **Merlins** were reported 5/5 at RSH (SC, FGi) and 5/17 at PVP (CC). A late **Peregrine Falcon** passed by PVP 5/14 (DFa). **Virginia Rails** were believed to have wintered at QTS and were present through the spring season (DFa). Two **Soras** were at QTS 5/12-5/13 (DFa). Rarely reported here, a **Common Moorhen** was at CCP 5/3-5/4 (BK). More exciting were 3 or 4 at US Steel, Falls Twp. starting 5/13 (Abi, NB, DFa) in suitable breeding habitat. A late **American Coot** was at BRD 5/26 and lingered to 6/3 (DFa), for a new spring late departure date.

Shorebird habitat was lacking due to normal water levels, and only 14 species were reported. The highest counts for shorebirds came from BRD. Some peak counts there were: 11 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/26 (DFa); 7 **Greater Yellowlegs** 5/5; 11 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/7-5/11; 17 **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/5; 8 **Spotted Sandpiper** 5/23; 3

Semipalmated Sandpiper 5/23; 181 **Least Sandpiper** 5/11; 3 **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/26; 1 **Dunlin** 5/11 (all AM); and 28 **Wilson's Snipe** 3/27 (RFR). Among the relative rarities was a **Ruddy Turnstone** at NSP 5/23-5/24 (BE). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** on the PAMC 5/13 (GC) was the only report. The only other **Dunlin** was at PVP 4/19 (LW) to 4/21 (AM), where unusual in spring. Unusual for spring away from the lower county, a **Laughing Gull** was reported from NSP 3/18 (TF,BE). A picture of the bird raised questions about this bird as to whether it might be one of the other black-headed gulls or even a hybrid. The first-hand observers felt, that despite the inconsistent characters in the picture, the closest match was **Laughing Gull**. Another was reported 3/21 at BRD (GJ). The third county record of **Little Gull** was at the PWT 4/8 (DFa). The bird of the season was an adult breeding plumaged **California Gull** found 3/23 at NSP (GF) and seen through 3/25 (m. ob.), for the first well documented county record and one of very few for the state. A bird fitting first year **Thayer's Gull** characteristics was found 3/25 at NSP (AM) and well photographed (ABr). A bird believed to be the same individual continued until 4/1 but was felt to be too big for Thayer's (BE). It was suggested it might have **Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull** genes (BE). Has anyone developed a DNA field test for gulls? Another possible first year **Thayer's** was photographed at Tullytown 3/15 (CR). Multiple **Iceland Gulls** were regular at NSP throughout March into April with a peak of 5 on 3/22, the most ever found there at once by the observer (BE). The latest **Iceland Gull** was at PWT 4/30 (DFa). Most **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** abandoned PVP in March but congregated at NSP, for a new local single site high count of at least 350 on 3/16 (BE). For the second year in a row, small numbers lingered at PVP (AM) and NSP (BE) through May, but they are believed to be present all summer at PWT (DFa). A new late departure date was set for **Glaucous Gull** 5/20 at PWT (DFa). Terns were in short supply with only one **Caspian Tern** at CVP 4/19 (NZ), another at PVP 5/3 (AM, JMi, LW), one **Forster's Tern** at PVP 5/23 (fide KK), and one **Black Tern** at NSP 5/14 (CC, ER).

No **Barn Owls** were reported again, despite efforts by the observer to provide boxes free of **Rock Pigeons** and **European Starlings** (DFa). The only **Long-eared Owl** report was from PVP, where one or two were last reported 3/9 (AM). At least 2 **Short-eared Owls** wintered in Bedminster Twp. and were last reported 3/4 (CC). In general, **Common Nighthawks** are reported in very small numbers locally compared to the long-term historical counts, making the following report noteworthy. Although possibly overstated by extrapolating point counts over a several mile stretch of the Del. R. straddling the PA/NJ border, the result was an estimate of 2000 feeding on a large hatch of insects over the river. Even if overestimated, this certainly indicated an incredibly large number between Morrisville and Washington Crossing witnessed on three nights between 5/20-5/23 (JMa, PB, MW). **Chimney Swift** numbers were believed to be seriously depressed, at least in the Doylestown/PVP area (BG, AM). A **Red-headed Woodpecker**, not previously reported, wintered in Buckingham Twp. It arrived in juvenile plumage and continued until 5/10 in adult plumage (PH). The SGL157 breeding pair was present (m. ob.). A record number of 228 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** on the PAMC follows record numbers on the Christmas Counts. SGL157 remains a hot spot for **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, with the first report of one 5/9 (BL), then 2 on 5/10 (CR, AM), and the last there 5/25 (MH). The latest was at Buckingham 5/27 (RS,VS). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at PVP 5/5 (AM, HE) and another at Bowman's Hill 5/18 (JMi, AM) were the only reports for this rarely reported species. A **Least Flycatcher** at PVP 5/5 (DW) represented a new early arrival date.

Horned Lark was regular in Buckingham until 4/18 (RS). Certainly unusual was the report of 80-100 **Chickadee species** in one hemlock tree at NSP 4/2 (BE). The only logical explanation was that they were mostly a flock of **Black-capped Chickadees** heading north after the large winter invasion, but sightings otherwise had been few in March. The last report of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** for this invasion year was from Northampton Twp. 4/30 (BK). The first report of confirmed nesting of **Brown Creeper** in some years came from Upper Makefield Twp. where a nest was found 5/21 (DFa) and begging young seen 5/29 (BK). A **Marsh Wren** at BRD 5/14 was the only report (DFa). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at PVP 5/18 (BH) furnished a new late departure date by one day. A total of only 4 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** was reported (RFR, CC, DF). A probable **Bicknell's Thrush** based on plumage was near SGL157 5/21 (AM, JM). One in Tinticum Twp. 5/28 that responded aggressively to the playing of the **Bicknell Thrush** song, in addition to plumage characteristics, convinced the observer that he had this species (DFa). **Swainson's Thrush** was barely noticed based on reports received. The only good count report was of 6 at PVP 5/25 (CC). One at PVP 6/3 provided a new spring late departure date (AM). The highest reported count of 40 **American Pipits** was noted 3/29 in Buckingham Twp. (RS,VS).

A few good warbler fallout days were reported. A nice high count of 95 **Palm Warblers** and 400+ **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at RSH 4/23 (SC, FGi) was the result of a storm caused fallout. A total of sixteen species at RSH 5/5 with about 90 individuals, not including the "many" **Yellow-rumped Warblers** and **Common Yellowthroats**, was another good day there (SC,FGi). Twenty species were reported from SGL 157

on 5/10 with about 150 individuals (CR,AM). What appeared to be a reverse migration fallout at PVP 5/11 produced 23 species with about 75 individuals, not including a large number of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (CR, AM, CC, ER). PVP also produced about 125 individuals of 17 species 5/12 (CR). The PAMC produced 25 warbler species with 1364 individuals. Of this total, seven species accounted for 1149 individuals: 356 **Common Yellowthroats**, 290 **Yellow Warblers**, 233 **Ovenbirds**, 83 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, 67 **Prairie Warblers**, 63 **Black and White Warblers**, and 57 **Blue-winged Warblers**. Of the expected species for mid-May, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Cape May Warbler**, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **Mourning Warbler**, **Wilson's Warbler**, and **Prothonotary Warbler** were completely missed on the PAMC. There were no reports on any date for **Golden-winged Warbler**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Cape May Warbler**, and **Mourning Warbler**. A **Nashville Warbler** 4/25 at RSH (SC, FGi) set a new arrival date by a day. **Yellow-throated Warbler** has recently been absent from most of its former summer resident locations along the Del. R. Therefore, one was at Warwick Twp. 5/5 (RFe) and another at PVP 5/11-5/12 (AM, CR) were noteworthy. Similarly, only one **Cerulean Warbler** on the PAMC (GG), another 5/13 at Bowman's Hill, one at PVP 5/11 (CC,EC), and only one other report of two from the upper Del. R. (BF) indicated the recent apparent local decline of this species. The only **Prothonotary Warbler** reports came from PVP 5/17 (CC) through 5/26 (AM). Possibly two different male birds were seen during the period with one showing brilliant orange plumage (AM). A **Common Yellowthroat** 4/8 at RSH (SC, FGi) was another to provide a new spring first arrival date. As the Del. R. valley woodlands continue to be fragmented, this former refuge is declining for breeding Neotropical birds. However, in recent years, it has become apparent that our state game lands provide important habitat for some of our more rare species such as **Kentucky Warbler** and **Hooded Warbler** in small numbers (BE, BL, CR).

A new spring early arrival date was the result of a **Grasshopper Sparrow** sighted in Tinticum Twp. 5/4 (DFa). Peak **Rusty Blackbird** counts were 50+ at QTS (AM) and 30 at Silver Lake Park (DFi), both 4/11. A **Baltimore Oriole** at PVP 3/24 (BL) should probably be considered one out of season rather than an early migrant but this is an arbitrary call. A record 440 was reported on the PAMC. A last report for this winter's large invasion of **Purple Finches** was of one at SGL157 on 5/10 (CR). A flyby non-calling observation of 3 **Red Crossbills** at SGL157 on 5/13 was unexpected and rare (DFa). The only **Pine Siskin** report was a fly over at Bedminster Twp. 4/25 (DFa).

Exotics: Two free-flying **Whooper Swans** were at their pond of origin in Bedminster Twp. 3/11 (AM, CR). They were intentionally released per the property owner and have been seen as far away as NSP. Four **Black Swans** were reported in May in Durham (SR). Some had green and red plastic leg bands. A **Chukar** was calling from the roof of a house in Warrington Twp. 5/27 (DR). The **European Goldfinch** reported last season in RSH returned 3/12 and was last reported about 4/20 (SC, FGi).

Corrigendum – Vol 19:227. In paragraph two after the Greater White-fronted Goose report the following sentence should have been deleted: This was only the 8th county report.

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Butler County
No Report. No Compiler.

Cambridia County

Locations: Beaverdam Run Dam (BRD), Dunlo area (DA), Patton Area (PT), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG).

Tundra Swan maxima at BRD was 740 on 3/24 (JJ). Migrating waterfowl at PG included **Redhead**, **White-wing Scoter**, and **Ruddy Duck** (RB).

Osprey first appeared at PG 4/1 (RB) and one was still present along Chest Creek at PT (DG). **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** after a one year absence returned to the marsh at PG. Shorebird count a PG was way down due to the water returning to its usual level.

A suspected **Franklin's Gull** was observed among 8 **Ring-billed Gulls** at PG 6/24 (JS, RB). Another report of a **Franklin's Gull** was made a week earlier at PG (PJF).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was seen at DA 5/17 (JJ). **Swainson's Thrush** was noted at PG 5/13 (RB). Warbler migration seemed above average with no exceptional birds seen. Grassland birds arrived at various dates with a late date for **Henslow's Sparrow** 5/29 at PT (DG).

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Cameron County
No Report. No Compiler.

Carbon County

No Report.
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Centre County

Locations: Allegheny Front, Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Bear Meadows (BEM), Boalsburg (BB), Bellefonte I-99/220 Interchange (B99), Colyer Lake (COL), Centre Furnace Duck Pond (DP), Fairbrook Wetland, Fisherman's Paradise (FP), Millbrook Marsh (MM), Pennsylvania State University (PSU), PSU Agriculture Arena, Pleasant Gap Fish Hatchery, Remediation wetlands west of Julian (JUL), Scotia Barrens (SB), Scotia Barrens Pond (SBP), Scotia Barrens Weather Station (SBWS), Toftrees Pond (TOF)..

Rare/uncommon species reported below: **Snowy Owl**, **Common Moorhen**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Varied Thrush**.

Two **Snow Geese** were seen at the Pleasant Gap Fish Hatchery 3/2 by unnamed observers reporting to MH. Several **Brant** flew in a loose "V" formation at BESP 4/8 (MH). Small **Canada Geese** that were perhaps **Cackling Geese** were reported at DP 3/12 (NAB); one was reported and photographed here last year (JY). Thirty-two **Tundra Swans** were seen gliding in for a landing on the lake near the dam at BESP 3/3 (MH), and a flock of 245 landed on COL 3/10 increasing to about 400 the next day (MH, JM); most were gone by 3/17 (JV). A year ago a large flock of 800-1000 **Tundra Swans** made an overnight stay at BESP (BS). Five flocks of large white swanlike birds totaling about 1000 flying north near Milesburg were assumed to be **Tundra Swans** 3/11 (SD). About 200 **Tundra Swans** waited out a snowstorm on the lake at BESP 3/14 (BS). About 350 **Tundra Swans** were seen landing at COL 3/27 (MH, JM). A juvenile "Mystery" Swan was reported at COL 3/31 (MH) and was last seen 4/7 (MH); after many photos and observations posted to SCBIRDCL, opinions from experienced observers tended to favor tundra; an excellent exercise in some identification intricacies.

An **American Wigeon** was seen at DP 3/1 (JP) and 3/3 (GG). Three **Blue-winged Teal** were reported at DP 3/10 (JV). A **Northern Shoveler** was reported at COL 3/24 (MH). One **Northern Pintail** was reported at DP 3/2 (GG), and one at COL 3/3 (GG). A small raft of **Redheads** was seen at BESP 3/3 (MH). Twelve **White-winged Scoters** were seen at BESP 4/22 (MH). One or two **Black Scoters** mixed in with a raft of **Redheads** at BESP 3/13 (JM). Six vocalizing **Long-tailed Ducks** were found at COL 3/28 (MH), and 5 at BESP 4/22 (MH). A **Common Goldeneye** was spotted at COL 3/13 (JM). Three **Hooded Mergansers** were seen at TOF 3/12 (DF). Abundant **Common Mergansers** were observed at BESP 3/3 (MH). Six **Red-breasted Mergansers** were seen at COL 3/12 (MH). A raft of 8 grebes in choppy waters appeared to be mostly **Horned Grebes** at BESP 3/4 (JM). A **Horned Grebe** was seen at DP 3/7. A **Great Egret** visited TOF 4/6 (NK).

The following migrating raptors were seen during several hours on the Allegheny Front off Dicks Run Rd.: one **Northern Harrier**, 3 **Sharp-shinned** and 4 **Cooper's Hawks**, 13 **Red-tailed** and one **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 13 **Golden Eagles**, and 2 **American Kestrels**.

At the nest of the **Bald Eagles**, the adults were seen changing places at BESP 3/3 (MH), 3/5 (as reported to BS by neighbors), and on 3/19 (MH); one adult was on the nest and the other was sitting on a branch beside it 3/12 (BS). A three week old chick was observed 4/9 (BS); one of the adults was feeding two very healthy looking chicks 5/1 (BS). An immature **Bald Eagle** perched in a tree at COL 4/7 (MH).

A **Northern Goshawk** was seen flying over "our house" 3/18 (JM). A **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen struggling to get altitude and fly towards Bald Eagle Mt. with a 3-4 foot section of cattail rush held in its talons 4/3 (BS). A kettle of **Broad-winged Hawks** rose on a thermal

over a parking area at PSU 4/25 (GG). A large dark **buteo** was seen in the vicinity of B99 3/1 (JL); subsequent study, sightings, and photos on SCBIRDCL through 3/5 concluded that it was a dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** (DB, DC, MH). An adult **Golden Eagle** was seen circling above COL 4/6 (MH). An adult female **Merlin** was perched near Wagner Rd. 3/20 (MH).

A **Sora** was heard vocalizing at JUL 4/27 (GG). An unexpected **Common Moorhen** was found at JUL 5/27 (this species is rare locally with records only once every few years) (GG). Nine **American Coots** were at the DP 4/15 (NAB).

Fifty three **Sandhill Cranes** were seen flying due West at PSU 3/6 (WC) as reported to (DAB). A **Sandhill Crane** walked across the off-ramp of the section of I-99 that crosses Rte. 322 north of Port Matilda; it was clearly visible without binoculars from Rte. 322 on 3/13 (DIB).

A **Greater Yellowlegs** was seen near the west-end of BESP 3/12 (BS); and one at JUL 4/12 (NK). Four **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found at JUL 4/12 (NK), and one at COL 4/22 (JM). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen at MM 4/29 (NAB). Eleven **Sanderlings** were found at BESP during the PAMC 5/13 (BS). Five **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen at COL 3/31 (MH), and several were found in a partially flooded field at the Fairbrook Wetland 4/1 (GG). Three **Dunlin** were found at COL 4/22 (JM), and one during the PAMC at BESP 5/13 (BS). Three **Short-billed Dowitchers** appeared at COL 5/22 (JD). Three **Wilson's Snipe** were seen in a partially flooded field at Fairbrook Wetland 3/31 (NK). An **American Woodcock** was heard "peenting" near Boalsburg 3/11 (JM), one in Howard 3/12 (BS), several at SB 3/12 (KE), 2 at SB 4/14 (BF), and several were seen displaying at SB 4/28 (DG).

Six **Caspian Terns** were reported at COL 4/8 (NK), and one at BESP 4/9 (BS), and 3 **Forster's Terns** were seen at BESP 4/8 (MH). Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen at COL 4/8 (NK), 8 at BESP (MH), and 46 at COL 4/11 (MH). A flock of about 600 **Ring-billed Gulls** flew over the lake at BESP 3/15 (BS).

The **Snowy Owl** at B99 that was first seen in Jan and reported in the last issue of PA Birds continued to enthrall and amaze birders and local residents from all over, many of whom posted comments and photos on the SCBIRDCL listserv list (DF, JL, JM, LR, LD, MR, MH, RF, BF). The last known sighting was 3/20 (RF, BS, SW, BK, JL). During that period it was frequently seen near a pile of rocks in front of the grated culvert in the cloverleaf interchange of Exit 78A at B99. The nearby understructure of the bypass provided a never-ending supply of starlings and doves for the owl. A **Barred Owl** was reported at Bear Meadows 4/21 (JM).

Four **Whip-poor-wills** (3 calling, 1 sitting on the road) were spotted at SB 5/9 (NK). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen flying across Rimmey Rd 4/1 (MH for RM). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was found in a State College backyard 5/25 (MH). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** (uncommon for this county) was seen at SB 5/11 (GG).

A silent **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was fly-catching from the top of a dead tree at Black Moshannon 5/27 (DEG, GG). An adult **Common Raven** and fledglings were found near the PSU Agriculture Arena 5/5 (BS). A returning **Purple Martin** was seen at Howard 4/9 (BS). One early **Tree Swallow** was seen in the COL area 3/11 (JM) and 250+ **Tree Swallows** were skimming the lake at COL 4/8 (NK). One lone **Bank Swallow** was seen among Tree and Barn Swallows over the lake at BESP 4/24 (MH). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen at COL 4/1 (MH), and one at Sinking Creek 4/8 (LR).

A **Varied Thrush** made a surprise visit to the yard of AFE 3/27. While there for almost a month, it entertained many visitors, some of whom posted their comments and photos on the SCBIRDCL listserv list (AFE, CW, GP, JM, RF, MN). It was last seen 4/30. A **Swainson's Thrush** appeared in a yard on E. Irvin Ave. in State College 4/13 (MH), and at SBP 5/18 (NK). An early **Gray Catbird** was seen from an office window on the PSU campus 3/3 (GG), and 3 were seen at COL 3/6 (MH). A flock of about 50 **American Pipits** were along Plainfield Drive 4/1 (GG), and 8 at BESP 4/8 (MH).

At TOF were 2 **Palm Warblers** 4/28 (NK), and a **Wilson's Warbler** 5/12 (GG). The Scotia Barrens area from SBP to SBWS is a well-known hotspot for warblers but received less coverage this year. The following 17 warbler species were seen from 5/5-5/30 in this area: **Golden-winged, Brewster's, Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, Bay-breasted, Black and white, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, and Yellow-breasted Chat** (AD, RS, GG, JV, NK, BOK). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was seen near Bald Eagle Creek in Unionville 4/3 (DO), and 3 at COL 4/10 (JM). A **Northern Waterthrush** was reported at TOF 4/30 (JV), 5/5 (NK), 5/12 (GG), and at FP 5/7 (JM).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was singing in a regenerating clear-cut next to the Mid State Airport 5/19 and 5/27 (NB). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were in a reclamation grassland off Rte. 144 north of Snow Shoe 5/27 (GG, DEG). A "first" **Fox Sparrow** was reported at a local feeder at Howard 3/9 (BS); one was also seen in a Boalsburg yard 3/9 (JM); and 6 were rooting around the ground in pine needles under feeders in Unionville 3/15 (DO). Ten **White-crowned Sparrows** were at TOF 4/5 (NK). **Bobolinks** returned to the well-known "Bobolink Field" along South Mt. Rd. west of Port Matilda 5/31 (MH). An early **Red-**

winged Blackbird was found near the COL area 3/5 (JM), and about 12 at BESP 3/2 (BS); 500+ were observed at TOF 3/17 (NK). Fifteen **Rusty Blackbirds** visited TOF 3/17 (NK); 5 at a wetland near COL 3/21 (MH); and 20+ at SBP. An impressive flock of 500+ **Common Grackles** was seen at TOF 3/17 (NK).

During the annual Migration Count this year 5/13, the seven participants found 107 species and 2900 individuals. Highlights included **Sanderlings** and **Dunlin** at BESP and 18 species of warblers at various places.

More information about some of these locations is available at www.scbirdcl.org. SCB areas and BEM are parts of IBAs (see Important Bird Areas at pa.audubon.org). Most of the species information comes from postings to the State College Bird Club listserv list SCBIRDCL@lists.psu.edu during this period.

Observers: **Bob Fowles, P.O. Box 266, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, (814) 238-1990, rbf@psu.edu**, Don Bryning, Dan Brauning (DAB), Diane Bierly (DIB), Nick Bolgiano, Nan Butkovich (NAB), Walter Cottrell, Dane Cramer, Steve Dahm, Leslie Demmert, Alex Dodd, Jim Dunn, David Facey, Roana Fuller, Deb Grim, Deb Grove (DEG), Greg Grove, Molly Heath, Kurt Engstrom, Bob Keener (BOK), Nick Kerlin, Brian Kolar, Jen Lee, Alan and Fran MacEachren (AFE), Jeff Michaels, Mark Niessner, Dan Ombalski, Guy Pilato, Larry Ramsey, Bob Snyder, Sandy Welch, Matt Rockmore, Rob Stone, Joe Verica, Chuck Widman, John Yerger.

Chester County

Locations: Chambers Lake (CL), Chester Creek Reclamation Area (CCRA), Church Farm School (CFS), Coatesville Reservoir (CR), Embreeville County Park (EP), Hibernia County Park (HP), Honey Brook Township (HBT), Kurtz Fish Farm (KFF), Laurels Preserve (LaP), Marsh Creek State Park (MC), New Garden (NG), Nottingham County Park (NP), Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), Struble Lake (SL), Struble Trail (ST), Upper Uwchlan Twp. (UUT), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VF), West Goshen Township (WGT), Westtown School (WS), and White Clay Creek Preserve (WCC).

The birds creating the most interest during this period were a male **Eurasian Wigeon**, which stayed at the CR for three weeks, allowing many people to admire it, and an **Anhinga** at CFS, which did not linger long enough for very many people to observe it.

Only two common species of geese were reported. The largest number of **Snow Geese**, approximately 110, was seen at CL 3/8 (RR). All the water areas had large numbers of **Canada Geese** with CR and SL holding the highest numbers. One to 18 **Tundra Swans** appeared from 3/4- 4/15, mostly at SL, with some showing up in West Nantmeal Twp. and CFS.

Wood Ducks have been sighted all over *Chester* and are apparently doing very well with the lessening of the drought. A **Gadwall** at CR 3/8 (RR) was the only report. Much excitement was generated by a beautiful male **Eurasian Wigeon** at CR, first found 3/17 (CC) and seen by m.ob. It was last reported 4/7 (NP, SP). **American Wigeons**, numbering up to 20, were seen in association with the Eurasian Wigeon. **Blue-winged Teal** were seen 3 times, 1+ at SL 3/17 (LW), 2 at SL 4/15 (JR, WCBC), and 1+ at MC 4/25 (JM). **Northern Shovelers** were very scarce with only 2 sightings, 1+ at SL 3/17 (LW, CC), and one at the Honey Brook Sewage Treatment Plant 3/26 (CC). **Northern Pintails** were first reported at MC where 4 were seen 3/4 (NP, SP), 8, the largest number, were at SL 3/8 (RR). The last report was one at SL 3/17 (CC). **Green-winged Teal** were much more in evidence than the preceding three species and were seen at several different bodies of water in the county. Eight was the largest number.

Ring-necked Ducks, one of the most prevalent species for this period, were found as single individuals all the way to a flock of 140 at KFF 4/7 (NP, SP). **Greater Scaup** occurred as one or two individuals from 3/15- 4/15; 2 at HBSTP 3/15 (NP); one at CR 3/18 (CC); and 2 at MC 4/15 (JR, WCBC). **Lesser Scaup**, more common migrants, were seen at CR, SL, KFF, and MC. Numbers varied from one to 5. Only one scoter was reported, a **Surf Scoter** at SL 4/24 (CC, NP). Three **Long-tailed Ducks** were at MC 3/25 (HM). **Buffleheads** were generally present as individuals or in small groups; the largest group of 32 was seen at VF 3/5 (RW). **Common Goldeneyes**, usually single ducks, were present at the larger ponds and lakes during the period. The largest group was 5 at MC 3/4 (NP, SP). **Hooded Mergansers** reached the high number of 30 at KFF 3/17 (CC). **Common Mergansers** were most numerous in early Mar. The highest number, over 200, was at SL 3/8 (RR). Numbers had diminished to 12 at VF 3/17 (RW). The groups further dropped to single individuals seen a couple of times in May. **Red-breasted Mergansers** made appearances from 3/4- 4/24. The largest number of about 20 was seen at SL 3/6 (SK, EP). Red-breasteds were found at SL, MC, and CL. The largest number of **Ruddy Ducks** was found at MC. Their number rose to 80 on 3/26 (CC) and then gradually dwindled to 5 at SL 5/13 (PAMC).

Red-throated Loons put in appearances at SL with 2 on 4/7 (NP); one at CL with 4/24 (RR, CC); and one at HP 4/25 (JL). **Common Loon** migration reached its peak toward the end of Apr. On 4/24, 55

were observed at MC (LW, CC). The next day while kayaking, JMA counted 55-64 on the lake.

Double-crested Cormorants began appearing 3/26 with 2 at MC (NP, SP). The largest group, 34, was at SL 4/15 (JR, WCBC). An **Anhinga** was briefly seen at CFS 5/4 (CC, NP). Even though they spread the news quickly, not many people saw the bird because it flew away almost immediately.

The only **American Bittern** sighting, was a single at CFS 3/12 (JL). One **Least Bittern** was found at EP (JM, TD) during the PMAC 5/13. **Great Blue Herons** were seen throughout *Chester*. Two **Great Egrets** were seen in Newlin Twp. 4/27 (BBE, NB); one was at the Octoraro Res. 4/27 (CC); one was in Birmingham Twp. 4/14 and 4/28 (NP, SP). **Green Herons** were reported at many locations (m.ob.). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** reports came from CFS where one to three were reported 4/9-4/28 (JL).

Everyone sees **Turkey Vultures**, but very few people have ever seen them brooding a nest of eggs. Neighbors of NP found a Turkey Vulture nest in their yard under a chassis of an old car. Nick photographed the nest which showed the Turkey Vulture's tail and 2 eggs visible. **Ospreys** began arriving 3/24 (CC). **Bald Eagles** are no longer endangered, at least in our area. They have nested in *Chester* several times, and imm as well as adult birds are being seen all over the county. A nest was discovered next to the Pickering Creek Res. in Phoenixville a couple of years ago and was still active this year. Two eaglets were seen in the nest. Surprisingly, only one **Northern Harrier** was reported, 4/15 at SL (JR, WCBC). **Merlins** were seen on 3 occasions: 4/16 in WGT (NP, SP); 4/17 at EP (CC); and 4/25 at CL (PF). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen in flight over HBT 4/23 (LW).

Virginia Rails are still being found at EP. Three were found during the PAMC 5/13 (JM, TD), and 2 were identified 5/15 (CC). For the second year, no **Soras** were found at EP. Most of the water was diverted from the marshy area, so the Virginia Rail may also become a bird of the past in that area. Soras were not totally absent in Chesco. At least one **Sora** was present at CFS 5/3 (NP, SP), and 5/7 (CC). **Sandhill Cranes** are a rarity, so DH was happy to witness the flight of 2 birds over Pennsbury Twp. 5/13.

Greater Yellowlegs began arriving in *Chester* 4/3 with one bird at CL (CC). The birds occurred mostly as one individual, but groups of 5 were reported 5/13 at EP (JM, TD) and at CCRA (NP, SP). Single **Lesser Yellowlegs** were first discovered 4/18 at CCRA and EG (NP, SP). Groups of up to 6 birds were seen: 4 at EP 4/30 (BH, WCBC), 6 in southern Chesco 5/3 (WB, WCBC), and 3 during the (PAMC) in the SL area. **Solitary Sandpipers** seemed more numerous this year, with 20 reports being received. The first two birds were seen 4/24 at HP (CC). There were many solitary birds seen, but there were also larger groups: 4/30 with 7 birds at EP (BH, WCBC), and 5/14-5/20 with 2- 4 birds at a time at CCRA (NP, SP). **Spotted Sandpipers**, which were also seen first 4/24 at HP (CC), have been seen in many locations. The most noteworthy sightings were: 5/5 when 5 were found on the ST (CC); and 5/13, during the PAMC, when 4 were seen in the SL area and 5 were located in the MC area. Just one sighting of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was sent. Three were at the New Garden STP 5/22 (JS, ES). Many reports of **Least Sandpipers** were received. The earliest date was 5/11 with 2 at Goshenviv Farms (NP, SP) and 2-4 birds from 5/11-5/14 at CCRA (NP, SP). Larger groups of Least were seen at SL when 5 birds were seen during the PAMC 5/13, and CCRA when 7 birds were seen 5/14 (NP, SP). Three **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen at CCRA 5/14 (NP, SP, PE). A **Dunlin** was seen at SL 5/13 during the PAMC, and one was seen at the NGSTP 5/22 (JS, ES). Eleven sightings of **Wilson's Snipe** were received. The earliest report was from Phoenixville where MH, LT had one or more birds displaying 3/10-3/11. The largest number was 7 at CFS 4/28 (CC). **American Woodcock**, was first reported 3/11 at MC (NP, SP); they had at least two birds. HM led a WCBC evening trip 3/12 to MC. Several birds were seen and heard, and more were heard around the periphery as darkness finally denied us any chance of seeing more flights.

Bonaparte's Gulls were in short supply and found only at MC. One was seen 4/3 (NP, SP), and a single bird was seen 4/24 (CC, PRBA). **Ring-billed Gulls** gradually decreased from their huge numbers during the winter to 300+ at SL 3/4 (NP, SP), down to 3 birds seen on the PAMC at SL 5/13. Three **Herring Gulls** were seen at SL 3/6 (SK, EP), and 4 were seen at SL 3/26 (CC). Just one **Great Black-backed Gull** was reported at MC 3/4 (NP, CC). One **Black Tern** was seen at MC 5/20 (NP, CC).

Eurasian Collared-Doves, first located in Coatesville last year, are still being seen. One was present 3/28 (CC); 2 on 4/27 (NP); one 4/27 (CC, PF). Just one report of any cuckoo was received. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found at EP during the PAMC 5/13. I hope they are being found in large numbers elsewhere. **Barred Owls** are being found in the EP area. The last report of the **Long-eared Owls** at SL was 4/15, when 2 were found (JR, WCBC). **Common Nighthawks** appear to be very scarce. Single birds were seen 5/3 at CFS (SP), 5/13 at EP (JM, TD), and 5/24 at SL (JL, CC). **Whip-poor-wills** are still holding on in the southwestern part of the county. One was calling in Sadsbury Woods 4/29 (CC), and one in the Goat Hill Preserve 5/24 (NP, SP).

Chimney Swifts were first noted 4/24 with one at HP (JL) and one WS fly over (TS). About 75 were at VF 4/29 (RW, WCBC). Sixteen were at LaP 5/13 (KF) and 20 were at WS 5/7 (BBE, NB). A first-of-the-spring **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** appeared in WGT 4/28-5/2 (NP, SP). Sixteen reports of sightings of the hummingbirds were received. The most seen were 6 at EP 5/13 (JM, TD), and 5 at the LaP on the same date (KF).

Olive-sided Flycatchers, rare birds in *Chester*, are always a treat to see. One was seen and heard at SL 5/24 (CC, JL), and a probable Olive-sided was found on the ST 5/25 (HM, m.ob.). **Eastern Wood Pewees** began arriving around 5/10 and filled the woods with their calls. The largest number was 10 at the LaP 5/13 (KF). **Acadian Flycatchers**, were first noticed 5/13 on a trip to southern *Chester* (WB, WCBC). Larger numbers of the flycatchers were found 5/13 at EP with 8 and LaP with 9. As the county is developed, wetlands drained, and wetlands plants and shrubs removed, **Willow Flycatchers** are much harder to find. The best places to find them are EP where 8 were found 5/13, SL with 4 found 5/13, and UUTSTP with 4 on 5/28. Two reports of single **Least Flycatchers** came from the PAMC in the SL area 5/13, from MC 5/18 (CC, PF). **Eastern Phoebes** are being heard and seen throughout *Chester*. The first one was noted in HP 3/12 (RR). **Great-crested Flycatchers** were first noted 5/3 in West Caln Twp. where one was found (JL). KF found the most Great-crested at the LaP 5/13 when he had 7. **Eastern Kingbirds** began arriving at the end of Apr and appear to be settling throughout the county.

Except for no PhiladelphiaVireos, **White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Warbling**, and **Red-eyed Vireos** have been reported from many areas in *Chester*. Migration of swallows appeared normal. Some exceptions were **Purple Martins**, which were missing from some of their former nesting areas although colonies are still here in *Chester*. **Bank Swallows** were scarce. The only large group was at MC 5/17 when 20 were counted (NP, SP).

The only **Black-capped Chickadee** report was 2 in the SL area 3/6 (SK, EP). A good influx of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** during the winter meant that there were still several around during this report period. The latest lingerer reports came from WGT with one 3/5-4/24 (NP, SP) and one at HP 4/25 (RR, JL). **Brown Creepers** lingered until 5/20 when CD found one in her yard in Coatesville. The song of a **House Wren** was first heard in Downingtown 4/17 (HM). Four **Winter Wrens** were found, one each at CL 3/24 (CC), NP 3/30 (CC), HP 4/21 (PF), and VF 4/29 (MH, LT). The last report of a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** came from HP 5/10 (NP, SP). The **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** migration began 4/9 with one bird in WGT (NP, SP). The reports were mainly of single birds, but JL counted 3 or more **Ruby-crowned** at HP 4/25. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** have been seen in good numbers throughout *Chester*.

Small groups of **Eastern Bluebirds** were reported throughout the county. RW, EW, and JW were fascinated to see two adult bluebirds dive-bombing people walking close to a tree in the play area near the headquarters of HP. We finally spied a young bluebird clinging to the bark of the tree, apparently too afraid to make a move. Multiple **Veery** reports were received. The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** report came from UUT where one was found 5/23 "after it killed itself hitting our sliding glass door." (BB). Seven reports of **Swainson's Thrushes** were received. One was at WCC 5/5 (NP) and one in WGT 5/21-5/24 (NP, SP). KF and JL also submitted reports of single birds. The last **Hermit Thrush** report; was one in Charlestown Twp. 4/19 (JW). **Wood Thrush** reports are good; they're from many areas and include multiple sightings.

Gray Catbirds seemed to be late, not arriving in their usual numbers until the end of April, but they are again inhabiting the county in large numbers. The first report was from WCC 4/16 (CC). **Brown Thrasher** reports have come from many areas. However, they are mostly solitary birds and hard to see. **American Pipits** were found in *Chester* from 3/26 when CC saw one at SL, through 4/15 when 50 were seen in HBT (JR, WCBC), and finally 5/13 when 29 were found in the EP area (PAMC).

Blue-winged Warbler migration was good with reports from various parts of *Chester*. Just one **Tennessee Warbler** was seen; TF had one in his yard in Malvern 5/6. No **Nashville Warblers** were reported. **Northern Parulas** were present in good numbers. **Yellow Warblers** were again quite numerous. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were reported only eight times. **Magnolia Warblers** were seen five times. **Cape May Warblers** were seen only twice, both times 5/13; one in WGT (NP, SP); one at WS (BBE, NB). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** numbers were low. The last report of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** came 5/13 when they were seen in several PAMC areas. **Black-throated Green** reports were sparse. Only 4 **Blackburnian Warblers** were seen during the period, all between 5/19-5/24. No **Yellow-throated Warblers** were reported. The best place to find **Pine Warblers** was NP where 8 were found 3/30 (CC). **Prairie Warbler** reports began with one bird at HP 4/25 (PF). Six **Prairies** were found 4/13 in the EP area, and 4 were reported from Goat Hill Preserve 5/28. **Palm Warbler** migration numbers appeared to be normal. Not a single **Bay-breasted Warbler** was reported. **Blackpoll Warblers** were seen in several locations from 5/10-5/28. **Cerulean Warblers** again made an appearance on the ST,

beginning 4/27 (HM, m.ob.). She and others found two males 5/11 and 5/25 and one was there 5/29 (NP, SP). **Black and white Warblers** and **American Redstarts** were seen in several locations. No Prothonotaries were reported.

Worm-eating Warblers were reported from ST and WCC (CC, HM, NP, SP). **Ovenbirds** were widespread but somewhat sparse. **Northern Waterthrushes** were noted with one at HB 5/10 (NP, SP); one at LaP 5/13 (KF); one at HP 5/19 (JL). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** are widespread. Four reports of **Kentucky Warblers** were received: one at MC 5/1 (JM); one at EP 5/13 (JM, TD); 3 at Templin Road 5/20 (NP); one at VF 5/29 (MH, LT). No Connecticut or Mourning Warblers were reported. **Common Yellowthroats** were found in all parts of the county. *Wilsonia* warblers were scarce. Three **Hooded Warblers** were seen, one **Wilson's**, and three **Canadas**. **Yellow-breasted Chat** numbers were depressed. Three reports were received: one at WCC 5/3 (WB, WCBC), one at the same location 5/10 (CC), and 4 at the Goat Hill Preserve 5/28 (NP, SP).

Scarlet Tanagers and **Eastern Towhees** were present throughout the county. **American Tree Sparrows** were last seen at CL 3/24 (CC). There was a large influx of **Chipping Sparrows** 4/24, when 39 were banded in WGT in a period of two hours (NP). An additional 10-15 non-banded birds were also observed in the area. **Grasshopper Sparrows** disappeared from some traditional spots but were found in others: the PAMCs turned up a total of five sparrows from EP, LaP and SL. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was also found in HBT 5/13 (PAMC), 5/20 (NP, SP), 5/24 (CC) and 6/3 (JL). CC must have found a group of **Fox Sparrows** migrating north to their breeding grounds when he found 6+ at WCC 4/9. The only sighting of a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was in the Great Marsh 5/7 (BB).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks migrated throughout the county. Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were seen at WCC 5/21 (CC), the only report. **Bobolinks** were found in several areas of the county: Kirkwood Preserve (AG), Doe Run (WB, WCBC), EP (m.ob.), LaP (KF), SL (PAMC), and West Marlborough Twp. (NP, SP). The largest group of 45 birds was found at the LaP.

Eastern Meadowlarks appear to be doing a bit better in the county. **Rusty Blackbirds**, birds of concern, were seen at four locations: 25+ at CL 3/24 (CC), one at CFS 3/31 (JL), 3 at WS 4/19 (TS), and just one in southern Chesco (WR, WCBC). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was in WGT 3/5 (NP, SP). A mixed blackbird flock of 2,000+ was in HBT 3/4 (NP). He said, "The blackbirds reminded me of watching army ant swarms in the tropics. As they were moving and feeding across the farmlands, they were chasing up flock after flock of Horned Larks which I couldn't see until they were flushed." **Orchard** and **Baltimore Orioles** were in good numbers.

Single **Purple Finches** made unexpected appearances and were reported from five different locations: 4/26 at the Okehocking Preserve (NP), 4/29 at VF (MH, LT), 5/4 in Charlestown Twp. (MH, LT), 5/5 at WCC (NP), and 5/13 at HP (RW, EW, JW). **House Finches** seem to be much less prevalent. There was a very late **Pine Siskin** at EP 5/13 (JM, TD).

Observers: **Eleanor Wolf, 148 Harvest Lane, Phoenixville, PA 19460, (610) 933-6414, randewolf@verizon.net**, William Barber, Bob Bernhardt (BB), Nancy Bernhardt, Mary Bleecker, Barry Blust (BB), Brian Byrnes, Chuck Chalfant, Elaine Chalfant, Bruce Christman, Alan Crawford, Janet Crawford, Christine Drozdowski, Theodore Drozdowski, Paul Earley, Tony Fernandes, Pamela Fisher, Marilyn Flannery, Kevin Fryberger, Al Guarente, Mike Harvell, Beth Hopkins, Doc Houston, Sandra Keller, Mary Alice Knox, Dave Krueel, Grant Lashbrook, Margie Lashbrook, Jeff Loomis, Doris McGovern, John McNamara, Carol Majors, Holly Merker, Bob Murray, Lew Norton, Judie Norton, Andrew Odell, Martin Page, Edie Parnum, Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC), Philadelphia Rare Bird Alert (PRBA), Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella, Rick Robinson, Jim Russell (JM), Ellen Sebastiani, Joe Sebastiani, Andy Smith, Tim Sterrett, Linda Stockman-Vines, Lisa Tull, Valley Forge Audubon Society, Laura Wagner, West Chester Bird Club (WCBC), Judy White, Richard Wolf.

Clarion County

Locations: Beaver Creek (BC), Clarion Area (CA), Cook Forest State Park (CF), Curllsville (CV), Kahle L. (KL), Marble (MR), Mt. Airy (MA), Mt. Zion (MZ), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC), Shipperville (SV).

The waterfowl migration began as early as the first week of Mar with the arrival of the first **Tundra Swans** at KL 3/5 (ML & MB). A flock of 100 **Snow Geese** came shortly thereafter 3/9 (ML). By the end of the third week in Apr most of the migratory waterfowl had come and gone except for one lingering **Tundra Swan** and a late **Common Loon** at KL 5/13 (MB).

Sightings of **Bald Eagles** along the Clarion River in CF and at KL have been common throughout the period (m.ob). A good courtship flight display by a pair of **Northern Harriers** was witnessed 4/10 at Sligo (CW). Evidence of a failed **Northern Goshawk** nest was reported at CF

in Apr by researcher David Brinker. The first **Broad-winged Hawk** showed up in CA 4/19 (ML).

Sandhill Cranes are rarely seen here but one visited BC 3/27 (PC). Three **Upland Sandpipers** first appeared 4/30 at MA (WF). **American Woodcock** were first found 3/7 at CA (DF) and were still displaying at SV as late as 5/13 (MB).

Short-eared Owls were conspicuous by their absence all season. However, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** serenaded the land owner 3/16 at Strattanville (RM). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported at SV 5/6 (MB). A **Tree Swallow** was reported at MR 3/30 (PD). **Purple Martins** arrived at Kossuth 4/9, but disappeared for a week or ten days during the cold snap, then returned. A very late **Northern Shrike** was still on his usual territory 4/4 near Leatherwood (CW). At KL 3/5 one observer found eight **Eastern Bluebirds** in one small bush (ML). A migrant **Swainson's Thrush** in full song delighted one observer at CV 5/24 (CW).

Exploring the steep hillsides of the Allegheny and Clarion Rivers near Sarah Furnace has proven profitable for one reporter. A **Lawrence's Warbler** was present 5/13 for the PAMC (CW). Also in that habitat 5/10 were **Blackburnian, Cerulean, and Worm-eating Warblers**, as well as **American Redstarts** (CW).

The grassland sparrows, **Savannah, Henslow's** and **Grasshopper Sparrows**, as well as **Eastern Meadowlarks** returned to MZ in early Apr (CW & ML). **Bobolinks** were later 5/1 (CW).

Observers: **Margaret Buckwalter, 249 Maple Dr., Shipperville, PA 16254, (814) 782-3925, buckwalter01@alltel.net**, Hendrika Bohlen, Ted Buckwalter, Lois Callahan, Pat Conway, Pete Dalby, Deb Freed, Walter Fye, Mike Leahy, Dale Luthringer, Flo McGuire, Ray McGunigle (RMc), Ron Montgomery, Mary Jane Rex, Carl Rowe, Ruth Schurr, Russ States, David Wilbur, Carole Willenpart.

Clearfield County

No Report.

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Clinton County

Locations: Avis (AV), Lock Haven (LH), McElhatten (McE), Mill Hall Wetlands (MHW), Susquehanna River (SR), and Tamarack Swamp (TS).

Waterfowl migration highlights were all but non-existent due to the dry weather of the period. Usually fairly plentiful, a single **Tundra Swan** was seen on the SR at LH 4/4 (CCH). A **Redhead** was found on the SR at McEon 3/30 (BZ). One **Ruddy Duck** was noticed at MHW 4/7 (JS). One **Common Loon** was seen on the SR at McE 4/14 (BZ). A **Great Egret** was spotted 3/7 at MHW (SH). At least two **American Bittern** were seen at MHW 4/6 and 4/7 (SH, JS). On 5/28, a **Virginia Rail** and a **Common Moorhen** were discovered at MHW (JS).

Shorebird reports for the period were rare and unremarkable. Gull and tern reports were few as well with **Bonaparte's Gulls** found at McE 4/18 (CCH) and **Caspian Terns** at AV 5/5 (BZ).

The first **Whip-poor-will** report came from Swisssdale 4/16 (WL) and the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was sighted 4/24 at AV (BZ). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at Kettle Creek SP 5/17 (CCH). A **Swainson's Thrush** was located in Sproul SF 5/28 (TR). On 5/20, a single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen at TS (JS). Several **Henslow's Sparrows** were seen and heard at a reclamation area near Beech Creek (DB, WL). This is a possible first county record. The only noteworthy winter finch was a female **White-winged Crossbill** that arrived at a residential feeder in LH 3/23 and remained through at least 4/8 (JS).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA, 17745, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnet.org**, Dan Brauning, Carol and Charles Hildebrand (CCH), Shonah Hunter, Wayne Laubscher, Tom Roberts, Jeff Schaffer, Beth Zbegner.

Columbia County

No Report.

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

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh - Custards and Geneva Swamps (CM), Fish Hatchery, Linesville (FH), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Meadville (M), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Lake (PL), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Shelltoes Pond (SP), Woodcock Lake (WL).

The **Tundra Swan** flight north lasted most of Mar but numbers were fairly small; 142 at Custards 3/25 was the best count (MF). Single

Trumpeter Swans were noted at CM (Geneva) 3/19 (RFL) and at Wilson's Rd. PGMA 3/25 (BVN). Four **Snow Geese** were seen in the PGMA 3/11 (BVN).

Twenty four **Northern Shovelers** were found at HM 4/9 (MB) and 35 **Northern Pintail** were there 3/12 (MB). The best total in some time were 68 **Canvasback** on CL 3/18 (RFL) and the last reported was at WL 3/28 (RFL). **Redhead** numbers in 50's and 70's were good and found at several locations (m.ob.). I estimated close to 4000 **Ring-necked Ducks** in the Conneaut Marsh and Pymtuning areas 3/18 (RFL). Eighteen **Greater Scaup** at Custards 4/8 was a very good count (MB) and 1000 **Lesser Scaup** were reported at PL 3/22 (SK). The only report of a **Long-tailed Duck** was a male at WL 3/28 (RFL). I found 2850 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at PL 4/11 along with 192 **Ruddy Ducks** (RFL).

The first (2) **Common Loons** were seen at WL and 2 at PL 4/2. The high count was 125 at PL 4/9 (RFL). **Horned Grebes** were noted 3/12- 4/16 in small numbers, with 8 at CL the high total 3/25 (RFL). Six **Pied-billed Grebes** at HM 3/26 were a good count (MB). Twelve **Double-crested Cormorants** arrived here at 4/2 at PC and 77 at PL 4/9 was the best total (RFL). Single **Least Bitterns** were reported 5/14 at HM (RS) and Geneva 5/28 (MF). The first **Green Heron** was seen at HM 4/20 (MB). One to two **Sandhill Cranes** were reported here on 8 dates 3/25-5/13 seen by MO. Most in the Pym GMA and HM.

An early (first arrival) **Turkey Vulture** was found near CL 3/18 (RFL) and one to 15 **Bald Eagles** were seen regularly at CM and PL (m.ob.). **Osprey** were seen at WL 4/23-5/22 where a pair attempted to nest (RFL). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at HM 3/17-5/7 (MB) and **Cooper's Hawks** were seen at Meadville 3/19 and CM 3/25 (RFL). One to 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** were found at PGMA and HM 3/2- 4/9 (m.ob.). A single **Merlin** was seen at Geneva 4/4 (RFL).

The first **Virginia Rail** was found at CM 4/16 (RFL) and a **Sora** was there 4/19 and 2 were there 5/22 (RFL). **Common Moorehen** were first noted 4/19 at Geneva (RFL) with a high count of 7 on 5/9 (RFL), and 8 were found at HM 5/7 (MB). A large group of 145 **American Coots** were at CM, and 273 were at PL 4/16 (RFL).

Single **American Golden Plovers** were seen at PGMA 4/20 (MV) and 5/2 (RFL). Only one **Black-bellied Plover** was reported at PGMA 5/20 (BS). There were 18 **Semipalmated Plovers** at PGMA 5/14 and 3 remained up to 5/29 (MV). The earliest migrant **Killdeer** were 8 noted at HM 3/4 (MB). A single **Greater Yellowlegs** was at WL 3/9 (RFL) and the high count was 62 at the PGMA 4/21 (RFL). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were reported at PGMA 4/2-5/29 (m.ob) but numbers were rather low with 12 the highest total. The earliest **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at PGMA 4/20 (MV). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was noted at Wayland (east of Meadville) 4/8 (RFL) and 13 were seen at the PGMA and FH 5/20 (MV). An **Upland Sandpiper** was seen at PGMA 4/20 (MV) and 4 were noted there 5/6 (m.ob.). Six **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were first recorded at PGMA 5/7 (RFL) with one to 27 birds seen through 5/29 (m.ob). Two **Least Sandpipers** were seen 5/2 at PGMA, 47 on 5/14 (MV), and I had 35 there 5/29 (RFL). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were noted 5/24 at FH (AB) and 5 were at Miller Pond (PGMA) 5/29 (MV). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were noted 4/16-5/29 (m.ob.) with a high count of 27 there 4/20 (MV). Single **Baird's Sandpiper** were reported at FH 5/24-5/25 (AB) and one was noted at PGMA 5/29 (RFL). Two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were seen at PGMA 5/6 (RFL, MV) and 5/7 (MV, DW). **Dunlin** numbers ranged from 2 to 20, 4/16-5/28 at PGMA (m.ob.). Three **American Woodcock** were noted 3/12 in the HM area (MB). The bird of the season here was the female **Wilson's Phalarope** found 5/6 (BS) and 5/7 (m.ob.).

Bonaparte's Gulls showed up 3/26 at Wayland (RFL). The high count was 970 at PL 4/11 (RFL). A **Great Black-backed Gull** was noted 3/12 at PC and one was at SP 3/25 (RFL). Three **Caspian Terns** were present at PS 4/20 (MV). Seven **Common Terns** showed up at Custards 5/22 (RFL).

A rarely reported **Long-eared Owl** was heard at Geneva, 5/28 (RM). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen at PGMA 5/7 (RFL, BC) and HM 4/28 (MB). The first **Purple Martin** was noted at HM 3/30 (MB). **Tree Swallows** arrived at Custards 3/19 where I estimated a total of 250 (RFL). Approximately 300 **Cliff Swallows** were at PL 5/22 (RFL). Single **Brown Creepers** were found near HM 3/26 and 5/13 (MB). A **Wood Thrush** was noted 4/29 at HM (MB) and 23 were counted at CM 5/22 (RFL). A very early **Hermit Thrush** was reported on N. Shore Rd. at PL 3/4 (BVN). Four **Yellow-throated Vireos** were seen at HM 5/8 (MB). One **White-eyed Vireo** was noted at CM's McMichael Rd. 5/13 (RFL).

Three **Blue-winged Warblers** were seen 5/4 at HM. **Yellow Warbler** returned to HM 4/22 (MB). Three or 4 **Prothonotary Warblers** were present at CM 5/7 (m.ob.) and one was found at Geneva 5/28 (MF). **Blackpoll Warblers** were seen at SP 5/14 (MV) and at HM 5/19 and 5/30 (MB). Marvin Byler found single **Cerulean Warblers** near HM 5/4 and 5/13. The first date for **Hooded Warbler** was 5/4 at HM (MB).

Scarlet Tanager was present at HM 5/4 (MB). Six **Indigo Buntings** were noted at Meadville (Saeger Hill) also 5/4 (RFL). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen at CM 4/23 (RFL) and 3 showed up near HM (MB). Two **Fox Sparrows** were at Meadville 3/29 (RFL) and 3 were at HM 4/9 (MB). **Swamp Sparrows** returned to HM by 3/12 (MB).

Fifteen **Snow Buntings** lingered at PL until 3/2 (SK) and 12 at the PC 3/9 (RFL).

Bobolinks returned to HM 5/4 (MB) and 20 were seen at PGMA 5/7 (RFL). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were noted at PGMA 3/11 (BVN). The high total for **Rusty Blackbirds** was 100 at Geneva Wells area of CM 3/25 (MF). A early **Baltimore Oriole** was noted 4/26 at HM (MB) and up to 17 were seen at CM 5/22 (RFL).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Anthony Bledsoe, Marvin Byler, Rachal Byler, Ben Coulter, Mike Fialkovich, Sarah Gerrish, Scott Kinzey, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Lee Ann Peiners, Becky Smith, Randy Stringer, Bob Vannewkirk, Mary Ann Vannewkirk, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton.

Cumberland County

No Report.

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Dauphin County

Locations: East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Harrisburg (HBG), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River from Fort Hunter (SFH), Susquehanna River from Marysville (SMV), Susquehanna River from Royalton (SRT), Susquehanna River from West Fairview (SWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

I begin the spring summary on a sad note. The **Trumpeter Swan**, first reported 8/11/05, was found dead on a nearby island the last week of Mar (RK, CR). It had remained in the vicinity of SWF through the fall and winter and was viewed and photographed by many. The pair of **Mute Swans** that were also at SWF moved up river to SMV where they attempted to nest, albeit unsuccessfully (DBg). **Tundra Swans** continued their migration over the southern portion of the county through early Mar (many) and 50-75 lingered at WL 3/18-3/26 (LU, et al.). About 10,000 **Snow Geese** descended on fields along Canal Rd. in South Hanover Twp. 3/4-3/5 and among them was a **Ross's' Goose** (TJ, PW, RW). A **Cackling Goose** was found near Hershey 3/1 (DG, CG) and another at SWF 3/23 (PW, RW).

The usual variety of waterfowl was reported from various locations along the SR through Mar, especially the last week of Mar, and Apr (many). What was lacking this year was the really "big day" when numbers of some species have, in the past, been counted in the hundreds and even thousands. **Canvasback**, as many as 40, was reported SWF 3/23-3/26 (TJ, CR), and **Redhead** was noted through the last two weeks of Mar (many). **Surf** and **White-winged Scoter** reports came in from SMV and SWF the last week of Apr (DH, TJ, CR) and, **Long-tailed Duck** was observed from various SR locations from 3/24-4/28 (many). The only **Red-throated Loon** sighting this season was at SMV 4/28 (CR).

An **Eared Grebe** was first reported at SWF 3/18 (CK, TP, et al.). A second report came in 3/23 from SMV, possibly the same bird (CR). This individual remained, in the company of a number of **Horned Grebes** through 3/31 (many). A week later, again at SMV, there was yet another report of an **Eared Grebe** with slightly different plumage which could be attributed to the normal molting process (CR). These are the first reported sighting of this species in the county. **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebe** were commonly reported from various locations from mid-Mar to early May (many).

Another county first was the sighting, from the Market St. Bridge in HBG, of an **Anhinga** flying down river 5/6 (DC). **Anhinga** has been reported from other southeastern locations in the state but this is another first for our county.

The first sighting of a **Double-crested Cormorant** for the season occurred 3/11 SRT (TJ, RW) followed closely by the first **Great Egret** report 3/13 SWF (RK). **Green Herons** were reported simultaneously 4/23 from WL (LU), and EHT (N&CC) and a **Snowy Egret** paid a visit SWF 4/25 (RK). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** returned to its nest site in HBG by 4/13 when four were observed (TJ), and although **Great Blue Herons** returned to their nesting colony near Lykens early in the spring, by 3/15, they did not stay to nest this year (JP). The annual Wade Island Nest Survey was conducted 5/4 and yielded 145 **Great Egret**, 77 **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, and 62 **Double-crested Cormorant** nests (DB). This survey was conducted before the scheduled culling of 50 **Double-crested Cormorants** by the PA Game Commission. **American Bittern** was found at WL 4/12-4/26 (DH, SL) and at an EHT pond 4/25-5/3 (N&CC).

On the morning of 3/14 HBG's female **Peregrine Falcon** defended her territory from an encroaching **Red-tailed Hawk**. The ensuing aerial engagement ended when the Peregrine forced the Red-tail into the wall of the Capitol Parking Garage killing it (BO). Some may recall the imm Red-tailed Hawk that faced the wrath of one of the local Peregrines last year. It recovered from its injuries and was relocated to City Island, a more traditional Red-tailed haunt, and where they have nested on the outfield light standard at Commerce Park. For those keeping score it is: Peregrines -2 Red-tailed Hawks - 0. The current **Peregrine Falcon** pair in HBG had another successful breeding

season. From 3/25-4/3 five eggs were laid, from 5/3-5/9 five were hatched, on 5/24 all nestlings were banded and the young Peregrines are expected to "take to the air" by mid-Jun. Also, the Three Mile Island nesting pairs of Peregrines and Ospreys were successful this season (SL, MM). An early **Osprey** was observed near the Rt. 81 bridge 3/7 (CK, AT, et al.) and the first **Broad-winged Hawk** was sighted Clark's Creek Valley 4/13 (JR). **Merlin** was reported SWF 3/7 (CK, AT), another from Millersburg 3/12 (SB), and a third SMV 4/28 (CR).

American Coot was observed at SWF 3/7 (CK, AT) and again 3/25; while in Apr and May reports were submitted of one or more at WL (SL, CR, CK). A **Black-bellied Plover** was the only unusual shorebird reported and was found SFH 4/22 (TJ). The first **Wilson's Snipe** of the season was a report of 6 at WL 3/26 (BM, LU) and the highest count was 12 in EHT 4/26 (N&CC).

The first unusual gull observation was 3/10 when an **Iceland Gull** was found SMV (DH). The upriver flight of **Bonaparte's Gull** occurred from 3/17 to at least 4/28 (many). The only **Little Gull** found this season was 4/22 near Dauphin (CR). A most interesting gull sighting took place SWF 3/22 and demonstrated the power of the Internet and the benefit of quality digital photography. A possible **Common Gull** (European race of Mew Gull) was reported and photographed (TJ). Within hours a lively international discussion ensued including a couple European birders. The conclusion, albeit not unanimous, was that the gull in question was more likely a hybrid **Ring-billed x Franklin's Caspian Tern** reports from various points along the SR lasted from mid to late Apr (many). On 4/22 at Dauphin (CR) and 4/24 at SFH (DH) both **Common** and **Forster's Tern** were included.

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard "tooting" at about 9 p.m. in EHT (N&CC). **Common Nighthawk** had returned to HBG 4/24 (DH) and a **Whip-poor-will** was heard at 3 a.m. 5/31 on Areba Ave. in downtown Hershey (S&SR).

The only report of a **Least Flycatcher** was from EHT 5/24 (N&CC). **Cliff Swallow** continues to nest successfully at both the east and west end of the Clark's Ferry Bridge (DH, PW, RW). A **Common Raven** was sighted over the PA Turnpike bridge 3/25 (DF), three were observed along Blue Mt. from Fort Hunter 4/9 (FM, PW, RW), another from Hummelstown 4/17 (PF), and another from State Gamelands 246 4/27 (RK). The frequency of **Common Raven** observations in the southern portion of the county may indicate southern expansion of their range possibly using nearby quarries as nest sites.

The spring warbler migration began unusually early for a couple species. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was observed at WL 4/12 (SL) and a **Worm-eating Warbler** in South Hanover Twp. 4/16 (JG, TJ). Both of these dates are the earliest reported over the past 20 years. **Brewster's Warbler** was reported again this season in Stony Creek Valley beginning 4/26 and subsequently throughout May (many).

A **Summer Tanager** made a brief stop at Keller Field near Hummelstown 5/4 (TJ) and a **Blue Grosbeak** paid a visit to feeders in Stony Creek Valley beginning 5/31 and extending into Jun (BH). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** remained through, at least, 5/3 and **American Tree Sparrow** was noted as late as 4/9. The **Fox Sparrow** migration moved through this area from 2/20-3/24 (many). Three **Lapland Longspurs** were found in a flock of **Horned Larks** on the M.S. Hershey Farms 3/26 (S&SR). **Rusty Blackbird** was first reported near Hershey 3/24 (HW) and from 3/26 to early May were observed at both WL and Fort Hunter Park (many). Two **Pine Siskins** visited feeders south of Hummelstown 4/24 (HW) while **Purple Finch** was reported from many locations from mid-April to early May.

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Scott Bills, Carolyn Blatchley, Dan Bogar (DBg), Gerry Boltz (GBI), Dan Brauning, Greg Burgdorf (GBg), Mary & Randy Brenner, Ed Chubb, Nancy & Chuck Cladel (N&CC), Dick Colyer, Devitch Farbotnik, Pete Fox, Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart, Jan Getgood, Deuane Hoffman, Mary Houts, Jennie & Barry Horton, Barb Huffman, Tom Johnson, Nancy & Carl Juris, Chad Kauffman, Ramsay Koury, Dave Kruel, Karl Kugle, George Kurie, Sandy Lockerman, Jenine Marcus, Frank Masters, Bob Moul, Mike Murphy, Herb Myers, Barbara O'Korn, Terry Neumyer, Toby Petersheim, Jane Pianovich, Tom Randall, Sharon & Steve Rannels (S&SR), Joan Renninger, Cameron Rutt, Rosemary Spreha, Art Schiavo, Aden Troyer, David Troyer, Larry Usselman, Howard West, Patricia Williams, Sally & Rich Zaino, Will Zook.

Delaware County

Locations: Delaware County Community College (DCCC), Delaware River (DR), Haverford College (HC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/13 (PAMC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch (RTP).

The first state breeding record for **Great Black-backed Gull** was established when a pair nested on a concrete and steel pier at the Sunoco fuel terminal on Hog Island Rd. between the DR and PHL. Ray Miller, who works in the highly secured facility, is the birder who found

and photographed the nest. Ray first saw the round nest built of grasses containing three eggs on 5/26. Three chicks hatched 6/16, but one chick disappeared. The parents stood guard atop light standards and regularly delivered small fish, parts of which are strewn around the nesting area.

RTP Hawkwatchers counted the **Snow Goose** migration from mid-Mar through 4/10. High counts were 830 on 3/21 and 966 on 3/24. Waterfowl variety and numbers were low. **Wood Duck** returned to the Brandywine marsh in Chadd's Ford 3/5 and were joined by **American Wigeon** 3/8 (BS). On the Darby Creek mudflats we saw only dozens of **Northern Pintail**, several hundred **Green-winged Teal** and a **Lesser Scaup** on the DR 4/5 (AG). **Common Loon** were on the move 4/11 with 109 counted over RTP. A **Great Cormorant** in breeding plumage was a beautiful sight 4/10 along Darby Creek (AG).

I found an active **Osprey** nest on a 7-story tower in the DR at the Sunoco Refinery, Marcus Hook 5/20. During Jun two chicks could be seen. Although this location is on a working tower, public access, speed boats and jet skis would not interfere as they did when the 2005 Chester nest, the first since 1935, failed.

RTP Hawkwatch completed the 3rd best spring count in five years from 3/15-4/30. A total of 2501 raptors was tallied of which 1519 were **Broad-winged Hawks** with their best flight of 557 on 4/20. That big flight also brought a **Swallow-tailed Kite** for the second year in a row (BR, JC). A **Northern Goshawk** passed through along with hordes of **Blue Jays** 4/25 and 2 **Sandhill Cranes** circled overhead providing great views to many hawkwatchers (JL). TR sent an amazing report of not one but two **Golden Eagles** circling above Wednesday morning birdwatchers at Tyler Arboretum 3/15. **Wild Turkey** sightings came from the Brandywine in March and AG's Back to Nature store in Middletown 5/8. The origin of these birds is not known.

A superfund cleanup site (closed to the public), the Folcroft Landfill, provided good views of the Darby Creek tidal area with 2 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/8-5/27 and 100 **Least Sandpiper** 5/27 (JM, AG). A **Solitary Sandpiper** stopped at the firefighter's pond at PHL 5/15 (JM). At TI **Greater Yellowlegs** 3/22-5/17 and **Lesser Yellowlegs** could be seen along with small numbers of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** when the tide allowed. **Common Tern** and **Forster's Tern** were moving north on the DR along with **Laughing Gull** and **Ring-billed Gull** 4/25-5/8. I made several unsuccessful attempts to locate the **Barred Owl** which used to be heard in Riddlewood. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was injured in Newtown Square and taken to rehab 4/1. The **Eastern Screech Owl** pair at HC raised a brood again this year (SJ).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** called at the Bridle Trail RCSP 5/21 (m.ob.) and the first **Eastern Phoebe** was reported 3/9 (BH). I was delighted to learn that six years ago Bruce Childs started a colony of **Purple Martins** in his Boothwyn backyard, which has grown to 225 birds. I banded 108 of his hatchlings this year. And the new houses that were erected at Neumann College on Red Hill Rd. have had successful martin nests due to Bruce's constant care. As the colony at the Aston Municipal building continues to decline, it is good to see that the birds have excellent opportunities to relocate in the county. AG wrote, "I've been following the nest building and incubation of the **Cliff Swallows** at RCSP. The **Cliff Swallows** have succeeded in raising their young...there is another nest being built next to the existing nest. I don't know if this is the same pair that just finished nesting or another pair that has just arrived. The original pair used the same nest that was present from last season. So maybe they are just moving out and starting in a clean nest. Hard to say."

Six **Black-capped Chickadee** were present at JM's Prospect Park feeder until 3/23. Over his house 5/24 in just half an hour from 10:30-11:00 P.M., he heard 75-100 **Veery**, **Gray-cheeked** and **Swainson's Thrush** calling. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at HC 5/27 (SJ). Warbler reports were unremarkable except that 10 species were not reported at all. The best sighting was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Tyler Arboretum 5/20 (CP). See the seasonal charts for dates which reflect few reports.

Two **Savannah Sparrows** were spotted in RTP 4/26-4/28 and **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen at RCSP (SK) and at MM's Lester feeder in Apr. There was a big push of **White-throated Sparrows** at HC 5/6 (SJ). **Dark-eyed Junco** lingered until 5/4 at Prospect Park (JM). **Eastern Meadowlark** were found at PHL 4/20 (AG), this is a good location to look for this species in *Delaware*. I've commented previously on the increase in **Orchard Oriole** nesting. Twelve pair were at the Folcroft Landfill 5/27 (JM). A **Baltimore Oriole** was at RCSP 3/9 (BH)

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063 (610) 565-8484, mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Skip Conant, Janet Crawford, John D'Amico, Dave Eberly, Al Guarente, Steve Kacir, Barbara Hiebsch, Sheryl Johnson, Jim Lockyer, John Miller, Marlene Miller, Ray Miller, Chris Pugliese, Tom Reeves, Bill Roache, Alice Severeid, Bill Stewart.

Elk County

No Report. No Compiler

Erie County

Location: Presque Isle State Park (PISP).

Waterfowl numbers were about average, but due to extensive open water, no real large concentrations were noted. With the open water through most of the winter around Presque Isle there were no huge concentrations of gulls in March. However, things changed later when **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and "white-winged" gulls appeared in unusually large numbers in April. **Little Gulls**, which are typically seen irregularly in spring and rare at best, were observed daily from mid-March through early April. At least a pair of **Black Terns** returned to PISP and immediately began setting up territory at Niagara Pond. There was some concern that perhaps there was a **Carolina Wren** mortality this winter, since very few were reported this spring. In recent years the number of wrens had recovered from past winter mortalities. **Sandhill Cranes** continue to be the featured bird of the season in terms of increased sightings over past years. Many local birders have taken a "ho-hum" attitude about a crane sighting. May was exceptionally cool and damp from May 11 until at least May 23, but despite the poor conditions passerine activity was fairly steady through the month with daily warbler counts from about 18 to 24 species. Northern finches were scarce with only a few **Pine Siskins** reported at various sites in Erie County. This spring was certainly not a banner year for vagrants, with no unexpected rarities reported.

The following unusual birds were recorded from PISP unless noted otherwise. A flock of 20+ **Snow Geese** flew over the Erie Zoo after dark 3/11 (BC). A first year male **Eurasian Wigeon** made an appearance in Thompson Bay 3/9 and an adult male was there the next day (JM). A pair of **Northern Shovelers** 5/22 was rather late (JM). Two **Surf Scoters** arrived 3/12 with 4 joining the two 4/20 and all six remained to 5/4 (JM). The only **Red-necked Grebe** of the season was one in Presque Isle Bay 4/18 (JM).

Surprisingly the only **American Bitterns** reported were 8 observed flying out of Niagara Pond at dusk 4/11. **Least Bitterns** were reported from 5/14 to the end of the period from Niagara Pond, Long Pond, and Gull Point Trail (m.ob.). A total of 25 **Great Egrets** were tallied for the season 4/1-5/24 (m. ob.). The rare **Snowy Egret** made a brief visit to Gull Point 5/29 and was joined on the same day by the even rarer **Tricolored Heron** (JM). The total of 12 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** was about the typical number recorded in recent years (m. ob.).

A dark morph **Red-tailed Hawk** was observed during a hawk flight 3/31 at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (JM). A total of 4 **Peregrine Falcons** were seen periodically along the Lake Erie shore 3/30- 4/25 (m.ob.). No less than a total of 55 **Sandhill Cranes** in singles and small groups were reported periodically from 3/10 through the period, mostly from PISP (m.ob.). Three **Whimbrel** made a brief stop at Gull Point at the expected date of 5/22 (JM). The only **White-rumped Sandpiper** report was one 5/26 (JM). It has been seven years since a **Wilson's Phalarope** was reported, so the single male 5/26 was long overdue (JM, BC).

Little Gulls were quite regular this spring and could be seen almost daily 3/6-4/8 with daily highs of 6 birds (JM, et al.). Two **Thayer's type Gulls** were reported this spring with one first year bird 4/10 and 4/13 (JM, RS, resp.) and one adult 4/17 (BC, JM). A total of 7 **Iceland Gulls** were present 3/23- 4/22 in the surrounding waters of PISP (JM). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were frequently reported with as many as 10 identified 3/21- 5/26 in the surrounding waters of PISP (m.ob.). At least 10 different **Glaucous Gulls** were observed 3/1- 4/29 in the surrounding waters of PISP (JM) with a rather late bird 5/22 (BC). An apparent **Great Black-backed Gull x Herring Gull** was carefully described 4/3 and 4/10 (JM, BC, respectively).

The only migrant **Black Tern** reported was one in Waterford 5/11 (JH), but up to 3 birds returned to their original breeding site 5/12 with at least 2 remaining to the end of the period (BC et al.). A **Long-eared Owl** was in the pines 3/30 (JM) and another near the same site 5/5 (JT). The only **Short-eared Owls** reported were 3 that were flushed from Gull Point 4/10 (JM). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was present 3/31 (JM) and one or two from 4/15-4/19 (DD, JM).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** appeared 5/24 (RK) and 5/27 (RS). An earlier than usual **Great Crested Flycatcher** was studied 4/22 (JM). It is suspected that up to 3 **Gray Catbirds** over-wintered in Erie with sightings 3/3-4/2 (JM). The total of five **Orange-crowned Warblers** reported 5/21-5/27 is about the average number reported in spring (RL, RS, RK). The always rare **Brewster's Warbler** was studied on Pine Tree Trail 5/23 (RK, JM). A female "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was an excellent find 3/26 (CG). Almost missed this spring, was a rather late **Prairie Warbler** 5/24 (RK). Rather rare in western Pennsylvania, was an early **Palm Warbler** of the yellow race 4/6 (LM). A single **Connecticut Warbler** was on the park 5/21 (GM) and another was reported 5/27 (RS, et al.).

Clay-colored Sparrow, now annual at PISP was reported 5/18 (RW) and another 5/23 (DW, et al.). Probably more common than reported, was a **White-crowned Sparrow** of the **Gambel's race** 5/4

(JM). An unexpected surprise was a bright male **Indigo Bunting** on the very early date of 4/8 in Edinboro (SW). There are about five **Blue Grosbeak** records in Erie County, so the imm male studied 5/18 was an excellent find (RW).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, Pa. 16508, (814) 868-3059, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Ben Coulter, Dave Darney, Chuck Gehringer, James Hill, Ramsay Koury, Ron Leberman, Geoff Malosh, Linda McWilliams, Chuck Tague, Joao Taveres, Randy Stringer, Dave Wilton, Rick Wiltraut, Suzanne Winterberger.

Fayette County

Locations: Jacob's Creek Lake at Jacob's Creek County Park (JCL), Ohioopyle State Park (OSP).

The spring season brings the most reports of the year as more people visit the county, mainly to bird in the Ohioopyle area. Since coverage is limited, migration tables are not generated for Fayette due to the lack of sufficient data. Waterfowl highlights (all at JCL unless otherwise noted) include 4 **Gadwall** 4/2 (MF), 27 **American Wigeon** 3/9 (LH, LiH), one **Northern Pintail** 3/9 (LH, LiH), 19 **Redhead** 3/9 (LH, LiH) with 2 lingering 4/18 (MF), 32 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/10 (MF), 5 **Greater Scaup** 3/9 (LH, LiH), 11 **Lesser Scaup** 3/10 (MF), 2 **Long-tailed Duck** at Deer Lake 3/25 (DH), 6 **Bufflehead** 3/18 (RG, SG), 5 **Common Goldeneye** at Deer Lake 3/25 (DH), 15 **Hooded Merganser** 3/9 (LH, LiH), 4 **Common Merganser** 3/5 (LH, LiH), 7 **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/18 (RG, SG), and 14 **Ruddy Duck** at DL 3/25 (DH).

Up to 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** were present at JCL from 3/9-4/13. The only **Horned Grebe** reported were 2 birds at JCL 3/9 (LH, LiH). An **Eared Grebe** was reported at JCL 4/1 (LH, LiH). I believe this is the second county record. Four **American Coot** at JCL 3/24 (MF) and 3 birds there 4/1 (LH, LiH) were the only reports.

A good number of shorebirds were tallied at Deer Lake 3/25 including 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 5 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 2 **Pectoral Sandpiper** and a whopping 65 **Wilson's Snipe** (DH). A **Wilson's Snipe** was found at a small pond near the campground at OSP 4/29 (MK). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was resting at the same pond 5/10 (MF, JH, DW). **Killdeer** were first noted 3/9 at JCL (LH, LiH) and **Spotted Sandpiper** was first found at Mill Run Res. 4/22 (WS, DS). This is one of the best shorebird reports I ever received for this shorebird deprived county!

Cliff Swallows and **Barn Swallows** continue to nest on the Rte 381 bridge at Ohioopyle and on the bridge at Mill Run Reservoir. A **Wood Thrush** was seen carrying nesting material at OSP 5/10 (MF, JH, DW).

Four **Golden-winged Warblers** were found at the traditional breeding site at OSP 5/10 (DW, JH, MF). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at Friendship Hill Park 4/11 and a nice count of 6 were there 4/19 (WS, DS). They were also found at OSP 4/29 (MK) and 5/10 (MF, JH, DW). A **Palm Warbler** was a welcome sight at OSP 5/10 (MF, JH, DW). A **Prairie Warbler** at Fort Necessity National Battlefield 4/30 (SW) was the only report. This species seems to have declined or perhaps disappeared from the traditional site at OSP. A female **Black-and-white Warbler** was observed carrying (presumably due to the proximity of a nearby pasture) horse hair to add to her nest along Middle Ridge Rd. just outside the boundary of OSP 5/10 (MF). Three **Kentucky Warblers** were found at OSP 5/10 (DW, MF, JH). A total of 20 species of warblers were reported for the season, the majority from OSP.

A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was collecting nesting material at OSP 5/10 (MF, DW, JH). The first **Savannah Sparrow** report came from OSP 4/29 (MK). Two **Savannah Sparrows**, an **Eastern Meadowlark** and 6 **Bobolinks** were found in farm fields along Middle Ridge Rd. just outside OSP 5/10 (JH, DW, MF). Another **Savannah Sparrow** was found in the overgrown brushy meadow at OSP 5/10, an unexpected location (JH, DW, MF). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was spotted in roadside brush along Middle Ridge Rd. and 3 **White-throated Sparrows** were at OSP that day (DW, JH, MF). A **Purple Finch** was observed building a nest at OSP 4/29 (MK).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@earthlink.net**, Randi Gerrish, Sarah Gerrish, Len Hess, Linda Hess (LiH), Deuane Hoffman, Joyce Hoffmann, Margie Kern, Dana Shaffer, Walt Shaffer, Scott Walker, Dave Wilton.

Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Beaver Meadows (BM), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Marienville (MA), Nebraska (NB), Red Brush (RB), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake (TL), West Hickory (WH).

Buzzard Swamp and Beaver Meadows seemed to be the hotspots in Forest for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds this spring, while passerine migration was undramatic. Notable species include the **Stilt Sandpiper**, **Black Tern**, and **Evening Grosbeak**.

Three flocks of **Tundra Swans** totalling 118 birds near TI 3/11 provided the only report (DY). A **Blue-winged Teal** and **Ring-necked Duck** were seen at BS 4/14 (JeM). **Common Loon** were noted at BM

4/23 (CM, FrM), TI 5/3 (JM) and at BS 5/13 (JGM). **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported at BS 4/14 (JeM) and 5/13 (JGM), while a **Horned Grebe** was found at BS 4/14 (JeM). **Double-crested Cormorant** were sighted at BS 4/14 (JeM) and BM 4/23 (CM, FrM). The first **Green Heron** was spotted at BS 5/13 (JGM).

The first **Turkey Vultures** were seen near TI 3/11 (DY). An **Osprey** was reported at BM 4/23 (CM, FrM), and a **Northern Harrier** was noted at BS 4/14 (JeM). **Northern Goshawk** sightings included one near TL 3/25 (CW) and one at BM 4/23 (CM, FrM). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at Whig Hill 3/25 (CW). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was spotted at BS 4/14 (JeM), where the only **Rough-legged Hawk** was found 3/5 (FM, JM).

A **Virginia Rail** offered a fleeting glimpse to canoeists at BM 4/23 (CM, FrM). At BS, **Semipalmated Plovers** were found 5/12 (FM, JM), 8 **Greater Yellowlegs** were spotted 4/14 (JeM) and 7 were seen 5/13 (JGM); a **Solitary Sandpiper** was noted 5/12 (FM, JM) and 3 were present 5/13 (JGM). **Spotted Sandpiper** was found at BM 4/23 (CM, FrM), NB 5/12 and RB 5/26 (FM, JM). Twelve **Least Sandpipers** were noted at BS 5/12 (FM, JM), where 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were reported 4/14 (JeM), 15 **Dunlin** were seen 5/12, a **Stilt Sandpiper** was a nice surprise 5/12 (FM, JM), and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was found 5/13 (JGM). **Wilson's Snipe**, **American Woodcock** and **Bonaparte's Gull** also were located at BS 4/14 (JeM). Nine **Ring-billed Gulls** were a nice find near TI 3/11 (DY), and one was spotted near MA 4/23 (CM, FrM). A **Black Tern** visited BS for the PAMC 5/13 (JGM).

The first **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted at TL 5/12, and the first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** near TI 5/31. The only owl reports for the period, both near TI, were an **Eastern Screech-Owl** 5/29 and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** 3/7. The first **Whip-poor-will** was reported from RB 5/12; first **Chimney Swift** at TI 5/12; first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** near TI 4/28; first **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at ANF 4/20 (FM, JM). **Least Flycatcher** (4) was first seen at BS 5/13 (JGM); **Eastern Phoebe** near RB 3/1 and **Great Crested Flycatcher** near TI 5/25 (FM, JM). Two **Eastern Kingbirds** were noted at BS 5/13 (JGM). The first **Blue-headed Vireo** was noted at ANF 4/11; first **Yellow-throated Vireo** at TL 5/12 and first **Red-eyed Vireo** near TI 5/12 (FM, JM).

"Many, many" **Tree Swallows** as well as 2 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were reported near TI 4/14 (JeM). Two **Bank Swallows** were spotted near Kellestville and 6 **Cliff Swallows** were seen near TI 5/12 (FM, JM). The earliest **Barn Swallows** were spotted at BM 4/23 (CM, FrM). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were consistent at feeders near TI until 4/14; they were also sighted at BS 3/5 (FM, JM) and at BM 4/23 (CM, FrM). **House Wren** was first seen at TL 5/12, and **Winter Wren** at ANF 4/20. The last **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen at TL 4/19 (FM, JM). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were sighted near MA 4/14 (JeM) and at BM 4/23 (CM, FrM). The first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen at ANF 4/20 (FM, JM). **Veery** (2) were first reported at RB 5/12, **Swainson's Thrush** near TI 5/29, **Hermit Thrush** at ANF 4/11, and first **Wood Thrush** near TI 5/12 (FM, JM). **Gray Catbird** was first located at NB 5/12, and **Brown Thrasher** near TI 4/12 (FM, JM).

The first **Blue-winged Warblers** (3) were found near WH, also **Northern Parula**, **Yellow Warbler** and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at several locations, all 5/12. **Magnolia Warbler** was sighted near TI 5/3; **Black-throated Blue Warbler** near TI 5/12 (FM, JM). The earliest **Black-throated Green Warbler** was spotted at BM 4/23 (CM, FrM), and 26 were reported at BS 5/13 (JGM). First **Blackburnian Warbler** near TI 5/12 (FM, JM); 3 **Pine Warblers** at BS 5/13 (JGM); **Cerulean Warbler**, **Black and white Warbler**, **American Redstart**, and **Ovenbird**, all near TI 5/12 (FM, JM); first **Louisiana Waterthrush** at ANF 4/20; **Mourning Warbler** near RB 5/26; **Hooded Warbler** near TI and **Canada Warbler** near WH 5/12 (FM, JM).

The first **Scarlet Tanager** was noted at RB 5/12 (FM, JM). **Eastern Towhee** was first sighted near MA 4/14 (JeM). The last **American Tree Sparrow** was seen near TI 4/5, the first **Chipping Sparrow** near TI 3/31, and the first **Field Sparrow** at RB 5/12 (FM, JM). Two **Vesper Sparrows** were noted at BS 5/13 (JGM). The first **Savannah Sparrow** was spotted at RB 5/12. The last **Fox Sparrow** was seen near TI 4/5 (FM, JM). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was a nice surprise near MA 5/3 (BW, JW). The last **White-throated Sparrow** was spotted near TI 5/13 (FM, JM) and the last **White-crowned Sparrow** near MA 5/3 (BW, JW). The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found near TI 4/27, first **Indigo Bunting** near TI 5/3, first **Bobolink** near NB 5/12 (FM, JM). The first **Red-winged Blackbirds** were found near TI 3/11 (DY), first **Eastern Meadowlark** near RB 3/1, first **Common Grackle** near TI 3/6, first **Baltimore Oriole** near TI 4/29 (FM, JM).

Pine Siskins, which bred in *Forest* in 2005, were last reported at TL 4/19 (FM, JM). An **Evening Grosbeak** was coming to feeders near MA 5/3 (BW, JW).

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Franklin County

No Report.

Dale L. Gearhart, PO Box 155, Shady Grove, PA, 17256, (717) 597-3979, dgearhart01@comcast.net

Fulton County

No Report.

Daniel Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA, 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan_snell@hotmail.com,

Greene County

Locations: Last Chance Ranch on Big Shannon Run in Perry Township (LCR), Preacher's Road in Franklin Township (PR), Ralph Bell Farm in Morgan Township (RBF), SGL 223 State Game Lands in Whiteley Township (SGL 223), Waynesburg Sportsman Club (WSC).

Waterfowl (as well as many other birds) are resourceful (thankfully). With one major lake in the county drained, and another with much of its water drained due to weakened breastworks, the ducks have "made do" with other smaller ponds and wetlands throughout the county. (The one remaining large lake has been claimed by all the fishermen, leaving little room for ducks.) Four **Red-Breasted Mergansers** and 2 **Blue-Winged Teals** were at SGL 223 3/25 (MH). She also found **American Black Ducks**, **Wood Ducks**, and **Ring-Necked Ducks** at a private pond in Perry Twp. A male and a female **Hooded Merganser** were seen on Dunkard Creek also in Perry Twp. in late Mar (KK). A pair of **Green Herons** on Creek Rd. in Monongahela Twp. 5/13 (SS, KK). The earliest report of a **Broad-Winged Hawk** was one found sitting in a low tree along Rte 188 in Jefferson Twp. 4/19(KK). **Bald Eagles** were seen again this spring. One was found near Brave 3/24 and reported to JH. Another was seen at Ryerson S.P. 5/15-5/19 and reported to MH.

The earliest reported **Wilson's Snipe** was 3/10 in a wet area near Carmichaels (RKB). An **American Woodcock** was at WSC 4/11 (MH). Seven **Herring Gulls** were in the parking lot at Waynesburg Plaza 4/25 (KK). She saw one at the same location two days later.

Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow billed Cuckoos** were reported in May. The **Black-billed** was heard 5/6 at RBF (RKB). The **Yellow-billed** was reported 5/13 at LCR (MLP). Two **Great Horned Owlets** were noted 4/16 on PR (MH).

Often the birds are out there, we just aren't. On 5/13 (Pennsylvania Migration Count) when many folks were out specifically looking and listening, 2 **Common Nighthawks** were seen in Alleppo Twp. (TR). Llew Williams heard a **Whip-poor-will** at his home in Freeport Twp.

The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was found 4/12 at PR (MH). An **Eastern Phoebe** was noted at RBF 3/10 (RKB). **Great Crested Flycatchers** are sometimes hard to come by, but MLP had one in her yard at LCR 5/1. The first reported **Eastern Kingbird** was at RBF 4/25 (RKB).

Either the vireos arrived at varied times or we just aren't paying enough attention. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported 5/5 at PR (MH), a **Warbling Vireo** was first heard at RBF 4/25 (RKB), a **Philadelphia Vireo** was found 5/13 (AS), and 2 **Red-eyed Vireos** were singing 5/3 at RBF (RKB).

The **Purple Martin** colony at RBF continues to flourish. The first 3 scouts were reported 3/30 (RKB). The first **Tree Swallow** was a day earlier 3/29, with 3 more arriving 3/30. His first **Barn Swallows** also arrived 3/30. **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were found 4/7 at WSC (MH). The last wintering **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was observed at RBF 4/29 (RKB). The last **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was reported 4/16 (MH).

A **House Wren** arrived at LCR 4/17 (MLP) and on the same day 2 **Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers** were found at RBF (RKB). On 4/25 a singing **Wood Thrush** alerted RKB that the species had returned again to RBF. Wood Thrushes have been identified as a species of concern, but are doing well in *Greene*. The first **Gray Catbird** of the season was heard at RBF 5/3 (RKB). The earliest report of a **Brown Thrasher** was 4/8 at PR (MH). There were 25+ **Cedar Waxwings** eating Holly berries from trees at RBF 5/7 (RKB).

RKB is always tuned in to hearing the spring migrants' return. The following early dates were reported at RBF; **Northern Parula** 4/17, **Yellow Warbler** 4/22, **Yellow-throated Warbler** 4/17, **Cerulean Warbler** 5/4, and **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/1. The earliest reported **Ovenbird** was at LCR 4/29 (MLP), who also reported the earliest **Common Yellowthroat** 5/4. The last **Yellow-rumped Warbler** seen by MH at her yard on PR 4/16. RKB heard his first **Scarlet Tanager** of the spring 5/3 at RBF. An **Eastern Towhee** was heard on Mason Ridge in Whiteley Twp. 3/11 (LO). The last **White-throated Sparrows** and **White-crowned Sparrows** were at RBF 5/7 (RKB). He banded a **Dark-eyed Junco** 4/28 which was the last day he saw one. He first heard an **Indigo Bunting** 5/3, found one **Baltimore Oriole** 4/25, a singing **Orchard Oriole** 4/26 and heard **Bobolinks** in the hayfield 5/4 all at RBF.

As she frequently does, MLP has an interesting story, this time

about **Northern Cardinals**. She found the nest with 3 eggs in a bush in her yard at LCR 5/14. She watched it closely and by 5/22, 2 of the 3 eggs had hatched. On 5/28 she noted that 2 baby cardinals were being fed and tended by the adults. However when she checked the nest on 5/30 she found the nestlings had become a meal for a water snake. She actually caught the snake in the act! Not a pretty scenario, but as RBK often says, "Everything has to eat!" Many thanks to the faithful birders, who are constantly on watch and send in their reports.

Observers: **Kathy Kern, 322 Kennel Rd., Waynesburg, PA, 15730, (724) 627-5376, n3xsj@alltel.net**, Jerry Howard, Marjorie Howard, Ralph K Bell, Mary LaPlante, Linda Olczak, Atillia Shumaker, Sally Sisler, Terry Ronzio .

Huntingdon County

Locations: Lake Perez (LP), Lake Raystown (LR).

Waterfowl seemed hard to find on area lakes, perhaps due to the sparse Mar precipitation. Near LR, an **American Coot**, 10 **American Wigeons** and 4 **Ring-necked Ducks** were reported 3/7 (DK) and 4 **Wood Ducks**, 6 **Northern Shovelers**, one **Redhead** and 35 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were there 3/25 (DK). Three **Common Mergansers** represented a new species during the county's 14th year of participating in the Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/13 (DK). Near Cornpost Mill a female **American Black Duck** with young provided an unusual breeding record 5/17, as did a female **Common Merganser** with young 5/17-5/18 (TP, GG). A **Virginia Rail** was found dead at Greenwood Furnace S.P.(PF), while another was reported calling 5/6 at LP (DW).

The Tussey Mountain Hawkwatch had record coverage and reported 150 **Golden Eagles** for the season, slightly below the last 5-year's average of 164 (GGo). A third active **Bald Eagle** nest was spotted at LR (CY) and an adult **Bald Eagle** frequented LP from 3/5-3/9 (m.ob.). DK reported an unsuccessful attempt by an imm **Bald Eagle** to prey on a spotted turtle 3/12 near LR, and a record 3 **Bald Eagles** were recorded during the PAMC 5/13. First observed 5/6 (DS), a **Barn Owl** was sighted again 5/30 (DK) at a nest site in the Shaver's Creek Valley.

A few other species provided record highs for the 5/13 PAMC: 13 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**, 15 **Eastern Meadowlarks**, and 8 **Orchard Orioles**. Count low numbers included one **Hairy Woodpecker**, 48 **Common Yellowthroats**, 13 **Field Sparrows** and 3 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**. Other count highlights include a **Kentucky Warbler** along the Lower Trail at Waterstreet, and a **Cape May Warbler** at Trough Creek S.P. (DK). A lone **Bobolink** was sighted at Old Crow Wetland at Huntingdon 5/12 and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found below the LR dam 4/6 (DK).

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Indiana County

Locations: Blacklick Valley Natural Area (BVNA), Blue Spruce Co. Park (BS), Clymer (CM), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Conemaugh Floodlands (CF), Creekside (CS), Indiana (IN), Hemlock Lake County Park (HLCP), Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), Lewisville (LV), PAMC (Pennsylvania Migration Count), Reservoir Hill in Indiana (RH), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TLR), West Lebanon (WL), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

All waterfowl reports are from YC unless otherwise noted. Top **Canada Goose** count was 600 on 3/9 (LC). A well-studied **Trumpeter Swan** 4/25 (LC, MH, GL, DL, KR, ER) appeared unmarked, but it was swimming so the legs could not be seen well. First **Tundra Swans** were 26 on 3/3 (LC, MH); numbers peaked 3/12 (LC) with a count of 374; last noted were 11 on 3/28 (LC, MH, DL, SS).

First **Wood Ducks** were 3 on 3/6 (MH, ER, MW) while 26 was the high count 3/10 (LC). **Gadwall** counts included 23 on 3/14 (LC, MH, DL, KR, ER) while the season's last were 8 on 4/8 (LC, MH, RH, GL, DL). The **Eurasian Wigeon** found last season continued through 3/9 (LC). High **American Wigeon** tallies were 62 on 3/10 (LC) and 55 on 3/22 (LC). The season's high of 64 **American Black Ducks** and 244 **Mallards** were at YC 3/10 (LC); CD produced 52 **American Black Ducks** and 81 **Mallards** 3/21 (MF). First **Blue-winged Teal** arrived 3/13 (ER); last noted were 3 on 5/2 (LC, EF, MF, MH, GL, DL, SS). First **Northern Shovelers** were 2 at CF 3/11 (DL, ER) and 3 at YC the following day (LC); 2 lingered at YC until 4/18 (LC, MH, DL, ER, BS, SS). **Northern Pintail** reports peaked at 85 on 3/9 (LC); last were 3 on 4/4 (LC, MH, GL, DL, SS). **Green-winged Teal** moved through between 3/6 (MH, ER, MW) and 4/18 (LC, MH, DL, ER, BS, SS) with top count of 92 on 3/21 (LC, MH, DL, KR, ER, SS).

The **Canvasback** migration occurred between 3/6 (MH, ER, MW)

when 10 were noted and 3/28 (LC, MH, DL, SS) when the last 4 stopped on the lake; 39 on 3/18 (LC, MH, DL, SS) was the best count since 2001. Ninety-eight **Redheads** 3/8 (MH, ER, MW) was a nice count; last singleton was present 4/18 (LC, MH, DL, SS). An estimated 300 **Ring-necked Ducks** arrived 3/8 (ER, BS); last were 2 on a pond northeast of SH 5/6 (MH, RH). A **Greater Scaup** at TLR 3/3 (LC, MH) was first; a late individual at YC 5/6 (LC, SG, MH, PJ, GL, DL, SS, JT) remained through 5/9 (LC, MH, MS, SS). Top **Lesser Scaup** tally was 68 on 3/10 (LC); 4/25 (LC, MH, GL, DL, KR, ER) was the last date for one individual. A **Surf Scoter** 5/2 (LC, EF, MF, MH, GL, DL, SS) and a **White-winged Scoter** 3/25 (LC, DL, ER) were nice finds. Four **Long-tailed Ducks** appeared 4/8 (LC, MH, RH, DL), the lone report. **Buffleheads**, in low numbers for the second year, included a high of only 85 on 3/28 (LC, MH, DL, SS); the next highest tally was 25 on 4/11 (LC, MH, DL, SS), but most days had counts in the single digits. **Common Goldeneye** reports included 1-3 on ten March dates (v.o.). Best **Hooded Merganser** count was 60 on 3/21 (LC, MH, DL, KR, ER, SS). A female with 8 young in tow was a great find for the Atlas as well as the PAMC 5/13 (MS, JT) along Plum Creek. Of special note was what appeared to be a hybrid **Hooded Merganser x Common Goldeneye** at YC 3/16 (ph. ER). YC yielded 17 **Common Mergansers** 3/7 (LC, MH, GL, DL, KR, SS); 2 near Dayton 5/29 (MH, RH) were probably local breeders. Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** arrived 3/1 (GL); 163 were recorded 3/12 (LO) while one on 5/16 (MH, GL, DL, SS) was last. The best day for **Ruddy Ducks** was 4/8 when 28 were noted at YC (LC, MH, RH, GL, DL) and 13 on nearby Margus L. (MH, RH). Last was one 4/25 (LC, MH, GL, DL, KR, ER) at YC.

Ruffed Grouse seem to be in better numbers than last year with reports of 9 on the PAMC 5/13 (v.o.) as well as 11 other reports. **Wild Turkeys** were mentioned at various locations with largest flocks including 50 near IN 3/21 (EB) and 40 near Creekside 3/23 (EU). **Northern Bobwhite** reports included 2 near SH 4/18 (SC), 2 near CM 5/8 (EB), and 6 at CF 5/13 (LC, DL, ER).

A **Red-throated Loon** at YC 4/25 (LC, MH, GL, DL, KR, ER) was the lone report. Three **Common Loons** at YC 3/17 (LC, MH, DL) were first; best loon count was 23 on 4/8 (LC, MH, RH, GL, DL) at YC; last noted were 2 on 5/13 (GL, GS) at YC. **Pied-billed Grebes** continued at TLR where they wintered, but first YC report occurred 3/9 (LO) with a rather low top count of only 10 on 4/1 (MF, MH, DL). Two **Horned Grebes** at YC 3/3 were first arrivals (LC, MH); 28 was a good count 3/28 (LC, MH, DL, SS). A **Red-necked Grebe**, found 4/22 (EF, MF) remained through 4/25 (LC, MH, GL, DL, KR, ER).

A **Double-crested Cormorant** appeared at CD 3/21 (MF); 8 was YC's high 4/5 (ER). An **American Bittern** at YC 5/13 was the lone report (GL, GS). The Trusal Bridge heronry contained 22 nests and at least 26 **Great Blue Herons** 5/13 (MST, JT). First **Great Egret** visited YC 4/8 (LC, MH, RH, DL), but as many as 6 were counted 5/19 (DL, ER). Ten **Cattle Egrets** stopped in a field near CD 4/24 (MF, et al.); this was the fourth county record and the only time more than one bird has been involved. First 3 **Green Herons** arrived at YC 4/23 (ER).

TLR was the **Turkey Vulture** hang-out for as many as 24 on 3/9 (PJ); Saltsburg yielded 18 on 5/30 (SS). **Ospreys** moved through YC between 4/1 (MF, MH, DL) and 5/23 (MH, BJ, DL, KR, ER, SS), but none stayed to nest. **Bald Eagle** reports included an adult and a second-year bird at YC 3/13 (ER); adults were seen at YC 3/14 (LC, MH, DL, KR, ER) and 3/27 (BJ) and at HLCP 5/13 (MH, RH). Sub-adults were spotted at YC 3/29 (LC, MH, DL, SS) and 4/18 (LC, MH, DL, ER, BS, SS) while imm birds were present 5/6 (LC, SG, MH, PJ, GL, DL, SS, JT) and 5/23 (MH, BJ, DL, KR, ER, SS). A **Northern Harrier** at YC 3/21 (LC, MH, DL, KR, ER, SS) was the lone report. **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were each listed at 11 locations during the period. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were noted only at YC on various dates (v.o.), near LV 3/9,30 (MC), and near HLCP 5/13 (MH, RH). **Broad-winged Hawks** arrived 4/15 at Pine Ridge C.P. (LC, MH, DL, SS), near Blairsville (JF, MH), and near SH (MH). An adult **Golden Eagle** flew over a yard near LV 5/17 (MC).

A **Virginia Rail** called during a pontoon ride at YC 5/9 (LC, MH, MS, SS). A **Common Moorhen** provided a 6th county record near Chambersville 5/13 (MST, JT); this bird was still present 5/27 (MH, RH). **American Coots** peaked at 557 on 4/11 (LC, MH, DL, SS) at YC; acting very much a pair, 2 were still present 5/16 (MH, GL, DL, SS). A low-flying **Sandhill Crane** was seen flying over YC Lake during a pontoon ride 5/9 (LC, MH, MS, SS); this was a 4th county record.

All shorebird reports are at YC unless otherwise noted. Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** arrived 5/23 (MH, BJ, DL, KR, ER, SS), the lone report. One to 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** were listed between 4/4 (LC, MH, GL, DL, SS) and 5/9 (LC, MH, MS, SS). A single **Lesser Yellowlegs** arrived 4/8 (LC, MH, RH, GL, DL); one noted 4/11 (LC, MH, DL, SS) was the only other report. **Solitary Sandpiper** appeared 4/25 (LC, MH, GL, DL, KR, ER) and 5/3 (CG, MH); 8 were counted at CF 5/13 (LC, DL, ER). Arrival date for **Spotted Sandpiper** at YC was 4/25 (LC, MH, GL, DL, KR, ER); 8 was a good count at HLCP 5/13 (MH, RH). One **Pectoral Sandpiper** was listed 4/1 (MF, MH, DL), the lone report. Three **Dunlins** were spotted 5/17 (ER). First **Wilson's Snipe** arrivals were one YC 3/21 (LC, MH, DL, KR, ER, SS) and 5 near CM 3/22 (EB); YC still yielded 2 on 5/17 (ER). First **American Woodcocks** were found

near Creekside 3/11 (MH, RH) and near LV 3/12 (MC); woodcock runs yielded 15 birds between 3/11-4/24 (MH, RH).

All gull and tern reports are from YC. Two **Little Gulls** accompanied a flock of 36 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 4/18 (LC, MH, DL, SS), providing a first county record. The Little Gulls remained just long enough for GL and GS to arrive to see them before they took flight, circling higher and higher till they were no longer discernible. **Bonaparte's Gulls** migrated through the county between 4/1 (MF, MH, DL) and 5/11 (LC, MH, GL, DL, ER) with numbers peaking at 275 on 4/11 (LC, MH, DL, SS). The highest **Ring-billed Gull** tally of 232 was attained 3/12 (LC). Two **Caspian Terns** 4/23 (ER) were first; 6 were noted 5/19 (DL, ER), and 3 were last seen 5/23 (MH, BJ, DL, KR, ER, SS). **Forster's Terns** appeared on 3 dates, one on 4/22 (LC), 6 the following day (ER), and 10 on 5/23 (MH, BJ, DL, KR, ER, SS). A lone **Black Tern** 5/23 (MH, BJ, DL, KR, ER, SS) was the only one noted this season.

Cuckoo arrival dates included 5/3 (CG, MH) at SGL 273 for **Black-billed Cuckoo** and 5/13 (v.o.) for **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** at various locations across the county. A gray morph **Eastern Screech-Owl** continued to use a cavity at YC through 3/14 (LC, MH, DL, KR, ER); other reports included one near LV 3/18-29 (MC), one in Armstrong Twp. 5/13 (JS, LSt, LS, RS), and 2 near LV 5/13 (AD, MC, SS). **Great Horned Owls** (v.o.) were reported at only 2 locations; **Barred Owl**, at 3 (v.o.). Four **Whip-poor-wills** were heard on the PAMC 5/13 (AD, MC, SS). First **Chimney Swifts** were found 4/25 (LC, MH, GL, DL, KR, ER) at YC. First **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** arrived 4/26 both near Creekside (MA) and near LV (MC).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** appeared 5/5 (KM, MMu) at YC. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** sightings included one near IN through 3/5 (DJ), one on RH 4/2 (PJ), one near LV 4/8 (MC), and a very late bird near Brush Valley 5/13 (D&GC).

Eastern Wood-Pewees appeared first 5/13 (v.o.). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, perched low in a shrub, was whistling its "purr-ee" near Jacksonville 5/25 (MH). **Acadian Flycatchers** arrived in the county 5/13 (v.o.). **Alder Flycatchers** were listed only 5/13 (MAD) at Saltsburg and 5/27 (MH, RH) near Motterns Mill. May 13 (v.o.) was the date of return for **Willow Flycatchers**. BVNA yielded the first **Least Flycatcher** 4/29 (LC, MH, RH, DL, GS). The earliest **Eastern Phoebe** occurred 3/11 (DL, ER) at CF. May 3 (CG, MH) was the date of return for a **Great Crested Flycatcher** near Brush Valley. By 5/9, 4 **Eastern Kingbirds** had returned to YC (LC, MH, MS, SS). First **White-eyed Vireo** was spotted 4/26 (MF) at CD. A **Blue-headed Vireo** arrived 4/18 (LC, MH, DL, ER, BS, SS) at YC. CD also yielded the first **Yellow-throated Vireo** 4/25 (MF). The first **Warbling Vireo** 5/8 and the first **Red-eyed Vireos** 5/5, were both near LV (MH). A **Fish Crow** on the IUP campus 4/19 (RW) was the only one reported this season. **Common Raven** reports included a pair nesting on a tower near YC 4/4 (LC, DL, SS). Arrival dates included 3/11 (DL, ER) for **Tree Swallow** at CF; 4/8 (LC, MH, RH, GL, DL) for **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, 4/23 (ER) for **Bank Swallow**, 4/8 (LC, MH, RH, GL, DL) for **Cliff Swallow** and **Barn Swallow**, the latter 4 at YC. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued near SH throughout the season where one was observed carrying cat hair for nesting material.

Two **House Wrens** returned 4/12 near SH (MH, RH). **Winter Wren** records included one at YC 4/4 (LC, MH, GL, DL, SS) and one near Rayne 4/10 (SB, MH). First 7 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** arrived 4/11 (LC, MH, DL, SS) at YC, where last was observed 5/2 (LC, EF, MF, MH, GL, DL, SS). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** appeared near Tanoma 4/19 (SB, MH). Only 3 **Veeries** were found, one on Reservoir Hill 5/2 (PJ), the second at YC 5/5 (KM, MMu), and the third near HLCP 5/13 (MH, RH). **Swainson's Thrush** reports included one at YC 5/9 (DL), 2 on the PAMC 5/13 (MC, DC, AD, SS), and another at YC 5/23 (MH, BJ, DL, KR, ER, SS). Early **Hermit Thrushes** were at YC 3/21 (LC, MH, DL, KR, ER, SS) and on RH 4/2 (PJ); 10 were seen and/or heard on the PAMC in the n.e. part of the county where they nest 5/13 (MH, RH). First **Wood Thrush** appeared near LV 4/26 (MC) while the first **Gray Catbird** was sighted 4/25 (LC, MH, GL, DL, KR, ER) at YC. **Brown Thrasher** was seen first 4/5 near LV (MC). Two **American Pipits** were spotted w. of Smicksburg 4/30 (MH, RH), the lone report.

The spring warbler migration was unremarkable. **Blue-winged Warbler** was found at BVNA 4/30 (LC, MH, RH, SS). A **Lawrence's** backcross adult male was singing on territory near Jacksonville 5/25 (MH); the bird appeared to be mated with a female Blue-winged. Only 2 **Golden-winged Warblers** were mentioned, one in Washington Twp. 5/13 (MSt, JT) and one singing at YC 5/30 (MH, GL, DL). The PAMC yielded 3 **Tennessee Warblers** (v.o.); last was one at YC 5/23 (MH, BJ, DL, KR, ER, SS). Six single **Nashville Warblers** were found between 5/2 (MC) and 5/16 (MH, GL, DL, SS). **Northern Parulas**, seemingly more numerous this season, began arriving 4/25 (LC, MH, GL, DL, KR, ER) at YC, where 12 were counted on 5/5 (KM, MMu). First **Yellow Warblers** were 5 at YC 4/25 (LC, MH, GL, DL, KR, ER). Other warbler first dates included **Chestnut-sided Warbler** near Littleton 5/7 (MH, RH); **Magnolia Warbler** at YC 5/9 (LC, MH, MS, SS); **Cape May** at CD 5/13 (EF, MF), the lone report; **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 4/29 on RH (PJ). Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** lingered at YC 5/23 (MH, BJ, DL, KR, ER, SS). Earliest **Black-throated Green Warbler** and

Blackburnian Warbler occurred respectively 4/15 (PJ) and 4/29 (PJ) on RH. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found only near LV 4/21 (MC) and in W. Wheatfield Twp. 5/13 (MSt, JT). **Pine Warblers** returned to IN 3/14 (CG) and to SH 4/1 (MH). Two **Prairie Warblers** near Marion Center 4/20 (CG, MH) were first. **Palm Warblers**, noted only at YC, moved through between 4/22 (EF, MF) and 5/23 (MH, BJ, DL, KR, ER, SS).

Three **Bay-breasted Warblers**, located for the PAMC 5/13 (v.o.), comprised the entire report. Only 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** were recorded moving through the county 5/25 (MC) near LV and 5/27 (MH, RH) near Motterns Mill. Three **Cerulean Warblers** were found along various streams in Conemaugh and Young Twp. 5/13 (DC, MC, AD, SS); 5 were near Robinson (GC) and another was along Mahoning Creek (MM, MMo, ES, NS) the same day. First dates included 4/29 (LC, MH, RH, DL, GS) for **Black and white** at BVNA, 4/29 (PJ) for **American Redstart** on RH, 5/11 (MC) for **Worm-eating Warbler** near LV, and 4/21 (MH) for **Ovenbird** near SH. **Northern Waterthrush** reports included one at CF 5/13 (LC, DL, ER) and one along Little Mahoning 5/13 (MH, RH); the latter was still present 5/18 (MH, JT). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was first found at YC 4/1 (MF, MH, DL). First **Kentucky Warblers** were sighted 5/1 (MC) at LV and 5/3 (CG, MH) at SGL 273. First **Common Yellowthroat** and **Hooded Warbler** appeared south of Georgeville 4/28 (CG, MH). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were listed 5/17 near Purchase Line (MH) and on RH (PJ); YC yielded a good count of 6 on 5/23 (MH, BJ, DL, KR, ER, SS). **Canada Warblers** passed unnoticed this spring. The PAMC yielded the first **Yellow-breasted Chats** 5/13 (v.o.).

First **Scarlet Tanager** surfaced at BVNA 4/29 (LC, MH, RH, DL, GS). An **American Tree Sparrow** lingered near LV 4/2 (MC) while the first **Chipping Sparrow** had been seen there (MC) three days prior to that. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was singing near Brush Valley 5/11 (MH), providing a 3rd county record. First **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrows** were found south of Marion Center 4/6 (CG, MH). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was first sighted near SGL 273 5/3 (CG, MH). A nocturnal trip to West Lebanon strips added 17 **Henslow's Sparrows** to the PAMC count (MC, DC, AD, SS). **Fox Sparrows** moved through our area between 3/12 (MC) and 4/11 (LC, MH, DL, SS); best count was 20 on RH 4/8 (PJ), the highest tally on record for the county. **Swamp Sparrows**, which usually winter but appeared absent this year, returned 4/8 (DL) to YC. **White-throated Sparrow** remained at 3 locations on 5/13 (v.o.). A **Gamble's White-crowned Sparrow** arrived near SH 4/26 (MH, RH); YC yielded the last **White-crowned Sparrow** 5/16 (MH, GL, DL, SS). At least two pairs of **Dark-eyed Juncos** appeared to be on territory in SGL 174 on 5/13 (MH, RH); another was present in SGL 262 the same day (MH, RH).

Arrival date for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was 4/25 near SH (MH, RH). Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were well seen and described on the PAMC 5/13 (BB, DCo), providing a 2nd county record. Date of return for **Indigo Bunting** was near LV 5/1 (MC). **Bobolink** was first found near Smicksburg 4/30 (MH, RH), and first date for **Eastern Meadowlark** was 3/11 near SH (MH, RH). **Rusty Blackbirds** were in low numbers; one was first noted near LV 3/9 (MC); best count was 5 near Marion Center 4/20 (CG, MH). First **Common Grackles** were singletons both at Homer City (ER) and near LV (MC) 3/2. First **Brown-headed Cowbird** appeared 4/4 (LC, MH, GL, DL, SS) at YC. **Orchard Orioles** arrived 4/25 (LC, MH, GL, DL, KR, ER) at YC while **Baltimore Orioles** arrived five days later near LV (MC). **Pine Siskin** reports included one near LV 4/14 (MC) and 17 that arrived with a flock of American Goldfinches near IN on 5/13 (DCI).

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Jefferson County

No Report. No Compiler.

Juniata County

Locations: Clearview Reservoir (CR), Oakland Mills (OM), Mifflintown River Access (MRA), Muskrat Springs River Access (MSRA), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC).

At least 10 **Snow Geese**, 25 **Tundra Swans**, 4 **Killdeer** and 6 **Wilson's Snipe** were found in the Mexico Swamp area 3/21 (CK). A total of 154 **Tundra Swans** were spotted 3/6 at OM (AT) and 30 were

counted 3/20 at CR (LW). Three at the late date of 4/28 were at MSRA (TP). The spring offered fewer duck reports than other years in our area. Four **Ring-necked Ducks**, 8 **Common Goldeneyes**, 3 **Hooded Mergansers** and 115 **Common Mergansers** were spotted at MSRA 3/13 (TP). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were located 3/20 at CR (LW) and also 5/13 at Tuscarora Creek (EP). Six **Double-crested Cormorants** were at MSRA 4/3 (TP). Five were seen in Mexico 5/13 (TP, HP) and the last reported were 15 on 5/27 at MSRA (TP).

Two **American Bitterns** were seen 4/15 behind McAlisterville and single sightings of one continued up until the end of May (CK, AT, DT, et al.). The first **Green Heron** was reported 4/22 (TP) and a high number of 12 were along the Juniata River 5/13 for the PAMC (TP,HP).

Bald Eagle reports are getting more frequent than in other years. One adult was near Mifflintown airport 3/1 (EP). Single adults were at OM 3/9 (DT) and MSRA 3/18 (JW). An adult was seen carrying food at the village of Center heading towards the Juniata R. 5/14 (TP). Two were seen frequenting Bell's Island on a family float trip 5/29 (AT, DT, et al.).

A **Greater Yellowlegs** was seen at MRA (TjP). Two nest boxes in OM produced a pair of one red phased and one gray phased **Eastern Screech Owls** breeding together (AT, CK). A **Short Eared Owl** was seen hunting 5/5 in OM (DH, AT, ST, et al.). Eight **Common Nighthawks** were seen feeding near MRA (CK).

Two **Purple Martins** were at MSRA 3/29 (UP), and a single was in Van Wert 3/30 (AR). First **Tree Swallow** was reported in OM 3/11 (AT). High numbers of 1000+ were seen with 10 **Barn Swallows** and 6 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at MSRA (TP, HP). An early **Gray Catbird** was at OM 3/11 (AT). A single **Sedge Wren** was located 5/5 in OM (TJ), and within two days many made the trip to look for it and see/hear it. It was last seen 5/6 (AT, DH, CK, TP, DT, LG, et al.).

Twenty nine species of warblers were reported this year. Some of the highlights were a **Prothonotary Warbler** along Tuscarora Creek 5/13 (EP, LP), **Mourning Warbler** on Bell's Island 5/6-5/13 (TP, TjP, HP), and another in OM 5/29 (PR). A **Wilson's Warbler** was located during the PAMC 5/13. Three sightings of **Kentucky Warblers** on Mountain Rd in McAlisterville were reported between 6/3- 6/10 (PR, CK).

A **Clay Colored Sparrow** was present for a day in OM 5/22 (ST). The **Harris's Sparrow** continued to be seen at the feeding stations in OM. First reported the end of Nov 2005, it was last seen 5/8. It normally traveled with a flock of **White Crowned Sparrows** (AT, DT, et al.). A **Rusty Blackbird** continued to visit the home feeders in Mifflintown until 5/22 (CK).

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Lackawanna County
No Report. No Compiler.

Lancaster County

Locations: Susquehanna River, Long Level (SLL), Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Wood's Edge Pond (WE).

This year the Pennsylvania Migration Count occurred May 13 and a total of 46 participants recorded 161 species. This marked the 11th year in which **Lancaster** has participated in the count and the county has reached at least 160 species in each of those years. This year the total was significant because most participants agreed that birds in general and migrants specifically were very hard to come by. The avian highlight this year was a first year **Little Gull** at the 'rocks' on the Susquehanna. Even though the birds may have been a little scarce, the weather was very nice. In fact, the weather this spring was as nice as it has been in a long time with many calm, sunny days. Hopefully that is the reason the migrant songbirds seemed to be in short supply rather than something more ominous.

Waterfowl were well represented on the migration count with a total of 13 species. Highlights included 3 **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, 4 **Red-breasted Merganser** and **Ruddy Duck**. This year **Snow Geese** peaked at MCWMA around 3/17 with about 110,000 counted. **Ross's Goose** was found on many occasions this spring. There were sightings at MCWMA from 3/17-3/26 with a peak of 3 on 3/17. A single **Ross's Goose** was at WE 3/13 (DH) and 3/17 (TA). Four **Cackling Geese** were reported at MCWMA 3/5 (RM). **Mute Swans** were reported at MCWMA and SRCF off and on throughout the period. Three **Trumpeter Swans** were reported at SRCF 4/2(BS) and 7 on 4/13. A **Surf Scoter** was at SRCF 4/29 (TA, TR, BS) and a late **Common Goldeneye** was at the same location the same day. One of the more exciting finds of the season was a female **Hooded Merganser** with 4 young near Stop #3 at

MCWMA 5/20 (GB, KM, RM, RS). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was a nice find at the Conejohela Flats 3/27 (TJ) and 4/2 (BS).

Hérons and egrets were not present in large numbers this spring, but there were several significant finds. An adult **Little Blue Heron** was along Back Run Rd. near Milton Grove 6/13 (TJ), and two **Cattle Egrets** were at SRCF 6/6 (DHo, BS). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was a good find along the Conestoga at Safe Harbor Park 4/15 (FZ), and small colonies of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were seen near Brownstown and Speedwell Forge Lake. **Glossy Ibis** are seen almost every year, but 15 at MCWMA 3/11 (RW) were unusually early and an unusually large number.

Golden Eagle was a rare spring migrant at Peach Bottom 3/17 (BS). It is also worth noting that a total of 41 **Bald Eagles** were reported on the migration count this year. After an absence last year, one **Northern Bobwhite** was seen on the count. A pair of **Virginia Rails** and a **Sora** were reported from WE 5/13 (JH). **Common Moorhen** is rare in Lancaster, so a sighting at SRCF 5/25 (DH) was quite significant.

This was another solid season for shorebirds at SRCF. Some of the highlights were **Black-bellied Plover** 4/23-5/25, **Semipalmated Plover** 4/13-6/6 with 104 on 5/25, 2 **Black-necked Stilt** 5/27 (TR), 16 **Whimbrel** 5/22 (DHo), **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/17-5/25, **Sanderling** 5/13 & 5/22, **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/22-6/11 with 9 on 5/25, **Stilt Sandpiper** 5/20 (EW), and **Red-necked Phalarope** 5/25 (DHo).

Little Gull was seen on several occasions this year. The first sighting was on the Susquehanna at Marietta 3/19 (TJ). A couple of other adults were seen in late Mar and early Apr with both an adult **Little Gull** in basic plumage and adult **Black-headed Gull** in alternate plumage seen from the parking lot of the Accomac Inn 4/1 (JH, EW, m.ob.) The sightings occurred during a movement of several hundred **Bonaparte's Gulls**. Later in the spring the aforementioned 1st year **Little Gull** was seen at the 'rocks' along the Susquehanna 5/13 and another two 1st year **Little Gulls** were seen until 5/25 at SRCF (EW). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** put in an appearance at SRCF 3/27 (DHo). All four regular species of terns were present in small numbers at SRCF this spring with the highlights being 7 **Common Terns** and 6 **Black Terns** 5/22 (DHo).

The last **Short-eared Owl** was seen at MCWMA 3/9. A **Eurasian Collared Dove** was seen 3/14 in Peach Bottom (BS). This species is reported more frequently, but I am not aware of any birds in Lancaster that have stuck around long enough to be easily seen by many people. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a nice sight in a Holtwood yard 5/23 (JS). **Bank Swallows** are regular spring migrants in modest numbers, but I am not aware of any significant nesting colonies in the area. That is why a report of 1000+ birds at SRCF 5/22 (DHo) was significant. **Black-capped Chickadees** were reported in small numbers throughout the quarter in the northern end of the county. These may be holdovers from the major irruption that occurred last winter.

Reports of **Swainson's Thrush** were almost nonexistent this spring. As mentioned earlier, migrant warblers were reported in very small numbers. Hopefully clear weather allowing for an uninterrupted migration is the reason for the low numbers. Highlights included **Cape May Warbler** 5/24 (AO), 12 **Yellow-throated Warbler** 4/13 along the Conestoga (TJ), **Pine Warbler** 3/29, **Bay-breasted Warbler** 5/13, **Cerulean Warbler** 4/29, an early **Prothonotary Warbler** 4/13 (TJ), and **Hooded Warbler** 4/30. **Lawrence's Warbler** was seen along the powerline cut at MCWMA 5/7-5/14 (FH, JH, EW), a rare sighting in Lancaster. **Cerulean Warbler** was found at the Safe Harbor Observation area 5/13 and **Prothonotary Warblers** were seen at SRCF and the Bainbridge area throughout the quarter. This spring I did not receive any reports of Pine Siskin, but **Purple Finches** were present in good numbers with the last report 4/24.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller, 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042, (717) 228-2161, jonathan.heller@comcast.net**, Tom Amico, Jerry Book, Jim Binder (JBi), Gerry Boltz, Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfont, Tom Garner, Fred Habegger, Dan Heathcote, Deuane Hoffman (DHo), Tom Hopson, Tom Johnson, Jeff Karnicky, Doug Kerr, Ramsay Koury, Kate Miller, Randy Miller, Andrew Odell, Tom Raub, Bob Schutsky, Jim Smith, Rosemary Spreha, Rick Wiltraut, Eric Witmer, Fred Zimmerman.

Lawrence County

No Report.
Randy Stringer, 409 Shady Drive, Grove City, PA, 16127, rcstringer@gcc.edu

Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand (CS), Lebanon Valley Business Park (LVBP), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Mt. Pleasant Road (MPR), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PMC), Reistville Ponds (RV), SGL 145, SGL 211.

The highlight of the quarter was the first county record of **Marsh Wren** found 4/27 at CS (JH). It was seen again 4/28 (JH). There are now 313 species recorded for Lebanon.

A **White-fronted Goose** at MC provided a 7th county record 3/11

(FHa). The **Snow Geese** numbers peaked 3/10 with 100,000 at MC (m.ob.). The last **Ross' Goose** and **Cackling Goose** was seen 3/9 at LVBP (RCM). Most **Tundra Swans** left by early Mar with the last one at MC 4/23 (JH, RCM). A **Trumpeter Swan** with a yellow zip-tie on the right leg was first seen at MLSP 3/3 (LU) and last reported 4/15 at MPR (JF). No other leg band was reported. **Mute Swans** were seen all quarter with 3 pairs of adults at MC for a new county high (m.ob.). A **Blue-winged Teal** drake at MC 5/17 set a new late date (CC, PF). A **Northern Pintail** drake at RV 5/14 also set a new late date (RCM). There were 13 **Redheads** at MLSP 3/10 (CR) and last seen 3/25 (m.ob.). Large numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen with 191 reported at MC 3/5 for a new high count (RCM). There were 171 seen at MLSP 3/10 (CR). **Greater Scaup** were found from 4/8 at MLSP (JH) to 5/20 with a single male on Risser's Pond at MC for a new late date (KM, RCM, RS). **Lesser Scaup** were at MLSP 3/4 and at MC 3/6 (TJ). The last **Bufflehead** was at SGL 145 on 5/20 (KM, RCM, RS). On 5/20 at MC a female **Hooded Merganser** with 8 young that were about a week old established the first breeding record for the county (RCM). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were seen from 3/12 (JHe) to 4/8 (JH, CR) with 12 seen 4/8 at MLSP.

Common Loons were seen from 3/26 with 5 flying over SGL 145 (RCM, KM) to 4/23 at MC (JH, KM) with 12 seen 4/7 at MLSP (RS). The last **Horned Grebe** was seen at MLSP 4/13 (CR). The **Eared Grebe** was last reported 3/20 at MLSP (GB). I received a late report of an **Eared Grebe** at MC that was shot 11/25/04 at Risser's Pond. The grebe was given to the PA Game Commission for waterfowl identification classes (JB).

A pair of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were seen from 4/27 at MLSP (RCM, KM). The first **Osprey** was seen at MLSP 4/13 (CR). The last **Northern Harrier** was seen 4/15 near Annville (SW). The first **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen 3/26 at SGL 145 (RCM, KM). A **Merlin** was at MLSP 4/8 for the only report (CR).

Single **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were reported from SGL 145 on 5/13 (RCM). **American Coots** were reported from MLSP until 4/8 with 25 seen (CR). A **Black-bellied Plover** 5/30 set a new late date at MPR (CB). An **American Golden Plover** was also seen from 4/16 (TJ) to 4/26 (RCM, KM) at MPR for a first Apr record. **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen from 5/13 with one at RV (RCM) to 5/30 with 4 at MPR (CB). There were 3 **Least Sandpipers** at MPR 4/26 for a new early date (RCM). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at MPR 5/23 (CB). Three **Dunlin** were seen at MPR 5/13-20 (RCM, KM). There was only one report of **Short-billed Dowitchers** with 2 seen 5/23 at MPR (CB). The last **Wilson's Snipe** was seen 5/13 at MC for a new late date. On 3/9, 17 **American Woodcocks** were counted on SGL 145 (RCM, KM).

Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen at MLSP on 3/31 for the only report (CR). A **Barn Owl** was seen hunting around LVBP 3/10 (RCM). There were 2 areas in central *Lebanon* with **Barn Owls**, one with young birds 5/29 (JF). A **Long-eared Owl** was found 3/25 in Stony Valley on SGL 211 3/25 (TP). **Short-eared Owls** were found at MC until 3/14 with 9 reported 3/6 (TJ) for a new county high. Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were found 3/25 in SGL 211, Stony Valley (TP).

Two **Whip-poor-wills** were found at Fort Indiantown Gap 5/13 (RS) and 7 were there 5/20 (RCM, KM). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported from 4/16 at Gov. Dick (RCM) with an imm at Fonderwhite Rd. 5/13 (RCM). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen at SGL 145 on 5/13 (RCM). The **Alder Flycatchers** were back 5/27 at CS for the 5th year (JH). An **Eastern Kingbird** 4/16 at MPR set a new early date (TJ). Two **Blue-headed Vireos** at SGL 145 on 4/2 set a new early date (RCM). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were first reported from 4/25 at CS (SW).

There were some **Common Raven** reports away from Stony Valley with 2 seen near Millbach Spur of Texture Mt. 3/18 (FH) and one at CS 5/13 (SW). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** on MLSP 3/31 set a new early date (CR). **Brown Creepers** were reported until 5/13 at CS (SW). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at SGL 145 on 5/6 (RCM, KM). Three **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were found at SGL 145 on 5/13 (RCM). **Swainson's Thrushes** were reported 5/16-5/17 at Spring Hill Acres with 4 on 5/17 (JH). On 5/17 they were joined by a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** (JH). A **Wood Thrush** on SGL 145 on 3/30 set a new early date (RCM).

Golden-winged Warblers were found breeding again at Fort Indiantown Gap in the impact area (JHo). Most migrant warbler numbers were low. Only one **Tennessee Warbler** was heard 5/20 at SGL 145 (RCM, RS). Only 26 **Yellow Warblers** were counted 5/13 during the PCM. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** 3/30 at CS set an early date (SW). **Palm Warblers** were found 4/8-4/15 with a "western" found at MLSP 4/8. **Cerulean Warblers** were found on 2nd Mtn. from 5/10 (TP). A pair of **Prothonotary Warblers** were found at CS 4/20 for a 4th county record. Up to 4 **Worm-eating Warblers** were found at Gov. Dick 5/27 (RCM, KM). **Louisiana Waterthrush** were missing in a lot of their streams. A few were found at CS (SW). **Wilson's Warblers** were seen 5/13-5/20 (RCM). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were seen from 4/27 at CS (RCM, KM), SGL 145 and Fort Indiantown Gap.

Scarlet Tanagers were found from 4/30 with 34 reported during the PCM 5/23. A **Vesper Sparrow** at RV 4/23 was in a good habitat (RCM, JH). Another was found at MPR 5/13 (RCM). **Grasshopper**

Sparrows were at MC from 5/13 where 2 to 3 were reported (m.ob.). The last **Fox Sparrow** was singing on SGL 145 on 3/30 (RCM). The last **White-crowned Sparrow** was singing 5/5 on Mitchner's Road (RCM).

Bobolinks were reported from 4/30 with 13 at MC 5/13 (RCM). **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen from 3/9-4/9 with 32 at LVBP 3/9 (RCM). **Orchard Orioles** were found at MLSP from 5/13 (RS). **Purple Finches** were last found 4/9 on SGL 145 (RCM).

Observers: **Randy C. Miller 607 Woodland Dr., Manheim, PA 17545. (717) 664-3778**, Chuck Berthoud, Jim Binder, Gerry Boltz, Chuck Chalfant, Mike Dale, Jane and Huey Evangelista, John Fedak, Pam Fisher, Fred Habbeggar (FHa), Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller (JH), Joe Hovis (JHo), Tom Johnson, Dave Kerr, Jim and Kitty Logan, Kate Miller, Ryan Miller, Herb and Sara Myers, Tom Powers, Dick Riley, Peter Robinson, Cameron Rutt, Mike Schall, Art Schiavo, Karen Smith, Rosemary Spreha, Larry Usselman, Susan Wheeler, Eric Witmer, David Yaney.

Lehigh County

The results for *Lehigh* for the PAMC 5/13 had 81 species and 835 individual birds. Most of the sightings were from the Lehigh Valley Audubon trip to Leaser Lake. Since participating in the PAMC at least 100 species were recorded for the day. Warbler numbers were low for the PAMC and warblers were generally scarce in *Lehigh* this spring. Hopefully the lower number of species for this year's PAMC was weather related and not an indication of population trends.

A **Cattle Egret** was seen 5/16 near Trexlertown (JL). Three **Great Blue Heron** were observed on nests 3/26 at the Fogelsville Quarry (JL). An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen flying over Lynn Twp. near New Tripoli 3/11 (J&TO). Another **Bald Eagle** was seen 5/13 on a Lehigh Valley Audubon Society trip to Leaser Lake (m.ob.). Along with the **Bald Eagle**, **Osprey**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Dunlin**, **Horned Lark**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Orchard Oriole**, and **White-throated Sparrow** were seen. The **White-throated Sparrows** were exhibiting courtship behavior. **White-throated Sparrows** are not known to nest in *Lehigh*. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen probing for food along the Little Lehigh 5/14 (JL). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen from Bake Oven Knob 5/24 (MS).

All the following sightings were from the Macungie area and reported by Bernie and Pauline Morris. About 50 **Fish Crow** 3/6, the first **Eastern Phoebe** 3/13, and a **Fox Sparrow** 3/17. On 3/28 a group of 20 **Wild Turkeys** were seen along with **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, and **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. **Purple Finch** were seen 4/1, the first **Hermit Thrush** 4/2 along with **Tree Swallows**. On 4/11 was **Louisiana Waterthrush**, 4/12 **Winter Wren**, 4/13 **Northern Parula**, 4/15 **Common Loon** and **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Blue-headed Vireo** 4/17, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, **Nashville Warbler**, and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**. A **Black-and-white Warbler** and a **Wood Thrush** were seen 4/29, **Eastern Kingbird** 5/1, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Scarlet Tanager** 5/2, and **Orchard Oriole** 5/3. There were many warblers 5/4 and even more warblers 5/5 including **Cerulean**, **Black-throated Green**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Blackpoll**, **Northern Parula**, **Chestnut-sided**, **American Redstart**, **Nashville** and **Prairie**. On 5/18 Bernie and Pauline had **Swainson's Thrush** and **Black-billed Cuckoo**, on 5/20 a pair of **Louisiana Waterthrushes** on territoriality, and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** seen off and on from 5/21-5/29. Also a **Least Flycatcher** and **Swainson's Thrush** 5/21. On 5/24 a **Kentucky**, **Wilson's**, **Black-throated Blue**, and **Blackpoll Warblers** as well as 3 or 4 **Swainson's Thrushes**, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were seen 5/26.

Bernie and Pauline Morris also saw 3 **Black-billed Cuckoo** and a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Willow Flycatcher**, and **Grasshopper Sparrow** near Stine's Corner 5/27.

The following was seen from Jordan Creek Parkway by Dustin Welch. Four **Veery** 4/24, two **Wood Thrushes** 4/24, **Yellow-throated Vireo** 4/23 and two 4/24, **White-eyed Vireo** 4/25, **Blue-winged Warbler** 4/24, **Nashville Warbler** 4/24-4/25 and 2 on 4/26, **Northern Parula** 4/23- 4/24, **Black-throated Green Warbler** 4/23, six on 4/24, four on 4/24, **Prairie Warbler** 4/25, **Blackburnian Warbler** 4/24, **Black-and-white Warbler** 4/23 and four on 4/24, **Northern Waterthrush** 4/26, **Savannah Sparrow** 4/25 and a **Baltimore Oriole** 4/24.

In Salisbury Township at the Lehigh Mountain Uplands were **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 5/16 and a **Swainson's Thrush** 5/17 (MB). Also at the Lehigh Mountain Uplands were **Northern Parula** and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 4/23 (MB). There were **Bank Swallows** at the Lehigh Canal Park 4/22 (MB).

Sightings from Smith Lane near Albutis include **Horned Lark** and **American Pipit** 4/23 (BW).

Observers: **Jon Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Macungie, PA, 18062, (610) 366-9996, levinjl1@yahoo.com**, Mark Boyd, Bernie and Pauline Morris, Jane and Tom Ostroski, Mike Schall, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch.

Luzerne County

No Report. No Compiler.

McKean County

The spring migration was definitely interesting and seemed different. It will be enlightening to look back at some records to see if things really did arrive early or just seemed so. It will also be interesting to see if species nested earlier. *McKean* also was the site for a first record of breeding for a species - more on that below!

Some highlights for the county since I don't want to bore you with lots of excruciating detail. On 3/13, a **Snow Goose** was observed migrating with a flock of **Canada Geese** in Bradford. Danny Fedak helped to find a **Great Blue Heron** rookery 4/18. It consisted of at least 21 active nests and I am not sure all of the nests were counted. The number of active nests was up from 2005. The rookery was located near Sugar Bay in the Allegheny N.F. In late Apr, another rookery was located near the McKean County Landfill that consisted of 25+ nests (HD, JD). On 3/19, a **Rough-legged Hawk** winged its way north through Bradford, a little behind schedule.

Lynn Ostrander located a pair of **Merlins** 5/5. He later observed defense and food passing between the 2 birds. A video was taken, as Steve Longo observed, that showed both birds; had audio of both of their calls and a call note from the nest area; and showed the female flying into the nest with a close-up of the nest. As of this writing, the pair is still at the nest site with food passing and defense still occurring. We hope to have even better news of breeding in the next issue.

A little extraordinary, but becoming more common in Pennsylvania, a **Sandhill Crane** was located feeding at Redbridge. I had hopes it would stay, but it turned out to be a one day wonder. **American Woodcock** were first seen as soon as the snow pack melted 3/30 (DF, JF). On 4/29, several birders participated in a successful Timberdoodle Walk at Kinzua Bridge State Park (HD, JD, LF, DF, BF, et al). Close views were obtained by all!

A nocturnal walk 5/12 was successful showing a group of 8 including John and Holly Dzemyan, Jeannette Hunkins, and Emily Housler and her family how to run a Toot Route and call in Northern Saw-whet Owls. Between that walk 5/12 and the early morning 5/13, a total of 12 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were located. Other owl species including **Great Horned**, **Eastern Screech**, and **Barred** were also found. In other nocturnal romps, **Whip-poor-wills** were located near Dump Run 5/5 (AM). Whip-poor-wills are not common throughout the county!

A **Common Raven's** nest was located 4/18 while looking for the Great Blue Heron rookery. During a presentation on the PA Breeding Bird Atlas 4/21 in Kinzua Bridge S. P., an **Eastern Towhee** was scratching near the pavilion during the slide portion of the talk. A **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** was noted with 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** coming to the feeder 5/3 (LF).

Two more unusual sightings will end the report. An first year male **Orchard Oriole** was found 5/10 (later breeding was confirmed) near Chappell Fork in Allegheny N.F. **Pine Siskins** were food begging in the spruces at Marilla Res. 4/30.

Remember , the 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas is on. There are still LOTS of available blocks in Regions 32 and 33. David Hauber and I could really use a hand and you are sure to see some great birds and scenery.

Observers: **John Fedak, 26 Race St., Bradford, PA, 16701, (814) 275-4086, jlfedak@atlanticbb.net**, Holly Dzemyart, John Dzemyan, Lisa Fedak, Danny Fedak, Bailey Fedak, Len Groshek, Janet Heinz, Emily Housler and family, Jeannette Hunkins, Bob James, Steve Longo, Allen Mclaughlin, Madelaine Miles, Lynn Ostrander, Tom Raught Jr., Tom Raught Sr., Scott Stoleson, Janet Stuckey.

Mercer County

Locations: Nicklin Lane (NL), Shenango River Reservoir (SRR).

Canada Geese with young were seen as early as 4/22. Not a single skein of **Tundra Swan** flew over SRR, in spite of constant, careful searching, and very few **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted there.

Unusual was a **Least Bittern** observed feeding along the shoreline of Sandy Lake 5/6 (Troyer Family). Three **Turkey Vultures** returned to their established roost in Transfer 3/13, building up to 6 on 3/15 and increasing thereafter. At least 4 pairs of **Osprey** are nesting at SRR, beginning 3/23. Two adult and 2 imm **Bald Eagles** were doing well at the SRR Headquarters Building where they were nesting on an Osprey platform. Credit goes to the Troyer family for all the following. Not often recorded here, a **Broad-winged Hawk** was indeed recorded 5/5 and 5/31, as was a **Golden Eagle** 4/16.

Sandhill Cranes continue in the southern part of the county with 3 on 3/11. A single **Tree Swallow** 3/12 set an early county record. A **Marsh Wren** was an exceptional find 5/13, as were 3 **Henslow's Sparrows** 5/13 on Spring Road.

An amazing 31 species of warblers was seen, including 2 singing **Golden-winged**: one 5/7 at NL, and one 5/20 at Williamson Rd. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at NL 5/4, a **Prothonotary Warbler**

was at SRR 5/13 and 5/31, a **Kentucky Warbler** 5/3 and 5/31, **Mourning Warbler** 5/5 and 5/31, and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** 5/13 were other highlights (all TF).

Observers: **Marty McKay, 841 E. Lake Rd., Transfer, PA, 16154, (724) 962-7476**, Harriett Bauer, Allen Troyer, Daniel Troyer Jr., Harvey Troyer, Eli Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Melvin Troyer, Neil Troyer.

Mifflin County

No Report.

J. Irvin Zook, 132 Beech Tree Lane, Belleville, PA, 17004, knjzook@pa.net

Monroe County

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

A colder than average March was followed by much fair weather through the remainder of the period, interrupted only by a week of rainy, cool weather in mid-May. Few reports were received.

A high count of 52 **Ring-necked Ducks** and 6 **Hooded Mergansers** was made 3/10 at Long Pond (BC). A hen **Wild Turkey** and her nest of 9 eggs were discovered in the MCEEC deer enclosure 5/26 (RS). The first displaying **American Woodcocks** were reported from scattered sites 3/10 & 11 (JR, DS). A single **Whip-poor-will** was singing in Cresco 4/13 (JR) and 3 individuals were at Skytop 5/28 (DS). A great find was a stunning **Lawrence's Warbler** along the Bushkill Creek 5/9 in DWGNRA (DS). This bird sang a typical Blue-winged song, and remained through the period. A single **Pine Siskin** remained at the MCEEC feeders as late as 3/21 (BH).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, MCEEC, 8050 Running Valley Rd., Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Bud Cook, Jenifer Rituper, Darryl Speicher, Roger Spotts.

Montgomery County

Locations: Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Delaware Valley College (DVC), Gwynedd Preserve (GP), Haverford College (HC), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The spring season was somewhat uneventful overall. On a brighter note, below average precipitation did provide spring mudflats at Green Lane Reservoir for the first time in many years.

All Green Lane Reservoir and Unami Creek Valley sightings - George Francois, except as noted.

Waterfowl migration was termed "a bust" by one observer, and the rest of us would likely concur (GAF). About 500 **Snow Geese** were at Church Rd., GLR 3/2 (SG), and a high of 5 **Tundra Swans** was tallied there 3/10 (GAF, JG). Dabbling duck highs included 53 **Green-winged Teal**, 8 **Northern Shoveler**, 8 **American Wigeon**, and 4 **Northern Pintail**, all during Mar. Two **Blue-winged Teal** were noted at Church Rd. 4/7. Diving ducks fared little better with a high of 38 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/28 and 6 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 4/8 (GAF, KC).

Common Loons reached a respectable high count of 28 at Walt Rd., GLR 4/24, and **Horned Grebe** maxed out at 2 there 3/14. **Double-crested Cormorants** peaked at 76 birds at Walt Rd. 4/24. An **American Bittern** was at GP 5/4, always a good find (AM, JM)!

Raptors of note included 2 late **Northern Harriers** 4/26-4/27 near Walt Rd., GLR and a fly-over **Red-shouldered Hawk** there 3/13. The misadventures of GLR's resident **Bald Eagle** pair continued when their nest collapsed 5/29 with 2 nearly ten week old youngsters in it (GAF)! A walk-in visit by Pennsylvania Game Commission and *Montgomery* employees ended with one big healthy eagle at large, and its smaller sibling en route to the AARK Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (KC, SR, et al). The story has a happy ending in early Jun; details in the next issue!

A **Common Moorhen** at Church Rd., GLR 5/9-5/10 is believed to be our first record in ten years (GAF, m.ob.)!

Spring shorebirds have become a rarity at GLR in recent years, so this year's 12 species could be termed exceptional. Church Rd. highlights from 5/9 were 2 **Semipalmated Plover**, a **Greater Yellowlegs**, 8 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and 14 **Least Sandpipers** (pretty good). May 23 brought single **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Dunlin**, and **White-rumped Sandpiper** (even better!). **American Woodcock** near Church Rd. peaked at 8 birds 3/13, and **Wilson's Snipe** hit a high count of 21 on 3/19.

Bonaparte's Gulls reached a max of 8 birds at Walt Rd., GLR 4/24. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** topped out at 6 birds at Church Rd. 3/19. One **Great Black-backed Gull** was there 4/8 (KC). Our only tern report was of a single **Caspian Tern** at Church Rd. 4/20.

Common Nighthawks were down again this season with high counts of 2 over GLR and 4 passing HC. (GAF, SJ). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found 4/14 at a beaver pond near the UCV. While this is a well-known birding venue, it was a new location for this declining species. It remained until

at least 5/7 (EV, m.ob.). Another adult Red-headed was seen near Spring Mount 5/8 (MC).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was found at Walt Rd., GLR on the record early date 4/14 (GAF). Other locations reporting them included DVC and Upper Gwynedd Twp.(AM, JM). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** remained at Ambler until 4/30 and at HC until 4/25 (RK, SJ). **Purple Martins** were found at three different locations in Franconia Twp.(AM, JM). Six **Bank Swallows** were at Walt Rd., GLR 5/23. **Swainson's Thrush** reports were few and far between, with only HC and Lansdale sightings (SJ, KR).

Twenty-seven warbler species is probably about average for *Montgomery*, but given the effort expended and distances covered, it was not a great migration. Comments from seasoned observers ranged from: "Very few migrant warblers" to "Warblers seemed late and were never numerous", and "another poor migration" (RK, SJ, GAF). Species seen at HC included **Wilson's Warbler** on three different dates, and a **Hooded Warbler** 5/6 (SJ). GP hosted **Nashville** and **Chestnut-sided**, and DVC held **Nashville** and **Cape May** warblers. Elkins Park had a **Wilson's Warbler**. (PD). UCV sightings included **Nashville, Kentucky, Chestnut-sided, Cerulean, Northern Waterthrush** and **Hooded Warbler**.

Sparrow reports for the season included **Fox Sparrow** at HC 3/13 and near UPVP 3/15-3/17 (SJ, RG). Sparrows found at Walt Rd., GLR included **Savannah** 4/17, **Swamp Sparrow** until 4/26, and **White-crowned** until at least 4/27. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** as found in Elkins Park 5/23(PD).

Bobolink hit the ground singing 5/7 at both Church Rd., GLR and DVC (GAF, AM, JM). Finally, **Purple Finches** at a feeder near UPVP maxed out at 30 on 3/2, and were last seen there 4/26 (RG).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, PO Box 100, Sumnertown, PA, 18084, (215) 234-6867, kcrilley@mail.montcopa.org**, Michelle Crilley, Paul Driver, George Franchois, Joe Greco, Ron Grubb, Steve Grunwald, Sheryl Johnson, Rudy Keller, Steve Lawrence, August and Judy Mirabella, Ken Reiker, Steve Rothenberger, Edward Vermillion.

Montour County

No Report.

Jon Beam, Montour Preserve, 700 Preserve Rd., Danville, PA, 17821, (570) 437-3131, jdbeam@pplweb.com.

Northampton County

Several rarities turned up this Spring. The **Bullock's Oriole** found in Jan was seen into Apr. In addition, a **Swallow-tailed Kite** and **Black-headed Grosbeak** were reported. A pair of **Tundra Swans** lingered at Christian Spring Rd until 3/21 (MS). Uncommon waterfowl were a lone **Canvasback** at Minsi Lake 3/25 (BW), a **Long-tailed Duck** at Northampton quarry 4/8 (MS) and at Echo Lake 4/8, 23 female **Red-breasted Mergansers** stopped to rest (BW). A **Great Cormorant** was at Martins Creek quarry 3/9. Birders tallied 128 spp for the PAMC, down 4 from 2005. Poor afternoon conditions likely cost finding a few targets.

For several years in a row, a kite has been observed in the Spring but there had never been a **Swallow-tailed Kite**. This changed 4/24 when an imm fly-by **Swallow-tailed Kite** was seen in Williams Twp (AK). Two **Bald Eagles** hatched at the Portland nest and both appear to be doing well. At the Martins Creek Environmental Preserve, 3 of 4 **Peregrine Falcon** eggs have hatched (JD). During the 5/13 PAMC, both **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** responded to a recording at School Rd (MS). The flooded field by Green Pond attracted 10 shorebird spp this Spring including a high of 8 **Dunlin** 4/26 (DD). This spot is also good for birders seeking waterfowl. Species seen were **Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, and Ruddy Duck**. A flushed **American Woodcock** at Bear Swamp revealed an unexpected surprise 4/20, a nest containing 4 eggs with one starting to hatch (SL). When checked the next day, all 4 eggs had hatched and the birds were gone.

Two late **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at Martins Creek quarry 5/13 (MS). Some migrant highlights included a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Monacacy Nature Center 5/5 (LF) and an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** in Moore Twp 5/25 (DW).

Uncommon warblers found were 2 **Cape May Warblers** in PenArgyl 5/10, an early **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Bethlehem Boat Club 4/10, and a **Mourning Warbler** at Bear Swamp 5/23. Another good PAMC find was a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at the Tekening Trail (MS). In Easton, a late **Dark-eyed Junco** was still present 5/29 (DZ). **Blue Grosbeaks** may be nesting in Williams Twp. A pair was seen copulating 5/28 (AK). The big highlight on PAMC day was a male **Black-headed Grosbeak** (2nd Co record) sitting near a feeder during an afternoon thunderstorm in Williams Twp (AK). Unfortunately it was a brief stay. The **Bullock's Oriole** found in Bethlehem 1/1 was last reported 4/7.

Observers: **Michael Schall, 1149 Mickley Ave, Whitehall PA, 18052, (610) 435-2781, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Dave DeReamus, John Drabic, Linda Freedman, Arlene Koch, Sherri LaBar, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch, Dan Zmoda.

Northumberland County

No Report. No Compiler.

Perry County

No Report.

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Philadelphia County

Locations: Delaware River (DR), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/13 (PAMC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (2nd PBBA).

Some birders thought the bulk of the migration arrived much later than usual. Although there was a normal sample of migrants from mid-April onward, the flow seemed to slow until late May when large numbers passed through. The dry, mild spring supported expectations of an early migration and early nesting that were not entirely fulfilled. Some sample warbler counts illustrate the modest numbers: 18 warbler species (106 total species) on the 5/13 PAMC, 16 warbler species on a 5/16 rainy Big Day (108 total species) (MS), 15 on 5/12 at Carpenter's Woods (MD) and 15 in the Pennypack on 5/23 (FW).

A few **Snow Goose** reports came between 4/2-4/20. A pair of **Gadwall** at FDR were a nice find 5/16 (MS). **Wood Duck** returned to TI 3/1 (SC) and joined the remainder of wintering waterfowl. Up to 6 **Blue-winged Teal** seen at TI 3/20-5/1 were reminiscent of a time long past when this teal bred in the area. A raft of 25 **Canvasback** was at FDR 3/4 and JM reported 200 along the DR 4/7. Five **Redhead**, presumably the group previously reported from FDR, wandered over to TI for a few days before departing 3/6. **Greater Scaup** were last seen 4/29 and several **Lesser Scaup** stayed until 4/15, but a **Lesser Scaup** at TI 5/6 was a very late sighting (BB). I saw the only **Common Goldeneye** at TI 3/17. A pair of **Hooded Merganser** was seen at TI 5/10-5/20, which might be related to a lone female found during an annual bird survey 6/9 (TR). **Pied-billed Grebe** hung around until 5/13 (MS). I have no date for the departure of **Great Cormorant** from Philly, but one seen on the New Jersey side of the DR 5/16 (MS) is an indication of how late that departure date may be.

Gary Stolz, Asst. Director at TI observed, "...a PA state endangered **American Bittern** catch and eat a hatchling PA state-threatened redbelly turtle [5/2]. The little turtle put up a good fight and escaped twice, but the bittern eventually got it positioned. . . and down the hatch in one gulp. I was rooting for the turtle to no avail." [Forgive Gary, he's a herpetologist!] This bittern was first seen 4/30 (JD, NC). Numerous attempts to locate breeding bitterns, herons and rails in southeast *Philadelphia* never produced a single **Least Bittern**, although one was subsequently reported at TI and it may have nested. Water levels in the impoundment at TI were so high that John Miller's annual nest-checks could not be conducted again this year. An experimental draw-down of the impoundment may provide the muddy shoulders on which young were seen in years past. An imm **Little Blue Heron** was seen on the PAMC (GG). **Snowy Egret**, uncommon in recent years, was a good find at TI 5/26 (KJ). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were reported at TI from 4/2 and at Rock Dam and Baxter Water Treatment Facility 5/16 (MS). In the Bell's Mill area, MS saw a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 60 feet up in a Sycamore tree getting harassed by **American Robins**.

A **Black Vulture** pair occupied the 2nd floor of abandoned house at Awbury Arboretum in Germantown from Jan through at least mid May. Keith Russell thinks they "probably bred inside house, but I have not been able to confirm." This would be a first nest record for *Philadelphia*, but neither Keith nor MD, the owner of that 2nd PBBA block, knew if there was an egg.

The **Osprey** nest at the mouth of the Poquessing Creek blew down early in the season, but was rebuilt and produced two chicks, both of which fledged (CL). *Philadelphia* has had its own version of *Red-tails in Love*. One pair nested on an apartment building in Center City, presumably for the first time (JH), and a West *Philadelphia* pair chose the 7th floor ledge of a University of Pennsylvania building to raise two chicks for the third year in a row (CB, NH). The **Red-shouldered Hawk** wintering at TI was not seen after 3/11, but at Morris Arboretum a single bird was seen 4/11 (MD). Art McMorris who oversees our local Peregrines for the PA Game Commission reports, "**Peregrine Falcons** enjoyed a banner year in Pennsylvania, being successful in 13 of the 16 nests state-wide and raising 38 young, the largest number since reintroductions began." *Philadelphia* boasts four pair (and a bachelor), three of which bred successfully and produced 12 chicks. Much gratitude is extended to the PA Game Commission, Art McMorris and his predecessor Matt Sharp who have expended enormous effort to make this a reality.

While conducting a marshbird survey I found 2 **Virginia Rail**, a

Sora which had been heard 5/13, and a **Common Moorhen** in the same area of the dike at TI. The moorhen stayed the season, but the **Sora** was only heard again 5/16. Nine shorebird species were found at TI with **Greater Yellowlegs** the earliest to arrive 3/5 and also the most numerous. **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/30-5/16 are less common. First seen at TI 4/23 (LR) 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** were found at FDR 5/16 (MS). Only a few dozen **Least Sandpipers** and a fewer **Semipalmated Sandpipers** (FW, MS) were seen, as always at TI, but also on sludge at the SW Sewage Treatment Plant and mud bars in the DR. Morris Arboretum hosted a **Spotted Sandpiper** 4/24 (MD) and a **Wilson's Snipe** 4/16 (KJ). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were found during the PAMC.

As he worked on nest boxes for 1-2 hours at Ft. Mifflin 4/25-4/26, 5/1, 5/4, and 5/8 John Miller observed 2 **Common Tern** per day moving up river with dozens of **Laughing Gulls**. Not at all common, even in migration, this number of **Common Tern** is the most he's ever seen in the area. **Common Nighthawks** were reported only in migration and only from TI where FW found one roosting in a black willow tree on the dike 5/19.

Two pair of **Eastern Screech Owl** had chicks that were visible to birders in Carpenter's Woods. The **Great Horned Owl** at TI again placed its nest close to a trail where it nested last year. This pair seems to have no concern for the hundreds of birders, school classes and photographers who view the nest daily. The **Barred Owl** in the Mt. Airy section was heard through 5/4 (KR). The last of four **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at TI was seen 3/19 (NC). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a good find at Morris Arboretum 3/26 (KJ), but 2 birds at Bartram's Gardens during the week of 5/8 was exceptional. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at TI (FW, SC) 5/24. Multiple sightings of **Wild Turkey** hens at TI 4/12-5/31 had birders asking if they would breed. I don't think so, and I doubt that they breed in the Pennypack where they are seen year round. Some suggest **Wild Turkey** breeds in the *Montgomery* section of the Pennypack and wander over the border in good numbers. A **Ring-necked Pheasant** shocked KS as she worked her atlas block in Port Richmond in May.

Tree Swallow and **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, overwintering at the northeast water treatment plant, were reported from Rhawn St. at the DR 3/7 (CL) and at FDR (DM). MS found a **Bank Swallow** on his 5/16 big day and KR saw 3 at Carpenter's Woods 5/10. **Black-capped Chickadee** lingered in the northeast through 4/5 (FW) and at TI until 5/3. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** enjoyed a long stay in the evergreens at Spring Lane (CH). **Marsh Wrens** were singing at TI 4/10 and **House Wrens** arrived 4/12. Carpenter's Woods had the best reports of thrushes with four species being seen almost daily through mid May, but the only sighting of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was 5/17 (MD).

Twenty-eight species of warblers sighted included a **Yellow-throated Warbler** singing at TI 4/16 (EP, DB). A photo of this bird suggests "Sutton-like" qualities to some birders, but others think individual variation caused the plumage inconsistencies. Two of the three **Mourning Warbler** reports came from TI, 5/10 (DW) and 5/24 (FW), while the third was seen in the Pennypack 5/17 (FW). **Pine Warbler** were seen for two months from 3/13 at TI (SC) to 5/16 at Harper's Meadow (MS). **Ovenbird** and **Common Yellowthroat** were still migrating 5/24 when KS found them in the City Hall greenery. My first **Hooded Warbler** was a tad early 4/19 and a male sang incessantly 5/9 at the SCEE restoration area where it is hoped they will breed (CH).

American Tree Sparrow and **Fox Sparrow** were last reported respectively 4/20 and 4/15. There was a substantial push of **Chipping Sparrow** 4/10 when 23 were seen at TI and an even greater push of **White-throated Sparrows** was noted 5/6 when hundreds were seen. **Savannah Sparrow** was reported from 4/1-5/13 at TI and MS found 2 along the DR in the northeast 5/16. The only **Lincoln's Sparrow** came from Veree Rd. 5/17 and unusually low reports of **White-crowned Sparrows** with only one bird reported at TI 5/6 (LR). A **Blue-Grosbeak** sang for CH in the fields at Spring Lane 5/25.

The newly formed Friends of the Poquessing Watershed, headed by Donna Smith-Remick, is committed to the protection of the natural area around Benjamin Rush State Park. They sponsor monthly bird walks in Benjamin Rush State Park's extensive fields and riparian habitat with the help of Keith Russell. Such a walk 5/6 produced 4 **Bobolink** as well as a **Savannah Sparrow** and lots of migrants. This area is close to the Northeast Airport where **Eastern Meadowlark**, **American Kestrel** and **Orchard Oriole**, still increasing in number, were found after the 5/6 walk (KR). KR also noted an abundance of **Baltimore Orioles** this season. More than 100 **Rusty Blackbirds** frequenting FDR this winter dwindled as the population at TI increased with flocks of 35 seen 4/14-4/23 (JM).

Addendum: The Wyncote CBC 12/17/2005 recently reported two birds which were not included in the Winter 2005 report. A **Baltimore Oriole** was found in the Wissahickon by Steve Lawrence and a **Pine Warbler** was seen by Rick White and Pam Serenty.

Observers: **Doris McGovern**, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063 (610) 565-8484 mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu Chris Blidan, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Skip Conant, Ned Connolly, Jim Deasey, Michael Drake, Gregg Gorton, Nicholas Haass, Jane Henderson, Chuck

Hetzel, Rich Horwitz, Ken Januski, Steve Kacir, Steve Lawrence, Chuck Lyman, Jim McKinney, John Miller, Edie Parnum, Tom Reeves, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Matt Sharp, Gary Stolz, Kate Somerville, Dave Washabaugh, Frank Windfelder.

Pike County

Location: Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC).

This report is based on the data compiled from PEEC's staff notes, PEEC led bird walks, and the bird registry in PEEC's visitor center.

Spring migration waterfowl for PEEC and surrounding areas in *Pike* included some great **Wood Duck** sightings! Five males and 2 females were seen 3/10 at Briscoe Mt. Rd. Swamp (EH). A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen chasing a female Wood Duck over Stuckey's Pond 3/28 (EH, JP, SQ). Five young and a female **Wood Duck** were seen at Briscoe Mt. Rd. Swamp 5/26 (SQ).

Five males and one female **Ring-necked Duck** were spotted on the Schoolhouse house pond off Briscoe Mt. Rd. 3/10 (EH, SQ). Two days later, 3/12, 21 **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen on the same pond (EH, SQ). A lone male **Ring-necked Duck** was on the pond near Camp Hidden Falls 4/27 (EH). A male **Bufflehead** was seen 3/10 (EH). A pair of **Common Mergansers** were spotted on PEEC's front pond 3/20 (SQ), and 3/21, a male **Hooded Merganser** was seen (EH, SQ). At a beaver swamp near PEEC a female **Hooded Merganser** was seen with 10 young 5/25 (SQ).

Six **Herring Gulls** were seen overhead Stuckey's Pond 3/13 (EH, JP, SQ). A **Green Heron** was seen 5/6 near Emery Rd/Two Ponds trail corner at PEEC (EH). On PEEC's front pond, a **Solitary Sandpiper** was spotted 5/14 (EH).

Spring raptor sightings offered an especially exciting day! At Loch Lomond near PEEC, within a forty-five minute time span, 8 raptors were seen migrating through, plus one resident **Red-tailed Hawk**. A **Broad-winged Hawk**, a **Red-shouldered Hawk**, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, a **Northern Harrier**, an **American Kestrel**, an **Osprey**, a **Merlin**, and a **Turkey Vulture** rounded out the great raptor looks that late afternoon 4/24 (EH, SQ). An agitated nesting pair of **Cooper's Hawk** near Briscoe Mt. Rd. Swamp was located 6/24 (EH). A migrant **Osprey** briefly fished front pond at PEEC 4/16 (EH). PEEC's **Red-shouldered Hawk** pair from 2005 were successful this Spring. On 4/19 after many great days of looks at courtship displays they were spotted on the nest they abandoned in the Spring of 2005. By 5/23, 3 young were spotted being fed, and around 6/25 all 3 chicks were fully fledged (MB, EH, JP, SQ).

A resident **Broad-winged Hawk** has been calling and been spotted around PEEC's main campus and the Schoolhouse pond 5/18-6/30 (EH, SQ). Three pairs of **Bald Eagles** nested in the area this year. Two were successful while sadly one pair lost 2 eaglets due to their nest and top half of the nesting tree being heavily damaged during a severe thunderstorm. The young were found crushed under their own nest and nesting tree (EH, SQ).

A **Great Horned Owl** was seen in the late afternoon 3/28 just off PEEC's Ridgeline Trail (formerly Sunrise Trail) (EH, SQ). Close by, **Barred Owl** remains were found, mostly feathers (EH, SQ). A **Barred Owl** pair has been heard around PEEC campus and Briscoe Mt. Rd. Swamp 4/11 to 6/25 (EH, JP, SQ).

On 4/30 just south of PEEC off Milford Rd., a lone **Whip-poor-will** was heard at dusk, then afforded the observers a great look (JD, EH, JP, SQ)!

A pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** were seen foraging around PEEC campus 3/6 (EH). On 4/19 a nesting Pileated was spotted near Alicia's Creek (EH). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen 4/7 at PEEC (EH). On 5/4 and 5/6 a **Least Flycatcher** was heard and spotted (EH). An unexpected visitor was a **Cliff Swallow** sighted around PEEC's main building, mingling with the numerous **Tree Swallows**. The bird was seen 6/17-6/18 (EH, SQ).

Common Ravens are frequently heard and seen around PEEC. First sightings of the Spring were 3/16, and are ongoing (EH, SQ). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at PEEC's feeders 3/28, and one was heard in the pine plantation on campus 6/27 (EH, SQ). On 3/10, 10 **Brown Creepers** were seen chasing each other (EH). Six **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were heard and seen 3/10 at PEEC (EH). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** male was in full song around PEEC's front pond 4/11 (MB).

A **Brown Thrasher** was spotted around the first river access near PEEC off Rt. 209 on 4/16 and 4/30 (MB). The **Eastern Bluebird** population seems to have risen from Spring 2005 around PEEC. Three-four pairs of nesting bluebirds have made PEEC campus home (using our nesting boxes) this spring (MB, JP, EH, SQ). On 3/12, some of the first arrivals were spotted perched on utility lines. On 6/6, the pairs were seen feeding young, and continue to stay around. A **Hermit Thrush** pair was spotted near Camp Hidden Falls 4/27 (EH). A **Wood Thrush** was sighted nesting off of Scenic Gorge Trail at PEEC 5/11 (EH).

On 6/16, 3 **Worm-eating Warblers** were heard on Tumbling Waters trail at PEEC, as well as 2 heard on Scenic Gorge trail (EH). Two **Magnolia Warblers** were spotted at the beaver ponds northwest of

PEEC 5/11(EH, SQ). A lone **Canada Warbler** was seen at the Schoolhouse (EH). A **Golden-Winged Warbler** was heard on territory near Big Egypt Rd. 5/30 and 6/13 (EH, SQ). On 4/28 just off Scenic Gorge Trail, a **Nashville Warbler** was heard and seen, along with 10 other warblers on this early migration day (EH). Several **Northern Waterthrushes** were heard at 4 streams around PEEC 5/4 (EH).

Throughout the month of Apr into May there were several **White-crowned Sparrow** sightings at PEEC's feeders, cabin 28's feeders, and the Schoolhouse feeders (MB, EH, SQ). On 3/31 at PEEC's front pond, and around cabins 8 and 9, a **Swamp Sparrow** was spotted (KB, MB). On 4/19 at PEEC's bird blind another was seen (MB). Just southwest of PEEC a **Swamp Sparrow** was sighted 4/30 (EH).

An exciting visitor, or visitors, were seen 3/13 at Stuckey's Pond. Three **Red Crossbills** (a male, female, and juvenile) were initially heard, then spotted perched atop a snag out in an old beaver swamp near the pond (EH, JP, SQ). On 4/4, 3 **Red Crossbills** were seen flying over and heard near the orienteering pine plantation at PEEC (EH, SQ). Approximately a week later a male **Red Crossbill** was found dead in PEEC's butterfly garden with obvious trauma to the skull (MB, JP, EH). A pair of **Pine Siskins** was seen on a PEEC morning bird walk 5/10 (EH).

Addendum to Winter Season Report: Great Back Yard Bird Count (GBYBC) 2/17-20, 2006

Highlights and species counted this year included **Black Ducks**, **Common Mergansers**, a male **Hooded Merganser**, and an **American Woodcock**. Raptor sightings included a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **Red-tailed Hawks**, 4 **Bald Eagles**, and 14 **Turkey Vultures**. A **Northern Flicker**, 18 **White-breasted Nuthatches**, and 45 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen and heard. Fifteen **Eastern Bluebirds** were seen feeding on Staghorn Sumac berries on PEEC campus. A **Hermit Thrush** was heard and a flock of 90 **Cedar Waxwings** was spotted. One hundred eighty three **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen, as well as 45 **Purple Finches**. Sparrow species counts were 2 **Field Sparrows**, 4 **Swamp Sparrows**, and 20 **American Tree Sparrows**. GBYBC participants were Ethan Huner and Mike Brubaker

Observers: **Mike Brubaker**, RR2 Box 1010, Dingmans Ferry, PA, 18328, mikebru@ptcl.net, Kristen Brubaker, Josh Duffield, Ethan Huner, Jeremy Phillips, and Shannon Queen. A special thank-you to Shannon Queen, and Ethan Huner for compiling the data for the Spring 2006 report.

Potter County

No Report.

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Schuylkill County

No Report.

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Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Middle Creek Twp. (MCT), Selinsgrove (SEL), Susquehanna River (SR), Walker Lake (WL).

In Mar a nice variety of waterfowl stopped over at FL on their journey north. Four **Snow Geese** were found there 3/9 (MB) and 50-75 **Tundra Swan** lingered 3/18-3/25 (CK, PW, RW, et al.). Even a **Cackling Goose** was noted 3/20 (CK, AT). **Green-winged Teal**, **American Wigeon**, **Redhead**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded**, **Common** and **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Ruddy Duck**, **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebe** all spent some time at FL in Mar or early Apr (many). A pair of **Northern Shoveler** was found at WL 3/12 (MB).

Double-crested Cormorant was first reported at FL 3/31 (PW, RW) and one or more, a high of twelve 4/8 (MB), remained through most of the season. **Great Egret** paid a visit to WL 4/8 (MB) and FL 5/27 (PR). **American Coot** was noted at FL 3/25 (CK, TP), again 4/16 (PW, RW) and lingered at the lake to 5/27 (CK).

An adult **Bald Eagle** was observed at WL 3/9 (MB) while a third/fourth year made its way to FL 3/25 (CK, TP). Of note was the successful nesting of **Bald Eagle** on the *Northumberland* side of SR opposite SEL (MB). **Black Vulture**, once quite rare in the county, is being observed with some regularity. Two were even sitting on the roof of our cabin near Troxelville when we arrived 4/14 (PW, RW).

Bonaparte's and **Ring-billed Gull** were present at FL 3/31-4/1 (PW, RW) and two very rare visitors, a **Dunlin** and a **Black Tern**, were both reported at FL 5/27 (PR). Both of these species, although still rare, are more likely in late summer or early fall.

A **Common Nighthawk** was observed in MCT 5/25 (MB) and 2 **Fish Crow** were at FL 4/16 (PW, RW). More than 100 **American Pipit** were found in a field near Port Ann 3/28 (MB).

Fox Sparrow was observed 3/31-4/1 near Troxelville and a

Lincoln's Sparrow passed through our property 4/30. **Purple Finch** was also present at our cabin feeders 4/16 and 4/29 (PW, RW). Ninetene **Bobolink** were found near Port Trevorton 5/7 (MB).

Observers: **Richard Williams**, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com, Mick Brown, Chad Kauffman, Toby Petersheim, Paul Renno, Aden Troyer, Steven Troyer, Patricia Williams.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Payne Property (PP), Quemahoning Reservoir(QR), Buffalo Creek (BC), Confluence Area(CA), Somerset Lake(SL).

The migration season was influenced, for better or worse, by weather patterns. Ice out in early March allowed waterfowl to stop and some nice species totals were viewed on county reservoirs. However there were no abrupt storms causing large fallouts so overall numbers were moderate. April was relatively warm and very dry-a few passerines arrived early. Early May was about average, resident warblers appeared but the weather turned abruptly cold and rainy in the second and third weeks delaying later migrating resident birds and virtually eliminating migrants pushing through for points further north. When the weather started to break by the 23rd, there was a short, but fantastic, push of shorebirds including a county first.

Canada Geese winter in good numbers, but the flocks were swollen by migrants in early Mar-over 400 frequented corn fields in BA during this time. No large **Tundra Swan** flocks were detected this season; the high count was 12 at QR 3/7.

An early, modest, fallout of over 700 waterfowl at SL 3/5 included the above birds and 18 species of ducks. Some of the better counts through the month were: 30 **Green-winged Teal** at BA 3/19; 45 **Canvasback** at SL 3/15; 280 **Lesser Scaup** at SL 3/25; and 50 **Hooded Mergansers** at SL 3/25. A male **Lesser Scaup** at SL 3/5-3/7 had a red plastic tag through the nares on the upper mandible; no numbers could be seen. Late stragglers were a pair of **Bufflehead** at SL 5/15 and a **Ruddy Duck** at SL 5/28.

Common Loons appeared at SL 3/23 and built up to a paltry 3 by 4/1. A late bird was still at QR 5/30. **Pied-billed Grebes** were first spotted at SL 3/19; a good count of 30 was present there 4/3. Seven **Horned Grebes** were at QR 3/7 and up to 8 were at SL 3/25. **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen in relatively small groups of less than 20 from 3/14-5/22. The prime time for **American Bittern** in *Somerset* is early Apr and nobody was looking, so it was good fortune that LP found one at BC 4/24. Only one **Great Egret** was seen this season at SL 4/24 (JP).

The breeding **Osprey** at SL was right on time 4/1. An adult **Northern Goshawk** was observed hunting at PP 4/22 (JP).

S.A.

Vying for bird(s) of the season were 2 **Sandhill Cranes** first observed by neighboring farmers Tom Maust and Charles Maust just north of Berlin about 4/10. The birds were observed dancing and feeding in marshy areas and fields surrounding Stoneycreek. A single bird, which was lightly rust-stained, was seen and photographed 4/18 and observed flying to a high altitude. The second rustier bird was seen as late as 4/28. The wetland complex they were using is 3 miles long and varies in width from relatively narrow to over 200 meters wide.

Were they prospecting our southern tier county or just here for a long visit? We will keep watching.

Shorebirds started out rather weak but we ended with a respectable 17 species. **Upland Sandpipers** returned to BA 4/24 where they have bred for the past several years. The highlight of shorebird migration, however was 5/23 as 11 days of truly nasty weather was breaking. An "accidental" one acre puddle in a reclaimed stripmine south of Berlin attracted over 60 individuals of 10 species. In addition to the more expected migrant **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Semipalmated Plovers**, **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, **Least Sandpipers**, and **Dunlin**, there were **White-rumped Sandpipers** (up to 4 by 5/28) and a county rare **Ruddy Turnstone**. The true prize, and bird of the season, was a county first **Whimbrel**, which called loudly and flew a lap around the muddy spot. The other shorebirds of note were 13 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/16 at the Flight 93 crash site, and a high count of 24 **Wilson's Snipe** 3/19 in BA.

Gulls like the shallow, fertile water at SL. **Bonaparte's Gulls** reached 150 by 4/3 and over 500 **Ring-billed Gulls** were present 3/25. Only single **Herring Gulls** were found and no unusual species were noted this season. **Caspian Terns** were scarce with just singles found around 4/24 (LP). Several **Forster's Terns** were present at SL from 5/7-5/15. A nice count of 5 **Black Terns** was also feeding 5/15.

Black-billed Cuckoo was seen somewhat early 5/7 on the Allegheny front. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were not calling until 5/27 then became rather common. An agitated **Northern Saw-whet Owl**

responded to BBA tapes at PP 5/27. **Common Nighthawks** are becoming very scarce in spring with only a single at SL 5/28. **Whip-poor-wills** seem to be somewhat more widespread with multiple birds in at least three locations.

Red-headed Woodpeckers maybe somewhat more numerous with birds found in three locations. **Eastern Wood-Pewees** came in late, but after 5/28, they were widespread. **Willow Flycatchers** were numerous after 5/23, but no **Alders** were found. **White-eyed** and **Warbling Vireos** were not found in their usual CA hunts 5/7, but **White-eyed Vireos** were at QR 5/27.

Swallows were still migrating in late May. **Cliff Swallows** are being found more widely nesting in barns away from their CA stronghold. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were present throughout the season and presumed breeding at PP. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** are generally uncommon in the county but 4 were found in CA 5/7. **Northern Mockingbirds** are being found in about half of the BBA blocks. **American Pipits** were detected in BA 4/5 during some snow flurries.

Twenty-four warbler species were found with only two, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and **Nashville Warbler** (LP), being migrants. Up to four singing **Golden-winged Warblers** were near QR 5/30 and one **Blue-winged Warbler** was there 5/27. Unusual for the county was a **Prairie Warbler** 5/7 in CA. Both **Pine Warbler** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** were present and probable breeders at QR 5/27.

Henslow's Sparrows started singing at the Flight 93 crash site 5/27. **Fox Sparrows** were late at PP 5/3. **Rusty Blackbirds** were scarce with 2 birds near SL 3/14 and a small flock in BA a few days later. **Purple Finch** arrived at PP 3/14 for the summer and wintering **House Finches** slowly disappeared. The last **Pine Siskin** of the season was at PP 5/15.

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Chris Payne, Lauretta Payne. All sightings not cited individually were made by all above observers. More observations welcome.

Sullivan County

Locations: Splashtam Pond (SP), State Game Lands 66 (SGL 66), Cherry Township (CT), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), Briskey Mtn (BM), State Game Lands 13 (SGL 13).

Sullivan county is not a heavily birded area except by a few individuals and then only from the breeding season through early fall migration. Most of the birding occurs at an elevation near 2000 feet on North Mountain.

First reports for 2006 are from 4/14-4/17 (Easter weekend). Early returns and migrants included **Pied-billed Grebe** at SGL 66, **Osprey** in Cherry Twp., **Eastern Phoebe**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Tree** and **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, and **Brown Thrasher** at SGL 66.

Waterfowl observed included **Canada Goose** on nest, **Wood Duck** & **Hooded Merganser** in pairs, **Mallard** and **Common Merganser**.

Sharp-shinned, **Cooper's** and **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen. **American Kestrels** appeared to be paired at SGL 66. **Great Horned**, **Barned Owl**, and **Eastern Screech Owl** were all heard calling from private property.

Ruffed Grouse were heard drumming and **Wild Turkey** gobbling. **American Woodcock** were doing their display flight in an area of open brushy field in Colley Twp.

Five species of woodpecker were recorded: **Downy**, **Hairy**, **Northern Flicker**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and **Pileated**. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were observed in large numbers with good looks at the ruby crown; several individuals were singing. A **Palm Warbler** was observed with the kinglets. County nesters observed included **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Purple Finch**, and **Swamp Sparrow** all singing.

Three birders took part in the 2006, PAMC 5/13 in *Sullivan* for a combined total of 23 hours: Scott & Carol Walker in the western portion of the county and myself in the east. A total of 94 species were observed. Highlights included: **Warbling Vireo**, **Tufted Titmouse**, **Northern Mockingbird**, **Northern Parula** (S&CW), **Pine** and **Hooded Warblers** (S&CW). All of these are uncommon in the county – especially at the higher elevations. A **Common Nighthawk** (alas not generally common in *Sullivan*) was observed in SGL 66.

Local nesters observed for the first time in 2006 included **Northern Harrier**, **Black-billed Cuckoo**, **Whip-poor-will**, **Chimney Swift**, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, **Least Flycatcher**, **Eastern Kingbird**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Barn Swallow**, **House Wren**, **Eastern Bluebird**, **Veery**, **Wood Thrush**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Gray Catbird**, **Scarlet Tanager** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**.

Resident sparrows included **Field**, **Chipping**, **Song**, **Savannah**, **White-throated** and **Dark-eyed Junco**. **Bobolinks** and **Red-winged Blackbirds** were observed in good numbers along with **Common Grackles** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, and lesser numbers of **Eastern Meadowlark**, **Baltimore Oriole** and a single **Indigo Bunting**.

The only transient warbler seen was a **Blackpoll Warbler** (S&CW). Resident warblers seen in good numbers included **Ovenbird**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Black-throated Green**, **Yellow**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Common Yellowthroat** and **Blackburnian** with lesser numbers of **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Prairie**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Black-and-white**, **American Redstart** and a single **Nashville**.

The weekend of 5/19-5/21 brought 6 observers to *Sullivan* for a weekend of birding. Cold weather and rain were no doubt some of the reasons the group fell short of the annual goal of 100 species (they totaled 96 species). Most notable absences were among the flycatchers.

A shallow beaver pond in SGL 13 attracted small numbers of shorebirds including **Killdeer**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Solitary**, **Spotted**, **Semipalmated** and **Least Sandpipers** (5/19&5/20). Two transient warblers were observed 5/21: **Blackpoll** at SGL 66 and **Bay-breasted** (BM). Resident warblers seen for the first time in 2006 included **Northern Waterthrush**, **Canada** and **Mourning**, all observed in LSF 5/20. Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were observed. As in other areas of PA this year there is a large number of tent caterpillars. A **Swamp Sparrow** nest with 4 eggs was a nice find on SGL 66, 5/21 (and a follow up from the previous weekend during the PAMC when the nest was found but the species not 100% confirmed). Other local nesters observed for the first time in 2006 include **Cedar Waxwing**.

Memorial Day weekend was dedicated to atlasing blocks in the county. *Sullivan* is contained within Region 51. The concentration this year is on blocks within Cherry Twp. The summer report will detail nesting data. Notable sightings included a **Carolina Wren** in the town of Mildred 5/28, a rare bird for this elevation. A single **Tufted Titmouse** was observed near SGL 66, also an uncommon bird on the mountain. Two additional empidonax flycatchers were observed for the first time in 2006 on 5/27. **Alder Flycatcher** at SGL 66 (at high elevation) and **Willow Flycatcher** at Colley Twp. at a lower elevation.

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen for the first time in 2006 on 5/28 in Cherry Twp. Both **Bald Eagle** and **Sandhill Crane** have been confirmed as nesters in the county. An eagle's nest at an undisclosed location has been monitored this year by the PGC with one eaglet as of this writing. Two **Sandhill Crane** fledglings were observed this year 5/28. The cranes have nested in this area (also undisclosed) for 5 or 6 years now.

Lastly, there was an unconfirmed report of a **Hermit Warbler** at High Knob in LSF 5/24 (TS).

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Dr., Pottstown, PA, 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Gary Becker, Skip Conant, Mike Brawley, Trudy Gerlach, Doug Gross, Debbie Reeder, Tom Reeves, Tom Simmons, Barbara Sonies, Steve Strawbridge, Scott Walker, Carol Walker.

Susquehanna County

No Report.

Rob Blye, Hidden River Farm, 300 Sanatoga Road, Pottstown, PA, 19465, rblye@audubon.org

Tioga County

No Report.

Jeff Holbrook, 2631 King Circle, East Corning, NY, 14830, (607) 936-5059, mycteria@stny.rr.com

Union County

No Report. No Complier.

Venango County

No Report.

Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd., Apt. 9, Seneca, PA, 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.com,

Warren County

No Report.

Ted Grisez, 10 Belmont Dr. Warren, PA, 16365, (814) 723-9464,

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond near Canonsburg (AMD), Buffalo Creek IBA 80 (BC), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Mingo Creek County Park (MC), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4), West Pike Run Township (WPR).

Waterfowl were not particularly well reported this season, with no reports of migrant Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, and Common and Red-breasted Merganser. The only report of **Tundra Swan** was of 6 at BC 3/26 (DY). **Wood Ducks** reappeared 3/18 and a good count of 30 was made 4/2 at CL (RT). **Blue-winged Teal** were one of few species reported frequently, with anywhere between 3 and 6 individuals at various locations throughout Apr (RG, LH, RT, MV). **Green-winged Teal** were present at CL for the week of 3/13-3/20 (RT, MV). A **Redhead** from the winter season at AMD hung around until at least 4/27 (MV, RT). **Ring-**

necked Ducks, normally very common, were reported only three times 3/18-3/27, and **Lesser Scaup** were likewise scarcely reported, with the last being one at AMD 4/10 (MV). **Bufflehead** were reported from three locations, and **Hooded Mergansers** returned for the season 3/5. One **Ruddy Duck** was at R4 on 3/26 (DY), furnishing the only report of that species.

Common Loons were found at New Eagle 3/18 (RG) and at R4 on 3/26 (DY). **Pied-billed Grebes** returned to CL 3/13 (MV), and two reports of **Horned Grebe** were received, coincidentally from the same dates/locations/observers as the two Common Loon reports. Very nice were 2 **American Bitterns** found by RG, one 4/17 at SGL 232, and one which was a random flyover near Burgettstown on the morning of 4/22.

S.A.

The putative **Great Blue Heron x Great Egret hybrid** returned to CL again this spring, first noted 4/10 (RT). New information has come to light in the years since its discovery at CL in 2004, and that is that the "discovery" at CL was actually a *re-discovery*, as the bird had been seen two years earlier in 2002 attending a Great Blue Heron rookery on nearby Chartiers Creek (PB). There is still some dispute as to the bird's true identity, with some contending that a hybrid between these two species is not as likely as an aberrant pure Great Blue Heron. It remains the opinion of this author, based on the *structural* anomalies present in this bird, that it is most likely a hybrid, but the only thing known for certain is that the issue can never be fully resolved without a DNA sample. As an interesting side-note, this odd beast was the subject of a full-length story that appeared on the front page of the Science section of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* on 5/10/06, which included extensive quotes from MV, GM, and Paul Hess, as well as a color photograph taken by GM. As Paul noted later in *The Peregrine*, the newsletter of the Three Rivers Birding Club for which he is the editor, "it's gratifying to see the significance of our birders' activities taken seriously in the media."

Pure-bred **Great Egrets** put on a good show at CL this year, with 11 appearing there 4/9 (RT) and reports continuing in the county until 5/1. The bird of the season came in the form of an adult **Little Blue Heron** which was found at CL 5/1 (MV), where it remained until 5/6 and was enjoyed by many birders from all over western PA. This is probably the first record for *Washington*.

Ospreys were found at CL on three separate occasions 4/10-4/27 (RT) but as yet there are still no known nest sites for this species in *Washington*. **Northern Harriers** were noted 4/6 at SGL 232 (RG) and on the Bavington Grasslands beginning 5/13 (RT). Only one report of **Red-shouldered Hawk** was received, from Canonsburg 3/15 (RG). **Broad-winged Hawks** returned to MC 4/13 (RG). A report of 2 **Sandhill Cranes** at Green Cove Wetlands from late Mar to 4/10 was received after the fact (MC).

Shorebirding in *Washington* this spring was quite pedestrian, perhaps even more so than usual in this shorebird-poor county. A **Semipalmated Plover** at CL 5/6 was the only report (RG). **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were noted in Robinson Twp. and CL 4/22-5/17 (MF, RT, MV). **Solitary Sandpiper** was present at CL for a few weeks beginning 4/17 (RT). A bird identified as a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was present at CL 4/9 (RT), which is *extremely* early. More timely were **Semipalmated Sandpipers** which were present at CL and elsewhere 5/12-5/13 (RT), and **Least Sandpipers** which were reported 5/6-5/16 (RG, RT, MV). The only report of **Pectoral Sandpiper** was of one at CL 4/10 (RT, MV). **Wilson's Snipe** were well-reported from BC beginning with 11 there 3/26 (DY), while the county's high count came from SGL 232, with 23 there 4/6 (RG). **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported only twice, both from CL, including 20 on 4/4 (RT) which was a bit unusual for that location but not unexpectedly so. A **Forster's Tern** was a nice find at Peter's Lake 5/6 (RG).

Black-billed and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** returned to WPRT on time, 5/13 and 5/5 respectively (RT, AT). **Common Nighthawk** was first located in WPRT 5/14 (AT) which was one of the first reports in western PA for this season. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found at Cross Creek C.P. 4/5 (RG) and at Enlow Fork 4/16 (KSJ).

Acadian and **Willow Flycatchers** were both first reported 5/13, and **Least Flycatchers** were at Burgettstown 5/6 (RG) and at CL 5/12 (RT). **Eastern Kingbirds** made a slightly early return to Prosperity 4/11 (JT). Incredibly, no report of **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was received, but surely they were present in numbers as usual, as they were in surrounding counties. Two **Blue-headed Vireos** were at Burgettstown 4/22 (RG), and a **Warbling Vireo** was a bit early at Green Cove Wetlands 4/23 (RT). Otherwise, breeding vireo spp. arrived just about on time. A single **Philadelphia Vireo** was detected near Canonsburg 5/24, providing the only report (RG).

One or two **Common Ravens** were found near the *Washington/Greene* county line at Enlow Fork 4/16-4/26 (KSJ). It was undetermined by the observer whether they represented a breeding pair, but it does seem likely for this species which has shown a definite expansion into *Washington* in the last few years. Twenty-four **Purple Martins** were seen at a potential nesting site near Eighty Four 4/17 (JoT), but unfortunately they moved on before a martin house was

raised for the season. The only other report was of one at Cherry Valley Reservoir 5/13 (RT). Two **Bank Swallows** were found at BC 5/13 (RT). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports persisted until 4/23 wrapping up an excellent season for them. The first **House Wren** was noted at Green Cove Wetlands 4/23 (RT), and the only **Winter Wren** was a bird at BC 4/2 (LH).

Golden-crowned Kinglet reports came in from AMD until 4/16 (RT). The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were a few days early at MC 4/9, and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** first appeared there the same day (DF). A **Veery** at Burgettstown 4/27 (RG) was also a shade early, but it was followed by only one other report, of one at WPRT 5/13 (AT). The only report of **Swainson's Thrush** was from the Bavington Grasslands 5/13 (RT). Four **Brown Thrashers** at BC 4/2 was a nice count at that date to start to the season (LH).

Twenty-four species of warbler were reported, a list devoid of any real headliners. **Tennessee Warblers** were present at CL 5/11-13 (RT), and a **Nashville Warbler** at WPRT 5/5 was the only report (AT). A **Magnolia Warbler** in Daisytown 4/16 was quite early and the only report (WJS), and another "only" report was of a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at WPRT 5/5 (AT). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was found at the Bavington Grasslands 5/13 (RT), where **Pine Warblers** were also found in good numbers 4/9-4/22 (RG, MV). A **Black-and-white Warbler** at MC 4/13 was a good find for that date (RG). Probably the most interesting migrant warbler noted was a **Wilson's Warbler** in Robinson Twp. 5/10 (DW).

American Tree Sparrows remained at BC until at least 4/2 (LH), and a whole host of other first migrant sparrows were found on that date, including **Field Sparrow** at AMD (RT), and **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrows** at BC (LH). **Henslow's Sparrows** were first found 4/22 at a traditional location in Robinson Twp. (MF). **White-throated Sparrows** persisted until 5/2, and **White-crowned** until 5/14 (WJS). Two **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** at Chartiers Twp. 4/23 were the first of that species, and a few days early (CS). **Bobolinks** returned to WPRT 4/25, a bit earlier than expected (JT). **Rusty Blackbirds** were well reported in *Washington* this season, as in other nearby counties, between 3/13-3/26 (RT, MV, DY). The wintering adult male **Baltimore Oriole** in Peters Twp. reported last quarter was last noted 3/14 (PM *fide* MV), while the first arrivals from the south appeared 4/28 (AT). A yellow-variant **House Finch** was located in Canonsburg 3/4 (RG), and **Purple Finches** were reported from the Bavington Grasslands 4/29 (MF) and nearby Burgettstown 5/7 (RG).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Ave., Moon Twp. PA, 15108, (412) 269-1413, pomarine@earthlink.net**; Mark Bowers, Paul Brown, Mike Campsey; Mike Fialkovich, Donna Foyle, Ross Gallardy, Larry Helgerman, Kate St. John, Peggy Milani, Vince Milsom, Thomas and Sheri Roberts, Leo Stember, Calvin Swoager, Amy Taracido, Jarred Taracido, Jose' Taracido (JoT), Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton, Dan Yagusic, Wendy Jo Shemansky, Nancy Shemansky, Ellen Zelina, John Zelina.

Wayne County

No Report. No Complier.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Acme Lake (AL), Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Trout Run Reservoir [Latrobe Res.] (TRR).

A flock of 5 **American Wigeon** first appeared at Acme L.3/5 (L&LH), and 24 were on Beaver Bun Res. 3/12 (KB). Byerly also located 18 **Northern Pintails** at Livermore 3/11. An unusually good count of 18 **Northern Shovelers** was made at AL 4/7 (RCL). The high count for **Greater Scaup** was of 58 at BRR 3/12 (KB). A **Northern Bobwhite** was an unusual find near Delmont 4/25 (KB).

Common Loons were actively migrating through the Ligonier Valley during the day of 3/28 when 12 scattered birds were counted passing over PNR (ML). The only report of **Red-necked Grebe** was of one at BRR 4/23 (KB). A flock of 13 **Double-crested Cormorants** was on BRR 4/15 (KB), and a single cormorant lingered at Donegal L. through 5/30 (RCL). A rather late migrant **Least Bittern** stopped off at PNR 5/24 (ML).

A **Mississippi Kite** at Keystone S.P. certainly was the find of the season on a field trip during the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology's annual meeting at Powdermill 5/20 (F&B, et al.). The first (4) **Broad-winged Hawks** appeared at PNR 4/13 (ML). A **Sora** that appeared at PNR during a bander's workshop session (AL) lingered there for several days and was enjoyed by my numerous birders and the PARC staff. Several of Mike Lanzone's point counters for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas located a **Long-eared Owl** near Rector 5/17 for one of the few Ligonier Valley records. Mike Fialkovich reported 2 early **Killdeer** near New Stanton 3/2, 2 were at DL 3/9 (L&LH), and 2 at AL 3/10 (RCL). An early **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at TRR 3/15 (RCL). A flock of 7 **Wilson's Snipe** made for a good count at Mammoth Wetlands 3/9 (L&LH). Three **Lesser Yellowlegs** stopped off

at DL 5/10 (RCL). A flock of over 250 **Ring-billed Gulls** at TRR was high for that area 3/2 (RCL). A flock of 13 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were there 4/3 (RCL), and 60 were at DL 4/11(RCL, CL). An exceptional count of 15 **Common Terns** was made at DL 5/15 (RCL).

Two rather early **Willow Flycatchers** were at Levelgreen 4/29 (KB). An **Eastern Kingbird** first appeared at Delmont 4/25 (KB), and the first arrived at Acme L. 5/4 (RCL). A rather early **Purple Martin** was at AL 4/1 (L&LH). A **Marsh Wren** banded at PNR 4/26 (AL, et al.) remained at the Reserve for several days thereafter.

An early **Blue-winged Warbler** was at Powdermill 4/24 (ML). Single **Brewster's Warblers** were banded at PNR both 5/2 and 5/5 (AL). The first **Nashville Warbler** was at Powdermill 4/18 (ML). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** had returned to PNR by 4/11 (ML). A rather early **Pine Warbler** was at PNR 3/30, and the first **Black-and-white Warbler** was there 4/18 (both ML). A late (migrant) **Wilson's Warbler** was netted at PNR on the exceptional date of 6/11 (AL). The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** had arrived at PNR 3/30 (BM). April 10 was an unusually early date for Powdermill's first **Common Yellowthroat** (ML).

The first **Scarlet Tanager** of the season was just north of Ligonier 4/27 (ML). Two **Henslow's Sparrows** were a good find near Stahlstown 5/27 (L&LH). Shirley Glessner's bird feeder attracted an early **White-crowned Sparrow** to her home on Dry Ridge near Greensburg 4/26. An early female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Dry Ridge 4/20 (SG). Most unusual passerine of the season was the adult male **Black-headed Grosbeak** that briefly appeared at a feeder at Powdermill 5/3 (ML, TM). A small flock of **Common Grackles** was in Mount Pleasant 3/3 (MF). Lanzone found the first **Orchard Oriole** at PNR 5/1.

Observers: **Robert C. Leberman, 1847 Route 381, Rector, PA 15677, (724) 593-6021 rcleberm@winbeam.com**, Ken Byerly, Mike Fialkovich, Shirley Glessner, Frank & Barb Haas, Len & Linda Hess (L&LH), Mike Lanzone, Adrienne Lepold, Coki Lindsay, Trish Miller, Bob Mulvihill.

Wyoming County

Spring, 2006 brought some exciting birds to *Wyoming*. Among them were **White-winged Crossbills**, **Golden Eagle**, **Mississippi Kite** and **Painted Bunting**. **Common Loons** were late and low in numbers.

Interesting ducks included 2 **Northern Shovelers** at L. Carey 3/28 and 2 female **Hooded Mergansers** with young on the Susquehanna R. between Falls and Exeter Twps. 5/16 (JS). The only report of **Red-throated Loon** was from L. Carey 3/25. Grebes were almost non-existent.

A **Golden Eagle** was seen sitting on the shore of L. Carey 3/17 where it was devouring its latest catch. It was an imm bird, with its white base of the tail and other points clearly noted.

The river was high all spring, and, as a consequence, shorebirds were scarce. Aside from **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **American Woodcock** and **Wilson's Snipe**, the only ones reported were **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/13 (BD BR). Gull numbers were low, and no terns were reported.

The **Mississippi Kite** was an adult which I saw flying overhead at tree top level (40-50 ft.) in So. Eaton 5/2. As it flew over, I immediately noticed the slim falcon shape with slightly angular wings. The long, narrow tail from the underneath was totally black. From below, the underside of the wings were almost totally black. From the black of the tail, the underneath gradually turned to dark gray, then to lighter gray, and the throat and the head were almost completely white. The flight of the bird (which was smaller and slimmer than a peregrine) was buoyant and direct as it flew toward the northeast (not twisting and turning as I have seen them sometimes in the southeast). This is my 2nd record for *Wyoming*, and my 3rd for PA.

Twenty-nine species of warblers were found in the county this spring. Numbers of warblers like **Cape May Warbler** and **Bay-breasted Warbler** (which had been falling off) showed some signs of recovery.

The most interesting record of the season was a male **Painted Bunting** near West Nicholson 5/13 (BR). Aside from a few **Pine Siskins** and **Purple Finches**, the only northern finch for the season were 2 **White-winged crossbills** found in Lemon Twp. 3/28 (BR)

No Compiler. Notes submitted by Bill Reid.
Observers: Bob Daniels, Jim Shoemaker, Bill Reid

York County

Locations: Codorus Furnace (FURN), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Lake Redman (LRED), Lake Williams (LWMS), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), PA Migration Count (PAMC), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Spring Valley County Park (SVCP), Wrightsville (WRIT).

There were 167 species reported during the spring 2006 season, including 24 species of waterfowl and 28 species of warblers. The 9 participants in the 5/13 PA Migration Count tallied 119 species, with 22 warbler species.

There were several reports of migrant **Tundra Swans** from 3/5 to 3/12, with a high count of 250 at LRED 3/12 (JJP). There was just one report for **Blue-winged Teal**, 4 at LRED 4/17 (LC); one report for **Northern Shoveler**, 1 at LAR 3/12 (PJR); and one report of **Common Goldeneye**, 1 at LAR 4/4 (BP).

The 5/13 PAMC found 8 **Ring-necked Pheasant**, a good number these days. No **Northern Bobwhite** were seen during the period.

An **Eared Grebe** was seen 3/12 at CSP (JLD), and a **Little Blue Heron** was found 5/4 on the York shore of the Susquehanna R. at Accomac (JLD). At Kiwanis L. in York City, along with the usual **Black-crowned Night-Heron** nests, there were 2 **Great Egrets** on nests 5/1 (PJR), and a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was seen 4/2 (AP). There was just one **American Woodcock** reported, on 3/5 at CSP (PJR), but undoubtedly there were others at other locations.

No **Black-billed Cuckoo**, and only two **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports were received – one 5/8 at RRCP (JJP), and five on the 5/13 PAMC. The only **Screech Owl** was 3/5 along Frogtown Rd. (PJR). There were a few **Great Horned Owls**, but no **Barred Owls**. Other than during migration, **Common Nighthawks** are very uncommon now in the county, so the single bird found on the 5/13 PAMC was a welcome sight. The three **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** sightings were one at WRIT 4/26 (JLD), one at FURN 5/9 (JJP), and three on the 5/13 PAMC. Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen – one 4/12 in Hanover (BP), and one 4/29 at Lock 12 (JJP).

There were four **Yellow-throated Vireo** reports, an five reports of **Blue-headed Vireo**, but no **Philadelphia Vireo**. **Bank Swallow** and **Winter Wren** also went unreported. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was quite early when it was found 4/11 in a Hanover back yard (BP). There was a nice flock of 75 **American Pipits** near Jefferson 3/12 (JLD), the only sighting for the species. While the variety of warblers was fairly good, the numbers were low. Highlights included a **Lawrence's Warbler** hybrid and a **Cerulean Warbler** in a York City yard 5/4 (AP), two **Yellow-throated Warblers** on the 5/13 PAMC, and a **Prothonotary Warbler** 5/28 along Gut Rd. (JJP). There were no reports of **Tennessee Warbler**, **Cape May Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Northern Waterthrush**, or **Mourning Warbler**.

Three **Fox Sparrows** were at a Hanover feeder 3/10 and a **White-crowned Sparrow** was there until 4/13 (BP). Unreported were **Vesper Sparrow**, **Savannah Sparrow**, **Grasshopper Sparrow**, and **Lincoln's Sparrow**. There was one sighting each for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 5/1 at FURN (JJP), **Blue Grosbeak** 5/3 at SVCP (JJP), 3 **Bobolink** 5/13 (PAMC), and **Rusty Blackbird** 4/4 at CSP (BP). Two **Orchard Orioles** were seen 5/10 at CSP (PJR), two 5/11 at GPSP (JJP), and six on the 5/13 PAMC.

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Can you identify this bird? Answer in the next issue.



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